

CONSULTANT TO CARRY OUT THE TIMBER TRADE FLOWS STUDY FOR TRAFFIC CENTRAL AFRICA

DEPARTMENT : TRAFFIC Central Africa (TCAF), hosted by IUCN PACO (Yaoundé, Cameroon)

LOCATION : Cameroon

DURATION : 50 days as from the appointment

REPORTS TO : Forest & Trade Officer

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS : 24 February 2012

BACKGROUND

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, works to ensure that trade in wild animals and plants is not a threat to the conservation of nature. TRAFFIC actively monitors and investigates wildlife trade and provides information to diverse audiences worldwide as a basis for effective conservation policies and programmes. The organisation was founded in 1976 and has grown into an international network, with 30 offices worldwide, organised in eight regional programmes. TRAFFIC is a joint programme of WWF and IUCN.

TRAFFIC is seeking an Individual Consultant for its project "Strengthening the national process for controlling illegal logging and associated trade in Cameroon", funded by ITTO to conduct a study on the "roles of Cameroon in timber trade flows".

The Individual consultant, Central Africa, will be based in Cameroon, where the TRAFFIC Central African regional office (TCAF) is hosted by IUCN.

CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES

This is a full-time consultancy position and depending on the Terms of reference of the study which are available on website (<http://www.traffic.org/home/2012/2/2/vacancy-timber-trade-flow-consultant-central-africa.html>).

This consultancy position involves a technical and advising role in TCAF's forest and trade work, with special emphasis on timber trade in Cameroon. Characteristic duties include:

- Assess the scope, scale and extent of the role of Cameroon in the timber flows with countries of Central Africa and to Europe, Asia and America;
- Identify the impact of small scale loggers entering the supply chain to the countries of Central Africa, Europe, Asia and America;
- Capture statistics regarding illegal logging in Cameroon;
- Examine the impact of illegal logging on the national economy, the tax system;
- Examine the impact on the sustainable management of production forests to contribute to the establishment of a mechanism of transparency and legality in the wood supply chain in Cameroon.

SPECIFIC DUTIES

The consultant will have to carry out the study in two phases: a first phase dedicated to the comprehensive review of the literature relating to the timber logging and trade in Cameroon and a second phase devoted to the consideration of the existing legislative framework (strengths and weaknesses), with field trips to meet the stakeholders involved.

Specific duties include:

- Review and analyze data relating to production and marketing of timber for past and ongoing operations, including:
 - survey data on timber production (industrial and artisanal), available from the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife as well as from other partners;
 - Information on the overall market in terms of timber supply and demand and the detailed supply chain of operators and different flows;
 - various timber products (type and species) and their volume;
 - operation of forest industries in terms of ownership and control (freelance agents, market intermediaries or individual operators), including individuals or groups involved in the chain and their source of funding;
 - the match between the real logging level of timber products and the annual quota regulations in force (illegality tracking);
 - recognition of the value of wood in terms of revenues and transfers for the benefit of the forestry administration and communities in general and other parties involved in particular;
 - domestic market assessment of wood and its impact in the marketing channel;
 - monitoring systems and controls in place where they exist;
 - the control chain of forest products and the various stakeholders;
 - synergies between existing stakeholders in the exercise of their functions in their respective field of competence (MINFOF, Customs, Police, Gendarmerie, etc.);
 - the current system of taxation of industries and its applicability to small scale loggers in the informal sector
 - identification of the various drivers of illegal logging and related trade and estimated volumes involved;
 - system (s) of communication and information developed for better visibility of the forestry sector (providing data available in a transparent way).
- Collect data regarding the socio-economic impacts of illegal logging of timber and its associated trade on current regulations and agencies involved.
 - Identify actors who benefit from illegal logging and associated trade;
 - Assess the financial, ecological and social implications, at the expense of the Cameroon government and the reduction of poverty in the country as far as it's concerned;
 - Identify possible interventions to mitigate unsustainable illegal logging and associated trade and promote the legality and sustainability.
- Measure level of implementation of taxation, legislative framework and governance and identify gaps.
 - Analyze legislative documents governing the timber logging and trade;
 - Analyse the level of law enforcement and governance and the various constraints in the chain of custody;
 - Analyse the types of conflicts between actors and potential regulations that follow, the harassment suffered by one and ticketing / fines hand in by other;
 - Do a SWOT analysis of the legal and regulatory framework regarding control and provide recommendations to mitigate illegal logging and associated trade.
 - Analyze the general taxation system operational in the forestry sector in Cameroon.

OUTPUTS

The consultant will have to produce the following outputs according to the TRAFFIC's Style Manual.

- A summary report of Phase 1 (literature review), with proposed sites to visit on the field and compiling data from questionnaires; A summary report of phase 2 (in English);
- A comprehensive final report (A comprehensive final report in French or English, providing also the Executive summary, Methodology, Conclusions and Recommendations in the other language), on the results of the two phases (literature review, different analysis, field visits, etc.) including recommendations for better management in the fight against the illegal logging and associated trade in Cameroon;
- Pictures of field visits;
- A summary of results in the form of an article in English for publication in appropriate newsletters (eg. TRAFFIC Bulletin cf. <http://www.traffic.org/bulletin>).

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- A University degree (at least Bac + 5) in Forestry, Agroforestry, Environment and related topics;
- At least 3 years experience of work in Central Africa with a good knowledge of topics related to forests in the Congo Basin in general and Cameroon in particular;
- Strong expertise in forest management and forest trade issues, including timber logging and trade, forest governance, traceability and legality of timber;
- Familiarity with and understanding of laws and regulations of Cameroon's logging and timber trade, and on certification systems;
- Solid experience in conducting interviews and market analysis;
- Proven published high quality reports in French and/or English;
- Experience with an international NGO is an asset.

REQUIRED SKILLS AND COMPETENCES

- Proven ability to conduct field study;
- Familiarity with Cameroonian context;
- Good writing and oral communication skills;
- Good interpersonal skills;
- Fluency in French and English (bilingualism is strongly needed);
- Good knowledge of computer software (Word, Excel ...) and NTIC.

APPLICATIONS:

Applicants who meet the above requirements are requested to submit by e-mail their applications in English including : curriculum vitae, a supporting letter of motivation, the names and contact details of at least three referees to: denis.mahonghol@traffic.org and copy to : tcaf@traffic.org. Moreover, applicants are requested to submit (in English or French) a technical and financial proposal for the completion of work required in compliance with the terms of reference of the study (for more information, please see <http://www.traffic.org/home/2012/2/2/vacancy-timber-trade-flow-consultant-central-africa.html>).

Applications are received on the closing date till 5.00 p.m. (Cameroon hour).

TRAFFIC is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from qualified women and men.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

For further information about TRAFFIC visit our website at <http://www.traffic.org>.