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Human Wildlife Conflict: economic and social perspective

Gender inclusive approach to HWC Mitigation



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GENDER & ENVIRONMENT NEXUS



Livelihoods

The environment is affected by cultural, social and economic processes. This has implications on how women and men access and use natural resources, and impacts people's livelihoods.

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Social Norms

Gender relations influence how households, communities and institutions are organized. It also affects how decisions are made and resources managed.

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Gender Roles

The interaction between women, men, and the environment is differentiated by their roles, needs, responsibilities and power relations.

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Environmental Changes & Gender Inequalities

Gender inequalities affect the sustainable management of natural resources. Environmental degradation and climate change tend to increase these inequalities.

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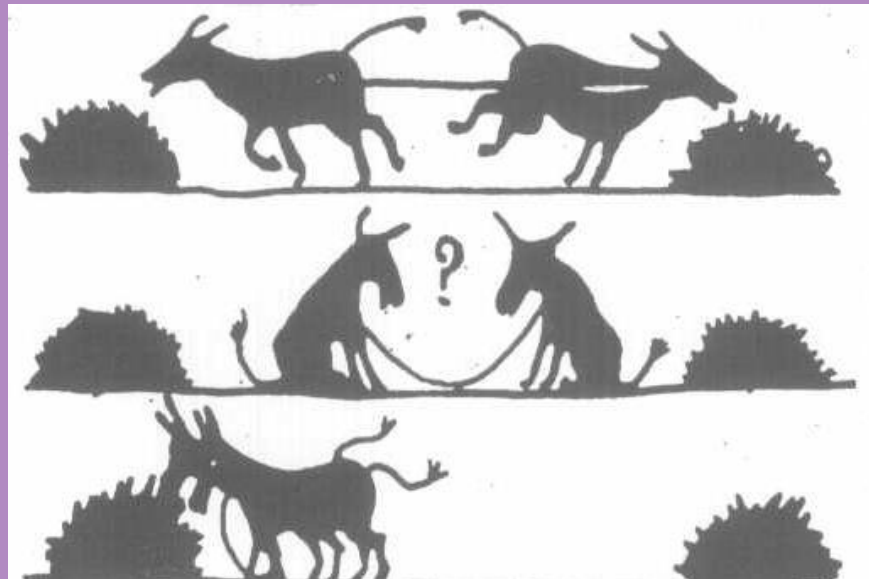
Environmental policies and projects impact men and women differently.

Environmental Interventions Are Not Gender-Neutral

Human Wildlife Conflict



HWC ... the situation where the needs and behaviour of wildlife have negative impacts on humans' goal or when the goals of humans negatively impact the needs of wildlife (IUCN 2003).

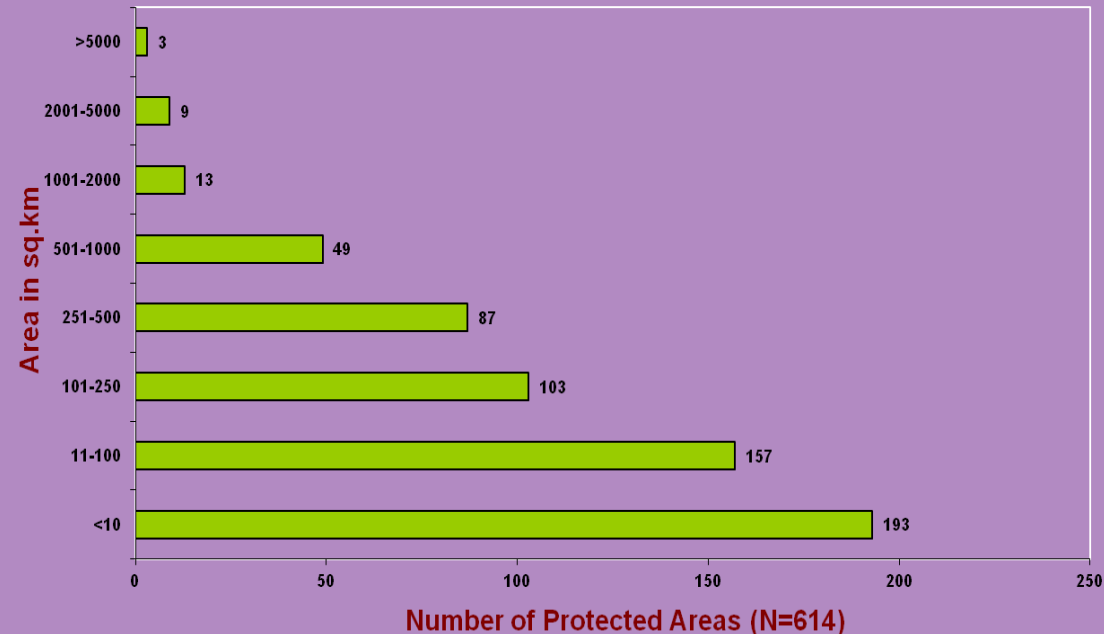




- 90% hh in & around PAs suffer losses due to Wildlife (Karanth & Nepal 2011)
- Every year 400 people & 100 elephant killed and 400,000 families affected in conflict related instances (MoEF 2010)



Distribution of PAs in size class



More than 50% PAs are less than 100 sq. km. in size

Only 24 PAs > 1000 km² in size

Habitat degradation

Long ranging mammals, ecologically

Fast changing land use in PA surrounds

“All of India’s ... protected areas are virtual islands surrounded by villages and agricultural land, where people are desperately short of the basic resources of life, such as firewood, building materials and grazing areas for their livestock. Inevitably they invade the reserves..... poaching of animals, timber and other forest produce is rife and cattle and goats are found in most reserves”.

Debroy and Jackson (1993)

Impact of HWC on women



Resource dependence



- 56% National Parks and 72% Sanctuaries have people within
- 83% National Parks and 87% Sanctuaries have people adjacent to PAs
- 67% National Parks and 83% Sanctuaries report grazing by domestic cattle
- Over exploitation of resources
- Lack of Connectivity



Damage due to wildlife



- Crop raiding, livestock predation and human injuries and killings by wild animals
Species largely responsible are Wild boar, Monkeys, Leopard, snow Leopard
- Some of these not being schedule 1 animals, compensation not paid to people
- Even where it is paid the amount is inadequate and the process tedious & intimidating

**Gender-based division
of labour (forest
visitation for fuelwood &
fodder etc.)**



*decreased food
security*

*changes to
workload*

**Women bear a
disproportionate
burden of the hidden
costs of HWC**

*decreased
physical &
psychological
wellbeing*

*economic
hardship*

**Caregivers
& Food
providers**



**Socio-
economic
profile**



**Complementary role to
the primary provider**



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S. A. Hussain

Conflict in Paradise

Women and Protected Areas In the Indian Himalayas

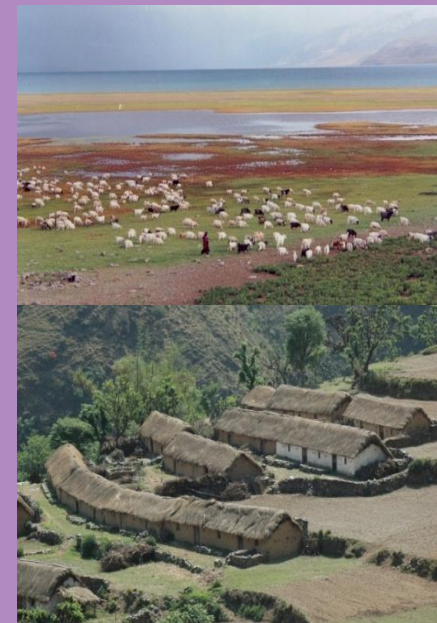
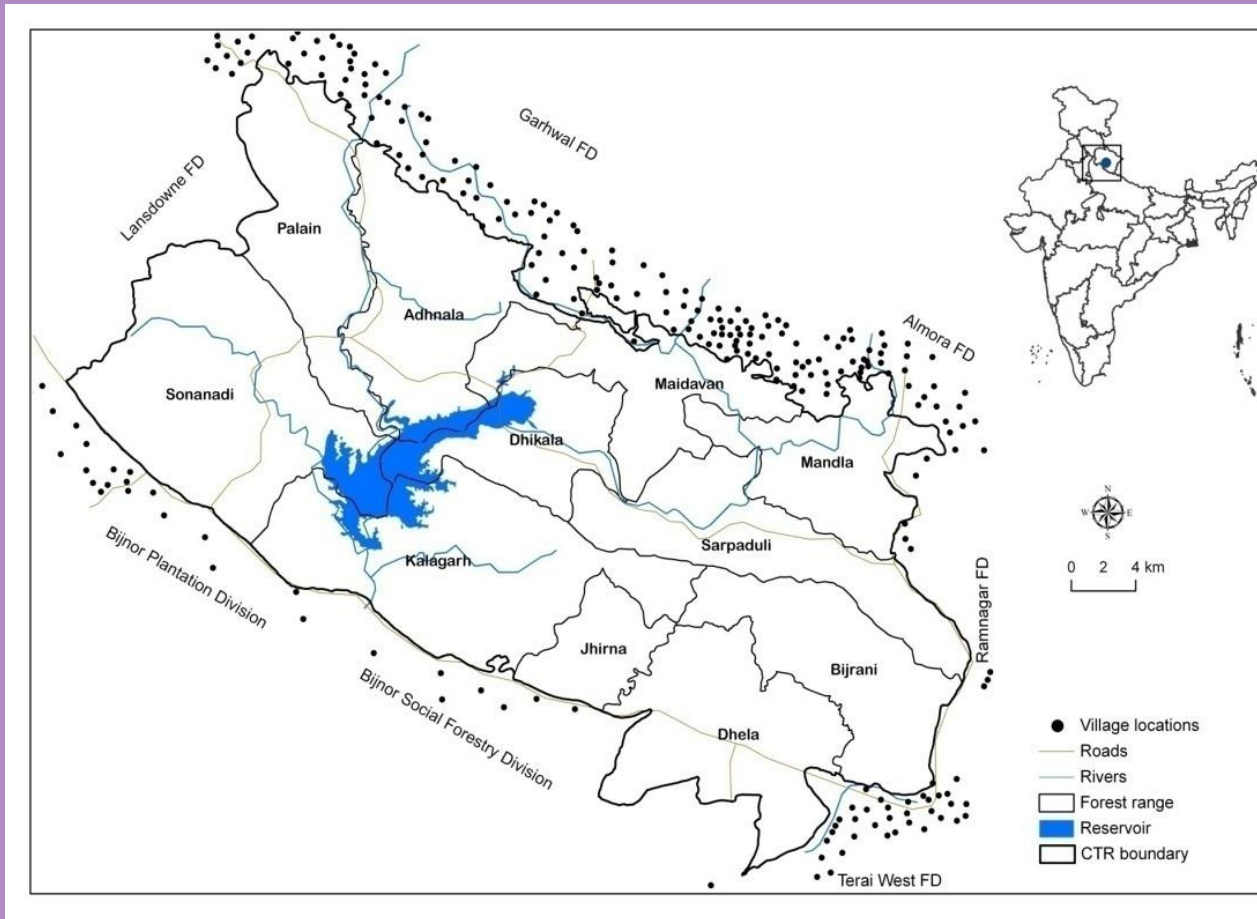
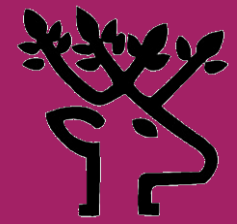
“You first took our fingers then our hands and now you have come to catch us by the throat. You want to create walls around the WLS and put up barbed wire. You want to bribe us and take away our rights by getting our signatures.”

(A woman on the fringe of the Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary)

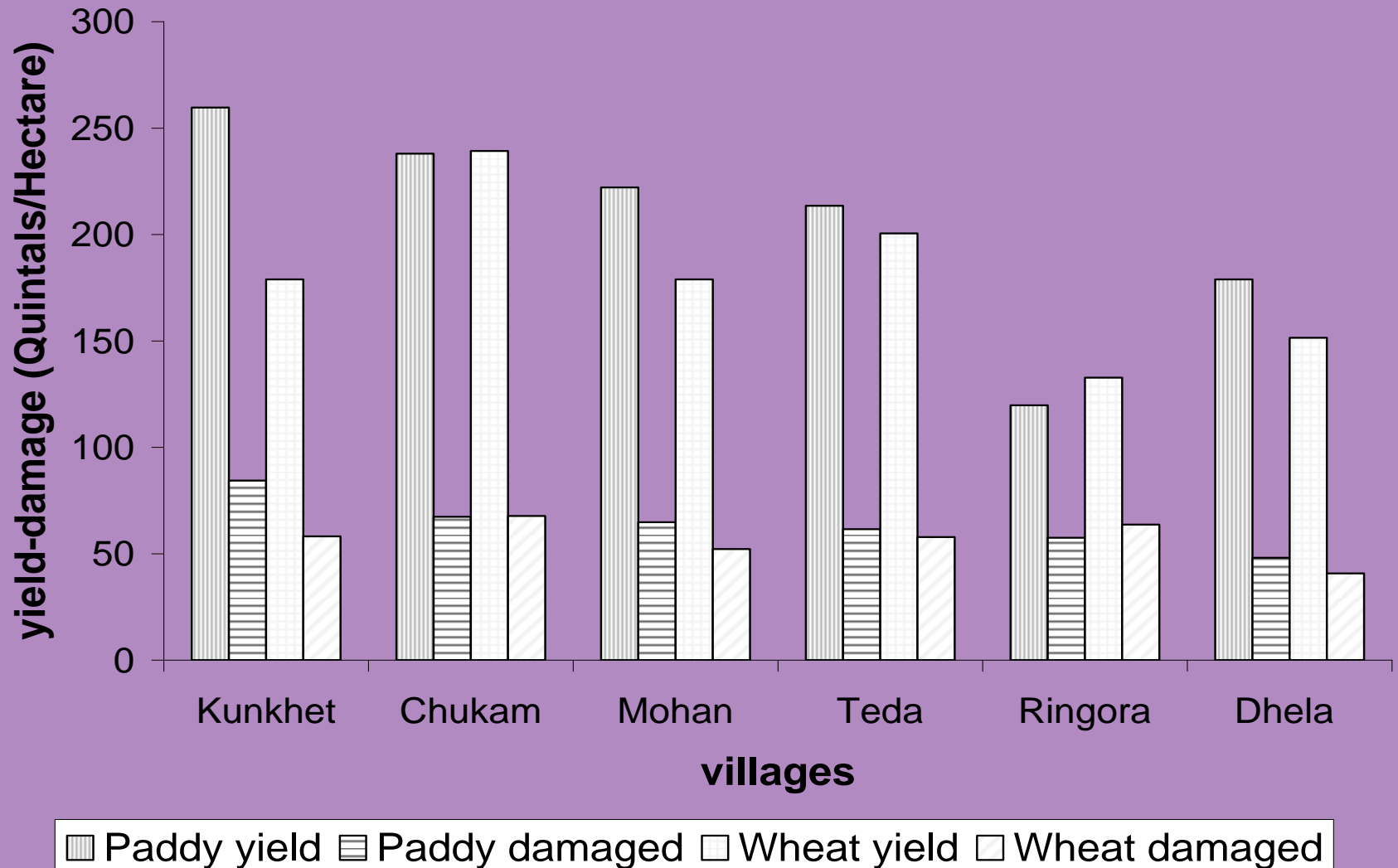
- Women living in villages adjacent to PAs are most affected by their designation.
- Most of them are aware of existence of PAs because they come into day-to-day conflict with the forest patrols.
- However, they are generally not aware of the reasons for these PAs.
- They perceive them as an infringement on their basic right to survival.



