Participant Toolkit

Holistic Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India

For Forest Officers































Capacity Development for Sustainable and Effective mitigation of Human-Wildlife Conflict

Mitigation of human-wildlife conflict is becoming a key area of concern for not only wildlife managers and local communities but also the district and state administrations. There is a need to create an enabling environment to address human-wildlife conflict holistically, with participation from all key stakeholders and sectors.

One of the most effective ways of addressing the issue on a long-term basis is to invest in capacity development of key stakeholders for facilitating them in co-creating effective and sustainable solutions for mitigating human-wildlife conflict.

A holistic capacity development system is designed under the Indo-German Project Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India (HWC) for addressing key competencies of relevant stakeholders from the forest sector, including in-service and probationary Indian Forest Service officers, in-service and probationary state forest service officers and decision-makers at the national and state levels who are key to developing and implementing HWC mitigation measures in India.

Capacity development is the process of developing capacities of individuals and shaping joint learning processes so that the individuals are enabled to achieve sustainable results within their own systems of reference.

Capacity development facilitates change among people in three dimensions: knowledge, skills and values/attitudes. A combination of traditional and innovative capacity development measures is used to achieve the objective.

Competency Framework for HWC Mitigation in India

The combination of knowledge, skills, experience and attributes that leads to consistently successful performance is known as 'competencies'. Competencies are demonstrated behaviours that lead to success. They are more enduring than job tasks and reflect the unique characteristics or behavioural attributes a person can bring to the job.

Competencies have been described in the National Training Policy (2012) of India to encompass the knowledge, skills and behaviour that are required in an individual for effectively performing the functions of a post. The policy stipulates that each government department/ministry classify each post with a clear job description and the competencies required and carry out competency mapping of all its employees.

The Indo-German project has made an attempt to define the professional competencies required for human-wildlife conflict mitigation for the forest service professionals in India and structure a competency framework. This competency framework is being used to conduct a training needs assessment that will guide the development of a curriculum and training material for training programmes related to human-wildlife conflict mitigation in India.

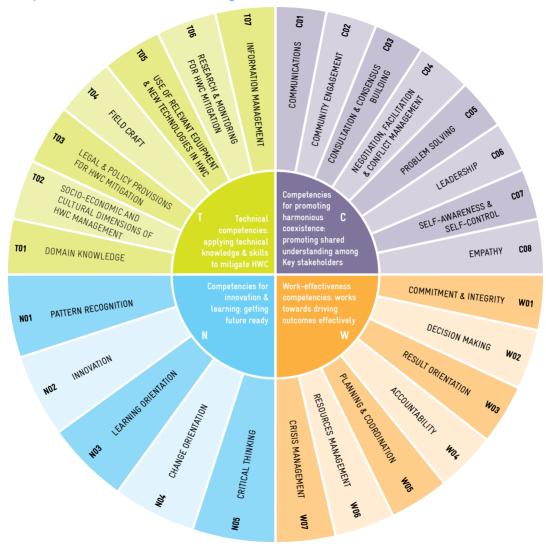
Specifically, in the context of HWC mitigation, competencies can facilitate the following processes:

- Developing capacity development approaches
- Developing training HWC curricula for national and state-level institutions institutions
- Identifying personnel with the required expertise to be placed in relevant positions to drive HWC mitigation goals
- Efficient engagement of stakeholders, including local community members, NGO personnel, volunteers and private landowners
- Motivating staff members of forest departments and other practitioners.

A competency framework is essentially a structured compilation of competencies that are relevant for successful performance in an organisation. It defines behaviours that are required to effectively manage both current and emerging work challenges in the organisation.

The competency framework developed for HWC in India follows.

The competencies identified for HWC mitigation



Khera, Neeraj, Ahlawat Pankaj, Varma, Paayal (2023). A Competency Framework for personnel working towards human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India. GIZ-Dale Carnegie India, New Delhi

The Process of Curriculum Development

The project developed a competency framework on the basis of which training needs were identified for key stakeholders of HWC mitigation in India.

Following the first results of the competency framework, pilot testing of the training needs assessment framework was conducted in June 2018. After this, the project facilitated the process of consolidating and prioritising the training needs of key stakeholders during a national workshop on curriculum development held in September 2018. The workshop resulted in a modular curriculum framework for key stakeholders from the forest and veterinary sectors, from the media and from civil society. Three writing workshops were organized, at Haridwar, Kodagu and north Bengal, during November 20–30, 2018 to develop the modularised curriculum further.

