

# 1 Conservation conflicts: behavioural threats, frames, and 2 intervention recommendations

3

## 4 **Abstract**

5 Conservation conflicts are widespread and are damaging for biodiversity, livelihoods and human well-  
6 being. Conflict management often occurs through interventions targeting human behaviour.  
7 Conservation interventions are thought to be made more effective if underpinned by evidence and a  
8 Theory of Change – a logical argument outlining the steps required to achieve goals. However, for  
9 conservation conflicts, the evidence and logic supporting different types of interventions has received  
10 little attention. Using conflict-related keywords, we reviewed trends in behavioural intervention  
11 recommendations across conflict contexts globally, as published in peer-reviewed literature. We  
12 developed typologies for conflict behaviours, intervention recommendations, and conflict frames and  
13 identified associations between them and other geographical variables using Pearson’s Chi-squared  
14 tests of independence. Analysing 100 recent articles, we found that technical interventions  
15 (recommended in 38% of articles) are significantly associated with conflicts involving wildlife control and  
16 the human-wildlife conflict frame. Enforcement-based interventions (54% of articles) are significantly  
17 associated with conflicts over illegal resource use, while stakeholder-based interventions (37% of  
18 articles) are associated with the human-human conflict frame and very highly developed countries. Only  
19 10% of articles offered ‘strong’ evidence from the published scientific literature justifying  
20 recommendations, and only 15% outlined Theories of Change. We suggest that intervention

21 recommendations are likely influenced by authors' perceptions of the social basis of conflicts, and  
22 possibly also by disciplinary silos.

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25 **Highlights:** see Interventions highlights.doc

26

27 **Keywords:** human-wildlife; conflict; interventions; behavioural change; evidence

28

## 29 **1. Introduction**

30 Conservation conflicts are some of the most intractable problems facing conservation and are increasing  
31 in frequency and intensity globally (Young et al., 2010). These conflicts negatively impinge upon  
32 biodiversity, livelihoods and human well-being, and therefore considerable effort is put into their  
33 management (Redpath et al., 2015). Conflicts involve situations where multiple stakeholders with  
34 strongly held positions clash over conservation objectives, and when one party imposes their interests  
35 over another (Redpath et al., 2013). They are hard to define and are often interpreted differently by  
36 authors, managers, and stakeholders involved in the conflict. The language used to describe a given  
37 interpretation of a conflict can be considered as a 'frame' (Peterson et al., 2010), and in the  
38 conservation literature conflicts are framed in many different ways (Table 1). Commonly, authors frame  
39 conflicts as primarily occurring between wildlife and humans - 'human-wildlife conflict' – (Woodroffe et  
40 al., 2005). Others, however, posit that underpinning human-wildlife impacts such as crop-raiding are  
41 actually conflicts between different human interests, such as between conservation and agriculture

42 (Peterson et al., 2010; Young et al., 2010). Under this interpretation, the umbrella of conservation  
43 conflict extends far beyond wildlife impacts on humans and also involves other conflicts such as those  
44 over resource-use, land-use or even animal welfare (Redpath et al., 2015). For example, in many cases  
45 conservation rule-breaking, from illegal wildlife killing to resource use, has been identified as  
46 representing political protest or resistance to conservation (De Pourcq et al., 2017; Holmes, 2016).

47 The ultimate drivers of many conservation conflicts may be rooted in larger societal issues, such as  
48 poverty and inequality (Czech, 2008; Vedeld et al., 2012), imbalances of power (Raik et al., 2008) and  
49 inappropriate governance processes (Lute and Gore, 2014) (Table 1). However, the majority of  
50 interventions aimed at reducing conservation conflicts focus on the proximate human behaviours which  
51 impinge upon conservation interests (Schultz, 2011). These proximate behaviours are often referred to  
52 as behavioural ‘threats’ (Salafsky et al., 2008) and interventions commonly target their proximate  
53 drivers. For instance, the retaliatory killing of wildlife is often addressed by attempts to reduce wildlife  
54 impacts (Nyhus, 2016), deforestation by stronger enforcement (Duffy et al., 2014) and active opposition  
55 to conservation by efforts to improve stakeholder trust (Young et al., 2016) – though other social  
56 outcomes may also be targeted independently of conservation.

