



Guidelines for understanding & managing human-wildlife conflict and coexistence



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Chair, IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force

1) The Challenge of managing HWCs

- **Global, urgent & increasing**
- **Every case is unique**
- **HWCs are very complex**

> What tools can help us mitigate HWCs effectively

2) IUCN SSC HWC Task Force

- **Information & knowledge**
- **Interdisciplinary collaborations**
- **Capacity & guidance**

> How can we help & work together

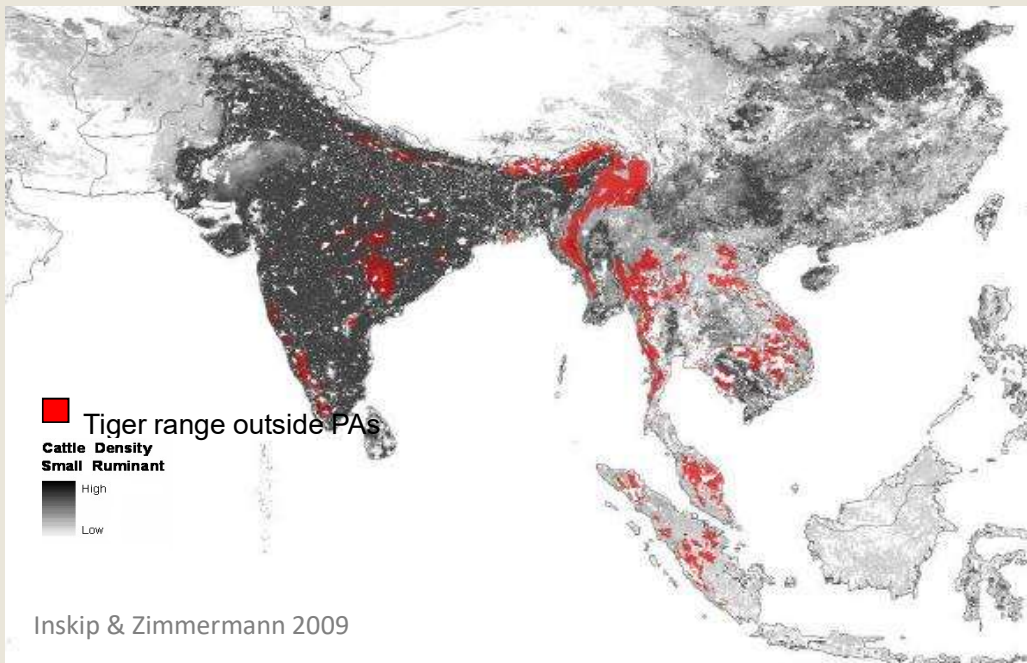
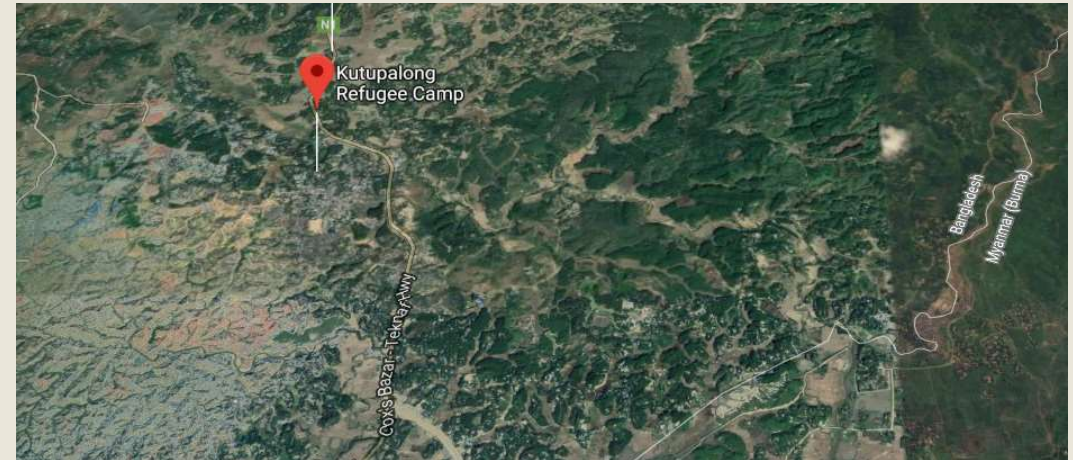


