



Government of India



Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change,
Government of India



Supplementary Frameworks

**National Human-Wildlife Conflict
Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan of India**

2021-26

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Supplementary Frameworks

**National Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation
Strategy and Action Plan of India**

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National Human–Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan:

Common Framework for developing Division–level Human–Wildlife Conflict Management Action Plans

A COORDINATED APPROACH TOWARDS MITIGATING HUMAN–WILDLIFE CONFLICT IN INDIA

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1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) 2017-2031 mandates each territorial division to develop and implement a Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Action Plan (HWC-MAP), for systematically addressing human wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation.

HWC-MAP facilitates bottom-up feedback to the state and national-level strategies and action plans, on good practices in HWC mitigation. This **integration of field knowledge and experiences into the national and state-level plans** will ensure that the approach taken by the national and state Governments is reflected in the local-level planning and implementation.

To operationalize the holistic and participatory approach, and to integrate the processes and protocols of the National HWC Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan, HWC-SAP and species-specific Guidelines, it is necessary that an anchoring plan – HWC Management Action Plan (HWC-MAP) – is developed at the forest division level.

Since all operational planning related to wildlife management is done at the division level, it is critical to integrate HWC mitigation into the division-level plans. However, since **most of the large wildlife species-in-conflict use large areas at the landscape level, it is important that the plans take into consideration factors related to conflict at the landscape level.** The HWC-MAP also provides anchoring points and instruments for cooperative planning and implementation between several forest divisions within the same landscape.

This Plan provides the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) with a holistic approach and required instruments

towards implementing HWC mitigation measures in a consolidated manner. This will facilitate in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of HWC mitigation measures being implemented within the division.

The divisions, which develop and implement the HWC-MAP on a pilot basis, will serve as model divisions for replicating efficient and effective HWC mitigation not only in other divisions within the state, but also in other states in India.

2. RECOMMENDED PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING HWC-MAPS

STEP 1: Baseline process and desk review

STEP 2: Developing the draft action plan

STEP 3: Consultation with field-level officers and experts / Consultation with local communities / Consultation with other sectors

STEP 4: Revisions based on the feedback

STEP 5: Alignment of the HWC-MAP with other similar processes and documents, for e.g., National HWC Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan (HWC-NAP), state Human-Wildlife Conflict Strategy and Action Plan (HWC-SAP), species- and issue-specific Guidelines and Standard Operating Protocols (SOPs), Working Plan of division, and overall Strategic Plan of the state

To support in implementation of this Plan, an “Implementor’s toolkit” will be developed.

The Toolkit will also include details on the development of HWC-MAP, to facilitate divisions in developing and implementing these plans.

3. OUTLINE OF THE HWC MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Section 1: Guiding principles and expected outcomes

- 1.1. Purpose and objectives
- 1.2. Approach

Section 2: HWC Profile of the Division

- 2.1. Snapshot of the forest division - Key features of the landscape, wildlife and humans in the division
- 2.2. Background information and attributes of the landscape

[In this section, specific information and maps of the landscape features, biodiversity, and humans in relation to HWC, is to be presented in a usable digital format for analysis. This information and analysis will serve as the basis for further detailing the strategy for designing HWC mitigation measures for the division and adjoining landscape]

- 2.3. Humans, Culture and Livelihood

[Brief socio-economic synthesis; livelihood pattern; resource dependency; resource dependency assessment, how different line departments can facilitate to reduce resource dependency on forests and vulnerability of local communities in high-conflict areas/representative villages; synergies and trade-off among various land-use/livelihood patterns]

- 2.4. Threats, Issues and Problems (DPSIR framework)
- 2.5. Risk of conflict

[HWC Hotspots]

Section 3: Management Actions for effective and efficient HWC Mitigation

3.1. Monitoring the drivers and pressures of HWC in the division

Wildlife population assessment; anti-poaching measures; fire management; invasive species management; waste management around all HWC hotspots; measures to ensure safe sanitation at all HWC Hotspots; enabling humans to work on their risk perception and co-existence with wildlife within the same landscape.

Reducing HWC impacts on humans and wildlife, by adapting innovative cropping and animal husbandry practices; inclusive implementation of the plans.

Crop- and livestock insurance schemes; community-based wildlife tourism/community conservancies outside the protected areas; relocation of settlements/ managing the relocated settlements; enhancing livelihood opportunities.

A system of assessing the effectiveness of mitigation measures; identifying conflict hotspots and maintaining all records at HWC Mitigation Hubs]

3.2. Prevention measures

[Early Warning and Rapid Response System – institutional structure and responsibilities; infrastructure development and provision of modern equipment for each team; occupational health and safety for the members of rescue teams.

Area of operation of Response Teams; role and responsibility of HWC Mitigation Hub; composition, role and responsibilities of the various Response Teams key elements of the capacity development approach for Response Teams.

Use of barriers (fences, ditches, canals, electric fences, solar fences, etc.) while keeping the landscape and animal's biology in mind.

Measures to strengthen cross-sector cooperation.

Inter-state dialogue, to understand the issues better and seek cooperation for mitigation of HWC.

Landscape-level HWC Mitigation Planning: studies and dialogue on possible measures for strengthening corridors, between pilot site and adjoining landscape]

3.3. Emergency response preparedness in the division

[Key elements and success factors for effective and efficient emergency response – role and responsibilities of response teams/personnel

Processes, Job Aids

Type, level and nature of emergency (framework for developing gradient matrix for responding to emergency situations); tasks involved in emergency response; emergency response teams up-to division level

Emergency Response Mechanism:

- Receiving and channelizing the information.
- detection of an incident/early warning signal.
- first responder/Incident Response Person (IRP):
- The IRP informs the control room, who in turn activates the Range Rapid Response Team Range RRT.
- Range RRT instructs the IRP to engage with the village Primary Response Team (Community PRT).
- activation of designated response teams.

General process:

Activation of decision-making/support processes; equipment; Occupational Safety and Health (Rapid Response Team/Primary Response Team Safety); activation of inter-department/departmental support teams at the division-level – which team? how to activate? area command/unified command, (HWC Mitigation Hub/Control Room + DFO + Chief Wildlife Warden CWLW decision-making tree

Logistic Considerations:

Deployment of intra- and inter-agency Emergency Response Teams (Human Resources); Area of operation of designated Response Teams; Physical location of designated Response Teams (Node); earmarking of staging areas; modes of transport for Response Teams; Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and personal communication devices of responders; boarding and lodging of Response Teams; requisition/attachment of specialists/experts with Response Teams (veterinary, elephants + mahouts, trackers, darter (from forest department); deployment of material resources (Equipment)

Typology of Material Resources

Checklist of available/authorized equipment with each designate response team
Pre-positioning of material resources (equipment, medical/veterinary supplies and others)
Storage of equipment, drugs and medical/veterinary supplies
Mode of transport for the material resources

Emergency Communication

(Internal – intra-agency; external – inter-agency)

First Aid/medical/veterinary interventions: dealing with medical emergencies arising due to mass casualties; First aid to orphaned young ones of species in the aftermath of an emergency incident; Transport of animals to veterinary centres

Engaging Humans before/during and after Emergency situation

Crowd control and management procedures; media engagement

Stepwise emergency response procedure (Matrix: up to 72 hours)

3.4. Reduction of impact on humans and animals (wildlife)

Ex-gratia and compensation mechanism that is fair, transparent and provides sustainable livelihood]

Section 4: Operational Plan

Section 5: Resource Planning

[Infrastructure and human resources for implementing HWC-MAP.

Fostering partnerships.

Financial mechanism for implementing the plan in the most effective manner.

Consolidation of work related to HWC mitigation currently being implemented by various agencies in this landscape]

Section 6: Monitoring and Evaluation

7.1. Monitoring Progress: indicators and milestones to provide status updates

7.2. Updating and revising the Plan HWC-MAP

References

Appendix







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