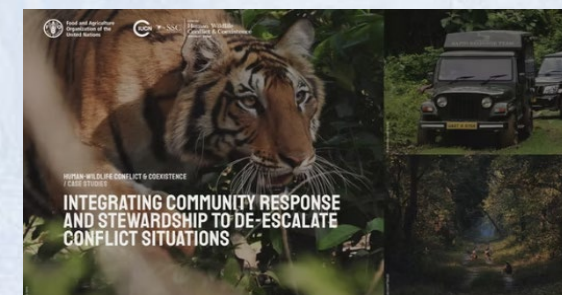
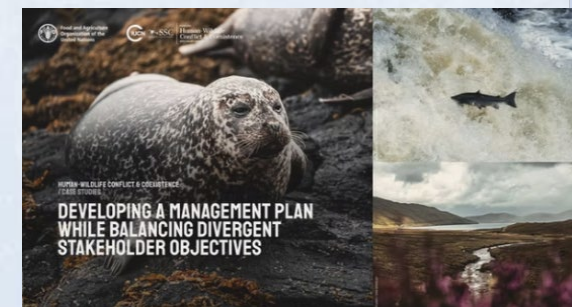
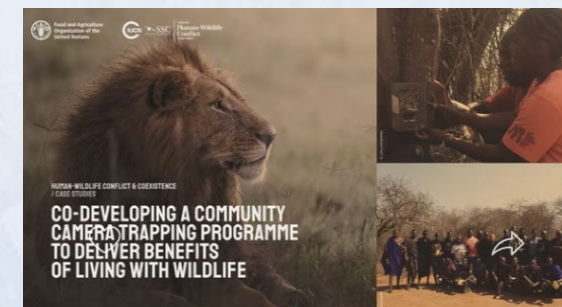


Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Case Studies

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Human-wildlife conflict and coexistence:
Sub-regional capacity-building event

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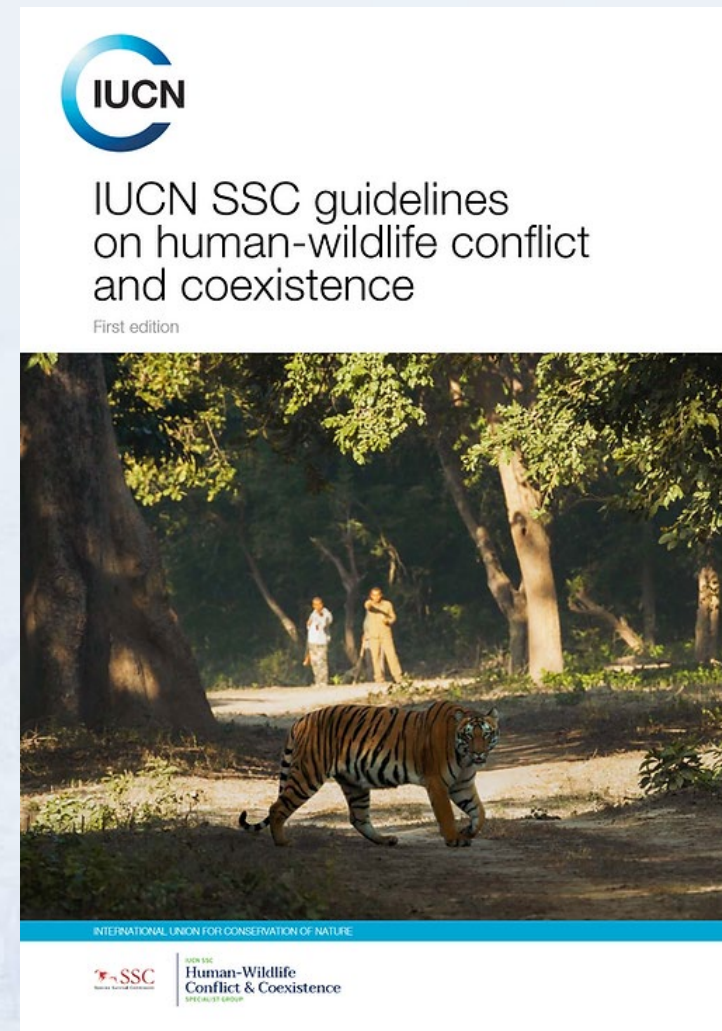


