



WCS Cambodia Program

Job description - Wildlife Crime Prevention Research Assistant

Position title:	Wildlife Crime Prevention Research Assistant
Reports to:	Counter Wildlife Trafficking Project Manager
Project:	Counter Wildlife Trafficking Project
Location:	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Position Type:	Full-time position
Internal liaison:	Works closely with Research Lead. Works with the Landscape Manager and Landscape Coordinators
Expected travel:	Frequent travel to Koh Kong and Kratie Provinces
Project duration:	18 months

Organization Background

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a US-headquartered non-profit, tax-exempt, private organization established in 1895 that saves wildlife and wild places by understanding critical issues, crafting science-based solutions, and taking conservation actions that benefit nature and humanity. With more than a century of experience, long-term commitments in dozens of landscapes, presence in more than 60 countries, and experience helping to establish over 250 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. The WCS Country Program in Cambodia, is a relatively large, vibrant program with long-term programs in four major forested and/or wetland landscapes: Eastern Plains (Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary), Northern Plains, Major Rivers, and Tonle Sap.

Background

In Cambodia, illegal hunting and trade continue to impact freshwater turtle and tortoise species despite protection efforts. The critically endangered Southern River Terrapin and Cantor's Giant Softshell Turtles are both threatened by illegal hunting and trade with current approaches not addressing the root causes of illegal trade and being ineffective in preventing continued population declines.

Purpose of position

WCS Cambodia has received funding to implement a project entitled "Developing a problem-oriented approach to reduce turtle trafficking in Cambodia". The project aims to produce a comprehensive evidence base for the development and implementation of a crime prevention-based approach to prevent poaching and trafficking of freshwater turtles.

The project will deliver two outputs:

- i. a detailed understanding of at least two specific turtle trade chains including identification of drivers and opportunities for crime prevention
- ii. strategic interventions to prevent turtle poaching, trade, and consumption developed through a multi-stakeholder approach including Government, communities, and civil society.

Duties and responsibilities

The Research Assistant will work closely with the Research Lead to conduct research activities related to this project. They will assist in all activities and implementation. His/her specific tasks include:

- Support the Research Lead in compiling existing information on turtle poaching, trade and consumption from online open-source research, patrol records, capture records, voluntary reports and records of enforcement and judicial action.
- Working closely with WCS staff in Sre Ambel, Kratie and Strung Treng, government and NGO partners to support implementation of project activities and research.
- Support the Research Lead in designing field trips for collecting information, through field surveys and discussions with local community members.
- Contribute to the completion of at least two crime scripts based on the information collected and analysed.
- Participate in and support the organisation of local meetings or workshops with stakeholders.
- Contribute to a crime prevention strategy based on the workshop outcomes.
- Contribute to and support the production of a case study or research paper.

The following deliverables will be produced:

- Research reports and project specific reporting requirements
- At least 2 crime scripts for turtle species (training will be provided on the approach)
- A crime prevention strategy
- Case study or research paper outlining approach and findings

Qualifications and experience

Required:

- Bachelor's degree in criminology, conservation, law, social sciences or other relevant area.
- Experience in research work.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a remote team.
- Highly organized.
- Able and willing to travel to the field in remote areas.
- Full professional proficiency of English and Khmer language, including writing.

Desirable:

- Familiarity with wildlife crime in Cambodia, including current approaches to counter wildlife trafficking.
- Experience in conducting qualitative research on sensitive topics.
- Experience with problem-oriented and situational crime prevention models and techniques.