

Consultancy Brief

**Reptile Conservation
Specialist to conduct review
of the conservation status
of endemic reptiles in
Barbados and develop a
sustainable conservation
plan to maintain their
populations**

CABI BACKGROUND

CABI is an international not-for-profit organization that improves people's lives by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment. CABI is an intergovernmental organization that can trace its origins back to 1910. Our 49 member countries guide and influence our core areas of work, which include International Development and Publishing.

We have over 500 staff based in 16 countries. We have offices in Brazil, China, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, the UK, the USA and Zambia.

International Development projects and research

Through knowledge sharing and science, CABI helps address issues of global concern such as improving global food security and safeguarding the environment. We do this by helping farmers grow more and lose less of what they produce, combating threats to agriculture and the environment from pests and diseases, protecting biodiversity from invasive species, and improving access to agricultural and environmental scientific knowledge.

CABI's Knowledge Business

CABI produces key scientific publications, including CAB Abstracts – the world-leading abstracting and indexing database covering applied life sciences. We also publish multimedia compendia, books, eBooks and full text electronic resources aiming to further science and its application to real life. CABI invests its publishing surpluses directly into development projects, helping to improve livelihoods worldwide.

For more information go to www.cabi.org and www.plantwise.org

THE ROLE

Job title:	Reptile Conservation Specialist
Fees:	Commensurate with qualifications and work experience
Reporting to:	CABI's Regional Representative, Caribbean and Central America
Location:	Barbados
Duration:	10 weeks

Purpose of the role:

CABI, in conjunction with our international donors and partners, implements and manages a wide range of initiatives around the world, ranging from research projects to rural development activities. The successful candidate will conduct this consultancy in furtherance of development of a project proposal: **“Reducing the threats to endangered reptiles from habitat loss and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) through enhanced biodiversity governance and strengthened bio-security in Barbados”** with funding from the Global Environmental Fund.

Key accountabilities: The Reptile Conservation Specialist will review the current conservation status of Barbados' critically endangered endemic reptiles and recommend targeted interventions to increase their numbers to attain more resilient population.

Key products will include:

- Assessment report on current conservation efforts for the target species and needs to be addressed in respect to the proposed establishment of a second bio-secure environment at Ragged Point.
- Preliminary design specifications, scope of work and proposed costs for the construction of the bio-secure area at Ragged Point.
- Preliminary design specifications, scope of work and proposed costs for the construction of a conservation education centre featuring the leaf-toed gecko and the threadsnake.
- Draft framework for an operational agreement between the Government of Barbados and the National Conservation Commission for management of the bio-secure area and the conservation education centre.
- Recommendations on required content for operational protocol/manuals on predator exclusion, predator removal, habitat augmentation and requirements for population monitoring.
- Scope of work required to support ongoing scientific assessments on population status, threats and conservation requirements for the target species that need to be undertaken under the project
- Core elements of the management and species recovery plan to be elaborated under the project
- Draft terms of reference for the reptile conservation specialists to be retained by the project
- Define Key performance indicators and baseline data from measuring the progress of the project at the mid-term and end of project evaluation.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Knowledge & Skills

Required

- Fluency in English, with first class written and oral communication skills
- Broad understanding of the use of applied biological science in reptile conservation with specific reference to the endemic reptiles of Barbados.
- Proven ability to rapidly evaluate complex information to ascertain its potential usefulness, and to produce a synthesis
- Excellent numeracy skills
- Familiarity with the logical framework and other strategic planning approaches
- Good working knowledge of the MS Office suite of programs specifically Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook.

Desirable

- Working knowledge of reptile conservation management methods and techniques
- Understanding of gender issues and how to mainstream gender perspectives in projects

Education & Qualifications

Required: A first degree and/or M.Sc. in a biological science, with a working knowledge and experience of endemic Caribbean reptiles with experience of the endemic reptiles of Barbados, and some experience in conservation projects.

Desirable: PhD or equivalent experience.

Experience

Required

- Considerable and demonstrable post qualification experience in conservation biology.
- Broad range of experience of operating on multiple projects and across borders and cultures.

Desirable

- Significant developing country experience in environmental conservation and protection and development and applied research, ideally working with a wide range of stakeholders including local communities, NGOs, government officials, other partners, and researchers.

- Good knowledge of international best practice in biosecurity at ports and sea ports.

Personal Characteristics

Required

- Highly motivated, organized and adaptable, with strong inter-personal and communication skills
- Comfortable working both independently or as part of a team
- Able to work under pressure and deliver high quality products to tight deadlines, including occasional out-of-hours working
- Trustworthy and capable of dealing with sensitive information in a discreet and confidential manner
- Robust with the operational grip and capacity to handle a demanding workload, including some travel

Desirable

- Ability to articulate scientific concepts effectively to technical experts and non- experts
- Strong influencing and networking skills
- Ability to work and interface with public officials at ports of entry

NOTE

This job description is not intended to be exhaustive. It is expected that the post holder and CABI will adopt a flexible attitude and accept that the duties may have to be varied according to circumstances, in particular may vary from island to island.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

CABI is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from candidates irrespective of age, gender, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, disability, religion, sexual orientation or marital status. No applicant will be disadvantaged by conditions which cannot be shown to be justified and selection will be based on merit.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply please submit your CV and a covering letter via our online recruitment to n.ramnanan@cabi.org with copy to a.witt@cabi.org

Please note closing date for receipt of applications is 21st October 2022. We reserve the right to close the vacancy, interview and appoint before this date if a suitable number of applications are received.