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 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 carefully chosen partners to help them manage their impacts on biodiversity through developing and delivering biodiversity strategies and action plans.
• Identifying and influencing the levers for change in business performance, including the financial markets, government policy and strategic land use 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, and providing direct support for practical conservation actions on the ground.

The EDI programme works at the nexus of private, public and civil society sectors. Our work engages with landscapes threatened with species and habitat loss, often where the direct, indirect and induced impacts of economic development is one of many pressures within increasingly complex landscapes. Our aim is to ensure that economic development has a positive environmental and social benefit through the adoption of Nature Based Solutions, and that investors recognize the need to incorporate Natural Capital within their investment strategies.

Delivering Conservation and Business Objectives

Our world class conservation programme is committed to delivering positive outcomes for biodiversity and the climate, and promoting a greater awareness of the biological and social values of nature. There is growing awareness of the value of biodiversity among extractive & development infrastructure companies as well as investors. This is indicated by the rise in the reporting on social and governance (ESG) performance, and by the number of companies making with public commitments to positive societal contributions, including 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, including those that support biodiversity. FFI has pioneered approaches such as natural capital assessments, the application of the mitigation hierarchy, biodiversity offsets, and conservation set-asides. These and other ‘Nature based solutions’ (NbS) are essential parts of the societal response needed to reduce biodiversity loss and climate change impacts. 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 NbS in association with large-scale EDI projects in complex contexts could turn the tide of biodiversity loss and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emission. Co-benefits include restoring ecological functions and securing the livelihoods of people in forest landscapes. With the potential for influence at every stage in corporate decision making, project financing and project implementation, this role will provide leadership and influence into policy and practice.

The Opportunity

We are seeking a highly motivated, experienced and skilled individual to provide technical and policy leadership to EDI work programmes across FFI’s portfolio. This role requires you to engage with private sector actions, provide insights to policy makers and support funding efforts, whilst working to mainstream corporate delivery on this topic by companies and the investment sector alike in order to achieve nature-positive results. 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.

You will have experience in managing natural capital, nature based or natural climate solutions in partnership with the corporate or financial sector. Our preferred candidate has previously implemented nature-positive solutions to meet environmental and social safeguards developed by bilateral and institutional investors and can discuss at length their experiences of the benefits and limitations of these. You will have experience in working with a network of international experts and practitioners and a strong record of leading teams and initiatives in complex, fast-paced, and fluid environments and be able to communicate across a range of multi-stakeholder settings; from communities to senior-level representatives of government, business, and finance. You will share FFI’s conservation objectives, and should be comfortable working in an international NGO and managing a matrix-like structure. With a track record in innovative project development, you will be expected to generate opportunities and new projects, including securing funds from a broad spectrum of funding sources, to achieve nature positive outcomes, as well as expand and grow FFI’s influence.

The role will require international travel to meet project objectives when required. 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 parallel with the terms of reference FFI encourages staff to pursue their conservation interests and goals; you will be able to grow and expand your impact to leave a lasting conservation legacy. 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)
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
Line Manages: Technical Specialist, Extractives and Development
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 with developers of environmental and social safeguards for targeted industries and extractive sectors, with particular emphasis on raw material supply chains.
- Lead the integration of natural capital, nature-based and natural climate considerations in EDI-sector project design, strategy, planning, risk analysis and implementation.
- 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 including 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 nature positive approaches, and promote these among business and influencers of business.
- Engagement in sectoral initiatives mainstreaming natural capital into corporate decision making.
- 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.
- Line manage designated staff through clear objective setting, continuous performance management, annual appraisal, training provision and personal development planning to ensure the effective and timely delivery of programmes of work and develop individuals and their functions.
- 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 as requested by the Director, EDI.
- 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>Skills</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proven expertise in relevant fields in the extractives and infrastructure sectors (environment, natural capital, ESG, business &amp; biodiversity)</td>
<td>Grant application writing</td>
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<td>Proven ability to lead and manage complex projects and direct interdisciplinary teams across multiple geographic locations</td>
<td>Working proficiency in a second language (Spanish, Portuguese, French or Bahasa preferable)</td>
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<td>Demonstrated ability to work with diverse stakeholders, including across academic, public policy and private sectors</td>
<td>Use of data analysis or visualisation software</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 management, reporting and evaluation</td>
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<td>Strong prioritisation and time management skills and ability to deliver complex projects on time and budget</td>
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<td>Ability to think laterally and creatively</td>
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<td>Excellent spoken and written English</td>
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| Knowledge and experience | • A relevant post-graduate degree or equivalent level qualification.  
• Significant experience in the design and implementation of nature based or natural climate solutions in compliance with Environmental and Social Safeguards, together with the application of relevant metrics.  
• 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  
• Technical experience in environmental issues, ecology, private sector-led development, forestry / NBS, sustainability or supply chain management  
• Experience in monitoring and impact assessment in the field  
• Experience working in or with cross-sector stakeholders  
• Experience of corporate environmental management systems and environmental impact assessments gained in an international environment |
| --- | --- |
| Behavioural qualities | • Highly motivated and driven  
• Excellent team player  
• Pragmatic  
• Flexible and adaptable  
• Ability to show initiative, to work independently |
| Other | • Commitment to FFI’s mission and values  
• Strong, demonstrable commitment to conservation  
• Ability to travel to remote international locations |

**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 23 May 2021. Interviews are likely to be held during the week commencing 31 May 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.

This is a re advertisement of this position; previous applicants need not apply.

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