

Pathways Europe: Human Dimensions of Wildlife Conference
Wageningen, 19th October 2022

Workshop: Facilitating Human-Wildlife Interactions in Conservation Translocations

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Workshop Goals

In this workshop we will discuss participants' experiences in human dimensions, in the context of each of the 5 stages of the conservation translocation project life cycle, to promote useful and multidimensional insights.

Discussions aim to expand on findings from the IUCN/SSC CTSG HWIWG 2022 [Guidelines to Facilitate Human-Wildlife Interactions in Conservation Translocations](#), to identify best practice and key issues for each stage to inform planning and promote wildlife conservation, collaboration amongst groups and coexistence.

HUMAN WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS IN CONSERVATION TRANSLOCATIONS

•2018

•IUCN/SSC Conservation Translocation Specialist Group (CTSG)

•Aims:

- To promote discussion of key issues
 - to aid practitioners in finding solutions based on their experience and expert advice
 - to help develop networks and collaborations
 - to provide advice to projects in all stages of development
- To support and inform the IUCN Conservation Translocation Guidelines
- To share related resources with the wider conservation translocation community

Human-Wildlife Interactions

- HWI can be both positive and negative
- They are dynamic and influenced by:
 - context and by previous experience,
 - trends in society,
 - individual processes
- HWI studies require multidisciplinary integration of knowledge systems
- Based on
 - material dimensions (e.g. ecosystem services and income generation)
 - non-material dimensions (cultural, psychological, and spiritual factors)

Conservation Translocations

- **Management interventions to restore depleted species from their former range**
 - The CBD (Article 9(c) 1992) “... recovery and rehabilitation of threatened species and (...) reintroduction into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions.”
 - Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD, 2021)
- IUCN guidelines (2013): to establish a viable, free-ranging population in the wild it is necessary to enlist public support
 - Human dimensions/ conservation professionals.
 - Affect the success of the reintroduction/translocation project.
 - Investments in human-dimension aspects improve community involvement, peers’ acceptance and the support from various interest groups.



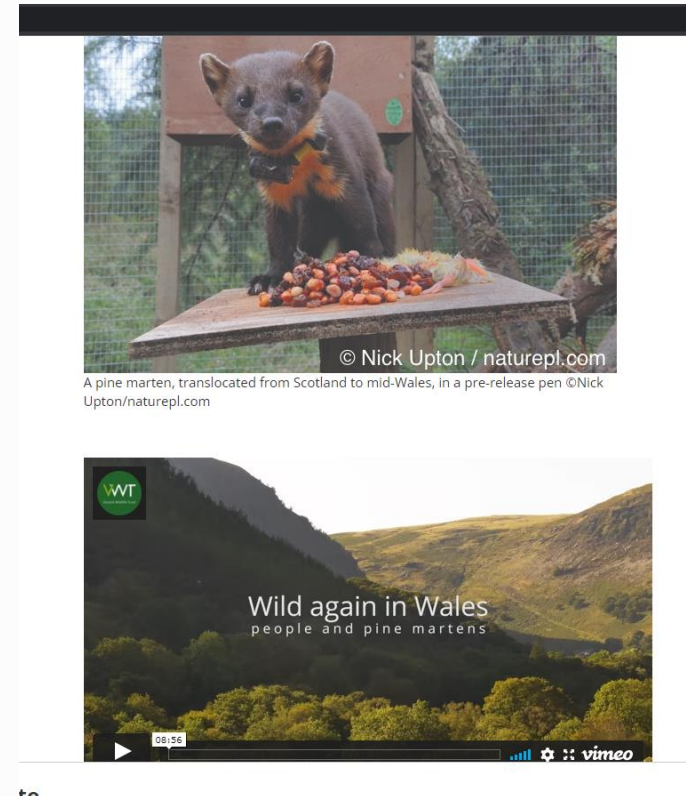
Stages of a Conservation Translocation

1. **Pre-Project** : Before the re-introduction/translocation starts
2. **At the start** : When the project initiates
3. **Implementation and stabilization**: During the project period
4. **Ending stage**: Towards the End of the project
5. **Post-Project**: After the project period