Background

- Collaboration between UN FAO and the IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Specialist Group
- Since 2021, collection of practical case studies of human-wildlife conflict management and coexistence situations from various parts of the world
- **Rationale**
 - Past case studies tend to focus on the problem around the HWC and activities completed to address the problem. Useful, but limited value as solutions are often not transferable.
 - Need to highlight the **processes** that have been taken in **understanding, planning, and taking action** to address the HWC situation.
 - Lessons learnt are applicable to a wider range of situations.

Background

- Production in 2 phases: phase 1 (2021-2022) and phase 2 (2023-2024)
- 24 case studies published to date
- 25th to be published in the summer BalkanDetox LIFE
- Aligned with the principles of the [IUCN SSC Guidelines on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence](#)
- Interview -> first draft by HWCCSG/author -> technical review by FAO -> second draft by HWCCSG/author -> FAO clearances -> layout
- Spanning across multiple countries: Kenya, Zimbabwe, Mali, Brazil, Kyrgyzstan, Bolivia, Germany, the UK, India, Singapore, and others



Selected case studies - GSLEP



Selected case studies - GSLEP

LESSONS LEARNT

01 | CONSISTENT ENGAGEMENT AMIDST CHALLENGES

Given the frequent workload challenges and high turnover among government staff, maintaining regular interactions, even informally, proved crucial in sustaining stakeholder engagement and activity. Personal one-on-one meetings are particularly effective in securing engagement from influential stakeholders, contributing significantly to the overall success of the initiative.

02 | SUPPORTIVE APPROACH

This approach towards country initiatives proved successful as GSLEP prioritized assisting countries in achieving their objectives. Recognizing the challenges faced by government officials who manage multiple roles and responsibilities, the GSLEP actively conducted activities, focusing on collaborative facilitation to support rather than adding to their workload.

03 | LEVERAGING GOVERNMENTS' SCALABILITY

The GSLEP works with governments on snow leopard conservation issues to achieve significant impacts by scaling-up known and tested critical actions and best practices implemented by other non-governmental actors.

04 | COMMON GOALS

Navigating the challenge of uniting twelve countries, each with its unique perspectives on various matters, the GSLEP recognized the power of identifying common goals. By focusing on shared objectives, the initiative facilitated collaboration among countries, enabling them to work collectively towards these common aspirations despite their differences on other issues.

05 | DIVERSITY OF PARTNERS

By fostering collaboration among governmental, non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations, institutional funders, academic institutions, and the private sector, the GSLEP accesses a spectrum of governmental, financial, technical, and logistical support. This collaborative approach amplifies the capacity to achieve shared goals, emphasizing the pivotal role of inclusive partnerships in advancing the objectives of the GSLEP.

06 | TRANSBOUNDARY APPROACH

The GSLEP recognized the need for a transboundary approach to address snow leopard threats, fostering collaboration among all range countries. This unified effort effectively tackles challenges beyond national borders, emphasizing the importance of coordinated conservation strategies.

07 | PRIORITIZE SUPPORT

The GSLEP emphasized support, identifying and aiding countries in need, building capacity without punitive measures, fostering an empowering and supportive environment and approach to conservation efforts.

08 | LEADERSHIP IMPACT

The pivotal role of the Kyrgyz Government at the highest levels in initiating and supporting the GSLEP highlights the significance of leaders and champions. Mobilizing high-level leadership in other countries created political space for the snow leopard conservation issue, emphasizing the importance of high-level committed leaders in driving impactful initiatives.

Selected case studies - Bolivia



Selected case studies - Bolivia

KEY INSIGHTS & LESSONS LEARNT

01 | TRANSPARENCY

When engaging with the communities initially, the project was transparent and honest regarding the expectations for the work. It focused on identifying shared goals with the communities and working collaboratively on how to achieve them, ensuring that expectations were not raised above reality.

