

Job Description – Latin America Regional Wildlife Trafficking Coordinator

Location: Latin America, in one of WCS's country offices in the region

Start date: Immediate, pending selection of candidate

Duration: Position funded for 2 years but contract extendable depending on performance and funding

Background

Trade in wildlife and their parts is a growing threat to species conservation in Latin America, exacerbates corruption, and undermines the rule of law. Much of the trade is increasingly being driven by international demand, primarily from Asia and the Middle East, and is coordinated by organized transnational criminal networks. WCS is responding in select countries by monitoring wildlife trade at markets, supporting development of government anti-trafficking strategies and actions, and in limited cases supporting law enforcement responses. The organization is seeking to strengthen its response to the conservation threat posed by wildlife trafficking by recruiting a regional expert to coordinate these efforts, build on them, expand our impact regionally, and influence policy and donor attention to the region at the global level.

Position Objective

The Wildlife Conservation Society seeks to employ a regional wildlife trafficking coordinator to manage a growing portfolio of projects in the region that address this challenge and to provide expertise to country programs in the areas of law enforcement and the dismantling of trafficking networks. The objective of this position is to support the long-term conservation of wildlife species through strengthening our response in Latin America to the illegal trade in - and demand for - wildlife and wildlife products. The Latin America Wildlife Trafficking Coordinator will lead the building and implementation of a coherent strategy to tackle international wildlife trafficking across Latin America, establishing robust and effective partnerships with key actors addressing the problems of international wildlife trafficking, assisting with the development and implementation of international policy strategies, and building donor relationships to strengthen and grow our efforts in Latin America. The coordinator will also provide technical expertise, especially by facilitating training and capacity-building throughout the Latin American region and will coordinate WCS's increasing engagement in intelligence sharing and related data management.

Responsibilities

The position will be responsible for building and coordinating a strategic regional wildlife trade program, which will require the following:

- Coordinate the implementation of existing wildlife trafficking projects, ensuring LACP delivers expected performance
- Work with regional staff, country directors, and New York-based staff to address wildlife trafficking priorities in Latin American and develop a strategy for addressing this growing challenge in the region.
- Train and mentor WCS field staff in developing comprehensive responses to wildlife trafficking
- Support country programs to deliver technical assistance to government partners, including by providing expertise and expert training as appropriate
- Oversee the deployment and implementation of intelligence management software in the region, including appropriate training

- Design and coordinate monitoring programs to measure effectiveness of the above interventions.
- Coordinate with WCS Director of Risk and Insurance on risk assessment strategy and help ensure that staff working on trade issues are aware of the risks, and manage them effectively within the region.
- Lead the development and implementation of Latin America-specific wildlife trafficking policy recommendations (directed at intergovernmental organizations and treaties), and contribute to the development and implementation of WCS's global wildlife trafficking strategy.
- Produce and/or oversee the preparation of informational and analytic products on wildlife trafficking in Latin America for use by country programs and governmental partners, such as briefings and presentation, trafficker dossiers, situation reports, information sheets, infographics, etc.
- In coordination with the Latin America program leadership, country directors, and WCS's extended team of wildlife trafficking experts, improve engagement on wildlife trade issues with governmental and inter-governmental wildlife trade partners regionally, through representation at relevant national, regional and global events and meetings, particularly those directly related to trade and crime such as ROAVIS, INTERPOL, UNODC, CITES, WCO, and various host country and USG agencies in Latin America.
- Assist with fund-raising efforts for WCS's programs on wildlife trade in Latin America, identifying and enhancing support from existing and new sources, assisting in development of proposals and reports, building relationships with funders, in collaboration with Global Resources, Program Development and LACP staff and country programs.
- Serve as the focal point for the Latin America and Caribbean Program's wildlife trafficking efforts to the rest of the institution.
- Coordinate with Public Affairs staff and, as appropriate, Education Department and Exhibits and Graphic Arts Department to represent WCS's wildlife trafficking work in Latin America effectively in our outreach, education, online and messaging programs.

Reports to: Executive Director, Latin America & Caribbean Program (LACP), liaising closely with the Vice President of International Policy, and coordinating with LACP country directors and the extended WCS wildlife trafficking team, including peers in Africa and Asia regions.

Skills/Experience

- Project or program management experience, including demonstrated capacity in reporting on project activities and results
- At least 3 years experience in law enforcement, law, or related fields, preferably with a focus on environmental crime or illicit trafficking, and demonstrated knowledge of methods and techniques for wildlife trafficking law enforcement
- Knowledge of international trade flows
- Experience in technical assistant provision and capacity building.
- Excellence in Spanish and English (both written and oral); Portuguese desirable
- Location in Latin America or willingness to relocate
- Sincere interest and commitment to wildlife anti-trafficking
- Geographical knowledge of and relevant professional contact network in Latin America

To apply, please email your cover letter and CV to wclatinamerica@wcs.org.