

INVITATION TO PROVIDE CONSULTING SERVICES

International Expert – Baseline and impact monitoring expert

Background

In 2003, the European Union (EU) adopted the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan to address illegal logging and improve sustainable forest management. The FLEGT Action Plan identifies various measures to enable producing countries and the EU to ensure that only legal timber is traded in the EU market. To support timber producing countries to implement aspects of the FLEGT Action Plan, the EU and FAO initiated the ACP-FLEGT Programme (2008-2012), which was scaled up in May 2012 with the EU FAO FLEGT Programme (2012-2016). The overall objective of the Programme is to improve governance in the forest sector ultimately contributing to poverty reduction and sustainable management of forest resources. The EU FAO FLEGT programme has two main components: 1) providing support to local stakeholders (government institutions, civil society organizations and private sector organizations) to address their priority forest governance and law enforcement priorities; and 2) information and knowledge sharing support.

Among the partnership of actors working on FLEGT, there is a common challenge of identifying and in turn, communicating impacts of FLEGT ten years on, deriving from problems in collecting and analysing data but also assessing trends. While the outputs of the ACP-FLEGT Programme turned out to be significant, assessing the impacts of the Programme was challenging, in part due to the fact that many of the projects supported were limited in duration (a few months up to one year). As the efforts of the ACP-FLEGT Programme have been scaled up with the EU FAO FLEGT Programme, measuring the actual Programme impacts are essential.

In light of this, the Programme will develop an impact monitoring system that effectively measures the progress made by the Programme in fulfilling its objective, purpose and expected results as defined in the Programme Logical Framework. The impact monitoring system will capture changes in forest governance, illegal logging and timber trade over time, with the objective of showing the degree of contribution to this change by the EU FAO FLEGT Programme and its beneficiaries. Ultimately, this will allow drawing lessons for future support to timber producing countries to improve forest governance and sustainable forest management.

Consultancy Tasks

Under the supervision of the EU FAO FLEGT Programme Manager, the Expert will undertake the following activities:

- With the support of the programme impact monitoring consultant, the expert will review the Programme's Logical Framework, including defining qualitative and quantitative objectively verifiable indicators (OVIs), achievable target levels as well as feasible means of verification that will enable to effectively measure the Programme's impact and contribution to the FLEGT process.
- Based on the revised logical framework, the Expert will define the methodology for the baseline and end value measurement, enabling the analysis of both Programme and project level impacts. Availability and quality of existing data on forest governance and the degree to which it will provide good baseline statistics for impact evaluation should be taken into account and, where existing data is insufficient, feasible alternative sources of information should be identified.
- Together with the programme impact monitoring consultant, the Expert will conduct the first measurement with the agreed methodology to obtain the baseline for subsequent impact monitoring.
- Together with the programme impact monitoring consultant, the Expert will propose a list of actions to be implemented by the Programme to effectively measure and assess impacts.

Deliverables

With the support of the programme impact monitoring consultant, the Expert will produce a user-friendly Baseline and Monitoring Guide that will include at least:

- a) the revised logical framework;
- b) the baseline and impact assessment methodology;
- c) the first measurement for baseline assessment;
- d) the information needed to assess the achievements of the Programme and its beneficiaries and the methodology to collect this information from the beneficiaries; and
- e) the continuous monitoring activities to be implemented during the course of the Programme with practical recommendations that can be applied on a regular basis.

Qualification

The successful candidate must have:

- a university graduate degree (MS or PhD) in forestry, economics or relevant field;
- at least 7 years working on baseline development, logical framework and impact monitoring systems and a demonstrated project evaluation experience;

- thorough understanding of forest governance, policy, legal frameworks and law enforcement issues in developing countries;
- demonstrated strong analytical skills, and
- fluency in spoken and written English.

Contract

The contract duration is 30 days based on days worked and is home based with a mission to Rome.

Application

Applicants are kindly requested to send their application to Ms. Sophie Lemaitre (sophie.lemaitre@fao.org) and Ms. Julia Swaling (juliahedtjarn.swaling@fao.org).

The deadline for submission of applications is **Monday 4th November 2013**.