

# GWP Online Training on Human-Wildlife Conflict

## Managing conflicts over wildlife: key principles



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# Introductions

Latin America GWP & ASL Projects



What is one question  
you have about  
human-wildlife  
conflict?

# Agenda

## Managing Conflicts over Wildlife: Key Principles

**1 Introduction:** making sense of complexity and diversity in human-wildlife conflicts  
Presentation (10 min) | Group Discussion (10 min)

**2 Levels of conflict:** are you solving the right problem? Identifying underlying causes of conflict  
Presentation (10 min) | Breakout Discussion (15 min) | Reporting back (10 min)

Break (15 min)

**3 Who is involved and why?** stakeholder mapping to identify parties, positions & interests  
Presentation (10 min) | Breakout Discussion (15 min) | Reporting back (10 min)

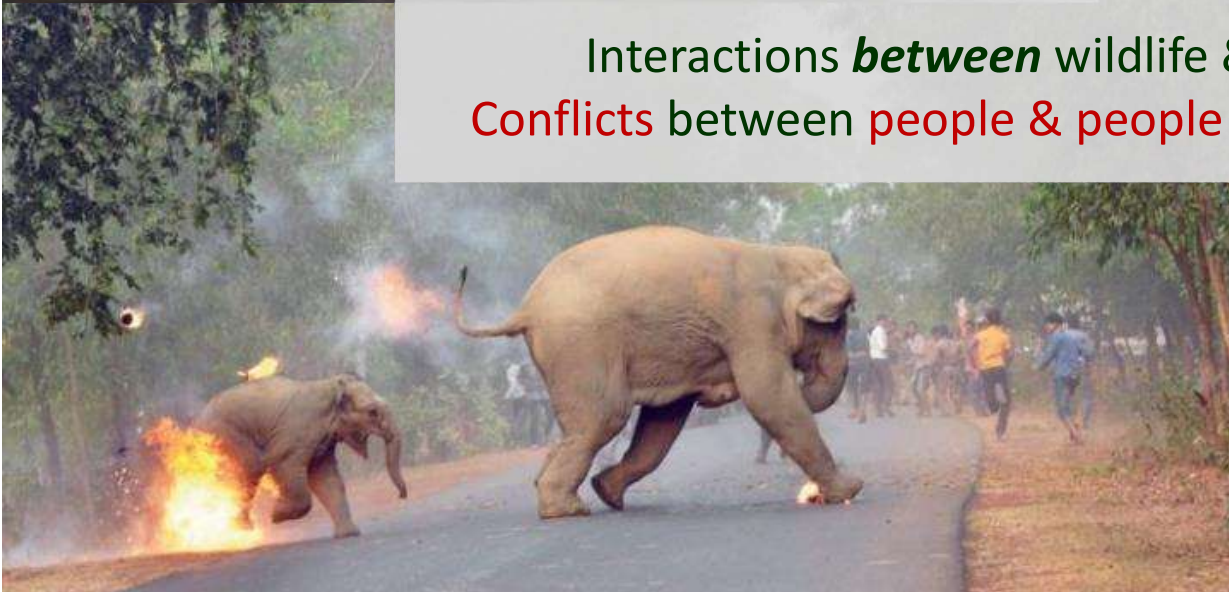
**4 Process principles & design:** engage, de-escalate, build dialogue, create co-ownership  
Presentation (10 min) | Breakout Discussion (15 min) | Reporting back (10 min)

Conclusion (10 min)

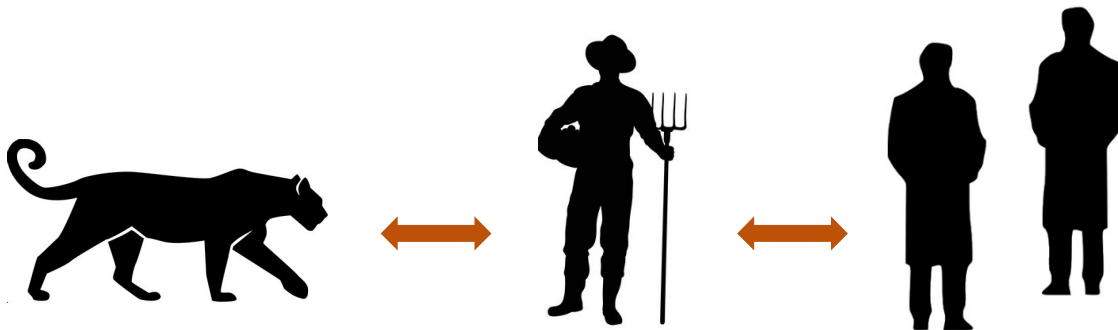


## Human-wildlife conflict

Interactions *between* wildlife & people  
Conflicts between *people & people* *about* wildlife



# Human-Wildlife Conflict



- Interaction
- Social tension/clash
- Recurrence & concern

## Conflicts in Conservation

Collisions (car, airplane, train)

