FOREST TRENDS

Call for CVs: Forest Policy, Trade, and Finance subject matter experts

Title: Consultant
Location: Global (varies depending on work program)
Term: Annual contract with possibility for extension

Background:

For two decades, Forest Trends (FT) has pioneered the idea that recognizing and expanding the economic value of forests and other ecosystems can be a powerful strategy to sustain them. We work across multiple forest and land use sectors to create markets for legal forest products, incentives to conserve and restore ecosystems, and improve overall natural resource governance. In doing so, we shift the economic and policy paradigms to sustainable forest management, thereby supporting healthy ecosystems and livelihoods of local forest-dependent communities, while combating climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental crime.

The Forest Policy, Trade, and Finance (FPTF) initiative aims to promote policies which harness the power of market incentives for the legal and sustainable trade in timber and other commodities harvested from forest landscapes. FPTF combines research, mentorship, and convening “communities of practice” to address issues at the intersection of natural resource governance, markets and trade, law enforcement, resource rights, and green growth. Since its creation in the early 2000s, FPTF has gained the trust of high-level government decision-makers in key timber-producer and -consumer countries by producing timely data analysis with key insights on relevance for markets, livelihoods, and policy impact. Much of the research is developed in close collaboration with local civil society organizations, researchers, and other stakeholders.

Forest Trends’ FPTF Initiative is now seeking to expand our team of consultants and is accepting proposals from subject matter experts with proven skills and capacities that match our core work programs:

1. Combatting global illegal logging and agricultural commodity-driven deforestation
2. Promoting demand-side timber import regulations in established (US, Europe) and emerging (Asia-Pacific) markets
3. Promoting transparent, equitable, and rights-based natural resource governance in Myanmar
4. Harnessing market incentives for sustainable, legal timber and commodity trade in Vietnam

In addition, we are seeking consultants with competencies in data analysis and strategic communications/outreach.

Specific deliverables may include:

- Leading the development of program strategies on specific themes and/or regions, while identifying synergies across work programs
• Serving as policy advisor, providing technical assistance to the development, implementation, and enforcement of legislation aiming to improve forest governance (in producer countries) and/or transform markets away from illegally sourced products (in consumer countries)
• Advise the development and expansion of “communities of practice,” including the design and facilitation of regular workshops for the Timber Regulation Enforcement Exchange (TREE)
• Liaise with a wide variety of stakeholders including high-level government officials, private sector (operators, trade associations, etc.), international NGOs and researchers, and national civil society and community-based organizations.
• Manage relationships with existing partners, while scoping new partnerships
• Leading and conducting research, including high-quality policy and trade analyses
• Writing, contributing to, and/or coordinating the production of flagship publications, policy briefs, and technical reports
• Collating and analyzing timber and commodity trade statistics and producing data visualizations
• Serving as a spokesperson for Forest Trends, disseminating research findings to key audiences, and developing targeted outreach strategies
• Providing the FPTF team with regular updates on policy developments and implications for program strategy

Preferred knowledge, skills, and attributes:

• A deep commitment to Forest Trends’ mission
• At least 5 years’ experience in one or more of FPTF’s core work program areas or regions
• Education in a related field (e.g., forestry, natural resource economics, geography, anthropology, law, political ecology, international development, etc.)
• Strong skills in legal, policy, and/or trade analysis. A background in both qualitative and quantitative research is an asset.
• Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write clear, persuasive content.
• A track record of engagement with, or existing network of, high-level contacts including policymakers, the private sector, national civil society/community/indigenous organizations, media, and/or donors.
• Ability to represent Forest Trends in a variety of fora.
• Ability to work independently, prioritize competing demands and projects in both the short and long term, and perform well under pressure.
• Experience working in tropical forested countries (particularly the Mekong subregion), and/or experience engaging in policy processes in the EU, US, and East Asia (China, Japan, Republic of Korea). Myanmar and Vietnamese nationals are strongly encouraged to apply to these work programs.
• Language skills including French, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, and/or Burmese are welcome, though not required.

To apply:

Please submit your cover letter, CV/resume, and short writing sample to zkennedy@forest-trends.org with the email subject line “FPTF Subject Matter Expert” to ensure we see your application. In your application, please specify your work program of interest.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until March 31, 2021. We encourage you to apply early and will be in contact if your experience matches our program’s needs.