

**The European Forest Institute
is seeking a
Private Sector Expert
based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

The European Forest Institute (EFI) is an international organisation with 29 member countries and around 120 member organisations. EFI has several offices across Europe and a project office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia which supports forest governance processes in the Asia Region.

For over ten years, EFI has supported the European Commission, EU Delegations, EU Member States and partner countries in the implementation of the EU FLEGT Action Plan and other forest related policies.

Since 2015, EFI has been testing approaches to enable forest- and timber-based micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), in particular micro- and small-scale processors in the Mekong region to operate legally and sustainably. Further information about this work is available at www.euflegt.link/smes-mekong.

To reinforce EFI's Asia team, we are seeking a Private Sector Expert to join our team to implement EFI's MSME support in the Mekong region.

Tasks and responsibilities

The Expert will provide support and guidance to private sector actors, in particular micro- and small-scale entities, to operate legally and sustainably. The Expert will also work closely with stakeholders in Asian countries including governments, industry associations and civil society to strengthen the support they provide to MSMEs and encourage the uptake of MSME interests and concerns by national policy processes in the context of forest governance reforms.

As part of the EFI Asia team, the Expert will:

- Build capacity of micro- and small-scale private sector actors to help them comply with laws and regulations in the timber sector and improve their business practices. The Expert works closely with national MSME coordinators in Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam to provide technical support to the design and delivery of training activities. The Expert also acts as trainer. Training topics include sustainable forest management, timber processing, production management, traceability of timber used, financial management, marketing, etc. The expert is the technical reference point on the aforesaid topics.
- Build capacity of stakeholders interacting with MSMEs to enable them to provide more targeted support to the MSMEs, in particularly micro- and small-scale actors. Relevant stakeholders include local and national authorities, policy makers, industry associations, banks and CSOs.
- Support the integration of MSMEs into legal and sustainable timber supply chains and create market access opportunities for tree growers by connecting them to timber processors, traders and retailers.

- Work closely with EFI's gender and human rights expert and the national MSME coordinators to incorporate gender components in MSME activities and promote gender equality, women's economic empowerment and human rights in the Mekong region's forest sector.
- Support capturing and analysing lessons learnt from past and future capacity building activities, and facilitate lessons learnt sharing in the Mekong countries and at regional level.

Qualifications

- At least 6 years of working experience in the field of natural resources management and/or timber utilization, in particular in tropical timber producing or processing countries. Working experience in Asia preferred. Experience training micro- and small-scale operators in the forest sector and FLEGT experience are assets.
- University degree in natural resources management, forestry, wood technology, forest products marketing and trade, business administration or a related and suitable field. MSc/MA or higher degree is an asset.
- Excellent and hands-on understanding of the forest and timber sector and effective private sector support, in particular related to MSMEs. Working experience on gender and women's economic empowerment is an asset.
- Demonstrated ability of working in multi-disciplinary teams in multi-cultural environments.
- Excellent analytical and networking skills, solid writing, reporting and presentation skills.
- Professional proficiency in written and spoken English. Proficiency in one of the languages spoken in Southeast Asia is an asset.

Duty Station and travel

The Expert will be based in EFI's office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with frequent travel to partner countries in Southeast Asia (mainly Mekong region).

Employment Conditions

The Expert will be an EFI staff member. The initial duration of employment will be 2 years including a six-month probationary period. EFI offers a competitive benefits and salary package.

Interested candidates are requested to send (in English) a CV including copies of academic degree certificates/diplomas with a motivation letter by **14th October 2021**, using our [online](#) application form.

For more information about the position, please contact Alexander Hinrichs, Head of EFI's Office in Kuala Lumpur, email: Alexander.Hinrichs@efi.int.

EFI is an equal opportunity employer. All applications will be treated confidentially.

Please note that only candidates that have been shortlisted for interview will be contacted.