



Call for proposals for drafting a recommendations report on the DG Home project and EUTR

I. Background

Forest crime is a growing problem that undermines government policies to sustainably manage and protect forests and has links to organized crime and corruption - ranking 3rd in transnational crime in 2017. Experts estimate that an area of forest equivalent in size to the territory of Austria disappears worldwide every year as the result of illegal logging. Illegal logging accounts for as much as 10–30 % of the total logging worldwide, with some estimates as high as 20–50 % when laundering of illegal wood is included, with a growing engagement of organized crime. In 2013, the EU adopted the European Timber Regulation (EUTR) to halt illegal logging. However, loopholes in the EUTR and implementation gaps in Member States (MS) have hindered a real change in practice.

WWF European Policy Office (EPO) is part of a project led by WWF Germany and funded by DG Home: **Strengthening Networks and Investigation for a More Effective Implementation of the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR)** which aims to enable effective law enforcement by stimulating networks that are able to detect Forest crime and respond to it. It will place forest crime high on their agenda. It brings together INTERPOL's and WWF's expertise to boost law enforcement and investigations. Strategies will include information sharing, awareness-raising, capacity- building and investigative mentorship. Tailored trainings of police, customs, environmental authorities, prosecutors and judges will cover knowledge-sharing on new forensic methods and guidance for effective controls by authorities. The project also aims to empower civil society to be a knowledgeable partner for authorities.

A comprehensive gap analysis has been carried out in Belgium, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine to get a better understanding of illegal logging and forest crime in the project countries, the structure of national legal frameworks, their application and the functioning of national enforcement chains.

The development of a recommendations report is the next step of the project. The aim is to develop a report on how to better address forestry crime and to share some lessons learnt from the project. National specifications of the recommended practices will be included where possible and feasible, but overall the recommendations should apply to all the project countries.

The recommendations report will be based on the outcomes of the gap analysis report, which already identified challenges regarding the enforcement chain for forestry crime. This report will explore and share good practices in investigating and prosecuting forestry crime.

II. Detailed Terms of Reference for consultant

1. Objectives of the study

The aim is the preparation of a recommendations report to increase law enforcement and better coordination along the enforcement chain in the countries involved in the project as well as EU policy level. The recommendations will be based on the gaps identified in the country specific gap analysis studies and a literature review. Specific national examples of good practices should be included to highlight and share positive initiatives. Lessons learned by the project partners should also be included in the report.

2. Methodology

The consultant should propose recommendations and develop the report based on the draft structure that has already been developed and approved by the steering group, on the country gap analysis reports, and on a literature review.

The **target group of the report** is the enforcement chain, meaning all stakeholders identified as organisations fighting forestry crime¹. Also, some messages and recommendations towards the European Union should be included.

The **structure of the report** should follow the different steps in the enforcement chain, so stakeholders can easily consult the most relevant step, depending on their role.

The report is expected to be delivered in a written form of 25 pages, that includes a summary, methodology, and an analytical part.

The recommendations will take the form of a single line recommendation with a paragraph explaining the recommendation in greater detail.

- Recommendations will be generalised into two groups: producing countries (Bulgaria, Slovakia, Romania & Ukraine) and importing countries (Belgium and France).
 - Each of the two groups should have their own chapters, but the recommendations will not be country specific.

¹ Customs/Borders, Forestry Authorities, National Police, Justice, Anti-corruption and anti-fraud money laundering units, Civil Society. *

**This list represents the main stakeholders involved in the enforcement chain, but this can be discussed and slightly modified or adapted with the agreement of the Policy Officer.*

- However, country specific good practices are expected to be included as examples in each of the chapters. These examples are to encourage and share positive experiences between countries. Then, a chapter including messages towards the EU should follow.
- The last two pages of the report will include lessons learned by the project partners: WWF, INTERPOL and ClientEarth. These will be drafted by WWF, INTERPOL and ClientEarth but the format and editing will be the responsibility of the consultant.

The consultant is expected to be available to answer questions during editing, and check the final editing proposal. They are also expected to present the final recommendation report at the EU wide workshop in June 2021. The total time commitment for these tasks is expected to be 5 days maximum.

3. Process, Deliverables and Timeline

This is a home based consultancy including travel to a 2-days workshop in Brussels (or virtual depending on the sanitary situation) in June 2021.

The study will be carried out in close cooperation with the EPO and the national WWF offices in the project countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany (lead of the global project), Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine). Communication and coordination around the development of the study with all project partners includes:

1. Sharing of the draft report and actively seeking input from project partners bilaterally but also from all other project participants (see table below for specific tasks) in preparation of the initial and all subsequent drafts.
2. Availability of consultant to project partners for questions of content.
3. Raising concerns about information quality and quantity received and alert partners about inconsistencies or challenges in a timely manner.
4. Provision of regular progress reports to the Project Steering Group during the monthly SG meetings

The expected amount of time for all of the tasks of this project (from the start until complete finalization) is 45 days.

Table 1: Expected timeline for tasks (to be filled by the consultant as a proposal)

Task	Deadline
Developing timeline and communicating it to network and stakeholders to make sure people are aware when a draft will be circulated and when comments will need to be provided	
Desk review and drafting of recommendations report	

Consult with national WWF offices and stakeholder to ensure quality/relevance of proposed recommendations	
Revise draft recommendation report based on input received by WWF offices and stakeholders	
Provide final draft to senior policy officer for input	
Develop final version (with inclusion of comments by senior policy)	
Send final draft version for final red flags check to WWF network	Mid-January 2021
Send the final version to WWF EPO	Mid-End of January 2021
Be available to answer questions during editing, and check the final editing proposal	January, February 2021
Presentation of Final recommendation report at EU wide workshop	June 2021

4. Selection criteria

- Ability to start work no later than November 1, 2020.
- Experience in illegal logging/EU Timber Regulation as well as knowledge of existing legislative EU framework and its implementation
- Overall Budget in relation to deliverables
- Existing experience in either conducting evaluations, reporting, conducting multi-stakeholder trainings would be an asset
- Fit of the proposal to the needs expressed in these Terms of Reference

5. How to apply

Timetable: Proposals in response to this call for proposals, are to be submitted via e-mail by 9th October 2020, 12:00 CET.

Proposals must include the following:

1. A one-page proposal outlining the consultant motivation in carrying out the above work and any assumption, ideas they might have. The proposal should include the approach and methodology the consultants plans to carry out.
2. An indicative timeline of the work to be carried out by the consultant based on the Table 1 (page 3-4)
3. Three references of previous experience in forestry crime / EU Timber regulation, as well as knowledge of existing legislative EU framework and its implementation (please provide references)

4. CVs of consultants who will participate in the project
5. A cost estimate for the project broken down by task with an indicative hourly rate for work outside the scope of this proposal. This cost estimate must be inclusive of all costs.

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The client and the consultant will agree on a precise timeline for final revision and conclusion of the contract.

On the side of the clients:

WWF EPO, Anke Schulmeister-Oldenhove