Corbett Tiger Reserve Case Study



Crop yield and damage



Location of cattle kills



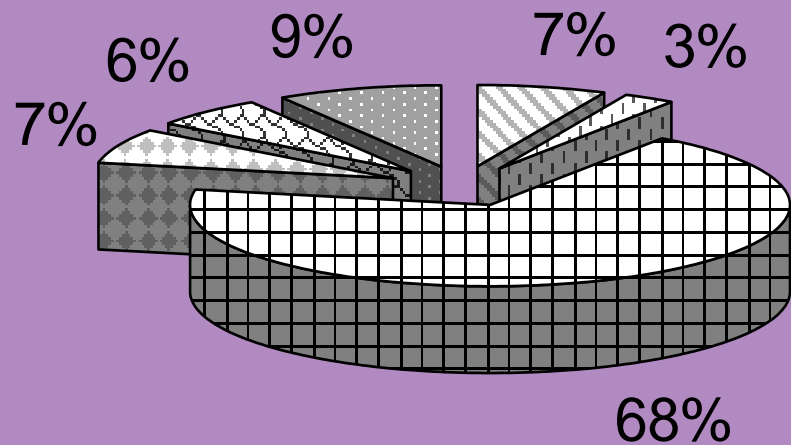
Effectiveness of the control measures



- Only 32.7% villagers reported control measures to be effective
- Wall or simple fence ineffective in reducing animal raiding in 77.0% cases
- Powered fence ineffective in reducing animal raiding in 41% cases
- Scarecrows and crackers not effective



Attitudes towards alternatives to forest resources



Buy from market

Reduce cattle

Steal from forest

Switch to substitutes

Agitate

Grow fodder, reduce cattle

Direct Effects of Crop-Raiding by Elephants (RNP)

- Crop Loss
- Property Damage



Indirect Effects of Crop-Raiding by Ele:

- Greater need for cash
- Decreased Food Security



Few sources of local employment

Indirect Effects of Crop-Raiding by Elephants

- Greater need for cash
- Effects on well-being



Women “just do the adjustment”

Indirect Effects of Crop-Raiding by Ele:

(2) Increase in Workload

- Night Guarding



Night guarding is considered “men’s” work but 1/3 reported that they rely on females to do it.

Indirect Effects of Crop-Raiding by Ele: (2) Increase in Workload

- Night Guarding
- Repair of Fencing
- Biomass Collection



Women engaged in fodder collection near RNP

Indirect Effects of Crop-Raiding by Ele:

(2) Increase in Workload

- Night Guarding
- Repair of Fencing
- Biomass Collection
- Removal of Damaged Crops / Replanting



Women's agricultural work involves exposure to heat, insects, and pathogens

Attack: Direct Effects ("within past 5 years")

1. Deaths: 2 / RNP
(both were women)
2. Major injury: 2 / Village
(both were men)
3. Minor injury: 10 / RNP
(all reported for women)



Indirect Effects of Attack by Elephants: (2) Fear

- “Do you feel afraid of encounters with wild animals...”
 - within the village: 50%
 - inside RNP: 93%(no gender differences observed)



**“When we go to the forest it is all fear for us,
but we have no choice...We have to go.”**

Indirect Effects of Attack by Elephants: (3)

Increased Unpaid Workload and Stress

- Loss of contributed labor of female victim (e.g., abandoned and future biomass resources)
- Other family members “pick up the slack”



Women routinely climb tall trees to avoid elephants

Compensating Human–Wildlife Conflict in Protected Area Communities: Ground-Level Perspectives from Uttarakhand, India

