

The European Forest Institute
is seeking a
Forest Governance and Timber Legality Assurance Expert
based in Brussels, Belgium

The European Forest Institute (EFI) is an international organisation with 30 member countries and around 130 member organisations. EFI's headquarters are in Joensuu, Finland. EFI has several offices across Europe and EFI's International Partnership Facility is located in Barcelona, Spain with project offices in Brussels, Belgium and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

For over twelve years, EFI has supported the European Commission, EU Delegations, EU Member States and partner countries in the implementation of the EU FLEGT Action Plan, in particular the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) processes. Further information about our work is available at <https://efi.int/partnerships> and <https://flegtvpafacility.org/>.

To reinforce EFI's FLEGT team, we are seeking a Forest Governance and Timber Legality Assurance (TLAS) Expert to join our VPA Africa and Latin America Facility team based in our Brussels office.

Tasks and responsibilities

The Expert will support progress in VPA negotiations and implementation in African and Latin American partner countries.

The Expert will work closely with the European Commission as well as EU Delegations and stakeholders in VPA partner countries including governments, forest operators, industry and civil society. As part of a team of FLEGT experts, she/he will:

- Contribute to strategically and practically advance forest governance through the FLEGT VPA processes.
- Support bilateral dialogues between the EU and the VPA partner countries and related multi-stakeholder dialogues.
- Provide guidance to support VPA implementation processes in partner countries
- Assist partner countries to increase accountability and legality along the timber supply chains through development and implementation of VPA related systems.
- Support the strengthening of systems and capacities for FLEGT licensing through technical expertise.
- Prepare and /or contribute to technical and other analyses, guidance, briefings, lessons to inform FLEGT actors, as needed.

Qualifications

- Minimum of 4 years relevant working experience, part of which in timber producing countries in Central/West Africa or in Central/South America on forestry and/or timber industry, or related field. Familiarity with forest governance and timber legality issues and solutions. FLEGT related experience is an asset.
- University degree in natural resource management, forestry, or a related and suitable field. MSc/MA or higher degree is an asset.
- Capacity for strategic and creative thinking, including ability to identify problems and potential solutions that aim for win-win outcomes.

- Ability to work on politically sensitive issues with different stakeholders (governments, industry, NGOs and communities) and to understand socio-political and cultural context of natural resources management and land-use governance in Central/West Africa or Central/South America.
- Demonstrated ability of working in multi-disciplinary teams in multi-cultural environments.
- Proven writing, reporting, presentational and communication skills, especially capacity to synthesize and produce short briefings delivered in different formats.
- Experience with development cooperation projects and procedures an asset.
- Knowledge or experience with EU procedural and decision-making process an asset
- Professional proficiency in written and spoken English and French. Proficiency in Spanish is an asset.

Duty Station and travel

The Expert will be based at our office in Brussels, Belgium with frequent travel to VPA partner countries.

Employment Conditions

The Expert will be an EFI staff member. The initial period of employment will be until 31st December 2023, with the possibility for extension depending on project opportunities. 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 3rd October 2022, using our [online](#) application form.

For more information about the position, please contact Mr. Tim Dawson, Team Leader, email: tim.dawson@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.