



IUCN SSC

**Human-Wildlife
Conflict & Coexistence**
SPECIALIST GROUP

Latin America Working Group Terms of Reference

Background

The establishment of the Latin America Working Group on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence within the IUCN Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Specialist Group marks a significant step toward addressing the region's unique challenges and opportunities. Latin America, a region of unparalleled biodiversity and cultural richness, faces complex challenges in achieving coexistence between humans and wildlife. Weak governance, institutional mistrust, limited technical capacity, and inequitable access to natural resources often hinder conservation efforts. Despite these challenges, Latin America also offers opportunities. Conservation in the region is intrinsically tied to social justice, creating a foundation for transformative approaches that decolonize knowledge and foster equitable access to resources. This group will prioritize the integration of people, institutions, disciplines, and knowledge systems. Such an approach ensures that solutions are not only scientifically robust but also culturally relevant, therefore sustainable, enhancing the region's ability to address conflicts, promote coexistence, and contribute to the global mission of the IUCN SSC.

Objectives

The Latin American working group aims to build a collaboration network with the objective of facilitating not only ways in which experts can offer their support and knowledge, but also, in a reciprocal manner, they can better understand the particularities and needs of our Latin American region. This two-way collaboration will enable a greater adaptation of the tools and mechanisms we seek to implement, capturing the particularities of our Latin American region to develop resources and solutions that are more tailored to the specific realities and challenges of our context. Additionally, the group seeks to establish pathways and mechanisms to enhance capacity and mobilize resources to achieve these goals. More specifically, we intend to:

1. List/map individuals, projects, and programmes in the region that explicitly address Conflict and Coexistence
2. Assess of the opinions of selected people about how a regional network convened by the HWCCSG could generate benefits for its members
3. Adapt/expand the specific content of the IUCN Guidelines on HWCC to the specific context of Latin America
4. Create learning opportunities through lectures, courses, workshops, and in-person and online meetings to exchange experiences
5. Establish a community of practice for collective learning
6. Create a dedicated resource library



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7. Drive more representation of LATAM in international forums and think tanks.

Time commitment

The members of the Latin America Working Group are expected to dedicate around 4 hours per month to the above objectives.

Roles and responsibilities

Joining the Latin America Working Group does not constitute membership of the HWCCSG, but you will become an Associate of the HWCCSG and be listed on the Working Group's specific page on the HWCCSG's website. The Lead of the Working Group may nominate Associates for full membership of the HWCCSG, with the Steering Committee of the HWCCSG making the final decision on invitations.

The Working Group is led by Silvio Marchini, Mariana Catapani, and Mariam Weston, with support from HWCCSG members and Associates.

Resources

There is no foreseen remuneration available for the activities of the Working Group, and members contribute to the Working Group in a voluntary capacity, as do members of the HWCCSG.

Contact information

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