

Human-wildlife conflict and coexistence

Bridging local knowledge and global policy



IUCN SSC
Human-Wildlife
Conflict & Coexistence
SPECIALIST GROUP

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Convention on
Biological Diversity

Vision: ***Living in Harmony with Nature***

“...humanity lives in harmony with nature and in which
wildlife and other living species are protected.”

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Lu Xish / Unsplash



Jasper Doest / National Geographic



Anon / International Association for Bear Research & Management

JAPANTODAY

≡ NATIONAL CRIME ENTERTAINMENT POLITICS BUSINESS TECH SPORTS WORLD FE



Image: iStock

National

Intensity of bear complaints strains over 40% of Japan municipalities

Aug. 12 | 06:24 am JST | 25 Comments

Northern while h



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64%	20%	16%
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73%	14%	13%
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■ Strongly Agree + Agree
 ■ Unsure
 ■ Strongly Disagree + Disagree

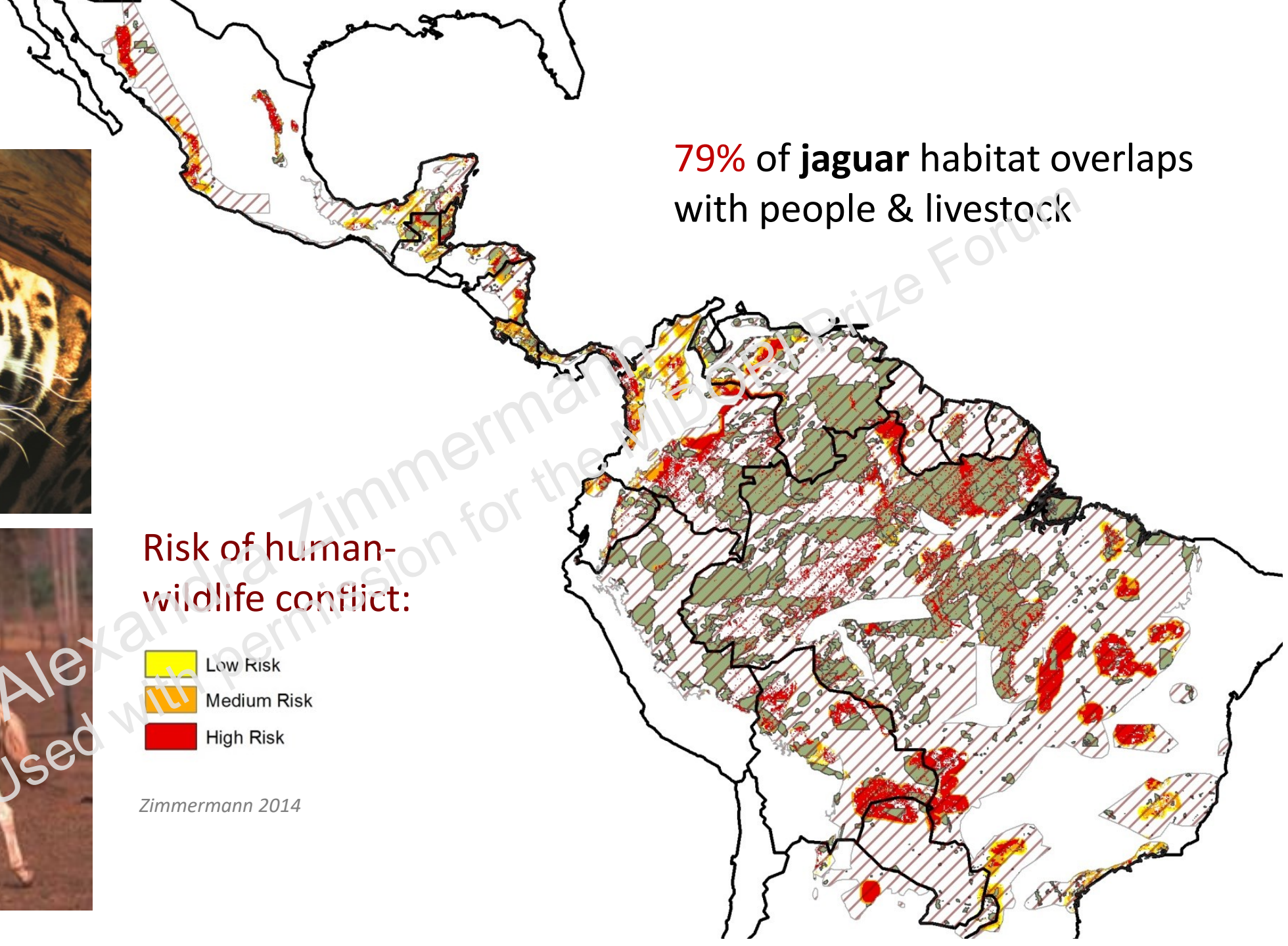


Risk of human-wildlife conflict:



Zimmermann 2014

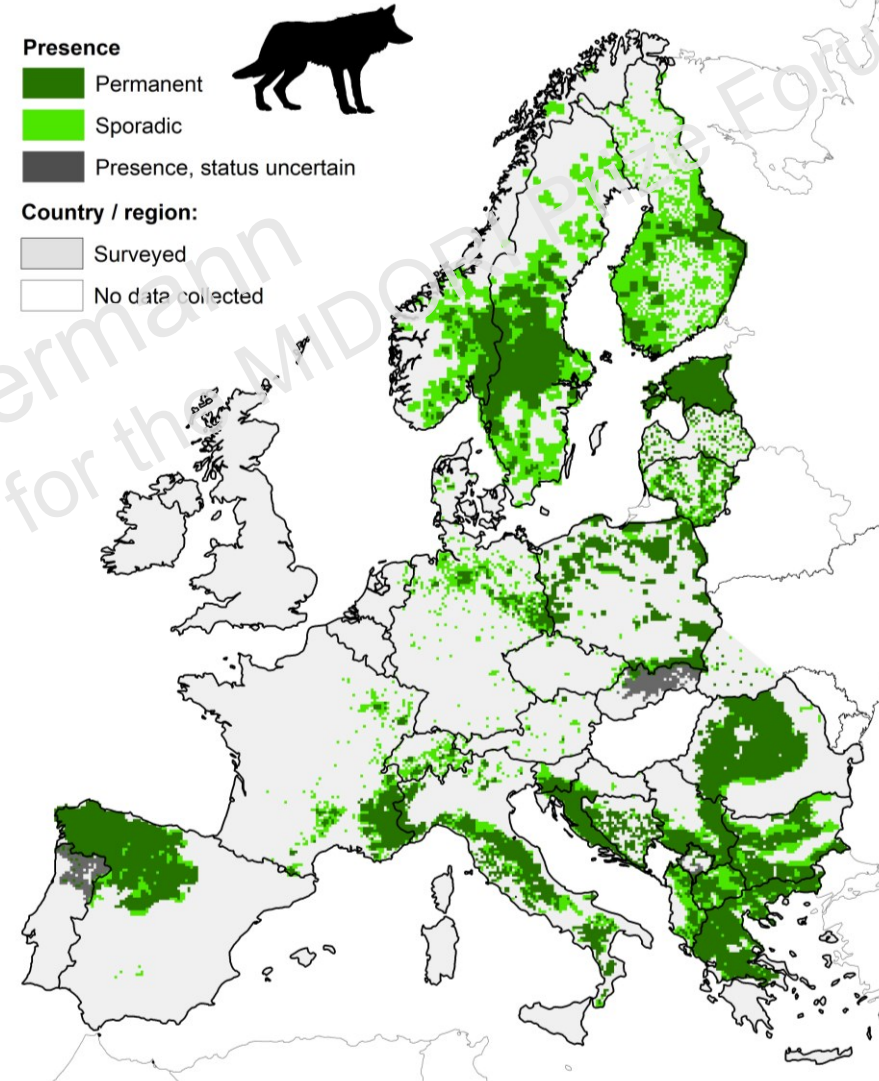
79% of jaguar habitat overlaps with people & livestock



