











KEY RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

INDO-GERMAN PROJECT ON HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION (HWC) IN INDIA

(November 1, 2017- June 30, 2023)

Indo-German Cooperation on Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation (HWC) in India

Duration	November 2017 to June 2023
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Implementation Partners	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India State Forest Departments of Karnataka, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal
Resources committed by Germany	up to € 5.5 million
Responsible:	Dr Neeraj Khera neeraj.khera@giz.de neerajkhera@gmail.com

The rural population in project areas, where agreed guidelines and tools are applied, is better protected against Human-Wildlife Conflict

Output A:

Development of Strategy and Action Plan at National level and in selected States

Output B: Pilot application of newly developed instruments for the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts in UK, KA, and WB

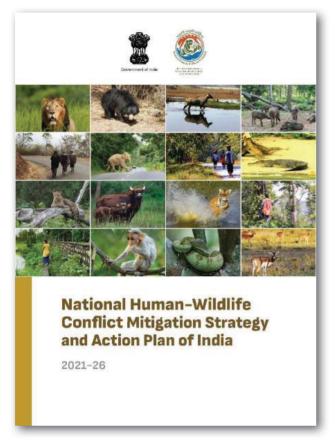
Output C:

Strengthening institutional and individual capacities for mitigating human-wildlife conflicts

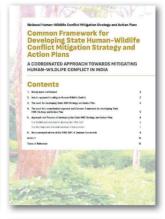


OUTPUT A:
DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGY
AND ACTION PLAN AT
NATIONAL LEVEL AND IN
SELECTED STATES

Development of India's National Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategy















https://moef.gov.in/wp-content/ uploads/2022/01/National-Human-Wildlife-Conflict-Mitigation-Strategyand-Action-Plan-of-India-2.pdf

The preparation of the national, state and division-level plans and 14 guidelines followed a participatory, inclusive, and integrated approach involving key relevant stakeholders and sectors including agriculture, veterinary, disaster management, district administration, rural development and Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGOs, and media.

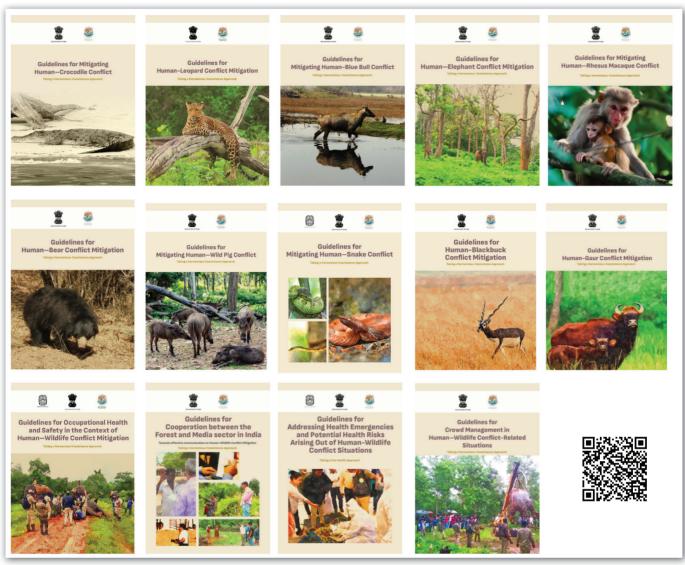
An intensive and systematic process of consultations on HWC-NAP, common framework for HWC-SAP and HWC-MAPs and pilot testing of the guidelines was facilitated through 107 events, including workshops, regional and national consultations, meetings, and field consultations, during August 2018 to February 2023, with more than 2600 participants from forest-wildlife, agriculture-veterinary, rural development and Panchayati Raj, disaster management, police, and media sectors.

An intensive pilot testing process for the guidelines was facilitated for the states to test and report on the feasibility and acceptability of the recommendations expressed in the draft guidelines, during December 2020-December 2022.

The HWC-NAP and Supplementary Frameworks were released by Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Hon'ble Minister of State, MoEFCC on 8th October 2021 in New Delhi.

and Action Plan (HWC-NAP) and 4 supplementary frameworks

DEVELOPMENT OF 14 GUIDELINES ON HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION, TAKING A HOLISTIC AND HARMONIOUS COEXISTENCE APPROACH



Scan this QR code of click on this link to download the guidelines https://indo-germanbiodiversity.com/projects-human+wildlife+conflict+mitigation.html

