

Date: 08/03/2024

Future Action Plan for Addressing Human-Leopard Conflicts in Ahmednagar District or Human-Monkey & other Wild Animals in any Place of India

Objective:

To develop and implement a comprehensive model under the leadership of the District Forest Officer (DFO), Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF), Range Forest Officers (RFO), Foresters and ground Crew Field Staff to address the challenges posed by Leopard Conflicts in Ahmednagar District, with a focus on Innovation, Community Engagement and Academic Collaboration.

1. Stakeholder Mobilization:

- Organize an initial Meeting with Key Stakeholders including DFO, ACF, RFO, Foresters, Ground Crew the District Collector, Guardian Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Additional Collector, Residential Deputy Collector representatives from MPKV Agriculture University, Pravara Medical and Educational University, Sanjivani University and relevant Colleges.
- Establish a Core Committee to oversee the Project, with Sub-Committees focusing on specific areas such as Innovation, Community Engagement, Academic Collaboration and Funding.

2. Academic Collaboration and Youth Engagement:

- Form Partnerships with Local Universities and Colleges, especially those with Programs in Biology, Zoology, Agriculture and Related Fields.
- Launch a Volunteer Program for Students to participate in Data Collection, Awareness Campaigns and Innovative Solutions Development.
- Organize Workshops and Training Sessions for Volunteers, Focusing On Wildlife Conservation, Conflict Mitigation Strategies and Data Collection Methods.

3. Innovation and Product Development:

- Invite Pestosys and other entrepreneurs to present Innovative product ideas and Solutions for conflict mitigation and plant protection.
- Establish a platform for idea Exchange and Collaboration between Academia, Industry and Forest Department.
- Support the Development and Testing of selected Innovative Solutions with potential for implementation.

4. Community Engagement and Awareness:

- Develop and launch a comprehensive Awareness Campaign across the District, focusing on Human-Leopard Conflict Mitigation, Coexistence Strategies and Safety Measures.
- Organize Community Meetings in affected Tahsils such as Kopergaon, Sangamner and Rahata others to discuss challenges, Share Solutions and Promote Active Community Participation.
- Implement Educational Programs in Schools to foster a culture of Wildlife Conservation and Safety among Children.

5. Data Collection and Analysis:

- Utilize the academic youth force for extensive Data Collection on Leopard Sightings, Attacks and Patterns of movement.
- Analyze collected data to identify Hotspots, Trends and Potential Solutions for Mitigating Conflicts.
- Share findings with the Core Committee for informed decision-making and Strategy Development.

6. Funding and Resource Mobilization:

- Explore funding opportunities from Government Schemes, Private Sector CSR initiatives and international conservation funds.
- Develop Proposals to secure financial support for Innovative Solutions, Awareness Campaigns and Volunteer Programs.

7. Monitoring, Evaluation and Scaling:

- Implement a monitoring and evaluation system to assess the effectiveness of implemented strategies and Solutions.
- Document successes and lessons learned for continuous improvement and potential replication in other Districts facing similar challenges.



8. Synergy and Leadership:

- Leverage the unique positions and backgrounds of the District Collector, DFO, Guardian Minister, Additional Collector, RDC, several others and entrepreneur Avinash Salunke to foster synergy and strong leadership in the initiative.
- Encourage regular Communication, Updates and Collaborative Problem-Solving among all Stakeholders.

This Action Plan aims to harness the Collective efforts of the Government, Academic Institutions the Private Sector and the Community to create a Sustainable and Innovative Model for mitigating Human-Leopard Conflicts in Ahmednagar District or Human-Monkey & other Wild Animals in any Place of India. Through Collaboration, Innovation and Community Engagement, we can protect both Human and Animal Lives, ensuring a Harmonious Coexistence with our Wildlife.