There was active participation at the five workshops, with 92 international and national experts. They represented the fields of capacity development, wildlife and veterinary science, the media and communications and the social sciences.

The workshops were facilitated using participatory facilitation methods dedicated to receiving inputs from all participants and to reaching joint agreements. The last three workshops also included field visits to selected HWC hotspots for developing a common understanding of the training needs and identifying specific topics/cases/methods for the curriculum through discussions with field-level officers.

Competencies-Based Curriculum for Forest Officers

The competencies-based curriculum places aa strong emphasis on handson exercises. Participatory methods of training and learning are used.

The training material is developed by a competent team of experts drawn from the forest, wildlife, veterinary, agriculture and media sectors, who bring in a truly cross-sector perspective to the whole process of capacity development.

The use of a competencies-based curriculum is a way of approaching professional training that primarily emphasises facilitating the participants to develop the competencies that are required by them for performing their jobs more efficiently and effectively. It aims at preparing people more effectively for real workplaces.



Pilot Testing of HWC Mitigation Curriculum for Frontline Forest Officers from India and Southeast Asia at the Wildlife Institute of India:

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII), in partnership with the Indo-German Project "Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation (HWC) in India", conducted pilot testing of the curriculum for HWC mitigation as part of the XXXIV Certificate Course in Wildlife Management during 13-18 December 2018 at WII (Uttarakhand).

WII has introduced Human-Wildlife Conflict Management as a separate sub-module with modified course content, and a modified structure and mode of delivery, in the existing 3-month Certificate Course on Wildlife Management. The aim of introducing this submodule is to discuss the HWC mitigation issues in a more focussed manner during the course.

A total of 18 frontline officers from various states of India, as well as participants from Myanmar and Malaysia, participated in the Certificate Course on Wildlife Management. The 5-day training module was facilitated by Dr Khera, as the Lead Trainer.

Further details can be found here:

https://indo-germanbiodiversity.com/project-details-137.html



Week-Long Training Module on Human Dimension of Wildlife Management and Conflict Resolution at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

A 5-day training module on the human dimension of wildlife management and conflict resolution was implemented (March 11-15) jointly by the Wildlife Institute of India and GIZ at WII, Dehradun. The module is a part of the Post Graduate Diploma Course in Advance Wildlife Management and is being strengthened by introducing a new competency-based curriculum and participatory training methods with support from GIZ. The training used a curriculum developed on the basis of a competency framework for human-wildlife conflict (HWC) in India and delivered using participatory methods. The 5-day training module was facilitated by Dr Neeraj Khera, as the Lead Trainer.

More details can be found here:

https://indo-germanbiodiversity.com/project-details-159.html

Week-Long Training Module on Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation for State Forest Officer Trainees at CASFOS, Dehradun

A 5-day training module on HWC mitigation, for state forest service officer trainees at the Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Dehradun was implemented by CASFOS and GIZ jointly from April 29 to May 4 as part of the 2017-19 SFS Induction Course. The 5-day training module was facilitated by Dr Neeraj Khera, as the Lead Trainer.

Further details can be found here:

https://indo-germanbiodiversity.com/project-details-163.html

Training in Holistic Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India

A 5-day training programme, 'Holistic Approach on Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India', for Divisional Forest Officers (DFO) and Assistant Divisional Forest Officers (ADFO) of West Bengal, Karnataka and Uttarakhand, was organised by the Indo-German project on HWC mitigation between 29 July and 2 August 2019 at Chalsa Gorumara.

The participants included 22 officers from West Bengal, Uttarakhand and Karnataka, experts from the West Bengal Forest Department, GIZ, DFS Germany (Deutsche Forstservice Gmbh), WWF (World Wildlife Fund), Tea Association and Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and independent wildlife experts. The 5-day training module was facilitated by Dr Neeraj Khera, as the Lead Trainer.

