

IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force

2018 Report



Alexandra Zimmermann

Chair

Alexandra Zimmermann

Location/Affiliation

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

Number of members

27

Social networks

Facebook:

IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force

Twitter:

@hwctf

Website:

www.hwctf.org

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.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

The SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force was created for the 2017-2020 quadrennium. Its remit is to focus on SSC Key Species Result 37 (KSR-37): Livelihoods of people and species conservation are enhanced through improved human-wildlife interaction. The Task Force 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 Task Force's role is: (1) act as an authoritative advisory body on matters of human-wildlife conflict, providing expert advice and a platform for the exchange of best practice; (2) facilitate interdisciplinary approaches to human-wildlife conflict mitigation by encouraging the collabora-

tion 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 human-wildlife conflict issues.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Plan

Policy: (1) publish academic papers on HWC; (2) provide support and advice to governments, organisations and individuals on HWC matters.

Network

Capacity building: (1) identify the capacity needs for practitioners working on HWC; (2) work with SSC specialist groups to develop species specific resources on HWC; (3) develop training material for practitioners of HWC.

Membership: maintain a diverse membership of the TF both in topic and species expertise.

Synergy: (1) produce an IUCN definition and position statement on HWC; (2) collaborate with specialist groups within the SSC and other IUCN commissions on HWC matters.

Communicate

Communication: (1) produce a website for the HWC Task Force; (2) produce and maintain a resource library to highlight some of the key papers and resources for HWC topics and species; (3) identify and use online platforms to communicate to relevant audience members the work of the TF and key information regarding HWC; (4) attend relevant meetings and events to present the work of the TF and network with relevant attendees.



Tiger crossing road in Corbett National Park, India
Photo: James Stevens



Elephant crossing fence in Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, Botswana
Photo: James Stevens

Activities and results 2018

Plan

Policy

- i.** The Task Force worked on several papers on new thinking in HWC. (KSR #26)
- ii.** The group was contacted by governments, organisations and individuals regarding advice on HWC on many occasions. The Task Force has provided advice on problems or suggested practitioners/resources that can assist. (KSR #26)

Network

Capacity building

- i.** Development of a global survey of training and information needs for HWC was conducted in 2018. (KSR #18)
- ii.** The Task Force worked with the Asian Elephant Specialist Group on joint HWC guidelines. (KSR #18)
- iii.** The Task Force is in the process of developing a training programme for practitioners of HWC. (KSR #18)

Membership

- i.** Three additional members were appointed to the Task Force in 2018 to diversify the species and topic expertise.

Synergy

- i.** The Task Force held its third annual meeting in September 2018, attended by 16 members, in Oxford, UK. (KSR #26)

- ii.** The IUCN definition of HWC was developed at the third annual meeting, refined afterwards and sent to IUCN SSC leaders. The definition will be announced in 2019 through an IUCN position statement. (KSR #26)

- iii.** The Task Force collaborated with several SSC Specialist Groups and other bodies working on HWC (Asian Elephant Specialist Group, Crocodile Specialist Group, Bear Specialist Group, Conservation Planning Specialist Group, IUCN Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme, IUCN Asia Protected Areas Partnership, IUCN Asia Regional Office, World Bank). (KSR #29)

Communicate

Communication

- i.** The website of the HWC Task Force is www.hwctf.org. It is complete and being kept up to date all the time. Resources and Members sections are updated as needed. (KSR #28)
- ii.** A resource library was developed on the Task Force website with resources on multiple topics and species in relation to HWC. It provides the most up-to-date literature on key topics in HWC, with over 900 selected papers, guides and other publications and resources, currently used by people from 140 countries. The resource library went live in January 2018 at <http://www.hwctf.org/resources/document-library>. (KSR #28)
- iii.** The Task Force formed a collaboration with the People & Wildlife e-group (700+ members) in 2018 and currently runs the group. Facebook (800+ follows) and Twitter (500+ followers) accounts were created for the Task Force allowing the dissemination of Task Force news and HWC related news, reports, publications and guidance. (KSR #28, 29)

Scientific meetings

- i.** Task Force members have attended a number of the events and been involved in the development and design of some. Presentations and workshops have been given by the Chair and several others. The Task Force initiated the concept of an international conference on HWC to be held in 2020 and completed the initial stages of planning in 2018. (KSR #28)

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 SSC towards the costs of our third annual meeting of the Task Force in 2018.

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 3/5

Plan	2	
Network	7	
Communicate	4	

Main KSRs addressed: 18, 26, 28, 29

Resolutions addressed: WCC-2016-Res-068, WCC-2016-Res-085

KSR: Key Species Result