



Africa's Alliance for Water Stewardship launched to guide and recognize leadership on water security
Business, government and NGOs champion responsible water use in Africa through the AWS Standard.

Businesses, NGOs and government authorities have united to guide and champion responsible water use in Africa through the launch of Africa's Alliance for Water Stewardship at the Stockholm International Water Week. AWS Africa is the regional initiative of the global Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS). The initiative will support uptake of the international AWS Standard by businesses, investors and large water users across Africa, demonstrating their credentials as responsible water stewards who play a leading role in economic growth, poverty reduction and environmental management.

Doreen Chanje, who heads the AWS Africa Secretariat said: *'In Africa we face the greatest water challenges anywhere on earth. The continent's health, wealth and wellbeing depend on our ability to transform these challenges into opportunities: to harness water to create jobs, energy and growth, to ensure healthy, peaceful and more equal societies, and to safeguard our remarkable ecological diversity. We know that the AWS Standard can drive this transformation and we are delighted to be stepping up its use and visibility where it is most needed.'*

The AWS launched the global standard in 2014 which guides and recognizes positive action to tackle shared water risks. Implementing the AWS standard requires users to work with key stakeholders to assess and take effective action on their water related risks and opportunities. AWS sites can be certified through 3rd party audit to demonstrate stewardship credentials to investors, communities, government and customers.

Users of the AWS standard across Africa have seen the benefits and have united to ensure that the AWS delivers its full potential for Africa.

It is clear that the AWS standard will help us implement our national water policy and IWRM. It has our full support.

CEO, Water Resource Management Authority, Kenya

Implementing the AWS standard has opened our eyes to the risks we face. We weren't making best use of our resources and this was risking productivity, environmental, regulatory and reputational impacts.

Jeremy Dufour, Olam International, Tanzania

The cohesive and inclusive nature of the AWS standard is what sets it apart from other standards and systems.

Mia Antoni-Naidoo, SGS, South Africa

The AWS Standard enlightens business organisations to use water responsibly and address the impacts of climate change.

Kasenga Hara, National Water Supply and Sanitation Council, Zambia

AWS is the future for equitable water use for all in Africa.

Malama Kasalwe Hamoonga, GIZ IWaSP Zambia

Implementation across the continent, in **Morocco, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi and South Africa** demonstrates benefits for **governments, communities, the private sector and investors**. These include a cost-effective framework for safeguarding against water related threats; state-of-the-art guidance;

benchmarking against global best practice; due diligence; improved stakeholder relations; licence to operate; compliance with laws and policies; new engagement, investment and political profile on shared problems including WASH, climate & financing; and fairer working conditions, sustainable use, pollution control & conflict resolution.

With support from donors including UK Aid, Scottish Government, the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and the EU's Afri Alliance, AWS Africa is convening and promoting credible water stewardship. Regional stakeholders have agreed a 5-year strategy to ensure that the AWS standard is relevant and widely used; that users are recognised; and that necessary resources and capacity are in place. Founding partners of AWS Africa include Olam International, Diageo, Fairy Bottling, Action for Water, Shahidi wa Maji, South Pole, the Environmental Compliance Institute, SGS, GIZ, the International Water Stewardship Programme, and the Water Resource Authority of Zambia.

'This initiative goes beyond aid, supporting economic growth, trade and job creation based on secure, sustainable and fair resource use. It is fantastic to see regional stakeholders taking charge of water stewardship which is pro-poor and sustainable – so that water becomes a driver rather than a constraint for the economic growth which Africa needs', said Dr Nick Hepworth, Director of Water Witness International, one of the founders of AWS.

AWS Africa invites you to get involved by:

- **Joining as a member which provides access to** unique knowledge & network building opportunities; global expertise, innovations, AWS tools and guidance; and the opportunity to shape the future of water stewardship where it matters most.
- **Implementing the standard:** Practical advice is available to those interested in using the standard. As well as water using businesses, investors, the public sector, donors, retailers and NGOs are now realising the benefits of AWS in Africa.
- **Collaboration:** If you share our vision of a water secure Africa through credible water stewardship, we want to work with you.

For more details please contact Doreen Chanje (doreenchanje@waterwitness.org) or Tyler Farrow (tylerfarrow@waterwitness.org) or go to www.a4ws.org.

AWS Africa is currently hosted by Water Witness International with support from:



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Images:

AWS standard is being used to ensure water justice for smallholder farmers in Tanzania and Malawi



Implementing the AWS standard at Zambia's largest water bottling plant.