57 Following Heberlein (2012), human behavioural interventions can be categorised into ‘technical’,  
58 ‘cognitive’ and ‘structural’ fixes. Technical fixes attempt to change the external environment and  
59 commonly target wildlife impacts such as crop-raiding and livestock depredation. These may include the  
60 erection of fences, provision of deterrents, the encouragement of wildlife-friendly products or the  
61 diversionary feeding of wildlife (Nyhus, 2016; Sutherland et al., 2017). These interventions operate  
62 under the assumption that retaliatory killing of wildlife, or active opposition to conservation, is directly  
63 related to human-wildlife impacts (Pooley et al., 2016). Cognitive fixes instead attempt to change  
64 behaviour through information dissemination. Examples include conservation or livelihood education  
65 and conservation awareness campaigns (Baruch-Mordo et al., 2011; Holmes, 2003). Structural

66 interventions attempt to change the context itself. Examples include financial instruments (such as  
67 incentives, insurance or compensation) or alternative livelihoods to reduce the physical or opportunity  
68 costs incurred by wildlife or conservation-related resource restrictions, or to discourage certain resource  
69 use (Kremen et al., 2000; Ravenelle and Nyhus, 2017). Likewise, structural fixes include the creation or  
70 enforcement of new rules aiming to increase compliance or discourage certain behaviours such as illegal  
71 resource use (Agrawal et al., 2014; Arias, 2015). Contrastingly, stakeholder engagement, mediation  
72 programmes and conflict transformation efforts are structural fixes which target the social dimensions  
73 of conflicts. These operate under a range of rationales, from engendering greater support for  
74 conservation, to championing environmental justice (Madden and McQuinn, 2014; Redpath et al.,  
75 2017).

76 Like other types of conservation, conflict interventions are expected to be more effective if they are  
77 informed by evidence – from scientific evidence (Sutherland et al., 2017) to local ecological knowledge  
78 (Sterling et al., 2017) – and underpinned by a valid Theory of Change (ToC) (Biggs et al., 2017; Margoluis  
79 et al., 2013), which describes the logical and ordered sequence of interventions, actions, perturbations  
80 and outcomes identified during the planning process (Qiu et al., 2018). However, the evidence  
81 underpinning interventions is often lacking (Eklund et al., 2017; Treves et al., 2016), and the extent to  
82 which recommended conflict interventions are supported by ToC has not been assessed. Nor has there  
83 has been much consideration of the reasons underpinning different conflict interventions.

84 The purpose of this review is to contribute towards informed conservation conflict management by  
85 exploring, across a range of conflict contexts globally, behavioural intervention recommendations as  
86 presented in peer-reviewed academic journal articles. We aim to scrutinize how the types of  
87 behavioural intervention recommendations differ across these contexts and to inform researchers and  
88 decision-makers, particularly those acting at the local scale. To generate a sample of conservation  
89 conflict case-studies and intervention recommendations for comparison, we conducted a sampled

90 literature review, and analysed 100 recent articles from the published conservation literature related to  
91 conflicts. To identify the prevailing intervention types, we first developed conflict typologies from  
92 directed content analysis and then highlighted the most common intervention types recommended by  
93 authors in different contexts. To further understand why certain types of intervention are  
94 recommended in certain contexts, we explored associations between the recommended interventions,  
95 different behavioural threats and conflict frames. We hypothesised that authors who frame conflicts as  
96 primarily occurring between humans, would be more likely to recommend stakeholder-based  
97 interventions. As some conflict interventions, such as compensation (Ravenelle and Nyhus, 2017) and  
98 militarised enforcement (Duffy et al., 2014), appear to vary regionally, we also considered whether  
99 different types of interventions correlate with other geographical factors, such as the development  
100 status of nations and the conservation status of species and areas. To identify any possible gaps in the  
101 intervention evidence-base, we assessed the extent to which intervention recommendations are  
102 supported by scientific evidence and ToC. Lastly, we also estimated the proportion of articles that focus  
103 on other forms of evidence (e.g. stakeholder knowledge), and explored whether intervention  
104 recommendations and framing could be analysed across academic disciplines.

