

Managing Lawyer – Biodiversity and Climate Law Projects – Remote Working

Job Description

Job purpose

We are hiring a dynamic and passionate lawyer to join The Lifescape Project, to play an integral part in our legal projects and to manage other aspects of Lifescape's work.

Lifescape Project is a start-up not-for-profit which designs and undertakes projects that support wildlife, rewild landscapes, and help to provide a future for all life on earth. We focus on ambitious projects that look at new ways of solving complex problems and bring together the skills and expertise of the public, private, and academic sectors.

Projects fall into four categories: legal, finance, technology and community.

This role will focus primarily on our legal projects, although the successful candidate will also need to be willing and able to engage with our projects in the finance, technology, and community areas.

Lifescape's legal work focusses on applying the law to solve problems facing the protection of biodiversity and the active rewilding of landscapes. At present, this covers three specific projects: (1) International Litigation Against Forest Biomass Energy, (2) Scottish Beaver Protection, and (3) Legal Mechanisms to Protect Nature.

The **Forest Biomass Energy project** is working to develop an international legal strategy to combat the rise of forest biomass energy and its treatment as a zero-carbon energy source. 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 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. There is a strong emphasis on litigation and regulatory enforcement within this project.

The **Scottish Beaver Protection project** is a new project which seeks to reverse the Scottish government's approach to beaver population management, including using legal options to reverse the decision to allow extensive population culling.

Lifescape's work on **Legal Mechanisms to Protect Nature** includes working with pro bono legal advisers in multiple jurisdictions to develop and implement private law mechanisms to allow the long-term protection of ecological restoration work, where public law mechanisms (e.g. special protected area status, SSSI status, national park status) cannot be relied upon. At present we are marketing mechanisms which we have already developed in England and Scotland to landowners to bring together a group of landowners who would implement this type of protection simultaneously, under the oversight of a newly formed 'guardian' charity/legal entity.

Lifescape also has seven non-legal projects and three executive committees. Depending on the skills and experience of the successful candidate, the role will also necessarily include significant involvement in some of these areas, given that Lifescape is a start-up seeking to professionalise its project work.

The successful candidate will be in an exciting and dynamic position as the second employee of Lifescape, with the opportunity to help shape the future direction of the Lifescape Project as a not-for-profit (and when registered, a charity). The candidate will therefore play a fundamental role in Lifescape's development. Candidates will need to be comfortable with taking on significant

responsibility, guiding the direction of a new and rapidly expanding NGO, and managing teams of professionally qualified volunteers.

Working Relationships

The position will be line-managed by the CEO of Lifescape Project, Adam Eagle, and will work closely with him.

The Lawyer will have key relationships with Lifescape's trustees who remain involved in the day to day work of Lifescape, volunteers, interns, and pro bono professional advisers.

They will also work with our Communications and Fundraising committees, and likely with the teams from two to three of Lifescape's other projects. Involvement in those 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. The Lawyer will have a close relationship with our partner organisation PFPI (the Partnership for Policy Integrity) and specific members of its team when working on the Forest Biomass Energy project and Trees for Life when working on the Scottish Beaver Protection project.

Key Responsibilities

- Managing and leading all, or significant parts, of our Forest Biomass Energy, Scottish Beaver Protection and Legal Mechanisms to Protect Nature projects;
- **Biomass** – Managing other NGOs, law firms and Lifescape's volunteers to develop our international strategy against forest biomass energy and to take action in pursuit of that strategy;
- **Biomass** - Critically analysing legislative and policy proposals relevant to the Forest Biomass Energy project in order to influence their content, particularly the implementation of the Re-cast Renewable Energy Directive in EU Member States;
- **Biomass** - Monitoring and influencing the implementation, interpretation and enforcement of relevant legislation;
- **Biomass** - Working with external lawyers to devise, design and carry out strategic litigation, often in partnership with local NGOs in multiple different jurisdictions globally;
- **Biomass** - Drafting legal advocacy briefings, research notes, presentations and other relevant materials in support of Lifescape's work;
- **Beavers** - Managing other NGOs, law firms and Lifescape's volunteers to further develop and implement our legal strategy;
- **Beavers** - Drafting legal advocacy briefings, research notes, presentations and other relevant materials in support of Lifescape's work;
- **Legal Mechanisms to Protect Nature** – communicating our proposed protections to stakeholders in the UK and the EU and developing strategic partnerships with other NGOs who would make use of such protections;
- **Legal Mechanisms to Protect Nature** – communicating with landowners and rewilding project managers to explain the merits of our legal mechanisms to build a group of landowners who would implement them, including determining sustainable funding mechanisms.

- **Legal Mechanisms to Protect Nature** – managing specialist pro bono advisers and volunteers to develop new legal mechanisms to protect nature in other European jurisdictions.
- **General** - Assisting in the preparation of funding proposals and reports to donors.
- **General** – Working with the Communications Committee and alone to develop external facing communications regarding the work you lead.
- Playing a substantial role in between one and three of Lifescape’s other projects and committees.

This list is not exhaustive and the selected candidate will be required to undertake other relevant tasks.

Location

This position will be remote-working and will involve some international travel. UK residents and other candidates will be considered.

Person specification

Education and training

- Law degree (essential)
- Legal professional qualification (desirable)
- 2-5 PQE or foreign equivalent (desirable)

Experience and knowledge

- Experience managing highly skilled individuals and teams (essential);
- Experience with litigation, judicial review, and/or policy advocacy (essential);
- Experience with public law (highly desirable) (note, we welcome applications from those at top-tier commercial firms seeking to move to the charity sector);
- Sound understanding of areas of international and national environmental law (highly desirable);
- Experience working with civil society organizations and/or regulators (desirable);
- Experience working as a member of multi-stakeholder working groups or coalitions (desirable);
- Knowledge of legal systems of multiple countries (desirable); and
- Knowledge of one or more of the following practice areas: environmental law, commercial law, consumer law (desirable).

Key Competencies

- English fluent/at CEFR Level C2 (essential)
- Outstanding written and oral communication skills (essential)
- Ability to manage a team or individuals to meet project goals (essential);
- Demonstrated rigorous legal analysis and drafting skills (essential);
- Flexibility in switching between numerous and complex tasks (essential);
- Ability to prioritise tasks (essential);
- Ability to work collaboratively within a team but also to execute work independently and take the initiative when appropriate (essential);
- Ability to speak on behalf of Lifescape at official meetings, stakeholder forums and other relevant public events (essential);

- Ability to convey to a lay audience complex legal and procedural issues while getting Lifescape's core messages through (essential);
- Commitment to non-profit/public interest advocacy (essential);
- 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 (essential).

Salary: £30,000 - £40,000, depending on qualifications, experience, and specific working arrangements (flexible working would be considered).

To apply, please email enquiries@lifescapeproject.org a cover letter and CV by no later than Friday 23 October 2020 (late applications may be considered depending on the number of applications received). The role will commence as soon as possible.