

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

LOT_2 'Conduct a study on the readiness of companies to meet legal timber requirements.'

Project: Building Active Actors and Systems to Support (BAASS) Deforestation-Free Commodities in Ghana and Liberia

Introduction

The Nature and Development Foundation (NDF), a modest environmental non-governmental organisation (NGO) is inviting qualified and interested person(s)/organisations to express interest in conducting a study on the 'preparedness of companies to meet legal timber requirements'.

Background

Ghana signed onto the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR) and the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) to foster sustainable forest management practices and has committed to supply and trade in legal timber on both international and domestic markets. Soon after the ratification of the agreements, the development of systems to enhance implementation commenced. Chief amongst them is the Ghana Wood Tracking System (GWTS) which provides a mechanism to trace wood/wood products from their source in the forest, through processing to the point of sale in the market. Several programs including awareness creation and capacity building targeted at the various stakeholders have also been rolled out. Legal wood campaigns and education have contributed to increased consumption of legal wood on the domestic market of Ghana and improved compliance with social responsibility agreement (SRA) requirements etc. Viewed as critical to the success of FLEGT implementation, the timber industry, has received several supports to prepare them to meet legality requirements established under the FLEGT/VPA. A portal (window) to the GWTS has been developed for the private sector (industry) to enhance transparency. State and Non-state actors have delivered enormous capacity-building support and training to industry to enhance their compliance abilities. As Ghana prepares to issue FLEGT license timber, there is value in assessing the readiness of companies to comply with the laid down regulations focusing on companies which have benefited from capacity building over the years.

This study is part of implementing the project 'Building Active Actors and Systems to Support (BAASS) to support deforestation-free commodities in Ghana and Liberia'. The project is receiving funding from UK Aid through the Forest Governance Markets and Climate (FGMC) Programme. The project aims to increase the capacity of state and non-state actors towards reducing deforestation through legal timber trade and responsible mining.

2. Objectives

The objective of the study is to find out the preparedness of the timber industry to comply with legal timber requirements and identify areas for improvement assuming FLEGT was to be implemented today

Scope of work

This assignment will involve the following which is not an exhaustive list:

1. Explore the awareness and understanding of the private sector on applicable components of the FLEGT regulations.
2. Evaluate the availability and robustness of internal processes and procedures instituted by companies to meet regulatory requirements (ensure compliance).
3. Assess the level of training and awareness among employees about legal requirements
4. Identify gaps and areas requiring improvement to enhance compliance.

Who can apply/ Team/Qualification?

The assignment must be carried out by a qualified person(s) with appropriate experience in similar research work(s) and must have a minimum of a master's degree.

Travel

Travelling to the premises of timber companies to engage and interact with players (both big and small) in the industry (Across the country) is essential for credible data collection.

Timeframe

A total number of 20 man-days is allowed. The study should be completed preferably by November 2024.

How to apply

Please apply by sending

1. Summarized CV(s) of the consultant(s) proposed to undertake the study
2. A maximum of a two-pager summary of your capabilities including evidence of similar work previously undertaken by the consultant(s) and two or more referees.
3. Proposed daily rates (in Ghana Cedis) for the proposed consultant(s)

Please send these documents to info@ndfwestafrica.org

*****APPLICATION DEADLINE**

The deadline for submission of interest is Sunday, 31st August 2024.



Please note that only short-listed consultants will be contacted.