Senior Technical Specialist, REDD+ and Climate Policy, Liberia

“In the past century Fauna & Flora 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, Fauna & Flora Vice-president
Fauna & Flora

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

Africa Programme

Fauna & Flora currently operates in 14 countries in West, Central, East and Southern Africa, working with local partners to implement a range of projects focused on species and habitat conservation, biodiversity planning, protected area management, institutional development and capacity building, sustainable use and community-led conservation initiatives.

To achieve its mission in Africa, Fauna & Flora seeks to:
- Work alongside African conservation and community development organisations
- Address the drivers of nature loss, including climate-nature linkages, corporate supply chains and weak policy frameworks
- Strengthen local and national institutions to bring sustainability and added value to projects
- Maintain long term presence and relationships
- Reconcile conservation goals with the needs and rights of local people
- Incorporate sound science in decision-making
- Ensure positive impacts of its activities on wellbeing and biodiversity

Climate & Nature Linkages

The twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss are inextricably linked, and there is no pathway to effectively responding to climate change that does not include nature. Nature-based solutions (NbS) are key to tackling climate change and biodiversity loss; from rainforests to mangroves, grasslands to peatlands – protection, sustainable management and restoration of these ecosystems is critical for the journey to net zero. NbS also provide vital pathways to build resilience and enable adaptation to an already changing climate.

In the context of forest landscapes, the goals of climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and access to sustainable benefits for the local people who protect and restore forests, have converged within the global REDD+ agenda. Fauna & Flora, with its long history in this space, believes REDD+ to be an important NbS to address climate change; and that high quality approaches represent one of the best opportunities we have to strengthen and protect the rights of local communities who are on the front line of protecting and restoring natural forests, and to create long-term monetary and non-monetary benefits that will sustain local conservation action.

The Climate & Nature Linkages programme works with Fauna & Flora regional teams and partners to support the development of high-quality NbS initiatives, which truly deliver for climate, for wildlife, and for people. Across Fauna & Flora’s global portfolio, our work ranges from implementation of REDD+ in numerous geographies, including Liberia and Guinea, to developing blue carbon opportunities in multiple seascapes, and facilitating the development of locally-led, ecosystem-
based adaptation approaches. We invest deeply in partnerships, and prioritise supporting local teams and partners to develop their capacity and influence.

The Opportunity

Fauna & Flora is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Technical Specialist, REDD+ and Climate Policy, West Africa. You will play a leading role in the development and implementation of pioneering, nested REDD+ projects in high carbon stock and high conservation value landscapes, and support the development of NbS opportunities within West Africa and as part of collaborative transboundary initiatives. Alongside the Country Manager, Liberia; you will be a key lead of Fauna & Flora’s strategic and technical engagement with the government of Liberia, with an initial focus on engaging on the development of NbS and related REDD+ and climate policy and practice under the UNFCCC.

You will have strong technical skills relevant to REDD+, forest carbon and land-based emission reduction policies/strategies. This will include direct experience working on the development and day-to-day management of programs/projects focused on high-quality, nature-based climate mitigation within forestry and land use sector, including the development and implementation of a programme of REDD+ related work. You will have a passion for biodiversity conservation, and locally led climate mitigation and adaptation, and will leverage your proven experience of government engagement to lead Fauna & Flora’s climate policy work in West Africa - with a particular focus on ensuring project level interventions and best practice inform, and are informed by, national policies and processes.

In return, the role offers the opportunity to work within an international, impactful and ground-breaking organisation, at the forefront of global conservation.

