Job Title: Associate Conservationist, Climate Change  
Location: Bozeman, Montana  
Job Type: Global Conservation, Full-Time  
Department: Global Conservation

Job Description

Title: Associate Conservationist, Climate Change  
Department & Program: Americas Program  
Reports to: Director, Americas Climate Adaptation Program  
Location: Bozeman, MT (it may be possible to be located at another WCS office – e.g., Fort Collins, CO, Fairbanks, AK, Saranac Lake, NY, New York City, NY, Washington, DC)  
Application deadline: Open until filled

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is an international conservation NGO founded in 1895 and headquartered at the Bronx Zoo in New York City. WCS’s mission is to save wildlife and wild places through worldwide science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature. WCS focuses its efforts on the most intact, “last of the wild” ecosystems in 16 Global Priority Regions around the world.

The WCS America’s Program, spanning North and South America, works to conserve a strategic set of wildlife and wild places, and to address the crosscutting conservation challenges of ecological connectivity, natural resource extraction, and climate change. With long term conservation programs and field sites across the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean, we employ research and conservation staff across the Americas and have an annual budget of over $20 million.

This position will provide support to efforts that address Climate Change at several landscapes in North America, including the Rocky Mountain West, the Adirondack Park, Ontario’s Northern Boreal, the Northern Boreal Mountains of Yukon, and Arctic Beringia. It will also provide some support to climate change projects in Latin America and the Western Caribbean.

Position Objectives

The Climate Change Assistant Conservationist will provide scientific, conservation, and technical support for climate change adaptation projects at several landscapes across North and South America, aimed at applying best-available climate change science to identify or modify conservation and management practices. The goal of this work will be to improve conservation outcomes of WCS activities by incorporating climate change adaptation thinking and approaches into landscape and regional program activities.

The Climate Change Assistant Conservationist is expected to work in close collaboration with regional and landscape leaders within the WCS Americas Program as well as scientists and managers at other organizations, universities and government agencies, and diverse stakeholders at particular landscapes.
Duties and Responsibilities

• Work with the Director of the Americas Climate Adaptation Program to implement climate change adaptation projects and synthesize lessons learned on climate change adaptation across WCS priority landscapes.
• Provide support to existing adaptation efforts by contributing ideas on how to approach adaptation planning and implementation, helping to facilitate climate change workshops and working group meetings, contributing to writing of reports and peer-reviewed publications, and other project activities.
• Contribute to the development of new projects aimed at incorporating climate change into WCS Americas Program regional and landscape projects and programs.
• Serve as lead on collaborative projects with majority responsibility for project organization and development, and the delivery of products.
• Contribute to the development and implementation of the WCS Climate Adaptation Fund, including reviewing grant program guidance documents and proposals, and sharing lessons and stories from the portfolio of funded projects.
• Synthesize, analyze, and interpret emerging climate change science for conservation practitioners and policy-makers, and stay abreast of the latest developments in climate change adaptation for biodiversity conservation and other sectors.
• Report project findings in peer-reviewed scientific publications as well as through appropriate internal and external communication vehicles.
• Give public presentations on WCS climate change adaptation projects at professional conferences and other venues.
• Provide climate change adaptation expertise to national, regional and local climate change planning efforts.
• Contribute to grant writing and other development activities related to raising funds for climate change projects in the Americas.

Qualifications

• Demonstrated commitment to the mission of the Wildlife Conservation Society.
• At least a Master’s degree and 3-4 years of experience, or Ph.D. (preferred) and 1-2 years of experience in understanding ecological consequences of climate change, and assessing climate change impacts and vulnerabilities of importance to wildlife conservation.
• Significant knowledge of and experience in the field of climate change adaptation.
• Experience translating science research into practical and applied guidance for conservation and management, preferably on the topic of climate change.
• Demonstrated ability to organize and facilitate workshops and working group meetings.
• Demonstrated strong writing and oral communications skills to effectively communicate project findings to a broad constituency, including both scientific and lay audiences (e.g., scientists, policy staff, managers, donors, and the general public).
• Familiarity with quantitative modeling techniques for analyzing ecological effects of climate change.
• Record of successful fundraising, grant writing, or research proposals.
• Willingness to travel to and work with partners in multiple locations across North and South America.
• Ability to work in a fast-paced, dynamic environment, adjusting to changing program priorities and responding to opportunities.
• Excellent organizational skills, including the ability to prioritize tasks and work on multiple projects simultaneously.
• Strengths in working both independently and as a member of a team.
• Preferred: Spanish language ability.

To apply, please submit a cover letter, CV, and list of references via WCS’ website. Questions regarding the position can be directed to Dr. Molly Cross at mcross@wcs.org.