

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FLEGT FACILITATOR IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Palladium (formerly GRM International) is a major global force in development, creating positive impact through more than 100 current projects with more than 2,000 employees operating in over 90 countries. The combined group specializes in a number of core development sectors, offering diverse technical expertise and a wide geographic reach. We aim to be a world leader in the delivery of positive impact solutions whilst meeting the highest professional and ethical standards.

Palladium is seeking to recruit a FLEGT Facilitator in Côte d'Ivoire, who will be responsible for facilitation of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between Côte d'Ivoire and the European Union.

1. Programme Overview

DFID's Forest Governance, Markets and Climate (FGMC) Programme aims to bring about governance and market reforms that reduce the illegal use of forest resources and benefit poor people who depend on forests for their livelihoods. It supports the European Union (EU) Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, as part of a global effort to tackle deforestation, in particular by tackling illegal logging in developing timber-producing countries and the trade in illegally-produced timber products.

The EU adopted its FLEGT Action Plan in 2003, in recognition of the increasing public concern with the social, economic and environmental consequences of illegal logging and related trade worldwide. A key element of the Action Plan is a proposal to establish bilateral voluntary partnership agreements (VPAs) between the EU and timber-producing countries. These will ensure that only legally-sourced timber products are imported into the EU from these partner countries. Under these agreements the EU will provide assistance to improve governance and law enforcement and to put in place systems that verify legality.

The ultimate success and credibility of VPAs require: (i) that the wide range of actions envisaged in the agreements stay on track; (ii) that stakeholder processes that helped shape the VPA negotiations are sustained and strengthened; (iii) that requirements of international markets for evidence of legal production of timber and agricultural commodities produced on forest land are available to and understood by stakeholders in each partner country; (iv) that the progress made by partner countries in tackling forest governance challenges, including implementation of their VPAs, is known to international stakeholders; and (v) that lessons are shared between partner countries negotiating or implementing FLEGT VPAs, and with other FLEGT-related activities.

Successful implementation of the VPA also requires the support of all stakeholders and their commitment to work together to strengthen sector governance. It is therefore essential that in the negotiation of the agreement, the Facilitation support encourages the effective participation of a wide range of stakeholders.

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire formally asked the EU to start VPA negotiations in December 2012. A Technical Negotiation Committee (CTN) with representatives of all key stakeholders (Administration, civil society, private sector and chiefdom colleges) was created in May 2013 and has met regularly ever since. Two negotiation sessions with the EU have taken place to this day.

The definition of legality is underway, pending the validation of implementing regulations for the revised Forest law. Efforts made to build trust among Ivorian stakeholders and to increase their level of engagement have proved to be crucial and need to be maintained, together with coordination efforts with other programmes and initiatives of particular relevance to the process.

2. FLEGT Facilitation support

Palladium is seeking to recruit a FLEGT Facilitator in Côte d'Ivoire, who will be responsible for facilitation of the VPA process in Côte d'Ivoire and will work closely with the EU (Delegation and European Commission Headquarters) and the full range of Ivorian stakeholders in Côte d'Ivoire. The position will report to the Project Director and will be based in Palladium's office in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, with occasional travel within Côte d'Ivoire and regionally.

Ensuring that all stakeholders in Côte d'Ivoire understand VPA's benefits, requirements and processes, so that they engage effectively requires expert facilitation.

The Facilitation Services should result in the following outputs:

- **Effective and efficient support** is available to both Ivorian and EU negotiation teams that enables them to monitor progress, identify problems, understand stakeholder perspectives, and provide relevant and timely input to the dialogue between the parties;
- **National stakeholders have access to information** on progress with VPA negotiations to ensure maximum opportunity for their effective engagement;
- As guided by both Parties, **lessons learnt from negotiations are shared** with and between Ivorian stakeholders, including decision-makers, opinion formers, civil society organisations, and the private sector, and with external stakeholders, including donors and the European Forest Institute's FLEGT Facility; and
- Information **on the requirements of emerging international market standards and legislation** that affect Côte d'Ivoire related to the trade in timber products, agricultural products grown on forest land and mining products is assembled and regularly and effectively communicated to relevant stakeholders to inform negotiation process.

