

**European Forest Institute (EFI) is now seeking a
GOVERNANCE EXPERT
to reinforce its EU FLEGT Facility**

European Forest Institute (EFI) is an international organisation with 22 European member countries, and over 120 Associate Member institutions. EFI headquarters are located in Joensuu, Finland. EFI has several Regional Offices across Europe and a FLEGT office (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and is establishing an office in Brussels.

EFI is hosting and managing the EU FLEGT Facility, which has the role of supporting the implementation of the EU FLEGT Action Plan. The Facility is funded by the European Commission with co-funding from the Governments of the UK, Finland, France, the Netherlands and Germany.

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 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 VPA team, EFI intends to engage a Governance expert, reporting to the Facility's Senior Governance Expert.

VPA Team Governance Expert

The expert will work together with other VPA Team members to provide support and guidance to VPA processes, in particular legality assurance system design and implementation, including legality definition development, governance related and institutional issues, and participatory policy development.

Tasks and Responsibilities

The incumbent will be part of the EFI FLEGT Facility VPA team who provides direct support to Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) processes. Emphasis will be placed on the negotiation and implementation phases within the VPA where the EFI VPA team is strongly relied upon to provide technical, analytical, and practical assistance to both the European Commission, EU Delegations in country, and VPA partner country stakeholders. In particular, s/he will

1. Together with other VPA Team Experts **assist countries in designing adequate Legality Assurance Systems (LAS) responding to requirements of the EC FLEGT briefing notes**. The incoming expert will concentrate more time on stakeholder consultation processes, legality definition development, transparency, and governance issues relating to the VPA.
2. **Support, assist, guide and facilitate individual VPA negotiations** per request from the European Commission. This could include participation in VPA negotiation sessions between the EU and the VPA partner country, direct support to in country stakeholder consultation processes, presenting VPA elements to different stakeholders, preparing documentation and guidance notes to facilitate understanding both within the European Commission and within VPA partner countries, and analyze and document lessons learned from VPA processes.

3. **Support, assist, guide and facilitate individual VPA implementation** per request from the Commission and/or EU Delegation in country, including participation in Joint Implementation Committee meetings, technical support to VPA partner country stakeholders, documentation and support to EU Delegations in overseeing VPA objectives, and sub contracting technical expertise to support VPA implementation.
4. Provide input and help develop guidance notes and presentation materials on **Legality Definition development, stakeholder consultation process, and other Legality Assurance System elements**.
5. **Assess forest governance challenges** in VPA partner countries to understand possible VPA challenges and analyze current policies and identify reforms needed to achieve FLEGT-related goals.
6. **Inform institutions and stakeholders on FLEGT, Voluntary Partnership Agreements, and the different elements within VPAs that can be instrumental in achieving FLEGT goals**. Particular focus will be to inform and communicate with **VPA partner country stakeholders and potential VPA partner countries** that have expressed an interest in VPA processes.
7. Assess, analyze and understand governance, enforcement, transparency, accountability measures in national forest sectors and any national anticorruption measures that may be complements and building blocks for VPA Legality Assurance System development and implementation.
8. **Communicate and provide input** where appropriate to inform about VPA country progress, VPA processes and VPA impact on governance issues. Target groups could include the FLEGT ad-hoc working group, EU member states, donor progress reports, Facility newsletter and website etc.
9. Execute other tasks as assigned.

Duty station and travel

The Governance expert will be based either at EFI HQ or at the EFI office in Brussels, Belgium, with frequent travel within Europe and to FLEGT partner countries, mainly in Africa (also in Asia and Latin America if necessary).

Qualifications

1. Preferably 5 years of international working experience in forest policy analysis, FLEGT related activities or equivalent.
2. University degree in forestry, natural resource management, policy science and economics or a related and suitable field, MSC or higher degree a plus.
3. Ability to work on complex and politically sensitive issues with governments, industry, NGOs and communities.
 - Track record for creative and strategic thinking and pragmatic problem solving.
 - Excellent communication and networking skills, solid writing, reporting and presentation skills.
 - Demonstrated ability of working in multi-disciplinary, international teams and in multi-cultural environments. Good interpersonal skills.
 - Being recognized as diplomatic, impartial and experienced facilitator and negotiator.
4. Sound experience in participatory and consultative multi-stakeholder process facilitation.
5. Preferably 2 years working experience in Africa.

6. Self disciplined and self directed effective in working in environments where limited structures, limited models and limited supervision or guidance may be evident.
7. Proficiency in English and French is required, Spanish or Portuguese skills are an asset.
8. Comfortable travelling to different developing countries with limited support and guidance.

Employment conditions

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

Interested candidates are requested to apply [online](#) or to send an application letter and CV **by 14 February 2011** to Human Resources Office, EFI, email: flegt@efi.int.

For more information about the position please contact Ralph M. Ridder, Manager, EU FLEGT Facility, phone +358-10-773.43.19, email: ralph.ridder@efi.int.