

Best Practice Guidelines for Prevention & Mitigation of Conflict Between Humans & Great Apes

Editor's note: Yes, we know South Asian Zoos do not have this problem of Human Animal conflict with Great Apes. Even with Gibbons, which are technically apes, at least there is not a problem. However, although few of any of our readers deal with Great Ape conflict as such, many of us are interested in the greater topic of Human Animal Conflict and I find reading about any conflict with any animal group provocative and useful for my work, even if only by comparison of differences. **Editor Emeritus.**

Citation: K. Hockings and T. Humle (2009). *Best Practice Guidelines for the Prevention and Mitigation of Conflict Between Humans and Great Apes*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group (PSG). 40 pp. ISBN: 978-2-8317-1133-1

Copyright: © 2009 International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

The Primate Specialist Group, SSC, IUCN is developing an ambitious series of "Best Practice Guidelines" for the purpose of addressing important conservation issues for great apes. The series consists of different publications to provide current best practice guidance for field biologists, development organisations, government agencies and donors in the field of conservation of great apes. Specific issues impacting Great Ape populations will be covered in a separate publication, including

- Reduced Impact Logging
- Reintroduction
- Survey Methods & Population Monitoring
- Disease Monitoring
- Human/Great Ape Conflict
- Tourism

These guidelines give a clear, complete overview of issues, with expert recommendations on ways to address them, emphasizing which practices have worked or otherwise on the ground. Four reports in this series are complete and available as downloadable PDFs on the website of the Primate Specialist Group. First go to <http://www.primate-sg.org/> then go to Great Apes selection on the subject bar (<http://www.primate-sg.org/apes.htm>) then click on Best Practices <http://www.primate-sg.org/best.practices.htm> and then scroll down the page to Guidelines for Human/Great Ape Conflict or any one of the Best Practice Guidelines you want.

This series and each publication is so well organised that even people who want to design guidelines themselves of other species or issues or any 'best practice' document would do well to have a look.

A look at the contents of this guidelines publication in the adjacent column will give a good idea of the variety and depth of issues described as well as the advice and experience provided. You can also download the document as a pdf for further review. The publication is designed to give a clear, comprehensive overview of an issue, and to provide expert recommendations on how to address it.



Particular emphasis will be placed on which practices have or have not proven successful in the field.

From Contents

Section 1: Executive Summary

Section 2: Introduction, Review and Use of These Guidelines; 2.1 What is human-great ape conflict (HGAC)?; 2.2 What are the causes of human-great ape conflict (HGAC)?; 2.3 Review of HGAC; 2.4 Organisation of this document

Section 3: Assessment of HGAC: Preparatory Issues; 3.1 Sources and reliability of information about a HGAC issue; 3.2 Knowledge of a HGAC problem; 3.3 Who is affected by HGAC and what are their perceptions and attitudes?; 3.4 Constraints you might face when addressing HGAC; 3.5 Others involved with the problem and how they can help you.

Section 4: Review of Potential HGAC Counter-Measures and their Effectiveness; 4.1 Traditional counter-measures; 4.2 Physical barriers; 4.3 Experimental repellents; 4.4 Land-use changes; 4.5 Live capture and translocation; 4.6 Information gathering and education; 4.7 Schemes to benefit local people; 4.8 Compensation schemes

Section 5: Planning a HGAC Management Strategy; 5.1 Baseline research; 5.2 Decision process; 5.3 Set clear goals and objectives; 5.4 Describe and evaluate feasible counter-measure options that meet the objectives; 5.5 Experimental deployment — monitoring, evaluation and revision.

Section 6: Conclusions

Section 7: Acknowledgements.

Section 8: Literature Cited

Appendix A: Species-specific reviews of crop-raiding and aggressive interactions with humans

Appendix B: Preparatory questions

Literature cited — Appendices

The first four reports in the series have now been published, and are available in PDF format.