105

## 106 **2. Materials and methods**

107 To generate a sample of conservation conflict case-studies we conducted a search of peer-reviewed  
108 conservation literature using ISI Web of Knowledge in October 2016. To facilitate reproducibility and  
109 transparency, we followed best-practise guidelines (Haddaway et al., 2015) and applied carefully  
110 designed keyword search-strings to capture a wide variety of conflict contexts, including those not  
111 necessarily identified in the conservation conflict literature (Table 1).

112 To focus on interventions, in our final search we included wildcard search terms for a series of active  
113 verbs. Using the English language only, we searched for the following combination of terms in the titles,  
114 abstracts or keywords of all articles in the ISI core collection: "conservation conflict\*" OR  
115 ("conservation" AND "illegal") OR ("conservation" AND "conflict" AND ("stakeholder\*" OR "human-  
116 wildlife")) AND either - "prevent\*" OR "mitigat\*" OR "reduc\*" OR "resolv\*" OR "resolution\*" OR "solv\*"  
117 OR "solution\*" OR "manag\*" OR "interven\*" OR "improv\*". To avoid unconscious bias in the sample  
118 selection (Haddaway et al., 2015), we decided the temporal and spatial boundaries before the final  
119 search. We excluded publications before 2011 to focus on the most recent interventions. To aid  
120 comparison, reviews and book chapters were excluded to focus on primary case-studies of roughly  
121 similar length. The final search yielded 897 results.

122 To produce a representative sample for analysis, we used a random list generator to sort the sample  
123 into a randomly ordered list, from which we analysed articles sequentially. We excluded any  
124 publications (N=57) which did not describe contexts falling within the definition of conservation conflicts  
125 provided by Redpath et al., (2013), those which we could not access, reviews, and those which did not  
126 make any intervention recommendations (Appendix Table A12). We continued analysing articles,  
127 following the random sequence until we had a total sample of 100 relevant articles. This total sample  
128 size (N=100) and proportion of articles reviewed (157/897) was comparable to previous similar studies  
129 (Estévez et al., 2015; Peterson et al., 2010; Redpath et al., 2015). Demonstrating representativeness,  
130 there was no significance difference in the proportions of key search terms between the analysed  
131 sample and non-analysed sample (Appendix Table A1).

132 To avoid selection bias (Haddaway et al., 2015) we developed our conflict and intervention typologies  
133 (Table 2) and our coding system prior to collecting and analysing our final sample. We used directed  
134 content analysis (Hsieh & Shannon 2005), whereby we first derived each typology from previous  
135 reviews, before refining each typology through analysing a large sample of conflict case-studies. This

136 preliminary sample of case-studies (N=150) was drawn from the published literature using a similar  
137 search and sampling process described above (Appendix Search 1).

138 Following Heberlein (2012), we first categorised interventions into ‘technical’, ‘cognitive’ and ‘structural’  
139 types. With reference to previous conservation conflict reviews (Dickman, 2010; Nyhus, 2016) and  
140 content analysis of the preliminary sample, we subdivided ‘structural’ further into ‘economic’,  
141 ‘enforcement’ and ‘stakeholder’ types. Our typology of human behavioural threats was derived from  
142 existing literature (Salafsky et al., 2008) and content analysis of the preliminary sample to include:  
143 ‘wildlife control’, ‘resource-use’, ‘environment change’, ‘indirect damage’ and ‘active opposition’.  
144 Likewise, from existing reviews we identified two key frames –‘human-wildlife conflict’ (HWC) and  
145 ‘human-human’ conflict (HHC) (Peterson et al., 2010; Redpath et al., 2015). We then derived an  
146 additional frame – ‘illegal resource use’ (IRU) – from content analysis of the preliminary sample.

147 All data analysis was conducted by the lead author, but the typologies were created and refined in  
148 consultation with co-authors. In the final sample, each article was analysed at least twice to check for  
149 errors, with ambiguous articles marked and returned to. For all variables (besides framing), we used a  
150 binary coding system within larger non-mutually exclusive categories – e.g., articles could describe more  
151 than one threat or intervention type, but were categorised as one frame. The development status of  
152 nations (as designated by the Human Development Index) (UNDP, 2016), protected area presence, the  
153 conservation status of species (as designated by the IUCN Red List) (IUCN, 2017) was recorded, as was  
154 the identification of stakeholder groups, wildlife impacts and illegal activity.

155 After categorising each article in our final sample (N=100), we calculated intervention recommendation  
156 proportions across variables, and identified associations between interventions, behavioural threats and  
157 frames, using Pearson’s Chi-Squared test for independence and a mosaic plot of Pearson’s residual  
158 values (using the “vcd” package) in R 3.4.1 (R Development Core Team, 2014).

159 We recorded articles as demonstrating reasoning akin to a ToC if they identified the steps required for  
160 interventions to achieve a desired outcome. We assessed the level of published scientific evidence  
161 supporting recommendations using three categories. 'Strong' evidence included articles in which all, or  
162 nearly all, recommendations were supported either by reference to previous studies, and/or by  
163 experimental, correlative or comparative evidence from the study itself. 'Partial' evidence included  
164 articles in which over half of recommendations were supported by references or within-study evidence.  
165 'Weak' evidence included articles in which less than half of recommendations were supported by  
166 references or within-study evidence. Following Estévez et al., (2015), we also explored author affiliations  
167 (region) and journal geographical scope, and attempted to categorise institution and journal types by  
168 disciplinary focus. However, during analysis we found that the interdisciplinary nature of many  
169 conservation-related journals and departments meant such a categorisation approach was ultimately  
170 unsatisfactory (Appendix 'Journals and Affiliations'). Lastly, following our initial analysis – in which we  
171 (unintentionally) overlooked non-scientific forms of knowledge – we later attempted to overcome this  
172 by estimating the proportion of articles in the whole sample which focused on stakeholder-based  
173 knowledge specifically. To do so, we conducted a keyword search (in article titles, abstracts and  
174 keywords) of the entire sample (N=897) for: “local knowledge”, “traditional knowledge”, “ecological  
175 knowledge”, “stakeholder knowledge” or “indigenous knowledge”.

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### 178 **3. Results**

179 Across the final sample (N=100), we categorised 30 articles as using the frame ‘human-wildlife conflict’  
180 (HWC), 41 as ‘illegal resource use’ (IRU), and 29 as ‘human-human conflict’ (HHC). Of these, we recorded  
181 32 articles describing wildlife control, 59 resource use, 26 environment change, 34 indirect damage and

182 33 active opposition. 48 articles included IUCN Red Listed species, 40 articles focused on very high  
183 development countries, 20 high development, 31 medium development, and 9 low development. 61  
184 articles described protected areas, and 66 reported illegal behaviours (Appendix Table A2). 88% of  
185 articles were published in journals with a global scope (Appendix Table A11) and both study locations  
186 and author affiliations were spread across the worlds regions (Appendix Figure A1).

187 Across the sample 'enforcement' was the most commonly recommended intervention type, appearing  
188 in 54% of articles. 'Economic', was the next most popularly recommended intervention type (suggested  
189 in 47% of articles), followed by 'cognitive' (40%), 'technical' (38%) and 'stakeholder' (37%) (Figure 1).

190 <Figure 1> < Figure 2>

191 Technical interventions (such as fences, diversionary feeding or guarding tools) were over 2.5 times  
192 more likely to be recommended (Odds ratio (OR) > 2.5) when authors reported behaviours related to  
193 wildlife control (such as retaliatory killing) (OR: 2.63, P < 0.001) (Figure 2) and when they used the HWC  
194 frame (OR: 2.59, P < 0.001) (Appendix Table A3).

195 Cognitive interventions – such as livelihood training and education awareness programmes – showed no  
196 clear associations with any conflict variables. Economic interventions – such as compensation payments  
197 or alternative livelihoods – did not associate with any threat, but were positively associated with high,  
198 mid and low development countries (OR, 1.94, P = 0.005), and were negatively associated with very high  
199 development countries (OR: 0.51, P = 0.005) (Appendix Table A3).

200 Enforcement interventions – such as anti-poaching patrols and new regulations – are positively  
201 associated with the threats of resource use (OR: 1.99 P < 0.001), and indirect damage (such as wildlife  
202 collisions or pollution) (OR: 1.67, P = 0.005), the illegal resource use frame (OR: 2.09, P < 0.001), and the  
203 reporting of illegal behaviours (OR: 2.96, P < 0.001). Enforcement is negatively associated with active  
204 opposition (OR: 0.35, P < 0.001) and the human-human conflict frame (OR: 0.56, P = 0.012).

