

## **Job Description - African Climate Legal Fellowship Program (ACLFP).**

**Position Title:** Climate Fellow – African Climate Legal Fellowship Program (ACLFP).

**Location:** Zanzibar, Tanzania

**Duration:** One Year (12 Months)

### **1. About Us**

The [Center for Strategic Litigation \(CSL\)](#) is East Africa's leading think-and-do tank on the rule of law and democracy based in Zanzibar, Tanzania. Founded in 2019 in response to growing threats to the rule of law and freedoms in Tanzania and the region, CSL aims to advance a democratic culture where constitutional supremacy and the rule of law are central pillars. CSL employs innovative litigation and advocacy strategies to promote access to justice and public education on democratic principles. By leveraging strategic litigation, public education, research, and media, CSL encourages citizen agency in advancing democracy. The center focuses on building case law on democracy, rule of law, and freedom of expression through strategic and collective action at national and regional courts while pursuing action research to support advocacy and litigation. CSL also empowers communities to demand and defend their rights, addressing impunity and abuses by state and non-state actors. This is achieved through grassroots mobilization, network building, and capacity development of community animators who work extensively with courts in East Africa to challenge rights violations. Furthermore, CSL nurtures young social justice lawyers through the East Africa Emerging Public Interest Advocates Programme, equipping them with essential skills for community mobilization, research, advocacy, and litigation.

CSL is committed to addressing climate justice issues through legal, advocacy, and research efforts. Our goal is to contribute to climate legal knowledge, advance policy and legal reforms in the United Republic of Tanzania and across East Africa while promoting human rights, the rule of law, equitable access to resources and sustainable development and protecting vulnerable communities and ecosystems from the adverse effects of climate change as set out in CSL's current Five Year Strategy.

### **2. Position Overview**

The position is ideal for an experienced, well-connected, and action-oriented mid-career practicing attorney to join the African Climate Legal Fellowship Program (ACLFP). This is a pilot initiative aimed at bringing experienced lawyers to the environmental public interest sector in Africa and providing pathways for new talent to enter the public interest sector. In addition to the CSL placement, Fellows will be part of a broader cohort benefiting from mentorship, coaching and leadership development, training in environmental and climate change law and science, and a network of like-minded lawyers in Africa. Travel within Africa for a launch convening will also be required. IREX, a global non-profit that has supported more than 50,000 Fellows over 50 years, will implement the fellowship and provide ongoing support to you and your nonprofit organization.

The incumbent should be innovative, proactive, and able to work under minimal supervision while adhering to our institutional values. This role focuses on climate justice issues, particularly in East Africa. For this position, we are seeking someone with some experience with any of the following topics: national, regional and international climate change and energy transition frameworks, carbon markets, REDD and REDD+ projects, and their impacts on community and gender rights. Additionally, successful candidates will have a strong commitment to learning and a demonstrated passion for using their legal skills to address climate change.

### **3. Key Responsibilities**

Key responsibilities will depend on the candidate's specific background. They may include:

- Lead and support public interest litigation (PIL) and advocacy processes, including case research, and regional and international climate justice and complaint mechanisms, as well as international fora for climate action.
- Advise on climate justice programming and funding opportunities for training young lawyers to research and prosecute PIL on climate-focused issues.
- Investigate the impacts of large-scale renewable energy projects and adaptation strategies on marginalized communities.
- Investigate and critically analyze carbon markets, especially the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM), and REDD and REDD+ projects in Africa, focusing on community and gender rights abuses.
- Monitor and assess the transparency and accountability of climate finance mechanisms, and their effects on poverty, inequality, and human rights.
- Analyze public policies related to climate change, energy, and environmental protection, and their implications for vulnerable communities.
- Develop and implement public awareness campaigns that incorporate indigenous knowledge and combat greenwashing practices.
- Develop knowledge products including articles, policy and legal briefs and other public education material based on the respective audiences.
- Participate in undertaking political economy analyses of climate change and the energy transition in East Africa.

### **3. Qualifications**

#### **3.1. Education**

- Law degree with a post graduate diploma in legal practice.
- Applicants with demonstrated academic excellence (such as high GPA scores and/or academic awards) are encouraged to apply.
- Demonstrable legal research skills and experience through coursework, litigation, internships or volunteer work.
- A strong commitment in advancing social justice and a democratic principles and ideals.
- Eloquence in English, Kiswahili and French languages, both in speech and in writing is an advantage.



- Demonstrable interest in climate change and environmental law.

### **3.2. Experience**

Practicing Attorney with a minimum of 5 years of experience in legal practice, passionate about and with some background in human rights law, climate justice, environmental law, or related fields, preferably within East Africa.

### **3.3. Skills**

- Strong legal skills, including very strong legal research and analysis abilities.
- Familiarity with public interest legal processes and experience in litigation and advocacy.
- Demonstrated ability to learn new concepts quickly.
- Basic knowledge of carbon markets, REDD, and REDD+ projects.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to work well with people and across organizations and partnerships.
- Ability to work well independently and as part of a team.
- Proactive, innovative, and creative approach to problem-solving.
- Curious mind and tenacity.
- Well-read and open-minded individual, organized, efficient, and dependable. Commitment to institutional values and principles of justice and equity.
- Experience with non-legal writing – including proposal and concept note writing – preferred, but not required.