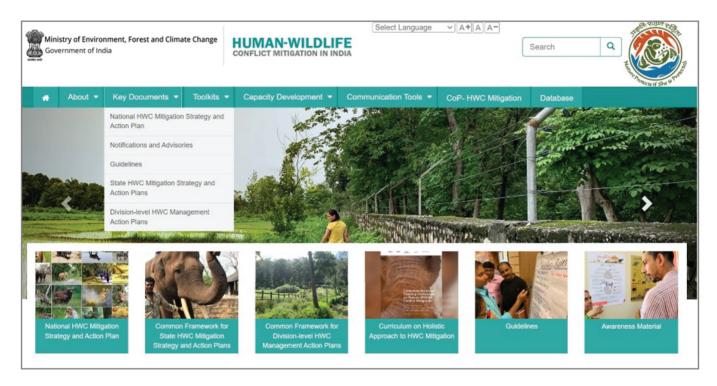


National Knowledge Portal on HWC Mitigation to facilitate knowledge

AN INTEGRATED PORTAL FACILITATING INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The project has facilitated the development and pilot testing of a web-based National Knowledge and Data Portal on HWC Mitigation to facilitate dialogue and knowledge exchange between scientists, managers, and policy experts from key relevant sectors, youth and community members, via web-based forums.

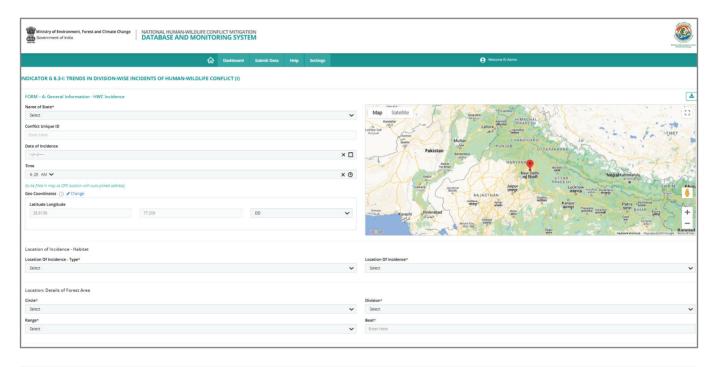
This web platform also anchors the National HWC Mitigation Database and Monitoring system to consolidate information on the indicators for reporting progress on HWC-NAP, thus facilitating in effective monitoring of HWC mitigation at the national, state and division levels.

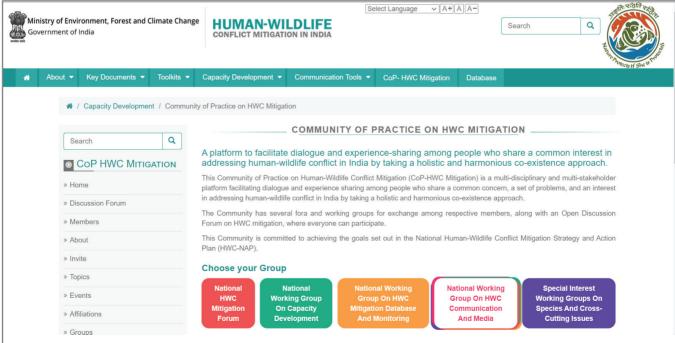




sharing, reporting and monitoring:

The web-platform is the repository for all knowledge products including plans, guidelines, training materials, toolkits, as well as anchoring point for various discussion for and working groups to facilitate exchange of experiences and information.





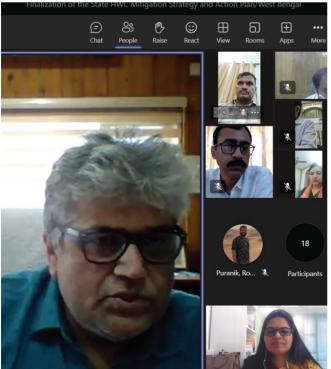
STATE-LEVEL HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (HWC-SAPS)

To support aligned, coordinated and synergistic approach for HWC mitigation at national, state and division levels, the project facilitated development of state-level Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategy and Action Plans for three project partner states: Karnataka, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

The preparation of the HWC-SAPs also followed participatory, inclusive, and integrated approach involving key relevant stakeholders and sectors, and drawing heavily from the knowledge, experiences and feedback received during the preparation of the HWC-NAPs, guidelines and interactions with the field-staff during implementation of other project measures.











OUTPUT B:
PILOT APPLICATION
OF NEWLY DEVELOPED
INSTRUMENTS FOR HWC
MITIGATION IN KARNATAKA,
UTTARAKHAND AND
WEST BENGAL

To facilitate the decision-makers and implementers in effectively operationalizing the HWC-NAP, HWC-SAP, HWC-MAP and guidelines, the project has facilitated development of Toolkits.

