Citizen’s Voices for Change: Congo Basin Forest Monitoring Project

Terms of Reference: Regional Technical Advisor for Capacity Development and Advocacy

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<th>Project/Programme Name(s)</th>
<th>Citizen’s Voices for Change</th>
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<td>Project/Programme Location(s)</td>
<td>Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and Republic of Congo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project manager</td>
<td>Centre for International Development (CIDT), University of Wolverhampton</td>
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<td>Project/Programme Duration (from start year)</td>
<td>2017-2020</td>
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<td>Scope of work</td>
<td>Regional post to support the project team in delivery of capacity strengthening support</td>
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| Names of Implementing Partners | • BRAINFOREST, Gabon  
• CENTRE POUR L’ENVIRONNEMENT ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT (CED), Cameroon  
• CENTRE POUR L’INFORMATION ENVIRONEMENTALE ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE (CIEDD), Central African Republic (CAR)  
• CERCLE D’APPUI A LA GESTION DURABLE DES FORETS (CAGDF), Republic of Congo  
• FIELD LEGALITY ADVISORY GROUP (FLAG), Cameroon  
• FORETS ET DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL (FODER), Cameroon  
• OBSERVATOIRE DE LA GOUVERNANCE FORESTIERE (OGF), Democratic Republic of Congo  
• WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE (WRI), United States of America |
Introduction

The Citizen Voices for Change (CV4C): Congo Basin Forest Monitoring Project will establish a strong, sustainable partnership of forest monitoring Non State Actors in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and the Republic of Congo. The action will strengthen their capacity, influence and long-term viability, to perform essential watchdog functions effectively across the Congo Basin region.

CIDT-led and FLAG supported capacity development activities within the project will target two broad areas, in order to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of NSAs and their potential to drive genuine governance improvements through their work:

1. The technical IFM expertise of co-applicants and NSA platforms
2. The organisational and institutional effectiveness of co-applicants and NSA platforms.

Scope of work

Job Purpose

This post is for a Regional Technical Advisor for Capacity Development and Advocacy who will be based regionally (within the offices of FLAG in Yaoundé, Cameroon) and actively contribute to the achievement of project objectives, effective project management and specifically offer strong support on the capacity development activities with partners and platforms. The purpose of the role is to support the CIDT Technical Capacity Building Experts by having a presence in the region and to complement the role of FLAG’s current IFM technical experts with capacity building expertise and support. The post involves regular travel to project countries within the region.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

The consultant will;

1. Facilitate communication between CIDT Technical Experts, FLAG and co-applicants (partners), platforms and other stakeholders in the project countries
2. Engage with and represent the project in national and regional processes on FLEGT, REDD+, land-use change in-order to inform the project activities at both national and regional level
3. Provide technical and logistical support in the design, development and implementation capacity building activities.
4. Coordinate regional advocacy initiatives and actions based on results of monitoring of forest and land-use change governance e.g. transparency, corruption, forest and land related investments etc
5. Undertake targeted research and reporting on the monitoring of FLEGT, REDD+ and land-use change regionally and in project countries within the framework of the project
6. Support the Project Manager in collecting and delivering on M&E outputs
7. Support the organisation and facilitation of regional lesson learning events including forums, as required
8. Contribute to project funding proposals writing and undertake fundraising and business development activities within FLAG
Management
The Regional Technical Advisor on Capacity Development and Advocacy will report to the FLAG Project Manager and will work hand in hand with the CIDT Project Manager and Technical Experts. The incumbent will foster a strong working relationship with project partners in the 5 countries.

Qualifications and experience
- MSc degree(s) in Social sciences, Development Studies, Forestry or equivalent
- Strong knowledge of the Congo Basin forestry context
- Good understanding of training & Capacity development principles
- Demonstrated skills and experience in the design and delivery of training
- At least 5 years proven experience in monitoring and evaluation, data collection
- Knowledge and expertise in international forest policy – proven experience with FLEGT, REDD+ highly desirable
- Excellent communication and written skills in both English and French
- Excellent IT skills
- Strong team worker with ability to respond flexibly and proactively to challenges as they arise
- Research experience working with indigenous peoples

