



Board Member Recruitment – July 2025

Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK) is seeking a dynamic and well-connected professional with experience in fundraising, marketing and relationship building to join its Board of Trustees. This is an exciting opportunity to join a unique and growing organisation working at the nexus of human rights, rainforests and climate change, and to use your skills and passion to deliver impact for Indigenous Peoples and other local communities on the frontline of the fight against tropical deforestation.

ABOUT RFUK

RFUK is a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting Indigenous Peoples and other communities of the world's rainforests in their efforts to protect their environment and fulfil their rights to land, life and livelihood.

We are committed to both human rights and environmental protection. Locally, we support forest communities to gain land rights, challenge destructive industries, manage their forests and protect their environment. Globally, we campaign to influence national and international laws and policies that protect rainforests and their inhabitants. Instead of conserving forests purely for their biodiversity or carbon values, RFUK promotes the establishment of community rights over rainforest lands, tackling the root causes of deforestation and paving the way for local people to benefit fairly from the use and protection of forest resources.

Today we are recognised as a leading force in the protection of tropical forests and their inhabitants. As well as delivering high-quality on-the-ground practical projects, often in difficult conditions, the organisation is also known for its strong policy and advocacy work in promoting forest peoples' rights. All of our work is delivered through long-term partnerships with [local and Indigenous Peoples' organisations](#) so that capacity is sustained in rainforest countries.

Together with our sister organisations Rainforest Foundation US and Rainforest Foundation Norway, we support the protection of tens of millions of hectares of tropical rainforest.

RFUK'S GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Our Board currently consists of eleven Trustees, including a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Safeguarding Lead, who convene at least four times per calendar year for Board meetings. In addition, the Board also has a People Committee, a Communications and Fundraising Committee, and a Finance, Risk & Compliance Committee that meet at various intervals throughout the year to support these areas of our work.

The Board delegates day-to-day management activities to the Executive Director (ED) who in turn delegates some aspects of organisational management to the Senior Management Team (SMT) and

other staff. The organisation currently has around 23 staff and consultants who work at our office in East London, and remotely in France, DRC and Peru.

The role of the Board is to provide strategic vision, direction, and leadership, to support the financial and operational stability needed to advance RFUK's critical mission, and to promote the organisation's continued effectiveness.

The Board has responsibility to ensure that RFUK operates within its legal and regulatory constraints, including ensuring compliance with the objects, purpose and values of the organisation, and ensuring the organisation complies with relevant laws, regulations, and requirements of its regulators.

THE OPPORTUNITY

As RFUK expands the scope and impact of our work, we are seeking a dynamic and well-connected individual to join our Board of Trustees. We are particularly looking for someone with significant experience in **fundraising, marketing, and relationship building**—someone who can open doors, forge strategic partnerships, and help grow our supporter base. If you are passionate about rainforests, human rights, and climate justice, and are proactive, collaborative, and committed to our mission, we would be thrilled to hear from you.

Membership of the Board should reflect a balance of skills, perspectives and expertise needed for it to fulfil its governance roles and responsibilities, and also to represent the interests of the people it works for. RFUK is committed to promoting diversity in its operations.

SKILLS

While we will consider each expression of interest on its merit, we are especially looking for a Trustee with experience and skills in one or more of the following areas:

- Philanthropic giving
- Charitable foundation grants
- High net worth giving
- Corporate partnerships and CSR fundraising
- Individual giving and legacies
- Networking and profile raising
- Marketing, PR and communications

Previous Board experience and familiarity with UK charity law and governance best practices are desirable but not essential. We provide full training and support to all new Trustees, and welcome applications from individuals with relevant experience and a strong commitment to our mission.

COMMITMENT

As a Board member, you will be expected to:

- Prepare for and participate in four board meetings (held in English) per calendar year, either physically or remotely.
- CoChair and participate in the Communications and Fundraising Committee, which meets two times per year as well as on an ad hoc basis, as needed.

- Work with fellow members of the Board, Executive Director and other staff members on specific issues related to your area of expertise.
- Review Board and Committee papers as well as any other organisational documents, policies and strategies that come to the Board for approval.
- Have no significant conflicts of interests with the charitable purposes of RFUK, which could not be mitigated.

OUR VALUES (AND HOW WE APPLY THEM)

- **Self-determination and inclusion.** Self-determination is an inalienable human right. We believe that fostering meaningful participation of forest communities, in particular marginalised groups such as women and Indigenous Peoples, is the best way to achieve this. To ensure that our projects reflect the priorities of communities and local partners, we apply the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and co-creation. Involving them to the largest extent possible in the design and execution of projects and campaigns is key to ensuring long-term impact at the macro-level as well as on individual communities.
- **Transparency and accountability.** Through a diversity of means (e.g., technological innovation, research and campaigning), we promote the transparency and accountability of governments, international institutions and companies to forest communities as being essential to good governance. In our own operations, we strive to be accountable to the communities we serve, to the local partners we work with and to our own staff, supporters and associates.
- **Respect for the environment.** We believe that the promotion of human rights and social justice is essential to tackling the climate and biodiversity crises. We will tackle environmentally harmful practices and reduce the impact of our own operations such as through participating in the circular economy, sustainable procurement and minimising air travel, and codifying all this in our environmental policy.
- **Integrity.** We will shine a light on corruption, malpractice and negligence, even where this may be detrimental to our own funding or favour. We will not receive funding, or otherwise endorse or receive endorsements from industries, organisations and companies that contravene our mission statement and values, or that are most directly responsible for the climate and ecological crises. In our partnerships with local and indigenous organisations, we shall be humble and reflective about our role as an international NGO and seek to reverse power dynamics that exist in international development.
- **Innovation.** We believe in the power of new information and communications technologies to bring about positive social and environmental change in an interconnected world, especially when these are grounded in rights-based participatory approaches. We will strive to continue to find innovative ways to empower forest communities, increase information flows to and from forest areas, combat forest crime and hold powerful interests accountable.
- **Efficiency.** We promote better use of climate, biodiversity and ODA funding and strive to deliver value for money in our operations in ways that do not compromise the sustainability and quality of our work.

HOW TO APPLY TO BECOME A BOARD MEMBER

To apply, please send your CV and a cover letter (no longer than 2 pages of A4) to jobs@rainforestuk.org with the email heading 'Trustee Recruitment' by no later than **25 August 2025**.

If you would like to discuss the role prior to applying please contact RFUK Operations Officer Martha Thornborrow MarthaT@rainforestuk.org so that she can set up a call with the RFUK Executive Director Joe Eisen.

We are provisionally scheduling interviews with Lucy Claridge (Chair of the Board), Sharon Natt (Co-Chair of the Communications and Fundraising Committee) and Joe Eisen (Executive Director) for 5 September. Interviews will be held online. The successful candidate will be invited to observe the Board meeting on 17 September.