



JOB DESCRIPTION

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| Position: | Social Research Officer |
| Reports to: | Conservation Impact Technical Lead |
| Location: | Senmonorom Town, Mondoukiri Province |
| Country Program/Sector: | Global Conservation Program – Greater Mekong |
| Position Type: | Full-time |
| Internal liaison: | Conservation Impact Technical Advisor Landscape Technical Manager, Keo Seima Community and Impact Strategic Advisor Community and REDD+ Manager, Eastern Plains Landscape |
| Expected travel: | Approximately 20% to Phnom Penh |

Organization Background:

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a US non-profit organization established in 1895 and based in New York, that saves wildlife and wild places by understanding critical issues, crafting science-based solutions, and taking conservation actions that benefit nature and humanity. With a presence in more than 60 nations, and experience helping to establish over 150 protected areas across the globe, WCS has amassed the biological knowledge, cultural understanding and partnerships to ensure that vibrant, wild places and wildlife thrive alongside local communities. In the Greater Mekong WCS has country programs in Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam and is managed through a dispersed regional network with a hub in Bangkok.

Position Background:

Since 2003, WCS has provided technical and financial assistance to the management of Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS) in the Eastern Plains Landscape. The Keo Seima REDD+ Project, which covers the core Zone of KSWS, is Cambodia's flagship REDD+ project. It was the first large REDD+ project developed in Cambodia, the first to receive a multi-million-dollar carbon sale, and it is the longest running. In the ten years since it started, the project has demonstrated that emissions reductions can be achieved while maintaining a gold rating for benefiting local communities. The new five-year strategic plan for KSWS places understanding and influencing the behaviour of key stakeholders at the centre of all activities being implemented at the site.

Position Summary:

WCS seeks a social research officer to provide technical support to the WCS KSWS team in the Eastern Plains Landscape. This position is a technical support function without staff management responsibility. The purpose of this position is to facilitate and support research and data collection, to inform and increase the impact of activities in the landscape (which include the full range of integrated protected area management and community development activities). They will support Objective 3 of the 2021 Seima Strategy, and in doing so improve the implementation of activities contained in the rest of the Seima Strategy and support the Seima Landscape Manager.

Working closely with the Conservation Impact Technical Lead, Conservation Impact Technical Advisor and Community and Impact Strategic Advisor, the Social Research Officer will support the five-year strategic plan for KSWs by bridging key knowledge gaps and supporting other team leads to embed the insights gained into the implementation of site-based activities. A key function of this role will be to support a process by which the impact of existing activities can be tested and improved.

Primary Responsibilities:

1. Support and conduct social research and data collection to fill knowledge gaps
2. Analyse data and communicate findings with WCS staff to inform their activities and support their decision-making.
3. Support external consultants and/or research students to ensure efficient collaboration and information sharing.
4. Manage the storage and use of datasets relevant to KSWs, and ensure their accessibility and that value is derived from them.
5. Assist in report and proposal writing.

Position Requirements:

- Preferably a bachelor's degree in an environmental or social science discipline
- Interest and knowledge about conservation and rural development issues in Cambodia.
- Ability to communicate clearly and confidently, including delivering presentations.
- Willingness and ability to learn new research skills.
- Good organizational skills and ability to manage datasets and workplans.
- Khmer fluency and basic English required. Bunong language is desired.