

# ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP (AWS) SYSTEM



## SUMMARY

This session covered some key developments of the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) system since the last Forum in 2019.

## SPEAKERS

- Christine Carey, Chief Systems Integrity Officer, Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) (facilitator)
- Ben Davis, Sector Coordinator, Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)
- Lisa Seufert, Managing Director, Water Stewardship Assurance Services (WSAS)

## KEY TAKEAWAYS INCLUDED:

- **The AWS Standard has been translated into more languages.** Since the 2019 Forum, the [AWS Standard](#) has been translated into: Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Chinese, French, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- **AWS launched the [2021 Performance Monitoring Report](#).** In this session, AWS launched the 2021 Performance Monitoring Report. This report demonstrated the positive performance of the AWS System, and the growth that has been achieved in 2021.
- **AWS launched the Audit Ready Tool on the [AWS Tools Hub](#).** This tool is an interactive checklist that provides sites with an indication of their progress against the AWS Standard and can help to indicate when a site is ready to proceed with an AWS audit. It can also be used to help identify areas where further work against the Standard is needed.
- **[Water Stewardship Assurance Services \(WSAS\)](#) is the mission-driven assurance provider for the AWS System.** WSAS contributes to the AWS mission by providing robust assurance against the

AWS Standard. After the initial certification, WSAS assess sites' continual improvement through a surveillance and re-certification processes. As the custodian of the International Water Stewardship Standard (AWS Standard), AWS oversees WSAS performance to maintain the quality, integrity, and credibility of the certification scheme.

- **WSAS services include Audits and Certification against the AWS Standard, and an optional Gap Analysis** Once the Audit Ready Tool has indicated that a site is ready for certification, WSAS can conduct a Gap Analysis through the form of a pre-audit document review, to check the site's degree of conformity with the Standard and identify any gaps.
- **WSAS outlined the process for a site to become certified, including initial certification audit and subsequent yearly surveillance audits.** The process for a site to become certified includes three core steps: the application process, the audit preparation process, and the audit and certification process. A site should allow 3-4 months for the application and audit preparation process, and a further 4 months for the audit and audit report, and closure of any major non-conformities.