

Consultant Opportunity

Extractive Industries and World Heritage Consultant

August 2014

We are looking for an experienced, organised and independent consultant to compile research and recommendations and consult stakeholders on the issue of extractives and World Heritage Sites

Increasing demand for resource extraction means it is more critical than ever to set aside areas for the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services essential to life on earth. UNESCO natural World Heritage Sites (WHSs), covering less than 1% of the world's surface, are recognised as being of Outstanding Universal Value to humanity and as such are the flagship of the global network of protected areas. Yet these sites and other protected areas are increasingly threatened by expansion of mining and oil and gas activities.

IUCN has a long-held position that exploration and exploitation of extractives is incompatible with WHS status and in 2003 the members of the International Council for Mining and Metals (ICMM) and Shell declared WHSs as 'no-go'. However, this commitment has been slow to extend further into the oil and gas industry and only a handful of finance institutions have made commitments not to fund extractive operations in WHSs. It is clear that improved cross-sectoral support for the World Heritage Convention – by governments, civil society and the private sector - is needed to ensure the integrity of our natural World Heritage.

ZSL has been reviewing the basis for a strengthened no-go commitment for World Heritage, and this project will further evaluate evidence and perspectives from extractive companies, industry groups, the finance and investment sector, policy experts, State Parties, civil society, scientists, NGOs, WHS managers and stakeholders on the ground, to explore the challenges and solutions to safeguarding WHSs from the impacts of the extractive industry.

The postholder will work closely with colleagues in the Policy and Business and Biodiversity programmes in the Science to Government and Industry Unit (SGIU) and Institute of Zoology Indicators and Assessments Unit at ZSL, and with other identified partners and stakeholders, to carry out basic research and consultation on the issue of extractives and protected areas, in particular World Heritage Sites, produce a report of findings and recommendations, help organise a proposed session on this topic at the World Parks Congress in Australia in November 2014, and complete any required follow-up actions, including preparing proposals for future work. Please see the job description below for further details.

The position will be based in the Conservation Programmes department at ZSL's offices in Regent's Park, London and is for six months, working for 4 days a week, starting immediately.

To apply please send your CV, a covering letter and details of two referees to noelle.kumpel@zsl.org by 20 August 2014.

Job description

ZSL

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL), a charity founded in 1826, is a world-renowned centre of excellence for conservation science and applied conservation. ZSL's mission is to promote and achieve the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats. This is realised by carrying out field conservation and research in over 50 countries across the globe and through education and awareness-raising at our two zoos, ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, inspiring people to take conservation action.

Project background

Increasing demand for resource extraction means it is more critical than ever to set aside areas for the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services essential to life on earth. UNESCO natural World Heritage Sites (WHSs), covering less than 1% of the world's surface, are recognised as being of Outstanding Universal Value to humanity and as such are the flagship of the global network of protected areas. Yet these sites and other protected areas are increasingly threatened by expansion of mining and oil and gas activities.

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Project aims

ZSL has been reviewing the basis for a strengthened no-go commitment for World Heritage. By evaluating evidence and perspectives from extractive companies, industry groups, the finance and investment sector, policy experts, State Parties, civil society, scientists, NGOs, WHS managers and stakeholders on the ground, the project will explore the challenges and solutions to safeguarding WHSs from the impacts of the extractive industry.

Position required

The postholder will work closely with colleagues in the Policy and Business and Biodiversity programmes in the Science to Government and Industry Unit (SGIU) and Institute of Zoology Indicators and Assessments Unit at ZSL, and with other identified partners (such as UNESCO, IUCN and WWF and companies and industry associations in the extractives and finance sectors), to carry out basic research and consultation on the issue of extractives and protected areas, in particular World Heritage Sites, produce a report of findings and recommendations, help organise a proposed session on this topic at the World Parks Congress in Australia in November 2014, and complete any required follow-up actions, including preparing proposals for future work. The postholder will sit in the Conservation Programmes department at ZSL's offices in Regent's Park, London. The position is for 4 days a week over 6 months, starting immediately, and will be carried out on a consultancy basis.

