



## HEAD OF STANDARDS AND ASSURANCE

### POSITION DESCRIPTION

#### ABOUT AWS

AWS is a global membership-based collaboration that connects organizations dedicated to promoting responsible use of freshwater. Our members are drawn from all sectors: leading businesses, non-profits, public sector agencies and academic institutes. By connecting organizations at the forefront of collaboration on water, AWS facilitates the exchange of knowledge to advance the uptake of water stewardship worldwide.

The AWS Standard provides a globally-consistent 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 third party certification and a network of accredited professional service providers to support and assess the implementation of the Standard. The AWS Standard system is overseen by a multi-stakeholder governance structure.

The AWS network is fuelled by information from members, partners and a growing number of local water stewardship networks which are coordinated by our regional partners and representatives. Technical integrity, knowledge and learning are fundamental to our ambitions for growth.

#### ABOUT THE ROLE

As Head of Standards and Assurance you will be responsible for leading the development and ensuring excellence in the delivery of technical elements of the AWS Standard system. Specifically, you will be the lead for Standard development processes and the coordination and management of the Technical Committee and Assurance System, which includes certification and accreditation processes.

Accountable to the AWS Chief Executive, you will ensure that client orientation is at the forefront of the AWS Standard System, by building and maintaining strong and trusting relations with stakeholders, including members, regional partners and accredited service providers. A focus on proactive and constructive communication and engagement with AWS stakeholders is required for all aspects of the role, including strategic priorities concerning AWS system development, e.g. the Technical Committee, and the day-to-day management of certification and accreditation programs.

The Head of Standards and Assurance is required to further develop and maintain systems for ensuring global consistency in interpretation and approach; quality control and integrity of AWS systems and the AWS brand, and; revisions of system documentation, including the AWS Standard.

The position will require close working relationships with other AWS team members and will be either home based or located at our small office in the east of Scotland.

## WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU'LL DO

### You're a standards fanatic

- You will infuse your passion for sustainability standards into our organization and how we work, and be instrumental in connecting the Standard and assurance system to other aspects of AWS's work.

### You're a leader and an innovator

- You will quickly understand the AWS system, our ambitions and your role, and provide technical leadership to the organization and the broader AWS network
- You will work closely with regional partners, local water stewardship networks and international staff to ensure technical integrity across the AWS System.
- You will ensure that AWS system is responsive to stakeholder needs, delivers diverse value while also ensuring robustness and consistency of approach
- You will engage members and partners to develop the tools, guidance and support mechanisms needed for us to achieve our goals
- You will be the technical face of the organization, representing us in the public sphere and ensuring that we are perceived as a client-friendly and accessible organization.

### You're a communicator

- You will ensure that the AWS Standard system is understood by diverse stakeholders, and communicate its value in a way that is compelling and inspires confidence
- You will develop robust systems to ensure stakeholders have access to the information they need to advance water stewardship
- You will work closely with the knowledge and learning and communications staff to ensure we can provide compelling evidence that results in greater participation, learning and improvements

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO SUCCEED

- At least eight years' experience working on standards, verification or accreditation within global organizations or networks
- Understanding of the requirements for ISEAL code compliance, preferably gained through practical experience working within ISEAL member standards
- A thorough understanding of multi-stakeholder stewardship systems (previous experience working with multi-stakeholder systems would carry additional weight)
- Solid understanding of approaches to sustainability and natural resource or environmental management (experience in water management would carry additional weight)
- Proven ability to lead teams and deliver impact, with minimal supervision in a fast-paced and challenging environment
- Self-sufficiency and the ability to work on own initiative in a way that supports other staff and pursuit of AWS goals
- Professionalism and customer focus, and ability to work independently to a high quality
- Personal, social and cultural values aligned to those of AWS;
- Post-graduate degree in a relevant discipline



- Fluency in written and spoken English
- High level of competency in Microsoft Office
- The ability to travel internationally as required for the role

## **HOW TO APPLY**

If you think you might be right for this job, please send an email marked "VACANCY: STANDARDS & ASSURANCE" to [jobs@a4ws.org](mailto:jobs@a4ws.org) by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July. 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

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