

WATER SECTOR LEAD

Role at a glance

The role	The Water Sector Lead will play a pivotal role in the High-Level Climate Champions' Systems Transformation team. Their responsibilities will include shaping and delivering the sector's strategy including high impact outcomes for a resilient, 1.5C aligned sector at COP27, providing a launch pad for UN23 - the mid-term stock-take for SDG6.
Duration	Full time role over 12 months
Contract type	We welcome applications from independent contractors, as well as employees who can secure at least a one year pro bono secondment agreement with their existing employer.
Start date	As soon as possible
Remuneration Level	For independent contractors, in line with market rates, and commensurate with experience and location. Remuneration is inclusive of annual leave. For sponsored secondments, we expect the employer to be responsible for all matters relating to remuneration and benefits.
Location	Flexible. We are a global team, so the role may require some travel
Annual leave	For contractors, 5 weeks unpaid leave. For sponsored secondments, inline with their employers leave policy.
Reporting to	Systems Transformation Lead
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The candidate is expected to work from home, with occasional travel as and when requested. • In some locations, a collaborative office space may be available. • The candidate is expected to provide and maintain their own ICT and work tools. • Out of town travel and other work related expenses will be reimbursed in line with the travel and expense policy
Recruitment process	<p>Please submit your CV and brief cover letter (no more than one A4 page) to opportunities@climatechampions.team</p> <p>Please mention 'HLC Water Lead' in the subject of your email.</p> <p>Applications will be considered on a rolling basis beginning Friday 15 April. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted to arrange an in-person or virtual interview shortly thereafter.</p>

The Climate Champions Team



Background

The Climate Champions Team provides support to the UNFCCC High Level Climate Champions to deliver on the mandate from Parties: to drive climate action and enhance ambition by non-state actors. Working with the Marrakech Partnership and other partners, we mobilise businesses, investors, cities, regions and civil society and act as a bridge between non-state actors and national governments to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement. At COP26, the two serving High Level Climate Champions launched [a five year plan](#) to deliver on the mandate from Parties. It sets out objectives and details of the tools employed to achieve them, across six key functions for the work of the Climate Champions Team for the period 2021 - 2025.

The global team is resourced to support the major campaigns [Race to Resilience](#), [Race to Zero](#) and [Glasgow Finance Alliance for Net Zero \(GFANZ\)](#), as well as sector-focused systems transformation using the [Climate Action Pathways](#) and [2030 Breakthroughs](#). Alongside this, we are continuing to strengthen the accountability mechanisms of the campaigns and assess the overall state of systems transformation as we prepare to support the global stocktake.

COP27 offers a unique moment to drive transformational change, scaling action for climate-vulnerable communities, and mobilising finance to developing and emerging economies, to move from ambition to implementation and halve global emissions and protect four billion people from climate impacts by 2030.

The Water Sector Lead is critical to help us deliver on our plan for COP27, recognising it as a springboard to ramp up national ambition for UN23, the mid-point stock-take of SDG6, Clean Water and Sanitation for All. It is a role that provides an opportunity to work at what is arguably the most pressing challenge in the world today, and it will suit you if you are mission driven and thrive in fast-paced, ever-evolving and diverse teams. You will be comfortable juggling different priorities and balancing multiple - and at times - competing demands and work in ways which are highly collaborative and engaging with a wide range of stakeholders at all levels and across all sectors of the economy, policy and society.

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Overview of the role

As the Water Lead, you will have primary responsibility for shaping and implementing the High Level Champions Water sector objectives and strategies, working closely with the High Level Climate Action Champions and the Climate Champions Senior Leadership Team. The successful candidate will be ready to lead the implementation of this important workstream, working with a talented team and partners across the sector, governments, investor networks and not-for-profit organisations.