1. Planning stage: before initiating contact with community and various interest groups

Involving local people

- **Recommendation:** Developing communication channels and mechanisms with local communities from an early stage; forum to voice concerns about project plans.
- **Recommendation:** Put mechanisms in place to address residents' concerns about HWI effectively, consistently and transparently



1. Planning stage

Ethical obligations to people living around the reintroduction area

- **Recommendation:** Practitioners planning to work with local communities need an ethics protocol/ approval from their institutions
- **Recommendation:** Research and confront the effects of colonial history and its continuing influence on the people and places involved in the translocation

"We only read about buffalo in a book. We only saw buffalo at a zoo, or in a wildlife preserve that was non-Indian" BearCub Stiffarm, Fort Peck, 2020. (<https://text.npr.org/904893046>)



1. Planning stage

Building trustful relationships between interest groups.

- **Recommendation:** Ensure the involvement of indigenous and local knowledge holders in all stages of the project.
- **Recommendation:** Foster self-reflection and focus on our role as conservationists AND social actors.
- **Recommendation:** Combine qualitative with quantitative data collection to provide a richer, more nuanced understanding of people's world views.
- **Recommendation:** Consider the local cultural context and particularities of the relationship between people and the focus species. One solution does not fit all.



We will shape a more just and sustainable future

Our programs amplify local voices in conservation

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

In this section

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PHOTO: Wild Allen's hummingbirds and many other bird species thrive year-round at the Zoo. The native wildlife that share the Zoo's grounds provide an opportunity for visitors and others, like our Conservation Interns, to further connect with nature.

1. Planning stage

Understand and consider the values of different interest groups

- **Recommendation:** Listen to local people to clearly assess the positive and negative local cultural attitudes towards reintroduced species.

Costs and Benefits for local community and project

- **Recommendation:** Developing measures of wellbeing together with the local community
- **Recommendation:** Assessing both positive and negative economic impacts on the local communities



2. Initiation stage: initiating contact with community and other interested parties

Building trusted relationships through inclusion

- **Recommendation:** Working together with local and Indigenous communities; identifying interest groups and their values and expectations towards the reintroduction project.
- **Recommendations:** Listening and learning before introducing information; finding out what people already know; identifying the gaps in knowledge and the areas that must be targeted for change through communication and education; giving people a voice.
- **Recommendation:** Cross-disciplinary research collaboration to support this process; assuring that the concerns and viewpoints of interest groups are respected and incorporated into decision-making; but making clear that research may not dictate policy

2. Initiation Stage

Hawaiian monk seal

Building strong relationships to mitigate any potential conflicts

- **Recommendations:** Focusing on coexistence (not conflict), common ground, and on bringing people together to find solutions; listening to solutions proposed by various interest groups; valuing context specific, local solutions.
- **Recommendations:** Trying to understand the motivations behind negative attitudes and/or illegal activities → finding context specific solutions.



2. Initiation Stage

Education and awareness: building support

- **Recommendation:** Building a relationship with local leaders; developing an understanding of how attitudes towards individual animals and the focus species may support the project goals
attitudinal research

Role of accredited zoos and aquariums

- **Recommendation:** Developing partnerships with local zoos, aquarium and botanical parks to promote positive attitudes towards the focus species, and support towards the project.

Identifying and changing behaviours

- **Recommendations:** Developing cooperation between bio scientists, social or behaviour scientists and management to promote behaviours that favour reintroduced species, and to target behaviours that could increase negative HWI.

Maintaining clarity and transparency about costs and benefits of project

- **Recommendation:** Developing information based on quality assessments of the ecological, social and personal costs and benefits associated with the reintroduction.

3. Implementation Stage

Trust and public perception of risk over time

- **Recommendations:** Developing HD longitudinal studies to provide a picture of changes of attitudes over time (mirroring monitoring wildlife populations).
- **Recommendations:** Developing clear and consistent communication between the project and diverse local groups and leaderships:
 - Listening to their beliefs, concerns, as well as knowledge, as these change over time
 - Consulting
 - Recruiting

9-member task force to monitor cheetahs in MP's Kuno National park | 5 points

India News
Published on Oct 07, 2022 01:53 PM IST

The committee which is to hold at least one meeting per month, will also be expected to form regulations and guidelines to open the cheetahs' habitat to eco-tourism.



A cheetah after being released inside a special enclosure of the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday (PTI)(HT_PRINT)

Scientist who brought cheetahs to India finds no place in task force

His exclusion has raised questions since it was Jhala who prepared the technical ground for the ambitious cheetah project under successive governments since 2009.



Infighting and infrastructure glitches at Kuno National Park ahead of Cheetahs' shift

ET Online · Last Updated Oct 08, 2022, 07:50 PM IST

Synopsis
Experts are of the opinion that no release date should be discussed until all points of contention have been sorted out for good of cheetahs and the project.

As the day approaches when all eight cheetahs are supposed to be shifted into larger holding enclosures in Kuno National Park, reports of alleged 'infighting' in the core team of the ambitious project and lack of



Not in cheetah task force, miffed wildlife official goes on leave

The CTF's mandate includes monitoring the cheetahs while in quarantine to their release into the next larger enclosures to their final move into KNP's wilds.

Published: 07th October 2022 09:37 AM | Last Updated: 07th October 2022 09:37 AM



By Chandan Nandy



3. Implementation Stage

- **Actively involving the local communities**

Recommendation: Ensuring social significance → local support, active participation and local ownership of the project

- Considering cultural beliefs in management decisions
- Supporting Community Development Initiatives
- Addressing HWC

Recommendation: Using varied strategies to protect and empower local people, while promoting knowledge exchange, conflict mitigation and coexistence.

On 93rd Mann Ki Baat, PM Modi seeks suggestions to name cheetah campaign

PM Narendra Modi also paid homage to Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Bhagat Singh on the occasion of their birthday anniversaries this week, adding that the decision to rename Chandigarh airport after the latter is a tribute to the martyr.



Kuno: Locals await arrival of African cheetahs, hope to benefit from tourist influx

Staff and authorities of Kuno National Park are struggling to keep leopards out of the 500-hectare enclosure made for the cheetahs



By Shuchita Jha
Published Friday 26 August 2022



Task force will decide when people can see cheetahs in Kuno, says PM Modi

India News
Updated on Sep 25, 2022 01:08 PM IST

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also said a competition is being launched to allow people to name the cheetah project and the eight wild cats released in the Kuno national park in Madhya Pradesh



PM Modi in his monthly radio broadcast Mann Ki Baat said a lot of people have asked him when will they get a chance to see the cheetahs. (PTI)



Implementation Stabilization

Once dacoit, now cheetah mitra, Ramesh Sikarwar says: 'If anyone attacks a cheetah in Kuno, they will have to face me'

It is this old connection that prompted Sikarwar, now 72, to come forward as a "cheetah mitra" at the national park. "The Kuno forest gave us shelter, protected us. We had a deep love for the forest. It is time now for me to protect it," he says.

Written by [Esha Roy](#) [Follow](#)
New Delhi | Updated: September 26, 2022 7:34:24 am

NewsGuard



Cheetahs in Kuno next week: Leopard attacks, poaching, stress of capture remain concerns

Those in charge of the cheetah project told DTE that they had factored in concerns for the reintroduced species



