

Job Description for Severn Vision Advocacy Coordinator

Duration: Initial contract to December 2016, with strong potential for extension depending on future funding support for the project.

Duty Station: WWT Slimbridge, UK

Remuneration: Circa £50,000 per annum (depending on experience)

Contract Type: Consultancy

Supervisor: Wetlands International – European Association

Summary

The Severn Vision Partnership is an alliance of organisations representing wildlife and landscape interests that have been working collaboratively to develop a vision for a much better Severn Estuary for the natural environment, one that protects and enhances the biodiversity, landscapes and the ecosystem as a whole - one that will benefit us all. The aspiration is for a more resilient estuary richer in wildlife, where we respect the natural resources of the estuary and its limits and thresholds for sustainable use.

The Severn Vision Advocacy Coordinator will support the promotion and implementation of the Severn Vision by coordinating and facilitating the advocacy and activities of the core partner organisations, liaise with other stakeholders to help deliver the Vision, make links between partners and other stakeholders and facilitate progress against the Visions '7 Steps', including intertidal habitat recreation and other restoration activities.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Coordinate the development of an advocacy, communications and marketing plan for the Severn Vision based around the '7 Steps to a Sustainable Severn', and act as the central 'holder' of that plan
- Work closely with the Severn Vision Partnership organisations, and their respective policy and advocacy teams to effectively mobilise their existing resources in support of the plan and improve the co-ordination of work across the partnership, including developing shared/linked advocacy strategies and coordinated activities on priority issues.
- Actively plan and manage communication within the partnership, and champion and represent the vision on behalf of the Partnership as appropriate.
- Where appropriate¹, lead efforts on specific advocacy/campaign priorities, representing the Partnership to policy makers, practitioners, think tanks, academic partners, the media and the public

¹ The primary function of the Coordinator is to actively deploy / support / brief senior spokespeople from partner organisations to act as champions for the Vision. However, in some situations it may be appropriate for the Coordinator to directly undertake this work, such as where a suitable person is not available or in an area where the Coordinator has specific technical expertise.



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- Conduct research & analysis and produce reports, briefing notes, information papers and other materials on the policy environment relevant to the Severn Estuary
- Work with partners to strengthen the evidence base needed to improve cross-sectoral working and influence policy.
- Provide advice / intelligence to the Severn Vision Partnership Steering Group on key issues as required
- Provide a secretariat function - organising Steering Group and any other meetings and facilitate day to day functioning of the Partnership
- Ensure that transparent and inclusive communication mechanisms (e.g. the Severn Vision website) are in place, kept up to date, and effectively linked to the partner organisations
- Support/lead Task and Finish Groups or other specific work areas as required
- Establish links to, and draw learning from, other estuary initiatives and nature-based partnerships
- Monitor and report to the Steering Group (quarterly and annually) on progress made in achieving objectives.

Profile

The successful candidate will possess a proven track record in the advocacy/campaigning arena as well as excellent knowledge of relevant environmental issues and a good understanding of the NGO, government and corporate world complemented by an established network of relevant contacts. You will be able to demonstrate their understanding of wetland, estuarine and/or environmental issues at relevant scales and have the vision, ingenuity, determination and enterprise to translate this into developing and coordinating a strategy to establish and enhance the profile and influence of the fledgling Severn Vision Partnership. Ideally you will also have a proven track record of managing large multi-partner multi-annual projects.

Selection Criteria

Education

- Advanced university degree in environmental issues, with a focus on marine, coastal or river basin management or other relevant field

Experience

- Extensive experience in developing, managing and coordinating environmental advocacy and/or campaigns
- Good knowledge of the current policies and practices related to wetlands, water and land management, preferably in an estuarine/coastal context
- Extensive UK- or EU-based experience and a good understanding of the national (England & Wales) and regional policy landscape and key advocacy targets and processes.
- Experience in working with local government, national governments, intergovernmental bodies, private sector and civil society bodies and processes at different levels
- Experience in organizing and facilitating multi-stakeholder participatory processes and policy dialogues
- Direct experience working in or for the NGO sector preferred, with governmental and/or private sector experience desirable

Competencies

- Demonstrated capacity to strategically lead and manage multidisciplinary teams and programs to achieve results
- Demonstrable project management skills including development of work plans, project financial management, monitoring and evaluation and effective reporting
- Excellent written and oral presentation skills and ability to communicate to a variety of audiences;
- Fluent in English, with Welsh language skills highly desirable. Competence in an additional major European language would be of added benefit.
- Comprehensive computer skills, especially in Word, Excel, Email, Internet packages
- Ability to work independently, prioritize workload and meet deadlines
- Proven ability to work with diverse stakeholders with a variety of interests and experiences
- Willingness to travel extensively around the Severn Estuary and occasionally further afield (chiefly London and Europe)
- Proven experience in resource mobilisation (both human and financial)