Carnivores recovering across Europe



**Large Carnivore
Initiative for Europe**
IUCN/SSC SPECIALIST GROUP





Human-wildlife conflict can follow conservation 'success'

Nepal: Return of the tigers brings both joy and fear

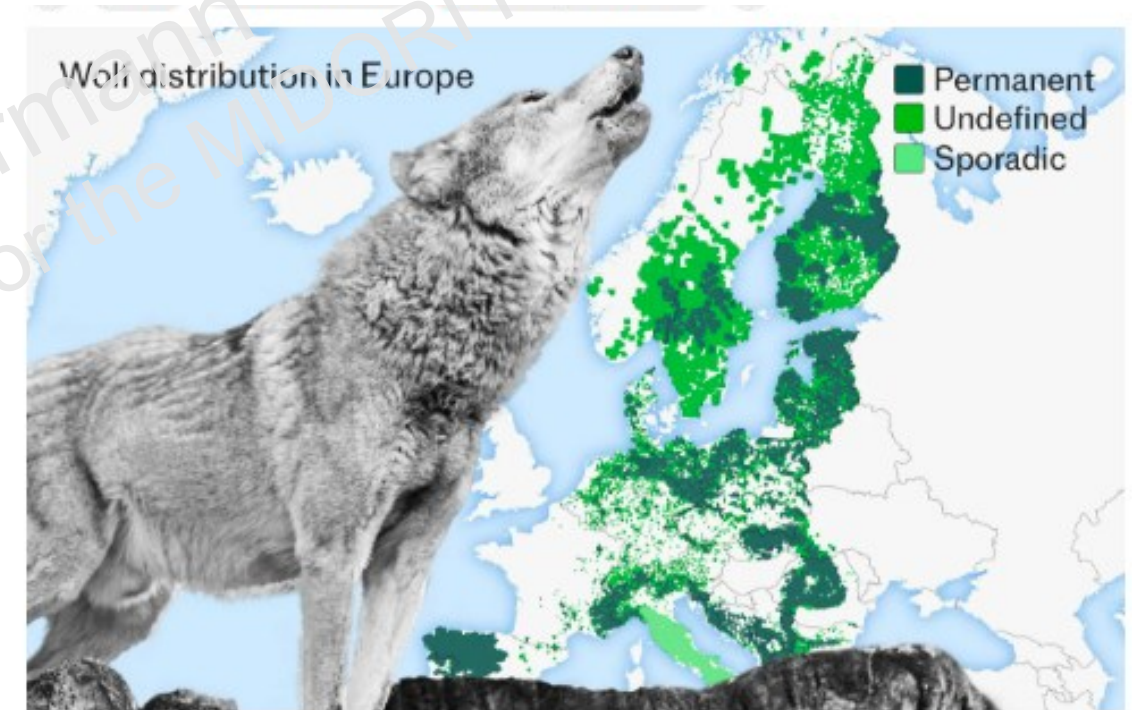
29 July 2022



DEEPAK RAJBANSHI

Endangered Bengal tigers are making a remarkable recovery in Nepal

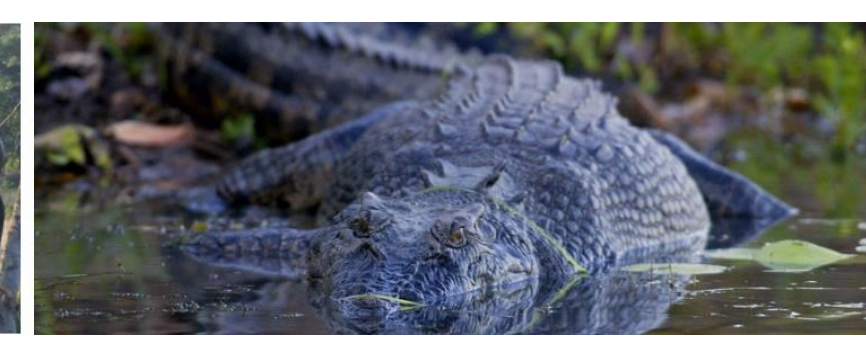
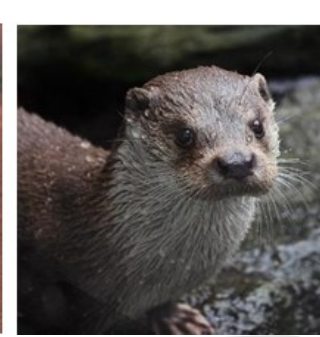
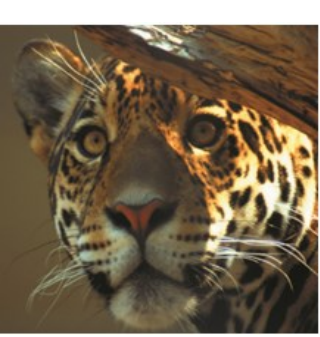
Wolves make surprise comeback across Europe



Nick Squires
in Rome
[Show biography](#)

Published 06 April 2025 12:00pm BST

The Telegraph



Human-wildlife conflict is a serious conservation challenge in **all countries**



What works and *why*?

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What is the human-wildlife conflict *really* about?