Further details can be found here:

https://indo-germanbiodiversity.com/project-details-188.html

Week-long Training Expedition, "Holistic Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India", at Karnataka

A one-week training expedition, on "Holistic Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India", was organised at Madikeri, Kodagu in Karnataka from 22 to 27 September 2019. The training was organised jointly by GIZ, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Wildlife Institute of India (WII), and the forest departments of Karnataka, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The participants included officers from Uttarakhand, West Bengal, and Karnataka, technical experts from GIZ and WII, and communication and media experts.

Further details can be found here:

https://indo-germanbiodiversity.com/project-details-208.html

Online Training Programme, "Holistic Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India", for IFS Officers at IGNFA, Dehradun

A three-day online training programme for the 2019-21 batch of Indian Forest Service (IFS) probationary officers at the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun was jointly organised by IGNFA, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and GIZ under the Indo-German project 'HWC Mitigation in India', from 9 to 11 June 2020. This training programme, titled Holistic Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India', saw participation from 73 probationary IFS officers and 34 resource persons from diverse backgrounds.

The training was implemented jointly by IGNFA-MoEFCC-GIZ and facilitated by Dr Neeraj Khera, Team Leader-HWC Mitigation Project, GIZ India, as Lead Trainer, Dr Sasi Kumar, faculty member of IGNFA, Dr Senthil Kumar, faculty member of IGNFA and other experts from GIZ and IGNFA.

Further details can be found here:

https://indo-germanbiodiversity.com/project-details-232.html

Training in Holistic Approach to HWC Mitigation in India at CASFOS, Burnihat

A five-day virtual training programme, "A Holistic Approach to Human-Wildife Conflict (HWC) Mitigation in India", was organised for 37 induction trainees from six states of India of the Central Academy for State Forest Services (CASFOS), Burnihat, Assam.

Further details can be found here:

https://indo-germanbiodiversity.com/project-details-300.html

About the Curriculum

The training programmes and courses based on this curriculum are intended to create a cadre of HWC mitigation professionals implementing a holistic approach for bringing in enhanced effectiveness and efficiency in HWC mitigation measures in India.

This curriculum is suitable for in-service as well as probationary forest officers of the Indian Forest Service and state forest services. The curriculum has been designed and updated, in alignment with the existing curriculum at the national and state-level training institutes in India.

This curriculum has been designed for a stand-alone intensive course to be delivered over five days duration. However, because of its modular structure and participatory training methods, it provides enough flexibility and can be customised for delivery over longer durations such as 15 days or 1 month as well as during shorter field expeditions.





Possible Learning Outcomes of the Training Programmes Based on This Curriculum

SFS Probationary Officers

At the end of the training, the participants will be able to:

- Outline concepts and issues in wildlife management and HWC mitigation using a landscape approach
- Differentiate between different conflict scenarios on the basis of the landscape, location, species involved and community involved
- Outline existing and potential HWC mitigation measures
- Analyse each mitigation measure on the basis of its effectiveness and wildlife-friendliness
- Describe the success factors required for receiving cooperation from other sectors and stakeholders in mitigating HWC
- Analyse legal opportunities and limitations in conflict management
- Demonstrate animal capture and rescue methods and their applicability to different species
- Demonstrate proficiency in implementing an early warning and rapid response system for mitigating HWC
- Appreciate their roles in mitigating HWC in their respective ranges

















IFS Probationary Officers

By the end of the course, the participants are able to:

- **Illustrate** concepts and issues in wildlife management and HWC mitigation and key drivers, pressures and prevention measures using a landscape approach
- Appraise different conflict scenarios on the basis of the landscape, location, species involved and community involved
- Describe human-wildlife conflict mitigation in the overall development and conservation context
- Analyse the effectiveness and wildlife-friendliness of existing and potential HWC mitigation measures and make a systematic plan for HWC mitigation in their areas
- Analyse legal opportunities and limitations in conflict management
- Outline the key elements of the guidelines and plans for HWC mitigation at the national, state and division levels
- Demonstrate (in a simulation) animal capture and rescue methods and their applicability to different species
- Demonstrate proficiency in implementing an early warning and rapid response system for mitigating HWC
- Demonstrate their leadership, consensus-building and communication, decision-making and crisis
 management in a simulated human-wildlife conflict situation
- Outline an inclusive strategy and action plan on resource management in their area of work to achieve the maximum possible efficiency and effectiveness in HWC mitigation
- Appreciate the need for their continuous self-efforts for getting future-ready vis-à-vis human-wildlife conflict mitigation in India
- **Appreciate** their future roles in mitigating HWC in their respective areas