Terms and Conditions

Start Date: As soon as possible
Duration of Contract: 2 Years Fixed Term Contract
Probation Period: 6 months
Salary: Circa £50,000
Location: Monrovia, Liberia with frequent travel within Liberia and to Guinea and elsewhere within West Africa
Benefits: National appointments – benefits according to local labour law
International appointments - Fauna & Flora expatriate benefits apply
Hours of Work: This is a full-time position, working 40 hours, Monday to Friday inclusive. These hours may vary depending on the requirements of the job in the field.
Job Description

Job Title: Senior Technical Specialist, REDD+ and Climate Policy, West Africa

Reporting to: Country Manager, Liberia
Senior REDD + Programme Manager (Matrix Line Management)

Key Relationships: Climate and Nature Linkages (CN), Social Equity, Agriculture & Enterprise (SAGE) and Corporate Sustainability (CS) teams (UK)
North West and South East Landscape Managers, Liberia (Liberia)
Livelihoods & Governance Coordinator, Liberia (Liberia)
Senior Programme Manager, West Africa (UK)
Ziama Landscape Manager, Guinea (Guinea)

Purpose:

Working closely with the Liberia and Guinea programme, REDD+ technical specialists in Climate and Nature Linkages, other relevant Fauna & Flora teams, and with local partners, the role will drive forward implementation of Fauna & Flora’s pioneering REDD+ programme of work in West Africa; and serve as Fauna & Flora’s climate policy focal point at national/regional level. The role will advance Fauna & Flora’s strategy to develop and scale high quality nature-based solutions to climate change, which tackle both the biodiversity and climate crises, equitably benefit local people, and enable access to long-term, sustainable climate finance to enable enduring positive impacts for people, nature and climate. It will initially focus on playing a critical role in bringing Liberia’s first REDD+ project to market, supporting the development of certified Jurisdictional Nested REDD+ in Liberia and developing new, high quality NbS opportunities in the region.

Specific Duties:

REDD+ technical development, implementation and reporting

- Ensure your technical guidance and oversight drives effective delivery of the technical activities of the REDD+ programme, including monitoring and reporting
- In close coordination with the relevant Landscape and Project Manager(s) in order to account and plan for wider programme activities, lead the planning and budgeting of REDD+ programme activities, initially focusing on the implementation of the Wonegizi REDD+ project in Liberia
- In close coordination with the relevant Landscape and Project Manager(s), ensure the development and execution of work plans by Fauna & Flora field teams and relevant partners, including field visits to manage REDD+ technical work for the Wonegizi REDD+ project, and other projects in Liberia and Guinea as required
- Lead in-country preparations for the validation and verification of REDD+ projects under the Verified Carbon Standard and Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standard (CCBS), including collating and preparing inputs to Project Descriptions and Monitoring Reports; managing 3rd party validation/verification country/site visits
- Lead/support identification of external expertise required by the programme and the development of technical partnerships; prepare relevant Terms of Reference, evaluate experts and review reports produced
- Identify new REDD+ / NbS for climate opportunities in West Africa, and collaborate with relevant cross-cutting and regional staff to undertake feasibility studies, including at various sites in
Liberia and at Ziama in Guinea

- Ensure there is proactive and productive coordination and working relationships with key REDD+ stakeholders, including the Governments of Liberia and Guinea and their key agencies/units
- Proactively input into, and where requested lead the development of proposals and reports for, or engagement with, current and potential funders and investors for the REDD+ and climate policy programme of work in West Africa

**REDD+ and climate policy engagement**

- In collaboration with CNL and regional staff, lead Fauna & Flora’s technical and policy engagement with Government partners, on all matters of REDD+ policy, strategy and implementation and wider climate policy as it relates to natural resource management, including:
  - With technical support from CNL, proactively engage with government to inform the development of the Liberian certified jurisdictional nested REDD+; (for example, under the REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES)) and sub-national/national accounting for jurisdictional nested REDD+
  - Proactively manage engagement with the Liberian government, including leading the running of relevant meetings and workshops, facilitating inputs from relevant technical experts to inform policy, build capacity for private sector involvement and resource mobilization, in relation to REDD+ and broader climate policy
- Promote dialogue and information sharing within and between key stakeholder groups by initiating and/or participating in consultative meetings, and preparing technical briefs on REDD+ or other climate policy issues relevant to nature and sustainable local development
- In collaboration with CNL and regional staff, play a leading role in the development and implementation of a concept for REDD+ collaboration and replication in Liberia, and in key transboundary landscapes, such as the Ziama Landscape in Guinea; and in promoting regional and transboundary REDD+ collaboration and learning.

