



CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is the world's largest on the ground conservation organization that has been operating in Uganda for more than 60 years. WCS works to conserve biological diversity and ecosystems through applied research, conservation education, and provision of technical assistance to the government of Ugandan while inspiring people to value nature

Project Background

WCS's core business is to conserve wildlife and wild places while working in partnership with several organizations including government institutions mandated to manage and conserve biodiversity in Uganda. The government of Uganda and its development partners have invested hugely towards the conservation of biodiversity and the protection of the environment. However, due to the increasing human population driving forest and wetland loss, these natural resources face an enormous threat from people, including refugees fleeing countries experiencing civil unrest such as DR Congo, South Sudan, Burundi, Ethiopia, among others. Political instability in these countries has resulted in a sharp increase in the refugee population in Uganda leading to the accelerated loss of forest cover and vegetation in refugee-hosting communities. In a bid to address environmental degradation in refugee-hosting districts of Uganda, **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)** through **Uganda Biodiversity Fund (UBF)**, and in partnership with **Nature Uganda (NU)**, and **Ecological Christian Organization (ECO)** received a grant from the **European Union** towards implementation of 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 forests, woodlands, bushlands, and wetlands losses, and improve the livelihoods of refugee-hosting communities. The project's focus is on; the restoration of degraded forests, woodlands, bushlands, and wetlands; supporting sustainable land management practices such as climate-smart agriculture, soil and water conservation measures, and; building capacity of refugee host communities, relevant governmental and non-governmental institutions responsible for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and improving environmental planning concerning refugee settlements in the West Nile region (districts of Yumbe and Terego) and western Uganda (Kikuube, Kyegegwa, and Kamwenge district).

As part of the project, a baseline ecological/biological survey was planned, and data collection for different taxa has been partially done by WCS while working closely with project partners. The purpose of the survey is to establish the baseline general species occurrence/variation and where possible species abundance in the proposed project area, before the start of project activities. The taxa that have been considered for the survey include; Birds, Plants, herpetofauna, butterflies, and dragonflies. As such WCS is seeking services of highly qualified and experienced Individuals; **a) herpetologist**, and **b) a butterflies and dragonflies expert** to validate surveyed data from pre-selected survey points in the project areas of Western Uganda, particularly the districts of Kikuube, Kyegegwa, and Kamwenge as well as the districts of Yumbe and Terego in the West Nile region.

A) Herpetologist

The objective of the consultancy is to validate collected raw data on Amphibians and Reptiles species occurrence/variation and abundance in pre-selected sites. The following will constitute the tasks:

1. Develop a succinct survey methodology to validate the data on Amphibians and Reptiles species in the pre-selected survey points within the project area;
2. Undertake fieldwork to validate the data on Amphibians and Reptiles species in the pre-selected survey points;
3. Identify and document the threat status for the species in the pre-selected sites;
4. Working closely with WCS, clean and analyse the data from the field;
5. Write reports;
6. Take part in some project partner meetings to present and critique survey findings.

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 of experience leading on herpetofauna surveys and biodiversity monitoring.
- c) Knowledge of Amphibians and Reptiles endemic species of western Uganda and West Nile regions.
- d) Strong technical report writing, and verbal communication skills.

B) Butterflies and dragonflies expert

The objective of the consultancy is to validate collected raw data on butterflies and dragonflies species occurrence/variation and abundance in pre-selected sites. The following will constitute the tasks:

1. Develop a succinct survey methodology to validate the data on butterflies and dragonflies species in the pre-selected survey points within the project area;
2. Undertake fieldwork to validate the data on butterflies and dragonflies species in the pre-selected survey points;
3. Identify and document the threat status for the species in the pre-selected sites;
4. Working closely with WCS, clean and analyse the data from the field;
5. Write reports;
6. Take part in some project partner meetings to present and critique survey findings.

Qualifications, skills, and competencies required

The consultant will have:

- a) At least a master's degree in the field of zoology, entomology, or a similar field.
- b) At least 10 years experience leading on insects particularly butterflies and dragonflies surveys and biodiversity monitoring.
- c) Knowledge of butterflies and dragonflies endemic species of western Uganda and West Nile regions.
- d) Strong technical report writing, and verbal communication skills.

Duration for both opportunities

WCS will share raw data from the pre-selected sites/areas with the selected herpetologist and butterflies and dragonflies expert to sample and validate. WCS expects the selected consultants for the taxa (herpetofauna & butterflies and dragonflies) to each spend 30 days on the assignment spread in one and half months. This will include the selected consultants spending time not less than a total of 10 days in the field in both regions.

Deliverables

- Each consultant shall:
 - A) submit a report with compressive analysis of the data from all the sites acceptable by WCS.
 - B) Data sets from all the sampled survey points for validation.

Submission

Interested qualified and experienced individuals should send their application documents i.e. an expression of interest letter, Curriculum Vitae, and a technical narrative that describes the methods & approach to validate the data and the financial cost of conducting the work to wcsuganda@wcs.org and a copy to mnyago@wcs.org. The proposal should also include a consolidated price quote per day that covers professional fees, transport to the field, and accommodation for the consultant. The deadline for submission is **Friday 15th October 2021, at 5:00 pm Ugandan time.**