



Position:	Turtle Program Lead – Turtle Survival Alliance
Reports to:	Species Coordinator – WCS Colombia Dotted line to Science and Conservation Director – WCS Colombia
Location:	Colombia
Area:	Species Program
Type of position:	Consultant with possibility to become staff
In Coordination with:	TSA Science and Conservation Director, TSA Conservation Genetics Director, Local Community leaders, WCS staff from the species program, WCS Coordinator of Rights and Communities, Spatial Analysis Coordinator.

The Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) have had a partnership since 2012, focused on the conservation of Colombia's most imperiled turtle species. During this time, the program has consolidated strong research and conservation initiatives for the Magdalena River Turtle (*Podocnemis lewyana*), the Giant South American River Turtle (*Podocnemis expansa*), Dahl's Toad-Headed Turtle (*Mesoclemmys dahli*), and Dunn's Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon dunnii*). Based on rigorous science and with the participation and leadership of local communities, these initiatives have yielded significant results. Populations of river turtles are stable or recovering in the Sinu and Meta Rivers, and Dahl's Turtle Headed Turtle is the subject of a genetic rescue program, a first of its kind project to reduce genetic inbreeding and recover connectivity across its populations. We collaborated to create a reserve (120ha) for the protection of this species in 2019 and since then have restored over 10 hectares of tropical dry forest habitat. For over a decade, our conservation initiatives have benefited communities in diverse regions of Colombia, like Cotocá arriba (Cordoba), La Virgen (Arauca), Chucuri (Santander), and Flechas (Córdoba). The program will continue to work for the conservation of these and other species, like the Red-footed Tortoise from northern Colombia (*Chelonoidis* spp.) and supporting research of other species that require assessments. For this tasks, we are looking for a dynamic, versatile, and passionate conservationist that can continue moving forward this already impactful program, help develop new projects, raise funds, conduct research, and work with the rest of team in WCS Colombia and TSA leading the turtle conservation program in Colombia.

Objectives

- 1) Oversee and contribute to the implementation of the conservation programs for the Magdalena River Turtle (*Podocnemis lewyana*), the Giant South American River Turtle (*Podocnemis expansa*), Dahl's Toad-Headed Turtle (*Mesoclemmys dahli*), and Dunn's Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon dunnii*).
- 2) Oversee and implement, all scientific, conservation, and logistic activities in the reserve "La Carranchina", focused on the recovery, genetic rescue, and conservation of Dahl's Toad Headed Turtle, the northern Red-footed Tortoise, and their habitat.
- 3) Coordinate and conduct population monitoring of the above mentioned species.
- 4) Help to design and implement a population reinforcement program for the northern Red-footed Tortoise in the reserve, and a conservation strategy and monitoring program for the species in Colombia.

- 5) Review and adjust conservation strategies for all the species with conservation initiatives in the program.
- 6) Help to raise funds for turtle and tortoise conservation in Colombia.
- 7) Develop a portfolio to promote and conduct research on the species from the program as well as other turtle or tortoise species for which there are important questions required for conservation action.
- 8) Interact with the TSA team to provide reports, updates, news, photographic material, etc.

Mínimum Requirements:

- Masters in Ecology, Wildlife Management, Conservation, or similar areas.
- Three years of experience leading conservation projects.
- Experience working with turtles or other vertebrates in Colombia.
- Experience managing budgets, overseeing, and leading teams.
- Fluent English (written and spoken)

Salary:

To be defined according to candidate's experience and CV.