

Final Report on

Addressing human-leopard conflict via a conflict management manual aimed at the managers in the severely affected states of India.

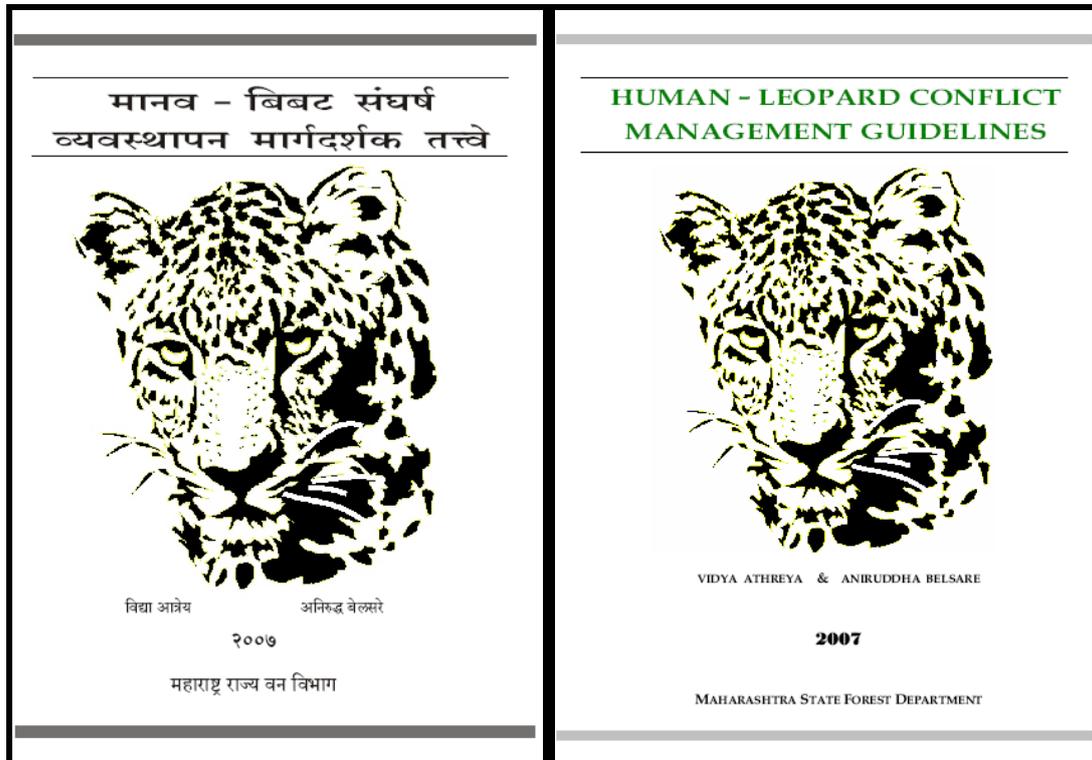
Submitted by Vidya Athreya

On 15th July 2007

Summary

Human-leopard conflict has taken on serious proportions across many states in India where more than 1000 people have been attacked in the last decade. Increased conflict erodes the support of the local people towards large cat conservation. Managers are seriously handicapped to better deal with conflict because of the lack of information to better manage the leopards and the conflict. To remedy this we made a management document aimed at the field managers who have to deal with the conflict as well as the leopards at a field level. The aim of the project was to provide management inputs so that conflict will ultimately decline thereby aiding the cause of leopard conservation in India. 2500 copies (400 English, 2000 marathi, 600 Hindi) were made and distributed to the managers in the affected states.

The cover of the manual in Marathi and English.



1. The original plan was to publish the manual in the national language (Hindi) and in English. The Chief Wildlife Warden (Maharashtra) requested that it also be brought out in Marathi given that it has been a state severely affected by conflict. The state of Himachal Pradesh requested for a further 500 copies of the manual in Hindi for which they provided additional funds. The manual now stands endorsed by two states affected by human leopard conflict. It has been distributed to many other states (*please see below*) on request from the state forest managers.

2. The original idea was to make it an exhaustive manual but following discussions with senior forest officers in Maharashtra where we have worked for the last three years, it was thought more appropriate if the manual targeted mainly the field officers. It is they who deal with the conflict and the leopards. We focussed on pre-capture and post-capture management relevant to Indian conditions with the primary aim of reducing human leopard conflict and improving the welfare of the leopards that are captured. Furthermore, the important legal issues that most field officers are not aware of are covered in the manual.

