

WATER STEWARDSHIP ASSURANCE SERVICES LTD

RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR MEMBERS OF THE CERTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In October 2020, the Board of the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) approved important steps to modernise the delivery of AWS assurance. The revisions are intended to further strengthen the credibility of AWS certification while reducing complexity and providing increased value for all sites seeking certification to the AWS Standard. The key changes and benefits include:

Establishment of a mission-driven conformity assessment body to:

- Align the goals of AWS assurance provision with the mission of AWS
- Enable more robust and effective oversight of assurance processes
- Streamline and improve auditor training and competence development
- Facilitate greater consistency in interpretation and reporting

Development of a new digital platform for audit processes to:

- Provide a simplified and improved user experience
- Align assurance with monitoring and evaluation requirements

The new legal entity to implement these improvements and act as sole Conformity Assessment Body for the AWS System – Water Stewardship Assurance Services (WSAS) – has now been established as a Limited Company and wholly owned subsidiary of AWS.

As the sole CAB for the AWS System, WSAS will provide assurance services in pursuit of the AWS Mission “to ignite and nurture global and local leadership in credible water stewardship that recognizes and secures the social, cultural, environmental and economic value of freshwater”.

The AWS Board is now inviting applications from independent candidates to join the WSAS Certification Advisory Committee.

CERTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Certification Advisory Committee will be to support the credibility of, and build stakeholder confidence in, AWS assurance processes implemented by WSAS. The committee will achieve this by providing advice and guidance to WSAS staff that is independent of both the organization (WSAS) and stakeholder affiliations.

To ensure a reasonable balance of perspectives, committee members will be drawn from across AWS sectoral interest groups (public sector, private sector and civil society).

The committee will act in an advisory capacity to provide guidance and recommendations on

- certification processes implemented by WSAS
- individual certification decisions for which the WSAS Executive Director considers independent advice is needed.

The committee will also act to ensure the impartiality of WSAS processes in line with ISO 17065.

In addition, the committee will assess and provide recommendations on certification appeals.

As the committee will only be empowered to act in an advisory capacity, the WSAS Executive Director will have final say on certification decisions.

COMPOSITION OF THE WSAS BOARD

A 3-5 person committee is envisaged, comprising independent members, i.e. not associated with AWS member organizations or staff or board members of AWS or WSAS. Committee members will not be remunerated.

ELIGIBILITY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced from each sectoral interest group (public sector, private sector, civil society). Candidates should be independent, defined as not having an affiliation to, or material relationship with, an AWS member organisation, nor being engaged as a staff or board member with AWS or any of its subsidiaries or affiliated organizations.

CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

WSAS is a mission-driven subsidiary of AWS and through its contributions to the credibility of AWS assurance processes, the Certification Advisory Committee has an important role in supporting the goals of AWS. Candidates should be able to demonstrate support for the vision and mission of AWS, strategic vision and sound independent judgement.

As a stakeholder representative body, there are no specific requirements for membership of the committee. However, applicants are expected to be able to demonstrate knowledge and experience in some of the following areas:

- Water resource management
- Third-party certification or other forms of credible assurance
- Standard systems, e.g. ISEAL members or ISO standards

APPLICATION PROCESS

If you are interested in joining the Certification Advisory Committee, please send an email marked "EOI: CERT ADVISORY CTE" to gail@a4ws.org, including a CV as attachment and an explanation why you are interested in serving on the committee.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.