Implementer's Toolkit: Holistic and Harmonious Co-existence Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India

Taking a Participatory Approach

This toolkit contains:

- State Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan (HWC-SAP)
- Implementer's Toolbox: Operationalising National Strategy and Action Plan and guidelines at state and division-levels
- A brief overview: Process of developing National Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan, Guidelines- an integrated and participatory approach
- Implementer's Toolbox: National Knowledge and Data Portal on Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India
- Division-level Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Management Action Plan (HWC-MAP)
- Overview booklets of Training Curriculum for forest officers, RRTs, media, community PRTs, agriculture sector and One Health
- Awareness and communication material





Decision-maker's Toolkit: Holistic and Harmonious Co-existence Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India

Facilitating Cross-sector and Multi-stakeholder Participation

This toolkit contains:

- National Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan of India (HWC-NAP) (2021-2026) and Supplementary Frameworks to HWC-NAP
- 14 Guidelines









TO OPERATIONALISE THE HOLISTIC APPROACH, SIX HWC MITIGATION INSTRUMENTS WERE CONCEPTUALISED AND PILOT TESTED AT THE THREE PROJECT PILOT LANDSCAPES:

HWC MITIGATION INSTRUMENT:

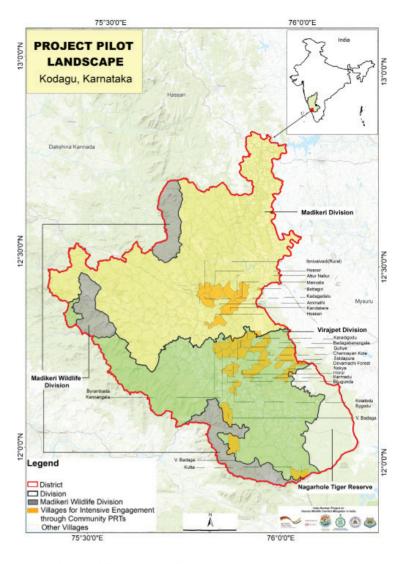
Establishment of an Early Warning and Response System at Division-level

To enhance the overall capacities of the response teams and efficiency of mitigation efforts at the pilot division, the project procured, installed, fabricated and operationalised state-of-the-art equipment for early warning and rapid response. The project also facilitated the response teams, via hands-on trainings on use and maintenance, periodic review on utilisation and troubleshooting support, in using and maintaining the equipment, as well as in deployment of radio collars and documenting cases and good practices on use of radio collars and other equipment.

More than 250 personnel of the 30 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) at project pilot sites have been equipped with this state-of-the-art equipment

Equipment provided for Early Warning and Rapid Response Combined for all 3 states

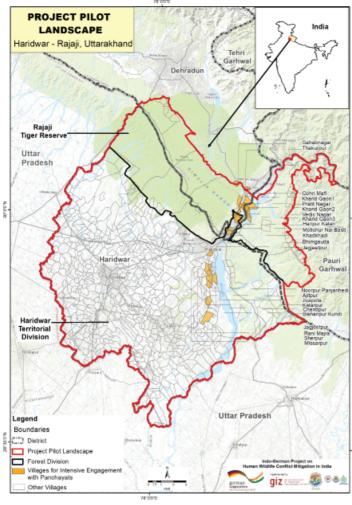
9 vehicles (4 TATA 407 fabricated as Rapid Response Vehicles for carnivore rescue for KA and UK; 5 RRT mobility vehicles (1 Maruti Gypsy for Rajaji-Haridwar, 2 Mahindra Thar for Kodagu, and 2 TATA Xenon Yodha for Gorumara); 100 HWC Mitigation equipment kits (09 kits for the division level RRT, 20 kits for the range level Primary Response Team, 70 kits for the village level PRTs and 01 for training purpose); 65 radio collars (35 elephants (Make: AWT-GSM/GPS), 5 gaur (AWT GPS) and 25 leopards (Make: Vectronics/ Telonics)) were procured for project partner states (Karnataka 29,(E 25, L 4, of which 10 are deployed), West Bengal 18 (5 E, 5 G & 8 L, of which 5 are deployed) and Uttarakhand 18 (5 E, 13 L are deployed) with accessories for the collars: 03 drop off terminal, 20 multi-channel receiver with antenna; 56 antenna cables; 12 Drones 12 Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV/Drones)- 6 micro drones and 6 nano drones; 120 camera traps (20 wireless and 100 simple camera traps), 03 bite suit; 06 night vision binoculars and 03 thermal binoculars; 10 binoculars; 2 DSLR cameras; 02 sets of veterinary equipment (syringe darts, jab stick and other accessories) for Uttarakhand; 03 set of Desktop system with LED TV Screen for HWC Mitigation Hub at Motichur-UK and Binnaguri & Malbazar-WB; Three sets of equipment for RRT teams for preventing zoonotic disease (One Health Approach)- PPE kits, N95 Mask, safety googles, Firstaid-kit, disinfectant).



