

## **Researcher/Campaigner: Timber, sanctions and Boreal forests**

Salary: £38,000 per annum

Location: preferably London (hybrid work)

*Full-time, with flexible hours and some homeworking considered*

EarthSight is looking for a researcher/campaigner to work alongside our Boreal Forests Team Lead delivering impactful research, analyses and advocacy on wood products supply chains.

EarthSight is a non-profit organisation dedicated to researching and investigating environmental and social crime and injustice. We use cutting-edge investigative methods to uncover and expose wrongdoing. Since emerging as a fully-fledged organisation in 2016, our reports have garnered headlines, won awards and triggered major changes by governments and corporations.

We seek to create positive change by influencing government policy, uncovering greenwash and raising awareness among key constituencies about the impacts of global supply chains on the world's forests and forest communities.

Over the years EarthSight has played a leading role investigating and exposing the links between illegal timber from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus and Western importers and retailers. We have shone a light on how flawed certification schemes are undermining effective law enforcement in Western markets and sought to influence internal reform at these bodies. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has prompted new focus on uncovering how Russian and Belarussian wood products still reach Western consumers and support these countries' economies despite wide-ranging Western sanctions against them.

You will play a crucial role in the Boreal Forests / Timber Team by helping drive forward EarthSight's efforts to clean up global wood product supply chains, including by debunking industry spin and monitoring and analysing relevant green labels and traceability technologies. You will support the delivery of advocacy campaigns aimed at key stakeholders to help strengthen law enforcement and increase transparency in opaque markets. You will also help expose how Western markets continue to fuel Russia and Belorussia's timber sectors, including through supply chains that are in breach of EU/US timber regulations or sanctions.

The position is offered as a full-time permanent contract. The successful candidate would preferably be based in the UK and able to come into our office in London regularly. Flexible working will be considered, as will some level of homeworking. EarthSight is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to ensuring careers in the charity sector are open to all. We value difference and believe it enhances our capabilities. We therefore particularly encourage applications from people from a range of different backgrounds.

### **Main tasks and responsibilities**

- Monitor relevant media, NGO, think-tank, government and academic reports on EU and US wood supply chains linked to boreal forests, especially in Russia and Belarus
- Monitor developments with the timber industry and its lobbying efforts – particularly in relation to certification and traceability systems and technologies for timber and wood products
- Provide regular summaries from this monitoring to the Boreal Forests Team Lead

- Build and maintain a strong understanding of relevant trade links for timber and wood products from boreal forests to consumer countries/regions of particular interest (e.g. EU, UK, US), through analysis of third-party reports and raw trade data and shipment records
- Carry out additional desk research into chosen case studies, including by exploring shipment data, company reports and websites, satellite imagery, corporate records and trading websites, and remote meetings with relevant actors including researchers and activists in the countries concerned
- Assist in planning and carrying out field research on selected cases if needed
- Provide detailed reports of research findings for internal review
- Assist with turning research findings into published reports, analyses, policy messages and recommendations, films and other external outputs
- Assist with efforts to secure media coverage for reports, analyses and op-eds, including by helping draft press releases and brief journalists on details of research
- Support Boreal Forests Team Lead in implementing advocacy activities based on research findings and the organisation's overall strategic goals
- Help build and maintain relevant contacts, including with NGOs, journalists and researchers in key countries
- Support research into tropical timber supply chains carried out by other teams when requested by Boreal Forests Team Lead
- Other suitable tasks as required by the Boreal Forests Team Lead

## **Person specification**

### Essential

- At least two years' experience working as a researcher, campaigner or journalist on environmental, forests, climate change, human rights or a related field
- Ability to establish and maintain effective contacts and relationships
- Excellent research and/or campaigning skills with proven ability to analyse and use information from a variety of sources to produce meaningful content or influence a desired campaign outcome
- Strong attention to detail and factual accuracy
- Excellent written English skills with ability to produce clear and concise research summaries and findings
- Good knowledge of Microsoft Office, especially Excel
- Self-motivated and collaborative team player

### Ideal

- Fluency in either Russian or Ukrainian
- Experience conducting research in relevant countries, especially Russia, Belarus or Ukraine
- Experience working with shipment records and satellite imagery
- Strong writing skills, with ability to produce compelling, impactful and persuasive texts in English for external audiences

### Desirable

- Advanced knowledge of and experience with Microsoft Excel
- Knowledge of GIS software and platforms
- Formal training in investigative journalistic techniques

## How to apply

Please submit a CV (two pages maximum) and answers to each of the three questions below. Replies that exceed the specified word limits for each question will not be considered:

1. Please explain what motivates you to apply for this role at Earthsight. *Max 250 words*
2. Please explain how you fit the following essential criteria of the person specification listed in the job advert (provide examples to illustrate your answer along with any impacts of your work, where known)
  - Excellent research and/or campaigning skills with proven ability to analyse and use information from a variety of sources to produce meaningful content or influence a desired campaign outcome. *Max 250 words*
3. What other relevant skills and experience would you like us to be aware of? Please reference the skills listed in the job description above when writing your answer, giving examples where relevant. *Max 400 words*

Only candidates who answer each of the questions clearly will be considered. We advise you to copy and paste each of the questions into a document and answer them in turn. Answers can be submitted in PDF or Word format alongside the CV. **GENERIC COVER LETTERS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

Please submit your application no later than **30 August 2023** to [info@earthsight.org.uk](mailto:info@earthsight.org.uk). Shortlisted candidates will be tested on their skills. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.