**Staff and Partner support and skills development**

- Play a leading role in knowledge and skills development of staff and partners, including NGOs, community, government and private sector, to underpin best practice implementation of REDD+ and understanding of key aspects of climate policy.

**Learning and Assimilation**

- Keep abreast of the latest trends and issues with respect to National REDD+ strategies, action plans, results-based payments, particularly in the context of alignment with the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, NDC efforts, voluntary carbon markets and proactively advise agreed senior staff as relevant;
- In collaboration with relevant staff, play a leading role in the development and dissemination of technical learning papers and other outputs that contribute to the advancement of knowledge on the implementation of REDD+ and other NbS for climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Write relevant articles, guidelines, briefing papers etc, as required
- Represent Fauna & Flora at relevant events, as requested

**Administrative support**

- Management of relevant budgets, as applicable
- Support effective knowledge management within the Country Office programmes and in collaboration with other teams involved in project delivery, in particular ensuring excellence in the management of project technical data

Other
- With agreement of the line manager, perform other tasks that may be requested from time to time that are appropriate to the role, skills and experience

Person Specification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skills</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proven technical competency in the development and management of a programme of REDD+ related work, including involvement in fieldwork</td>
<td>Experience designing and conducting fieldwork to quantify forest carbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ability to develop and manage positive engagements across diverse sectors, including government, local communities and civil society, and private sector;</td>
<td>Experience carrying out REDD+ feasibility studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ability to develop complex documents with supporting evidence and attention to detail</td>
<td>Remote sensing experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excellent computer skills (word processing, spreadsheets, and databases)</td>
<td>Ability to conduct data analysis using GIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excellent written and oral communication and organisation skills, including report and proposal writing with fluent English</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confident presentation skills to both internal and external audiences, and distilling complex concepts for a non-technical audience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fluent in written and spoken English and French</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Knowledge and experience      | Advanced degree in a relevant field, such as natural resource management, forestry, conservation, sustainable development or equivalent experience | Experience working in West Africa |
|                               | Comprehensive understanding of REDD+ as an approach, and international best practice | Experience of engaging with government with regards to national policies and frameworks in relation to REDD+ |
|                               | Experience of living and working in a developing country context | Experience of developing projects for certification under the VCS, CCBS and/or Plan Vivo Standard |
|                               | Proven knowledge of international policies related to REDD+, conservation, climate change and sustainable development |                             |
|                               | Experience of engaging with governments on policy issues |                             |
|                               | Technical understanding of the links between climate change and biodiversity |                             |
loss, the role of the forestry and land use sector, and of international carbon markets
- Working knowledge of the negotiations under UNFCCC, the COP decisions and guidelines related to REDD+

**Behavioural qualities**
- Commitment to FFI’s mission and values
- Excellent team player, highly collaborative and able to work flexibly and effectively across cultures
- Highly motivated self-starter
- Highly organised and attentive to detail
- Ability to work under pressure and to deadlines
- Lateral and holistic thinker, flexible and adaptable in evolving work situations

---

**Fauna & Flora 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 Fauna & Flora 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 inclusive, supportive & respectful**
- **We get things done**

---

**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 africajobs@fauna-flora.org

Please mark your application ‘Senior Technical Specialist, REDD+ and Climate Policy’

The closing date for applications is **21 August 2023**. 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

Fauna & Flora 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 Adviser, Fauna & Flora, on Tel: +44 (0)1223 749044 or Email: jade.bedwell@fauna-flora.org.

Fauna & Flora values diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity.