

## Job Description

<b>Job title</b>	Super Pollutants and Health Research Lead	<b>Location</b>	UK / other locations considered
<b>Department</b>	Strategic Partnerships & Communications	<b>Length of contract</b>	6-month fixed-term contract with possible extension, subject to grant award
<b>Role type</b>	Full time	<b>Job level</b>	D10
<b>Reporting to</b>	Head of Super Pollutants	<b>Direct reports</b>	Senior Analyst - Super Pollutants (TBC)
<b>Travel involved</b>	Occasional national and international travel		

## Who we are

[Clean Air Fund](#) is a global philanthropic organization that brings together governments, campaigners, researchers, funders, and businesses to create a world where everyone breathes clean air.

## Clean air for all

We all need clean air to live, grow and thrive. Yet 9 out of 10 people breathe harmful, dirty air, making air pollution one of our biggest health threats.

Globally, over 7 million people die every year because of air pollution – more than twice as many as from malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS combined. The poorest communities, living in the most congested areas, are hit the hardest. Babies, children and older people suffer most. In addition to harming our health, air pollution is linked to climate change. Cleaning our air can be a solution to some of society's greatest challenges, from public health to climate change, children's development to sustainable economic growth.

## How we work

From grassroots to government, Clean Air Fund supports partners to accelerate action on clean air. We do this by:

- funding and partnering with organisations across the globe that promote air quality data, build public demand for clean air and drive action;
- influencing and supporting decision-makers to act on clean air and to strengthen the air quality cause; and
- working with communities that are disproportionately affected by air pollution.

Find out about our 'Clean Air For All' strategy [here](#). Learn more about where we work [here](#).



## What we offer

We are a growing organisation that is clear about what we offer and what we expect from everyone in the team.

We offer the opportunity to be at the heart of efforts to drive the air quality agenda and tackle air pollution across the globe. You would be joining an ambitious organisation that is expanding the scale of its work year-on-year and [making a real difference](#).

We provide a competitive reward package, flexible working and a commitment to supporting your learning and professional development. As a relatively new organisation, we are intentional about building trusting relationships and, to facilitate a strong culture across the team, everyone comes into the office for 50% of their time.

Everyone who works with us shares our values – collaborative, dynamic and evidence-informed – and a commitment to our mission. We are growing rapidly, so comfort with change and the ability to work at pace is vital, as is a desire to learn, improve and develop with the organisation. Find out [here](#) about our values, offices, benefits, salary and commitment to diversity, inclusion and equality.

## Our Super Pollutants Programme at the Clean Air Fund

Climate change and air pollution are inextricably linked, sharing many of the same sources, solutions, and pollutants. Super pollutants – most of them short-lived climate pollutants – are responsible for half of global warming to date and represent a near-term opportunity to keep the Paris Agreement's goals within reach. The Clean Air Fund focuses on those most closely tied to air pollution: black carbon and tropospheric ozone, while contributing to the global effort to address super pollutants more broadly.

In addition to driving global warming, super pollutants degrade local environments, reduce crop yields, and harm human health. Continued inaction risks missing a critical window to slow near-term warming, avoid climate tipping points, and reduce the global disease burden from air pollution.

CAF's super pollutant programme prioritizes high-impact projects targeting black carbon and tropospheric ozone, while supporting wider action across philanthropy, government, and civil society. The team's work spans research, campaigns, and policy to accelerate national, city, and corporate efforts to cut super pollutant emissions.

## Scope of role

The postholder will support a combination of [proposal development](#) and [grant management](#), working as part of the Super Pollutants Team to drive greater ambition and action on black carbon and other super pollutants for the benefit of climate and health.

The Super Pollutants and Health Research Lead will be responsible for shaping technically robust research proposals and managing grants, initially focused on black carbon and its health impacts. This includes articulating a research vision and ensuring that grant proposals are strategically aligned with overall programmes agreed with funders. It also involves some outreach and engagement with governments, bilateral and multilateral agencies, and other key stakeholders relevant to advancing national and international action on black carbon.

The role involves proposing research-based solutions to address policy-relevant questions, as well as interpreting, evaluating, and contributing to national and international policy development. Responsibilities include: engaging directly with funders and adapting proposals to align with their priorities, liaising with key regional and global stakeholders to raise the profile of action on super pollutants in the climate agenda, managing grants to ensure the delivery of relevant research that will drive policy responses beneficial to health and climate.

### **Key working relationships**

Internally, the role will liaise with:

- Line Manager, Head of Super Pollutants
- Direct report, Senior Analyst - Super Pollutants (TDB)
- Strategic Partnerships and Communications and Finance teams

Externally, the primary contacts will be:

- Funders
- Leading research organisations
- Global leaders on health, climate and super pollutants,
- Government officials and policy makers,
- Grantees and suppliers for grant and project development and management.

### **Key accountabilities**

#### **Research proposal calls and commissioning (40%)**

- Lead the development and commissioning of health-focused research, with a particular emphasis on addressing policy-relevant questions and filling evidence gaps related to black carbon through high-quality, fundamental research.
- Tailor proposals in line with funder-specific requirements, while ensuring consistency with the Clean Air Fund's mission, vision, and strategic objectives.
- Collaborate closely within the Super Pollutants team and the broader Clean Air Fund staff to leverage institutional expertise and commission compelling, cross-cutting proposals that integrate health, air quality, and climate change.
- Apply strong analytical and critical thinking skills to refine research concepts, ensuring rigour, relevance, and strategic alignment in all proposals.

### **Partnership and programme management (30%)**

- Advance Clean Air Fund's research programme on black carbon by managing the grants and projects from calls, to development, commissioning and implementation.
- Analyse, distil and share insights and lessons learned among partners and showcase policy approaches that lead to effective integrated action on air pollution and climate change.
- Provide expert advice and guidance to the organisation's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team, helping to set SMART indicators and ambitious targets and collating learnings across the organisation's technical and scientific work.
- Provide regular updates and appropriate escalation of partnership decisions and problem resolution to the Head of Super Pollutants.
- Coordinate, where necessary, with Clean Air Fund donors, the broader philanthropic climate community and associated campaign groups and networks.
- Contribute to Clean Air Fund's monthly, quarterly, and annual reporting processes for super pollutants.

### **Advocacy (10%)**

- Map pathways to influence national and international commitments and policies for black carbon emissions reductions, identifying high-level stakeholders and champions, potential allies and supporters, possible partners or grantees and opportunities and international moments that can be leveraged.
- Engage, influence and inspire key global stakeholders to understand and take action on health and black carbon, steering these partnerships and collaborations to help create a broad and deep climate and clean air movement.
- Set policy positions to drive forwards Clean Air Fund's work on black carbon, including commissioning research briefs and policy position papers, and leading work teams internally on projects where CAF decides it is best placed to conduct direct delivery.
- Support the Head of Super Pollutants' engagement with development agency and multilateral finance partners and identify other key networks to engage in, to support and to build where they are missing. Steer collaboration with global movements and campaigns on black carbon, air quality, climate and health.
- Build alliances of common interest with groups working on climate or air pollution or aligned health and environmental goals to build and sustain momentum on tackling black carbon.

### **Strategy and vision (10%)**

- Support the Head of Super Pollutants to keep the super pollutant and black carbon strategies updated, ensuring that they continue to align to the external environment and to Clean Air Fund's broader strategies.
- Input into regular strategic planning processes, including the articulation of strategic objectives for super pollutants and reviews against thematic goals.

### **Internal and external networking (10%)**

- Attend and speak at international meetings and events key to achieving Clean Air Fund's strategic goals on black carbon and super pollutants.
- Work closely with colleagues at the Clean Air Fund to effectively understand and communicate the research and technical elements of the work on climate, super pollutants and health.
- Work closely with thematic portfolio leads internally to identify opportunities to leverage super pollutants to increase the impact of CAF programmes and vice versa.
- Support global clean air communication opportunities in close consultation with the Communications team. Promote Clean Air Fund and our climate work externally, through presentations, thought leadership pieces, and attendance at conferences.

## **Person Specification**

### **Essential Technical Competencies**

#### **Academic and Research Background**

- PhD or equivalent expertise in environmental epidemiology, health research, biomedical sciences, public health, environmental science, or a related discipline.
- Demonstrated contributions to the research community through peer-reviewed publications, open datasets, policy briefs, clinical or commercial tools, or conference presentations. An Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) is required.
- Proven ability to lead or significantly contribute to research that generates new knowledge, methodologies, or interventions relevant to health and climate.
- Experience articulating the relevance, impact, and personal contribution to major research outputs.

#### **Policy and Technical Expertise**

- Strong understanding of the science-policy interface in air pollution and climate mitigation.
- Proven experience developing and implementing strategies that led to demonstrable policy influence or change, ideally at the international level.
- Experience working on Air Pollution and/or Climate Change.

#### **Writing and Communication**

- Excellent writing skills in English (native-level proficiency), with the ability to develop high-quality proposals and policy recommendations from inception.
- Ability to communicate complex technical topics clearly and persuasively to diverse audiences, including non-experts.

### **Strategic Thinking and Collaboration**

- Demonstrated ability to think and act strategically, with a focus on outcomes and impact.
- Successful track record of building partnerships and coalitions across sectors, including with policymakers, funders, and international institutions (e.g. UN agencies, IFIs, development agencies).
- Experience working effectively in diverse cultural and socio-economic contexts.

### **Leadership and Management**

- Experience leading teams, mentoring colleagues or junior researchers, and contributing to organisational strategy.
- Experience of managing a research programme, including budgets and grant making.
- Proven ability to initiate and sustain national or international research collaborations.
- Line management experience.

### **Operational Skills**

- Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
- Ability to critically assess and manage grant budgets.

### **Desirable technical competencies**

- Experience working on particulate matter, short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), Black Carbon, and/or Tropospheric Ozone, including mitigation strategies and impact analysis from a climate or air quality perspective.
- Experience working with philanthropic funders.

### **Essential behavioural competencies**

- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues, donors, partners and organisations working on climate change and clean air.
- Ability to create trust with staff and diverse stakeholders, to build strong interpersonal relationships and to show success in building effective partnerships and networks.
- Dynamic, confident, collaborative and with strong influencing skills, including with researchers, academics and decision makers.
- Ability to plan and adjust effectively to create contingency plans.
- Ability to manage and prioritize high workload and multiple tasks in a fast-paced environment with tight deadlines.
- A self-starter, with resilience and interpersonal flexibility

**Further information**

- This is a full-time role.
- The role is initially offered as a six-month fixed-term contract, with immediate start. Should grant applications be successful there is the potential for the contract to be extended.
- The role will ideally be based in the UK, though another location would be considered for an exceptional candidate. Travel to the London office will be required.
- CAF's policy is that staff should attend the office at least 50% of the time.