NEXT NEWS >

By Shuchita Jha
Published: Sunday 11 September 2022



4. End Stage and exiting the project

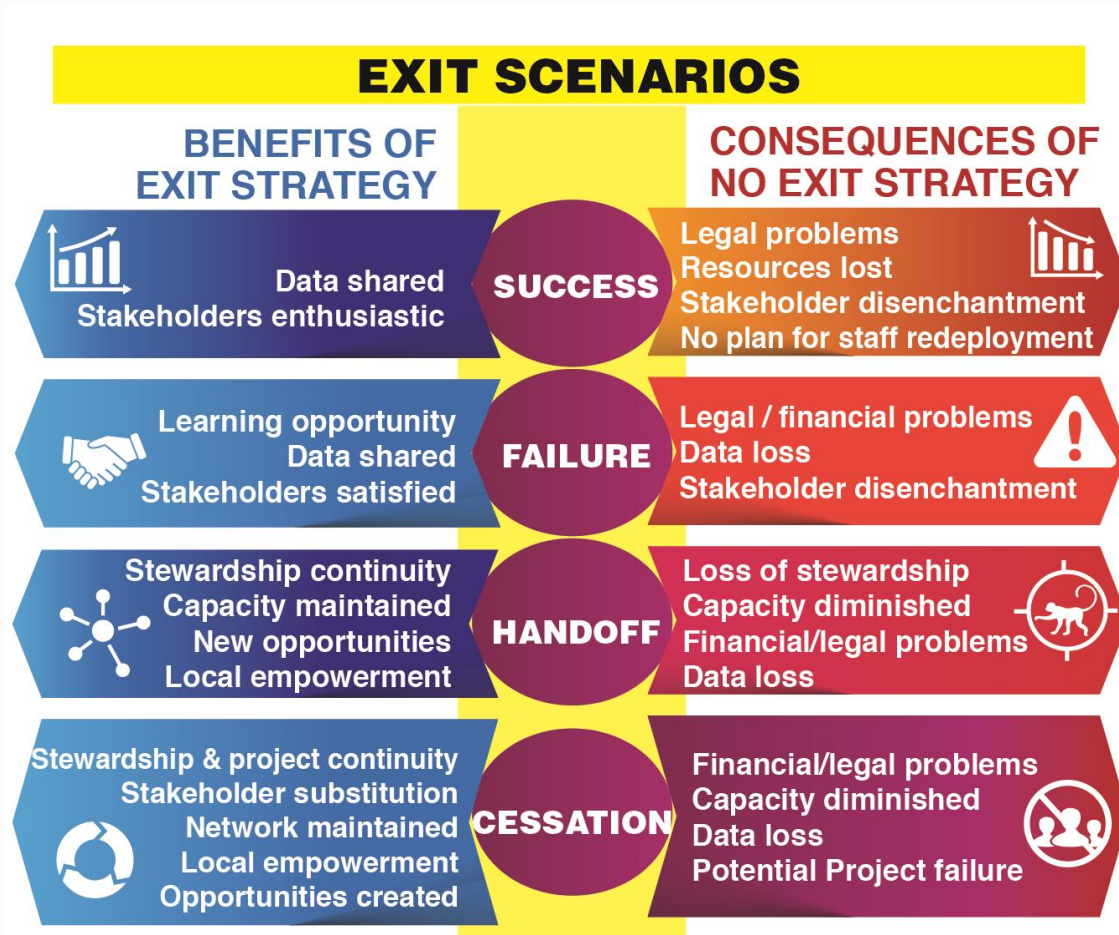
Plan for the long-run: conservation begins after the translocation!

Design an Exit Strategy for `stewards` and members of the project's team to allow for continuity

Main Recommendations:

- Building Exit Strategies into the project's strategy in connection with its goals.
- Analysing the positive contributions a funder can make and the negative impacts of its unplanned exit in relation to the goals of the project:
 - a minimum time duration of their commitment to funding the project;
 - an exit strategy, with funding partners as part of the planning process (contract/pledge).
- Considering the impact of the exit on all interest groups, as it may affect each one differently.

Goal: End the Project with minimal negative consequences to the translocation or to the conservation network



Consider

- Timing/Pace
- Responsibilities
- Reasons for Exit

4. End Stage and exiting the project

- **Public perceptions of exit and the hand-off strategy**

Recommendations:

- Securing long term sustainability for new career opportunities (which are transferable) and for infra-structures that are more ‘environmentally friendly’ created by the project ; ‘weaning’ people off the project infrastructure.
- Investing in long term strategies to prevent the return of livelihoods/practices that impact on focus species/biodiversity (e.g. poaching); preventing the development of negative attitudes towards the project that may affect the long term conservation of focus species.