Pests & damage

Poaching, hunting

Human-wildlife conflict

Illegal Wildlife Trade

Zoonoses

Habitat alteration

# What is so challenging about HWC?



Scale



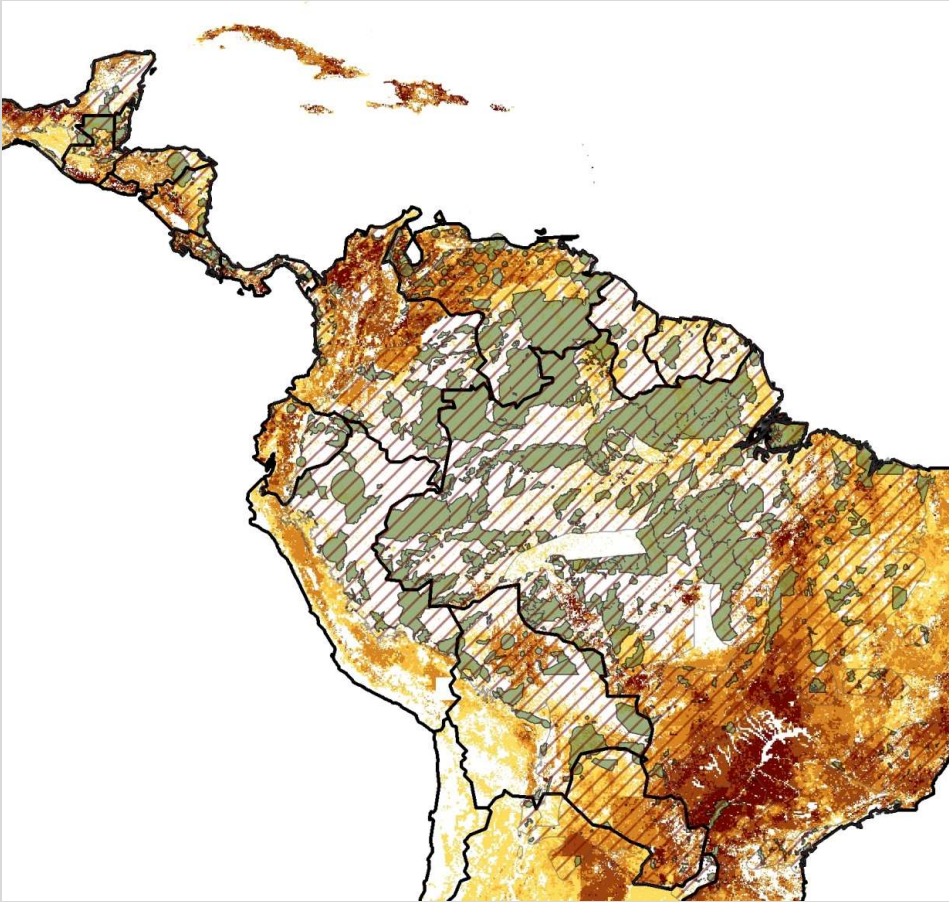
Complexity



Uniqueness



## Spatial overlap



## Emerging pressures

*Climate change & land use changes*  
*Loss of wildlife tourism income*





## HWCs following conservation success

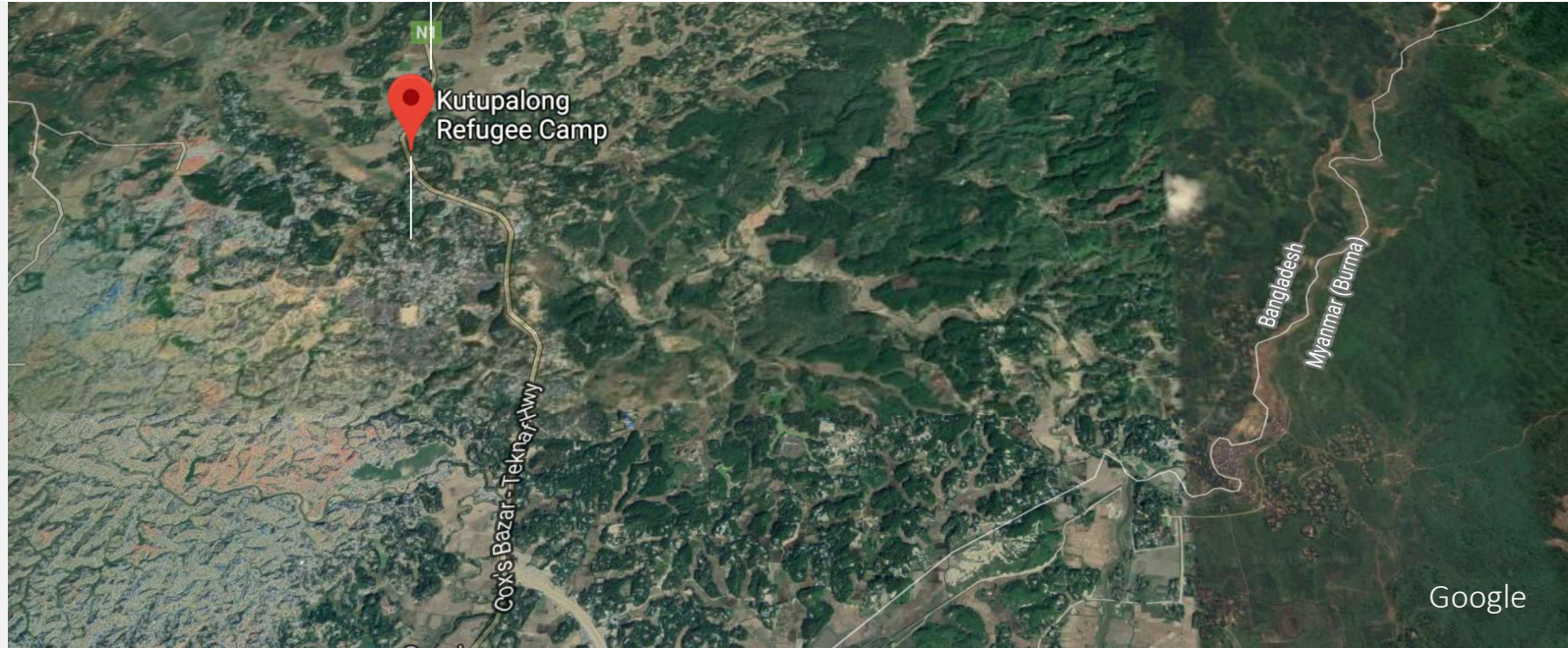




**What is the  
conflict really  
about?**

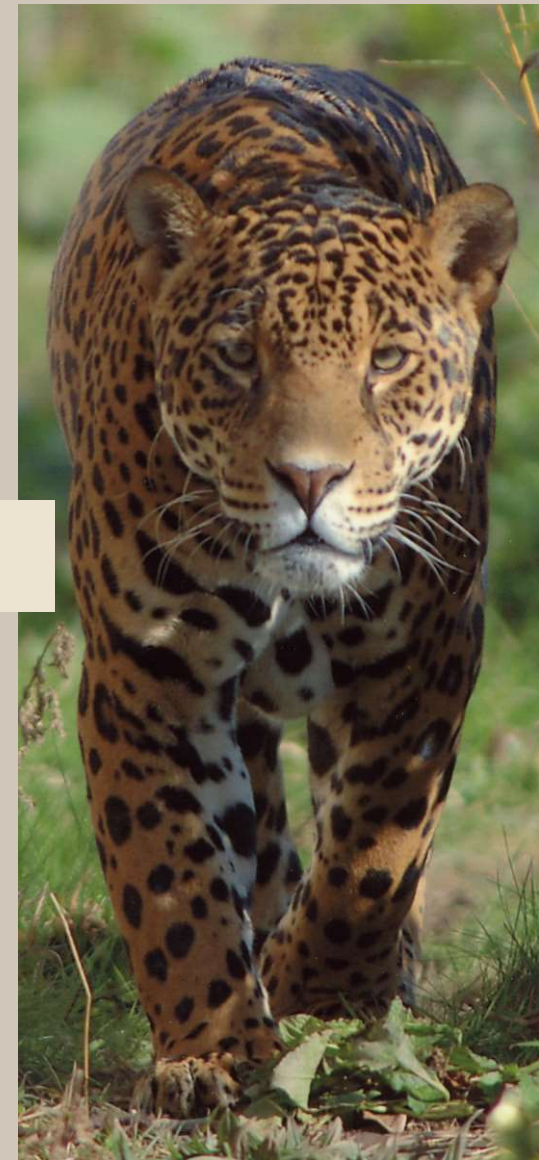
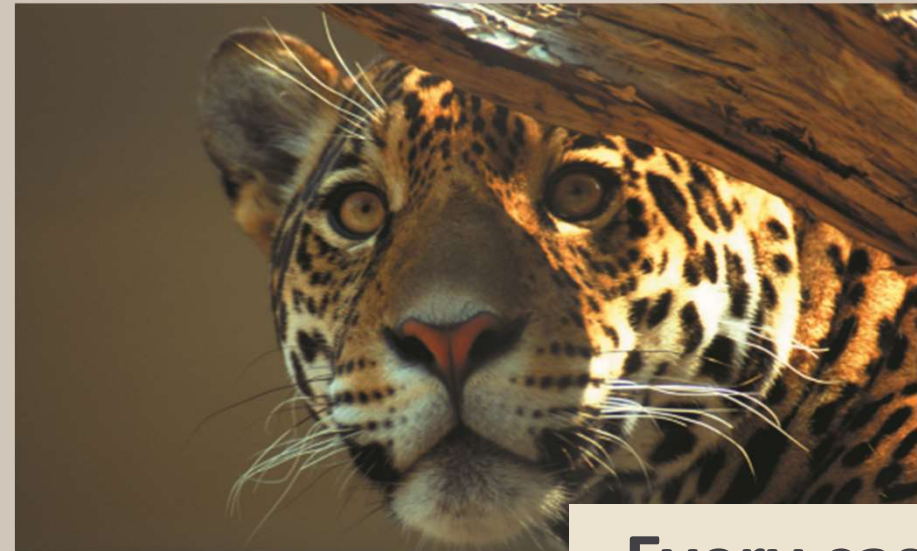