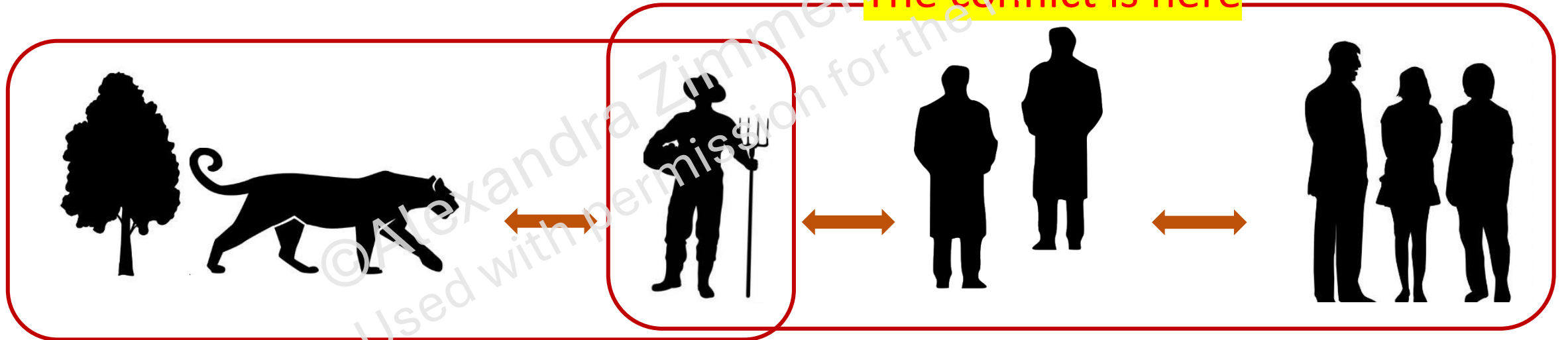


Retaliation against wildlife is not correlated with actual loss and damage





The conflict is here



Interaction between
biodiversity & people

Interaction between **groups of people**
with different interests



HWC is conflict between
people & people *about* wildlife





Human-wildlife conflicts are like icebergs

The image features a stylized illustration of an iceberg. The visible tip of the iceberg is a jagged, light blue shape floating on a dark blue horizontal line representing the water surface. Below the surface, a much larger, darker blue mass represents the submerged part of the iceberg, illustrating the concept that visible conflicts are only a small fraction of the total issue.

