Technical Specialist, Forest Carbon Conservation Finance & Enterprise

“In the past century FFI has consistently saved species from extinction and protected habitats from destruction. Their solutions have always been practical, efficient and sustainable in local circumstances.”

Sir David Attenborough,
FFI Vice-president
Fauna & Flora International

Fauna & Flora International (FFI) saves species from extinction and habitats from destruction, whilst improving the livelihoods of local people. Our guiding principles are to work through local partnerships, act as a catalyst for change, make conservation relevant and base decisions on sound science. Founded in 1903, FFI is the world’s longest established international conservation body; our conservation work, and impact, spans the globe.

Conservation Finance & Enterprise

There is growing consensus that grant-based finance is insufficient to tackle many of the problems faced by society. The continued decline in biodiversity and the resulting loss of ecosystem services are no exception. With the pressure on threatened species and habitats rapidly increasing, there is a need for significant additional financing for conservation work. This requires innovative operating models in order to respond adequately to the global conservation challenge with the speed and scale required to halt significant further loss.

Funder preferences are evolving and increasingly focused on such innovative operating models. There is a demonstrable shift in interest towards performance/outcome-based funding and in supporting enterprise models for achieving impact. In the context of forest landscapes, the goals of climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation and benefits for local people in these areas have converged within the global REDD+ agenda.

Against this backdrop, FFI addresses the related challenges of establishing long-term, sustainable funding models for conservation initiatives; strengthening local and global incentives for conservation; and the urgent need for greater recognition of biodiversity and ecosystem services values within the global economy. FFI has a vision where access to sustainable economic opportunities drives positive conservation outcomes by enabling and motivating local and global actors to enhance protection of threatened habitats and species.

The Opportunity

FFI is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Technical Specialist, Forest Carbon. You will play a vital role in the technical design and implementation of pioneering REDD+ projects in high carbon stock and high conservation value landscapes in Liberia, Vietnam and Mozambique. You will be responsible for leading the field and desk-based work required for preparation of VCS and Plan Vivo Project Documents (PDs); play a key role in the strategic and technical work required for integration of these project-level REDD+ interventions with national / sub-national systems; contribute to the building of partner capacities in forest carbon accounting and sustainable forest management, at local and national levels; and contribute to the development of new climate finance opportunities within FFI’s terrestrial and marine programmes.

You will have strong technical skills relevant to the development of Project Documents (PDs) for the voluntary REDD+ projects, and the nesting of project level REDD+ activities within evolving national forest carbon accounting systems. In particular, you will have direct experience of the development and validation/verification of projects using the VM0007 REDD+ Methodology Framework (REDD-
MF) or similar VC methodologies. You will demonstrate the ability to think holistically and to work collaboratively with field staff and technical specialists from diverse disciplines to effectively integrate the forest carbon elements of REDD+ projects with the social and biodiversity components. You will have a thorough understanding of national REDD+ processes with respect to development of Reference Emission Levels and Monitoring, Reporting and Valuation (MRV) systems, and approaches to Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ (JNR), and direct experience of supporting the development of national policies relevant to REDD+ in one or more tropical forest countries.

In return, the role offers the opportunity to work within a ground-breaking and entrepreneurial organisation, at the forefront of global conservation. In addition, FFI offers a generous pension contribution, attractive annual leave allowance and life insurance.

This position is based in FFI’s head office in Cambridge, UK, with international travel to Liberia and elsewhere as required. Our offices are located in The David Attenborough Building in central Cambridge, just a few minutes’ walk from glorious historic buildings and museums, the picturesque River Cam, the central market and shopping centre, and a host of cafés and restaurants.

Terms and Conditions

Start Date: As soon as possible
End Date: Permanent
Probation Period: Six months
Salary: circa £36,000, depending on skills and experience
Location: Fauna & Flora International, Cambridge
Benefits: 25 working days annual holiday entitlement plus Public/Bank Holidays and any normal working days that fall between 24th December and 1st January inclusive, during which time FFI UK offices are closed. For employees on UK-based contracts, FFI currently provides a pension contribution of 8% of salary after 3 months’ continuous employment. Group Life insurance for all staff on UK-based contracts, currently set at a benefit of 4 x basic salary.

Hours of Work: This is a full-time position, working Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm, with a one-hour lunch break.
Job Title: Technical Specialist, Forest Carbon, Conservation Finance & Enterprise

Reporting to: Senior REDD+ Programme Manager, Conservation Finance & Enterprise

Key Relationships: The post-holder must have a highly collaborative approach and will work closely with FFI colleagues in the UK and abroad, national partners and other stakeholders on all aspects of the role. Key internal relationships include:

- Country Manager, Liberia
- Project Manager, Wonegizi REDD+ Project, Liberia
- Wonegizi REDD+ Project Officer
- Senior Technical Specialist (Livelihoods & Governance), Africa
- Director, Conservation Finance & Enterprise
- Technical Specialist, Responsible Investment, Conservation Finance & Enterprise
- Biodiversity Finance Specialist, Conservation Finance & Enterprise
- Country Director, Vietnam
- Kon Tum REDD+ Project Manager, Vietnam
- Country Manager, Mozambique
- Marine Programme Regional Leads

