



Position Description

Government and Stakeholder Engagement Manager

Uganda Albert REDD+ Project

Country Program: Uganda

Position Location: Kampala with 10% travel to project area

Reports to: Uganda Country Director

Coordinates with: Conservation Solutions staff including REDD+ Project Manager, Regional Carbon Advisor, Regional Safeguards Specialist, Forestry Advisor, National Technical Project Experts etc.

Employment Period: 2 year renewable depending on performance and availability of funds

Expected Start Date: Immediately

About Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a US non-profit, tax-exempt 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.

Project Background:

WCS together with its partners the National Forestry Authority (NFA) and Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) are developing a large-scale avoided deforestation program situated in the Albertine Rift Region of Western Uganda across 24 Central Forest Reserves and two forest blocks jointly managed by NFA and the Uganda Wildlife Authority (MWE) covering over 220,000 hectares. The proposed project is in its advanced stages of being developed following the Voluntary Carbon Standards (VCS) and the Climate Community and Biodiversity Standards (CCB). The project is proposed to be financed through a long-term agreement with a private sector entity in advance of future creation of verified emission reductions. Implementation of the project over a projected period of 25-30 years has the potential to generate over 16 million carbon credits recognized by the Verified Carbon Standard. These emission reductions will also directly contribute to the country's NDC commitments.

The Government of Uganda has committed to the conservation of natural resources, species and habitats, with about 20% of the land area protected. However, a lack of financial resources has prevented effective forest protection. It is expected that in absence of the project, deforestation will continue to result in expanded clearance into protected forests thus permanently reducing the available forest habitats for biodiversity of national and global importance. Therefore, there is growing need to increase the level of financing to cover the finance gap for adequate protection of the remaining forest, restoration of degraded areas, and provision of alternatives for local communities. REDD+ provides an opportunity to bridge the financing gap in the long-term.

The overall goal of the project is to employ upfront carbon financing to halt further loss of remaining forests in protected areas (Central Forest Reserves managed by National Forest

Authority) and to restore currently non-forested portions with significant biodiversity and community benefits. The Albert REDD+ Project will strengthen capacity of NFA to manage protected areas, protect remaining forested areas, and improve community responsiveness and benefits accruing from increased participation and collaboration in forest management.

The project proposes two broad categories of interventions under which activities have been developed and will be implemented. These are:

1. Measures to avoided deforestation in state forests
2. The promotion of forest restoration in state forests

The project design is in an advanced stage of development and extensive engagement has taken place between WCS, NFA, MWE, and other government agencies over the last 2.5 years. A draft VCS/CCB Project Document has been developed by WCS and NFA. Detailed engagement and discussions are now being held between NFA, WCS, and a potential private sector financier.

Position Description

The Government and Stakeholder Engagement Manager will be primarily responsible to lead engagement, collaboration, and discussions with NFA, MWE, other government agencies, and the private sector potential project financier. The position will work closely with the WCS Country Director, WCS Uganda team, and the WCS Regional and Global team. Once the project is operational, the position will also be responsible for all additional engagement with national, regional, and local government along with other stakeholders engaged and affected by the project.

Duties and responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

Government Engagement – Agreement Development

- Update and lead government engagement strategy;
- Manage all interactions with government entities and personnel;
- Coordinate work of the multi-agency Project Development Team and any other associated government led project agreement development team;
- Responsible for coordinating all engagement with NFA, MWE, and other government agencies, in liaison with the NFA project focal point;
- Responsible for convening relevant government staff for project development meetings with the private sector company;
- Assist and coordinate the development of any relevant documents for government input, review, and approval;
- During agreement development stage, engaging with WCS finance and legal teams in the development of potential agreement terms;
- During agreement development stage, work closely with NFA technical, legal, and finance departments in co-development of legal agreements between NFA and private sector company;
- Assist in the development of all government engagement aspects of the project, including the further development and implementation of benefit sharing mechanisms.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Design and lead ongoing stakeholder engagement strategy;

- Develop and manage engagements with all relevant stakeholders;
- Identifying and leading engagement with potential third-party service providers.

Training and communication

- Represent WCS at partners/donors' meetings, and scientific seminars and conferences;
- In collaboration with WCS regional and global staff, creating and conducting capacity building materials on potential contractual and financial agreement terms for NFA and other government entities;
- Assist in the creation of training tools that will support capacity building; organize training workshops in coordination with the Project Team and ensure adequate preparation of training events and prepare a report on the workshop results;
- Participate in conferences or events (webinars, in person meetings) to present on project activities and results. Assist in the preparation of presentations for other members of the team;
- Assist in development of communication materials.

Requirements

- A postgraduate qualification (Minimum MSc.) in a relevant discipline (e.g. natural sciences, environmental sciences, public policy and governance, business administration, landscape ecology, ecosystem accounting, environmental economics, conservation planning or related field);
- At least seven (7) years working experience in stakeholder and government engagement;
- Demonstrated facilitation skills and ability to conduct and build partnerships and collaborative programs among different stakeholders, and specifically between government entities and a non-governmental organization;
- Demonstrated experience in collaboration with the Uganda National Forest Authority, Uganda Wildlife Authority, District Local governments, and MWE strongly preferable;
- Experience in working on complex programmes with multiple and diverse implementation partners and stakeholders - including governments, private sector, NGOs, consultants and local communities;
- Knowledge of the history of climate change and REDD+ readiness history in Uganda strongly preferable, but not required;
- Demonstrated knowledge of the environmental and wildlife conservation laws, policies, national and global multinational environmental agreements is desirable.
- Awareness with carbon crediting processes, voluntary market mechanisms, and national and international governance processes covering forest carbon emissions, sequestration and storage preferable, but not required.

Prospective applicants should send a cover letter, C.V. and three (3) referees to wcsuganda@wcs.org and indicate "Application for Government & Stakeholder Engagement Manager" in the subject line. Deadline for submission of applications is September 30th, 2022. Detailed Terms of Reference (ToRs) and other application instructions and requirements can be accessed via <https://uganda.wcs.org/AboutUs/Opportunities.aspx>