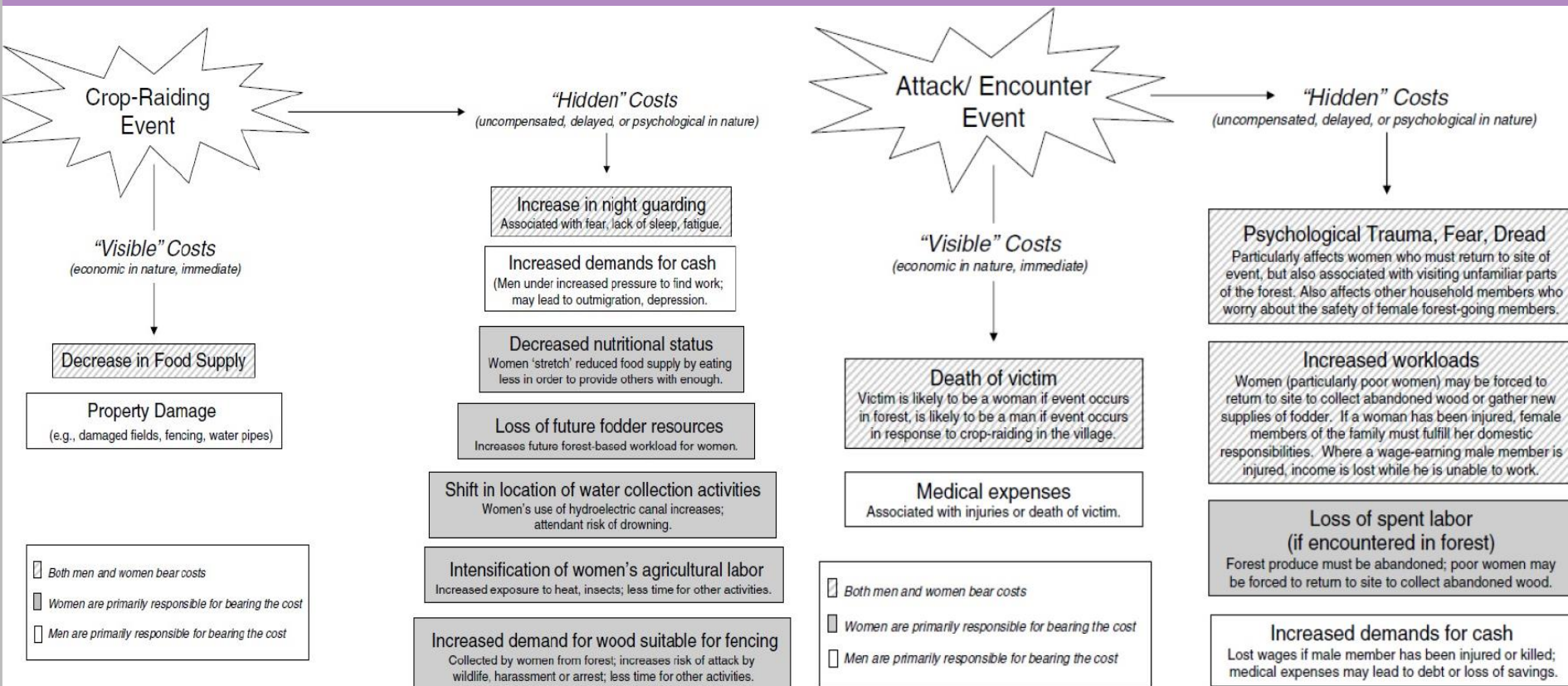
Monica Ogra · Ruchi Badola

Published online: 2 September 2008
© Springer Science + Business Media, LLC 2008

5-2008

Human–Wildlife Conflict and Gender in Protected Area Borderlands: A Case Study of Costs, Perceptions, and Vulnerabilities from Uttarakhand (Uttaranchal), India

Monica V. Ogra
Gettysburg College



Differential Impacts



Effects borne by men

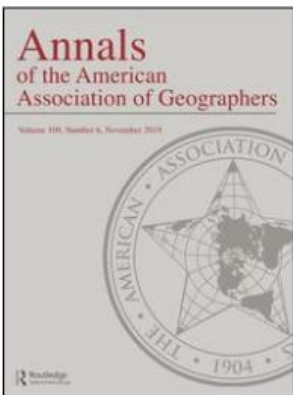
- Tend to be **direct**, are **seen**
- Relate to **cash economy**
- Addressed **“legitimately”**



Effects borne by women

- Tend to be **indirect** and **unseen**
- Relate to **body and psyche**
- Addressed through **increased risk**





Annals of the American Association of Geographers

ISSN: 2469-4452 (Print) 2469-4460 (Online) Journal homepage: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/raag21>

Tigers and “Good Indian Wives”: Feminist Political Ecology Exposing the Gender-Based Violence of Human–Wildlife Conflict in Rajasthan, India

Kalli F. Doubleday

A failure to meet the ideals of a “good India wife” due to low productivity from injury or predation in a patriarchal society can lead to gender based violence.

