



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Position:	Veterinary Consultant: Management Of Live Wildlife As Evidence
Project:	Confiscation And Management Of Live Wildlife As Evidence, That Promotes Conservation, Health, Welfare And Successful Prosecution
Reports to:	Senior One Health Advisor, WCS Health Program
Location:	Regional: North America, Europe, Africa, Latin America or Asia
Country Program/Sector:	Health Program; Global Conservation Program (GCP) Coordinating with: Andes-Amazon-Orinoco (AAO) and Southeast Asian Archipelago (SEAA)
Start date:	December 2021/ January 2022
Position Type:	Independent Contractor: Up to 60 days over 18 months.
Application deadline:	November 21st, 2021
<i>Internal liaison:</i>	WCS GCP Health Program Executive Director and Senior One Health Advisor; WCS staff working on CWT and the project in relevant regional (AAO and SEAA) and country offices (Bolivia, Colombia and Indonesia)
<i>Expected travel:</i>	Up to approximately 10%. As required within the countries/regions to develop training materials and deliver training. Dependent on COVID-19 travel restrictions and/or WCS's Travel Policy.

Organization Background:

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a US 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 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. Working with local communities and organizations, that knowledge is applied to address species, habitat, and ecosystem management issues critical to improving the quality of life of poor rural people whose livelihoods depend on the direct utilization of natural resources.

WCS has led a number of CWT projects in the AAO and Southeast Asia regions (Mekong and SEAA), with support from different U.S. agencies and foundations. Through these investments, WCS works with civil society on wildlife and forest management and with government agencies on improving administrative procedures and law enforcement. This work includes building capacities, policies, and mechanisms for domestic and international enforcement coordination and cooperation.

WCS is launching a new initiative funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) that aims to increase the capacity of governments to ensure the health and well-being of seized live wild animals and of the humans handling them. Through this initiative, WCS will work initially with our government partners in Bolivia, Colombia, and Indonesia to institutionalize high welfare standards for live wildlife along the entire chain of custody of this 'living evidence' to facilitate successful prosecution of criminal actors perpetrating these serious crimes and maximize their future benefits to the conservation of wild populations. This initiative draws upon WCS's unique expertise at global and national levels in wildlife health, counter-wildlife trafficking, and field conservation, and close relationships with Government stakeholders.

Job Summary:

WCS are seeking a veterinary consultant to work with our Health and Counter-Wildlife Trafficking Programs. The objective of this position is to create best-practice Standard Operating Protocols (SOPs) for the confiscation, handling and use of live wildlife as evidence, based on the highest international standards, that will be embedded in recommendations to support countries in strengthening prosecutions and legislative frameworks; and to produce associated training modules co-developed with key enforcement agencies in Bolivia, Colombia and Indonesia.

Principle responsibilities:

The main tasks are, in consultation with relevant WCS staff and other partners as appropriate, to:

1) Develop Best Practice Standard Operating Protocols:

- Conduct a desk review and collate current best-practices and highest international standards for the safe and welfare-appropriate handling and management of wildlife along the live wild animal evidence chain, from planning and communication pre-seizure, through handling and securing live wild animals and collecting key evidence at the point of confiscation, to temporary holding and longer-term disposition;
- Develop a set of global SOPs for the confiscation, handling and use of live wild animals as evidence, that take into consideration health, safety, the gold-standard 'Five Freedoms' of animal welfare, conservation and prosecutorial priorities;
- Develop a standardized assessment framework (adaptable for use in different countries) to support national capacity and needs assessments for best practices in the confiscation, management and use of confiscated live wild animals as evidence;

- Collaborate with WCS technical regional and country team members to adapt the standard assessment framework to each of Bolivia, Colombia and Indonesia;
- Review results of these capacity assessments reports for each country;
- Support country teams to combine needs assessment findings and global best-practice SOPs to inform country-level protocols on confiscation and handling of live wildlife as evidence, based on highest standards and anchored in local contexts;

2) Train frontline enforcement officers in SOPs

- Use the global SOPs to guide development of a standardized training curricula and modules for frontline officers involved in the handling of live, seized wildlife, covering best-practices along the live wildlife evidence chain;
- Coordinate with regional and in-country WCS staff and stakeholders to review and localize curricula for all three countries based on results of the needs-assessments, to ensure materials address country specific priorities, are relevant to local regulations, and incorporate the correct use of key equipment identified and acquired through the project;
- Coordinate with Health Program and in-country WCS staff to deliver localized trainings to frontline enforcement officers in all three project countries, using a training-of-trainers approach;

3) Execute general project responsibilities

- Meet regularly (virtually) with the Senior One Health Advisor to ensure project implementation according to technical proposal, budget and timeline;
- Engage regularly with the project manager, country and regional technical leads to coordinate planning, implementation and reporting for the project, including organizing meetings (virtual or in-person) as needed;
- Track and report time-effort to Health Program financial programmatic staff;
- Coordinate with Senior One Health Advisor to review monitoring and evaluation (M&E) metrics to meet objectives according to the technical proposal;
- Prepare updates for quarterly reports related to position activities;
- Liaise with other WCS staff globally working on CWT and wildlife health issues;

Requirements:

This position requires a minimum of the following:

- A degree in Veterinary Medicine;
- At least 5 years of work experience in veterinary care, capture and handling, and management of wildlife, ideally in multiple countries with multiple taxa, and ideally with wildlife confiscated from trade;
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- Knowledge of best-practice protocols for handling, transport and care of confiscated live wildlife;
- Some knowledge of wildlife forensics;
- Strong interpersonal skills with proven ability to work across cultures;
- Fluency in English;
- High level of organizational planning skills;

- Ability to work well independently and as part of a team;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Experience in developing and delivering training materials;

Preferred but not required:

- Experience working on projects related to environmental crime and legislation
- Experience coordinating with national government staff and stakeholders working in Counter Wildlife Trafficking;
- Experience working in any of the project countries
- Spanish

Application Process:

Interested candidates who meet the above qualifications should send a cover letter and CV to: fvpnewyork@wcs.org and lkeatts@wcs.org by November 21, 2022.

WCS is an equal opportunity employer and the organization complies with all employment and labor laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination in hiring and ensures that candidates from all backgrounds are fairly and consistently considered during the recruitment process. We are dedicated to hiring and supporting a diverse workforce. We are committed to cultivating an inclusive work environment and look for future team members who share that same value

The organization provides equal employment opportunities for all qualified candidates. The organization does not discriminate for employment based on age, color, disability, gender identify, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by laws and regulations

Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview.