

## Law and Policy Advisor – London or Brussels

### Job Description

#### Job purpose

This is an excellent opportunity to contribute to [ClientEarth's Forests Programme](#). This role offers an opportunity to develop and build out an exciting and emerging component of ClientEarth's Forest Programme, including establishment of strategic direction, setting milestones, and broadening scope and impact.

The Forests Programme works in both producer and consumer countries to protect forests and biodiversity. Our work includes promotion of community forestry and the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples (LCIPs) through legal reform, empowerment and capacity building. We also work in the EU and UK on the legality of imported timber products and the creation of legal frameworks to hold corporations and investors accountable for risks to deforestation and biodiversity loss.

The Law and Policy Advisor will coordinate the Forests Programme's work to provide legal support to enhance land and forest tenure of LCIPs and to promote improved uptake and implementation of community forestry and other community-based natural resource management mechanisms. The role also addresses broader issues relating to forest governance, commodity-driven deforestation, climate change and human rights and requires engaging with multiple actors at the local, national, regional and international levels. There is a global orientation to these efforts, with particular focus on Southeast Asia, and the aim of supporting the development and implementation of appropriate laws, policies and standards in this field.

A key aspect of this position is the applied analysis of legal frameworks on issues including land tenure and other LCIPs' rights, community forestry, commodity-driven deforestation, climate-related initiatives and human rights. The position also includes raising awareness on these issues to a range of stakeholders. The position also aims to increase capacity of civil society and representatives of forest communities to participate and benefit from forest governance processes, with the aim of strengthening their skills and knowledge to better manage and protect forests. The role also involves building partnerships and carrying out appropriate engagement and advocacy activities toward national government stakeholders, regional decision-makers, international institutions, private sector and development partners.

#### Working Relationships

The post holder will work under the guidance and supervision of the Head of Programme, based in the UK. S/he will also develop close relationships with national partners and consultants. The position will also work with other team members in the Forests Programme across our offices (currently in London, Brussels and Warsaw) and develop working relationships with other internal teams as needed, including Communications, Development and Finance teams as well as a range of external partners.

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Current plans are for the the post holder to lead a small team as well as external consultants.

## Key Responsibilities

- In cooperation with the Head of Programme and others within the team, as well as external partners, contribute to the development and delivery of legal support and advocacy strategies on LCIP land tenure rights, community forestry, and community impacts from land conversion for production of forest-risk agricultural commodities, in selected countries in South-East Asia (Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia) and elsewhere globally that contribute to overall Programme objectives.
- Develop and maintain a robust knowledge of land tenure issues, community forestry and other forest governance-related issues, forest legislation, and political contexts in the countries of engagement, as well as the institutional frameworks and processes necessary for the effective implementation and enforcement of relevant laws.
- Develop and/or maintain existing relationships with relevant civil society actors and decision-makers at national, regional and international levels.
- Critically analyse laws, legislative and policy proposals relevant to land tenure and LCIPs' rights, community forestry, forest governance, forest conversion for agricultural commodities production, gender and access to justice issues in the countries of engagement.
- Prepare legal and policy analyses, research notes, training materials or presentations, as appropriate to the circumstances and designed to communicate ClientEarth's thinking to a wide variety of legal, policy and civil society audiences.
- Select and develop, under the supervision of the Head of Programme, relevant legal interventions. This will include evaluation of the risks of such activities, especially in relation to litigation.
- Support the delivery of in-country legal working group meetings and, where relevant, national workshops, training and other events.
- Initiate and manage collaborative partnerships and working relationships with key partners in countries of engagement, such as other NGOs and their networks, external lawyers, policy experts etc.
- Support Head of Programme and participate in quarterly work-planning, activity budgeting, funding-related activities, donor outreach and reporting.
- Support the development of fundraising strategies and grant proposals, in coordination with others in the team and the Head of Programme.
- Contribute to the management of grants associated with the focal areas of this position, including monitoring and evaluation, and ensure information is collected and provided as required, supporting a culture of continuous learning and innovation within ClientEarth.
- Represent the organisation externally and participate in relevant coalitions, meetings, forums and elsewhere, as necessary.

This list is not exhaustive and the selected candidate may be required to undertake other tasks in the Forests Programme.

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## Location

This position will be based in London or Brussels and will involve travel several times per year, primarily to South-East Asia and elsewhere internationally.

## Person specification

### Experience and knowledge

- Working knowledge of one or more of these areas: (essential)
  - natural resources governance;
  - human rights law and policy;
  - environmental governance;
  - forest governance;
  - land tenure;
  - legal reform processes
- Experience of establishing, building and maintaining relationships with key contacts and engaging with a wide variety of external stakeholders (essential)
- Experience of engaging effectively with governments, civil society, local communities and/or private sector partners (essential)
- Experience in organising events, meetings, and/or delivering trainings (essential)
- Knowledge of international or national forest policy processes (such as country-specific community forestry mechanisms, Voluntary Partnership Agreements under the EU's FLEGT programme, the UNFCCC's REDD+ mechanism, and other ongoing legal and policy reforms) (desirable)
- Good understanding of civil and common law legal systems (desirable)
- Experience of working in a development context (essential), including in key tropical forest cover regions (desirable)

### Key Competencies

- Fluent (CEFR level C2) in English (essential)
- Knowledge of a South-East Asian language (desirable)
- Excellent creative, critical and lateral thinking and analytical skills and ability to grasp quickly new concepts and areas of law with openness to learning and new ideas (essential)
- Ability to think and plan strategically, and to break complex issues and strategies into defined, outcome-oriented activities (essential)
- Excellent legal research, analysis, writing, advisory and advocacy skills (essential)
- Well-developed inter-personal communication style and ability to work collaboratively with consultants and partners from a distance and split across different geographies (essential)
- Excellent written and oral communication skills to give authoritative advice and influence external audiences, to adapt language, content and style to make communications relevant to policy-makers, funders and media (essential)
- Ability to explain complex legal information in a simple language and to adapt language, content and style to different audiences, for example via training sessions (essential)

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- Ability to work both independently and in a team-oriented, collaborative manner within a multi-disciplinary and multicultural environment (essential)
- Excellent organisational skills, able to set priorities and manage multiple tasks and react positively in light of shifting and competing timelines (essential)
- Ability to perform a management and supervisory role (essential)
- Cultural sensitivity and ability to work in challenging political environments (essential)
- Excellent political and practical judgment and diplomacy (essential)
- Willingness to travel to South-East Asia and elsewhere internationally (essential)
- Comfortable with remote or matrix management and working in a global organisation (essential)
- Commitment to ClientEarth's vision, mission, values, and a working style which reflects these (essential)