

**Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Cambodia Program**

JOB DESCRIPTION

Name :
Position : Research Student
Project : USAID-Feed the Future
Duty station : Sre Ambel town
Report to : Som Sitha

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BACKGROUND:

The Sre Ambel River system, in southwestern Cambodia, holds the last remaining population of the Critically Endangered Royal Turtle and many other globally threatened species as well as fisheries resources. WCS has been working with the Cambodian Fisheries Administration (FiA) for the last 20 years to conserve the Royal Turtle. Recently, MSU has been working with WCS to identify potential fisheries resources for conservation and community livelihood opportunities within the river system. As a result, fishing villages along the Sre Ambel River are implementing changes in how fisheries are managed (initiating cooperative management agreements and instituting subsistence aquaculture). This research will be conducted in partnership with MSU, WCS, and a Cambodian university to implement and use of a citizen-science platform for collecting data on the subsistence fishery. The proposed research will help determine how these management changes affect the fishery.

PURPOSE OF POSITION:

The selected student will be able to conduct research for the project and their MSc thesis.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The student will help develop a fish identification key for local fishes, train fishers on data collection, collect and compile data on fish harvest, and conduct analyses on fisheries harvest. The student will work toward a M.S. degree at the partner university in Cambodia and will be co-advised by a professor therein and Drs. Correa and Neal (MSU).

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCES:

- Bachelor's degree in fisheries, ecology, biology, livestock science, food science or related field. Research experience is preferred.
- Students must have earned their bachelor's degree within the last year, be unemployed, and be proficient in reading and writing English, as the thesis will be prepared and presented in English.
- Student time will be split between Sre Ambel and the university; a housing allowance will be provided for lodging at the Sre Ambel.
- Undergraduate transcripts (unofficial are fine, English translation preferred).
- Certificate of English proficiency (e.g., TOEFL scores \geq 550 PBT or \geq 79 iBT or IELTS \geq 6.5. or similar exam scores).
- Cover letter stating interest in the graduate assistantship position and long-term career goals.
- Curriculum vitae including names and contact information for three references.

As well as any and all other work assignments, duties, and/or functions as WCS or its management may designate or instruct in the course of its operation, which may include assignments, duties, and/or functions that vary from the above.