Executive Director Search

International Rivers seeks a passionate and organized leader who is excited to support our global network of highly experienced staff working to meet energy and water needs without degrading nature or increasing poverty.

International Rivers seeks a leader to support our global network of highly experienced staff working to protect rivers and defend the rights of communities that depend on them.
About International Rivers

Rivers are essential to all life on the planet. Free-flowing rivers work like arteries, providing the world’s ecosystems with critical freshwater resources. Their fisheries are crucial to the food security and livelihoods of millions of people. Yet freshwater ecosystems are being fragmented, diverted and polluted, and they’re losing biodiversity at rates higher than any other ecosystem.

Since 1985, International Rivers has been at the heart of the global movement to ensure the voices of river-dependent communities are heard and their rights are respected. We connect civil society groups, undertake investigative research, and campaign to resist destructive projects. We engage with partner organizations to find solutions that meet energy needs while protecting nature and human rights.

Our pioneering work includes the formation of the World Commission on Dams, convening the first global Women and Rivers Congress, and convincing the world’s largest dam-builder, China’s Sinohydro, to adopt precedent-setting social and environmental policies.

International Rivers was awarded the 2013 MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions for “applying science, rigorous policy analysis, and strategic advocacy.”

For more information please review our strategic plan.
The Opportunity

International Rivers seeks a visionary leader to build upon International Rivers’ successes while advancing the organization’s international systems and capacity. The ideal candidate will inspire others to join this cause by clearly articulating the urgent need to safeguard river-based cultures and ecosystems from extinction and by outlining a compelling and provocative strategy for moving forward.

As global response to the climate crisis gains momentum, our network is more important than ever. Our staff in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the US are challenging a new wave of big dam and watershed development projects. More than 3,700 hydropower projects are planned or under construction around the world. This year International Rivers will play a key role in the 20th anniversary of the World Commission on Dams and the new Post-2020 Framework for the Convention on Biological Diversity.
Key Responsibilities

- Elevate the voice of the global movement to protect freshwater ecosystems.
- Oversee the planning, implementation, management, and evaluation of all aspects of International Rivers programs, including: campaigns, communications, fundraising, budgeting, and administration.
- Spearhead the implementation of the strategic plan.
- Create and nurture effective teams to develop and implement program priorities.
- Maintain an organizational culture that attracts, sustains, and motivates a diverse global staff.
- Communicate a clear and compelling vision and strategy.
- Raise funds to carry out the mission and strengthen the organization.
- Serve as the liaison between board and staff, and guide board development.
Qualifications

- Five years of demonstrated success managing international advocacy for environmental and/or human rights issues.
- Demonstrated success in fundraising from a variety of sources, including large institutional and individual major donors.
- Proven experience managing staff, budgets, and operations.
- Outstanding written and oral communications skills and experience with media and public relations. English fluency.
- Demonstrated ability to engage, inspire, and lead diverse networks and partnerships that bring together technical, policy, civil society, and local/community knowledge and expertise across continents.
- An inspiring and collaborative leadership style that engages, leads by example, and encourages creativity and productive, high-quality work.
- A nuanced understanding of the dynamics of working with local and regional groups, and experience developing alliances and strategies with a variety of stakeholders.
- Commitment to International Rivers’ mission and the principles of environmental and social justice.
- Willingness and availability to travel internationally.
Compensation and Application Process

The Executive Director will be appointed by and report to the Board of Directors.

Salary range: $110-130k. International Rivers offers generous benefits, including full health and dental, paid holidays, vacation and sick leave.

Location: San Francisco Bay Area preferred. Other strategic locations could be considered.

International Rivers is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages applications from all qualified candidates regardless of age, class, disability status, ethnicity, gender, race and sexual orientation, as well as from international candidates who are authorized to work in the US.

For an informal discussion about the role contact: Melina.Selverston@gmail.com
To apply, email letter of interest and resume to: jobpost@internationalrivers.org. Write ‘ED Search’ in subject line.
Deadline: February 10, 2020