

A photograph of an elephant standing in a village at night. The elephant is in the foreground, facing right, with its trunk slightly raised. In the background, there are buildings and trees illuminated by streetlights, creating a warm glow against the dark night sky.

# C2C: CONFLICT TO COEXISTENCE APPROACH

SUMMARY ENGLISH, 2025



Cover photograph:

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At around 10 PM, a group of male elephants walks through the narrow streets of Livingstone, Zambia.

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C2C is a revision of the SAFE Systems Approach that was initially developed by WWF Tigers Alive Initiative in 2015 for tiger landscapes.

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## HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Around the world, human wildlife conflict (HWC) challenges people and wildlife, leading to a decrease in people's tolerance for conservation efforts and contributing to multiple factors that drive species to extinction. HWC is a significant threat to conservation, livelihoods, and myriad other concerns and should be addressed at a scale equal to its importance. By allocating adequate resources and forming wide-ranging partnerships, we can move towards long-term coexistence that benefits both people and wildlife.

HWC is a complex issue. It is not a simple, linear relationship between damage, attitudes, and actions. It is influenced by multiple diverse factors, which need to be considered in each strategy for effective conflict management. According to the IUCN, HWC can be defined as struggles that arise when the presence or behavior of wildlife poses occasional or recurring, actual or perceived (tangible and intangible) costs to human interests or needs, often leading to disagreements between groups of people on how to manage such conflicts and negative impacts on people and/or wildlife.

## C2C: CONFLICT TO COEXISTENCE APPROACH:

The C2C: Conflict to Coexistence approach provides a framework and methodology through which a tailor-made human-wildlife conflict (HWC) management strategy can be developed based on the local cultural, environmental and social context. This approach, a revision of the 2015 SAFE Systems Approach, facilitates systematic planning, implementation, monitoring and adaptive management of HWC. It recognises that HWC is a system, requiring multiple, integrated and collaborative actions. Through a stepwise, participatory multi-stakeholder process (involving those directly affected by HWC), the C2C Approach promotes long-term management of HWC, while achieving short-term and intermediate results.

Designed in alignment with the IUCN Human-Wildlife Conflict Specialist Group guidelines and CBD indicator for HWC and coexistence, as well as social and environmental and social safeguards, it offers a flexible framework that can be tailored to different scales, contexts and species.



## KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE C2C APPROACH:

- Provide Methodical Steps: For effective HWC management.
- Facilitate Integrated Approaches: For encouraging long-term solutions coupled with short-term and intermediate results.
- Serve as a Guide: For adaptive management of HWC based on region and context.



## OUTCOMES, ELEMENTS AND PRINCIPLES

### Outcomes

It is imperative to simultaneously consider the needs of both people and wildlife for effective management of HWC. Therefore, the C2C: Conflict to Coexistence.

Approach defines four mutual outcomes:

1. People able and willing to live alongside wildlife;
2. Livelihoods/assets secured against presence of wildlife;
3. Wildlife thrives alongside human presence;
4. Habitat sufficient to maintain viable wildlife populations.

### Elements

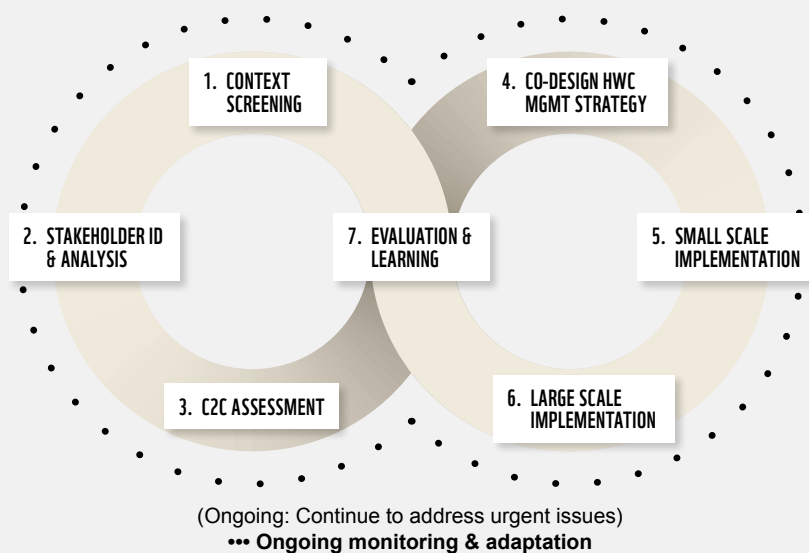
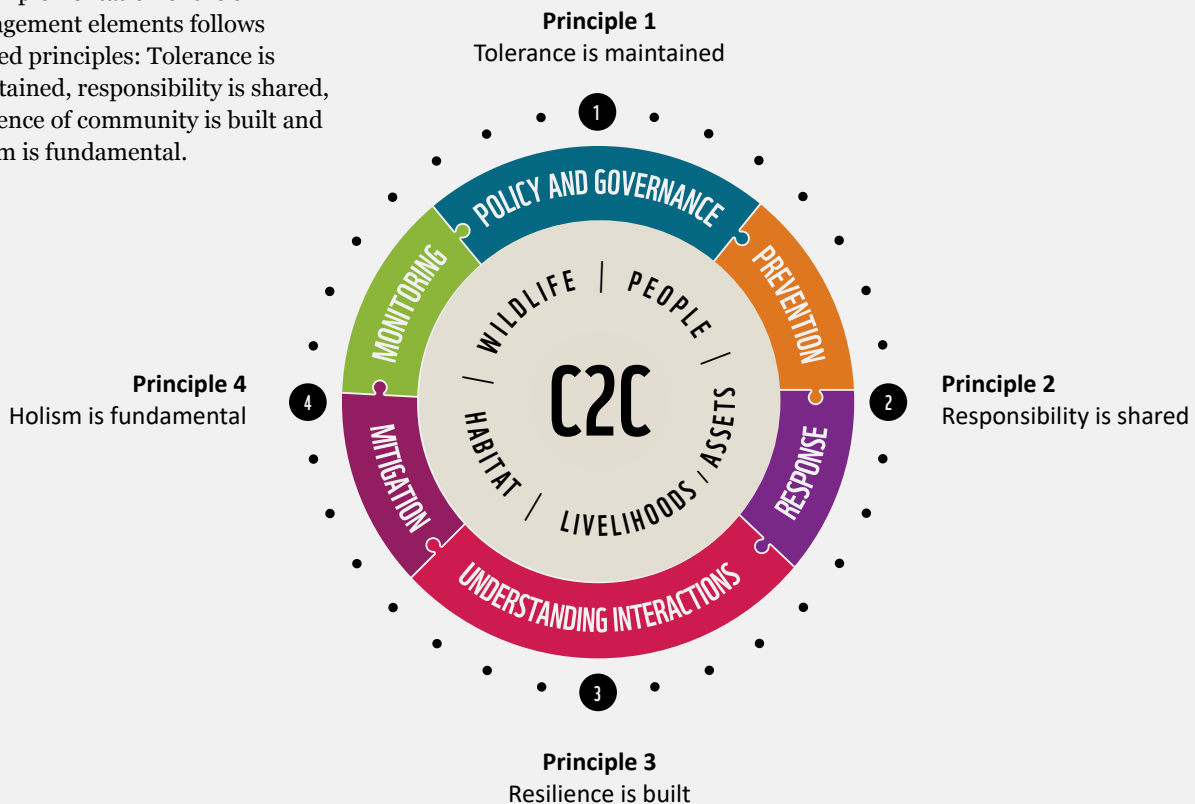
These outcomes are achieved through the implementation of actions within six HWC management elements:

- **Understanding Interactions** – Map out/ identify HWC drivers and impact, wider societal and political dimensions context and possible gaps in understanding interactions between humans and wildlife at various levels. (Research into historical context, surveys, etc.)
- **Policy and Governance** - Identify structures, institutions and processes addressing HWC drivers and management. (Local/national/ international policies, frameworks, etc.)
- **Prevention** – Consider measures taken to avoid HWC before it occurs. (Fences/livestock pens, early warning systems, etc.)
- **Response** – Actions taken during or after HWC occurs. (Response teams, etc.)
- **Mitigation** – Measures taken to reduce the level of impact and lessen the impact of a HWC incident after it has occurred. (Compensation/insurance, alternative livelihood opportunities, etc.)
- **Monitoring** – Measures taken to gauge performance and effectiveness of HWC management for informed and evidence-based decision making.