3. Role and Primary Responsibilities of the FLEGT Facilitator

The FLEGT Facilitator will support the negotiation of Côte d'Ivoire's FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU. In particular they will:

- a. Acquire a good knowledge of and maintain regular contacts with all FLEGT/VPA stakeholders including the European Union (EU) and colleges of administration, private sector, civil society and traditional chieftain representatives.
- b. Support in identifying key stakeholders particularly those traditionally excluded from decision-making processes in the forest sector.
- c. Facilitate the diffusion of information and relevant documentation amongst stakeholders without acting on their behalf.
- d. Promote the ownership and a sound understanding of the process, stakes and topics in discussion by all stakeholders.
- e. Promote the active involvement of all stakeholders according to their needs in forest governance in Côte d'Ivoire and especially in the FLEGT/VPA process.
- f. Create if needed, spaces of informal exchanges between actors and venues for expression and listening of all stakeholders.
- g. Support FLEGT/VPA negotiation structures of the EU and the Côte d'Ivoire parties (Technical Negotiation Committee, Permanent Technical Secretariat) for the preparation, organisation and follow-up of meetings; and contribute to the preparation of minutes of the technical and formal negotiation sessions and their diffusion.
- h. Identify difficulties/problems associated with the involvement of stakeholders and promote a sound understanding of respective points of views of actors.
- i. Work in collaboration with the FLEGT/VPA National Focal Point to ensure effective involvement of different ministries and state institutions in the FLEGT/VPA negotiations through their focal points.
- j. Facilitate information exchanges on technical and financial support opportunities for the negotiations of FLEGT/VPA.
- k. Facilitate and support if needed assignments of consultants in charge of missions and studies within the framework of the FLEGT/VPA.
- l. Support the organisation/moderation of workshops, consultations, field visits according to needs.
- m. Encourage stakeholders to express their positions in positive and constructive interactions.
- n. Promote synergies between the VPA process and other initiatives such as REDD+.

- o. Promote coordination with international donors involved in the forest sector (AfDB, AFD, EU, FAO, GIZ, World Bank, etc.) and collaboration between partner projects (ATIBT, ClientEarth, FERN, EFI, EU FAO FLEGT, etc.).
- p. Produce a technical quarterly report in English language (achieved and planned activities) and work plan of the next quarter to be submitted to the Technical Director of the project.

4. Reporting Arrangements

The FLEGT Facilitator will report to the Technical Director of the project. Reports will be prepared on a quarterly basis and will be submitted in the final week of each calendar quarter (March, June, September, and December) and should include an update on progress with the achievement of agreed milestones reflected in the VPA negotiation roadmap.

The FLEGT Facilitator will ensure that each quarterly report is translated into French and transmitted to the Technical Negotiation Committee and the EU Delegation.

The Facilitator will also ensure that any significant developments in the sector are reported to both the DFID adviser and EU Delegation as and when they occur.

5. Candidate Profile

- Advanced degree with a specialisation in management, environmental management, forestry, natural resource governance, political economy, international relations or other relevant field;
- Minimum of 5 years' previous experience in process facilitation, mediating multi-stakeholder dialogue, and/or forest governance;
- Experience with the global FLEGT initiative an advantage;
- Experience in Côte d'Ivoire a definite advantage;
- Ability to operate effectively in complex environments;
- Strong personal qualities, including integrity, commitment to excellence, equality, openness, inclusiveness, collegiality and solving problems in challenging situations; and
- Excellent English and French communication skills (verbal and written).

6. Timing

These Terms of Reference cover the contract period from September 1st 2016 to December 31st 2017.

Interested applicants should send their CV to: Emeric.Billard@thepalladiumgroup.com