

Lawyer – Climate and Nature Litigation – Remote Working

We are seeking to hire a dynamic and passionate litigator to join The Lifescape Project and to play an integral role in our climate and nature litigation projects.

Job Description

About The Lifescape Project

The Lifescape Project is a small but growing charity which undertakes projects that protect and restore wild landscapes, helping to provide a future for all life on earth. We focus on ambitious projects looking at new ways to solve complex environmental problems, bringing together the skills and expertise of a multi-disciplinary team. Our projects focus on leveraging the skills and expertise of specialists across five disciplines: science, law, economics, technology and culture.

The Lifescape Project is a registered charity with [a board of 8 trustees](#) from diverse professional backgrounds, six permanent team members, a varying number of part and full-time placement students/interns, numerous contractors delivering specialist services, and a large number of volunteers providing their professional skills pro bono. Lifescape has multiple ongoing projects seeking to restore and protect wild landscapes by combining its five core disciplines. You can read more about our project work [here](#) and hear our Managing Lawyer, Elsie Blackshaw-Crosby, talk to the UK Environmental Law Association about some of our legal work [here](#).

Job purpose and key responsibilities

The successful candidate will have day to day responsibility for driving forward our UK work in our [Forest Litigation Collaborative](#) and [Litigation for Nature](#) projects, with the potential also to assist in our international work. The successful candidate will be in an exciting position of joining our team as we develop and expand our work on these projects, with the opportunity to help shape their future direction.

Through the **Forest Litigation Collaborative** we work to protect forest ecosystems and combat the rise of forest biomass energy and its wrongful treatment as a 'zero-carbon' energy source. We use litigation and quasi-legal actions to achieve these goals. Working with local NGOs across the world, and pro-bono legal advisers from some of the best regarded law firms globally, we seek to use the law to protect valuable forest ecosystems, including by seeking to reverse the improper treatment of biomass energy as zero carbon and to put pressure on the biomass industry to reduce inherent biodiversity and climate risks. This involves legal thinking spanning policy, public law, corporate law, consumer law and other areas, in order to develop and execute the most effective strategy possible. In the UK, we are pursuing an [OECD complaint](#) against Drax Group plc for greenwashing and we have various significant regulatory and legal challenges in the pipeline.

The successful candidate will work closely with our Managing Lawyer to lead on much of the day to day work on these important challenges and be actively involved in developing our UK Forest Litigation Collaborative strategy. This will involve:

- substantive legal drafting of pre-action correspondence and pleadings etc;
- detailed legal research to build case theories;
- general case management of our legal challenges;

- critically analysing legislative and policy proposals relevant to the project and drafting associated responses to government consultations etc;
- working with other NGOs to keep up to date with developments which may impact our work and identify opportunities to use litigation to tackle our core issues; and
- instructing, managing and working closely with external counsel and managing other NGOs involved in legal actions.

Our **Litigation for Nature** project uses litigation to protect what remains of wild landscapes and areas which are strategically valuable to their existence in the UK, while simultaneously promoting the restoration of these wild landscapes where they no longer exist or are in a poor state. The successful candidate will also have day to day responsibility for large parts of this project with the close support of our Managing Lawyer and will involve similar responsibilities as described above for the Forest Litigation Collaborative project. It is an exciting time to join this project as we start to build out and develop our new Litigation for Nature strategy, building on our [successes to date](#).

The successful candidate may also assist in identifying and pursuing funding opportunities and will take an active role in developing and implementing communication strategies to publicise the projects in which they are involved.

This job description is not exhaustive and the selected candidate will be required to undertake other relevant tasks including providing legal input where relevant on some of our non-legal projects.

Working Relationships

The position will be line-managed by our Managing Lawyer of The Lifescape Project, Elsie Blackshaw-Crosby, and will work closely with her, including at times alongside our CEO.

The Lawyer will have key relationships with Lifescape's other employees, volunteers, interns, and pro bono professional advisers across a range of legal and non-legal projects. Involvement in our non-legal projects will be based on discussion with the successful candidate to ensure they have the greatest positive impact on the organisation's development.

The Lawyer will work closely with other environmental organisations working with us on our projects.

Location

This position will be remote-working and may involve some limited travel. The full team gets together in person at least once a year and the nature of the work means that we are in very regular contact on Teams etc, ensuring a strong connection amongst the team.

Both UK residents and non-UK-residents with appropriate qualifications will be considered, although salary and benefits will be adjusted depending on location.

Person specification

Education and training

- Law degree (essential)
- Legal professional qualification in English or Scots law (highly desirable)
- 1-5 PQE (highly desirable)

Experience and knowledge

- Experience in litigation (essential);
- Sound understanding of international and national environmental law (highly desirable);
- Public law experience, including judicial review (desirable) (note, we welcome applications from those at top-tier commercial firms seeking to move to the charity sector);
- Consumer protection law experience (desirable);
- Experience in laws relating to financial regulation (desirable);
- Experience in energy law (desirable);
- Experience in working with industry regulators and wider regulatory laws (desirable);
- Experience managing highly skilled individuals and teams including external counsel (highly desirable);
- Experience working with civil society organisations (desirable); and
- Knowledge of legal systems of multiple countries (desirable).

Key Competencies

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate all of the following competencies (all essential):

- Passion and commitment to combatting biodiversity loss and climate disaster;
- Fluent English/at CEFR Level C2;
- Outstanding written and oral communication skills;
- Ability to manage a team or individuals to meet project goals;
- Demonstrated rigorous legal analysis and drafting skills;
- Flexibility in switching between numerous and complex tasks and ability to prioritise tasks;
- Willingness and ability to take on significant responsibility and manage teams of professionally qualified advisors and volunteers;
- Ability to work collaboratively within a team but also to execute work independently and take the initiative when appropriate;
- Ability to speak on behalf of Lifescape at official meetings, stakeholder forums and other relevant public events;
- Ability to convey to a lay audience complex legal and procedural issues while getting Lifescape's core messages through;
- Commitment to non-profit/public interest advocacy; and
- Ability to build productive working relationships and collaborative partnerships with civil society and national civil servants, politicians, academics and other key players in environmental law.

Salary and benefits

- Full time and permanent position with a salary of £32,500 - £37,500 per annum depending on experience.
- Flexible working is welcome and can be agreed with the successful candidate, as can temporary international remote work.
- Benefits including 36 days of annual leave (28 not including public holidays), additional wildlife exploration/engagement leave of 2 days p.a., annual Lifescape retreat, full pension and provision of computing equipment.

To apply, please email a cover letter and CV to elsie.blackshaw@lifescapeproject.org by no later than 9 September 2022 (late applications may be considered depending on the number of applications received). The role will commence as soon as possible.