

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Water Policy Advisor
REPORTS TO: Head of Freshwater Programmes
DEPARTMENT: Freshwater Team
DIVISION: Programmes

JOB PURPOSE:

To drive forward WWF-UK's work encouraging large businesses to address the most harmful impacts of their water footprints and to support public policy that promotes better water management across the world.

LINE MANAGEMENT AND KEY WORKING RELATIONSHIPS:

Director of Programmes
→ Head of Freshwater Programmes
→ Water Policy Advisor

As well as being an integral part of WWF-UK's Freshwater Team, the post-holder will be expected to work closely with other colleagues including the Water Footprint Metrics Officer and those dealing with Business and Industry issues in the Communications and Fundraising Divisions. He/she will also work in close partnership with colleagues across the WWF Network, especially the Manager of the Water Footprint programme in WWF International.

CONTEXT AND DIMENSIONS:

The Freshwater Policy Officer will be part of the WWF-UK Freshwater Team that currently includes ten people. Three additional staff who manage WWF's component of the HSBC Climate Partnership are closely associated with the Freshwater Team. Two more colleagues work on water issues in, respectively, our Northern Ireland and Scotland offices.

The WWF-UK Freshwater Team plays a leading role in the global WWF Network's wider portfolio of work on water, rivers and wetlands. In particular, we seek to:

1. encourage sensible adaptation to climate change;
2. promote better agriculture that supports the maintenance of healthy rivers;
3. ensure that only the right dams get built, and only in the right places;
4. support communities, businesses and governments to develop and implement appropriate law and policy, especially where water is scarce; and
5. ensure the protection and wise use of the most important wetlands for biodiversity.

With a budget of more than £6m per annum, the WWF-UK Freshwater Team portfolio is currently the largest in the WWF Network. The majority of these funds are spent helping to safeguard iconic freshwater ecosystems in Brazil, Mexico, Eastern Africa, India, Pakistan, China and here in the UK. The WWF-UK Freshwater Team is also increasingly focusing on communications and advocacy efforts that are intended to reframe global debates on water and to encourage businesses and governments to address the most harmful impacts of their

water footprints. This post is central to those efforts. Focal business sectors for this work include food, fibre, fuel and finance.

The post currently has no staff management responsibilities but the post-holder may need to commission and manage consultants and technical experts in the UK and overseas. The total consultancy budget to be managed by the post-holder is currently in the range of £20,000 - 50,000 per annum.

PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Strategy

- Provide intellectual leadership for, and ensure a strategic approach to, WWF-UK's work on water footprint impacts, water stewardship and related issues of water policy.
- Ensure that this strategic approach supports the WWF Network's wider water policy goals.
- Ensure that this strategic approach is in line with the WWF Global Programme Framework, including long-term goals for biodiversity conservation and footprint reduction.
- Ensure that the approach supports WWF-UK's corporate strategy including our Business and Industry agenda.

Programme delivery

- In line with this strategic approach, maintain and build relationships and formal partnerships with targeted champions in UK and EU-based companies, governments and interest groups; and, with this set of champions, begin to influence business practice and public policy on water use, supply chain management, corporate risk and water management.
- Provide pro-active and constructive support to related programmatic work such as our Water Security programme, our Market Transformation Network Initiative and our emerging One Planet Food programme.
- Help develop an effective approach to communications that supports programmatic objectives and promotes WWF as a leader in the field; and represent WWF in a variety of policy fora such as conferences and meetings and in media interviews.
- Undertake standard project management tasks as appropriate including drafting project concepts, preparation of budgets and workplans, managing contracts with consultants and partners, and completing timely reports to donors and WWF senior management to a high standard.
- Ensure lessons, stories and experiences are documented as appropriate and exchanged with colleagues in WWF-UK and other WWF offices around the world.
- Support fundraising efforts for WWF's programmatic work, especially those on freshwater.

Other responsibilities

- Support the Head of Freshwater Programmes and the Director of Programmes in progressing WWF's wider efforts on freshwater conservation, climate change, sustainable consumption and other issues as required.

PERSON SPECIFICATION:

All staff in the organisation are expected to demonstrate that they fulfil or can develop the skills, knowledge and behaviours that comprise WWF-UK's Success Factors. In summary, these include:

- *Getting the big picture*: doing what is best for the organisation as a whole by thinking and acting in line with WWF-UK and WWF Network strategies.
- *Achieving results*: knowing what must be done and successfully delivering, helping others along the way.
- *Working together*: collaborating across teams, divisions, the WWF Network and with partners for greatest impact.
- *Managing myself*: managing thinking, emotions and communication for personal effectiveness.

The successful candidate should also be able to show evidence of the following specific attributes:

- A strong and proven commitment to WWF's mission; a particular interest in the conservation and sustainable use of water would be an added advantage.
- A track record of constructive advocacy with senior decision-makers and of influencing the outcomes of policy debates.
- Considerable knowledge of issues relating to sustainability in the private sector.
- The commitment and drive to be accountable for, and to deliver against, challenging goals - a problem-solving attitude is essential.
- Excellent communication skills in English – including writing, speaking and listening.
- Proven experience of working effectively within teams.
- Experience of working in an international context and the ability to respect and work well with people from different cultures and backgrounds.
- A first and/or higher degree or equivalent in a relevant subject such as an environmental subject, business studies/administration, political science, economics, or any water-related discipline such as hydrology, civil engineering, etc.