**HWC is a global
conservation
priority**





Range overlap Sharing space





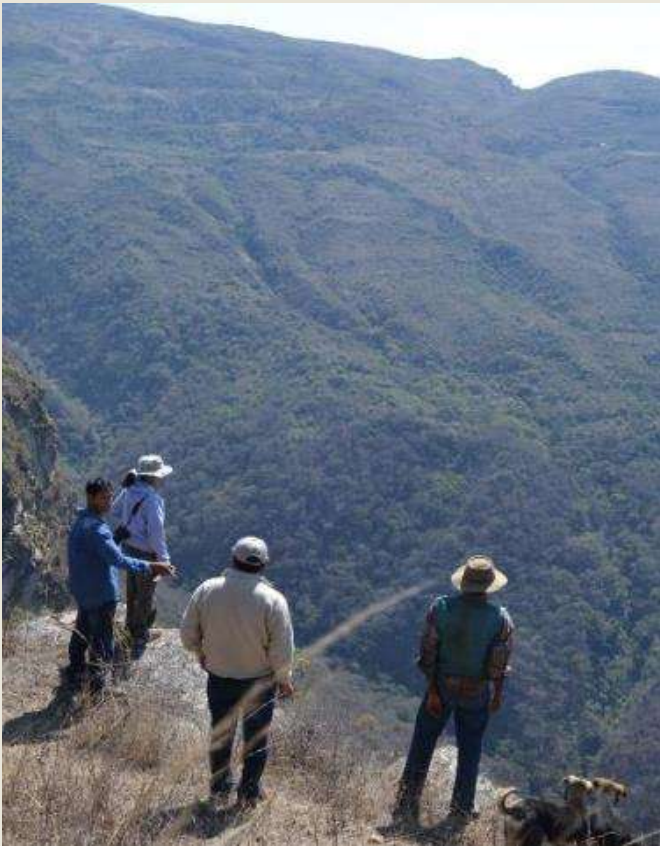
HWCs arising from conservation success





