

IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force

2016-2017 Report



Alexandra Zimmermann

Chair

Alexandra Zimmermann

Location/Affiliation

Chester Zoo, UK;
WildCRU, University of Oxford, UK

Number of members

21

Social networks

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/hwctf/>
Twitter:
@hwctf

IUCN SSC
**Human-Wildlife
Conflict**
TASK FORCE

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Task Force on Human-Wildlife Conflict is to support the IUCN SSC network in addressing human-wildlife conflict (HWC) by providing interdisciplinary guidance and expert support, through an integration of ecological and social sciences.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Capacity building

■ Capacity building

i. The SSC network needs survey in preparation, seven brief guides in preparation, joint guidelines for Asian Elephant HWC in preparation with Asian Elephant SG. A training course in also in development. (KSR #18)

ii. Development, design, facilitation or participation in workshops, seminars, talks, events, symposia and networking opportunities on HWC around the world. Task Force (TF) members have been attending a number of the events and have also been involved in the development and design of some. Presentations and workshops have been given by the TF Chair and several of the group's members. (KSR #17)

iii. Preparation of a global survey of resource, training and capacity building needs for HWC among practitioners around the world. (KSR #17)

iv. The TF is in the process of developing a training program for practitioners of HWC. (KSR #17)

■ Communication

i. Production of short modular "guides" on key topics in HWC, to be published as open access PDFs in several languages. The first key topics have been decided for brief guides and the drafts for seven topics are currently being developed. (KSR #28)

ii. Preparation of IUCN SSC Guidelines on HWC. (KSR #28)

■ Synergy

i. The TF is developing interdisciplinary collaborations and partnerships with several SSC Specialist Groups, IUCN Commissions and beyond, to help strengthen institutional capacity in HWC (Asian Elephant SG, Crocodile SG, Bear SG, Conservation Planning SG (CPSG), IUCN ITHCP, IUCN APAP, IUCN Asian Regional Office, World Bank, and several others). (KSR #29)

ii. Currently working with Asian Elephant SG on joint HWC guidelines. (KSR #29)

Communications

■ Communication

i. TF definition of HWC to be discussed at annual meeting in September 2018. (KSR #28)

ii. Website for the HWC TF developed in 2017 and live at www.hwctf.org. (KSR #28)

iii. A resource library has been developed on the TF website with resources on multiple topics and species in relation to HWC. <http://www.hwctf.org/resources/document-library>.

iv. The TF contributes to the People & Wildlife e-group (700+ members). Facebook (800+ follows) and Twitter (500+ followers) accounts have been created for the TF, allowing the dissemination of TF news and HWC related news, reports, publications and guidance. (KSR #28)

■ Technical advice

i. The TF has been contacted by governments, organisations and individuals regarding advice on HWC on many occasions. The TF has provided advice on problems or suggested practitioners/resources that can assist. (KSR #18)



Focus group discussion practices for staffs
Photo: Chester Zoo HWCTF

Asian Elephants in tea plantation
Photo: Chester Zoo HWCTF

Conservation action

■ Scientific meetings

i. TF is in early stages of designing a conference on HWC to be held in 2020. (KSR #28)

■ Synergy

i. Online HWC Library completed and social media platforms and e-group established. Several collaborations with other IUCN groups well underway, including Asian Elephant SG, Crocodile SG, Bear SG, CPSG, IUCN ITHCP, IUCN APAP, IUCN ARO, World Bank, and several others. Presentations and workshops given by chair and several members. (KSR #29)

Policy

■ Policy advice

i. Website completed, two annual meetings held. Currently working on several papers on new thinking in HWC and a formal IUCN definition of HWC. (KSR #26)

ii. Think tank on latest issues in HWC, leading research and new thinking to support policy and best practice. Currently working on several papers on new thinking in HWC. (KSR #26)

■ Synergy

i. The TF was convened in 2016, initially with a membership of 14. The TF has now expanded to 21 members and a programme officer was employed in January 2017. Two annual meetings have been held.

Acknowledgements

We thank Chester Zoo for funding the salary for our part-time Programme Officer, and the meeting costs of two annual meetings. The Wildlife Conservation Research Unit of Oxford University provided in-kind support to these meetings. We are grateful for a grant from the

Global Wildlife Conservation towards the costs of the next annual meeting of the TF, as well as the support received from within IUCN SSC since the Task Force's inception especially from R. Hoffmann.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Capacity building

Capacity building: build capacity to support the SSC network.

Conservation action

Synergy: facilitate interdisciplinary approaches.

Policy

Policy advice: act as an authoritative advisory body.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

The IUCN SSC HWC Task Force was created for the 2017-2020 quadrennium. Its remit is to focus on KSR-37: Livelihoods of people and species conservation are enhanced through improved human-wildlife interaction. The TF is not taxon-specific, it focuses on humans and their conflicting interactions with any species. It has predominantly social scientist members, and strongly emphasises interdisciplinary working. The main needs for reducing and managing HWCs worldwide are: (a) better understanding and awareness of the complexities of conflict; (b) more collaboration between practitioners and policy; (c) more resources committed to good HWC management; (d) more proactive conflict mitigation is undertaken, and, (e) better confidence among practitioners in how to approach and work with conflicts. To this end, the TF's role is: (1) act as an authoritative advisory body on matters of HWC, providing expert advice and a platform for the exchange

of best practice; 2) facilitate interdisciplinary approaches to HWC mitigation by encouraging the collaboration of experts from biological as well as social sciences, economics, humanities and other fields; and (3) build capacity to support the SSC network by developing technical or framework guidance materials, tools and training as needed by those working on HWC issues.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 4/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Capacity building (8 activities)
- Communications (5 activities)
- Conservation action (2 activities)
- Policy (3 activities)

Main KSRS addressed: 17, 18, 26, 28, 29, 37

KSR: Key Species Result