Senior Technical Specialist, Extractives & Development Infrastructure

“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, and 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.

Extractives & Development Infrastructure Programme

The FFI Extractives & Development Infrastructure (EDI) Programme is one of FFI’s five thematically-defined cross-cutting programmes that work closely with the four geographically-defined regional programmes to deliver, and influence key stakeholders to deliver, conservation impact globally. FFI has been working with the extractives and development infrastructure sectors for over 25 years. The EDI Programme is a highly strategic and technically experienced unit engaged in cross-sectoral alliances, collaborations and field interventions. We provide innovative solutions to biodiversity challenges including biodiversity strategies, biodiversity management planning, offsets, risk & opportunity assessment, and encourage best practice in environmental and social governance. Our aspiration is to create an environment where the extractives and development infrastructure sectors make a net positive contribution to biodiversity conservation.

FFI focuses its strategy for engaging with these sectors on three main competencies:

- Direct partnerships with EDI companies to help them manage their impacts on biodiversity, assisting companies in developing and delivering biodiversity strategies and action plans
- Identifying and influencing the levers for change in business performance, including the financial markets and government policy and planning, to drive long term positive change in the way that the EDI sector manages its impacts on biodiversity
- Tracking, investigating and responding to these issues by developing innovative partnerships and alliances

FFI is responding to rapidly changing contexts where landscapes are threatened with species and habitat loss, and are increasingly fragmented and altered by indirect and induced impacts associated with ancillary and linear infrastructure developed to reach minerals or economic development nodes. We operate globally. We have recent and active engagements with the following organisations: World Bank Group, GIZ, USAID, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Anglo American, Eni E&P, bp, De Beers, LafargeHolcim, Newmont, Environmental Resources Management, Mott MacDonald, The Biodiversity Consultancy and others.

Delivering Conservation and Business Objectives

FFI works at the nexus of private, public and civil society sectors and has a world class conservation programme that is strategically committed to effective management of natural capital and raw material supply chains whilst delivering positive outcomes for biodiversity conservation and the climate. There is growing engagement from extractive & development infrastructure companies and financiers in environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance, with public
commitments made to positive societal contributions, net positive impact on biodiversity and zero carbon emissions.

Opportunities exist to help companies strengthen the management of biodiversity and ecosystem services and to deliver on their multiple ESG commitments. Environmental economics, natural capital and ‘Nature based solutions’ (NbS) are essential parts of the potential response. Defined by the IUCN, NbS are ‘actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems to address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits’, it has been estimated that such actions could account for nearly 40% of the emission reductions required to meet the 2°C target of the Paris climate agreement.

Careful application of nature-centric approaches in association with large-scale EDI projects in complex contexts could turn the tide of biodiversity loss and contribute to companies’ reduction of their net greenhouse gas emission profile whilst simultaneously addressing many of the other impacts they have on biodiversity, ecological function and the livelihoods of people in forest landscapes. Working at every stage in corporate decision making, project financing and stakeholder engagement, this role will provide leadership and influence into policy and practice.

The Opportunity

We are seeking a highly motivated, skilled individual to provide technical and policy leadership to EDI work programmes across FFI’s portfolio. This role requires you to drive private sector action, provide insights to policy makers and support funding efforts, whilst working to mainstream corporate delivery on this topic by EDI companies and investors as the new business norm. The successful candidate will be recognized as an expert in the field.

You should be passionate about FFI’s mission and be able to spot opportunities to develop integrated and inclusive multi-sectoral approach to systems change, as well as expand and grow FFI’s network. You should have an excellent international network of experts and practitioners. You will have a strong record of excellence, and demonstrable achievement of leading teams and initiatives in complex, fast-paced, and fluid environments. You should have experience working in multi-stakeholder settings and be comfortable communicating with senior-level stakeholders from government, business, finance and civil society. You should be comfortable working in an international NGO and a matrix-like structure.

You will work closely with FFI’s regional and cross-cutting programmes to manage engagement with the EDI sector at a strategic and operational level in the FFI global conservation programme. You will contribute technical expertise and thought leadership, working on the characterisation and management of biodiversity across global operations whilst enabling FFI’s commitment to objectives-based frameworks for biodiversity at the interface with large scale EDI development projects. You will be experienced in the development and implementation of a full spectrum of biodiversity and ecosystem services management considering environmental economics and natural capital.

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1 Also referred to as Nature Based Climate Solutions or Natural Climate Solutions
2 Global Standard for Nature-Based Solutions. (2020) IUCN.
3 Natural Climate Solutions (2017), PNAS 114(44) https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1710465114
Your position will also influence and lead on FFI’s engagement with environmental and social safeguards, the development and governance of regulations and voluntary standards and other Communities of Practice and business and biodiversity forums.

This role will require considerable technical leadership contributing to and supporting a range of FFI projects. The incumbent will be expected to generate opportunities and new projects, including securing funds from a broad spectrum of funding sources. The role will require international travel to meet project objectives and programme development requirements. As a senior member of the team, you will be expected to become involved in all aspects of FFI conservation programmes and to encourage the use of global best practices and objectives led frameworks to ensure the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services aspects into all aspects of our work in these sectors.