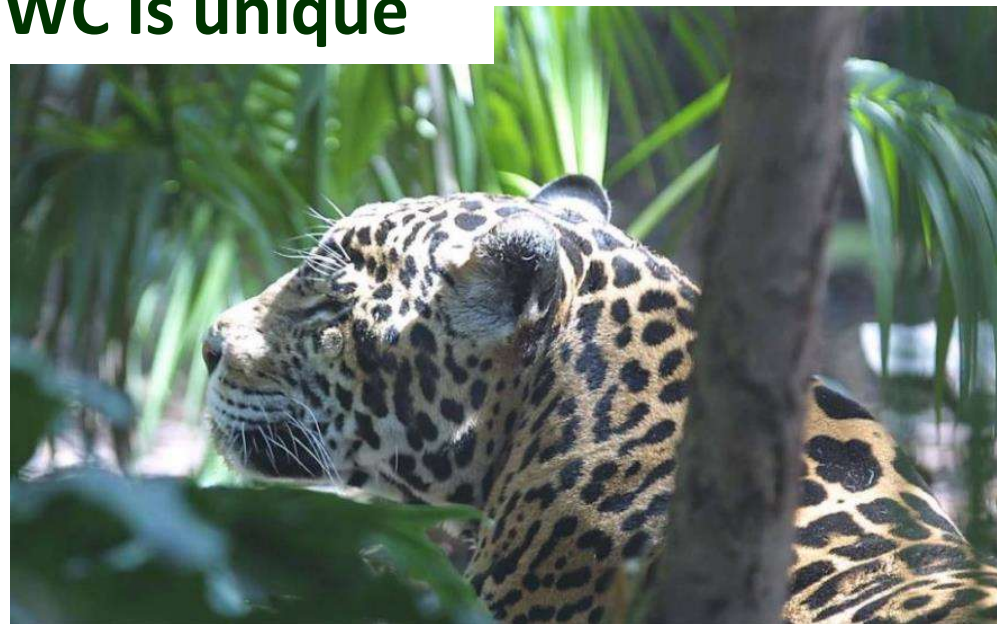
Emerging pressures

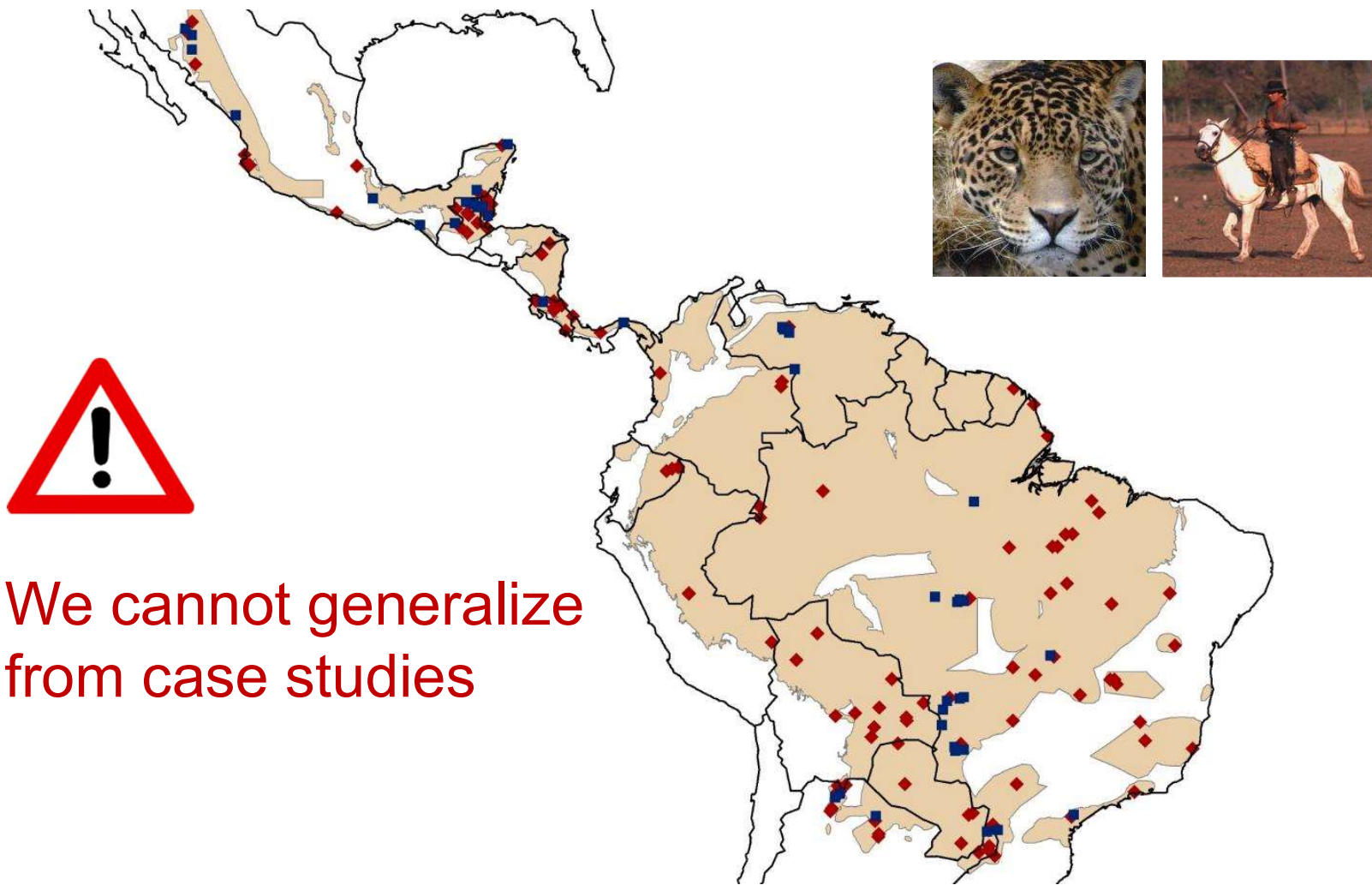
- *Climate change & land use changes*
- *Pandemics & wildlife tourism income*



