Reducing the impact of Human Wildlife Conflict on rural poverty in Bhutan

Department of Forests and Park Services
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Manifestations of Human Wildlife Conflicts in Bhutan
HWC: Rural Hardship, An Economic Loss and a Threat to Wildlife Conservation
Livestock Kill Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No of Kills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Livestock Cash Compensation Details

- 1554 cases (85%) Nu. 65,24,150
- 275 cases (15%) Nu. 9,47,700

Paid
Unpaid
Crop Damage Reported Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dzongkhag</th>
<th>Paddy</th>
<th>Maize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gasa</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trongsa</td>
<td>117.79</td>
<td>43.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarpang</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samtse</td>
<td>109.53</td>
<td>4.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>S/Jongkhar</td>
<td>13.48</td>
<td>10.09</td>
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<td>Lhuntse</td>
<td>5.01</td>
<td>2.12</td>
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<td>Dagana</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trashigang</td>
<td>73.39</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dzongkhag: Gasa, Trongsa, Sarpang, Samtse, S/Jongkhar, Lhuntse, Dagana, Trashigang

Damage Area (Acres)
Damage in Ngultrum (in millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Paddy</th>
<th>Maize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gasa</td>
<td>0.195</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trongsa</td>
<td>0.39975</td>
<td>22.96905</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarpang</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.80925</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samtse</td>
<td>0.80925</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jomkhar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lhuntse</td>
<td>0.4134</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dagana</td>
<td>1.0335</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trashigang</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Cost (Country)

- Paddy: 3232125
- Maize: 2817750
Developing a sustainable financing mechanism to compensate the damages by wildlife.

• Endowment Fund for Human Wildlife Conflict Management.
  – The Fund raised through various donations.
  – Current Status of Fund: Nu.4.2m
  – Fund Investment with BTFEC.
  – Investment returns finance the formation of GCC (currently 8 GECCs formed)
Fund Raising Program

National Donations
Private Sectors
Corporate Sectors
Government Agencies
International Agencies
Individuals

FUND RAISED

International donations

Collection of Entry Fees
Bhutan Takin Preserve, etc...

Human Wildlife Conflict Management Endowment Fund

Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation

Investment
Annual Interest from the fixed deposit

Gewog Conservation Committee (GCC)

Seed Money in GCC’s Fixed Deposit Account

Annual Interest from the fixed deposit

GCC’s Savings Account (Fund Repository)

- Livestock/Crop Insurance annual Premiums
- Gewog Level Fund Raising
- Funds from PES, CF & other fees

Community Based insurance programs.
- Cash Compensation for insured Livestock/Crop through insurance programs.

Micro-Finance
- Minimal Interest loans
- Support to local business initiatives

(ICDP)
- Gewog Developmental Activities (ICDP)
- Community Services
Community Based Insurance Program

1. Livestock Insurance Programs
2. Crop Insurance programs.

Implementation Mechanism:

• Functions as a semi-government office under the Gewog Administration.
• Each Chiwog is represented by Tshogpas.
• Farmers are invited to insure their livestock or crop against wildlife damage.
Implementation mechanism.

- GECC operates two bank accounts viz. Fixed Deposit Account and Savings Account.
- Seed money from HWC Endowment Fund (Fixed Deposit Account)
- Community pays annual premium for insuring crop/livestock with the GECC (Savings Accounts).
- Community raises fund through fund raising events and other donations (Savings account).
Implementation mechanism.

• Community decides on the amount of premium they want to pay for each livestock/acre of crop land.
• Based on the premium paid: compensation = 10x, 5x or 2.5x the premium paid depending on the breed of livestock or type of crop.
• Compensation fund is the annual premium and the annual bank interest from the fixed deposit account and other voluntary donations.
Implementation mechanism.

• The balance in the savings account can be used for:
  – Micro-credits programs for the members.
  – Financing small conservation related development projects.

• OR it will add to the principal seed money in the fixed deposit account.
Challenges

- Insurance companies view wildlife insurance as a undertaking beyond their risk level.
- Lack of funds for the seed money.
  - Compensation claims exceeding the allocated funds.
- Government Rate Vs GECC Rate.
- Wildlife kill Vs natural or accidental death of insured animals.
- Lack of understanding among the community on importance of wildlife conservation.
Harmonious Coexistence

THANK YOU
Tashi Delek