

IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force

2019 Report



Alexandra Zimmermann

Chair

Alexandra Zimmermann

Location/Affiliation

WildCRU, University of Oxford, UK

Number of members

28

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 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 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 Task Force 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 Task Force and key information regarding HWC; (4) lead or attend relevant meetings and events to present the work of the Task Force and network with relevant attendees.



Tiger crossing road in Corbett National Park, India
Photo: James Stevens / IUCN HWC TF



Lion and donkeys in Botswana
Photo: James Stevens / IUCN HWC TF

Activities and results 2019

Plan

Policy

i. No papers were published as the Task Force jointly in 2019, but discussions during the 2019 annual meeting resulted in some concepts being developed and these are being taken forward by Task Force members. Individual Task Force members have published dozens of papers, which are listed in our online library. (KSR #26)

ii. Task Force member Virat Singh attended two meetings in Mauritius regarding conflict with Mauritius fruit bats on behalf of the Task Force. He presented at a meeting for backyard fruit growers and presented in a workshop for the media. (KSR #26, 27)

iii. The Chair, Programme Officer, and several Task Force members provided input into the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Post-2020 Framework for a target on HWC. (KSR #26)

iv. Input was provided into the IUCN Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme and the IUCN Save Our Species African Wildlife Programme. (KSR #26)

Network

Capacity building

i. In April 2019, in collaboration with the World Bank-led Global Wildlife Programme, the Task Force launched a global survey of training and information needs in human-wildlife conflict. In the six weeks the survey was live we received 1,013 responses. The results are currently being analysed and will be written up as a report to help to guide further capacity building training that will be conducted by the Task Force. (KSR #18)

ii. In collaboration with the IUCN SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group, the Chair and several Task Force members are currently drafting chapters for 'Guidelines for Managing Human-Elephant Conflict and Coexistence'. (KSR #18)

iii. In February 2019, the Chair and several Task Force members organised a Master Class on the Prevention and Mitigation of Human-Elephant Conflict in collaboration with the Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) and the Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme to representatives from 12 Asian countries in Bangkok, Thailand. (KSR #18)

iv. In November 2019, the Chair conducted a training workshop for human-wildlife conflict management and coexistence, in Bangkok, Thailand, for representatives of the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP) projects/studies. (KSR #18)



Membership

- i.** In 2019, seven additional members joined the Task Force, with a diverse range of expertise in topics including community livelihoods, journalism and media, conflict and environmental peacebuilding and governance.
- ii.** The Task Force also hired a part-time editorial officer in 2019 to assist in editing and drafting chapters for the IUCN SSC Guidelines on Human-Wildlife Conflict.

Synergy

- i.** The IUCN position statement on human-wildlife conflict was drafted in 2019 and is currently being finalised for publication. (KSR #26)
- ii.** The IUCN definition on human-wildlife conflict was drafted and will be published alongside the position statement. (KSR #26)
- iii.** The Task Force regularly and extensively collaborates ad hoc with many groups in the SSC (HWC is of interest/concern to around 20 SSC groups) as well as the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP); this increased substantially during the preparation of the HWC Conference planned for 2020. (KSR #29)
- iv.** The Task Force and the Asian Elephant Specialist Group are preparing joint guidelines on management of human-elephant conflict in Asia. (KSR #29)
- v.** The Task Force received the Chair's Citation of Excellence Award at the SSC Leaders' Meeting in Abu Dhabi. (KSR #29)



IUCN SSC AsESG meeting in Sabah, Malaysia
Photos: IUCN SSC AsESG



4th Annual Meeting of the IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force
Photo: Virat Singh / IUCN HWC TF

Communicate

Communication

i. The HWC Task Force website was maintained during 2019, with the text updated on pages regarding HWC and what the Task Force does, as well as our members' page. The website was visited by 14,000 users resulting in just over 34,000 unique page views. (KSR #28)

ii. Relevant key pieces of literature and resources continued to be added to the document library during 2019. Resources in the document library were utilised over 4,000 times. (KSR #28)

iii. A page dedicated to resources on human-shark conflict was added to the library (<http://www.hwctf.org/document-library/shark>). (KSR #28)

iv. The platforms used to deliver information about the Task Force and HWC continued to grow in 2019. Facebook page likes grew from 1,028 to 2,757, while followers on Twitter grew from 797 to 1,472. Sixty new members joined the People & Wildlife google group. (KSR #29)

Scientific meetings

i. Both the Chair and Programme Officer attended the IUCN SSC Leaders' Meeting in Abu Dhabi in October 2019. The Chair presented on the work of the Task Force, provided training on conflict analysis, mediation and negotiation, and conducted a consultation on the structure of the IUCN SSC Guidelines on Human-Wildlife Conflict. The Chair attended the 10th Asian Elephant Specialist Group Meeting, in Sabah, in December 2019, presenting the progress on the Guidelines for Managing Human-Elephant Conflict and Coexistence. (KSR #28)

ii. In July 2019 the Task Force held its annual meeting in Cambridge, UK. The three-day meeting was attended by 21 Task Force members with the focus being discussions around the structure and content of the IUCN SSC Guidelines on Human-Wildlife Conflict. (KSR #28)

iii. In March 2019 we announced that, in collaboration with several partners, we would be organising an International Conference on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence, to be held in Oxford, UK, on 1–3 April 2020 (www.hwconference.org). During our call for contributions we received nearly 700 abstract submissions from over 600 candidates and from August onwards much of the work focused on organising the conference. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

We thank Chester Zoo for funding the salary of our part-time Programme Officer and Editorial Officer, and the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit of Oxford University for hosting the Task Force. We are grateful to the Luc Hoffmann Institute for providing funding for our fourth annual meeting of the Task Force in 2019 and the David Attenborough Building for providing in-kind support for this meeting.

Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 3/5

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Main KSRs addressed: 18, 26, 27, 28, 29

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

KSR: Key Species Result