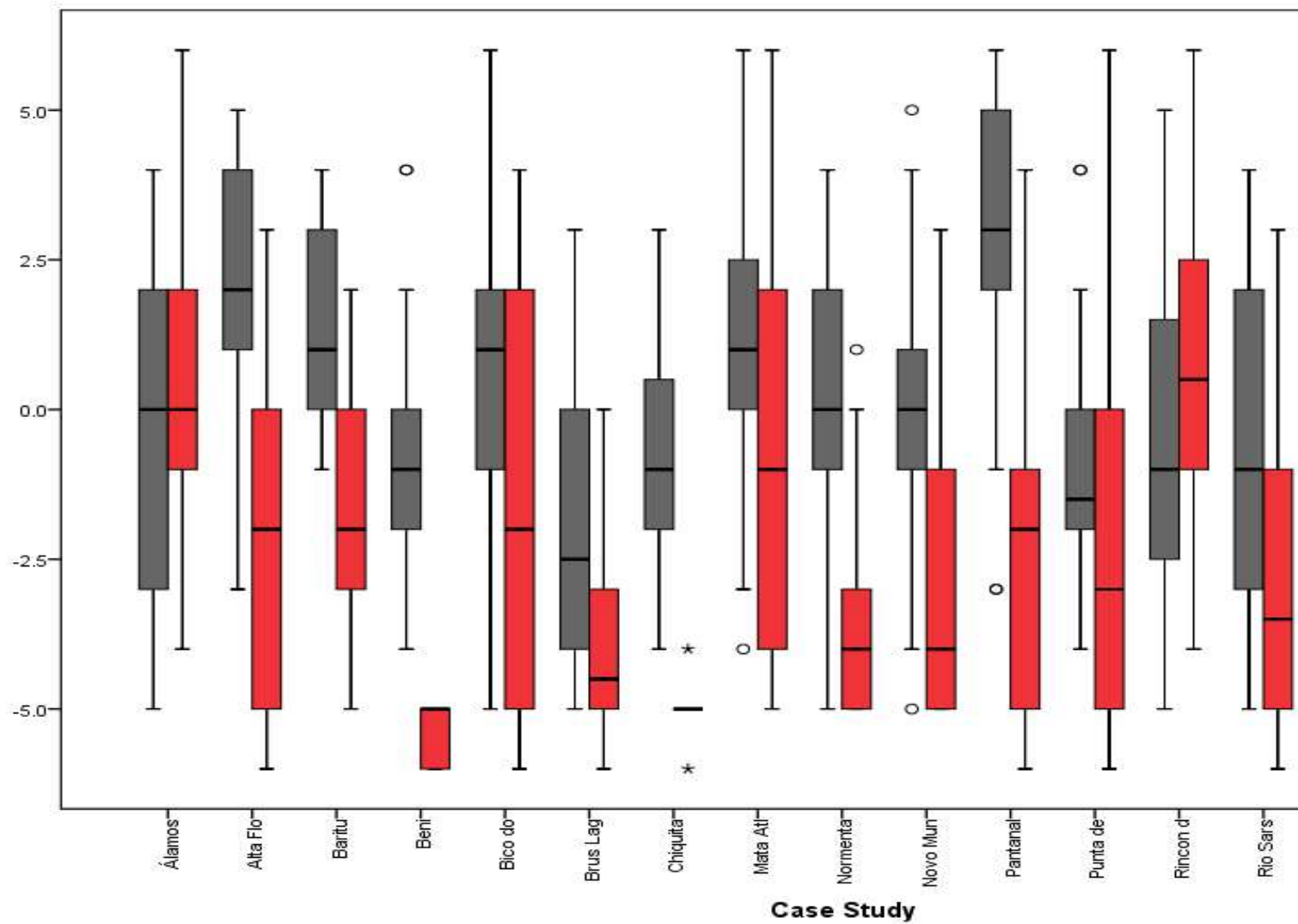


(2) Every case of HWC is unique





We cannot generalize
from case studies



Attitudes

Social Norms



HWCs are very complex
emotions, fear, anger, power, culture,
economics, security, beliefs, politics...



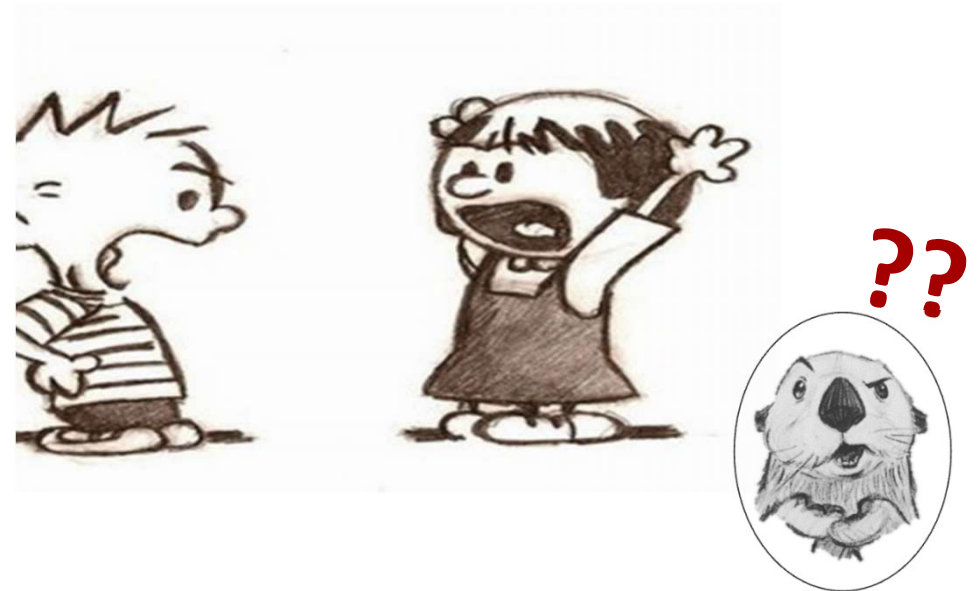
What is human-wildlife conflict?