# How to manage transboundary dilemmas?



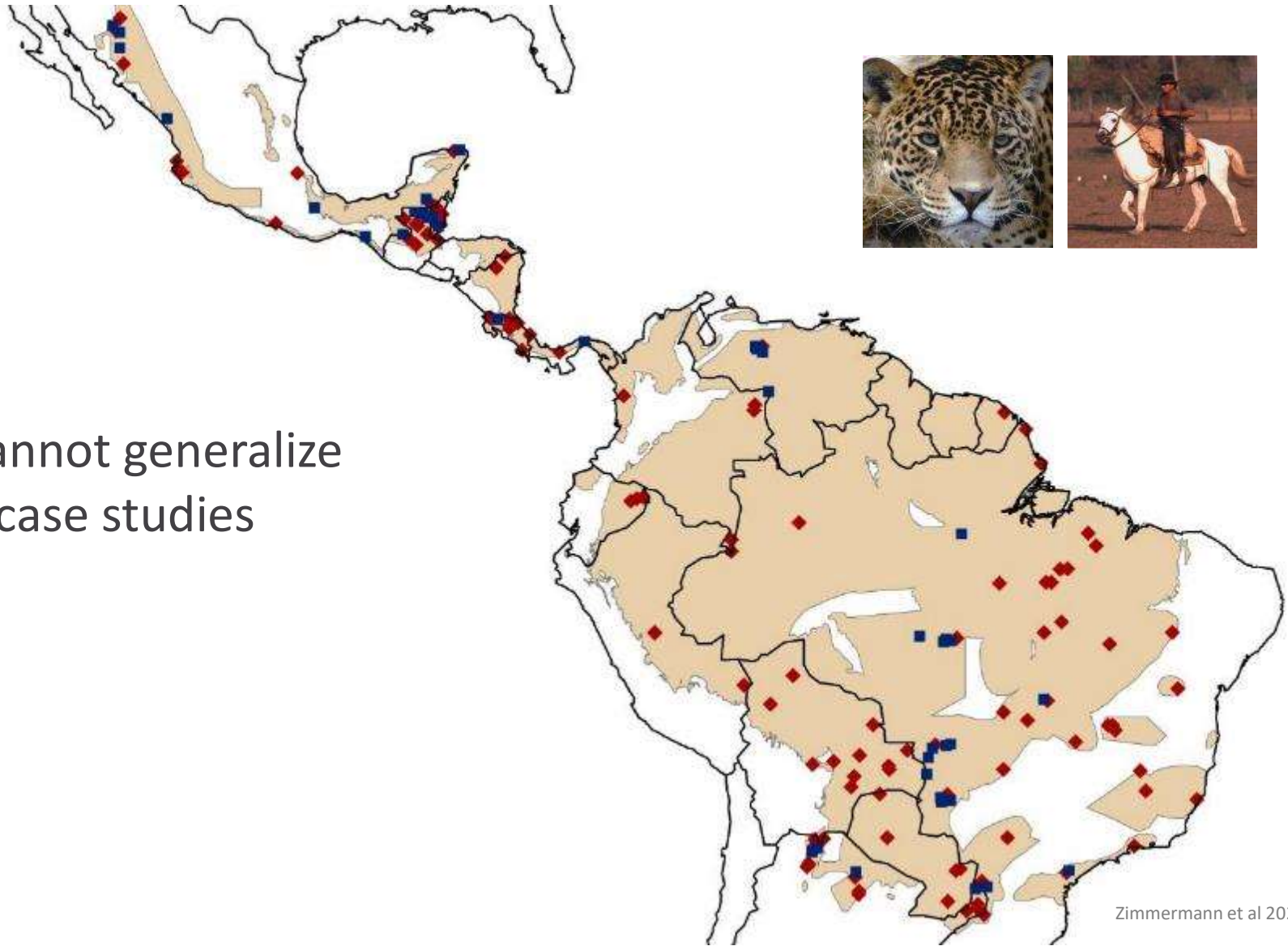
**How to  
preserve  
tolerance?**





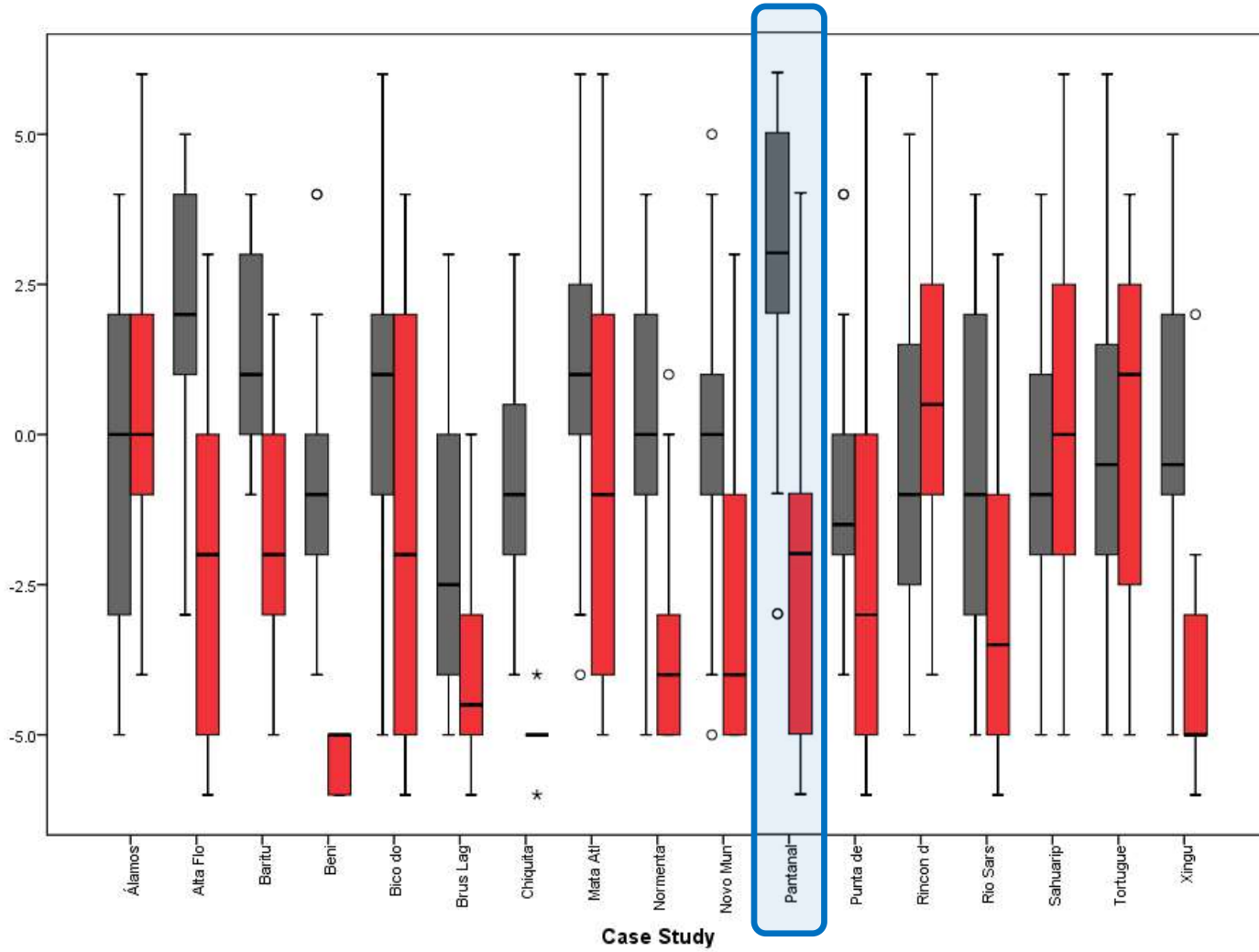
**Every case of HWC is unique**





We cannot generalize  
from case studies

Attitudes are poor predictors



Attitudes Social Norms



Persecution is not correlated with actual losses



**Solutions exist...**





# Why do many attempts to mitigate HWCs not work?



an electric fence  
not maintained



simple solutions  
not implemented



wrong species  
blamed for loss



# Challenges in managing HWCs

1. HWCs are complex, dynamic systems
2. Each case of HWC is different from the next
3. HWCs most often have hidden layers of social conflict
4. Causal links can be unclear or hidden



***Key tools for analysing and managing  
human-wildlife conflict***

# Discussion



What are the key challenges with HWC in your country or project right now?

## Levels of conflict

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

## Some conflicts are about **resources**



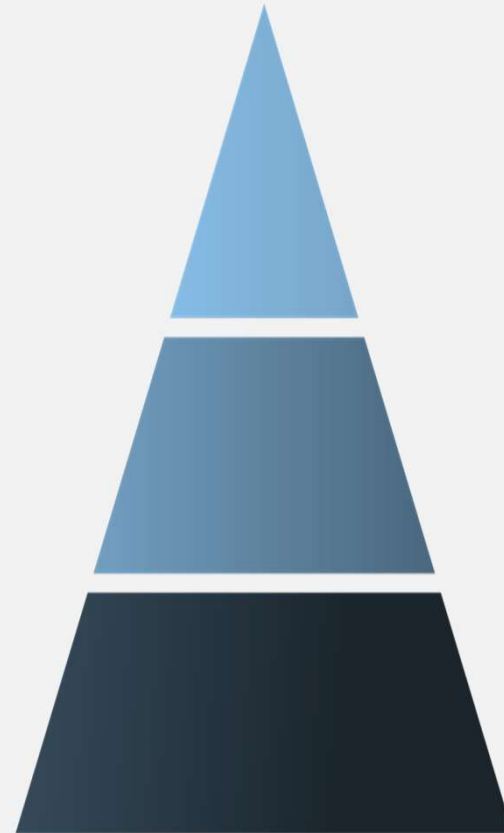
Some conflicts are about **culture**



## Some conflicts are about **identity**



# The Levels of Conflict over Wildlife

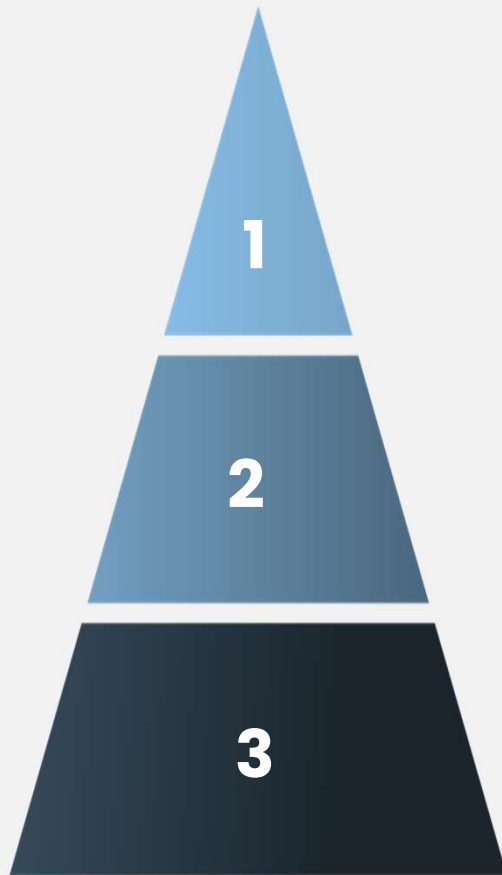




# Levels of Conflict over Wildlife



## IDENTIFYING The Levels of Conflict



**Sympathy** for the needs of wildlife  
Mainly concerned about losses  
Not much history of attempts or  
**Willingness** to adapt own habits  
**Openness** to receiving help

**Dislike** of the species, strong NIMBY effect  
Accumulated **frustration, exaggeration** of incidences  
A **history** of unresolved losses, **resentment**  
Expectation **someone else should fix** or compensate  
**Sceptical** about motivations of others

**Strongly negative**, disproportionate to damage  
Use of strong or **polarized language**  
Very negative reflections about history of attempts  
**Reluctant** to cooperate and reduce damage  
**Hostility** towards the intentions of others

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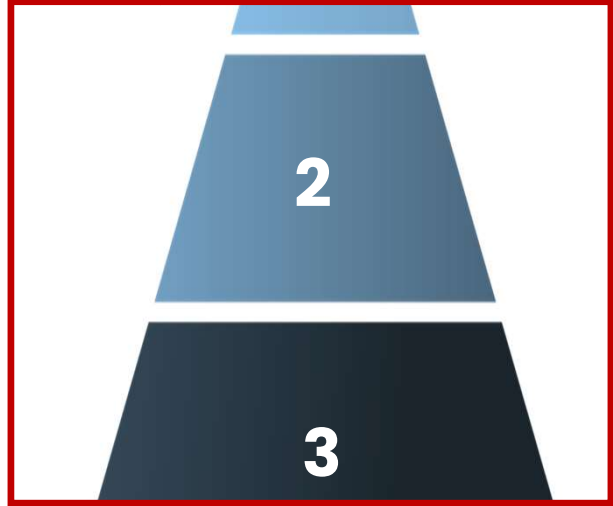
**Strongly negative**, disproportionate to damage  
Use of strong or **polarized language**  
Very negative reflections about history of attempts  
**Reluctant** to cooperate and reduce damage  
**Hostility** towards the intentions of others

**Most efforts/projects**



Conflict resolution

**Most HWCs**



## Break out discussions



What is the **level of conflict** you are dealing with, what are the signs of this?

Who is involved and why?

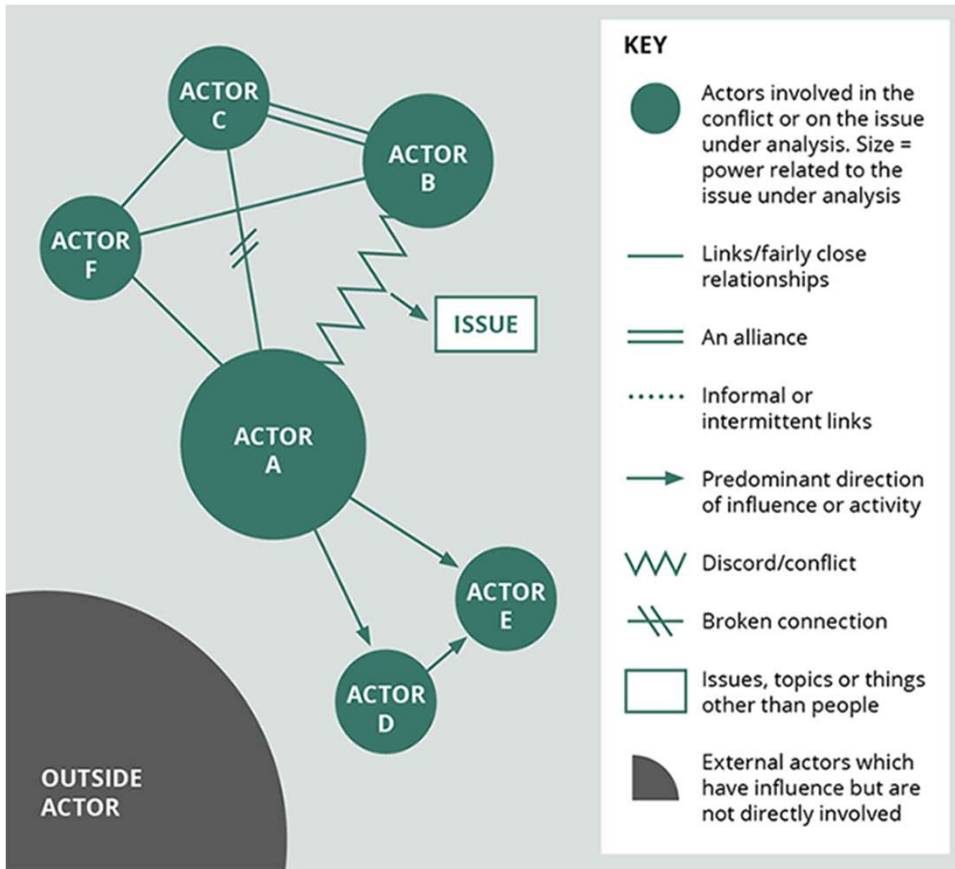
Stakeholder analysis

# Stakeholders / Actors / Parties

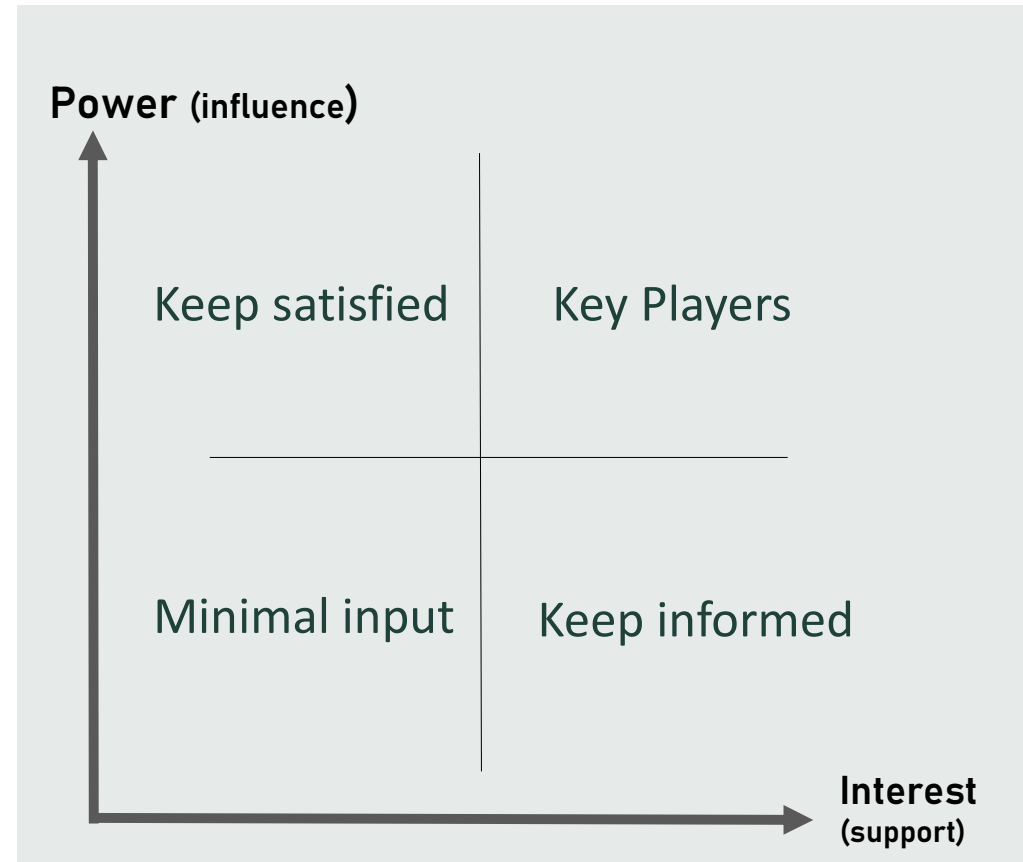


# Stakeholder Mapping

## Peacebuilding

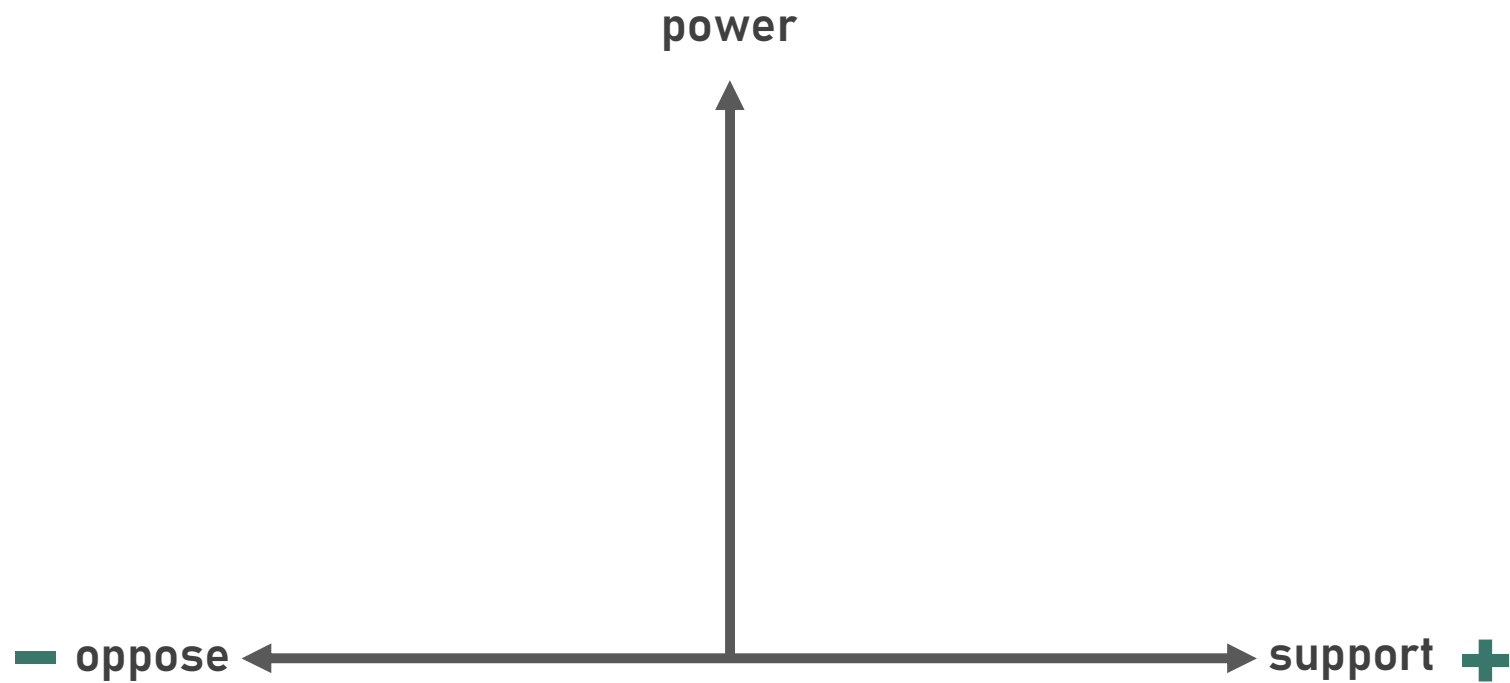


## Marketing



# Stakeholder Mapping

## *Human-Wildlife Conflict*





## **Worked Example: Conflict over the Mauritius Fruit Bat**





Commercial orchards



Smallholdings



Back yards

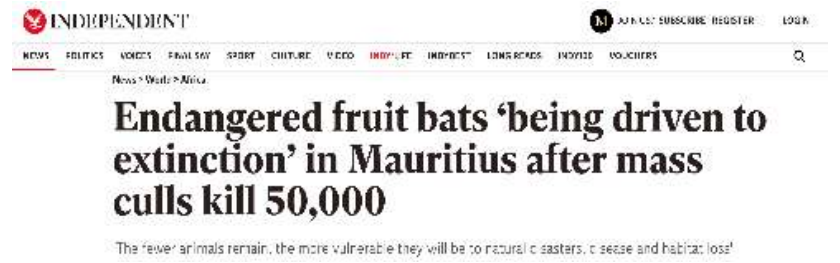


NATURE | CORRESPONDENCE

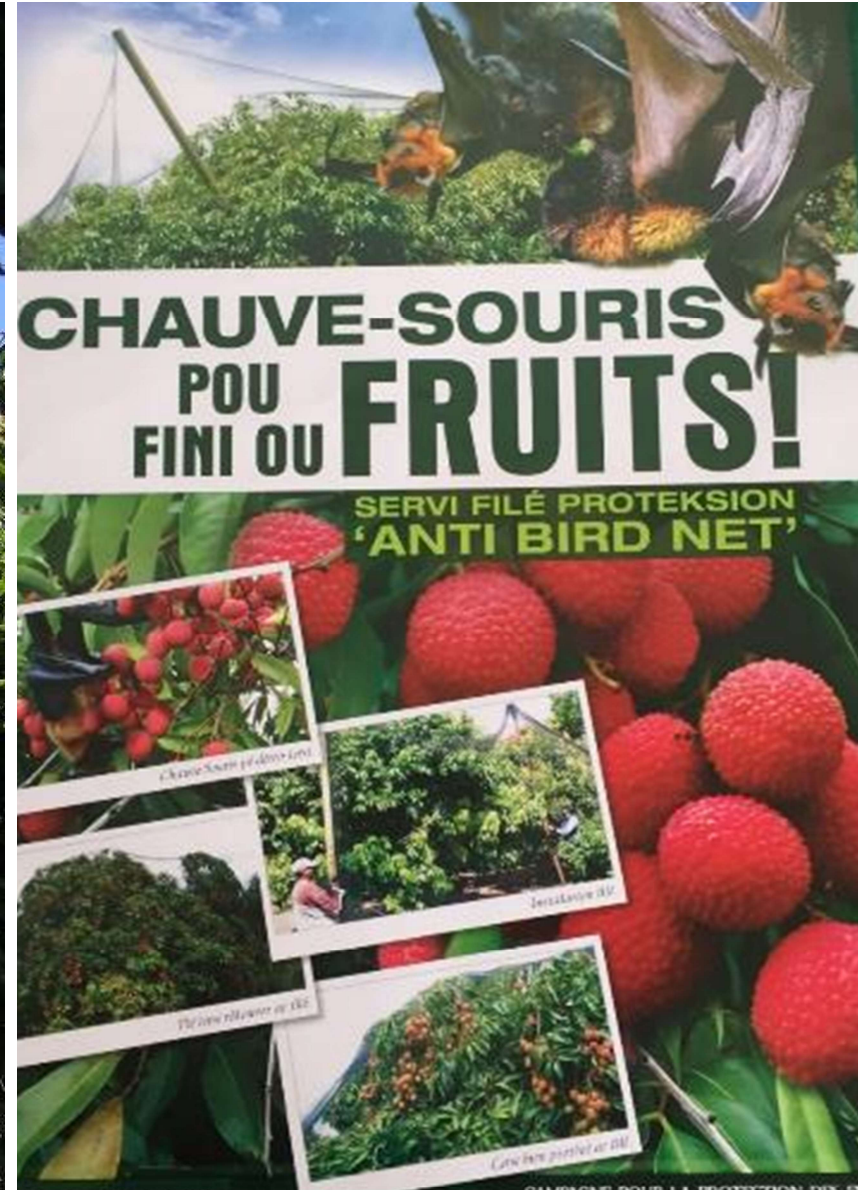
**Biodiversity law: Mauritius culls threatened fruit bats**

F. B. Vincent Florens

Nature 530, 33 (04 February 2016) | doi:10.1038/530033a



# Tree Netting campaigns & subsidies



# Which outcome would you prefer for Mauritius fruit bats?



General public

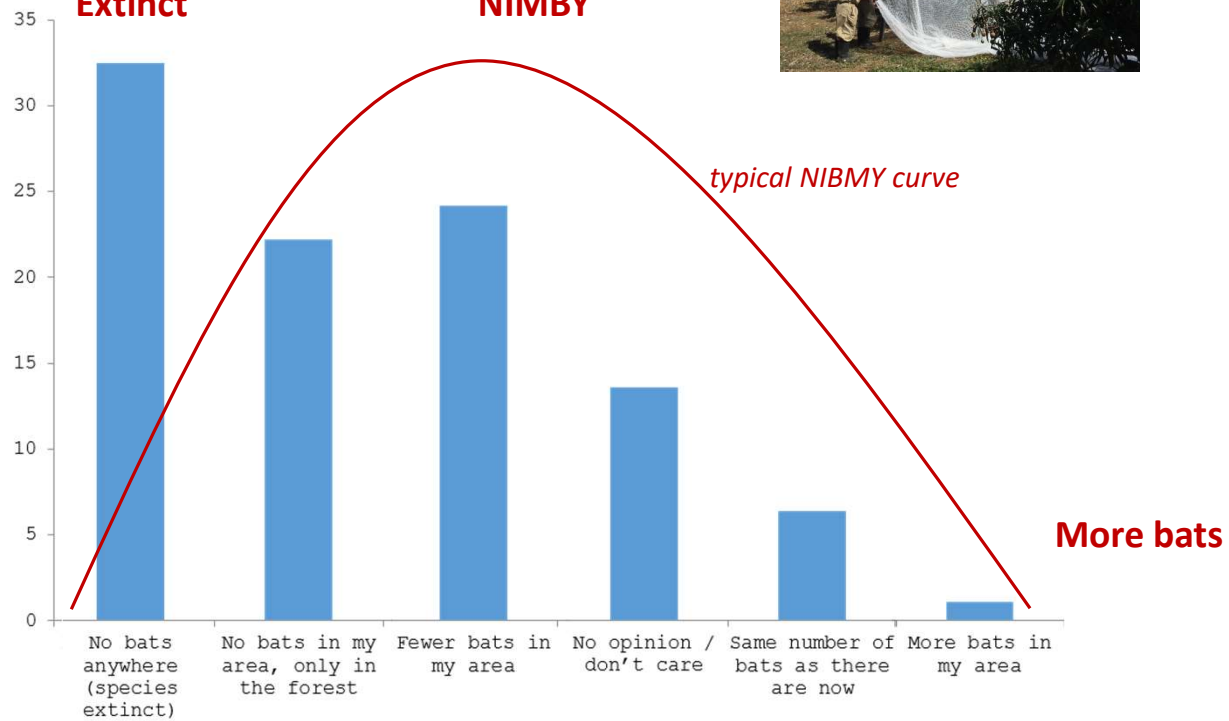


**Extinct**

Orchard owners



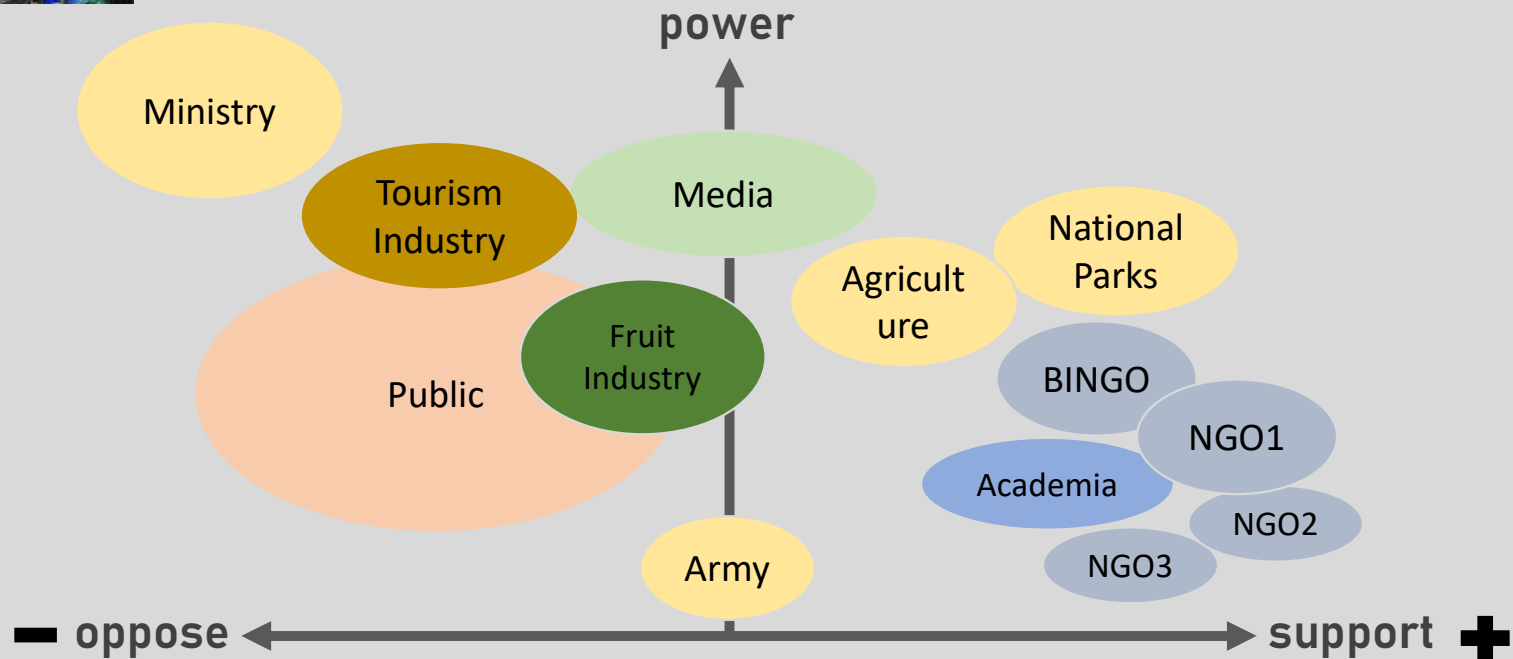
**NIMBY**





# STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE PROCESS

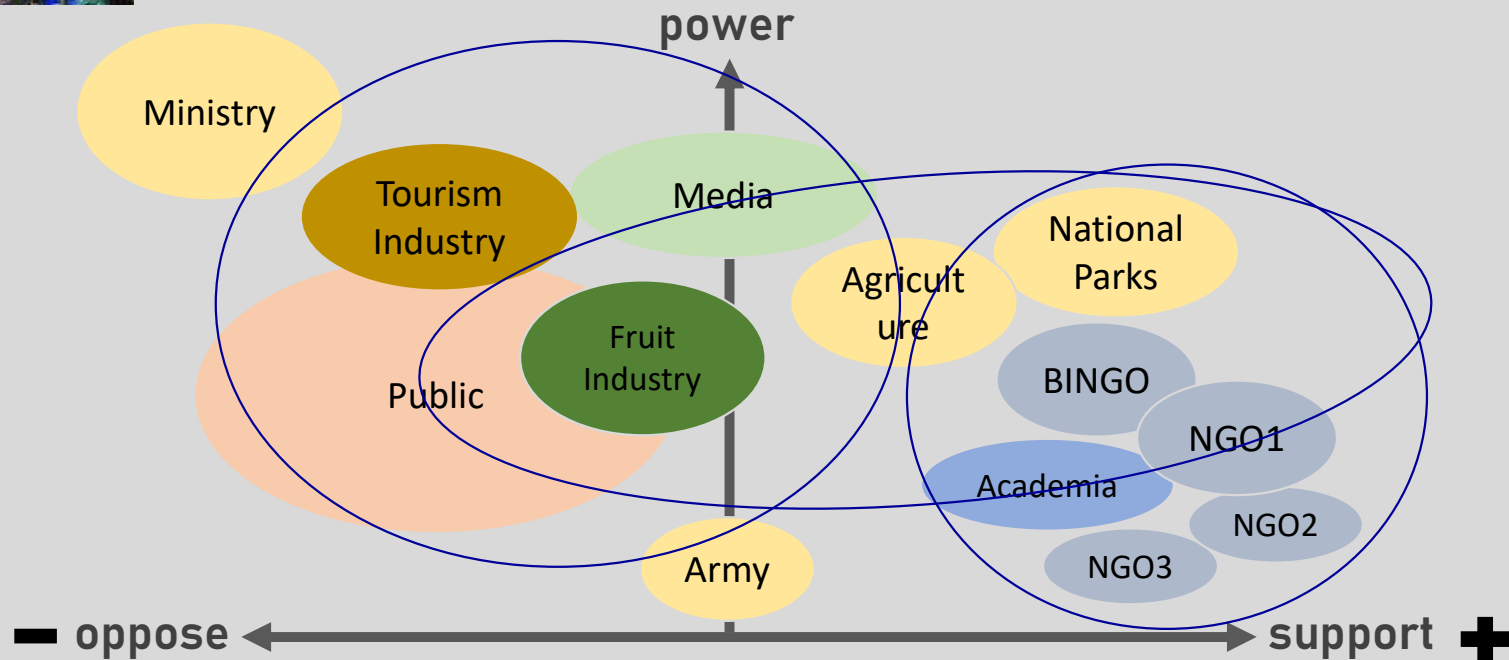
## Mauritius fruit bat issue





# STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE PROCESS

## Mauritius fruit bat issue



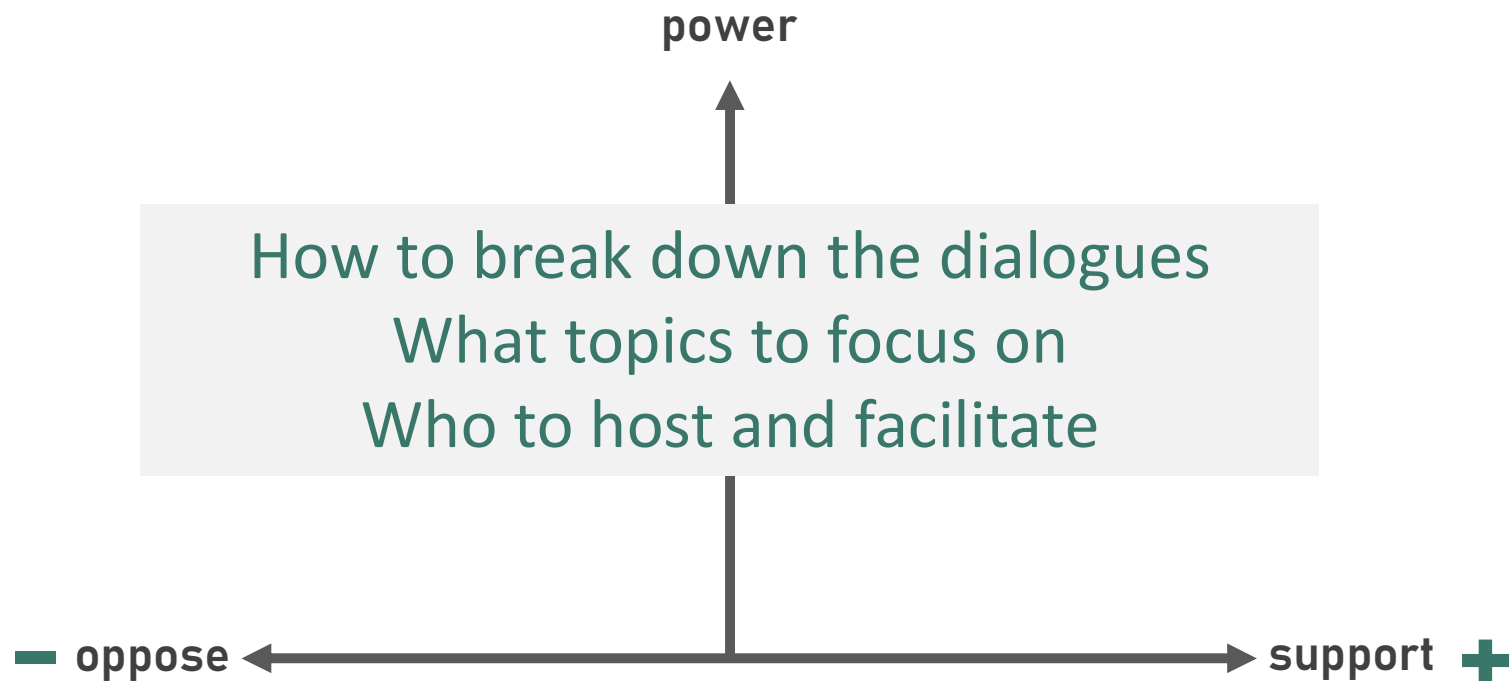
**ISSUE: public perception of bats**

**ISSUE: research strategy, bat conservation & fruit damage**

**ISSUE: damage to orchards**

# Stakeholder Mapping

## *Human-Wildlife Conflict*



# Break out discussions



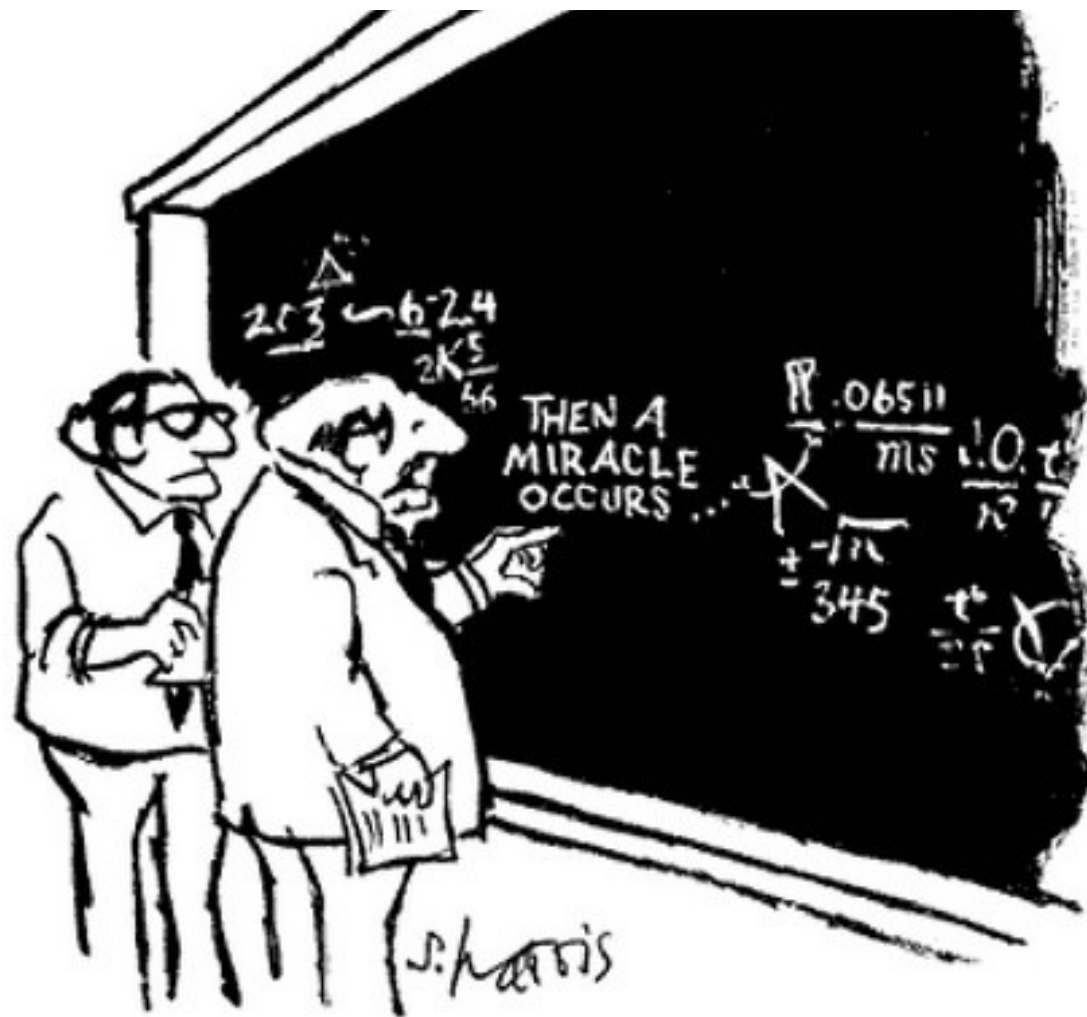
Who are all the stakeholders in the HWC scenario in your project, and how might you break down the process?



# Principles for process and design

Are you solving the right problem?

Are the activities the right solutions to that problem?



"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

## 4 common pitfalls in HWC management

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### *Assumptions*

- ☒ Extent of retaliation is linked to extent of loss
- ☒ Attitudes & awareness determine behaviour

### *Approaches*

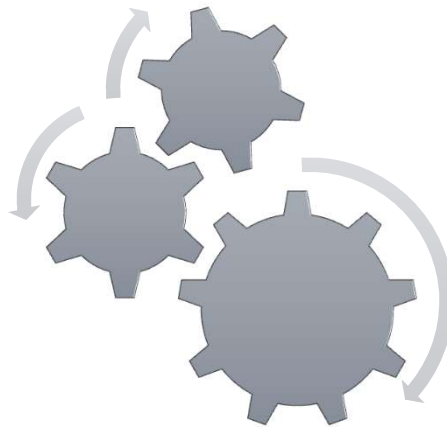
- ☒ Causal errors in theory of change
- ☒ Focussing on wrong level of conflict

**INCOMPLETE  
APPROACHES?**



Reduce losses  
Increase livelihoods  
Improve attitudes  
Improve awareness

**ASSUMPTIONS**



**VAGUE GOAL**



**Human-wildlife  
coexistence**



# Theory of Change

Human-wildlife conflict projects

## PLAN BACKWARDS

Modify the activities ← Challenge the assumptions ← Start at the end

~~Improve attitudes~~  
~~Improve awareness~~  
Provide information  
*Influence social norms*



*Why are they really killing jaguars?*  
*What are hidden/historic tensions?*  
*What are the barriers to protecting livestock?*



Reduce killing of jaguars

Reduce livestock predation

*Other outcome goals...*



AND CROSS-CHECK



**Value**  
(appreciate, protect)



+

**Benefit**  
(tangibly, economically)



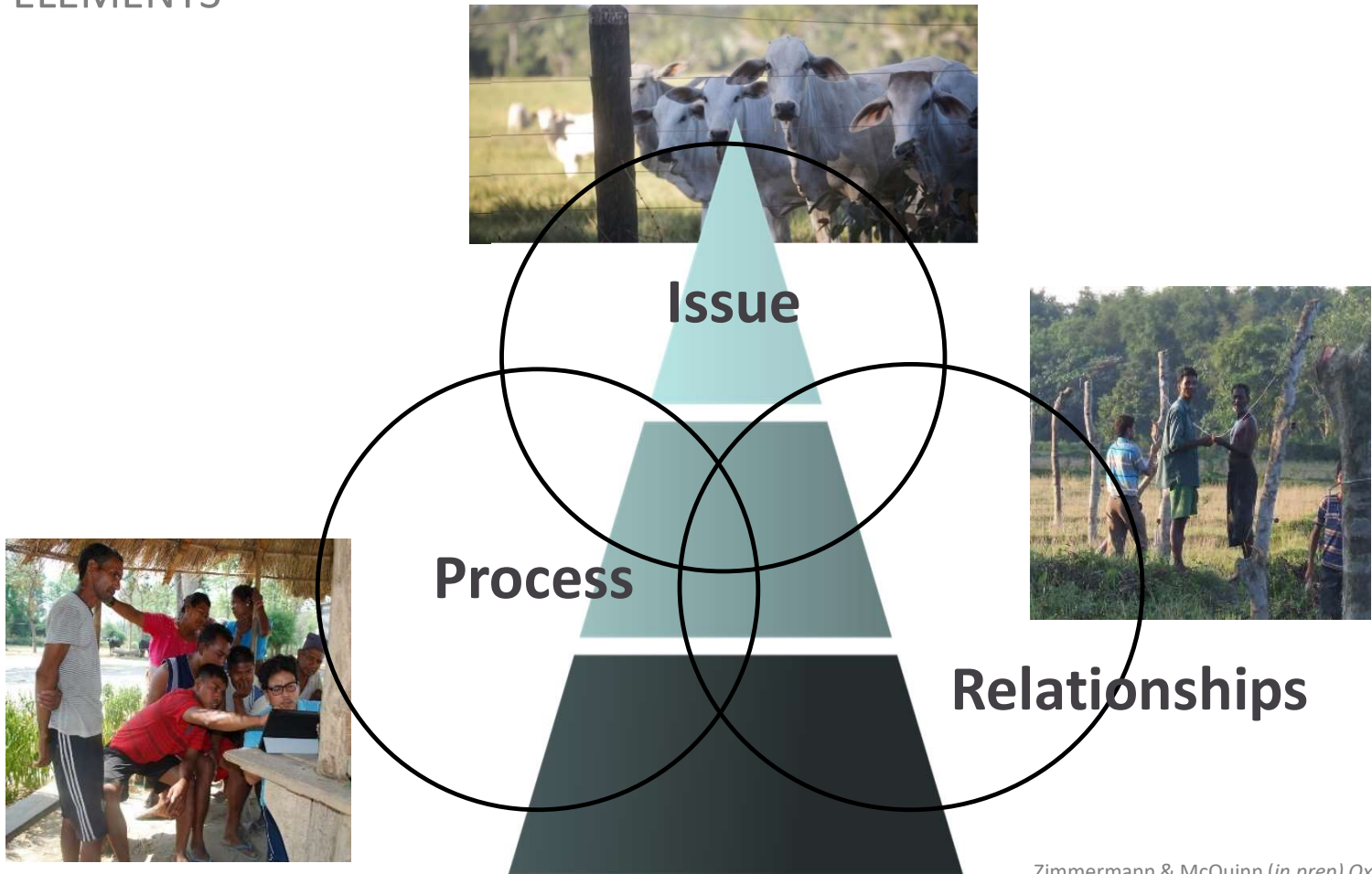
***HWC Project Aims: create processes to enable this***

# Principles for process and design

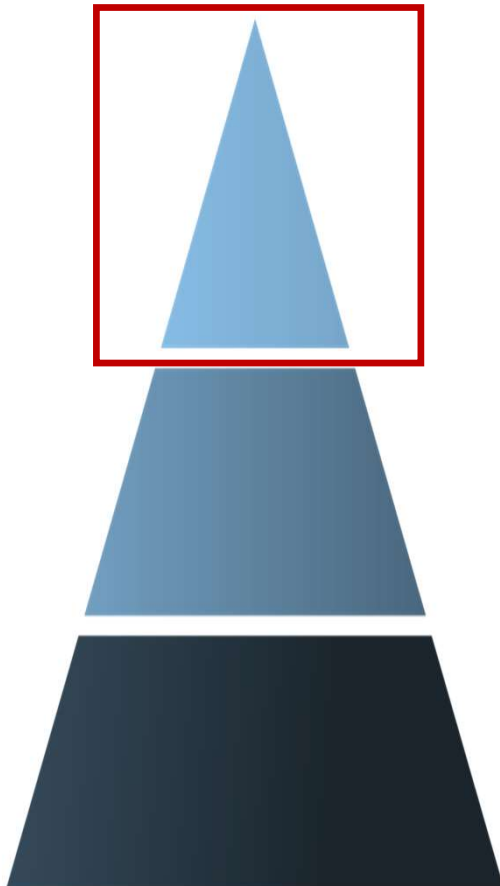
how to engage, de-escalate, build dialogue, create co-ownership

# Conflict Negotiation

## CORE ELEMENTS







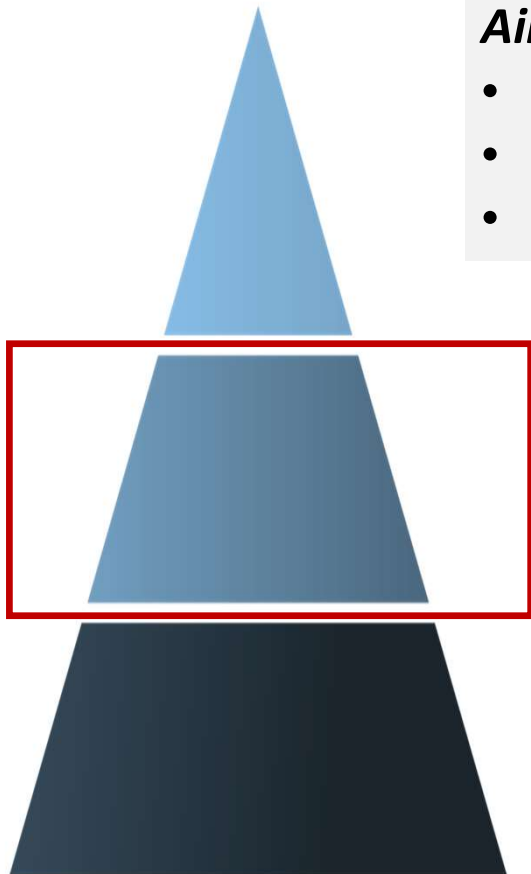
**Aim: Find practical solutions**

- to safeguard **income and security**
- to **reduce risk** of losses to levels acceptable
- to increase productivity or **diversify income** sources

**Method:**

Consultations  
Community meetings  
Focus groups  
Facilitated problem-solving





**Aim: Relationship building**

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

**Method: Stakeholder dialogue process (step-by-step)**

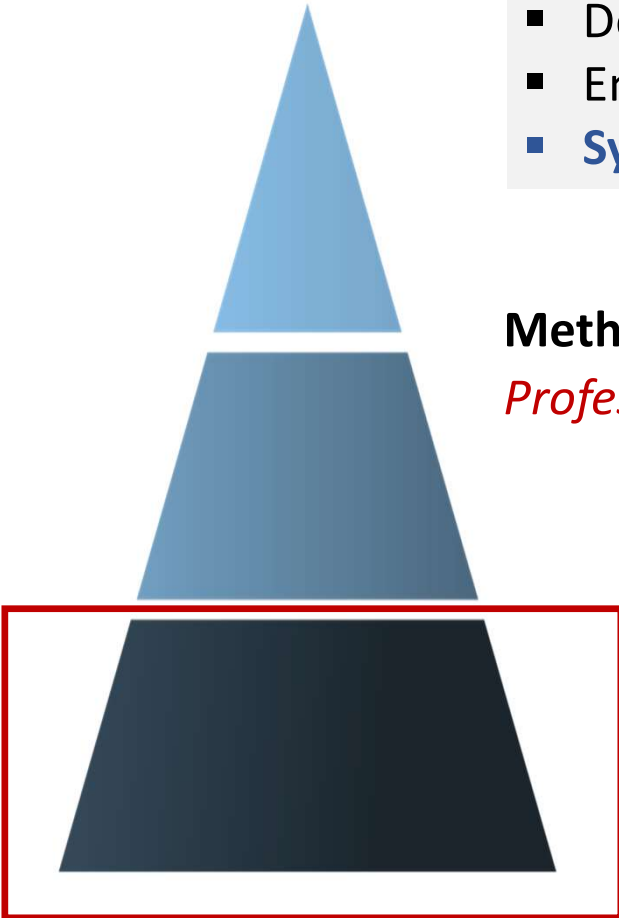


**Aim: Reconciling clashing identities**

- Deconstructing to the basics (**needs, identities**)
- Emphasis on **re-balancing** decision-making, ownership, power
- **Symbolic gestures** show respect/willingness

**Method:** Reconciliation dialogues, conflict transformation

*Professional Mediator*



# Break out discussions



What issues are you addressing in your HWC initiative & are there any approaches to modify?

# Conclusion

Thoughts? Questions?

# Which topics next?

For webinars, training & discussion

1

## Ecological, spatial & behavioural aspects

How ecological factors, behaviour and foraging by wildlife shape hotspots of HWCs

2

## Human & social dimensions

How attitudes, behaviour, beliefs, values are shaped; social research, questionnaires, focus groups, other approaches

3

## Negotiation & mediation in conflicts

Key approaches in handling and de-escalating conflicts, appropriate strategies for managing these, when to use third party mediators

4

## Working with the media

How media and social media influence HWC outcomes & how to work with this

5

## Financial instruments

Overview of options, limitations, risks and key considerations for compensation, insurance, or certification

6

## Damage reduction & safety measures

Overview of barriers, deterrents, repellents and guarding approaches, principles and how to ensure maintenance

7

## Monitoring and evaluation


of incidences and interventions: from planning to monitoring and evaluation

Vote

## Further Resources

## 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





## Position Statement

On the Management of Human-Wildlife Conflict



IUCN SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION



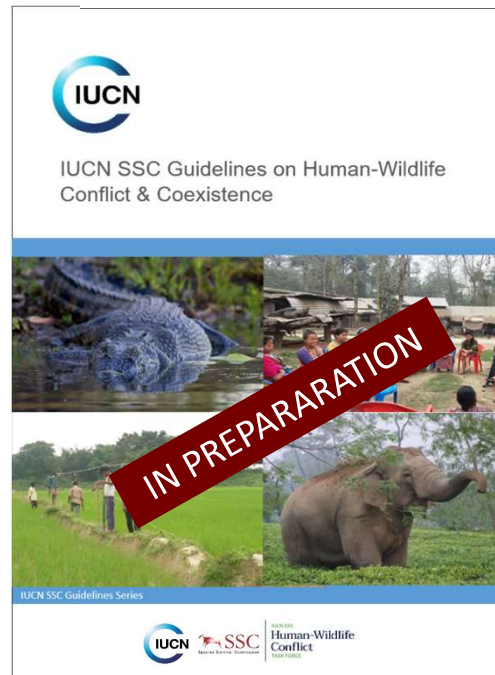
IUCN SSC  
Human-Wildlife  
Conflict  
TASK FORCE

# IUCN Position Statement on HWC

English, French, Spanish, Portuguese

[www.iucn.org/theme/species/publications/policies-and-position-statements](http://www.iucn.org/theme/species/publications/policies-and-position-statements)

## COMING SOON



## Newsletter

Events  
Publications  
Updates



IUCN SSC  
Human-Wildlife  
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TASK FORCE



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
**HUMAN-WILDLIFE**  
CONFLICT and COEXISTENCE

[www.hwccconference.org](http://www.hwccconference.org)

Postponed to March 2022



IUCN SSC  
**Human-Wildlife  
Conflict  
TASK FORCE**



**WORLD BANK GROUP**



**WILDCRU**  
Wildlife Conservation Research Unit



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