3. One of the reviewers recommended that the manual be made in black and white so that photocopying would be easier in the rural areas. This led to a substantial decrease in cost of printing allowing us to print a total of 2500 copies (400 English, 2000 Marathi, 100 Hindi) and also the Himachal Pradesh state (Wildlife Wing) provided funds to translate the English version and print 500 copies in Hindi. *In the original proposal we had estimated that a total of 50 English and 200 Hindi copies would be made.*

4. The English version of the manual was ready by January 2007 and was displayed at the Human-leopard conflict meet organised by Wildlife Trust of India, New Delhi along with request forms to be filled by other Forest Departments attending the meet. I had requests from all the other affected states and the list of Forest Departments where the manual has been sent is provided below.

5. The electronic version of the English version is available at two websites.

<http://www.peopleandwildlife.org.uk/crmanuals/index.shtml>

<http://www.carnivoreconservation.org/dotclear/index.php?2007/02/>

6. Copies of the manual were requested by

Chief Wildlife Warden Madhya Pradesh	10 copies
Chief Wildlife Warden Himachal Pradesh	21 copies
Chief Wildlife Warden Kerala	10 copies
Chief Wildlife Warden Jammu & Kashmir	20 copies
Chief Wildlife Warden Assam	5 copies
Conservator of Forests, Junagadh, Gujarat	30 copies
District Forest Officers, Guwahati	5 copies
District Forest Officers, Wildlife (HP)	5 copies
Assam Forest Department Tinsukia	5 copies
Director Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun	21 copies
Various officers in Maharashtra ¹	88 copies

¹ 1 - 7. The seven FDCM Regional Managers., 8. CCF - WL Mumbai, 9. CCF - WL Nagpur, 10. CCF - WL Nashik, 11. CF and FD Pench National Park, 12. CF and FD Paratwada, 13. CF and FD Tadoba NP, 14. CF - WL Nashik, 15. CF WL Pune, 16. CF WL Kolhapur, 17. CF WL Borivali, 18. DCF WL Thane, 19. DCF WL Bhandara, 20. DCF paratwada 1
21. DCF Paratwada 2, 22. DCF WL Allapalli, 23. DCF WL Akola, 24. DCF WL Aurangabad, 25. DCF WL Akot, 26. CCF Res, edu and trg Pune, 27. Director Forest School Chandrapur, 28. CF Edu Pune, 29. Director Forest School Shahapur, 30. Director Forest School Pal, 31. Director Forest School Jalana, 32. Principal MFRC Chikaldara, 33. Principal CFRF Chandrapur, 34. CCF T Yavatmal, 35. DCF T Yavatmal, 36. DCF T Pandharkawada, 37. DCF T Akola
38. DCF T Pusad, 39. CCF T Dhule, 40. DCF T W Dhule, 41. DCF T N Dhule, 42. DCF T Jalgaon, 43. DCF T Yaval, 44. DCF T Taloda, 45. CF T Kolhapur, 46. DCF T Kolhapur, 47. DCF T Satara, 48. DCF T Sawantwadi, 49. CF T N Chandrapur, 50. DCF T Chandrapur, 51. DCF T Brahmपुरi, 52. DCF T Gadchiroli, 53. DCF T Wadsa, 54. CF T South Chandrapur, 55. DCF T Central

Copies distributed to various managers, scientists and people attending the workshop in Delhi	128 copies
Marathi copies requested by	
Chief Wildlife Warden Maharashtra	2000 copies (marathi)
English copies I sent	
Conservator of Forests, Goa	12 copies
Chief Wildlife Warden Tamil Nadu	20 copies
Chief Wildlife Warden Karnataka	20 copies
Hindi copies requested and paid by	
The office of the Chief Wildlife Himachal Pradesh Warden	500 copies (Hindi)
Hindi copies requested by	
Chief Wildlife Warden Uttarachal	50 copies
Chief Wildlife Warden Madhya Pradesh	50 copies

Chanda, 56. DCF T Allapalli, 57. DCF T Bhamragad, 58. DCF T Sironcha, 60. CCF T Amravati, 61. DCF T Amravati, 62. DCF T Chikhaldara , 63. DCF T E Melghat, 64. DCF T Buldhana, 65. CCF T Aurangabad, 66. DCF T Aurangabad, 67. DCF T Parbani, 68. DCF T Nanded, 69. CCF T Nagpur, 70. DCF T Nagpur
71. DCF T Bhandara, 72. DCF T Wardha, 73. DCF T Gondia , 74. CCF T Nashik, 75. DCF T E Nashik, 76. DCF T W Nashik, 77. DCF T Ahmednagar, 78. CCF T Pune, 79. DCF T Pune, 80. DCF T Junnar, 81. DCF T Solapur, 82. CCF T Thane, 83. DCF T Thane, 84. DCF T Shahapur 85. DCF T Alibaug, 86. DCF T Dahanu, 87. DCF T Roha, 88. DCF T Thane