

Research Manager

Job Vacancy

About the Role

The Circulate Initiative is seeking a Research Manager to lead research on financial strategies for plastic circularity. The ideal candidate will possess strong knowledge of the plastic waste sector and deep expertise of the financial mechanisms and de-risking solutions required to scale recycling and circular solutions in emerging markets. We are looking for a self-driven, systems-oriented thinker who is adept at managing both complex projects and diverse stakeholders. This is a full-time contractor role reporting to the Director of Programs and Research, offering the opportunity to collaborate with global colleagues and partners.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead research on financial mechanisms and strategies to advance plastics circularity. This includes analyzing the institutional, regulatory, and market conditions required to de-risk investments, as well as identifying the fiscal levers and policy reforms necessary to unlock private capital and reduce transaction costs for circular economy solutions.
- Manage the full lifecycle of research projects, ensuring high-quality deliverables remain within scope and meet strategic goals. This includes designing and facilitating high-level stakeholder engagements such as workshops and meetings. Additionally, you will work hand-in-hand with local partner organizations to ensure effective project delivery.
- Direct the development of clear, detailed, and high-quality recommendations. Subsequently, manage the research and communications teams in the creation and finalization of reports, presentations, and other necessary materials.
- Communicate about and present our work physically and virtually, participate in international events and conferences.
- Support team development by mentoring junior colleagues and contributing to an environment of learning and growth. Additionally, provide support for proposal writing and fundraising efforts.

Key Competencies

- 7 to 10 years of experience in sustainable finance, economics, and waste management. While a background in finance or investment is strongly preferred, candidates with deep expertise in circular economy policy and international development in emerging markets will also be considered.
- Deep, nuanced understanding of the plastic value chain, waste management systems, and the policy/financial mechanisms used to address plastic pollution.
- Proven ability to manage and lead complex research projects, including managing budgets, coordinating with local partners, analyzing complex data and generating clear and engaging written deliverables.
- Exceptional presentation, facilitation, and relationship-building skills. Must be comfortable convening diverse actors in consensus-building environments.

Education

- A Master's degree (or equivalent experience) in a relevant field such as Environmental Policy, Industrial Ecology, Economics, or Public Administration.

Location

- Remote position for candidates preferably in any of the following locations: India, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka or The Philippines. Candidates must be authorized to work in their respective country. While we have a preference for candidates based in the listed countries, candidates located in other countries in Asia (with authorization to work in respective countries) are also encouraged to apply.

Contract Information

- Full-time 1-year contract with the option for renewal.

To Apply

Please complete [this application form](#), which includes submission of your resume and cover letter.

Application deadline: February 17, 2026

Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and as interviews may be conducted on a rolling basis, interested candidates are encouraged to apply early.

About The Circulate Initiative

The Circulate Initiative is a non-profit organization that works to solve the plastic pollution challenge and build circular and equitable economies across emerging markets. It delivers cutting-edge research, builds high-impact programs, and drives collective action with industry stakeholders, including businesses, investors, and policymakers. For more information, please visit: <https://www.thecirculateinitiative.org/>