

Internship	Intern X2 Promoting value chains for critical raw materials and green hydrogen and derivatives in South Africa (two positions)
Reports to:	Component Lead
Duty Station	Hatfield, Pretoria
Duration	Six (06) Months

PROJECT BACKGROUND

South Africa is uniquely positioned to become a global leader in the green hydrogen and Power-to-X (PtX) economy, supported by its excellent renewable energy resources, well-developed industrial infrastructure, abundant critical raw materials (CRMs), and skilled workforce. The country possesses significant reserves of minerals that are essential for the global energy transition, including platinum, vanadium, chromium, nickel, and manganese, which are critical for industrial processes, battery manufacturing, digitalisation, and clean energy technologies. Combined with an established mining and refining sector, these advantages place South Africa in a strong position to develop local green hydrogen and battery value chains while also establishing itself as a regional hub for critical raw materials.

The development of both green hydrogen and battery value chains presents significant opportunities for economic growth, industrial development, export diversification, and job creation. In particular, a functional battery value chain is of strategic importance to South Africa's automotive industry, one of the country's key industrial sectors. Recognizing their importance to the country's decarbonisation and economic development objectives, both sectors have been identified as priority investment pillars in South Africa's **Just Energy Transition Investment Plan (JET-IP)**. Furthermore, the Just Energy Transition Implementation Plan, approved by Cabinet in November 2023, provides a roadmap to support South Africa in achieving its climate commitments while ensuring a socially inclusive and economically sustainable transition.

Despite these opportunities, several challenges remain. The development of green hydrogen and CRM/battery value chains is constrained by uncertain market demand, limited institutional and technical capacities, skills shortages, coordination challenges across

stakeholders, and the need to integrate robust environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards throughout the value chains.

Against this background and on behalf of the **European Union**, the **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** and in close cooperation with the South African government, the **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH** is implementing the programme H2.SA II/BVC with the aim to support value chain development for critical raw materials and green hydrogen and derivatives in South Africa. The Interns will work within all components of the project to gain general overview of the programme with focus based on the interns qualification, skills and interests as well as the project's needs. The hands-on experience will provide comprehensive understanding of the Green Hydrogen and the critical raw materials while allowing you to develop valuable skills and make meaningful contributions towards a greener and more sustainable future.

More information on the project can be found under <https://www.giz.de/en/projects/promotion-energy-green-value-chains-green-hydrogen-and-battery-production>

A. TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Intern has the following key tasks and responsibilities:

- Support and collaborate with cross-functional teams in the coordination and implementation of activities focusing on the promotion of value chains for critical raw materials, batteries and green hydrogen and its derivatives in South Africa.
- Support data collection relevant to green hydrogen and battery value chains and draft summaries and analyses of collected information.
- Support stakeholder coordination for the development of adequate strategies, policies and regulatory framework conditions;
- Support the implementation of communication and knowledge management activities, incl. the organisation of meetings, workshops, seminars, events, study tours, training and other means of information sharing among government decision-makers, industry representatives and other experts;
- Organise and maintain a central repository of event materials, meeting records, correspondence and other project documentation.

- Support general coordination and project management including reporting, operational planning, follow-up of activities, drafting concept notes and Terms of Reference (ToRs), conducting desktop research
- Contribute to the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) system by adding required information and preparing reporting inputs as required.
- Stay informed about industry trends, regulations and emerging technologies.

All tasks will be done under the supervision of the H2.SA II/BVC Programme Component Managers and the H2.SA II/BVC Programme Directors. The intern will be supported by a dedicated mentor from the green hydrogen or PtX Hub programmes implemented by GIZ.

Note that the list is not exhaustive and will be further developed.

B. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS, COMPETENCIES AND EXPERIENCES

Qualifications:

- Undergraduate degree in energy, engineering, environmental economics, political sciences or related fields.

Competencies:

- Knowledge of the South African energy- or renewable energy sector, maritime sector and related policies.
- Strong interest in issues related to critical raw materials, green hydrogen, PtX and the energy transition and proven willingness to further develop and enhance technical skills and competencies;
- Interest in working in a multi-cultural team in a structured, methodical manner;
- Very good writing and communication skills in English.
- Basic understanding of electrolysis, hydrogen production and related processes.
- Proven knowledge of MS Office tools
- Willingness to travel domestically
- Prospective interns must be South African citizens or in possession of a valid work permit.

C. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The position will be based at the **GIZ Offices in Hatfield, Pretoria.**
- The position is for a **Six (06) months period**, in correspondence with GIZ rules regarding internships. The position is fulltime.
- At GIZ, you will be offered global network and an atmosphere that is characterised by diversity, respect, and genuine equal opportunities. Gender equality promotion is a matter of course for us.
- GIZ is a signatory of the Diversity Charter. Recognition, appreciation and inclusion of diversity in the company are important to us. All employees shall be valued - regardless of gender and gender identity, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, social background, age or sexual orientation.
- GIZ would like to increase the proportion of employees with disabilities. Applications from people with disabilities are most welcome.

D. APPLICATION PROCESS

GIZ will only assess applications which meet the following criteria:

Suitable candidates should apply by submitting a

- Cover Letter/Motivation Letter, (max. 1 page) clearly detailing why they should be the preferred candidate and the value they will bring.
- A detailed CV, (max. 3 pages) **indicating their nationality.**
- Proof of eligibility to work in South Africa (copy of SA ID).

Applications for this vacancy can be submitted in the URL below

<https://giz.simplify.hr/vacancy/dzgefd>

Please quote the job title in the email subject line as follows: **“Application for Internship – H2.SA II/BVC.”** for the attention of Head of Human Resource.

Closing date for applications: **20th of July 2026**

Applications without a motivational letter will not be considered!

Only shortlisted candidates who meet the above requirements will be contacted!!