How to Apply
Interested applicants should express interest by sending a detailed Curriculum Vitae and brief covering letter. The letter should include:
- Why you are an appropriate consultant for this role
- Demonstrate your understanding of capacity development and advocacy principles
- Details of your qualities and/or approach that will add value to the role
- Your availability to be physically available to deliver the services required over the project lifespan

Deadline:
Applications to be sent to flagorganisation@gmail.com/mailflag@flag-cm.org or submitted at FLAG’s regional office in Yaoundé Cameroon at “Mfandena, Rue Tsoungui Oloa, Immeuble la grâce divine, 2nd Floor, door 21”; no later than 22nd of May, 2017
PROJECT BACKGROUND
Non-State Actors Participation in Forest Governance, FLEGT and REDD+1

An empowered civil society, including indigenous peoples and local communities, with the capacity to access and analyse information, to monitor forest governance including forest land use policies, to advocate and to hold governments accountable are key to improve forest and land governance. It is central to the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) and Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) processes.

As forest and land use policies are susceptible to corruption2, ensuring transparency and accountability linked to FLEGT and REDD+ implementation is key to the credibility and viability of both processes. The current scale and pace of deforestation and forest degradation is alarming. This has a negative impact not only at a local level – on local economies, community livelihoods and ecosystem goods and services provided to the local population (timber and non-timber forest products, local climate, water availability, protection against erosion and natural disasters) but also globally, especially on climate change and biodiversity, desertification and poverty reduction.

Agriculture is estimated to be the driver for around 80% of deforestation worldwide1. Recent analysis suggests that almost half of total tropical deforestation between 2000 and 2012 was due to - possibly illegal- conversion of forests for commercial agriculture, and that a quarter was the direct result of - possibly illegal-agro-conversion for export markets. Although conversion primarily takes place to clear forest- land for agricultural expansion, significant portions of tropical timber come from these conversion areas, and this raises issues of possible illegality of the timber salvaged from these areas as well as of the agro-commodities produced from them.

A roadmap for progress towards the good governance required for successful implementation of REDD+ has been developed. Importantly, it has to be owned and understood by a wide array of stakeholders in the countries concerned, preventing the conflict of interest that would arise if e.g. governments or non-state actors were left to monitor and evaluate their own performance.

Forest monitoring has been reported to contribute towards combating corruption, reducing illegal activities and improving accountability in the forest sector. Although such monitoring activities have been implemented mostly in the context of industrial timber harvesting and trade, its potential to improve forest governance has interested actors to carry out independent monitoring activities in other areas of forest and forest land management, for example REDD+.

Supporting increased capacity of stakeholders to build open and accessible information systems responds to the increasing demand for transparency in forest and land use policies. The use of this information through activities such as participative forest monitoring allows citizens to observe how official governance systems operate in practice and to push for improvements if needed. As forest and land use policies are susceptible to corruption, ensuring transparency and accountability linked to FLEGT and REDD+ implementation is key to the credibility and viability of both processes.

Participative forest monitoring assesses forest governance and legal compliance in the forest sector. As a tool for improving forest governance, participative forest monitoring has been carried out using a variety of approaches and by involving different stakeholder groups in specific countries. It has been a major focus of work of many actors engaged in Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) implementation. In several VPA partner countries, independent monitors have established solid networks at national and subnational levels and built their credibility as watchdog organisations. Although only in its inception, regional exchanges are increasingly frequent and there is an interest to build more formal networks in and between regions.

2 http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/to_conserve_forests_climate_funds_must_cut_out_corruption
3 Consumer Goods and Deforestation: An Analysis of the Extent and Nature of Illegality in Forest Conversion for Agriculture and Timber Plantations- Sam Lawson
VPAs highlight the importance of this role by establishing the rights of citizens to access information on the forest sector, by including the use of complaints mechanisms and by providing that independent monitors are a source of information to the independent audit of the timber legality assurance system established under the Agreements. As both REDD+ and FLEGT implementation makes progress on the ground there is an increasing acknowledgement from partners countries of the need for open, transparent systems and processes and the ability of civil society and stakeholders (including e.g. right holders, farmers, the private sector and academics) to effectively engage in these processes. This project responds to these needs.