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Levels of conflict over wildlife



Symptoms

Most efforts/projects

Most
HWCs

Sympathy for conservation/wildlife
Mainly concerned with **practical aspects**
Willingness to adapt own habits
Openness to receiving help

Technical/
practical
solutions

Accumulated **frustration**, **exaggeration** of incidences
A **history** of unresolved losses, **resentment**
Expectation **someone else should fix** or compensate
Sceptical about motivations of others

Very negative reflections about history
Strongly hostile or **polarized language**
Refusal to cooperate and reduce damage
Hostility towards the intentions of others

**Conflict
Resolution**
(peacebuilding)

Surface-level interventions (Level 1) – practical fixes



Addressing the deeper issues (levels 2-3) – repairing relationships





How to link field knowledge with policy?





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**1) Technical guidance
& knowledge synthesis**



**2) Facilitate collaboration
across sectors & disciplines**



**3) Policy engagement
& capacity building**



www.hwctf.org

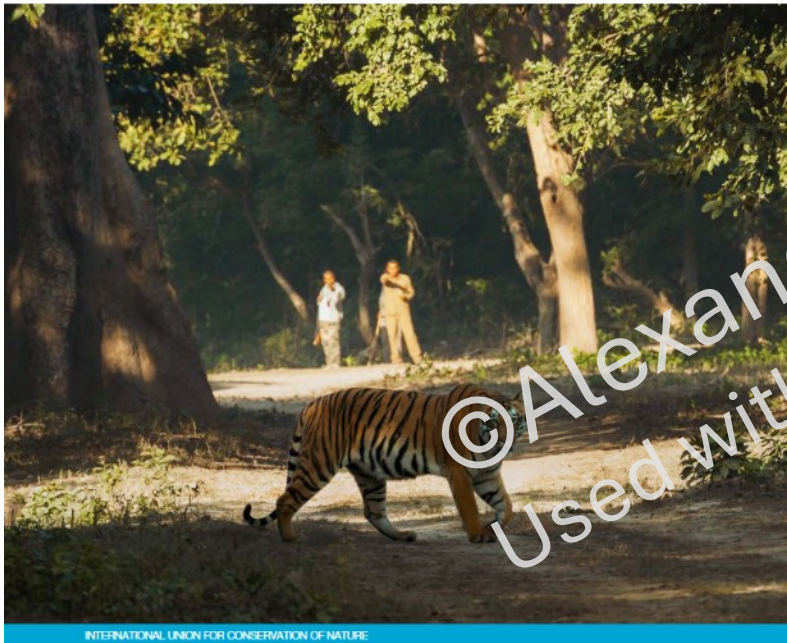
IUCN Guidelines on HWC

www.hwctf.org/guidelines



IUCN SSC guidelines on human-wildlife conflict and coexistence

First edition



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

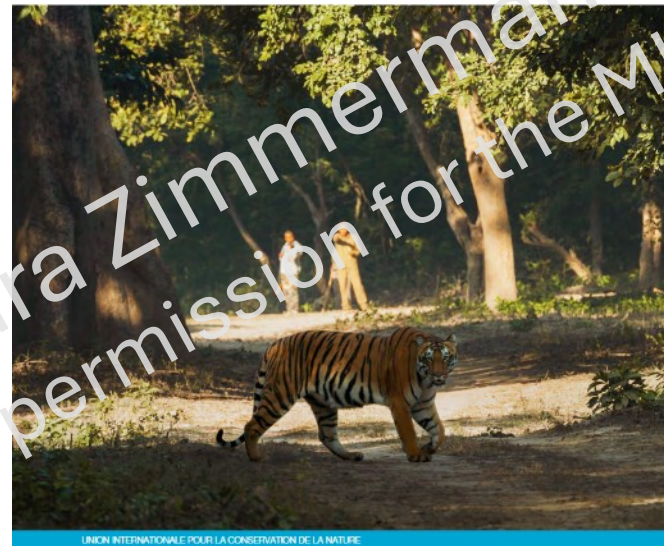
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Lignes directrices de l'IUCN CSE sur les conflits entre les humains et la faune sauvage et sur leur coexistence

Première édition



UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE

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IUCN's #1 most downloaded publication since
publication 2023 (>150,000 downloads)





Convention on
Biological Diversity



Kunming-Montreal

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

196 Parties
CBD COP15
Montreal 2022

[GBF HOME](#) // TARGET 4

Target 4

Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts

Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.