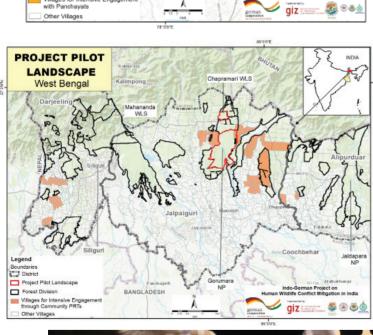
The project facilitated formation of 100 Response Teams, combined at 3 pilot sites, including:

- Division-level Rapid Response Teams: 9
- Range-level Rapid Response Teams: 21
- Cooperation with Panchayats and PRI institutions for establishing community-level PRTs: 70 Panchayats

The Panchayats have been provided with the basic equipment, including backpacks, hand-held torch, fluorescent jackets, water bottle etc. that helps them in supporting the RRTs in overall patrolling and monitoring of the HWC mitigation measures etc











Competencies-based trainings of the Rapid Response Teams

The project facilitated in developing, pilot testing and producing a competencies-based training curriculum for the RRTs, through more than 32 trainings with about 1000 RRT personnel and other front-line staff of the three project pilot sites.

Training Kit: Holistic Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India, Taking Participatory Approach for Rapid Response Teams

This Training Kit contains:

- Overview Booklet
- Training Resource Material: 9 Content Modules
- Learning Journal for RRT members
- Awareness and communication material
- Training resources for the training of Panchayats and Community PRTs
- Technical brief: HWC mitigation instruments to operationalise a holistic approach on human-wildlife conflict mitigation







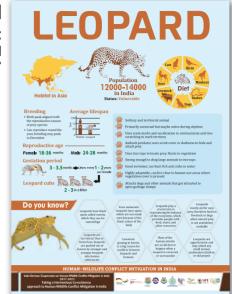


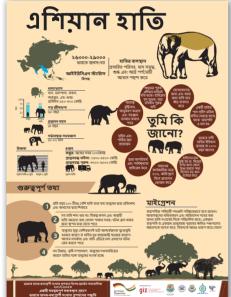
Awareness and Communication measures on Preventing Accidental Encounters Between Humans and Wild Animals

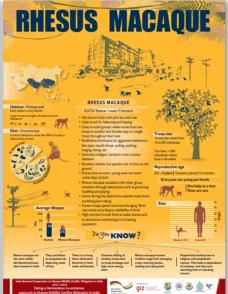
Project worked with Panchayats, schools and colleges and other stakeholders at the project pilot sites and organised several awareness events and produced 16 posters as tools for awareness to prevent accidental encounters between humans and wildlife.

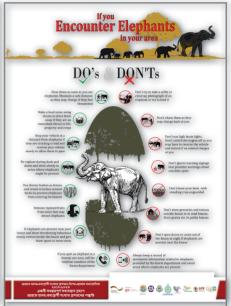
These posters are produced in 4 languages: Hindi, English, Bengali and Kannada. High resolutions files are available from the National Portal for download, and design files are available to states for them to adapt the posters in other languages.















Reducing the Vulnerability of Humans from HWC

The project partnered with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (ICAR-NAARM) for this instrument. Selected ICAR institutions including *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* (KVK) Gonnikopal, Kodagu in Karnataka; KVK ramsai, Gorumara from West Bengal and Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (IISWC) in Uttarakhand were part of the ICAR consortium to pilot test this instrument.

26 Trainings and field-consultations were implemented for more than 850 participants on HWC-safe farming practices, including alternative crops and cropping patterns, innovative crop protection and crop guarding methods at the three pilot sites.

A cluster of Tools 'Reducing the Vulnerability of Humans from HWC' in the *Implementer's Toolbox:* Operationalising National Strategy and Action Plan and guidelines at state and division-levels, includes the tools such as crop fact sheet on alternative crops, developed under this partnership.

Two training curricula, viz., 'A Holistic Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation' and 'Taking a One Health Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation' have been included in the induction and mid-career trainings of the senior decision-makers, faculty members of the state agriculture universities (SAUs), and trainings of the KVK experts at ICAR-NAAR.

A business plan to effectively adopt the alternative crops at the three project pilot sites has been developed by the Agri-business experts at ICAR-NAARM.







Cross-sector Cooperation and Inter-Agency Coordination on HWC Mitigation

Measures at the Project Pilot sites were aimed at facilitating a common understanding and consensus among key stakeholders, on key approaches and possible solutions for mitigating human wildlife conflict in India.

The project facilitated dialogue with key sectors and stakeholders to find long-term solutions to HWC, via facilitating participation of personnel from agriculture, veterinary, animal husbandry, rural development and Panchayati Raj, district administration, police, disaster management, civil defence, media, tea and coffee planters' associations, tourism operators, paramilitary teams in the trainings, workshops and field consultations organised under the project during 2018-23.

The project facilitated the process of establishment of State-level Coordination Committee (SLCC) in Karnataka and District-level Coordination Committee (DLCC) in Kodagu district, in line with the MoEFCC Advisory (Feb 2021).









Division-level Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Action Plan (HWC-MAP)

For systematically addressing human-wildlife conflict in the division, an HWC Management Action Plan should be developed (National Wildlife Action Plan of India 2017-35).

The project facilitated in operationalising the provision made in the NWAP, by developing a common framework for states to prepare HWC Management Action Plans (HWC-MAP). The project further produced four model HWC-MAP for project pilot divisions: Haridwar in Uttarakhand, Madikeri and Virajpet in Karnataka, and Gorumara in West Bengal.

The objective of the HWC Management Action Plan is to facilitate the implementation of effective and efficient HWC mitigation strategies at the division level. HWC-MAPs are developed in a way that it acts as a critical instrument to align the national, state and division level planning, in line with the 14 guidelines released by the Ministry in March 2023. This Plan equips the officers with a holistic approach and instruments towards implementing HWC mitigation measures in a consolidated manner. HWC-MAPs are expected to facilitate in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of HWC mitigation measures implemented in these divisions in the years to come. The HWC-MAP will also serve as a key tool for inter-agency coordination on HWC mitigation.





Human-Wildlife Conflict
Management Action Plan

Haridwar Division and adjoining landscap

Uttarakhand Forest Departmen



Human-Wildlife Conflict
Management Action Plan

Virajpet Division and adjoining landscape

Karnataka Forest Departmen



Human-Wildlife Conflict
Management Action Plan

Madikeri Division and adjoining landscape

Karnataka Forest Department



Human-Wildlife Conflict
Management Action Plan

Gorumara Wildlife Division and adjoining landscap

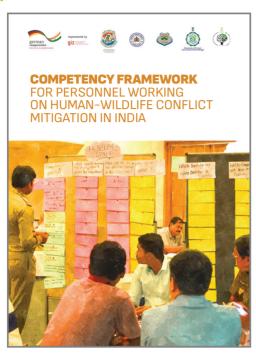
West Bengal Forest Department





OUTPUT C:
FACILITATING CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT OF
INSTITUTIONS AND
INDIVIDUALS FOR
MITIGATING HUMANWILDLIFE CONFLICT AT
NATIONAL LEVEL AND AT
STATE LEVEL

THE PROJECT FACILITATED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 'COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK FOR PERSONNEL WORKING ON HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION IN INDIA'.



This competency Framework provides a comprehensive and consistent framework for identifying capacity development needs and priorities, in relation to the requirements of effective HWC mitigation, taking a holistic and harmonious coexistence approach. The framework supports the National and State level training institutions in developing their training curriculum.

The project supported implementation of the National Training Policy (2012) by developing competencies specific to the forest sector



THE PROJECT DEVELOPED AND PILOT TESTED 10 COMPETENCY-BASED CURRICULA:

- 'A Holistic Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation' for IFS probationers at IGNFA (National-Forest)
- "A Holistic Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation' for *In-Service* IFS officers at the Post Graduate Diploma course on Wildlife management at the Wildlife Institute of India (National-Forest). Based on this, the curriculum of the masters course on wildlife management at WII was also modified to include the topic of HWC mitigation.
- 'Taking a One Health Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation' for faculty members, experts, as well as senior decision-makers from the agriculture sector, in Partnership with National Academy for Agriculture Research and Management (ICAR-NAARM)
- 'A Holistic Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation' for *In-Service* forest officers at the Certificate course on Wildlife management at the Wildlife Institute of India (National-Forest).
- 'A Holistic Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation' for probationary State Forest Service (SFS) officers at the CASFOS Dehradun (State-Forest)
- 'A Holistic Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation' for probationary State Forest Service (SFS) officers at the CASFOS Burnihat (State-Forest)
- 'A Holistic Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation' for In-Service Front-line officers at West Bengal Forest School, Kurseong
- 'Leadership Skills for forest Officers' for IFS probationers at IGNFA, Dehradun, and for SFS probationers at CASFOS Dehradun, in cooperation with Dale Carnegie
- 'Taking a Holistic Approach to HWC Mitigation communication: for media professionals in India' in cooperation with the *Deutsche Welle Akademie* Germany
- 'Taking a Holistic Approach to HWC Mitigation communication: for under-graduation media students' in cooperation with the St Xavier's (Autonomous) College, Mumbai
- 'Taking a Holistic Approach to HWC Mitigation communication: for post-graduation media students', in cooperation with the AJK Mass Communication Center, Jamia Milia Islamia University at Delhi

THE PROJECT FACILITATED OFFICERS FROM PARTNER STATES, MOEFCC AND DEA IN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL EXPEDITIONS AND TRAININGS AS FOLLOWS:

- International: Officers from MoEFCC, DEA, and SFDs of Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Karnataka, and other states participated in International training expeditions and training courses at Kenya and Tanzania (Aug-Sep 2018)
- International Project sponsored three officers nominated by UKFD to participate in the 'Advanced Course in Wildlife Chemical Immobilization and Field Practice' at University of Pretoria (co-organised by SaNParks) from 3-9 November, 2019
- National: Officers from UKFD, KFD and WBFD participated in national training expeditions: North Bengal (July-Aug 2019), Kodagu (Sep 2019), Maharashtra (Dec 2019); Project sponsored participation of officers from KFD, UKFD and WBFD for certificate (one officer each in Dec 2018; two officers in 2019), and diploma (2 in Mar 2019-lateral entry; and one full diploma course during Sep 19-Jun 20) courses at WII

THE PROJECT SUPPORTED KEY TRAINING ORGANISATIONS WITH FACULTY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH 'TRAINING OF TRAINERS', PROCURING TRAINING MODERATION MATERIAL, AND DEVELOPED 'TRAINER TOOLKITS' TO FACILITATE THE FACULTY MEMBERS AND EXPERTS FROM KEY PARTNER TRAINING ORGANISATIONS IN IMPLEMENTING PARTICIPATORY TRAININGS. THE PROJECT ALSO FACILITATED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN HWC MITIGATION LAB AT IGNFA.

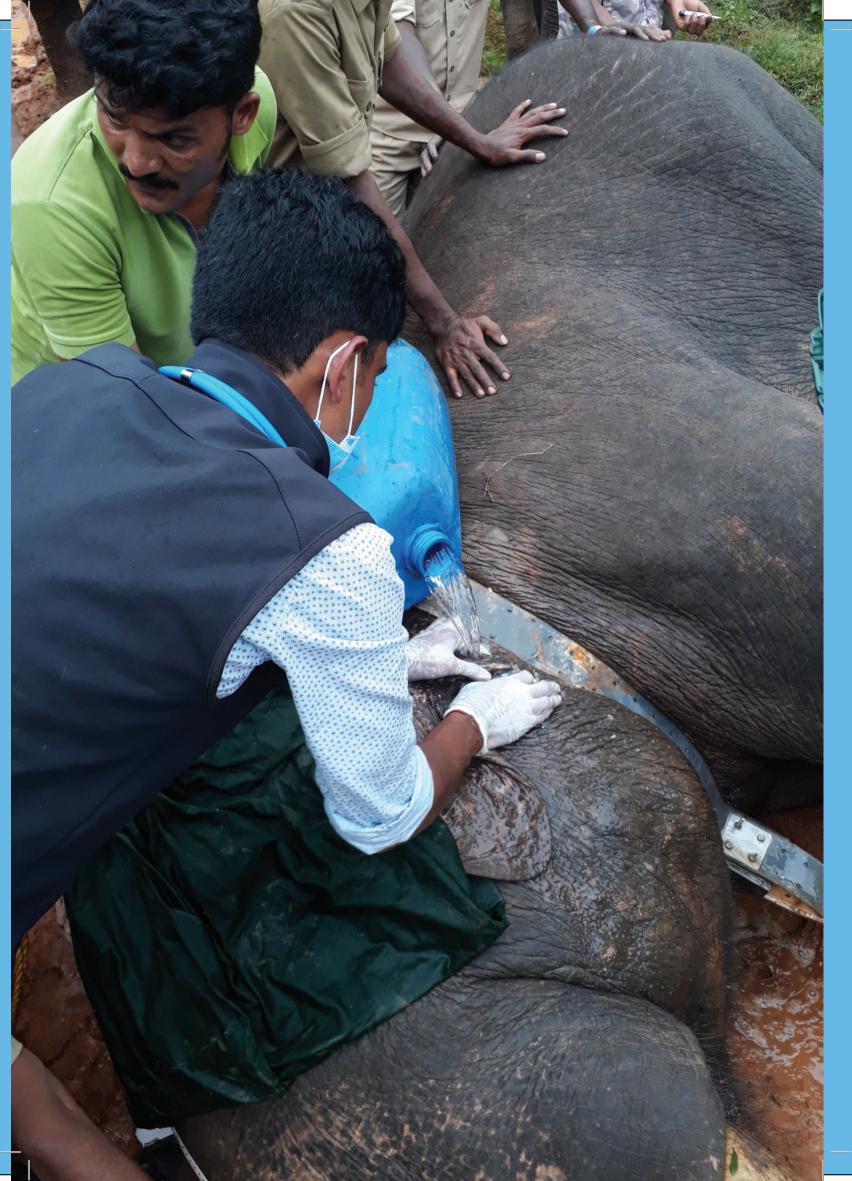
Training of trainers on participatory training approaches for HWC mitigation, together with Dale Carnegie, for the cross-sector group of faculty and experts from IGNFA, CASFOS-Burnihat, Coimbatore, state training institutes in Karnataka, Odisha, Tamilnadu, ICAR-NAARM, ICAR NRC on Meat, St Xavier's College, AJK Jamia, WII, National Police Academy, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIDRPR), NIDM etc https://indo-germanbiodiversity.com/project-details-325.html and https://indo-germanbiodiversity.com/project-details-325.html and https://indo-germanbiodiversity.com/project-details-297.html

The project supported the national and statelevel training institutions in their compliance to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India order dt 19.01.2018 to lay more stress on human-wildlife conflict mitigation training by modifying the syllabus.

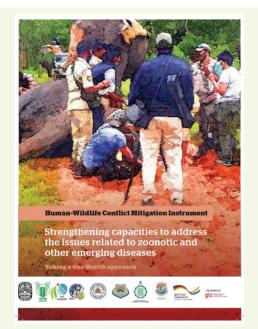
More than 60 trainers of national and state-level training institutions from forest, agriculture, veterinary, media, rural development and Panchayati raj, and disaster management trained!

Trainer's Toolkit: A Holistic Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India Competenciesbased training Approach for Forest Officers





ONE HEALTH MEASURES IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE PROJECT: FOCUSING ON PREVENTION OF ZOONOTIC DISEASE



The project developed a lead technical paper on One Health in the context of HWC Mitigation in India, identifying key areas of concern and possible measures, in consultation with all key partners and with support from International One Health Experts.

The document can be accessed from here https://indo-germanbiodiversity.com/pdf/publication/
publication02-06-2022-1654169065.pdf



The Project was presented as a good practice on integration of One Health at the World Health Summit 2021. A World Health Summit panel calls for a paradigm shift in the implementation of One Health – Healthy DEvelopments (bmz.de)

Mitigating human-wildlife conflict in India: A One Health approach supported by BMZ - (28) Mitigating human-wildlife conflict in India: A One Health approach supported by BMZ - YouTube

- Facilitated integration of One Health in National HWC Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan (HWC-NAP) of India, three state-level HWC Mitigation Strategy and Action Plans, and 14 guidelines
- Developed, together with the National Center for Disease Control, MoHFW, three guidelines, with a specific focus on One Health, with support from CoHEART and ICAR.



Facilitated dialogue and knowledge-sharing:

 Dialogue with senior decision-makers of the Agriculture sector in India https://indo-germanbiodiversity.com/project-details-326.html



- The project presented a solution in the GIZ-wide sector network workshop- Workshop Series on Nature-based Solutions (NbS), on 15 June 2022, "One Health and Nature-based Solutions", to receive wider feedback on the project measures and to identify synergies and possibilities of collaboration with other countries.
- This solution is also available on the global PANORAMA platform <u>Integrating One</u> <u>Health approach into</u> <u>human-wildlife conflict</u> <u>mitigation measures in India I</u> <u>PANORAMA</u>



- Institutionalisation of One Health measures at the local level:
 - Integration of OHS measures into the division-level HWC Management Action Plans of Madikeri and Virajpet in Karnataka, Haridwar in Uttarakhand, and Gorumara in West Bengal
 - Trainings of Panchayats included a topic on preventing zoonotic disease, taking a One Health approach measures
- Developed curriculum on 'Taking a One Health Approach to HWC Mitigation' taking a participatory approach with forest, agriculture, animal husbandry, public health and media sectors professionals.
 - Training for media professionals from project partner states in India on HWC Mitigation included the issue of One Health, organised jointly with DW Akademie Germany
 - Faculty development programmes, through curriculum development and Training of Trainers https://indo-germanbiodiversity.com/projectdetails-325.html
- More than 150 participants, including Panchayat









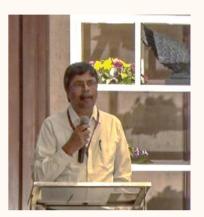
'REFLECTION AND LOOKING AHEAD:

Holistic and Harmonious Coexistence Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India': A Workshop Followed by a Meeting of States, Organised under the Indo-German Project on Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation (HWC) as the Project's Closing Workshop

June 16-17, 2013, New Delhi-Online (Hybrid Mode)



















The Indo-German cooperation project on 'Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India', commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, and the State Forest Departments of Karnataka, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, is coming to an end on June 30, 2023. https://indo-germanbiodiversity.com/projects-human+wildlife+conflict+mitigation.html. The implementation of the HWC mitigation contributed towards the effective implementation of HWC mitigation in India.

As it comes to a close, a closing workshop titled 'Reflection and Looking Ahead: Holistic and Harmonious Coexistence Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India' was organised jointly by GIZ and MoEFCC in hybrid mode at Hotel Claridges in Delhi on June 16, 2023.

The workshop had a three-fold agenda:

- Sharing of the key project results and achievements with key stakeholders
- Dialogue to formulate a way forward to guide future implementation of HWC mitigation in India
- Focused discussion with states on June 7th on the current modalities and a long-term plan to effectively use the National Knowledge and Data Portal on HWC Mitigation.

The workshop was opened by Shri Rohit Tiwari, Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, with his welcome remarks, followed by Dr Neeraj Khera, Team Leader, Indo-German Project on HWC Mitigation, GIZ, providing the context and background and expected outcomes of the workshop.

