

We are Hiring | Environmental Lawyer (Enviro-Legal Coordinator)

Position: Full-time Environmental Lawyer as Enviro-Legal Coordinator for Sahjeevan

Location: Kutch, Gujarat (with occasional travel to other areas as required)

About Sahjeevan

Sahjeevan is a community-driven organization committed to empowering rural and forest-dependent communities in Gujarat to protect and restore their ecologies through legal empowerment and sustainable practices. By leveraging key legislative frameworks like the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 and the Biological Diversity Act (BDA) 2002, Sahjeevan supports communities to conserve their ecosystems and strengthen their livelihoods. With over a decade of experience, Sahjeevan has played a significant role in advocating for the rights of pastoral and forest dependent communities, helping them secure grazing rights, file CFR claims, and enhance their conservation efforts.

Position Overview

Sahjeevan seeks an Environmental Lawyer (Enviro-Legal Coordinator) to provide critical legal support to communities facing industrial threats to their local ecologies, including mangrove forests, coastal turtle breeding areas, wetlands, and thorn forests. The ideal candidate will have experience in environmental law and litigation, a strong commitment to grassroots conservation efforts, and the capacity to work alongside rural communities to enhance their legal understanding and advocacy skills.

This position will involve guiding communities through legal processes, supporting the development of conservation strategies, and empowering local leaders to navigate the complex intersection of environmental law and industrial development. The Enviro-Legal Coordinator will work closely with Sahjeevan, CBOs, and village panchayats to build a strong legal framework for environmental governance at the local level.

Key Responsibilities

- Develop and implement legal strategies to support community-based environmental protection initiatives, particularly those resisting industrial developments (e.g., mining, ports, wind/solar energy projects).
- Provide ongoing legal advice to Sahjeevan, CBOs, village panchayats, and local communities regarding their rights under environmental laws such as the FRA 2006, BDA 2002 Wild Life Protection Act 1972, Forest Conservation Amendment Act 1980, and many such environmental protection legal frameworks prevail in India .

Sahjeevan

175- Jalaram Society, B/h. Vishwamangal Apartment, Vijaynagar, Bhuj 370 001 Kachchh, Gujarat, INDIA

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- Engage with local communities to protect their ecosystems and livelihoods by helping them understand the legal provisions of different environmental laws.
- Design and deliver training programs for Sahjeevan staff, CBOs, village panchayats, and local youth to build their understanding of environmental laws, governance mechanisms, and legal rights related to conservation.
- Build and mentor para-legal cadres within CBOs to ensure they are equipped to engage in legal processes, document violations, and advocate for their communities.
- Lead and support legal cases involving industrial encroachment on critical ecosystems and habitats, including grasslands, mangrove forests, thorn forests, turtle habitats, wetlands, etc ensuring that cases are backed by robust legal arguments and evidence.
- Oversee the collection and management of evidence to support legal claims, including environmental assessments, reports of violations, and community testimonies.
- Ensure timely and consistent follow-ups and coordination with local, state and central administration for the speedy movements of the legal processes from the bottom to top.
- Build and maintain relationships with environmental law firms, NGOs, government agencies, and local activists to enhance enviro-legal support for the communities.
- Foster a collaborative network of environmental activists, lawyers, and stakeholders to strengthen collective efforts in fighting legal battles and advancing community-driven environmental policies.
- Engage in policy advocacy efforts aimed at improving environmental governance, particularly focusing on community-driven approaches to conservation and legal protections.
- Represent Sahjeevan and its partners in public forums, legal conferences, and collaborative platforms to advance policies that protect biodiversity and support sustainable development.

Expected skills and qualification

Education: LLB (Bachelor of Laws) degree from a recognized institution. Specialization or experience in environmental law, constitutional law, development organizations or related fields is preferred.

Experience: At least 2-3 years of professional experience in environmental law, with a demonstrated ability to work on legal matters related to community-based conservation, biodiversity protection, and rural governance.

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Skills / Traits:

- Having knowledge of Indian environmental law, including the Forest Rights Act, Biological Diversity Act, the wild life protection act, the Forest Conservation Act and relevant environmental regulations.
- Experience working with marginalized communities, especially rural or forest-dependent groups, and a deep understanding of their challenges.
- Having capacity for designing and delivering training programs to non-legal audiences, particularly on legal rights and conservation advocacy.
- Ability to draft clear, concise, and persuasive legal documents and communicate complex legal concepts in an accessible manner.
- Familiarity with the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and other environmental legal forums in India.
- Understanding of international environmental policies and treaties, particularly related to biodiversity and climate change.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit their resume, cover letter, and references to <https://forms.gle/9zNq4DLHRpCy4p97A>.

Sahjeevan is an equal opportunity employer. We encourage applications from individuals of diverse backgrounds, including women, marginalized groups, and those with a passion for environmental conservation and social justice.



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