



JOB DESCRIPTION

Position: Regional Communications Specialist
Office: Suva, Fiji
Division: Melanesia Regional Program
Reports to: Regional Director

Organization Background:

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a US non-profit, tax-exempt, private organization established in 1895 that saves wildlife and wild places by understanding critical issues, crafting science-based solutions, and taking conservation actions that benefit nature and humanity. With more than a century of experience, long-term commitments in dozens of landscapes, presence in more than 60 nations, and experience helping to establish over 150 protected areas across the globe, WCS has amassed the biological knowledge, cultural understanding and partnerships to ensure that vibrant, wild places and wildlife thrive alongside local communities. Working with local communities and organizations, that knowledge is applied to address species, habitat and ecosystem management issues critical to improving the quality of life of poor rural people whose livelihoods depend on the direct utilization of natural resources.

Melanesia Regional Program Overview:

WCS Melanesia programs in Fiji, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Solomon Islands integrate community engagement, science-based conservation, outreach, and linking successful local conservation initiatives to regional and national policies. We take a “boots on the ground” approach, spending time living and working with local communities to collaboratively solve the pressing conservation challenges of habitat loss and degradation, overexploitation, and climate-change adaptation through innovative applications of community-based resource management (CBRM) and working with government to improve policy implementation.

Objectives:

The Regional Communications Specialist (hereafter the “Specialist”) is responsible for overseeing external communications and project visibility for the WCS Melanesia programs. S/he is the primary interface with the media, coordinating closely with the Director. S/he will develop and implement media and public relations plans that support regional, national, provincial, and local programs. S/he will create messaging and materials for special projects, events and issues in support of the WCS Melanesia programs and will coordinate public events. Specific objectives include, but are not limited to:

- Overseeing development and implementation of communications and visibility plans for European Union and other donor funded projects in Melanesia programs, including but not limited to the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme (PNG), development of national species plans of action (Solomon Islands), watershed and marine spatial planning projects funded through the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (Fiji, Solomon Islands), and integrated watershed management projects funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies, Global Affairs Canada and the Kiwa Initiative (Fiji, Regional).

- Cultivating relationships with local and regional print and broadcast media, as well as the WCS Communications team, to secure placements for news from WCS Melanesia programs. Tracking communications hits and media placements for the programs.
- Maintaining and regularly updating all WCS websites (Fiji, Solomon Islands, PNG) within the Melanesia region.
- Collating content for regular social media posting on Melanesia X (Twitter), Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn sites.
- Maintaining an organized database of photo and video assets in support of WCS Melanesia programs.
- Developing press releases to promote WCS Melanesia conservation and research achievements.
- Assisting in the preparation of science-based education and outreach material for communities and local governments to improve natural resource management implementation.
- Ensuring compliance with WCS and donor branding policies, as well as with WCS best practices around photo and video releases.
- Meeting regularly with senior management to track progress against communications and outreach-related grant deliverables.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in communications or journalism.
- A minimum of 5 years' experience working in communications.
- Basic knowledge about and interest in global and regional environmental and conservation issues.
- Demonstrated experience in doing communications, leading campaigns, designing and preparing written materials, managing multiple social media accounts and public speaking.
- Excellent written and verbal communication and presentation skills in English; ability to persuasively convey the mission of WCS to diverse groups, especially local stakeholders and constituents.
- Familiarity with monitoring communications' impact desired.
- Graphic design experience desired. Basic video editing experience a bonus.
- Knowledge of Fiji and broader Melanesian projects and program, legal and policy systems for research on natural resources, management and governance.
- Able to make sound decisions based on analysis, consultation with others, experience, and judgment.
- Ability to play a leadership role on multiple projects, set realistic deadlines and manage a timeline.
- Ability to work efficiently and collaboratively with peers and partners around the world.
- Must be willing to travel and work at times in rural and remote areas.

Application process

Please email a letter of application and curriculum vitae to recruitmentfiji@wcs.org with the subject line: Application for Regional Communication Specialist. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 PM (Fiji time) 15 March 2024. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.