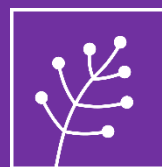


Job Expectations

Science Advisor



Climate
Litigation
Network

Job title	Science Advisor
Programme / team	Cross-programme
Level	L2 Specialist
Reporting to	Science and Law Lead
Responsible for	No direct reports
Contract type	Location dependent
Location	Amsterdam or London
Last reviewed	July 2026

01 ROLE PURPOSE

The Science Advisor supports the Science & Law team to bridge the gap between climate science and law in the context of strategic litigation. Climate cases increasingly depend on rigorous scientific evidence: this role exists to ensure that CLN's partners have access to the best available science, that legal teams understand how to use it effectively, and that the scientific community understands what the litigation field needs.

This is a cross-programme role with reach across CLN's work. The Science Advisor acts as an internal expert resource for the legal team and a translator between two professional cultures that don't always speak the same language.

02 SCOPE & DECISION-MAKING

The Science Advisor operates with independence within their specialist remit. With support from senior members of the team to determine tasks and strategic objectives, they manage their own workload across CLN's programmes, determine how best to support legal teams, and how to deploy their scientific expertise. Decisions about cross-programme priorities are made in coordination with the relevant Co-Director or Senior Legal Associate. The Science Advisor will be expected to be proactive in identifying how their work can have the most impact, working with the Science & Law team to inform its strategic decisions. The role has no direct reports and no budget management responsibility.

03 KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

This section maps the role against CLN's Responsibility Framework. The Science Advisor is positioned at L2 across most areas, reflecting a specialist role with strong independent working and cross-programme reach. Knowledge & expertise sits at L3, reflecting the depth of specialist knowledge this role requires and the degree to which it guides others' practice. This mixed profile is intentional — the framework is designed to reflect the real shape of a role, not to force a single level across all areas.

Responsibility area	Level	What this looks like in this role
1. Strategy & organisational contribution	L2	Supports delivery of CLN's legal programmes by providing specialist scientific input that strengthens case strategy and partner support. Contributes ideas and insight within their specialist remit, and actively maintains awareness of how their work connects to CLN's wider mission and strategy. Contributes to CLN's position on key scientific and evidentiary issues, working in coordination with the Science & Law team and Co-Directors.
2. Knowledge & expertise	L3	Recognised for specialist expertise in climate science and undertaking technical research. Contributes insight that shapes CLN's strategy and strengthens its partners' cases. Specific activities include: • Maintaining an excellent understanding of the latest developments in climate science, including emerging research, modelling results, conceptual frameworks and datasets. • Monitoring and synthesising advances in climate science to identify key knowledge gaps and outstanding research questions relevant to climate litigation. • Developing and maintaining proficiency in relevant technical skills, including the use of open-source scientific tools and code repositories (e.g. GitHub). • Conducting ongoing research and preparing clear, concise briefing notes and explanations on key scientific issues for CLN staff and external partners. • Supporting the development of internal knowledge resources by summarising scientific developments and sharing technical expertise with colleagues. • Alongside members of the Science & Law team, advising legal teams on how best available science can be integrated to support and strengthen their legal strategies, and on how to present scientific evidence effectively to courts. • Assessing scientific and evidentiary gaps in ongoing and future cases, and working with CLN staff and partners to explore ways to address them. • Conducting ongoing research and preparing clear, accessible briefing notes and explanations on key scientific issues for CLN staff and external partners.
3. Scope & impact	L2	In line with the Science & Law team's strategic objectives, responsible for delivery of parts of CLN's scientific advisory activities. Work directly influences the quality and evidential strength of CLN's legal outputs and partner case strategies. The role has cross-programme reach — its impact extends beyond any single workstream. No budget management responsibility.
4. Decision-making & autonomy	L2	Works independently within their specialist remit, managing their own workload across CLN's programmes. Is able to determine how best to support legal teams, and how to deploy their scientific expertise. Cross-programme priorities and significant new partnerships are decided in coordination with the relevant Co-Director or Senior Legal Associate.

Responsibility area	Level	What this looks like in this role
5. Relationships & influence	L2	Supports the Science & Law team with maintaining existing relationships with scientists, academic institutions and research organisations. Supports the Science & Law to provide support to national partners on how to present best available science to courts.
6. People & team leadership	L2	Contributes positively to team culture and collaborative ways of working. Supports colleagues across the legal team by building their scientific literacy and confidence in working with scientific evidence. No direct reports.
7. Values & ways of working	L2	Works collaboratively, responsibly and with integrity. Maintains high standards of professionalism across all interactions with colleagues, partners and the scientific community. Upholds CLN's values and commitment to a trust-based, inclusive and empowering organisation.

04 WHAT WE EXPECT OF YOU

Skills, knowledge and experience

Essential

- Deep knowledge of climate science. Ability to work with senior members of staff, in an inter-disciplinary manner, to understand how science can be applied to novel legal problems — including translating legal standards into scientific frameworks and identifying evidentiary gaps in climate cases.
- Excellent science communication skills: able to convey complex scientific concepts clearly to diverse audiences, including legal professionals, partners and non-specialists.
- Exceptional attention to detail, with the ability to learn new skills and topics quickly.
- Strong research, analytical and drafting skills, with the ability to distil complex scientific information into clear, accessible and actionable written outputs.
- Proficiency in data analysis, modelling, and visualisation including using R and/or Python.
- Willingness to think creatively and work alongside a broad range of experts to apply existing knowledge to novel legal challenges.
- Highly motivated, reliable and able to work independently with strong attention to detail and consistent delivery to deadlines.
- Strong alignment with CLN's values and a commitment to building a trust-based, inclusive and empowering organisation.
- Excellent written and spoken English.

Desirable

- Experience in climate policy or a related interdisciplinary field.
- Fluency in one or more languages other than English.

Qualifications and experience

Essential

- Undergraduate degree in climate science, environmental science, geoscience or a related field, with a strong academic record.

Desirable

- PhD or 3–6 years of post-university experience) in the field of climate change, climate policy or a related area.

05 WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

Salary & reward

- Salary within the L2 band: €50,000–€65,000, with placement dependent on experience, qualifications and the depth of existing scientific network. New appointments are generally expected to be at the lower third of the band.
- 5% pension contribution.

Development & growth

- A genuinely novel role with real scope to shape how scientific advisory work develops within CLN and the wider field.
- The opportunity to work at the frontier of climate science and international law — two of the most consequential areas of practice right now.
- Access to learning and development opportunities.

Working life

- Hybrid working.
- 25 days annual leave plus public holidays.
- Supportive working environment, with benefits aligned across Netherlands and UK, where possible.
- Whole team retreats held twice per year.

Culture & values

- A collaborative, interdisciplinary team where scientific expertise is genuinely valued alongside legal knowledge.
- An organisation that takes its values seriously — and expects the same of everyone in it.
- Transparent pay and progression frameworks, so you always know where you stand and what comes next.