

## **Terms of Reference Consulting**

### **Development of a toolkit to reduce the risk of the emergence of primary pandemics at the wildlife trade interface**

**Country: Bolivia**

#### **I. Background**

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a global organization founded in 1895 and dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and natural landscapes. Her work experience, over more than 100 years, has contributed to generating relevant scientific knowledge about wildlife, protecting vulnerable species and promoting the creation and management of protected areas in different parts of the world.

Although studies on wildlife health in Bolivia are recent, they have identified several diseases that affect wild species, some of which come from domestic animals. This poses a risk to conservation and public health, especially in the context of illegal wildlife trafficking. Constant monitoring is essential to detect and prevent the spread of diseases, since animals seized in illegal trafficking, being in close contact with other species and humans in rescue centers, can facilitate the emergence of pathogens such as H1N1. In this framework, WCS has been developing the project "*Strengthening regulatory frameworks for the primary prevention of pandemics at the interfaces of wildlife trade*" with the financial support of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), a project that has developed a first phase of government consultations to identify gaps and opportunities to reduce zoonotic risks associated with wildlife trade.

#### **II. Requirement**

WCS is interested in hiring an immediately available consultant to develop a toolkit to reduce the risk of pandemic occurrence at the wildlife trafficking interface, including an analysis of zoonotic risks in the context of wildlife trafficking, and the development of proposals for passive surveillance for early warning. detection, follow-up and monitoring of possible zoonoses at the interface of wildlife trade in Bolivia.

#### **III. Profile**

Academic background:

- Bachelor's degree issued related to the following areas of study: veterinary medicine, biology, public health, animal health, or environmental sciences.
- Postgraduate studies or specialization in the areas of zoonoses, epidemiology, disease ecology, conservation medicine, or related fields are desirable.

Experience:

- Experience of at least 2 years in work related to the analysis and management of zoonosis risks and their relationship with wildlife trafficking or other relevant contexts (agriculture, ecosystems).
- At least 2 years of experience in the development of passive and active surveillance plans for the detection and monitoring of diseases in conservation and wildlife contexts.
- Experience in the design of early warning plans and contingency plans in the context of zoonoses.
- Experience in projects related to wildlife health, wildlife management and/or the fight against wildlife trafficking.

Skills:

- Ability to collect, organize, and analyze primary and secondary information gathered from various stakeholders to propose objective actions involving stakeholders.
- Advanced knowledge of written and oral communication in Spanish and a good level of English for the review of bibliography in that language.
- Ability to work both independently and within multidisciplinary teams with the ability to adapt to the national context and able to interact with different actors within health, environmental and other regional authorities related to public health and conservation.
- Knowledge of Bolivian international and national regulations on wildlife trafficking, animal health and public health.
- Knowledge of health risk management policies and the "One Health" approach that links human, animal and environmental health.

Other:

- Member of the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade.
- Bolivian nationality, desirable.
- With immediate availability.

#### **IV. Responsibilities and activities**

- To conduct a literature review on the zoonotic risks associated with the trade in wild animals for pet keeping, the consumption of bushmeat, and the trade in wild animal parts for traditional medicine in Bolivia.
- Develop a risk analysis and management that identifies the most exposed instances, the processes with the greatest risk and the strategies to reduce these risks.
- Develop and update the list of pathogens to be included for passive surveillance at wildlife trafficking-related interfaces.
- Develop protocols for the identification, detection and monitoring of confiscated, sick or possibly sick animals from legal and illegal trade.
- Identify the laboratory tests needed to diagnose each disease: what type of test, unit cost, which laboratories could develop these tests.
- Develop a proposal for the establishment of a passive surveillance network that includes all actors involved in the post-seizure management of wild animals, including early warning mechanisms and protocols for the detection of zoonotic pathogens in wild animals, along with a database that systematizes reports and generates scientific and epidemiological evidence.
- Define the members, roles and responsibilities, and a functional flow process for a working group that would be activated in the event of a contingency, e.g., a wildlife-related event or zoonotic disease, specifying the roles and responsibilities of each member.
- Develop protocols of good practice for the collection and conservation of biological samples, guaranteeing compliance with biosafety standards.
- Develop a proposed contingency plan for active surveillance that includes specific actions such as sample collection, handling of carcasses, safe disposal, and other necessary measures.