Behaviour/needs of wildlife at odds with human goals/ideals

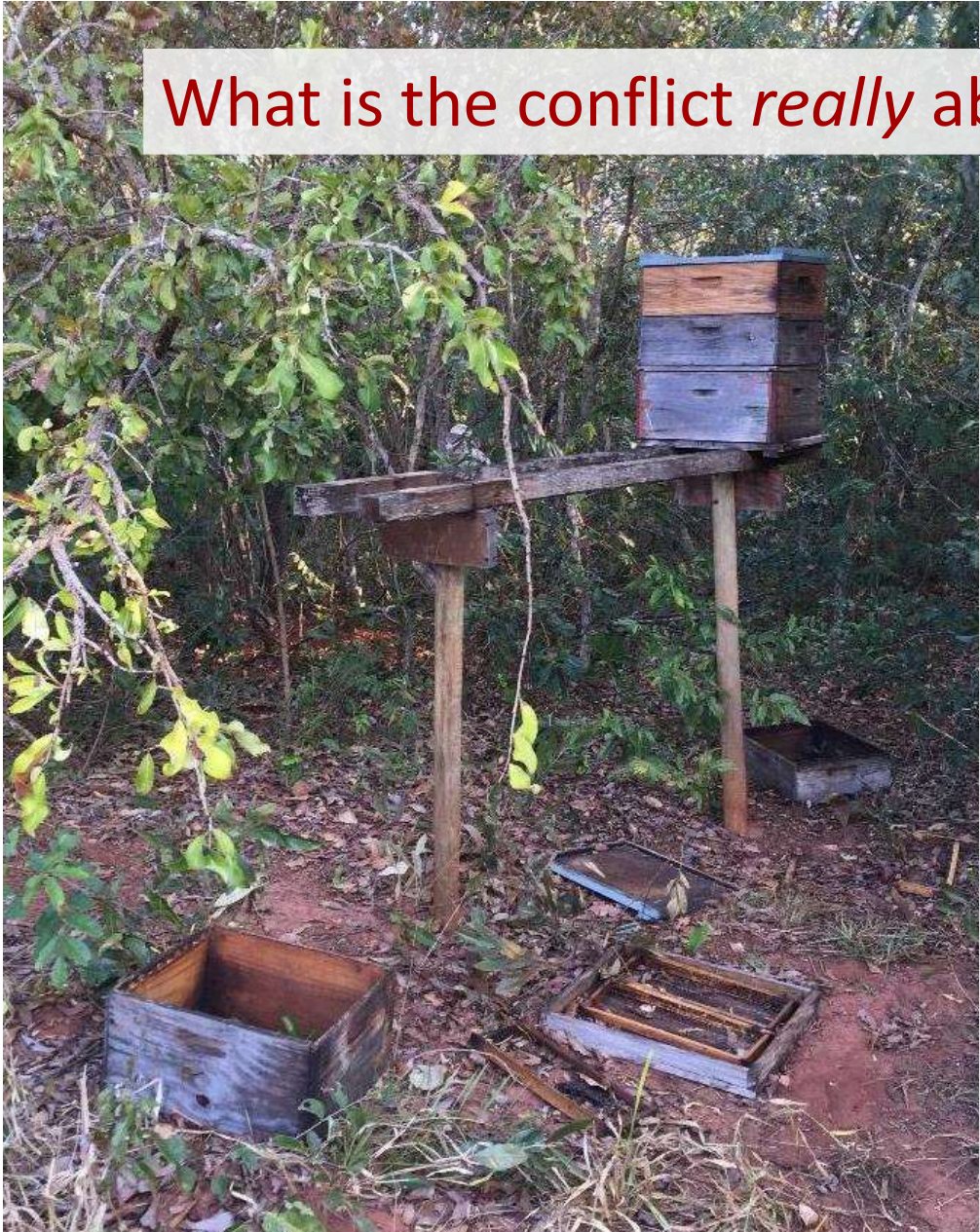


Interaction between people & wildlife

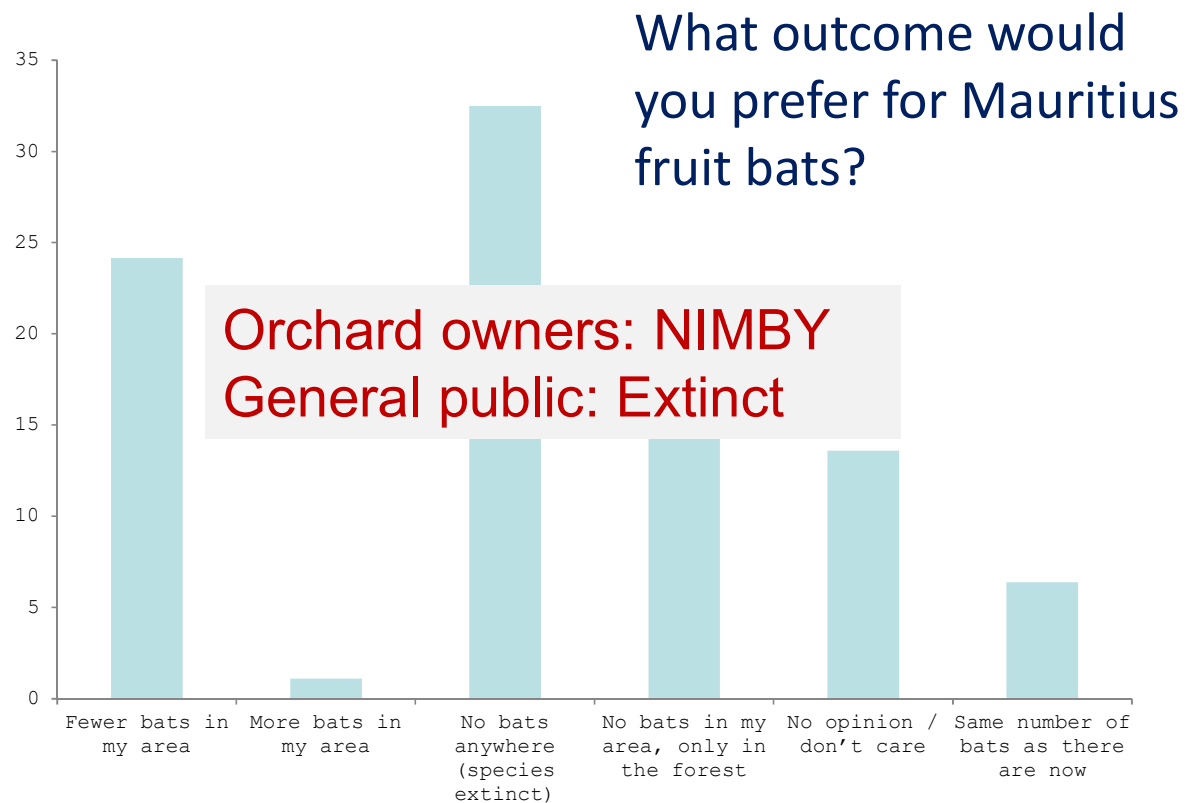
Conflicts between people & people *about* wildlife



