



Human-Wildlife Conflict Collaboration (HWCC)

Improving Our Collective Efforts to Prevent and Mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflict

THE NEED

Human-wildlife conflict is a serious obstacle to conservation world-wide and will become increasingly prevalent as human populations increase, development expands, the global climate changes, and human and environmental factors put people and wildlife in greater direct competition for a shrinking resource base.

Human-wildlife conflict reduces local support for conservation and engenders resentment and opposition to it. Such conflicts endanger already threatened wildlife species, such as tigers, elephants, leopards, bears, gorillas and wolves. These conflicts also hinder the pursuit of development and poverty alleviation goals for impoverished people when development projects inadvertently cause or exacerbate crop raiding or livestock depredation.

Consequently, addressing human-wildlife conflict requires greater interaction not only among conservation organizations and other wildlife agencies, but also with economic and social development organizations, land use planners, agribusiness, and other key decision makers.

OUR APPROACH

The Human-Wildlife Conflict Collaboration (HWCC) is addressing the practical, urgent needs in human-wildlife conflict, on both the local and global scale, through a global partnership that supports greater collaboration on human-wildlife conflict across disciplines, sites, institutions and policy areas.



The HWCC aims to prevent and mitigate these conflicts by facilitating collaborative learning, innovation, scientific analysis and development of best practices. Improved prevention and mitigation of human-wildlife conflict will reduce the economic and social costs to human communities who coexist with wildlife and, improving their quality of life and fostering greater tolerance of wildlife and support for conservation.

OUR NETWORK OF SUPPORT:

The need for a partnership initiative like HWCC was identified by a workshop of conservationists at the 5th International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Parks Congress in 2003, in Durban, South Africa. Evolving from discussions amongst practitioners who realized sharing information was essential to resolve human-wildlife conflicts around the world, in November 2006, more than fifty conservation professionals, representing over forty organizations, convened in Washington, D.C. to identify priorities for collaboration on human-wildlife conflict and to develop a framework for pursuing those priorities. The result was the launch of the Human-Wildlife Conflict Collaboration.

Currently nearly 100 organizations participate in this global collaboration. Its activities will meet the collective need for improved information exchange; awareness raising and communication among key sectors; capacity building and training among practitioners; improved decision making and policy development; and enhanced understanding of the human dimensions of human-wildlife conflict.



BENEFITS OF HWCC PROJECTS:

- 🐾 Increased success among partners in preventing and mitigating human-wildlife conflict
- 🐾 Increased effectiveness and efficiency of attaining goals by pooling limited human and financial resources, reducing duplication of efforts, and coordinating regional efforts.
- 🐾 Improved access to emerging inter-disciplinary training, information, expertise, research, practical innovations, and funding.
- 🐾 Enhanced information sharing that results in “win-win” solutions on the ground.
- 🐾 Tools that improve knowledge & skills of field practitioners and policy makers.

CURRENT HWCC PROJECTS:

- 🐾 **Information Sharing and Collaborative Learning:** HWCC is advancing an interdisciplinary and synthesizing web-based resource on HWC that will complement and expand upon existing resources, fulfilling a need for timely, practical, innovative sharing of information on HWC.



- 🐾 **Training in Conflict Resolution:** HWCC provides a three-day training program in conflict resolution leadership, techniques and processes. This critical skills training program is essential for all conservationists dealing with HWC.
- 🐾 **Living With Tigers:** HWCC, in partnership with Chester Zoo, is identifying trends in conflict across the tiger's range and facilitating an innovative inter-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach to bring new understanding, resources and commitments to address the driving factors of human-tiger conflict.
- 🐾 **Law, Policy and HWC:** HWCC, in partnership with the Center for International Environmental Law, is leading a global

comparative analysis on the laws and policies that impact HWC. The results will be used as a tool to ensure that development and conservation policies incorporate conflict prevention guidelines in their programs.

To learn more or to participate, please contact: Francine Madden, Executive Director, HWCC via email at fmadden@comcast.net or telephone at (202) 986-0067

Visit our website at www.humanwildlifeconflict.org