



JOB DESCRIPTION

Position:	REDD+ Research & Impact Advisor
Reports to:	Conservation Impact Technical Advisor
Location:	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Country Program/Sector:	Global Conservation Program – Greater Mekong
Position Type:	Full-time
Internal liaison:	Landscape Technical Manager, KSWS Deputy Country Director Project Manager, Keo Seima Community and Impact Strategic Advisor Community and REDD+ Manager, Eastern Plains
Expected travel:	Approximately 40% to Mondulhiri Province

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 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. WCS is now working towards a greater role in governance and management for Indigenous peoples in the landscape.

The KSWS REDD+ strategy places research at the center of all activities being implemented at the site, to support continuous learning in collaboration with community, government, and civil society partners. To achieve this, the Research & Impact team has built a portfolio of research projects and activities in partnership with Indigenous communities, civil society, and with national and international universities. A particular focus is building partnership with Indigenous peoples to co-produce knowledge for collaboration, including designing benefit sharing mechanisms, understanding drivers of land use change, and understanding the impacts of the REDD+ project on

partner communities. A significant focus is building capacity for interdisciplinary conservation research in Cambodia.

Position Summary:

WCS seeks an experienced social scientist to play a leading role in the Research & Impact team. As REDD+ Research & Impact Advisor, you will support and build a program of transdisciplinary research to inform the strategic direction of the program, inform program implementation, and to enable transformative change. You will use your social science skills to build collaboration across WCS teams and with partners to co-produce knowledge by directly implementing field-based research and building research capacity through collaboration with others. You will need to creatively deploy strategic thinking, a variety of research tools and strategies, clear communication, and excellent organizational skills and teamwork to balance competing and short-term knowledge demands with longer-term transformational research objectives and publications. A publication record or experience conducting qualitative or ethnographic research is particularly valued.

Primary Responsibilities:

1. Develop a transdisciplinary research program to support action, strategy, and transformation of the KSWs REDD+ program, including learning from existing activities.
2. Implement mixed methods field research drawing on diverse methodologies, including ethnographic and qualitative approaches.
3. Collaborate and communicate across WCS teams and with partners, ensuring co-production of new knowledge and that activities draw on available evidence.
4. Build partnerships and collaborative research programs with academic institutions, communities, government, and civil society partners.
5. Build capacity and understanding within the WCS program for social science. Support the Social Research Officer.
6. Assist in report and proposal writing and help identify additional potential funding opportunities to leverage external resources.
7. Capture research and learning in technical reports and academic papers to disseminate the team's work more broadly.

Position Requirements:

- A postgraduate degree in interdisciplinary or social science disciplines
- At least 5 years' experience conducting social research, with a track record of producing high quality research.
- Critical and reflexive thinker, familiar with questions around ethics, equity, and justice in conservation research.
- Excellent data management and analytical skills, including qualitative, quantitative and/or statistical analyses.
- Knowledgeable about conservation and rural development issues in Cambodia.
- Experience connecting or applying research results to design or implementation of policy and working with different stakeholders
- Ability to communicate clearly and confidently, including experience delivering presentations and training.
- Excellent writing skills, including academic papers and research reports.
- Khmer fluency and good standard of English required. Interested in learning Bunong.