

SCB's 30th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB 2021) will take place 12-16 December 2021 in Kigali, Rwanda

ICCB 2021 Workshop proposal

Title: Facilitating Human-Wildlife Interactions in Conservation Translocations

Adriana Consorte-McCrea¹, Shekhar Kolipaka², Jacob R. Owens^{3,4}, Carlos R. Ruiz-Miranda⁵, and Siân Waters⁶

1. Canterbury Christ Church University, Canterbury, United Kingdom
2. Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Leiden University, Leiden, Netherlands
3. Los Angeles Zoo & Botanical Gardens, Los Angeles, United States
4. Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, Chengdu, China
5. Laboratory of Environmental Sciences, Universidade Estadual do Norte Fluminense, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
6. Department of Anthropology, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

Abstract:

Species reintroductions and translocations are widely used management interventions to restore locally extinct or augment severely depleted species. In such projects, the human dimension issues that influence reintroductions and translocations success are encountered at five different stages of the project life cycle: 1) The pre-project phase 2) At the start, 3) During implementation 4) At the end of the project and 5) Post-project. Whenever any of these are overlooked or treated lightly the result may jeopardise the success of the reintroduction/translocation project. Investments in human-dimension aspects improve community involvement, peers' acceptance and the support from various interest groups.

The Human-Wildlife Interactions Working Group (HWIWG) was formed in 2018 by members of the IUCN/SSC Conservation Translocation Specialist Group (CTSG). The group has facilitated online discussions and webinars with practitioners, researchers and academics from across the globe, on a wide variety of topics concerning human dimensions of reintroductions. In this workshop we propose to discuss with participants their experiences in human dimensions of conservation translocations in relation to each of 5 proposed stages of a project's life cycle. Discussions will be guided by findings from the HWIWG so that participants may identify best practice and key issues in considering human-dimension in each of these 5 stages to inform planning and promote conservation, collaboration amongst groups and coexistence.

Justification:

The Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 9(c) 1992) obliges signatory countries to "Adopt measures for the recovery and rehabilitation of threatened species and for their reintroduction into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions." The IUCN's guidelines for Reintroductions state that to establish a viable, free-ranging population in the wild it is necessary to enlist public support (IUCN, 2013). Although international agreements increasingly point to the importance of working

together with local people, considerations for human dimensions are not always salient for conservation professionals. Initiatives to bring together researchers and practitioners to discuss and to address issues related with human-wildlife interactions in conservation translocations are rare but can contribute to the success of such endeavours.

Workshop:

IUCN's HWIWG is a resource for reintroduction practitioners and researchers to come together to address key issues concerning the relationships between people and wildlife in reintroductions programs.

Aims:

To promote discussion of key issues; to aid practitioners in finding solutions based on the experience of practitioners 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 Translocation Conservation Guidelines

To share related resources with the wider reintroduction community

The workshop will be divided in 3 blocks, and follow up resources.

15 minutes:

Introduction and setting the framework: core members of the group will introduce the 5 stages of the conservation translocation project lifecycle framework proposed

60 minutes:

Working in groups: participants will be divided into 5 working groups, each allocated to one table/break out room dedicated to one of the 5 stages proposed by the framework. A copy of the HWIWG guidance for best practice will be handed to each participant, and it will make the bases for the discussion. Each participant will have the opportunity to talk about how the guidance relates to their own experiences, and how it may be applicable to their own practice. They will be invited to identify: 1) key barriers and 2) key opportunities in relation to best practice concerning the human dimensions of such stage.

15 minutes:

Final discussion: a participant from each table will be invited to convey the conclusions from their respective stage, so that all participants will have an opportunity to pose questions and discuss key issues concerning all stages of the project cycle.

A full report of the session will be prepared by the conveyers and shared with participants after the event.