HEAD OF POLICY ENGAGEMENT
ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP

LOCATION: Home based.

SALARY: Competitive depending on experience.

STARTING DATE: As soon as possible.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Until filled.

ABOUT AWS
AWS is a global membership-based collaboration that connects organisations dedicated to promoting responsible use of freshwater. Our members include businesses, NGOs and public sector organisations. Members contribute to the sustainability of local water-resources through adoption and promotion of a universal framework for the sustainable use of water – the International Water Stewardship Standard, or AWS Standard.

The AWS Standard is a globally applicable framework for major water users to understand their water use and impacts, and to work collaboratively and transparently for sustainable water management within a catchment context. The AWS Standard System includes training and professional credentialing which build capacity and enable access to specialist support on the implementation of the Standard. Conformity to the AWS Standard is assessed by a mission-driven assurance provider (Water Stewardship Assurance Services Ltd) with AWS Certification enabling market recognition and permitting credible claims of good water stewardship performance.

The AWS Standard System is overseen by a multi-stakeholder governance structure and fuelled by information from members, partners and a growing network. Knowledge and learning are fundamental to both our ambitions for growth and the integrity of the AWS System. By connecting organisations at the forefront of collaboration on water, AWS facilitates the exchange of knowledge to advance the uptake of water stewardship worldwide.

Our highly motivated team is dispersed across several countries. We are now seeking a Head of Policy Engagement to join our team and play a leadership role in the future growth and impact of the AWS System.
ABOUT THE ROLE
This is a new role that will play a pivotal role in the growth and impact of the AWS System. With this position we are seeking to identify and build meaningful and action-oriented relationships with organisations that can positively influence the adoption of good water stewardship practices (mostly public and multilateral institutions). Strengthening the relationship with the ‘climate action community’ is of particular importance.

The Head of Policy Engagement will report to and work closely with the Chief Executive, while maintaining close cooperation and strategic alignment with other business unit heads. The position will support the goals of the AWS global strategy by:

- Establishing effective partnerships to support the growth of AWS and the scaled uptake of the AWS Standard;
- Engaging effectively in policy-related forums that can support the adoption of good water stewardship, and;
- Increasing the recognition of AWS and water stewardship as contributors to water-resilience and the Sustainable Development Goals;

As part of the AWS Executive Team, this role requires close collaboration across different organizational disciplines in a fast paced and highly interdependent working environment. The role holder will provide oversight and leadership for a new business unit and plan the strategic development of this unit to support organisational goals.

WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU’LL DO

You’re a seasoned professional in an international setting
- You have extensive leadership experience working in an international setting, either government, private or non-profit sectors, and comfortable working across multiple time zones with diverse stakeholders.
- You have high level of competence and confidence to enable you to identify, negotiate and secure the influential partnerships we need.
- You will provide leadership and direction to enable AWS to positively influence priority audiences.
- You will oversee relationships with strategic partners (public and multilateral), ensuring strategic coherence across the AWS System.

You’re a collaborator
- You are naturally collaborative, an attentive listener, and able to provide direction to meet diverse priorities.
- You will recognize the high level of interdependencies that are inherent in our organisation and build mutual support across the team.

You’re diligent
- You are an experienced programme manager who takes pride in exceeding expectations in delivery.
- You will oversee the design, development and delivery of strategic projects, at all times meeting all legal and contractual requirements.

You’re a communicator
- You are able to communicate a clear and compelling message that is required to effectively engage audiences we seek to reach.
- You will ignite, nurture and oversee relations with a variety of strategic partners.
You’re passionate about the future of water
- You have an affinity with AWS’s vision and mission and demonstrable knowledge and experience to help us in pursuit of that mission.
- You have a solid grasp of relevant policy at an international level.
- You have a desire to see positive impacts from committed enterprises and understand and relate to different cultures and their developmental challenges.
- You will inject this passion into your work and contribute to promoting a culture of learning, sharing and support in AWS.
- You will be able to engage, learn and achieve desired outcomes from relevant policy related initiatives and forums.

WHAT YOU’LL NEED TO SUCCEED
- Leadership experience in an international working context.
- In-depth knowledge and experience in complex programme management.
- Strong communication, negotiation and diplomacy skills.
- Degree or equivalent in a relevant discipline.
- Solid understanding of multi-stakeholder approaches to climate resilience (direct experience in water or climate would carry additional weight).
- Understanding of the international policy landscape relevant to the work and ambitions of AWS.
- Ability to communicate effectively with external and internal stakeholders.
- Excellent administrative capabilities with a high level of attention to detail.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.
- The ability to travel internationally as required for the role.

HOW TO APPLY
If you think you might be right for this job and this job might be right for you, please send an email marked “VACANCY: HEAD OF POLICY ENGAGEMENT” to gail@a4ws.org. Your email should include the following attachments:
- A covering letter explaining why you are interested in the position and demonstrating how you meet the person specification.
- Your current CV with email addresses and telephone numbers of two referees.
- An indication of when you would be available to start, if selected.

Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Previous applicants need not re-apply. Applications should be received in English.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Unfortunately, we cannot provide feedback to unsuccessful candidates.

AWS is an equal opportunities employer and do not discriminate on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation, marital or civil partner status, gender reassignment, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, disability or age.

AWS will comply with all relevant Privacy and GDPR regulations regarding candidate data retention.