# JOB DESCRIPTION

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| **Position**: | Project Coordinator (Wildlife Health) |
| **Reports to**: | WCS Cambodia Country Director; Regional Technical Advisor (Health Program, Greater Mekong and South Asia) |
| **Location:** | Phnom Penh, Cambodia |
| **Country Program/Sector**: | Global Conservation Program Asia – Mekong region/WCS Cambodia Program |
| **Position Type**: | Full-Time |
| **Expected travel**: | Periodic travel to work in other work locations, districts, and provinces as required. |

**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 established programs in all the countries of the Greater Mekong, and in Bangladesh and India in South Asia. These are focused on long-term commitments to large landscapes, particularly in the Greater Mekong countries of Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand. Wildlife, livestock, and human diseases will likely have a significant impact on the future development of sustainable land uses, protected areas, transboundary natural resource management, other biodiversity conservation approaches, and livelihood opportunities in landscapes across the region. Our work at the interface of wildlife, domestic animal, and human health has demonstrated that a One Health approach can build new constituencies for conservation and strengthen existing ones, while mitigating a key threat to conservation.

Cambodia hosts some of the most important global priority regions for biodiversity conservation and supports some of the most threatened waterbird species in the world. Its forests and wetlands provide a natural barrier against the emergence of future zoonotic pandemics. However, current deforestation rates, livestock encroachment, and wildlife trade trends make Cambodia and the region a global hot-spot most vulnerable to biodiversity loss. In 2021 and 2022, Cambodia experienced multiple mass mortalities of wild waterbirds due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Meanwhile, wild bird mortalities are being recorded globally in unprecedented numbers from HPAI, highlighting the urgent need for spillover risk reduction measures. We aim to create a

scalable model for Cambodia's wetlands via a network of informed and skilled communities taking collective action to reduce the risk of disease spillover at the poultry-waterbird interface, while protecting livelihoods and scaling up wildlife health surveillance.

**Job Summary:**
WCS Cambodia seeks a dynamic, motivated individual with a strong interest in wildlife conservation and addressing issues at the nexus of wildlife, domestic animal, and human health. The position will implement activities and achieve outcomes under a pilot project mitigating HPAI spillover risk at the domestic poultry-wild bird interface in two PAs. One Health approaches will be used to create a practical risk reduction model innovative to Cambodia's wetlands to reduce the risk of adverse health impacts on waterbird biodiversity while protecting agricultural livelihoods and food security.

**Major Responsibilities:**
- Conduct targeted HPAI surveillance and support existing networks designed to detect and validate reported wildlife morbidity/mortality events. Provide technical support to outbreak investigations in wild birds as needed.
- Collect and manage data using innovative tools.
- Participate in field assessments to develop a profile of farmers to identify entry points for poultry management interventions, awareness raising, and motivations for change.
- Co-design practical, low-cost poultry health and management measures with communities living and farming at the interface with wildlife in key biodiversity areas to reduce spillover risk and protect ecosystem integrity. HPAI is a priority pathogen of concern, but other health threats to waterbirds and poultry will be reduced directly or indirectly through project activities.
- Co-design economic safeguards for farmers to protect livelihoods in the face of the ongoing HPAI threat.
- Support communities and government partners in the evaluation of interventions.
- Explore opportunities for scaling interventions to other key waterbird habitats.
- Adhere to deliverables in a timely manner under project workplans
- Communicate and work closely with Regional Technical Advisor (Health Program), WCS Cambodia's Health team, and other programmatic staff in planning and implementing project activities.

**Minimum Requirements:**
- Minimum of Master's degree in animal health, agriculture, or a related discipline
- Veterinary degree (DVM or equivalent) is an asset
- Work experience in wildlife conservation or wildlife medicine, livestock management, wetland ecology, and/or disease ecology
- Demonstrated project management skills including workflow and budget drafting, prioritizing tasks across multiple project components, and delivering on deadlines
- Demonstrated writing and oral communication skills to liaise professionally with partners and effectively communicate project activities and findings, including to local/international scientific and lay audiences
- Comfortable working in complex (often outdoor) settings; an ability to adapt approaches to local cultures and project situation, while maintaining a high professional standard
- Team-player, motivated, and collegial
- English and Khmer language proficiency required