Shri Rajiv Ranjan, PCCF-HOFF, Karnataka Forest Department, and Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, PCCF-HOFF, West Bengal Forest Department, provided special remarks, where they appreciated the project results, illustrated the key impacts that the project has made on the HWC mitigation in their respective states and shared their plans to take forward the learnings and experiences from this project for long-term HWC mitigation strategy in their states. Shri Dasgupta highlighted the

significance of the National Knowledge and Data Portal on HWC Mitigation for the states in using the data for decision-making and for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of their HWC mitigation efforts.

Shri Bivash Ranjan, Additional Director General of Forest (Wildlife), MoEFCC, applauded the achievements of the Indo-German Project and highlighted the significance of project results for the overall landscape of a holistic and harmonious coexistence approach to human-wildlife conflict mitigation in India in the keynote address. He highlighted the achievements of the project in bringing together key sectors and stakeholders for the development of national and state plans, guidelines and training measures.

Following the inaugural session, the Indo-German Project released ten Toolkits as part of its knowledge products. These Toolkits include a Decision-makers Toolkit, Implementer's Toolkits for Karnataka, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal, Trainer's Toolkits for trainer's implementing training of the Forest Officers, RRTs, Media, Community PRTs, Agriculture, One Health.

A dialogue to formulate a way forward to guide future implementation of HWC mitigation in India was facilitated through 3-panel discussions and a Knowledge Café.

In the first panel discussion, the panellists, Sh Bivash Ranjan, Additional Director General of Forest (Wildlife), MoEFCC, Sh Rajiv Ranjan, PCCF-HOFF, Karnataka Forest Department; Sh Rajesh Kumar, APCCF (Wildlife), West Bengal Forest Department, Dr Simmi Tiwari, Joint Director, National Centre for Disease Control, MoHFW, Dr Tavva Srinivas, Principal Scientist, ICAR-National Academy for Agricultural Research, and Ms Pakhi Das, Indian Youth Biodiversity Network, discussed the way forward for the effective and participatory implementation of HWC-NAP at national, state and local-level resources, networks and dialogue.

In the second panel discussion, the panellists Sh M. Sivaram Babu, Divisional Forest Officer of Madikeri, Karnataka, Dr Dipankar Ghose, Director of Wildlife & Habitats Division at WWF India, and Sh Rajesh Kumar, Additional PCCF (Wildlife) of the West Bengal Forest Department discussed "Enabling Field Officers and Rapid Response Teams in Effective Implementation of HWC Mitigation Plans and Guidelines.'

The third panel discussion focussed on the topic 'Role of Training Institutions in Contributing to the National, State and Division-level Plans on HWC Mitigation'. The panel included Sh R K Bajpai, Prof Academics, and Dr M Sudhagar, Course Director at IGNFA, Ms Perrie Subramaniam, Head of the Department of Mass Media at St. Xaviers College (Autonomous), Mumbai, Dr Danish Iqbal and Dr Pragati Bhalla, Faculty at AJK Mass Communication Centre, Jamia, and Dr B Naveena,

ICAR-National Fellow, National Meat Research Institute (NMRI).

A Knowledge Café in the afternoon of the 16th facilitated dialogue and action plan for implementing the HWC Mitigation Strategy and Action Plans and guidelines in India, post-2023 and beyond the Indo-German Project. Participants were invited to join working groups with the objective to distil, from the















presentations and panel discussion, key messages with respect to good practices and lessons learnt, and provide recommendations on how these experiences could be integrated into the future implementation of strategies and plans at national, state and local levels. The café specifically focussed on formulating recommendations on the terms of the reference of the proposed Working Groups as per the HWC-NAP: Working Group for operationalising cross-sector participation through a National HWC Mitigation Forum, Working Group on Capacity Development, Working Group on HWC Mitigation Database, Working Group on HWC Mitigation Communication, and Special Interest Working Groups on species and cross-cutting issues.

An HWC Mitigation Market Place (walk-through exhibition) was installed by the project at the workshop venue, showcasing all knowledge products developed under the project.

The workshop was attended by 80 participants, including 65 participants in Delhi and 15 participants online, including the senior officials from the Ministry of Environment and Forest Climate Change, senior Forest

Department Officials from the project partner states-Karnataka and West Bengal, senior Forest Department Officials from other states of India, including Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, and other Ministries such as National Center for Disease Control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Universities and training institutions including IGNFA, Wildlife Institute of India, AJKMCRC Jamia, St Xavier's Mumbai, WWF India, Center for Environment Communication, GIZ and several experts who contributed significantly to the project measures.

The workshop was followed by a meeting of the Chief Wildlife Wardens or their representatives from all states and UTs on June 17th 2023, at the same venue, to discuss key questions and modalities on the newly developed National Knowledge and Data Platform on Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India. In this meeting, the Ministry also shared with states, a document."