#### **V. Delivery Duration and Timeline**

A standard standard contract will be signed between the consultant and WCS for a period of 3 months from the date of signing the contract. The delivery schedule for this consultancy is as follows:

<b>Product</b>	<b>Delivery date</b>
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<p><b>Product 1.</b> Technical Paper on Zoonotic Risks Associated with Trade in Wild Animals for Pet Keeping, Bushmeat Consumption and Trade in Wild Animal Medicines</p>	<p>30 days after the start of the consultancy</p>
<p><b>Product 2.</b> Technical document with recommendations on a framework for a passive surveillance network, specifying coordination mechanisms and including recommendations on key zoonotic pathogens and protocols for their surveillance. Guidelines for the implementation of a database of notifications of health events related to wildlife or zoonotic pathogens associated with wildlife trafficking and a functional flow of notification and response to such events.</p>	<p>60 days after the start of the consultancy</p>
<p><b>Output 3.</b> Technical document with the protocols of good practices for the collection and conservation of biological samples, guaranteeing compliance with biosafety standards.</p>	<p>60 days after the start of the consultancy</p>
<p><b>Output 4.</b> Technical document with the proposal for a contingency plan for the active surveillance of zoonoses in wildlife trade, including coordination mechanisms, emergency preparedness, joint assessment of zoonosis risk, risk reduction, emergency communication and participation of the different authorities.</p>	<p>90 days after the start of the consultancy</p>

## VI. Payment method

The Employer shall pay upon delivery of the products agreed upon in the contract, after delivery and receipt to the satisfaction of the consultant's supervisor, as follows:

Delivery No.	Products to Be Delivered	Delivery date	Consulting Payment Percentage
1	<p><b>Product 1.</b> Technical document on zoonotic risks associated with trade in companion animals, consumption and trade in wild animal medicines</p>	<p><i>According to work schedule</i></p>	<p>30%</p>

2	<p><b>Product 2.</b> Technical document with recommendations on a framework for a passive surveillance network, specifying coordination mechanisms and including recommendations on key zoonotic pathogens and protocols for their surveillance. Guidelines for the implementation of a database of notifications of health events related to wildlife or zoonotic pathogens associated with wildlife trafficking and a functional flow for the notification and response to such events.</p>	<p><i>According to work schedule</i></p>	<p>30%</p>
	<p><b>Output 3.</b> Technical document with the protocols of good practices for the collection and conservation of biological samples, guaranteeing compliance with biosafety standards.</p>		
4	<p><b>Output 4.</b> Technical document with the proposal for a contingency plan for the active surveillance of zoonoses in wildlife trade, including coordination mechanisms, emergency preparedness, joint assessment of zoonosis risk, risk reduction, emergency communication and participation of the different authorities.</p>	<p><i>According to work schedule</i></p>	<p>40%</p>
			<p>100%</p>

## VII. Supervision

The supervision of the execution and compliance with the obligations contracted by the consultant in favor of the WCS will be in charge of WCS in Bolivia.

## VIII. Work methodology

The consultant may propose the methodological alternatives that he or she considers appropriate for the type of objectives to be pursued in each of the components and stages of the consultancy; however, it is expected that a clear methodology will be developed with a consistent level of disaggregation of activities aimed at achieving the objectives set within the established terms and deadlines.

#### **IX. Confidentiality**

Once the bidder is informed that he or she has been selected, the contractor will be obliged to maintain in strict confidentiality all the information exchanged, provided or created as a result of the relationship between him or her and the contracting entity, for the performance of the consulting study subject to these terms of reference. All information obtained by consultants, as well as their reports and the documents they prepare, related to the performance of the contract will be considered confidential, and may not be disclosed at any time to any person without the express written authorization of WCS. Consultants shall not use the confidential information for any purpose other than the exercise of their rights and the performance of their obligations under or in connection with the contract.

#### **X. Submission of proposals**

The financial proposal (in local currency and its equivalent in U.S. dollars) that includes legal taxes and payments to the Gestora (the latter for local consultants), must be sent to [fsuarez@wcs.org](mailto:fsuarez@wcs.org) with a copy to [convocatoriascwt@wcs.org](mailto:convocatoriascwt@wcs.org) and [alice.brandt@giz.de](mailto:alice.brandt@giz.de) by November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, indicating the name of the consultancy along with the applicant's curriculum vitae (or portfolio), including professional references.