General responsibilities:

- Provide guidance and technical support to pilot REDD+ projects within FFI’s portfolio, including but not limited to, projects in Liberia, Vietnam and Mozambique
- Provide technical support to the design and implementation of new REDD+ and blue carbon initiatives, as appropriate
- With the support of the Senior REDD+ Programme Manager, coordinate effectively with socio-economic and biodiversity specialists and project managers to ensure a holistic approach to project design and implementation, which aligns forest carbon accounting and sustainable forest management methods with the wider, cross-disciplinary goals of FFI’s REDD+ projects
- In collaboration with the Senior REDD+ Programme Manager and relevant staff, support the development and dissemination of technical learning papers that contribute to the advancement of knowledge on REDD+ implementation both nationally, and internationally
- Represent FFI’s approaches to forest carbon accounting and project nesting elements of REDD+ with key project partners and stakeholders, including at key fora (such as UNFCCC COP), as requested by the Senior REDD+ Programme Manager
- Develop and maintain good relationships with FFI partners and support partner capacity building as needed
- Contribute to the development of relevant technical and funding proposals for existing and new projects
Specific Duties

**REDD+ and blue carbon technical development and implementation**

- Develop, implement and ensure high quality of REDD+ technical activities pertaining to forest carbon accounting and sustainable forest management in coordination with relevant project staff, including but not limited to:
  - Gap analyses to assess prior work and ensure progression of that work to achieve third party certification
  - Field-based forest carbon stock assessments and subsequent data analysis
  - Development of forest carbon emissions baseline/reference and project scenarios forecasts
  - Development of sustainable forest management plans and associated MRV protocols
  - Contributing to the design and implementation of related field activities and assessments
- In collaboration with project managers, design and implement work plans and budgets for technical activities pertaining to forest carbon accounting and sustainable forest management
- Procure and engage external expert consultants (as required), and provide technical oversight of relevant consultancies and their agreed deliverables
- Develop relevant project documentation, supporting evidence and quality control procedures appropriate for third party auditing of REDD+ technical activities

**Wonegizi REDD+ Project, Liberia**

- Review existing draft of the VCS PD, which will follow the approved VCS methodology VM0007, and develop a plan to utilise it to complete the climate related section of a VCS/Climate Community and Biodiversity Standard PD, in collaboration with the Senior REDD+ Programme Manager and the Project Manager, Wonegizi REDD+ Project, Liberia (PM)
- Liaise with GIS and remote sensing specialists to ensure completion of outstanding analysis required to inform PD development, ensuring the project is compatible with JNR in the future
- Lead completion of the field and desk based work required to complete the VCS/Climate Community and Biodiversity Standard PD and 1st monitoring report in preparation for third party validation and verification
- Work collaboratively and effectively with implementing and government partners as needed
- Work closely with the Senior REDD+ Programme Manager, PM and Liberia Country Manager to ensure alignment with, and nesting of the project within, the national REDD+ strategy and the prevailing legal and policy context
- Work with the Senior REDD+ Programme Manager and the PM to oversee the validation/verification process, ensuring that project staff and partners are fully briefed on the inputs required and able to respond to auditors’ requests on technical project aspects (as applicable)
- Technically support the development of contractual arrangements required for the operationalisation of the Wonegizi REDD+ Project
- In coordination with the Senior REDD+ Programme Manager, PM and Liberia Country Manager, provide input to draft Liberian policies and regulations as they relate to forest carbon accounting and JNR issues
- In collaboration with the Senior REDD+ Programme Manager, develop technical briefs and design and facilitate trainings workshops to support the building national capacities in forest carbon accounting and JNR
- Contribute to the development of feasibility study on the scaling of the REDD+ programme of work to landscape / sub-jurisdictional scale
Hieu Commune REDD+ Project, Vietnam

- Provide technical support to validation and verification process for the Plan Vivo Project Document (PD) – the Technical Specification
- Provide technical input to support project communities and field staff with the design of sustainable forest management plans, and development of the project Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) mechanism
- Support analysis, and management, of any required inputs from remote sensing and GIS specialists
- Lead the preparation of annual carbon accounting reports
- Maximise technical alignment of the project with the emerging national REDD+ framework in Vietnam, JNR REDD+ methodologies and the various, major funding modalities from multi and bilateral funds to voluntary market and CSR offset buyers

Other Geographies

- Review and act as an internal advisor on the latest developments in the evolving fields of REDD+ and blue carbon, taking into account relevant international, national and regional standards, frameworks, legislation, and their implications for our portfolio of projects - noting for example, the development of The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES), by the ART Secretariat
- Support feasibility assessment, technical design and implementation of site-based and jurisdictional REDD+ and blue carbon initiatives in multiple geographies, such as Mozambique and Myanmar; and provide input to related funding proposals
- Support cross-project learning on sustainable forest management and forest carbon accounting approaches across FFI’s REDD+ portfolio

