



HUNTING PRINCIPLES FOR CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF LARGE CARNIVORES

In Countries with High Human-Wildlife Conflicts

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Overview

In regions with high human-wildlife conflicts, clear hunting principles are essential for:

- Sustainable management and conservation of large carnivores.
- Reducing livestock depredation and minimizing risks to humans.

This presentation, based on insights from CIC's experts and global research, offers:

- Guidelines and best practices for using hunting as a conservation tool.
- Strategies for maintaining balanced carnivore populations.

Key Sections:

- Motivations: Exploring why hunting can support conservation efforts.
- Principles: Establishing a framework that ensures long-term coexistence between humans and carnivores.

Trophy Hunting as a Motivation

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*Trophy hunting generates revenue that supports conservation efforts.
It incentivizes local communities to protect species by making wildlife valuable assets.*



Mechanism for Conflict Reduction:
Financial incentives reduce poaching.

Example:
Species: Black rhino, cheetah.

Outcome:
Namibia's controlled hunting programs provided economic incentives that led to population recovery and reduced conflict.

Recreational Hunting for Population Management

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Recreational hunting helps manage carnivore populations and reduces overpopulation.



Mechanism for Conflict Reduction:
Prevents overpopulation and reduces conflicts with livestock.

Example:
Recreational hunting can reduce carnivore-related conflicts by maintaining population balance and fostering coexistence with local communities.

Lethal Removals for Immediate Conflict Mitigation

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Lethal removals target specific problem carnivores that pose immediate threats.



Mechanism for Conflict Reduction:

Removing problem individuals reduces the risk of attacks on livestock or humans.

Example:

Wolf removals in Wisconsin reduced livestock depredation.

Principle 1 – Population Stability & Habitat Management

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Hunters must help maintain healthy and sustainable carnivore populations while preserving habitats. Population management decisions should be based on thorough monitoring of species and habitat conditions to ensure long-term conservation.



Practical Example: Adhering to established quotas prevents overharvesting and protects species sustainability.

Principle 2 – Selective Harvesting

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Implement selective harvesting practices that prioritize removing problem individuals — such as those repeatedly involved in livestock depredation or posing direct threats to human safety — while minimizing disruptions to carnivore social structures.

Practical Example: Female bears with cubs should be spared from harvest to prevent social disruption and increased cub mortality, unless the bear is directly threatening human life. This helps maintain population dynamics and reduces the risk of destabilizing bear populations.

Principle 3 – Conflict Mitigation through Hunting



Use hunting as a tool for reducing human-wildlife conflicts, particularly in areas where carnivores threaten livestock or human safety.



Practical Example: Quota allocation could be adjusted to prioritize the removal of animals near human populations, ensuring both conflict mitigation and sustainability.

Principle 4 – Hunter Engagement in Adaptive Management

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Hunters should be actively involved in adaptive management and real-time monitoring efforts. Their engagement helps guide conservation decisions and ensures sustainable practices.

Practical Example: A synchronized bear count involving hunters improved population estimates by leveraging their knowledge of local territories.

Principle 5 – Community Involvement and Public Support



Hunters are encouraged to engage with local communities and share the economic and cultural benefits of sustainable hunting to build trust and foster public support.



Practical Example: Collaborating with local communities to share economic benefits ensures long-term coexistence and support for conservation.

Principle 6 – Welfare and Ethical Standards

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Hunters should adhere to ethical methods that prioritize humane treatment of animals, including avoiding hunting during breeding seasons and ensuring swift, clean kills.



Practical Example: Avoiding baiting practices for bears prevents the conditioning of bears to human food sources, reducing human-wildlife conflict.

Principle 7 – Unintended Side Effects

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Implementing targeted removal strategies that aim to resolve conflicts while minimizing disruptions to carnivore social structures.



Practical Example: Bear harvest selection quotas should be based on age cohort analysis to maintain population dynamics, and females with cubs should be spared unless in scenarios directly threatening human life.



Summary

- Reliable data is essential for effective carnivore conservation and management.
- Stakeholder involvement ensures that all voices are heard.
- Hunters, when properly guided, can provide effective data and collaboration.
- Together, we can balance conservation with conflict mitigation and reach mutual goals.



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Thank you for your attention!

