



## JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>Position:</b>	Community Agriculture and Restoration Technical Assistant
<b>Reports to:</b>	Assistant Country Director - Terrestrial
<b>Location:</b>	Belize City
<b>Country Program/Sector:</b>	Belize Program / Mesoamerica and Western Caribbean
<b>Position Type:</b>	Full Time
<b>Internal liaison:</b>	Maya Forest Corridor Site Manager, Community and Climate Coordinator, BLF Grant Manager, Communications Coordinator
<b>Expected travel:</b>	Frequent travel required within the Maya Forest Corridor communities. Additional travel will be required within the country, the region, and occasionally to other continents, to attend technical meetings.

### **Organization Background:**

The Wildlife Conservation Society (“WCS”) is a New York not-for-profit corporation founded by statute in 1895 as the New York Zoological Society. WCS saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through research, science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature. That mission is achieved through our global conservation programs (WCS currently oversees a portfolio of more than 500 conservation projects in nearly 60 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and North America, and the oceans between them) and through the management of the world’s largest system of urban wildlife parks—the Bronx Zoo; the New York Aquarium; and the Central Park, Queens, and Prospect Park Zoos (the City Zoos)

### **Program Overview:**

WCS has long been at the forefront of conservation in Belize with a history of providing technical and scientific support for over 30 years. WCS Belize Program develops and implements science-conservation and management programs that aim to conserve Belize’s marine and terrestrial ecosystems over the long term through sustainable natural resource management; improved protected area management; reduced wildlife trafficking; strengthened ridge-to-reef management approaches; and improved regional alignment. Other important components of the program include environmental monitoring and training, education, and outreach in collaboration with our many partners.

To this end, the Glover’s Reef Research Station (GRRS) at Glover’s Reef Atoll was established in 1995; the country program office was set up in Belize City in 2002; and the program became a member of

the Maya Forest Corridor Trust (MFCT) and in 2022 established the WCS Conservation Outpost in the MFC Corridor.

The main marine foci include conservation activities at Glover's Reef Marine Reserve (GRMR) and the South Water Caye Marine Reserve (SWCMR), sound management of marine protected areas combined with the national expansion of replenishment zones therein, and national sustainable fisheries initiatives. A major role involves incorporating the results of our field research and monitoring into policy and informing adaptive management to be shared with stakeholders and partners nationally as well as within the region and beyond.

Under the MFC Trust, WCS commenced management of land held in trust for the benefit of the Government and People of Belize for the protection and conservation of its natural ecosystems and wildlife. A wider Maya Forest Corridor was recognized by the Government of Belize as an area of natural significance in the first National Protected Areas System Plan in 2005. The sustainable use of the natural resources in the MFC is important to ensure the viability of the protected areas system in Belize.

### **Job Summary:**

The Community Agriculture and Restoration Technical Assistant will develop and execute strategies focused on expanding and strengthening WCS's work with key stakeholders and buffering communities of the Maya Forest Corridor. This will demand considerable time in the field, in particular coordinating the design and implementation of landscape restoration and regenerative agriculture initiatives being supported by WCS. Through this work, the Community Agriculture and Restoration Technical Assistants expected to maintain and foster a positive working relationship with MFC buffering communities and stakeholders. The Community Agriculture and Restoration Technical Assistant will report directly to the ACD Terrestrial but will also work closely and align work plans with the MFC Site Manager, and Communications Coordinator.

### **Major Responsibilities:**

- Create and maintain positive relationships with stakeholder communities, WCS stakeholders in the agricultural sector and partners in restoration and regenerative agriculture work.
- Implement project activities in regenerative agriculture and landscape restoration.
- Develop and implement specific workplans for regenerative agriculture and restoration programs.
- Apply climate smart principles in the identification and selection of regenerative agriculture and restoration opportunities for local communities and stakeholders.
- Conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluations of the effectiveness of regenerative agriculture and restoration projects.
- Assist in project reporting for regenerative agriculture and restoration activities.
- Lead consultations with stakeholders and attend trainings, workshops and meetings as required.
- Provide trainings and technical assistance to MFC bordering communities and stakeholders on regenerative agriculture and restoration practices.
- Support the Communications Coordinator, to develop educational material to increase awareness in regenerative agriculture and restoration practices.
- Liaise with communities and other relevant stakeholders to identify community needs and mobilize resources to meet those needs.

- May work in variable and remote conditions, on difficult terrain and under physically demanding circumstances.
- Support other programmatic duties when necessary.

**Minimum Requirements:**

- Associate degree in Regenerative Agriculture, Climate-Smart Agriculture, Agronomy, Natural Resource Management or another relevant field.
- Experience in agriculture, community mobilization, economics, or another relevant field is an asset.
- Experience in stakeholder engagement, farm planning and management, and natural ecosystem restoration is an asset.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate with a variety of partners and stakeholders, and to mediate and resolve complex issues that involve multiple actors and/or interest areas.
- Must be willing to carry out extensive fieldwork. Must possess excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Professional proficiency in English. Spanish both spoken and written is an asset.
- Must possess a valid driver’s license (experience driving manual transmissions and off-road is an asset.)
- Willingness to work flexible working hours.

**Behavioural Competencies:**

WCS values include respect, accountability, transparency, collaboration, and integrity. The candidate should demonstrate these values.

- Strong interpersonal skills, able to work comfortably across different cultures, be inclusive, positive, and communicate effectively.
- A motivated self-starter with an ability to work independently and to manage and prioritize multiple tasks.

WCS is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all labour laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination in hiring and ensures that candidates from all backgrounds are fairly and consistently considered during the selection and hiring process. We are dedicated to hiring and supporting a diverse workforce. We are committed to cultivating an inclusive work environment and looking for future team members who share the same values.

The organization provides equal employment opportunities for all qualified candidates. The organization does not discriminate based on age, colour, race, disability, gender identity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by laws and regulations.

Employee’s Full Names:

Employee Signature:

Date:

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