02 | COMMUNICATION

The lead researcher chose the communities to engage in for many reasons, but in particular because they could communicate directly with the community members as they spoke the same language. In other areas of the Andean bear distribution, this would not have been possible. This meant the researcher could respond directly to community members and ensure a complete understanding of any questions posed during discussions.

03 | STAKEHOLDER INVESTMENT

By agreeing that the communities needed to contribute 30 percent of the cost of the equipment to set up the community apiaries, the communities were invested in the project, which ensured complete and ongoing engagement with the project.

04 | COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

By involving members of the communities in bear monitoring, community members received insights into the lives of the wildlife in the area. It's believed this helped change the attitudes towards the wildlife as they could understand the importance of the wildlife directly. By distributing camera traps between communities, healthy competition was established between communities regarding which wildlife species were present. By employing the parabiologists from local communities, work was not disrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic as they could continue the work of monitoring bears in each community and engage with community members when negative interactions occurred.

Selected case studies – Germany



Selected case studies – Germany

KEY INSIGHTS & LESSONS LEARNT

01 | NO UNIVERSAL SINGLE TRUTH

Understanding and respecting the diverse perspectives of all stakeholders was crucial because it was impossible to establish a single shared reality.

02 | LISTENING TO FISH FARMERS

By engaging the fish farmers on the management approaches and schemes being implemented, the fish farmers could provide input on what would and wouldn't work for them, highlighting important issues with plans that would have made them unsuccessful if implemented.

03 | CHARISMATIC SPECIES

The otter is a charismatic species garnering support from the general public and fish farmers. The fish farmers were happy to coexist with the otters as long as measures were taken to mitigate impacts caused by them. The occurrences of overkill by otters were also rare, making them more tolerable species to coexist with compared to other species.

04 | PREDICTABLE DAMAGE

The presence and damage caused by otters were predictable across the pond landscape in Saxony over a year, allowing for accurate estimation of economic impacts on fish farmers. In contrast, for species like cormorants from the *Phalacrocoracidae* family, whose presence across a landscape is not predictable due to migration, compensation in advance may not be appropriate, as damage could vary spatially and temporally.

05 | CONSERVATIONISTS AS STAKEHOLDERS

The fish farmers were actively engaged in conservation efforts. Their maintenance of fishponds for optimal carp production resulted in biodiversity benefits. The fishponds represented some of the few water bodies in the state. Therefore, if abandoned and no longer maintained, it would significantly impact wildlife that depended on such water bodies for their habitat.

06 | CONVINCING DECISION MAKERS

The project faced difficulties convincing the authorities to offer compensation in advance as there were concerns that compensation might be disbursed for damage that might never occur. Incentivizing the need to be proactive rather than reactive was challenging. Nonetheless, it was clear that providing compensation in advance would result in reduced transaction costs, as it negated the need for assessments. Consequently, the overall scheme would be more cost-effective, irrespective of whether damage costs were potentially inflated.

07 | FLEXIBILITY IS A CRUCIAL CONSIDERATION

Currently, many compensation schemes are structured around five-year cycles, with predefined rules established at the outset across the Saxony state. This lack of adaptability can pose challenges when trying to align with on-the-ground realities. A rule that suits one area might prove restrictive for farmers elsewhere, potentially impeding specific livelihoods.

08 | INCLUSION FROM THE OFFSET

During the project, all stakeholders were involved in the research component to understand the situation. However, the impacted fish farmers were not involved in identifying solutions. In a follow-up project, a more inclusive approach was adopted, involving all stakeholders from the beginning to the project's conclusion, helping to significantly improve engagement.

Common lessons learnt across multiple case studies

1. Building trust with communities through transparency and neutral language
2. Community/stakeholder involvement and ownership
3. Representation
4. Adaptability
5. Evidence base and data
6. Local specifics

Thank you!

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<https://www.hwctf.org/case-studies>