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“....efforts to manage human-wildlife conflicts [should be] pursued through **well-informed, holistic,** and **collaborative** processes that take into account underlying **social, cultural** and **economic contexts.**”

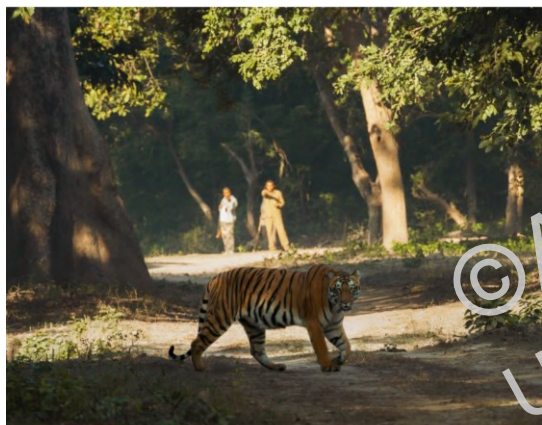
Linking practice and policy

Best practice guidance



IUCN SSC guidelines
on human-wildlife conflict
and coexistence

First edition

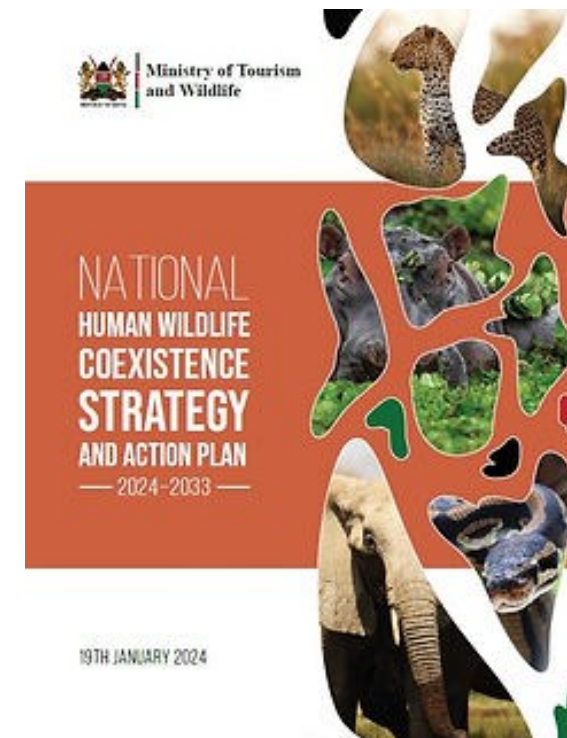
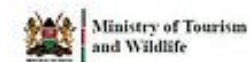


SSC
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IUCN HWCCSG Government Focal Points



National policy development



Multilateral Conferences

www.hwctf.org/conference



2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
HUMAN-WILDLIFE
CONFLICT & COEXISTENCE

BANGKOK 2027

2-4 March 2027

What's next?

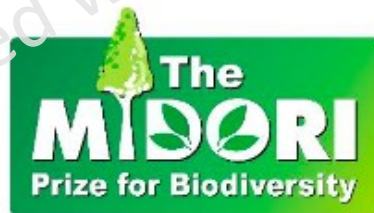
Collaboration accelerator platform

Facilitate more collaboration, shared and diverse learning, innovative and inclusive solutions

across scales

across disciplines

across boundaries





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