## PRINCIPLES

The implementation of the six management elements follows defined principles: Tolerance is maintained, responsibility is shared, resilience of community is built and holism is fundamental.



## METHODOLOGY

The C2C: Conflict to Coexistence Approach guides partners to co-design an integrated HWC management strategy, including various actions under the six HWC management elements based on a holistic context screening, a participatory stakeholder analysis and a C2C assessment which assesses the performance of the current HWC management according to the 4 outcomes and 6 elements of the framework. The co-designed HWC management strategy is then implemented from small to large scale, with continuous monitoring being a key factor for adaptive management.

## STARTING THE C2C APPROACH

The C2C Approach has been piloted in different regions in Africa (Ruvuma Landscape, Tanzania-Mozambique and Ntokou Pikounda National Park, Congo) and Asia (Thap Lan National Park, Thailand and Trong Gewog, Bhutan), each with widely varying conflict situations.

Learnings from these pilots have been used to further update the approach and methodology, and have led to adjustments, including the suggestion to plan ahead, involve a social scientist and/or a conflict mediation specialist when conflict among stakeholders is heated, develop a clear funding/fundraising plan before starting the C2C Approach and standardise training for the C2C manager and the team. The C2C Approach step-by-step guide is currently being revised and updated with ongoing learnings.

Once lessons from the pilots have been incorporated and the step-by-step guide for implementation completed, the C2C Approach will be ready for global rollout across various landscapes and regions for conflict management with any relevant species. The approach is intended to support HWC management by any entity and is not limited to use by WWF and partners. The guide will continue to be a living document and will be updated periodically incorporating ongoing lessons learned.

## FUNDING

To launch this approach, funding for year 1 should support context screening, stakeholder analysis, co-design and immediate implementation of urgent HWC management interventions. Based on learnings from pilots, the funding requirement for year 1 implementation is between \$50,000-\$100,000. However, it may be possible at a lower cost based on local needs, but should consider all above-mentioned steps.

Once the process for year 1 is underway with this funding, it is imperative to secure funding for ongoing implementation in following years to enable sustainability of the approach and planned interventions. Responsibility for securing necessary long-term funding lies with -and must be taken forward by- a group of key stakeholders and should not lie solely with the initiator of the C2C Approach. The recommendation is to develop a long-term funding strategy along with C2C Approach implementation planning.



## CAPACITY

To guide the process and ensure sustainability, it is important to appoint a C2C approach facilitator (or team) from within or outside the lead implementing organization. Multiple enumerators are needed to conduct surveys with the various stakeholder groups. Note that these enumerators should receive training on the C2C approach prior to implementation. Capacity on data management and analysis will be crucial for the C2C assessment analysis and to interpret and communicate its results. Depending on the local context and relationships among stakeholders, a mediator may be required to intervene and mediate any existing social conflicts.

Additionally, publications on the C2C approach step-by-step guide and outcomes of the pilot will be made available on the web page.

Finally, it is important to note that HWC will always remain a complex and layered issue, which requires integrated, holistic approaches and the involvement of all stakeholders and anywhere in the world and in whatever way it may occur. The ever-changing dynamic of the problem will always have to be matched with a dynamic and adjustable approach. The C2C approach is, therefore, not static and changes along with the conflict. Monitoring and adjustment will always be required for the sustainability of the approach.

## STATUS OF THE C2C APPROACH AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

On the [C2C approach website](#), detailed information for anyone interested in the approach is provided. This includes the step-by-step guide, tools, and an online training course for practitioners. The page also provides information on regional training workshops, hosted by WWF that are also accessible to partners and for those who will train others on a more local level on HWC management and the C2C methodology (Training of Trainers).







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