Consultancy Terms of Reference
Data Analysis

Division: Global Conservation Program (GCP), Andes, Amazon &
                                             Orinoco (AAO) region
Location: AAO region . Bolivia or Colombia preferred locations
Key internal relationships: Technical regional staff (GIS, Forests, Freshwater and
                                             Wildlife Trafficking) and Country Program science leads.
Focal point to monitor deliverables: AAO Senior Conservation Scientist.

Background

The WCS AAO region is formed by five country programs – Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru. Given the vast expanse and transboundary nature of many of the threats faced in this region, such as illegal logging, deforestation, wildlife trafficking and illegal gold mining, WCS also has several regional programs and cross-cutting teams that provide technical and operational assistance to our country programs.

WCS's way of working is characterized by a science-based approach to plan, prioritize, monitor, evaluate and adaptively manage its conservation intervention strategies. In the AAO region, we have a strong track record in conducting conservation science, particularly through leading or supporting in-country and range-wide initiatives for managing flagship species, such as jaguar, Andean condor and Andean bear, and environmental monitoring through the Amazon Measures initiative. These results have been translated into species action plans and site management plans to bring about improved conservation interventions and gains. Our work also places a strong emphasis on supporting regional networks of scientists and ensuring a high capacity for conducting applied research. To further strengthen these efforts and expedite and advance our work around area-based planning and management, under the 30x30 initiative for the Tropical Andes and Western Amazon, the WCS AAO Program is seeking a Data Analyst to work with our country program scientists.

The Data Analyst will be a core member of the WCS AAO Science Working Group and work closely with this team to: 1) Provide critical thinking and advanced analyses for the WCS AAO 30x30 initiative and its aims of identifying, creating and assessing the management of protected areas, conservation areas, other effective area-based conservation measures, and indigenous territories; 2) Support WCS AAO efforts to raise capacity within our teams and the broader conservation community (particularly through our 30x30 partnership), through running training workshops and supervising research projects; and, 3) Support WCS AAO in publishing high-quality research that directly informs regional management and policy outcomes towards achieving the 30x30 goals, including disseminating findings to policy makers, conservation area managers and planners.

Tasks

The Consultant will work with the WCS AAO team to provide support in the following tasks,

Technical
- Identify the priority conservation questions to be answered through applied research at relevant ecological scales to advance our 30x30 work based on habitat, species and threat modelling, and produce research concept notes for conducting this research.
- Support or lead on data processing and analysis, working with assigned WCS staff, to conduct high-quality and timely research, as assigned.
- Support the presentation of our scientific research in partner meetings, seminars and conferences.
- Support the publication of key research findings in peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts.
- Compile and manage the WCS 30x30 database and ensure the timely submission of project data to the global WCMC database.
- Participate in WCS AAO meetings on research partnerships with national and international academic institutions/NGOs and, in consultation with Country Programs, develop new multi-disciplinary partnerships and generate ideas for future research collaborations.
- Support project proposal development with advanced analyses, tables and graphs.
- Provide technical inputs to the WCS communication specialists to design compelling communication pieces, such as infographics and story maps, and disseminate these scientific outputs to a wide audience.

Training and capacity building
- Support measures to build the capacity of WCS staff in data analysis techniques and use of R software by identifying training needs and, based on this, designing and running training courses.
- Lead on the delivery of a Scientific Manuscript Writing Workshop for WCS staff and partners, and assist the participants progress their manuscripts towards submission.
- Run a stats helpdesk for WCS staff, providing inputs to field survey designs and analyses for qualitative and quantitative research.
- Assist in arranging monthly science virtual lunch talks for WCS staff and partners.

Outputs

These tasks will lead to the following consultant outputs,
- A summary report listing the priority research questions and a short description of the research to be conducted (by Month 2)
- Bi-monthly reports on the data analyses being conducted and their associated outputs (results tables, graphs, r-scripts, and descriptive text for methods and results), for review and approval of the supervisor.
- Evidence of technical support for the development of presentations, draft manuscripts, concept notes, proposals and communication pieces (short monthly updates).
- Up-to-date database containing the 30x30 entries to the global WCMC database (Quarterly).
- Participation in monthly WCS AAO meetings on research (concept, active projects and partnerships).

- A data analysis training needs assessment, one set of training materials and delivery of at least two data analysis training workshops for WCS staff (by Month 10).
- Host at least four monthly science talks for WCS AAO staff.

Time requirements
The consultancy is for a full year.

Qualifications
- A postgraduate degree in the environmental sciences or related discipline, including in-depth statistical analyses.
- >5 years' experience in advanced level data analysis, modelling and interpretation.
- Excellent problem-solving skills and wide knowledge of different data analysis techniques.
- Expertise in statistical packages, especially R, data visualization software and ability to use GIS software.
- Passion for data analysis and database management.
- A clear understanding of the ethics of gathering and working with data.
- Proven track record in science publishing and research collaborations.
- Ability to work effectively within diverse teams and also independently, with attention paid to deadlines.
- Fluency in Spanish and, preferably, proficiency in Portuguese and English.

Please a submit CV and documents to prove experience in data analysis up to 30th November 2023 . Subject LASTNAMEXXX_Data Consultancy to email: seleccionaao@wcs.org