



Research Consultant to Support the WCS 2024 Uganda Wildlife Trafficking Assessment Report

Expression of Interest Deadline: July 30, 2024

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.

Wildlife trafficking is a major threat to ecological integrity and is at the heart of three planetary crises: Biodiversity loss, climate change and emerging zoonotic pathogens. Wildlife trafficking also undermines local livelihoods, weakens the rule of law, exacerbates corruption, provides revenue for violent armed groups and organized crime syndicates, and is recognized as a global security threat. WCS works to reduce the threat of wildlife trafficking across the globe through counter-wildlife trafficking (CWT) activities including in Uganda.

Uganda boasts a rich biodiversity and fast-growing population. Increasingly these characteristics are coming into conflict as growing demand for basic services clashes with forest resources. Weak governance, limited employment opportunities, poverty and lack of awareness are some of the threats that undermine Uganda's biodiversity and are major contributors to the problem of wildlife trafficking.

To address the above threats, WCS, with funding support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is implementing the USAID/Uganda Combating Wildlife Crime (CWC) Activity in partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and Royal United Services Institute (RUSI). The goal of this activity is to reduce wildlife crime in Uganda.

Scope of Work

WCS is seeking a Uganda-based research consultant to support the development of the 2024 Uganda Wildlife Trafficking Assessment Report. The goal of the report is to assess the illegal wildlife supply chain in Uganda, and the country's role as a transit point for international wildlife trafficking. This work will include an examination of local legislative and international frameworks aimed at tackling wildlife trafficking and an evaluation of the current wildlife crime situation in two Ugandan protected areas (PAs), Murchison Falls National Park and Queen Elizabeth National Park. The Wildlife Trafficking Assessment report aims to build on the previous 2018 [Uganda Wildlife Trafficking Assessment Report](#) by examining the current situation and assessing the changing wildlife trafficking landscape in Uganda.

The Uganda-based research consultant will work closely with the global CWT team and WCS Uganda program and provide important contributions to the following tasks:

- Conduct a comprehensive all-source literature review within the scope of the project.
- Stakeholder analysis and engagement.
- Expert elicitation interviews.
- Collection and analysis of protected area management data and information (as it relates to wildlife trafficking).
- Drafting the WCS 2024 Uganda Wildlife Trafficking Assessment Report.

Requirements

- Demonstrable expertise and proven experience working on contemporary wildlife trafficking issues in Uganda and Africa.
- Knowledge of wildlife crime issues within Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth National Parks.
- Proven high level research and analysis skills in the area of wildlife crime.
- Exceptional communication and interpersonal skills to effectively engage with a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Excellent English language verbal and written communication skills.

Applications

Interested applicants should submit a statement of capacity that demonstrates your ability and expertise to undertake this consultancy, a CV outlining previous experience, expected daily rate, and at least three references from previous clients or employers confirming proficiency with similar projects **by 30th July 2024**. Submissions should be no more than 2 pages long and emailed to wcsuganda@wcs.org and copy gmwedde@wcs.org.

Questions should be submitted via email **by 26th July 2024** to dweekers@wcs.org

Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.