JOB DESCRIPTION

Position: Watershed Officer x 2
Office: Fiji Country Program
Division: Melanesia Regional Program
Reports to: Landscape and Watershed Coordinator

Background

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is an international non-government organisation committed to working with communities, government and other partners to safeguard Fiji’s biodiversity and natural resources through integrated land- and seascape management underpinned by applied research. WCS has been working in the country for over twenty years (www.fiji.wcs.org).

Objectives

The Watershed Officers (hereafter the “Officer”) is responsible for supporting WCS-Fiji’s terrestrial and integrated watershed activities, predominately the implementation of the Fiji component of the Watershed Interventions for Systems Health Plus (WISH+) project. This Kiwa funded initiative (www.kiwainitiative.org) will support watershed management adjacent to the Vatu-i-Ra Seascape (Bua and Lomaiviti Provinces) to achieve co-benefits for biodiversity, climate and human well-being. In particular, WISH+ will:

- Develop and strengthen integrated water and sanitation safety plans
- Strengthen governance capacity to coordinate and implement district and island ecosystem-based management plans
- Safeguard biodiverse forests through nature-based solutions (NbS), including area-based conservation measures and rehabilitating degraded watersheds
- Improve agriculture practices to increase soil conservation and productivity
- Install nature-based and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure to improve water quality and security
- Build the case for the establishment of a national watershed fund in Fiji
- Support dissemination of knowledge for best practice integrated approaches to watershed management, including through national consultation groups and coordination committees, conference presentations and engagement in policy dialogue
Duties

Specific duties of the Officer will include, but not limited to:

- Contribute to the implementation of WCS-Fiji terrestrial and integrated watershed management projects
- Facilitate and contribute to community level participatory planning, including on ecosystem-based management, watershed rehabilitation, area-based conservation, agricultural practices and sanitation
- Assist with planning, arranging and logistics for field-based activities
- Conduct community-level training and technical guidance on the elements of integrated watershed
- Produce outreach and awareness materials
- Ensure compliance with financial, procurement and record keeping systems
- Represent WCS and provide technical inputs and guidance in relevant forums and national committees
- Liaise with and foster strong working relations with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forestry, Water Authority of Fiji, other relevant ministries and national coordination committees
- Assist with collection of monitoring data

Qualifications and experience

- Bachelor’s degree in natural resource management (including integrated water management), agricultural science, animal husbandry, forestry or related fields
- Minimum of 3 years’ experience in field-based implementation working directly with local communities
- Demonstrated skills and experience in mentoring, training, facilitating and leading workshops
- Knowledge of Fiji legal and policy systems as they relate to agriculture and terrestrial systems
- Good communication and presentation skills; able to effectively communicate to a broad range of audiences
- Demonstrated strong verbal and written skills in English
- Knowledge of iTaukei language required
- Proficient in using office applications (MS Word/Excel/PowerPoint) and web-based platforms

Application process

Please send a letter of interest and curriculum vitae to pvannimwegen@wcs.org with the subject line: Application for Watershed Officer. Applications accepted until 29 August 2022. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.