In return, the role offers the opportunity to work within an international, impactful and ground-breaking organisation, at the forefront of global conservation. In addition, FFI offers a generous pension contribution, attractive annual leave allowance and life insurance. Our offices are located 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
Duration of Contract: Open
Probation Period: Six months
Salary: circa £48,000 per annum (depending on experience)
Location: Fauna & Flora International, Cambridge UK. Some remote working may be considered.
Benefits: 25 working days’ annual holiday entitlement plus Public/Bank Holidays and any normal working days that fall between 24 December to 1 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, currently set at a benefit of 4 x basic salary

Hours of Work: This is a full-time position working 37.5 hours per week, Monday to Friday inclusive.
Job Description

Job Title: Senior Technical Specialist, Extractives & Development Infrastructure

Reporting to: Director, Extractives & Development Infrastructure

Overall objective

Identify, secure and lead EDI related work with priority partners and in priority geographies. Provide technical, management and coordination expertise to the work programmes and partnerships in FFI’s EDI Programme. Act as the lead technical specialist responsible for environmental and social safeguards through targeted raw material supply chains, whilst ensuring the integration of environmental economics and natural capital considerations in FFI’s work with the EDI sector.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Secure, shape and deliver EDI work that supports FFI global conservation programme ambitions.
- Lead FFI’s engagement and delivery of environmental and social safeguards through targeted raw material supply chains
- Lead the integration of environmental economics and natural capital considerations in EDI-sector project design, strategy, planning, risk analysis and implementation, and deliver this through nature positive interventions
- Lead the design and delivery of solutions that provide co-benefits from net positive approaches and promote best practice for the management of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EDI sector across FFI’s global programme
- Lead the design, development and delivery of new integrated nature positive solutions for EDI corporate partners.
- Provide day to day technical expertise to key projects including project strategy, planning, risk analysis and working with the Director and consultants to deliver high quality technical projects
- Support the delivery of new opportunities within the EDI sector within FFI’s key geographic regions of activity in accordance with FFI’s strategic aims and objectives

Tasks to include:

- Lead the effective technical delivery and sustainable implementation of positive approaches to EDI, considering natural capital or environmental economics
- Provide technical leadership to deliver best practice solutions for the management of biodiversity and ecosystem services in EDI sectors.
- In consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, support the design and implementation of nature-based solutions and conservation impact to contribute to the demonstrated achievement of net positive approaches of major extractive and infrastructure projects
- Assist, through the provision of strategic and technical advice, extractives sector operations in developing their approach to managing and monitoring biodiversity mitigation projects
General

- Ensure all work delivered in full compliance with FFI strategy, policies and procedures, including Focal Point and the Delegation of Authorities
- Represent FFI to external parties as requested
- Track emerging issues linking to natural capital, environmental economics, objectives-led frameworks and ESG across the extractives and development infrastructure sectors and participate in priority events as requested by the Director, EDI
- Undertake any other tasks commensurate with the position that may be requested of you, from time-to-time, by the Director, EDI
- Produce and work within annual budgets, maintain accounts
- Manage key projects
- Support the Director, EDI to produce reports as required by partner organisations, the EDI Programme and FFI’s internal reporting processes
- Support the Director, EDI with respect to FFI’s input into EDI sectoral initiatives drawing on the skills and expertise of FFI’s wider conservation team and partners

Person Specification

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<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Skills</strong></td>
<td><strong>Grant application writing</strong></td>
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<td>• Significant prior experience in relevant fields in the extractives and infrastructure sectors (environment, natural capital, ESG, business &amp; biodiversity)</td>
<td>• Working proficiency in Spanish, Portuguese, French or Bahasa</td>
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<td>• Proven ability to lead and manage complex projects and direct interdisciplinary teams across multiple geographic locations</td>
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<td>• Demonstrated ability to work with diverse stakeholders, including across academic, public policy and private sectors</td>
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<td>• Proven relationship management skills, particularly at the senior level and in various cultural contexts</td>
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<td>• Demonstrated ability to find pragmatic solutions, challenge partners constructively, drive action and have a passion for accelerating delivery of corporate commitments</td>
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<td>• Excellent technical report writing skills</td>
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<td>• A highly effective communicator with excellent presentation skills (written and verbal), to both technical and non-technical audiences</td>
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<td>• Strong project management skills with experience in project planning, financial</td>
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<td>Knowledge and experience</td>
<td>Behavioural qualities</td>
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<td>- A relevant post-graduate Degree or equivalent level qualification</td>
<td>- Highly motivated and driven</td>
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<td>- Proven track record and experience of working on environmental and/or conservation issues in a developing country context or of environmental issues within the private sector</td>
<td>- Excellent team player</td>
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<td>- Technical experience in environmental issues, ecology, private sector-led development, forestry / NBS, sustainability or supply chain management</td>
<td>- Pragmatic</td>
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<td>- Experience in monitoring and impact assessment in the field</td>
<td>- Flexible and adaptable</td>
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<td>- Demonstrable expertise and application of NbS, ecosystem services, natural capital and associated metrics</td>
<td>- Ability to show initiative, to work independently</td>
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<td>- Experience working in or with cross-sector stakeholders</td>
<td>- A self-starter</td>
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<td>- Experience of corporate environmental management systems and environmental impact assessments gained in an international environment</td>
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FFI Values

Values underpin who we are and how we act. Just as values shape who we are as individuals, they define us as an organisation, creating the culture of success for which FFI is renowned. Our people exemplify our shared values, which are interconnected and interdependent:

- We act with integrity
- We are collaborative
- We are committed
- We are supportive & respectful
- We get things done

How to Apply

Applications should consist of the following:

1. A covering letter outlining how you meet the requirements of the role and your motivations for applying
2. A full CV and contact details for two referees (who will not be approached without your permission)
3. An example of a recent project you have undertaken that you consider demonstrates your ability to apply the skills called for in the job description given above

and should be sent by email to pippa.howard@fauna-flora.org

Please mark your application ‘Senior Technical Specialist, Extractives & Development Infrastructure’.

The closing date for applications is 8 April 2021. Interviews are likely to be held during the week commencing 12 April 2021.

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 Administrator, FFI, on Tel: +44 (0)1223 749044 or Email: jade.bedwell@fauna-flora.org.

FFI values diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity