

Human wildlife conflict mitigation measures

Several technical approaches exist to diminish damage and conflict. However, human wildlife conflict is complex and context specific, making it harder to generalize strategies and tools to mitigate conflict in the long term. In attempts



to mitigate conflicts, people tend to carry out translocations or lethal control of problem individuals.

Understanding

drivers of human wildlife conflict is a prerequisite for developing effective and cost-efficient conservation, cultivation of food crops should be discouraged within the immediate environments of the reserves. Farmers should be proactive in protecting their crops by detection and repulsion. Wild animals habituate to any one method of repulsion; hence to successfully drive them away, a number of methods in combination are necessary, people should use both lethal and non-lethal means of mitigating human wildlife conflict. Indigenous knowledge has been effective in human-wildlife conflict management since local people have managed the land on which they live and the natural resources which surround them.

- Avoid moving at night in areas infested with wildlife
- Herd cattle and ensure that they are secured in kraals at night

What to do when faced with human wildlife conflict challenges.

- ♦ Report to any nearest Parks or police or CAMPFIRE station
- ♦ Report to traditional leaders
- ♦ Call our toll free numbers or cluster offices numbers
- ♦ Don't provoke the animals if they are dangerous.

Parks and Wildlife Management Authority



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For cases of human wildlife conflict don't hesitate to call the cell numbers below

Head Office (Mrs Tom) 0772111835	Ngezi – Kwekwe (Mutyasira C) 0778928532
Harare Cluster (Zhou K) 0773706401	Nyanga (Mashava J) 0774249463
Hwange Cluster (Tibha L) 0712310321	SEL- Masvingo (Chikoto W) 0772652638
Matopo- Bulawayo (Siakanoka S) 0712959084	Sebungwe – Gokwe (Mpofu R) 078329018
Mid Zambezi-Chinhoyi (Makaza) 0774801096	Kariba (Tiba L) 0773045961
Victoria Falls (Muleya M) 0773601272	

From human wildlife conflict to coexistence for community development and enhancement

PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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Human Wildlife Conflict



A crocodile being captured in the community

Tel: 263(242)7076225-8

Introduction

The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority is mandated by the Parks and Wildlife Act (Chapter 20:14), with the responsibility of conserving Zimbabwe's wildlife heritage through effective, efficient and sustainable protection and utilization of natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

As wildlife populations multiply in our country, expanding their dispersal into human dominated landscapes, conflicts with local communities are unavoidable. According to the Zimparks's approved 5 years strategic plan (2019-2023), pledged to enhance the current efforts to address human wildlife conflicts affecting local communities adjacent to protected areas and in wildlife movement corridors, ensuring effective mitigation measures are implemented, empowering local communities to harness opportunities in the wildlife conservation industry and supporting their community based projects under the revised model of Communal Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE)

Human-wildlife conflicts are a global problem, and are occurring in many countries where human and wildlife requirements overlap with Zimbabwe not spared . Conflicts between humans and wild animals occur when the needs and behaviors of wildlife impact negatively the objectives of humans, or when the objectives of humans impact negatively the needs of wildlife. . Human beings suffer loss of their crops, livestock, infrastructure and sometimes lives due to human wildlife conflict, they end up killing wildlife in retaliation.

Roles of Zimparks in human wildlife conflict.

- ◆ Zimparks through its community conservation programs department conducts awareness campaigns in HWC hot spot areas educating people on the mitigation measures.
- ◆ Through its scientific services department, researches are made so as to have an informed decision on the drivers of HWC thereby employing specific mitigation measures.
- ◆ The operations department use the lethal means either to eliminate or scare away wild animals involved in HWC.
- ◆ Issuing the appropriate authority (AA) to rural district councils to spear head CAMPFIRE project which also helps in HWC mitigation.
- ◆ Decentralization of clusters for effective reaction to wildlife issues.
- ◆ Introduction of toll free numbers for easy reporting of HWC issues at no cost.

Common causes of human wildlife conflict.

Conflicts between people and wildlife are encountered by a diverse group of communities, particularly those residing close to protected areas containing large herbivores (buffalo, hippopotamus, rhino, and elephant) and large carnivores. Furthermore cases of human wildlife conflict vary seasonally because rainfall is strongly seasonal and controls the quantity and quality of food and water for herbivores as well as seasonal herbivore dispersal and migration in savannas.

There are three principal dependent causes worldwide. The first is human population growth where more people and expanded human conglomerations increase the chance that humans negatively interact with wildlife as people encroach in areas previously occupied by wildlife, secondly, demand for natural resources; humans have transformed forests, savannah and other ecosystems into agricultural land and cities, leaving fewer resources for wildlife and bans on hunting of some wild animals and finally it is attributed by other human activities, habitats for wildlife have

disappeared or have been severely degraded, leading animals to wander into human settlements.

Common species in human wildlife conflict

The larger herbivores (elephants, buffalo and hippopotamus), large mammalian carnivores (lions, leopards, cheetahs, spotted hyenas and wild dogs), and crocodiles are traditionally seen as the animals representing the greatest threat to humans and responsible for the majority of human-wildlife conflicts. This may be due to the fact that local communities often regard the large wild animals as government property, as was the case under previous colonial legislation, and therefore feel prohibited from dealing with the problem themselves . They are also area specific.

Effects of human wildlife conflict.

There are different effects of human wildlife conflict on human beings; when elephants damage food and cash crops, they affect a rural farmer's livelihoods. Animals frequently leave, often destroys crops, killing livestock , destroying property and occasionally kill people in areas adjacent to parks or other surrounding protected areas. Crop damage not only affects a farmer's ability to feed his or her family, it also reduces cash income and has repercussions for health, nutrition, education and ultimately, development.

Furthermore, elephants kill and injure people and most of those killed are man; elephants cause extensive damage to other property such as fencing and water installations. Due to human wildlife conflict, children may drop out of school to guard the fields., making their future bleak.

Human wildlife conflict affects a variety of species – rare, abundant, protected, or even domesticated , as carnivores attack and kill livestock or people, other species may raid crops and disease transmission between livestock and wildlife. Conflicts between wildlife and humans threaten wildlife species involved and are more prone to extinction.