



The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is an international non-governmental environmental organization that has been operating in Uganda for more than 50 years. WCS works to conserve biological diversity and ecosystem function through applied research, management of natural resources, and providing technical support to Ugandan organizations and agencies.

Herpetologist

Terms of Reference

WCS Country Program: Uganda

Project Background

Political instability in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Burundi, Ethiopia, among others has resulted in a sharp increase in the refugee population in Uganda. This is leading to accelerated loss of forest cover and vegetation in refugee-hosting communities in Uganda. In a bid to address environmental degradation in refugee-hosting districts of Uganda, Uganda Biodiversity Fund (UBF) in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Nature-Uganda (NU), and Ecological Christian Organization (ECO) received a grant from the **European Union** to implement a four (4) year project titled ***“Restoring and Conserving degraded fragile ecosystems for improved Community Livelihoods among the Refugee and Host Communities of West Nile Region and the mid-Albertine Rift”***. The project is aimed at mitigating effects of refugees population on the forests, woodlands and bushlands, and wetlands losses, for improving livelihoods of refugee-hosting communities in the West Nile and Western Uganda refugee hosting districts of Yumbe and Terego, and Kikuube, Kyegegwa, and Kamwenge respectively.

As part of the project, a baseline ecological survey is a key activity to be undertaken before implementation of project interventions. WCS, working closely with project partners, will take lead on the survey. The purpose for the survey is to establish general species occurrence/variation and where possible species abundance. The taxa that will be considered for the survey include: Birds, Plants, herpetofauna, butterflies and dragon flies. To this end, WCS using funds from a sub award from UBF, is seeking the services of a herpetologist in Uganda to lead on the component of Amphibians and Reptiles in the pre-selected sites in Western Uganda and West Nile region.

Objective and scope of the consultancy

The objective of the consultancy is to establish Amphibians and Reptiles species occurrence/variation and abundance in pre-selected sites. The following below constitute the tasks:

1. Develop a succinct survey methodology for Amphibians and Reptiles species in the pre-selected sites;
2. Undertake refresher trainings to two research assistants who will constitute your survey team;
3. Work and guide two research assistants to undertake field activities to survey the Amphibians and Reptiles;
4. Identify and document the threat status for the species in the pre-selected sites;
5. Working closely with WCS clean and analyse the data from the field;

6. Write reports.

Deliverables

- Proposal that describes the methods & approach to the survey & a price quote.
- Draft report with compressive analysis of the data from Western Uganda survey sites by the third week of June 2021.
- A final consolidated report for the entire survey of Amphibians and Reptiles acceptable by WCS within two weeks after collection of data.
- Data sets from all the surveyed sites after all the fieldwork.

Timing for the survey

WCS will share the pre-selected sites/areas and schedule for the field for both Western Uganda and West Nile regions. WCS expects the consultant to spend 57 man days on this assignment over a period of 3 months. This task may include you spending time together with the field assistants of at least 10 days in both regions.

Qualifications, skills, and competencies required

The consultant will have:

- a) At least a master's degree in the field of zoology, natural resource management, or a similar field.
- b) At least 7 years' experience leading on herpetofauna surveys and biodiversity monitoring.
- c) Knowledge of butterfly and dragon flies' endemic species of western Uganda and West Nile regions.

Budget

The overall cost/price quote of this consultancy should exclude the total cost (professional fees and direct costs) of survey assistants.

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The overall cost/price quote of this consultancy should only cover professional fees, transport to the field, and accommodation for the consultant. WCS will provide all the materials for the survey.

Submission

The proposal should describe the methods/approach to the survey, the CV of the consultant, and a price quote per day to cover professional fees, transport to the field, and accommodation. The deadline for submission is Tuesday, 25th May 2021, 17:00 EAT. Applications should be sent to mnyago@wcs.org and a copy to snampindo@wcs.org.