



WATER LEAD

Role at a glance

The role	The Water Lead will play a pivotal role in the High-Level Climate Champions’ Nature Team, within the Systems Transformation team. Their responsibilities will include implementing the Nature Team strategy and delivering high-impact outcomes at COP30 and beyond.
Contract type	Pro Bono Secondment. Remuneration for the role needs to be sponsored by your current employer. Please note, the Climate Champions Team is unable to fund this role. Prior to applying please ensure that your current employer would be willing to sponsor the role.
Duration	Minimum 4 days a week, ideally 5 days a week over 12 months
Start date	As soon as possible
Location	Flexible. We are a global team, so the role may, require some travel
Annual leave	According to the seconding organization’s policy
Reporting to	Nature Team 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
How to apply	Please submit your CV and brief cover letter (no more than one A4 page) via this form . Applications will be assessed, and interviews will be held, on a rolling basis. We aim for the candidate to start as soon as possible and no later than 1st June.
Contract information	The Climate Champions Team is a programme of work under the not for profit administrative host body Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA). The agreement for this role will be drafted within the Climate Champions Team and signed by the seconding organisation and a senior representative of RPA. Find out more about RPA here .



Background

The UN Climate Change High-Level Champions (HLCs) holds a unique mandate under the UN Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC): 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.

Each HLC is appointed by the COP presidencies and serves for a term of 2 years. In 2020, the then serving HLCs established the Climate Champions Team (CCT), to help HLCs deliver on the mandate. Fast-forward to 2024, the CCT is a global team of 85 FTE staff approximately 50% based in regions traditionally underrepresented in global climate action.

The work of the CCT is anchored in a [five year plan](#) welcomed by Parties at COP26. 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. At COP29, the mandate of the High-Level Champions was [renewed until 2030](#), in recognition by Parties of the important role of Non-Party Stakeholders in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Key pillars in our work include the global campaigns [Race to Zero](#) and [Race to Resilience](#), and related action frameworks [2030 Breakthroughs](#) and [Sharm Adaptation Agenda](#) - all in delivery of the science-based [2030 Climate Solutions](#).

The Water Lead is critical to help us deliver on our plan for COP30 and beyond. 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.

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 Champions, the Climate Champions Team and the Marrakech Partnership Water Thematic Group. 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. **Advance the delivery of the 2030 Climate Solutions on Water** This requires a systems change thinking and **systems change tools**, among others, and entails:
 - **Convening and growing Communities of Practice:** With the Focal Points of the Marrakech Partnership Water Group, convene and develop the Water thematic area in the Marrakech Partnership. existing, and build new relationships with leading organizations, initiatives and coalitions from diverse non-State actors groups (businesses, investors, local and regional governments, civil society, academia) advancing ambitious climate solutions in the water sector.
 - **Advancing science-based Collective Goals:** Work with stakeholders towards shared, ambitious, science-based mid-terms goals for mitigation, adaptation and finance (aka the 2030 Climate Solutions), shape and implement strategies for achieving them and overcome barriers.
 - **Develop and Agree on science-based Collective Goals:** In collaboration with the Marrakech Partnership and the Sharm el Sheik Adaption Agenda and other key stakeholders develop goals for Urban Water Resilience, Freshwater Challenge and Water for Resilient Food Systems.
 - **Prioritizing and developing a Tracking Mechanisms:** Work with the Marrakech Partnership and other Non-state Actors to develop a clear tracking mechanism for joint progress on the 2030 Climate Solutions on Water.
 - **Identifying the Solutions that Support a Just Transition:** facilitate discussions on how to maximize the benefits and minimize the negatives, especially for the most vulnerable, in each transition. Incorporate integrated thinking and discussions to develop solutions that support mitigation, resilience, nature and development goals.
 - **Mobilizing Non-State Actors:** recruit new members, partners and accelerators from the Water community into the Race to Zero and the Race to Resilience, working to maximize the relationship between campaigns and 2030 action frameworks.
 - **Enhancing Resilience:** increase the resilience of Water systems, through work streams like Urban Water Resilience, Freshwater Challenge and Water for Resilient Food Systems, and by using Race to Resilience as mobilization mechanism and the Sharm Adaptation Agenda as action framework to make systems more resilient to climate change.
2. **Serve as Water subject-matter expert in the Climate Champions Team**, providing analysis, evidence, proof-points, talking points for the High-Level Champions' public and private interventions. This includes:



- Collecting signals of change, including forward-looking indicators, and science-based evidence of progress and barriers Working closely with the Systems Change Lab and contributing knowledge and analysis to the State of Climate Action report and other relevant sectoral publications.
 - Regularly report on progress towards the water-based climate action, including via the 2030 Climate Solutions publications, the Yearbook of Climate Action, and UNFCCC NAZCA/Global Climate Action Portal, amongst others.
 - Attend CCT All Team Weekly meetings, Systems Team Weekly meetings, Clusters meetings and ad-hoc meetings as needed.
 - Work closely with the COP Presidency Action Agenda Team, to design and deliver impactful climate action at COP.
3. **Support the Marrakech Partnership and Global Climate Action Agenda on Water at COP30:**
- Serve as technical support to the Water thematic group, working closely with the MP focal points, identifying potential new members, and leading the group towards more action, ambition, influence and impact.
 - Work closely with the COP30 Presidency Action Agenda Team, to design and deliver impactful Water-based climate action at COP30.
 - Work closely with the UNFCCC and the Marrakech Partnership to build an impactful Global Climate Action COP programme on Water (Action Events, Implementation Labs, other events), ensuring that action by leading NSAs is taking centre stage.
4. **Regionalization:**
- Ensure climate action, strategies and deliverables in their sector is truly global, i.e. engages Non-state actors in all regions of the world, particularly in underrepresented regions (Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean).
 - Be a CCT resource in the region where they are based, working closely with CCT Regional Director, supporting the delivery of the broad HLC mandate / CCT mission in the region, facilitating contacts, designing regionally-relevant and regionally-sensitive strategies and deliverables.
5. **Communication and Events:** Design events and strategic communications to highlight, platform and celebrate progress made in climate action in the Water sector, or discuss opportunities and challenges, working closely with CCT Comms and Events team.

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 judgment 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 area of Water and Water Systems, 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
- 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](#)

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.