Job description

Position title: Policy Officer, Climate & Land Use
Reports to: Head of Unit, EU Climate & Energy Policy
Supervises: External consultants
Grade: Professional 1 (P1)
Date: October 2023

Mission

The WWF European Policy Office (WWF EPO) is a major WWF policy and public affairs hub, and acts as WWF’s ambassador to the EU institutions. Our goal is to support the achievement of WWF’s global mission by helping shape EU policies that affect the environment.

WWF EPO’s climate and energy team works to ensure that EU policies are consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement, including equity, and the protection of the ecosystems on which human flourishing depends.

Role

The successful candidate will be responsible for leading WWF’s EU advocacy on climate-related land use policy issues, including bioenergy, the Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF), the EU’s Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation and other EU policies and initiatives that involve or relate to carbon emissions and removals in the land use sector, including their implementation by Member States.

This job description covers the main tasks involved in the role and conveys the spirit of others that the post holder might be required to carry out in future. Additional tasks may be assigned as necessary on the basis of policy developments and organisational needs.

Main responsibilities

Objectives

The post holder will develop, coordinate and implement WWF advocacy with the aim of ensuring that:

- EU and national bioenergy policies and plans, in particular those included in or based on the EU Renewable Energy Directive, reflect the best available science and therefore only incentivise types of bioenergy that deliver significant, near term emission reductions compared to fossil fuels;
- The proposed CRCF doesn’t undermine rapid cuts in fossil fuel emissions and non-CO₂ emissions in the agriculture sector, and supports positive outcomes for biodiversity;
- That EU policies such as the Climate Law, the LULUCF Regulation, the Common Agricultural Policy and any future proposals drive a big increase in carbon dioxide removal by the EU land use sector, based on agriculture and forestry practices that are a win-win for both climate and biodiversity, and that such removals are not treated as equivalent to emissions;

Activities

- Assessment of scientific / academic publications and other evidence; commenting on draft reports or publications by partner organisations;
- Analysis of EU policy proposals, Member State and stakeholder positions and proposed amendments to EU legislation, and development of advocacy strategies;
• Engaging with and lobbying politicians, EU officials and other decision makers, businesses and other stakeholders based in Brussels, both online and in person;

• Production of written advocacy materials such as briefing, reports etc. to publication standard;

• Briefing Brussels-based journalists, including at press conferences, and helping the WWF communications team develop compelling narratives, press releases, infographics, social media content and other messaging;

• Coordination of advocacy on EU policies across the WWF network, through sharing of information, building consensus on key issues, and providing guidance, knowledge leadership and advocacy materials;

• Building strong working relationships with WWF EPO colleagues in other teams, including those working on issues closely linked to climate change and land use such as agriculture, forestry, freshwater and marine ecosystems;

• Close collaboration with other environmental NGOs and civil society organisations that are based in Brussels or that are active on EU policy dossiers;

• Representing WWF at public events, conferences and meetings with representatives of European institutions, EU Member States or other stakeholders;

Required knowledge, skills and experience

• Strong analytical skills, including an ability to draw out key points from technical sources and identify the broader implications of different policy options;

• Excellent communication skills in English, both in writing and orally (e.g. in meetings and presentations). An ability to listen attentively to the views of interlocutors, understand political priorities, and convey messages on complex subjects clearly and persuasively. Other languages an advantage;

• Knowledge of the subject matter and/or relevant academic studies or qualifications an advantage;

• At least 2 years’ professional experience, ideally including advocacy towards EU institutions and Member State governments and working with the EU legislative process;

• An ability to work effectively in a multicultural and multidisciplinary environment, both independently and as a supportive team player;

• A firm commitment to WWF’s mission (“to stop the degradation of the earth’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature”) and its values (“courage, integrity, respect, collaboration”).

Working Relationships

Internal

WWF EPO Head of Unit, Climate and Energy; WWF EPO Climate and Energy Team; other WWF EPO colleagues; colleagues in WWF EU national offices, the WWF Global Climate and Energy Practice.

External

European Commission staff (up to Director level, senior official level and junior political level), Members of the European Parliament and their teams, officials in Member State Permanent Representations to the EU, representatives of foundations, businesses, other environmental NGOs or civil society organisations, think tanks, media, etc.