



**The European Forest Institute is seeking two experts
to reinforce its EU FLEGT Facility:
a communications specialist and a governance specialist**

The European Forest Institute (EFI) is an international organisation, supported by 19 European member countries, and about than 130 member institutions. The EFI headquarters are located in Joensuu, Finland and EFI has regional offices in several locations in Europe.

EFI's Policy and Governance Programme is hosting and managing the **EU FLEGT Facility**, which has the role of supporting the implementation of the **EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan**. The Facility is funded through a multi-donor trust fund, with current contributions from the European Commission and the Governments of Finland and the UK.

The Facility's purpose is to have reforms adopted that improve governance and the functioning of markets, ensuring that illegal logging and associated trade which adversely affect the poor are adequately tackled. The Facility's key work areas are (i) supporting the negotiation and implementation of Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs), bilateral trade agreement between the EU and timber product exporting partner countries, and (ii) implementing the regional Asia FLEGT support programme.

To reinforce the Facility's team, EFI intends to engage a communications specialist and a specialist in forest governance. These two positions will both be based at the EU FLEGT Facility office in Brussels. The communications specialist will report to the Facility manager, the governance specialist will report to the Facility's senior governance expert.

Tasks and responsibilities

Communications specialist

The communications specialist will advise the European Commission on FLEGT communication questions and work closely with relevant Commission services involved in communication activities, design, conduct and oversee communication efforts of the EU FLEGT Facility, and support partner countries in developing FLEGT communication strategy. The incumbent will work closely with FLEGT stakeholders in Europe and in partner countries including government, industry and NGOs.

In particular s/he will:

- Assist the EC in developing and managing a comprehensive FLEGT communications strategy addressing various constituencies in the EU and in partner countries.
- Guide partner countries in preparing national FLEGT communications strategies.
- Contribute to and/or manage PR events at key moments in VPA process, including signing of VPA, start of FLEGT licensed product on EU market.

- Assist in designing, writing and publishing EFI FLEGT policy briefs, guidance notes, analytical reports and other relevant documents, either internal or for publication.
- Work closely with the EFI communications team.
- Research and write articles for the www.euflegt.efi.int website and manage the site with support from EFI HQ.
- Prepare a periodic FLEGT newsletter.
- Execute other tasks as assigned.

Governance specialist

The governance specialist will provide guidance to the VPA processes on issues related to institutions and governance, including participatory policy development and will focus in particular on francophone countries, though the geographic scope of her/his work will not be limited to such countries.

In particular s/he will:

- Assess forest governance challenges in potential partner countries. Analyse current policies and identify reforms needed to achieve FLEGT-related goals. Compile and analyse information on timber supply chains and timber products markets.
- Assist, guide and facilitate individual VPA negotiations per request from the EC.
- Together with the wood tracking experts assist countries in designing adequate Legality Assurance Systems (LAS) responding to requirements of the EC FLEGT briefing notes.
- Inform institutions and stakeholders on FLEGT and promote Voluntary Partnership Agreements or other arrangements that can be instrumental in achieving FLEGT goals.
- Track, analyse and disseminate relevant policy and trade developments in the EU and other consumer markets.
- Assess transparency and accountability measures in national forest sectors and assess any anti-corruption measures.
- Assist in preparing policy briefs and other material relevant to communicating about the FLEGT programme.
- Compile lessons learnt on VPA processes.
- Provide input to the FLEGT ad-hoc working group.
- Contribute to donor progress reports.
- Contribute to the Facility Newsletter and website
- Execute other tasks as assigned.

Qualifications

Communications specialist:

- Preferably 10 years of relevant communications experience, experience involving developing countries will be a plus.
- Ability to empathize with diverse target groups.
- Excellent writing and presentation skills
- Fluent English speaker. Solid French or Spanish skills will be a plus.
- Degree level qualification in social science, forestry or natural resource management and with a specialized qualification in communication, journalism or related subject

Governance specialist:

- Preferably 10 years of international working experience in forest policy analysis and formulation and policy reform processes.
- FLEGT experience is a considerable plus
- Sound experience in participatory and consultative multi-stakeholder process facilitation, recognized as diplomatic, impartial and experienced facilitator and negotiator
- 5 years working experience in francophone Africa
- Native French speaker with good command of English.
- MSc or higher university degree in forestry, natural resource management, policy science and economics or a related field

Both, communications and governance specialist

- Track record for creative and strategic thinking and pragmatic problem solving.
- Ability to work on complex and politically sensitive issues with governments, industry, NGOs and communities.
- Excellent communication and networking skills, solid writing and reporting skills.
- Demonstrated ability of working in multi-disciplinary international teams and in multi-cultural environments.

Duty station and travel

The specialists will be based in Brussels. Both positions will require frequent travel in Europe and to partner countries in the tropics.

Employment conditions

The experts will be EFI staff members. The duration of employment will be 3 years. EFI offers competitive benefits and salary packages.

Interested candidates are requested to send an application letter and detailed CV **by 30 June 2009** to Niina Verkerk, Project Officer, EU FLEGT Facility, email: niina.verkerk@efi.int, phone: +358-10-773.43.49. For more information about the vacancies contact Ralph M. Ridder, Manager, EU FLEGT Facility, email: ralph.ridder@efi.int, phone: +358-10-773.43.19.

