



RECRUITMENT OF NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The Biodiversity Law Centre (“the Centre”) is recruiting **three Non-Executive Directors, one of whom will act as Chair of the Board.**

Why the Centre exists

The Biodiversity Law Centre is a new non-profit environmental law organisation that has been established to use law to reverse the catastrophic decline of biological diversity in the Southern African region.

Human activities have initiated the 6th period of mass extinction, causing the extinction rate of species to increase more than 100-fold and a 68% average decline in the monitored population sizes of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and fish between 1970 and 2016. We have crossed the planetary boundary for biodiversity and are well into the danger zone where abrupt, irreversible and undesirable changes as a consequence of biodiversity loss are now likely. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has advised that rapid “transformative change” is now necessary to reverse this damage.

Many communities in Southern Africa depend directly on ecosystems that are under threat or degrading. Ecosystem protection and restoration is essential to enhance their wellbeing and to prevent many hard-won societal advances being reversed. Protecting and regenerating ecosystems will also have positive impacts on human livelihoods and health, increase resilience to climate change and enhance carbon sequestration.

The Centre’s purpose and strategies

The Centre aims to use the law to protect, restore and preserve ecosystems within the Southern African region. In order to achieve its objective, the Centre will:

- conduct strategic litigation;
- provide legal advice and support services to communities to assist them to protect and restore the ecosystems in which they live;
- support the strengthening of national and regional regulatory frameworks;
- collaborate with communities, organisations and other stakeholders; and
- promote regional collaboration to address transboundary biodiversity issues

DIRECTORS

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Biodiversity Law Centre NPC
Reg No. 2021/631341/08

The role

The Biodiversity Law Centre, a registered non-profit company, invites applicants to join this exciting new initiative by serving as **Non-Executive Directors** of the organisation. The appointed Directors must be aligned to the values of the Centre, and committed to reversing the rapid loss of biodiversity in a proactive and reactive manner, promoting regional collaboration, and supporting the role of communities and community organisations in protecting the ecosystems of which they are a part.

The Centre is committed to the establishment of a board of directors which comprises the appropriate balance of knowledge, skills, experience, diversity and independence to support the Centre in achieving its objectives and to enable the board to discharge its governance role and responsibilities objectively and effectively.

Since the Centre will be registered as a law clinic to enable it to litigate within South Africa, a majority of the members of the Board must be advocates or attorneys admitted and enrolled as such with the Legal Practice Council.

Qualifications, skills and experience

Suitably qualified candidates, with experience in one or more of the following areas, are encouraged to apply:

- Law (particularly environmental / administrative / constitutional law)
- Ecology and conservation / environmental management
- Community-based ecological conservation
- Financial management and / or fundraising
- Management and/or board membership of non-profit organizations
- Human resource management and governance specialisation
- Strategic communications and/or public relations

Candidates must have a clear understanding of the fiduciary duties of a director and demonstrate the qualities of integrity, conscience, competence, courage and commitment.

Non-executive director positions will not be remunerated, but all reasonable and agreed travel expenses will be covered by the organisation.

Key responsibilities

The primary purpose of the board is to provide guidance and oversight of the Biodiversity Law Centre. The key responsibilities of the board are:

- to appoint an Advisory Council comprising individuals with expert knowledge of ecosystems and wild species within the Southern African region and the threats facing them, and expertise in relation to traditional knowledge and/ or working with Indigenous Peoples and communities within Southern Africa to advise the Board on identifying and prioritising legal interventions;



- to develop the strategic direction of the Centre and monitor the Centre's activities to ensure it continues to work towards its strategic objectives;
- to monitor the organisational affairs, policies and compliance environment of the Centre;
- to oversee the Centre's risk management policy and the implementation and the ongoing monitoring of risk management;
- to interrogate the financial statements and performance of the Centre; and
- to approve the Centre's annual budget.

Non-executive directors will be appointed for an initial period of **one year**, at which time appointments will be reviewed.

How to apply

Please email Kate Handley at kate@biodiversitylaw.org or Cormac Cullinan at cormac@biodiversitylaw.org with a brief cover letter explaining your interest in and suitability for this role, as well as a copy of your CV.

CLOSING DATE: 7 JANUARY 2022