4. End Stage and exiting the project

- **Community based monitoring**

Recommendations: Monitoring may be aided by the local community; monitoring must be funded to ensure stability and long-term success of the conservation translocation.

- **Enabling and enhancing traditional practices**

Recommendations: Enabling and enhancing traditional practices that are already in place to promote biodiversity conservation and to benefit the focus species.

Panna's challenge: From zero tigers to too many now

Tigers are not only venturing out of the core area into buffer zone but in some cases travelling much farther.

Written by [Milind Ghatwai](#)

Bhopal | Updated: November 26, 2019 4:30:05 am

NewsGuard



From a place devoid of any big cat, the PTR, located in the backward Bundelkhand region, is now tackling a problem of plenty.

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BEST OF EXPRESS



Govt suspends senior IAS officer, accused of rape in Andaman and Nicobar

5. Post-exit Stage

- Ensuring sustainability after ‘Handoff’ strategies
- **Recommendations:**
 - Considering the positive and negative consequences of a project beyond its immediate goals, in relation to how it affects the conservation of biodiversity in general.
 - Maintaining clear communication with interest groups, to avoid making unrealistic promises.
 - Capacity building for long-term maintenance or pursuit of new goals is key

Panna Tiger Reserve gets UNESCO's 'Biosphere Reserve' status, Environment Minister praises tiger conservation work

Panna reserve last year witnessed a remarkable turnaround in tiger population by increasing the number of big cats to 50 from zero estimated a decade ago

Written by [Shriparna Saha](#)

Updated: November 3, 2020 4:53:31 pm



The committee headed by Srinivas Reddy is contemplating a decision to translocate a female tiger to Dryanganga.

ENVIRONMENT

Involving locals in reviving tiger population pays off in Panna Tiger Reserve

[Sidharth Yadav](#)

BHOPLA, AUGUST 08, 2019 21:48 IST
UPDATED: NOVEMBER 24, 2021 13:10 IST

SHARE ARTICLE



T1 and one of its cubs at the Panna Tiger Reserve. On April 16, 2010, T1 delivered its first litter — four cubs — the first of a tigress reintroduced in the Reserve. File

Working in groups

(60 minutes: 30 +15 minutes break + 30):

- Participants will choose one table dedicated to each one of the 5 stages proposed by the framework
- Guidance paper handout
- Each participant will be asked to talk about how the guidance relates to their own experiences, and how it may be applicable to their own practice.
- Comment on the actions proposed by the Guidance, and to identify:
 - Key barriers and key opportunities in relation to best practice concerning the HD of such stage.
 - Suggest case studies to illustrate key themes
- Participants will be asked to contribute to the discussion based on their expertise/background

Final discussion

(15-30 minutes):

- a participant from each table will be invited to convey their conclusions; participants will have an opportunity to pose questions and discuss key issues concerning all stages of the project cycle.

❖ **Output:**

- Inform expanded guidelines for the CTSG.



Thank you!

Human Dimensions of Animal Translocations in *Frontiers in Conservation Science*.

Consorte-McCrea A, Kolipaka S, Owens JR, Ruiz-Miranda CR and Waters S (2022) Guidelines to Facilitate Human-Wildlife Interactions in Conservation Translocations. *Front. Conserv. Sci.* 3:788520. doi: 10.3389/fcosc.2022.788520 [Frontiers | Guidelines to Facilitate Human-Wildlife Interactions in Conservation Translocations | Conservation Science \(frontiersin.org\)](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fcosc.2022.788520/full)

Please get in touch with adriana.consorte-mccrea@canterbury.ac.uk if you would like to be included in our mailing list

- Researchgate: <https://www.researchgate.net/project/IUCN-SSC-RSG-Human-and-Wildlife-Interactions>
- Website: <https://iucn-ctsg-hwi.wixsite.com/workinggroup>
- Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/IUCN-CTSG-Human-Wildlife Interactions](https://www.facebook.com/IUCN-CTSG-Human-Wildlife-Interactions)