Administrative support

- Support financial management of the Conservation Finance & Enterprise programme to ensure timely and accurate budgeting and financial reporting, to meet institutional and funder and donor requirements
- Support effective knowledge management within the Conservation Finance & Enterprise programme and in collaboration with other teams involved in project delivery, in particular ensuring excellence in the management of project technical data

Learning and Assimilation

- Participate in Conservation Finance & Enterprise team meetings, and other relevant internal meetings
- Represent FFI and the Conservation Finance & Enterprise team as required in external fora, and ensure information is fed back and appropriately circulated within FFI
- Lead/assist as needed with development of internal or external communications
## Person Specification

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<td><strong>Skills</strong></td>
<td>• Ability and confidence to accurately utilise complex forest carbon accounting methodologies&lt;br&gt;• Confident designing and leading fieldwork&lt;br&gt;• Ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with partner organisations, including government agencies, NGOs, community groups and private sector actors operating in forest landscapes&lt;br&gt;• Excellent written and oral communication skills, with fluent English&lt;br&gt;• Ability to develop lengthy and complex documents, with attention to detail and discipline in the preparation and management of supporting documents&lt;br&gt;• Ability to conduct basic data analysis using GIS and remote sensing&lt;br&gt;• Outstanding interpersonal and intercultural skills&lt;br&gt;• Confident presenting to public/external audiences, and distilling complex technical concepts for a nontechnical audience&lt;br&gt;• Ability to assess capacity, mentor, support and help develop technical skills of FFI regional team and partners&lt;br&gt;• Ability to think laterally and creatively</td>
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<p>| Knowledge and experience | • Relevant advanced (MSc or PhD) degree in forestry, environmental science or other relevant discipline&lt;br&gt;• Proven, substantive experience working in the environment and the development field, as forest carbon accounting specialist on REDD+ related projects&lt;br&gt;• Experience of the development of projects using the VM0007 REDD+ Methodology Framework (REDD-MF) or similar VCS methodologies, and experience of managing a VCS project validation and/or verification audit process&lt;br&gt;• Experience of engaging with government and other national policies and frameworks in relation to REDD+&lt;br&gt;• Experience of assessing and adapting project technical design to ensure compatibility of approach with prevailing national policies and regulation | • Experience of developing projects for certification under the Climate, Community and Biodiversity and Plan Vivo Standards&lt;br&gt;• Experience of working in West Africa, particularly Liberia&lt;br&gt;• Experience of working in SE Asia, particularly Vietnam&lt;br&gt;• Experience of working in Southern Africa, particularly Mozambique&lt;br&gt;• Experience working at a technical level within a small and geographically dispersed team |</p>
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<th><strong>Comprehensive understanding of REDD+</strong></th>
<th><strong>Experience of blue carbon feasibility assessment and project development</strong></th>
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<td>as an approach, and associated socio-economic, governance, biodiversity conservation and policy issues</td>
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<td>Proven track record of providing technical input to developing REDD+ projects, including conducting feasibility assessments, advising on approaches to forest carbon accounting and project nesting within wider landscapes / jurisdictions</td>
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<td>Experience working with partners, government authorities and communities in varied cultural and political contexts</td>
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| **Behavioural qualities** |  |
|--------------------------|  |
| Excellent team player, able to seek out and harness the views and contributions of others |  |
| Self-motivated and output driven, committed to producing the highest quality of work |  |
| Flexible and adaptable in uncertain and changeable work situations, including fieldwork in remote and challenging locations |  |
| Capable of dealing with challenges in a creative, positive and constructive manner |  |
| Committed to FFI’s vision and mission |  |
| Possesses a passion for driving development opportunities for marginalised peoples that are compatible with sustainable management of natural resources and conservation outcomes |  |
| Able to build and maintain positive personal and organisational relationships |  |
| Committed to meticulous knowledge management |  |
| Able to work flexibly and effectively in a geographically dispersed team |  |

| **Other** |  |
|------------|  |
| Entitlement to work in the UK |  |
| Ability to travel regularly (up to 40% of the time) and at short notice |  |
How to Apply

Applications, consisting of a covering letter explaining why you feel you should be considered for this post, a full CV (tailored to the role as advertised, highlighting relevant experience and achievements) and contact details for two referees (who will not be contacted without your permission) should be sent to charlie.fisher@fauna-flora.org

Please mark your application ‘Technical Specialist, Forest Carbon’.

The closing date for applications is 17 November 2019. First round interviews are expected to be held during the week commencing 25 November 2019. Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by email or telephone – please specify your preferred method of contact in your covering letter and indicate where you saw the position advertised.

Regrettably, due to limited resources and the high number of applications we receive, we are only able to contact short-listed candidates. If you do not hear from us within four weeks of the closing date, please assume that you have not been successful on this occasion.

Applicants with Disabilities

FFI encourages applications from individuals with a disability who are able to carry out the duties of the post. If you have special needs in relation to your application, please contact Jade Bedwell, HR Officer, FFI, on Tel: +44 (0)1223 749044 or Email: jade.bedwell@fauna-flora.org.

FFI values diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity.