

Job Title – Senior Associate, CAIF (Circular Apparel Innovation Factory), Intellectap

Location – India & Bangladesh

About Intellectap

Founded in 2002, **Intellectap Advisory Services Private Limited (Intellectap)** is the impact advisory arm of the **Aavishkaar Group**, a pioneer in providing innovative business solutions that help build and scale sustainable enterprises dedicated to social and environmental change. [Intellectap](#) & [Aavishkaar](#) Group take an ecosystem approach that combines **knowledge, capital, and networks**, to provide social innovations with a continuum of support throughout their life cycle and to address systemic barriers. We do this by operating at two levels. At the first level, we directly support organizations that invent or create novel solutions with capital, acceleration, fund-raising, technical assistance, innovation transfer, and market linkages. At the second level, we focus on building ecosystems for innovations to scale by engaging with a range of actors such as value chain players, investors, philanthropies, corporations, governments, and intermediaries. We leverage our convening and amplification platform Sankalp **to augment our effort to search, seed, support, and scale impact enterprises across sectors**. We have worked with more than 300 clients on over 500 consulting and research engagements across multiple geographies. We are a group of 2,700+ professionals in offices across India, Kenya and Indonesia.

About Circular Apparel Innovation Factory (CAIF)

Circular Apparel Innovation Factory (CAIF) is an industry-led initiative (seeded by and within Intellectap) and a common action platform with a purpose of accelerating the transition of fashion industry across the global south to become resource efficient (through decarbonizing the supply chain) and responsible (through creating green livelihoods) through adoption of a circular economy as a pathway. In line with this, CAIF's mission is to build the ecosystem and capabilities to enable this transition and mainstreaming circular economy across the global south. While seeded by and within Intellectap, CAIF operates as an independent and neutral industry-led initiative through an industry facing governing structure comprising a Governance Council and Advisory Committee which includes global and regional leaders from organizations like UN Environment Program (UNEP), UNIDO, Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd., H&M, Marks and Spencer, Arvind Ltd. etc.

Purpose of the Role:

The CAIF team is driven by the mission to accelerate the transition of fashion industry across the global south to become planet positive and people positive through adoption of circular economy as a pathway. To achieve this mission, the CAIF team engages with a diverse set of clients such as leading DFIs, large foundations, corporations and investors to develop and implement multi-year ecosystem level programs and interventions. To shape the global industry's response to 2030 SDGs, CAIF's efforts focus on - **a.** decarbonizing the off-shore manufacturing across global south, **b.** ensuring zero leakage of textiles waste into the environment, **c.** eliminating single-use plastics from fashion economy and **d.** creation of circular and green jobs across the global offshore manufacturing hubs.

Working with the CAIF team, this fast-paced and diverse role will require you to contribute to the conceptualization, development and execution of multi-year ecosystem level programs which are aligned to UN's 2030 SDGs, CAIF's strategic priorities and areas that can deliver tangible outcomes and impact for brands, manufacturers, SMEs, innovators / entrepreneurs, and formal / informal workers employed across the textiles and apparel value chain. These outcomes and impact areas are at the convergence of response to climate crisis, gender and green livelihoods, textiles waste, eliminating single-use plastics, energy, and water efficiency, amongst others. You will also actively contribute to shaping and achieving CAIF's long-term strategic and sustainability roadmap.

Core responsibilities as Senior Associate, CAIF

Stakeholder Engagement and Strategic Planning

- Textiles and apparel stakeholder mapping and managing a database of such private and public sector stakeholders incl. brands, manufacturers, innovators, ecosystem enablers, industry associations / bodies etc. in the global south (South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Africa).
 - Contribute to building and nurturing key relationships with strategic partners.
 - Develop an up-to date knowledge and insights into their needs, gaps, and challenges to address (at an organization level)
 - Actively work to build and nurture CAIF's partner network.
- Contribute to the development of CAIF's mid to long-term roadmap that will help CAIF take a market-leading position in enabling the transition of the industry to a circular economy.

Execution & Delivery

- Support end-to-end execution of projects
- Lead secondary and primary research (quantitative and qualitative) and analysis as a part of project delivery for insight generation.
- Apply appropriate research, consulting, and design thinking tools and methodologies for project execution and insight generation.
- Engage with project/program's stakeholders and partners.
- Support monitoring and evaluation of projects and impact delivered.
- Prepare and submit high-quality project deliverables in a timely manner.
- Support project presentations and interactions with clients
- Gains respect and builds relationships at the appropriate level within the client hierarchy

Business Development

- Identify and support the preparation of responses to relevant tenders and RFPs (Request for Proposals) – defined and structured responses to opportunities from DFIs and / or Philanthropic Foundations.
- Help identify and conceptualize multi-year ecosystem-level programs in areas of CAIF's focus.
- Multi-year ecosystem-level programs at the intersection of climate action, waste management, circular economy, gender, green or circular jobs in the context of the textile & apparel industry in the global south.

Sector Knowledge & CAIF Profile Building

- Collaborate with colleagues and partners across multiple geographies to develop an understanding and expertise on the various aspects of the textile & apparel industry in the global south.
- Conduct insightful research and analysis on themes including (but not limited to) textile waste management, plastics-free economy, alternative materials associated with the textiles sector, climate change, de-carbonization strategies and pathways, low carbon solutions, financing mechanisms, green and circular job creation, etc.
- Create, publish, and disseminate knowledge and thought leadership pieces like articles and whitepapers widely to enhance CAIF's brand profile.
- Represent CAIF at Sankalp, Intellectap's flagship event, as well as external platforms, events, and conferences to strengthen CAIF's brand profile.

Team Building

- Mentor and guide junior team members in achieving performance goals.
- Mentor and support junior team members and enhance their capabilities and productivity.

Qualifications & Experience (the functional skills that par for the course)

- Postgraduate / Master's degree or equivalent from reputed institutions
- Minimum of 4-6 years of experience in the circular economy, design thinking, business consulting, development sector research and consulting, inclusive business models, program management, or related/equivalent domains
- Experience in working on programs and engagements for clients like DFIs like IFC/World Bank, USAID, JICA, etc., and/or large foundations like BMGF, Laudes Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, etc. is highly desirable.
- Experience in engaging with corporates as a part of public-private-partnership programs will be an asset.
- Prior experience on projects associated with the Fashion/Textile & Apparel sector is desirable but not mandatory.

Skills & Persona Archetype (the attitudes and values we strive to have in our team – that will set you apart)

- Passionate to make an impact in the development sector
- Demonstrates and operates with high emotional intelligence.
- Is a critical thinker and problem solver (ability to look at complex problems and break them down for easy communication)-
- Loves to think in systems and not silos; strives to understand and unlock the interdependencies in complex problems.
- Has an informed and considered the point of view that can keep an audience engaged and to be able to carry a conversation with confidence-
- Brings cognitive diversity to conversations and raises the bar on thinking and doing-
- Is hungry to learn and actively contributes to CAIF's learning curve-
- Strong business acumen and understanding of business models. Diligent and detail-orientated



- Ability to synthesize and break-down information and assist in creating insightful recommendations for clients
- Ability to look at complex problems and get to the root of the issue

The specific KPIs or KRAs will be shared with candidates during the interview process.

Intellectap is an equal-opportunity employer. Women and people with disability are encouraged to apply. While we thank all applicants, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.