Gender and human wildlife conflict

- ❖ **HWC lead to a lack of security, increased workload, decreased food and economic security, and decreased wellbeing for local communities. Women generally experience a higher percentage of detrimental effects than men largely due to the gendered division of labour.**
- ❖ **Women are often responsible for home agriculture and the small-scale raising of poultry and livestock and therefore must guard against and deal with the aftermath of damage resulting from HWC.**
- ❖ **Women may risk their security by going into forests to collect firewood and they are responsible for travelling long distances to fetch water due to lack of plumbing or when pipes are broken by animals.**
- ❖ **These costs often go unaddressed in wildlife conservation measures, negatively influencing attitudes toward wildlife and leading to the legal and illegal killing of wild animals**

Hidden cost of HWC outside home

Woman A: We are scared, but we cannot keep our buffalo starving.

Woman B: Yes, if we do not give them fodder, how would we get milk? And how would we earn money?

**Woman C: We run our house with that money only. This is how our children survive. (2 km from Sariska)
(source: Doubleday, 2020)**



Challenges in mainstreaming gender in mitigation of HWC

- ❖ Significant challenges to mainstreaming gender in mitigation of HWC include the dearth of reporting on gender equality outcomes and the lack of research on the interface between wildlife, livelihoods and gender.
- ❖ Most available research points to why gender should be considered in wildlife management. However, arguments are mainly based on localized case studies.
- ❖ The absence of a solid empirical base renders more difficult the tasks of advocating and effectively mainstreaming gender
- ❖ Cultural divide between social scientists, advocating for inclusion, and natural scientists, some of whom view gender as a confusing and distracting concept in wildlife conservation

Opportunities

- ❖ **Substantial commitments to gender equality have been made at the international and national levels.**
- ❖ **Framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5 on gender equality.**
- ❖ **International institutions, conservation agencies, national governments, and donors are increasingly including gender equality and women's empowerment in their corporate policies and initiatives fostering increase in financial, technical and human resources dedicated to gender mainstreaming**
- ❖ **Advances in science, technology, and social sciences also present significant opportunities for the development of alternative solutions and the dissemination of information**
- ❖ **Inclusion of gender considerations in training for policy makers and practitioners, as well as within academic curricula, can increase the capacity of researchers, policy makers and programme managers to address gender issues.**



2-2014

Ecocodevelopment, Gender, and Empowerment: Perspectives from India's Protected Area Communities

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Shivani C. Barthwal

J. Indian Anthropol. Soc. 42 : 11-21 (2007)

Factors Affecting Women's Participation in Conservation Programmes in and around Rajaji National Park, India

SHIVANI CHANDOLA, RUCHI BADOLA and S. A. HUSSAIN

Wildlife Institute for India, Dehra Dun

Gender Issues in Conservation - Case of Rajaji National Park, India

[Shivani Chandola](#), [Ruchi Badola](#), [B. K. Mishra](#)

Suggestions



- Research on gender and biodiversity mostly confined to an examination of gender roles and change over time. There is an enormous gap between the fields of gender studies and biodiversity, resulting in ignorance of gender issues and approaches in agricultural and forestry institutions.
- Access to education, credit, technical knowledge, entrepreneurship development programs, and employment opportunities for women
- Internal reorientation at institutional level, to make organizations gender-responsive, is necessary to bridge the gap between gender issues and scientific management of natural resources.
- This requires not only recruiting more women staff and allowing their voices to be heard in senior-level decision-making forums but also integrating the needs and perspectives of local women from the earliest stage of design and declaration of PAs.
- Information and awareness by whom, packaging etc.



Thank You...

