

January 12, 2021

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INVESTIGATIVE RESEARCH CONSULTANCY INTO LION KILLINGS BY COMMUNITIES

Project: Building a long term community partnership to mitigate human-lion conflict in Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda

Organization: Wildlife Conservation Society

Procurement Type: Consultancy Services

Duration: Two Months

BACKGROUND

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is an international conservation organization headquartered in New York and works in over 60 countries worldwide. WCS' mission is to save wildlife and wild places through science, conservation action and education; build partnerships with communities and national governments to protect species of national and global importance; and increase benefits to, and inspire people to value nature. In Uganda, WCS has been supporting the government of Uganda to conserve wildlife since 1957. WCS Uganda Country Program runs species-specific conservation programs and one of them is lion conservation in both Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP) and Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP). WCS is seeking the services of a consultant to conduct an investigative research into the triggers and motivations for lion killings by communities living adjacent to QENP. WCS is committed to support the government of Uganda to recover its lion population and deliver high benefits to society as well as ensure stable ecosystems. However, WCS fully recognizes the importance of building a long-term relationship with communities to design and implement sustainable human-lion conflict mitigation measures.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this consultancy is to carry out an in-depth community survey on the drivers of human-lion conflicts and the motivation behind the killing of lions within and outside the park to facilitate the design the most effective community-led intervention to mitigate human-lion conflicts and stop the loss of lions in QENP attributed to retaliatory killings.

SCOPE OF WORK

The study will be conducted among communities living inside and around QENP in South Western Uganda. Key priority communities will include, but are not limited to the eleven fishing villages (i.e. Kahendero, Hamukungu, L. Katwe, Kayanja, Kazinga, Katunguru Kasese, and Rubirizi, Kashaka, Kisenyi, Rwenshama), pastoralist communities of Nyakatonzi, Muhokya, Ishasha customs among others. The consultant will also conduct interviews with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) staff of QENP, fisheries, local government staff

and customs officers at Bwera and Ishasha border posts, traditional herbalists and healers. This work will involve travel to Queen Elizabeth National Park to meet and talk to the key stakeholders listed above.

The consultant is expected to collect information that will respond to the following components:

1. Key drivers or causes of human-wildlife conflict and the motivation behind the killing of lions around QENP;
2. Identify individuals or categories of people involved or advocating for killing of lions and establish their networks;
3. Identify the methods, types of weapons, drugs used to kill lions and the source of these weapons and drugs;
4. Identify the poisoning techniques used by the criminals;
5. Establish the relationship between poaching, bushmeat hunting and lion killings;
6. Where are the lions killed most: inside or outside the park;
7. Investigate the myth, perceptions and traditional and religious values attached to lions and their parts;
8. Capture stories of human-wildlife conflict around QENP and how communities deal with them; and
9. Identify champions or change agents in the community for WCS to engage during the implementation of its lion conservation program.

DELIVERABLES

The consultant will deliver the following:

- i. An inception report containing clear details of the research approach or methodology, professional background of key personnel and their experience in conducting similar work, work plan detailing the activities to be conducted and timelines;
- ii. Draft report, in line with the specified scope of work
- iii. Present the findings to WCS staff for feedback and input
- iv. Documented stories (written and videos) of community encounters with lions and conflict mitigation experiences;
- v. Final report both in hard copy and electronic form

DURATION

The assignment is expected to last 20 days of effective work spread over two months starting 1st February 2021.

REPORTING AND ASSURANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

The Consultant will liaise with WCS lion conservation staff based in QENP and at its Head Office in Kampala. The consultant will report directly to the Communications Manager and the Country Director. All reports will be submitted in English. The consultant will be required to follow professional and



ethical standards of conducting ethnographical studies as well as seek consent of interviewees participating in the study and ensure confidentiality of information provided by participating individuals by protecting and keeping their identities anonymous.

Consultant(s) qualifications, skills and experience

The consultant must have the following minimum qualifications and experiences:

1. Bachelor's degree in anthropology, ethnography or journalism with strong experience in conducting investigative research. Must have training in visual and digital methods of collecting data and information. A master's degree or specialized training in investigative journalism will be an added advantage.
2. Strong interpersonal, communication and probing skills;
3. Familiar with conducting undercover investigations;
4. At least 7 years' experience as an investigative journalist or similar field with a track record of conducting similar work;
5. Strong track record in feature story telling or data mining and content analysis;
6. The consultant should have sound knowledge and experience of working with local communities and a good understanding of the local languages, particularly Runyakitara, Rukonjo, Rutooro and Swahili;
7. Share three examples of work that demonstrates the consultant's skills of conducting similar work;
8. Familiarity with collecting and compiling stories related to a complex and illegal matter
9. Competence in working with digital, print and social media platforms.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Qualified candidates are requested to submit a cover letter, CV, and three samples of investigative work, three page concept, including the financial proposal for the work to Email: wcsuganda@wcs.org copying Lkiggwe@wcs.org with subject line "Lion Research" by close of business on 22nd January 2021.

Address:

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