What is the conflict *really* about?

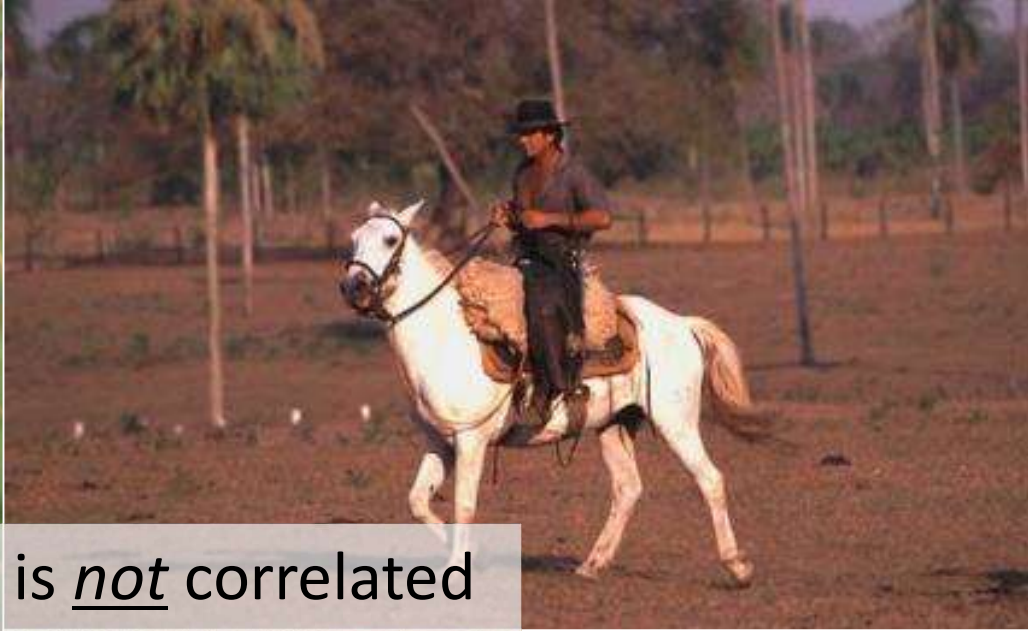


Who are the stakeholders *really*?



Zimmermann, Tollington, Tatayah & Macdonald, *in prep*





Persecution is not correlated with actual losses



Why do many attempts to mitigate HWCs not work?



an electric fence
not maintained



simple solutions
not implemented



wrong species
blamed for loss

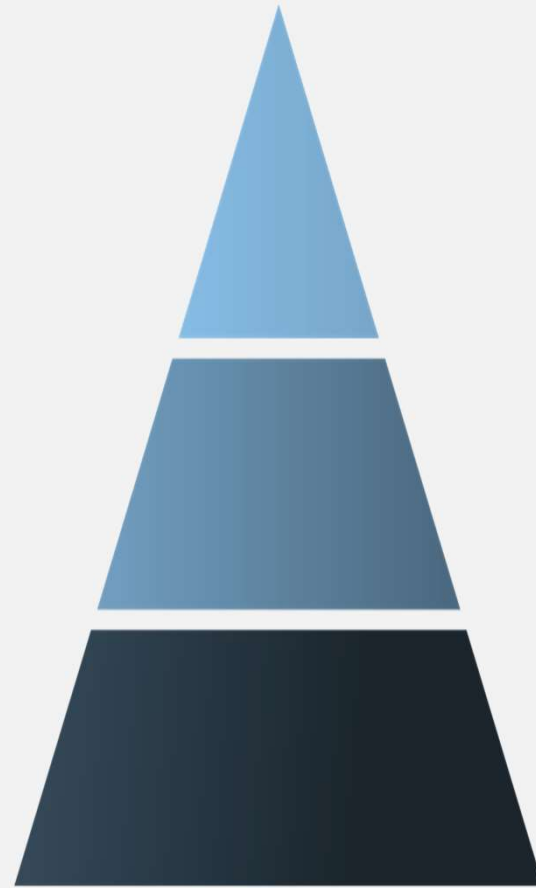
*All human-wildlife conflicts are complex,
but some are more complex than others...*