Key responsibilities include:

1. Provide overall strategic direction and ensure delivery of the High Level Champions Water sector work to accelerate progress in aligning these systems with the most ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement, with a central focus on achieving net zero emissions globally before 2050, limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and building climate resilience across societies and the economy. This requires a systems approach and [systems change tools](#), considering demand and supply side actors, finance, employee and civil society groups, among others.
2. Lead, coordinate, occasionally recruit, and regularly convene across a diverse matrix of internationally based High Level Champions Water Team members across regions and sub-sectors including Africa Water Resilience, to implement a cohesive strategy and maximise the team's impact. Guide, inspire, motivate and mentor all team members as appropriate.
3. Engage with senior stakeholders across all segments of the Water sector and its climate action initiatives to build and amplify momentum in the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience. Support the High Level Champions and Senior Leadership Team with appropriate Water sector materials for high level engagements.
4. Identify and catalyse the creation of campaigns and initiatives that will bring high impact outcomes to COP27 and beyond. Define and implement approaches to better integrate Water sector leadership into COP27 related opportunities across sectors and geographies.
5. Oversee and support a work program with high impact deliverables to accelerate Water sector transformation in line with achieving a resilient 1.5C net zero emissions economy globally by 2050.

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6. Ensure integration of the High Level Champions Water sector work with the Marrakech Partnership focal points and members to support the operationalization of the [‘Improved Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for Enhancing Ambition 2021 – 2025’](#) including the refinement and promotion of the sector’s [Climate Action Pathway](#).
7. Act as a bridge to national governments to ensure Water sector ambition and action under the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience supports elevated ambition in Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement as well as alignment of COVID recovery investments with the transition to net zero emissions.
8. Support the curation and execution of events at National, Regional and International Climate Weeks to amplify NSA water actions.
9. Represent the sector’s NSA communities in co-creating ambitious plans with outgoing and incoming COP presidency teams.

As this is a new and fast evolving team, the responsibilities are not set in stone. Rather, we expect the post holder to be adaptable and help develop the function in line with the changing requirements.

About You

The successful candidate will have acquired deep experience of the Water sector. You will be a highly motivated self-starter, happy working across different time zones and cultures in a high-profile, fast-paced environment. You are able to exercise sound judgement in engaging the Water sector and are experienced at building coalitions and fostering collaboration across a wide range of actors.

The following requirements are essential:

- Exceptional programme development and leadership skills
- Strong understanding of the Water sector and sub-sectors
- Experience working in the Water sector, preferably including in emerging markets and developing countries
- Proven track record of engaging effectively with senior level/C-suite public and private sector leaders
- Strong analytical skills and attention to detail

The Climate Champions Team



- Excellent team, process and project management skills, with ability to juggle multiple priorities and deadlines, and bring out the best in a diverse team across a broad range of global geographies and time zones
- Excellent communications skills, verbal and written
- Collaborative and collegial working style, and a strong team player
- Ability to manage ambiguity and change
- Committed to systemic transformation of the Water sector and good understanding of the levers for change to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement
- Determination to support climate action, and a commitment to the Climate Champions core values (below)

Core Values

- **Unite behind the science:** we commit to make the changes scientists tell us are needed.
- **Build upon the incredible work to date:** we will cross-fertilize and amplify the work of the many heroes who have already committed so much to addressing climate change.
- **Take into account different ideas and perspectives:** we're willing to be challenged and to challenge, we look for the best in people and the best, most sound and most credible ideas, wherever they come from.
- **Practice stubborn optimism:** we recognize the scale of the problem, combined with an absolute determination to build our way out.
- **Seek progress not perfection:** all of us can be criticized and many of those best able to advance this issue are currently the biggest causes of it. We can't allow cynical greenwashing, but all who are serious about tackling climate change positively will be welcomed.
- **Be humble and generous:** we keep our egos in check and work together for the good of the whole

Code of Conduct

As a member of the Climate Champions Team you are required to adhere to the highest standards of conduct and behaviour, protecting the integrity of the mandate from Parties, the UNFCCC process, the UNFCCC institution and the COP presidency. Prior to joining the team, you will be required to familiarise yourself with, and sign up to, the UNFCCC Code of Conduct. And shortly after joining, there will be a number of mandatory induction meetings to ensure you have the information and tools needed to work to the highest standards.