

13 March 2025

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## Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) – Partnership with a Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) in China

### Introduction

Water Stewardship Assurance Services (WSAS) is seeking to establish a partnership with a recognized Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) to collaborate on the delivery of AWS Certification in greater China.

Water Stewardship Assurance Services (WSAS) is the mission-driven assurance provider for the [Alliance for Water Stewardship \(AWS\) System](#). We provide audit and certification services worldwide in pursuit of the AWS Mission “to ignite and nurture global and local leadership in credible water stewardship that recognizes and secures the social, cultural, environmental and economic value of freshwater”. We contribute to this mission by providing robust assurance against the AWS International Water Stewardship Standard (AWS Standard).

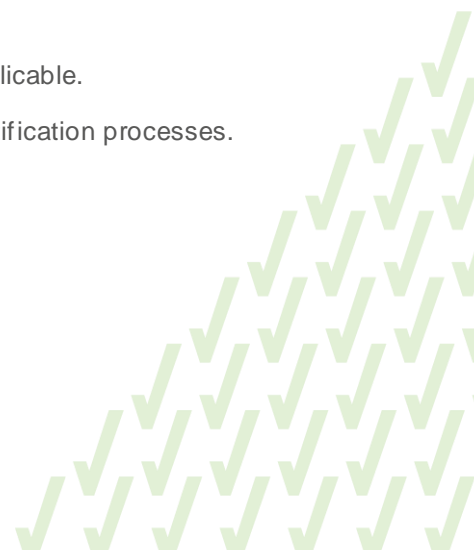
WSAS collaborates with a Conformity Assessment body in China to ensure high-quality, standardized, and globally recognized certification processes in the region. We now aim to expand our presence by seeking an additional partnership to enhance the delivery of our services in China.

### Scope of Partnership

Selected certification partners will be responsible for:

- Conducting client audits in China to assess compliance with the AWS International Water Stewardship Standard (AWS Standard).
- Issuing recommendations for certification in accordance with the AWS Standard.
- Ensuring adherence to quality assurance protocols.
- Supporting WSAS with capacity building and support services where applicable.
- Collaboration on continuous improvement and innovation in the AWS certification processes.

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- Implementing business development initiatives to expand certification reach in China.

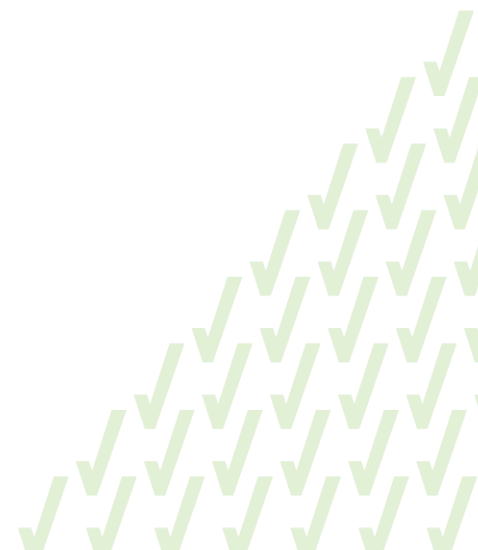
## Eligibility Criteria

We invite expressions of interest from qualified and experienced CABs, with an established legal entity in China, that meet the following requirements:

- Demonstrated experience in voluntary sustainability and environmental certification.
- ISO 17065 accreditation obtained from an Accreditation Body that is a signatory of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA)
- Strong technical and administrative capacity.
- A commitment to quality assurance and ethical practices.
- Ability to operate in Greater China.

**Submission Requirements** Interested organizations should submit:

- A company profile showcasing relevant experience, qualifications and eligibility.
- A provisional list of nominated individuals responsible for delivering the services, including their credentials and qualifications.
  - Minimum qualifications for lead auditors will be
    - An academic background in environmental sciences or a related field, such as hydrology, hydrogeology, agriculture, forestry, or similar disciplines;
    - ISO lead auditor training course;
    - ISO 14001 qualification or qualification in relevant environmental scheme (such as RSPO, FSC, etc.
- Evidence of ISO17065 accreditation and any other accreditations and certifications held.
- A proposed approach to collaboration, including methodologies and best practices, and a proposal for a financial arrangement for the partnership.
- A proposal or business plan outline (3-5 pages) for developing the market for AWS certification in Greater China, detailing the resources that would be allocated to implement and activate the plan.
- References from previous or existing partnerships.
- Any other supporting documents deemed relevant.



**Submission Deadline and Process** Expressions of interest must be submitted by **10<sup>th</sup> April 2025** to Lisa Seufert at [lisa@watersas.org](mailto:lisa@watersas.org). Shortlisted candidates may be invited for further discussions or presentations.

For further inquiries, please contact Lisa Seufert at [lisa@watersas.org](mailto:lisa@watersas.org)

We look forward to your participation in this opportunity to enhance AWS certification in Greater China.

**Water Stewardship Assurance Services Ltd.**

[www.watersas.org](http://www.watersas.org)