Inconvenient truths about HWC

1. HWC is a function of human / wildlife overlap
2. HWCs are complex dynamic systems
3. Each case of HWC is different from the next
4. There are is no magic bullet, no one solution

> A conceptual tool for helping understand HWC

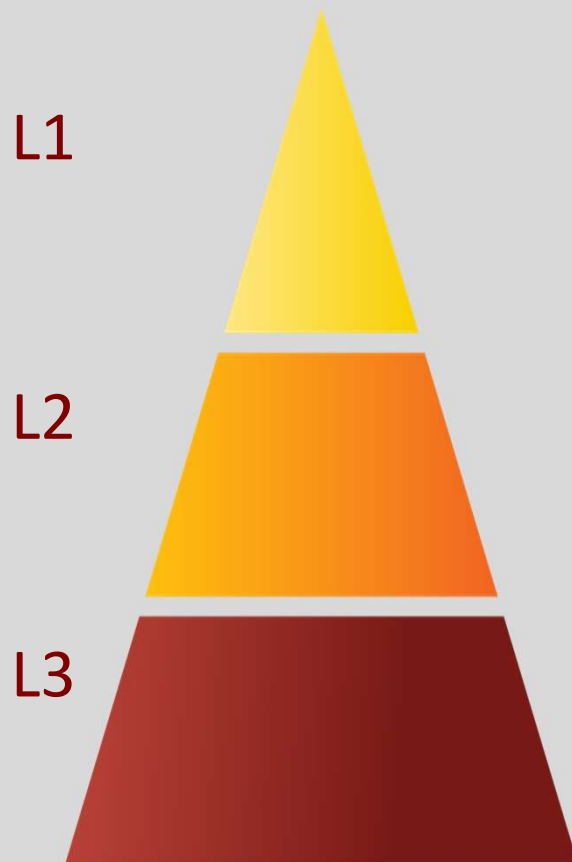
The Levels of Conflict over Wildlife



Levels of Conflict



Identifying the level



QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. *Perceptions about the species*
2. *Perceptions of the situation*
3. *Perception of the history of attempts to solve*
4. *Willingness to engage to find solutions*
5. *Perceptions about others*

1

Participatory decision-making – reducing damage

- **Practical solutions** (e.g., barriers, alarms, husbandry)
- **Reduce risk of losses** (and actual losses) to levels acceptable
- **Diversify income** or improve productivity



2

Addressing underlying conflicts

- Parties **need to be heard** (all views are heard as valid)
- Focus on **building relationships** (not so much on the damage)
- Address and **discuss the history** (past unresolved issues)



3

Working with deep-rooted conflicts

- **Dialogue** processes to address trust, identity, power
- Symbolic gestures, **co-investment** in *issue and its solution*
- **Reconciliation** & conflict transformation approaches



Solutions for HWC require:

1. Committed, focussed, long-term efforts
2. Understanding of the underlying issues, linkages and causes
3. Good processes for building engagement, ownership, value, benefit

1) The Challenge of managing HWCs

- **Global, urgent & increasing**
- **Every case is unique**
- **HWCs are very complex**

> What does it take to mitigate HWCs effectively

2) IUCN SSC HWC Task Force

- **Information & knowledge**
- **Interdisciplinary collaborations**
- **Capacity & guidance**

> How can we help & work together

IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force



To support the conservation community in addressing HWC by providing interdisciplinary expert guidance and resources



- 1) Gather and provide information & knowledge
- 2) Facilitate collaboration & interdisciplinary working
- 3) Build capacity & develop technical guidance



IUCN SSC
Human-Wildlife
Conflict
TASK FORCE

Meet the task force



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Chair



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Professor Steve Redpath
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Professor Camilla Sandström
Member



Virat A Singh
Member



Dr Gladman Thondhlana
Member



Dr Diogo Verissimo
Member



Dr Juliette Young
Member

+ 10

small, multi-disciplinary
task force

zoology
geography
political ecology
social psychology
behavioural ecology
cultural anthropology
diplomatic negotiation
development economics
peacebuilding and mediation



Human-Wildlife Conflict Resource Library

Latest

Soliku, O., and U. Schraml. 2020. From conflict to collaboration: the contribution of co-management in mitigating conflicts in Mole National Park, Ghana. *Oryx* **54**:483-493. 