Main responsibilities

1. Review and complete internal literature review on threats, spatial overlap and policies regarding extractives and protected areas/natural World Heritage Sites, including issues surrounding the World Heritage Convention;
2. Collate and analyse the various policies and perspectives that exist within the private sector (extractives, investors and banks, at industry association or individual company level) on protected areas and natural World Heritage Sites specifically;
3. Working with colleagues and partner organisations, review and map available data on active and awarded extractives concessions/point data in and around WHSs across the world over time;
4. Following consultation, select 3-5 World Heritage Sites as case studies and, for each, pull together relevant information on the WHS's legal status (collected by partners in parallel to the project), boundary designation and accuracy within the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), permitted activities/zoning, which oil, gas and mining companies have active or planned concessions in and around the focal WHS, and the location and type of specific threat from these concessions and produce a map of extractives activity compared to the WHS;
5. Integrate a separate analysis of national interpretation and implementation of WH legislation and legal transgressions at site level for the case studies;
6. Linking in with a parallel project being carried out in the ZSL Institute of Zoology's Indicators and Assessment Unit, identify what elements of the data acquired can be mapped and fed into a threat evaluation for longer term monitoring of the status and trends of biodiversity in, and threats to, WHSs;
7. Scope – with the ZSL palm oil transparency team and ZSL's contacts in the investment sector – options to increase the public availability of information on extractives best practice, addressing questions such as current data availability/format, data gaps/limitations, cost and how these might be addressed;
8. Review the World Bank safeguards, IFC's performance standards and other relevant policies and guidelines and draft a statement of principles for the extractives and finance sectors with regard to no-go in World Heritage Sites and other protected areas for discussion;
9. Compile key elements of the literature review, results of research and recommendations for extractives, investors, governments, civil society and UNESCO, into a short report for internal use and policy brief with a set of recommendations to be presented to stakeholders;
10. Work with other NGOs to establish consensus with regards to policies on extractives and WHSs;
11. Assist with a stakeholder consultation on potential options for progressing the issue, in particular the potential for the development of a statement of principles, ahead of further discussion and potential initial sign-up at the World Parks Congress in November 2014.

General project duties

1. Coordinate, and participate in, any meetings required with partners and other stakeholders in taking forward the project, including the organisation of logistics and background materials;
2. Assist with arrangements for a session at the World Parks Congress (November 2014);
3. Assist with proposals for future related work as relevant and time allows.

General ZSL duties

1. Support with project fundraising activities by sourcing potential donors and contributing to funding applications;
2. Ensure all activities and procedures follow ZSL policies, particularly with regard to health and safety, finance, human resources and communications, and dissemination of ZSL policies to project staff as necessary;
3. If required, execution of field visits or participation in fieldwork;
4. Ensure ZSL's policy for equality of opportunity is adhered to and promoted in all aspects of the post holder's work;
5. Ensure effective quality control and continuous improvement in all aspects of the work and responsibilities attached to this post;
6. Comply with and promote ZSL's Health and Safety Policies and Procedures and undertake recommended Health and Safety training as and when necessary;
7. Be committed to professional self-development as necessary for the successful carrying out of the job;
8. Undertake such other duties as are commensurate with the grade of the post, as may be reasonably required at the initial place of work or at other locations.

NB: This job description is designed to outline a range of main duties that may be encountered. It is not designed to be an exhaustive list of tasks and can be varied in consultation with the postholder in order to reflect changes in the job or the Society.

Qualifications, knowledge and experience required

1. At least two years' experience, including experience in project management and research;
 2. A good understanding of biodiversity conservation, policy and business and biodiversity issues;
 3. A postgraduate degree in an appropriate subject;
 4. Excellent written and spoken English;
 5. Strong organisational, interpersonal and presentation skills;
 6. Proven fundraising and report-writing ability;
 7. Good communication skills;
 8. Proven ability to work effectively with teams and senior managers;
 9. Experience of working with the private sector (in particular the finance or extractives sectors) and/or in policy, and in producing relevant policy-focused reports and/or briefs;
 10. GIS and website editing skills an advantage.
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