In-Service IFS and SFS Officers

By the end of the course, the participants will be able to:

- describe HWC mitigation in the overall development and conservation context
- appraise different conflict scenarios on the basis of the landscape, location, species involved and community involved
- review existing and potential HWC mitigation measures on the basis of their likely impact on humans as well as wildlife
- develop an actionable plan to effectively engage with key sectors and stakeholders to mitigate HWC in their sphere of work
- analyse legal opportunities and limitations in conflict management
- demonstrate the skills required for promoting a shared understanding of HWC mitigation approaches among key stakeholders

Decision-Makers

By the end of the course, the participants will be able to:

- appraise HWC mitigation planning in the overall environment and development context at global, national and state levels
- appraise different conflict scenarios on the basis of the landscape, location, species involved and community involved
- review existing and potential HWC mitigation measures on the basis of their effectiveness and wildlifefriendliness
- appraise legal opportunities and limitations in conflict management
- demonstrate the leadership skills required for promoting a shared understanding of HWC mitigation approaches among key sectors and actors







Training Approach and Methodology

The curriculum is modularised, with the modules being delivered using different training methods over required time periods. The modularised structure provides flexibility to adapt the contents, methods and durations of different topics on the basis of the training needs of the participants. Learning outcomes have been formulated for different groups of participants, and so the modules can be used in any combination and over different durations, for specific purposes and to fit specific training schedules.

A unique feature of the curriculum is that it focuses on HWC using the thematic triangle of driver-prevention-damage reduction.

There are some common modules for all key stakeholders. These cover common issues and the basics of HWC. Specialised modules have been developed to deepen the understanding and skills of different training groups in their respective fields.

The curriculum uses a mix of conceptual and hands-on training sessions, in almost equal proportions, to facilitate the application of conceptual knowledge and skills to field conditions and the appreciation and understanding of the issue of HWC in a larger development context by the participants.

The following are examples of these methods:

- Group work and presentations
- Dialogue and brainstorming
- Knowledge Café
- Role play
- Simulation (case study simulation/video simulation)
- Online games and Mind Maps
- Case study analysis
- Fish Bowl
- Icebreakers, energisers and team-building exercises
- Simulated field exercises
- e-Learning
- Field excursions

An overview of the modularized course



Content Module HWC-01:

An Introduction to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation: Taking a Holistic and Harmonious Coexistence Approach

This module facilitates comprehension of the basic concepts of biodiversity, wildlife and ecosystem services leading to a profound understanding of the fundamentals of human-wildlife conflict (HWC), its drivers and pressures, current state and trends, impacts and current response measures. At the same time, participants will be encouraged to think and discuss a holistic approach to HWC mitigation, i.e., the drivers, prevention and reduction of impacts, traditional and indigenous measures, and the relevant sectors and key stakeholders in India. The first section facilitates the participants in getting a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the harmonious coexistence approach, holistic approach to mitigating human-wildlife conflict and One Health. Section two of the module provides an HWC profile of selected wildlife species-in-conflict, intended to prevent accidental encounters and to design effective and wildlife-friendly mitigation measures that are aligned with animal behaviour and ecology.

Content Module HWC-02:

The Overall Context: Understanding HWC in a Development Context

This module facilitates the participants in developing an understanding of human-wildlife conflict and its mitigation in the overall development context. The concepts and issues related to the holistic approach to HWC mitigation are presented using the DPSIR approach, i.e., drivers, pressures, state, impact and response. With this module, the participants explore the relevance of corridors and landscape connectivity as one of the HWC mitigation measures while appraising the impact of land-use change on HWC. The module facilitates discussions on the relevance and significance of cross-sector cooperation in addressing the issue of HWC. The training sessions will sensitise and equip the participants in designing holistic HWC mitigation measures, which also address the needs and requirements of the most vulnerable and socially disadvantaged groups.

Content Module HWC-03:

Legal, Policy, and Administrative Framework for HWC Mitigation in India

This module facilitates a discussion on the conservation ethos of India in relation to its legal framework. It presents an outline and brief history of international conventions and treaties relevant to the conservation of wildlife and, in particular, to HWC mitigation. The primary aim of this module is to serve as a compendium of key regulations, policies, customary rules, guidelines and SOPs related to HWC mitigation in India. The module also provides an analysis of some relevant HWC cases and specific learning points from these cases.

The module thus provides information and guiding questions to facilitate a discussion on the application of current legal provisions to the mitigation of HWC in India.

Content Module HWC-04:

Tools and Techniques for Effective and Efficient Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation

Mitigation and management of human-wildlife conflicts need to be addressed from multiple scales. While policies and protocols are essential at a regional scale, effective and timely monitoring, response and evaluation are essential at the local scale. This module focuses on the tools and techniques required at the fieldlevel to implement the HWC mitigation measures addressing the drivers, monitoring and patrolling and other prevention measures addressing emergency response. The module provides an overview of methods and tools used in wildlife monitoring, tracking, mapping, rescue & rehabilitation. The first section focuses on the selected tools that may be useful for HWC mitigation, and the second section focuses on selected techniques and skills that may come in handy for the field-response teams during HWC mitigation measures.

Content Module HWC-05:

Strengthening Community Engagement for Effective and Sustainable Mitigation of Human-Wildlife Conflict

The module elaborates on the interlinkages among biodiversity and wildlife conservation; livelihood needs taking a holistic approach to HWC mitigation. It appraises the participants of HWC issues from socioeconomic, psychological, ecological and cultural angles.

It introduces the concept of stakeholder analysis vis-à-vis HWC conflict mitigation and equips participants with the tools, methods and knowledge necessary to conduct stakeholder analysis at a micro level and eventually link it with the larger district-, state- and national-level planning and management activities for HWC. It highlights the significance of engaging with all key stakeholders and vulnerable sections of society (women and marginalised communities) and facilitates the participants to delineate the roles of various stakeholder groups, especially village-level institutions, their capacity development needs and stakeholder-specific engagement methods.

Content Module HWC-06:

Operationalizing the Holistic and Harmonious Coexistence Approach to Mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflict through Cross-sector Cooperation

This module provides the conceptual background and introduction to the 'why' and 'how' of facilitating cross-sector cooperation and inter-agency coordination for effective HWC Mitigation. The module lays down a conceptual framework, using a systems thinking approach, to facilitate the participants in establishing the need for such cooperation and identifying key sectors and anchoring points for the required crosssector and inter-agency coordination. The module facilitates the participants in discussing the institutional framework that enables effective and efficient crosssector cooperation and possible areas of alignment with key sectors and stakeholders. The module takes the participants through examples of the National HWC Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan of India and 14 guidelines on HWC as key instruments to facilitate crosssector and inter-agency coordination.

Content Module HWC-07:

Holistic, Effective and Ethical Communication on Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation: Taking a Harmonious Coexistence Approach

This module sets the base by providing basic information on how media works, an indication of the challenges faced by the media and forest sector in cooperating with each other. The module further facilitates a constructive debate and discussion on holistic, effective and ethical communication on HWC mitigation among participants, in line with a harmonious coexistence approach. The module provides the required information and case examples for the participants, from the forest as well as from the media sector, to identify the right media for the right message and the right audience, questioning and breaking the stereotypes and clichés and pitching HWC mitigation stories effectively. The central focus of the module is the ethical reporting and writing of the media regarding HWC and tools that aid ethical reporting and crisis communication.

Content Module HWC-08:

A Primer on Developing Leadership and Other Non-technical Competencies for HWC Mitigation

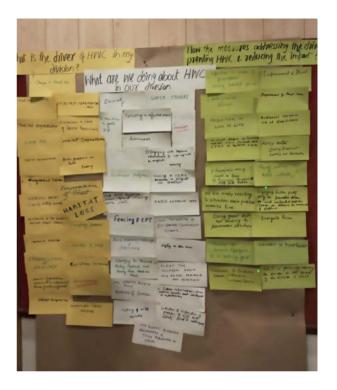
This module facilitates the participants in further strengthening their personal competencies required for facilitating stakeholder engagement, such as communication, leadership, consensus building, community engagement, empathy and self-awareness. The module facilitates hands-on sessions to facilitate the development of competencies related to workplace effectiveness, such as commitment and integrity, decision-making, result orientation, accountability, planning and coordination, resource management

and crisis management. The module also facilitates the participants to foresee and be ready for future challenges through working on competencies such as pattern recognition, innovation and learning, change management and critical thinking.

Content Module OH-01:

An Introduction to the One Health Approach, Zoonotic and Other Emerging Diseases

This module brings conceptual, analytical and contextual clarity among participants on the One Health concept and approach in the overall development context. It highlights the relevance of the One Health approach in managing the protected areas and wildlife and mitigating the human-wildlife conflict. Additionally, the module provides a thorough explanation of some critical zoonotic and other emerging diseases, including their key drivers such as ecological changes, habitat loss, wildlife trade, the increased interface between human-animal, bushmeat hunting and consumption, animal husbandry practices, impacts and prevention measures. Participants will be introduced to basic concepts of cross-sector cooperation, international and national frameworks, policy and programmes on One Health.



Learning Journal for Forest Officers

To facilitate the participant's learning during and after the training, a learning journal has been designed. It will help them capture anything that is of any significance or value to them and may enhance their understanding of HWC mitigation. It is a place for participants to note their observations of habitats, species, people and events during the training programme.



Our Partners

Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy



Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) functions as a staff college for the officers of the Indian Forest Service (IFS). IGNFA is responsible for professional capacity development at the top levels of the forest cadre of the civil services in India. It has been imparting core professional training to the probationers of the Indian Forest Service. The academy has also been organising

shared learning engagements for IFS officers at various maturity levels at transitions in their careers - from field execution responsibilities and supervisory functions to policy and planning roles at the state and national levels in the strategic, programmatic and governance areas. The academy also contributes to assisting a few neighbouring countries in meeting the apex-level training requirements of their forestry cadres.

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



The Directorate of Forest Education, Dehradun is a premier organisation under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India that imparts training to State Forests

Service Officers (SFS) and Forest Range Officers (FRO) in the country. The Directorate ensures the standard and quality of forestry training in the country and in its current form functions under the direct administrative control of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India to take care of all aspects of training of SFS officers and FROs. There are three Central Academies for State Forest Service (CASFOS), one each at Dehradun (Uttarakhand), Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) and Burnihat (Assam), and one Central Academy of Forest Education (CAFE), at Kurseong (West Bengal), under DFE. In addition, the technical control over the state-run Rangers' colleges also vests with the Directorate as and when induction training of FROs is entrusted to these institutions.

Wildlife Institute of India (WII)



WII is an internationally acclaimed institution that offers training programmes, academic courses and advisories in wildlife research and management. The institute is actively engaged in research across the breadth of the country on biodiversity-related issues.

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Content Module HWC-01: An Introduction to HumanWildlife Conflict Mitigation: Taking a Holistic and Harmonious Coexistence Approach



Legal, Policy, and deministration Framework for HVC Mitigation in Control of the Control of the

Content Module HWC-03: Legal, Policy, and Administrative Framework for HWC Mitigation in India





Content Module
HWC-02: The
Overall Context:
Understanding
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Content Module HWC-05: Strengthening Community Engagement for Effective and Sustainable Mitigation of Human-Wildlife Conflict





Content Module HWC-06:

Operationalising the Holistic and Harmonious coexistence Approach to Mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflict through Cross-sector Cooperation





Content Module HWC-08: A

Primer on Developing Leadership and other Non-technical Competencies for HWC Mitigation





Content Module HWC-

07: Holistic, **Effective** and Fthical Communication on Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation: Taking a Harmonious Coexistence Approach



Content Module **OH-01:** An introduction to

the One Health Approach, Zoonotic and Other Emerging

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Indo-German Biodiversity Programme

A-2/18, Safdarjung Enclave New Delhi - 110029, India T +91-11-4949 5353 E biodiv.india@qiz.de

W www.indo-germanbiodiversity.com

Programme/project description: Indo-German Biodiversity Programme/HWC Mitigation in India

Responsible: Dr Neeraj Khera

Team Leader, Indo-German Project on HWC Mitigation, GIZ India

E: neeraj.khera@giz.de

Further Information: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,

Government of India

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road

New Delhi – 110003, India E: iqfwl-mef@nic.in

Design: Aspire Design, New Delhi

Author: Dr Neeraj Khera, GIZ

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