[Download](#)

Zimmermann, A., B. McQuinn, and D. W. Macdonald. 2020. Levels of conflict over wildlife: understanding and addressing the right problem. *Conservation Science and Practice*:e259.  [Download](#)

Meena, V., P. J. Johnson, A. Zimmermann, R. A. Montgomery, and D. W. Macdonald. 2020. Evaluation of human attitudes and factors conducive to promoting human-lion

Key Topics

Engaging with stakeholders

Conflict analysis & theory

Social research methods

Political ecology of conflicts

Historical perspectives

Human dimensions theory

Behaviour change & social marketing

Role of the media

Key Species

African elephant

Asian elephant

Bears

Cheetah

Crocodilians



Otters



Key Papers

Akpona, A. H., C. Djangoun, L. A. Harrington, A. T. Kabre, G. A. Mensah, and B. Sinsin. 2015. Conflict between spotted-necked otters and fishermen in Hlan River, Benin. *Journal for Nature Conservation* 27:63-71. [External resource](#)

Ergete, E. A., T. W. Hailemariam, M. Balakrishnan, and T. L. Serfass. 2018 .Fishermen knowledge and conflict with African clawless otters in and around Lake Tana, Ethiopia. *African Journal of Ecology* [External resource](#)

Freitas, D., J. Gomes, T. S. Luis, L. Madruga, C. Marques, G. Baptista, L. M. Rosalino, P. Antunes, R. Santos, and M. Santos-Reis. 2007. Otters and fish farms in the Sado estuary: ecological and socio-economic basis of a conflict. *Hydrobiologia* 587:51-62. [External resource](#)



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
HUMAN-WILDLIFE
CONFLICT and COEXISTENCE

April 2020 | Oxford, UK
www.hwccconference.org

Postponed to March 2022



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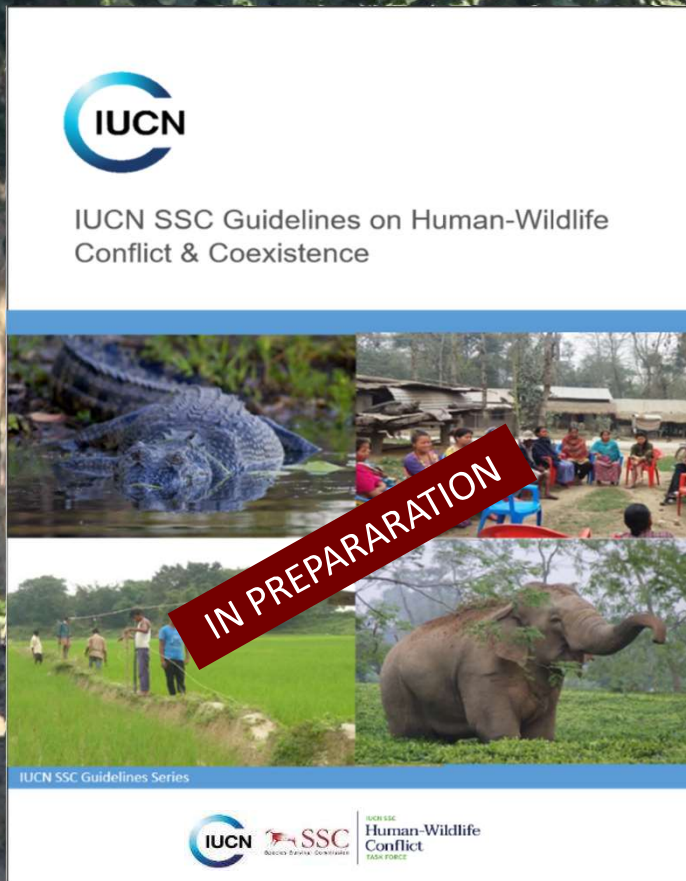


WILDCRU
Wildlife Conservation Research Unit

IUCN SSC Guidelines on HWC



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IUCN SSC Guidelines on HWC



Practical, holistic *how-to advice* for practitioners & decision-makers

Section 1: Fundamentals of HWC *Includes:* key principles of working with HWC conflict & coexistence

Section 2: Understanding HWC *Includes:* animal behaviour, ecology, spatial patterns, livelihoods, economics, governance, political contexts, legal frameworks, cultures, indigenous knowledge

Section 3: Planning for Action *Includes:* theory of change, planning, stakeholder processes, community engagement, social research, spatial & ecological research, ethics & consequences, HWC management plans, M&E

Section 4: Implementing Action *Includes:* damage reduction, behaviour interventions, rapid response, financial instruments, working with media, policy & governance, dialogue, building on culture & local knowledge, working with deep-rooted conflicts, mediation

Next: Piloting & testing the draft guidelines

info@hwctf.org



Position Statement

On the Management of Human-Wildlife Conflict



IUCN SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION



English, French, Spanish, Portuguese

www.iucn.org/theme/species/publications/policies-and-position-statements

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