

European Forest Institute
– EFI –
is an international organisation established by European States

EFI is now seeking a
FRANCOPHONE LEGALITY ASSURANCE EXPERT

The European Forest Institute (EFI) is an international organisation with 21 European member countries, and 126 associate member institutions. EFI headquarters are located in Joensuu, Finland. EFI has several regional offices across 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 by the European Commission with co-funding from the Governments of Finland and the UK.

The Facility aims at having 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 agreements between the EU and timber product exporting partner countries, including analytical studies guiding the VPA processes and a communication portfolio, and (ii) implementing the regional FLEGT Asia support programme.

To reinforce the Facility's team, EFI intends to engage a francophone Legality Assurance Expert. She/he will report to the Facility's senior Legality Assurance (LAS) Expert.

Tasks and responsibilities

The expert will provide guidance to the VPA processes on legality assurance system design and implementation, including governance related and institutional issues, such as participatory policy development. She/he will focus in particular on francophone countries, though the geographic scope of her/his work will not be limited to such countries. The incumbent will work closely with FLEGT stakeholders in Europe and in partner countries including government, industry and NGOs.

In particular she/he will:

- Assist during technical and formal VPA negotiations:
 - Analyse the existing chain of custody and timber product tracking in Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) countries and the adequacy of the existing control arrangements, and prepare recommendations for their improvement.
 - Assist partner countries in understanding pros and cons of available wood tracking options and assist countries in the design of LAS systems – including the required multi-stakeholder consultations – answering EU FLEGT briefing notes requirements.
 - Review LAS proposals.
 - Compile and evaluate cost estimations on LAS implementation.

- Assist during VPA implementation: Guide, support and periodically assess effectiveness of VPA implementation by the partner government and the selected technology provider for wood tracking systems.
- Prepare TOR and conduct analytical studies and supervise sub-contracted studies in the field of LAS.
- Regularly provide information to the FLEGT Facility communications expert.
- Provide periodic first-hand input and evaluations to the FLEGT ad-hoc working group (EC and EU member states).
- Monitor technological developments in chain of custody systems and timber tracking and their applicability in VPA countries and prepare respective guidance notes and other material for VPA countries.
- Execute other tasks as assigned.

Qualifications

- MSc or higher university degree in forestry, natural resources management or a related and suitable field.
- Experience in setting up and operating a wood tracking system in a tropical country is a requirement.
- Preferably 5 years working experience in forest resources management in west or central Africa.
- Solid experience with multi-stakeholder processes.
- Ability of dealing with sensitive issues with governments, industry and civil society. Excellent diplomatic skills.
- Track record for creative and strategic thinking and pragmatic problem solving.
- Excellent communication, networking, writing and reporting skills.
- Demonstrated ability of working in multi-disciplinary teams in multi-cultural environments.
- Proficiency in French and English is required.

Duty station and travel

The specialist will be based at EFI office in Brussels with frequent travel within Europe and to timber producing countries, mainly in Africa, Asia and Latin America, participating in the EU FLEGT process.

Employment conditions

The expert will be an EFI staff member. The initial duration of employment will be 3 years with options for extension. EFI offers a competitive benefits and salary package.

Interested candidates are requested to send an application letter and CV by 7 December 2009 to Niina Verkerk, Project Officer, EU FLEGT Facility, phone: +358-10-773.43.49, email: niina.verkerk@efi.int
For more information about the post please contact Ralph M. Ridder, Manager, EU FLEGT Facility, phone +358-10-773.43.19, email: ralph.ridder@efi.int

