



CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Information Document and Discussion Summary regarding the Indicator for Human-Wildlife Conflict in Target 4

15 June 2022

Human-wildlife conflict in the Post-2020 GBF

[Human-wildlife conflict](#) (HWC) is an escalating and serious concern for species conservation, sustainable livelihoods and development worldwide. HWC is included in the First Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework ([CBD/WG2020/3/3](#)), under Target 4: *Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through ex situ conservation, and **effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict.***

Target wording

IUCN, reflecting on several Parties' suggestions made during the third meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG-3, March 2022, Geneva) to clarify the wording of "human-wildlife interactions" by adding the bracketed "[to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict]" and/or referring to "coexistence", suggests simplified wording for the latter part of the Target as follows:

...and **effectively manage human-wildlife conflict and coexistence** ([IUCN Position Paper OEWG-4](#)).

Indicator wording

The current wording in the [Proposed Headline Indicators of the Monitoring Framework for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#) lists the headline indicator for Target 4.0.1 as "*Proportion of species populations that are affected by human wildlife conflict*". This is a remnant of old input which contained more elements but was truncated during subsequent drafts. The [IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group](#) (HWCCSG, formerly Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force) agrees with the feedback on this during [SBSTTA 24](#), that this indicator is not suitable and currently not fully operational as HWC is not solely a species issue, nor does this wording capture the multi-faceted nature of HWC as a conservation issue.

IUCN's HWCCSG recommends the indicator for the HWC component of Target 4 to be revised to: ***Trends in effective and sustainable management of human-wildlife conflict and coexistence.*** This wording better captures the Target's goal, which is about improving HWC situations and creating or maintaining coexistence through effective, context-specific and appropriate management of the issue.

This indicator also lends itself well to further breaking down into the core components of what is necessary to manage HWCC, for example, this indicator can be disaggregated into trends in the following components which can be developed further:

- 1) **Incidences of negative impacts** or encounters on people and wildlife
- 2) **Willingness to coexist with wildlife** (tolerance, social, cultural, political)
- 3) **Quality of processes** of engagement, policy and capacity for efficient management



This is technically feasible for national and global levels (data can be aggregated), it is more relevant to key elements of the target, and is something that can be developed collaboratively between Parties and Observers, with the HWCCSG available to coordinate efforts and help provide science-policy linkages (e.g. via the [IUCN Library on HWC](#) and [IUCN Guidelines on HWC](#) in preparation).

Development of the HWC Indicator

As outlined in the [Information Document on developing indicators for a target on human-wildlife conflict in the framework](#) (January 2022), the HWCCSG **recommends a focus on preventing, managing and mitigating HWC effectively and sustainably, using a combination of quantitative and qualitative measures to demonstrate progress to this aim.** In developing a monitoring approach for HWC, the following aspects should be considered: a) the indicator needs to focus on the long-term aim of the drivers of conflict resolution, not just symptomatic aspects, b) the social, cultural and political aspects of HWCs are crucially important components, as they are most reflective of the underlying nature of the problem; and b) HWC situations and management capacities are highly variable, so reporting needs to be manageable and relevant for each party.

Technical workshops on HWC indicator development

The HWCCSG is the proposed institution for coordinating the development and delivery of the indicator for HWC for Target 4 as part of [UNEP-WCMC's compilation of data relating to headline indicators](#). Therefore, **a first online technical workshop was convened on 8 June 2022, which included members of the HWCCSG and colleagues from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), WWF, as well as the CBD Secretariat and OEWG, UNEP-WCMC and several government parties (incl. Angola, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda, UK).** Workshop participants discussed the potential metrics for this indicator and to what extent data collection for the three proposed components would be feasible. The main conclusions included:

- 1) Incidences of impacts: a range of data in this category are already collected by many parties and organisations. It is considered important that the indicator picks up both human and wildlife impacts.
- 2) Willingness to co-exist: Although methods for this are well established in conservation social sciences, for some parties this is a less familiar aspect to measure. Experience of measuring e.g. tolerance (in a repeatable way to allow trend assessment) may be limited within some wildlife/forestry departments, but guidance and links across disciplines can readily be mobilized for this.
- 3) Quality of process: Reporting of the level of engagement, stakeholder participation and policy development (ie the extent to which conflict and coexistence are well managed) is also an important component and reasonable straightforward to document and report on (e.g. through evidence of consultations, use of facilitators, community-led projects etc).

Given the range of capacities, it was suggested that the methods underpinning the HWC indicator will likely continue to evolve and become more accurate, refined, and comparable as this effort continues up to and beyond COP15. Furthermore, although HWCs around the world share many common characteristics, contexts vary greatly from country to country, and most likely a methodology that sets out a monitoring framework but allows for a range of context-appropriate data collection approaches within it, may be most beneficial at this time. Concerns over feasibility were also discussed, to consider whether countries have capacity to collect the range of data needed, at scale. Certainly guidance and resources will be needed to support this. The multi-disciplinary nature of the components also



IUCN SSC

Human-Wildlife
Conflict & Coexistence

SPECIALIST GROUP

requires engagement of experts from a range of fields to assist in the development of methods and to support countries in their reporting requirements. To assist with this, **a joint working group (of interested organisations and parties) could be formed to continue these engagements and efforts post-COP**. Parties themselves are best positioned to decide on which metrics are most relevant and feasible to specific HWC situations, but ongoing technical support mechanisms could certainly be created to support this journey.

Technical advisory support is available

Governments, non-governmental organisations, communities, companies, research institutions, and individuals worldwide are working to understand and address HWCs more efficiently and sustainably. The [IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group](#) is an interdisciplinary global advisory group that was created to foster links and assimilate knowledge and capacity for HWC management. The HWCCSG and collaborators such as those participating in this workshop are available to assist with technical support to parties and able to advise on the operationalisation of a monitoring framework for the HWC component of Target 4 as part of a technical expert group, following Paragraph 11 of the Draft Recommendations submitted by the Chair regarding the [Scientific and Technical Information to Support the Review of the Updated Goals and Targets, and Related Indicators and Baselines](#) (26 May 2021).

For further information, please contact:

Dr Alexandra Zimmermann, alexandra.zimmermann@ssc.iucn.org
Chair, IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group

Dr James Stevens, info@hwctf.org
Programme Officer, IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group

www.hwctf.org/policies