

## TRAINING ON THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

YAOUNDE, REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

APRIL 2018

The Centre for Social Excellence (CSE) is a unique educational initiative focused on training students in the key skills required to be effective social practitioners working with companies, governments and civil society organizations. The mission of the CSE is to create an enabling environment for social harmony and realized human rights by equipping companies, civil society and governments with well-trained social practitioners from the regions where they operate.

The CSE is currently looking for smart, motivated young professionals who would like to pursue a career as a social practitioner with an agriculture or forestry company operating in their home country to join our 10-month intensive training program. In this program, students will receive best-in-class training from international social experts who have strong experience working with companies and communities in Africa. The training program will include five months of course work and a 5-month internship with a company, helping them to address social issues in their operations. Applicants should already have a degree related to social sciences, agriculture, or natural resource management and should enjoy working with a wide variety of people in remote settings.

The CSE spirit is to train young graduates such as yourself in an innovative, participative and interactive way, in order to help you undertake present and future professional challenges as a social practitioner. As a social practitioner, you will not only help the local communities to participate in the management of their resources but you will help reinforce the commitment of private companies towards best practices in respecting human rights of local peoples and workers, and in being good neighbours to the people who are impacted by their operations.

The CSE is an initiative of The Forest Trust (TFT), an international non-profit organization with headquarters in Switzerland (see [www.tft-earth.org](http://www.tft-earth.org)). TFT is a membership organization that works with member companies and their supply chain partners to develop and implement new production models that respect communities, workers and nature. The CSE has been training students through our landmark 10-month program since its founding in 2008, and is currently based in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Applications are now being accepted for the **ninth training** batch that will begin in Yaoundé in **April/May 2018** and will be taught in **French and English**.

Best regards,

The CSE Team

## CONTENT OF THE TRAINING

The teaching covers a range of topics related to the sustainable management of natural resources:

1. *Ethnology and anthropology to understand forest peoples and local populations in West and Central Africa*
2. *Communication, conflict management, (setting up of discussion platforms, procedures...)*
3. *Socio-economic studies and surveys*
4. *Various certification systems and their requirements (legislation, traceability, sustainable management of forests and plantations)*

5. *Legislative aspects of the forest and agricultural sector in Central and West Africa.*
6. *Concepts and tools such as social and participatory mapping, FPIC (Free Prior and Informed Consent), HCV, HCS,*
7. *Community-based projects identification and implementation*

The modules are taught by 20 international experts with extensive experience in the Congo Basin and West African sub regions.

Each module is completed by practical sessions, assignments, readings and sharing of experiences with professionals.

## PLANNING

Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Training	Acquiring tools and concepts Yaoundé, Cameroon				Internship in a forest or agro industrial company				Oral defence of final report	
					Evaluation of the social programme of the company		Elaboration of a social action plan and drafting of a final report			

## TEACHING

A multidisciplinary programme is offered by the CSE for this ten-month training: a solid theoretical base is given in the first four months followed by five months of internship in a logging or plantation company that is seeking to ameliorate its practices.

From the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> month of the program, students undertake an evaluation of the social aspects of the company's practices and propose an

action plan to enhance the company's long-term management methods.

## DATE AND VENUE

The CSE is based in Yaoundé, Cameroon where the first stage of the training takes place (from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> month).

The spaces for the five-month internship depend on the private company (Sponsor) demand in its operational sites as well as the availability and qualifications of

Students; participants will preferably undergo internship in their home country.

## ORGANISERS

The CSE is a TFT project. TFT's strategy is to help its partners and members (distributors and suppliers) deliver responsible products to the market through transparency and traceability of the origins of their products.

To date, the CSE has been financed by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the AFD/FFEM-funded ECOFORAF project, the Chirac Foundation, PPECF/COMIFAC Project and the Waterloo Foundation.

This session is funded by the Group SOCFIN (<http://www.socfin.com/en>)

## PARTICIPANTS

This ten-month training is open to graduates from Central and West Africa especially from Cameroon, DR Congo, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Sao Tome, with at least a first degree in forestry, sociology, anthropology, environment, agronomy, rural development, geography, law, sustainable development or economics...

## LANGUAGE

This ninth training session is in French and English. Fluency in English will be a valuable asset for participants from French speaking countries.

## SELECTION PROCESS

All applicants must meet the requirements set by the CSE and as stated in the downloadable file available on TFT's, CSE's Africa and SOCFIN web sites.

Deadline for all applications:

**March 03, 2018**

Please send your completed dossier to: [cse.team@tft-earth.org](mailto:cse.team@tft-earth.org). All shortlisted candidates will be informed by email **by March/April, 2018**.

The second phase of the selection process, i.e. **interviews, will be scheduled during the month of April 2018** and the shortlisted candidates will be invited either to Yaoundé, or another city in the sub-region.

All costs inherent to this second phase – except fees for the candidate's passport – will be covered by the CSE.

## COSTS OF THE TRAINING

For those students who are definitively admitted to the programme, the CSE will cover the following expenses: (i) transportation costs (visa and flight ticket), (ii) accommodation and (iii) lunches during classes.

Students are responsible for their remaining meals (breakfast and dinners) plus lunches on days when they are off-classes. They are also responsible for costs related to the issuing or renewal of passports.

No pocket money is allocated to the students.

## LODGING

Students are lodged in the CSE dormitories (shared rooms). The CSE also provides bed sheets and towels. Students are responsible for the cleaning of their rooms. During field work, an appropriate lodging is provided.

## WORKING MATERIAL

Students are expected to come along with their personal laptop during the

training. However, few laptops may be provided on loan by the CSE.

In addition, he/she has permanent access to the internet and the CSE library (both hard and soft collections). Didactic materials are provided by the CSE.

### **PASSPORT**

Every student admitted to the CSE training, following the second phase of selection, must have a passport valid for at least 18 months with a minimum of four blank pages. All fees related to the issue of these documents are the responsibility of the student.

In order to travel in the sub-region, it is mandatory that each student be vaccinated against yellow-fever and carries a valid vaccination card. This expense is covered by the student.

### **INSURANCE**

Students are covered by a four-month accident policy paid by the CSE.

Any medical costs incurred during the training are the responsibility of the student; the CSE highly recommends that every student subscribe to a health insurance policy.

### **CONTACTS**

For additional information, please contact us:

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