205 Enforcement is also negatively positively associated with high, mid and low development countries (OR:  
206 1.73, P = 0.006) and negatively associated with very high development countries (OR: 0.58, P = 0.006).

207 In contrast, stakeholder interventions – such as participatory decision-making or peace-building – are  
208 positively associated with the threats of active opposition (OR: 2.98, P < 0.001), environment change  
209 (OR: 2.17 P = 0.003), the human-human conflict frame (OR: 4.02 P < 0.001) and very high development  
210 countries (OR: 2.46, P <0.001). Stakeholder interventions are negatively associated with the resource  
211 use threat (OR: 0.53, P = 0.014), the illegal resource use frame (OR: 0.22, P < 0.001), IUCN Red-Listed  
212 species (OR: 0.29, P < 0.001) and high, mid and low development countries (OR: 0.41, P < 0.001).

213 Only 22% of articles recommended just one intervention type, and on average authors recommended  
214 2.16 intervention types. No authors recommended interventions pertaining to all five of our  
215 intervention categories, and only enforcement and stakeholder types showed a significant (negative)  
216 association (P = 0.004) (Appendix Table A7).

217 Many of the conflict variables associated with different intervention types were also strongly associated  
218 with each other (Appendix Table A6). The HWC frame was positively associated with articles describing  
219 wildlife control, wildlife impacts and IUCN Red-Listed species. The IRU frame was positively associated  
220 with articles describing resource use, indirect damage, illegal activity and high, mid and low  
221 development countries. In contrast, the HHC frame was positively associated with articles describing  
222 active opposition, environment change, stakeholder groups and very high development countries.

223 15% of articles outlined the steps required for an intervention to reach a goal, but none of these were  
224 explicitly referred to as ToC. 10% of articles offered ‘strong’ scientific evidence to justify  
225 recommendations, 65% offered ‘partial’ scientific evidence and 25% offered ‘weak’ scientific evidence.  
226 Articles offering ‘weak’ evidence tended to recommended less interventions, but this relationship is not  
227 significant (Appendix Table A9). Economic recommendations were positively associated with ToC (OR:

228 1.94, P= 0.006) and strong evidence (OR: 2.13, P = 0.004) and enforcement was positively associated  
229 with weak evidence (OR: 1.58, 0.037). Only 16 (1.8%) articles out of the entire search sample (N=897)  
230 made explicit reference to stakeholder-based forms of knowledge in their titles, abstracts or keywords.  
231 68% of first-author affiliations corresponded to same geographical region as the study conflict (Figure  
232 A1). Of those that studied a conflict in a different region, 88% of first-author affiliations were based in  
233 Europe or North America.

234

#### 235 **4. Discussion**

236 Globally, many different actors, from scientists, to practitioners to governments, design and implement  
237 interventions to tackle conservation conflicts, and these conflicts take many forms. From reviewing the  
238 published academic literature, we compare together for the first time a wider range of conservation  
239 conflict contexts and show that conflict intervention recommendations vary with regards to the  
240 behaviours they target, the way conflicts are framed, and the evidence and reasoning underpinning  
241 them.

242 In contexts where there are human-wildlife impacts (e.g. crop or livestock loss) and often the  
243 subsequent retaliatory killing of wildlife, we find that authors tend to recommend technical  
244 interventions. Such technical interventions (including wildlife fences and diversionary feeding) aim to  
245 alter human behaviour by changing the external environment (Heberlein, 2012). Like others (e.g., Pooley  
246 et al., 2016), we find that those who recommended these interventions typically reason that the  
247 retaliatory killing of wildlife will reduce as the damage exerted by wildlife reduces. In contexts where  
248 there is illegal natural resource use, or indirect environmental damage, and in countries with lower  
249 levels of human development, we find enforcement-based interventions are favoured. As elsewhere  
250 (Keane et al., 2008) we identify that enforcement-based interventions are often recommended under

251 the logic that the greater policing of natural resources and stricter regulations will reduce over-  
252 harvesting and illegal behaviour directly. Where there is undesirable environment change – such as  
253 agriculture or recreation expansion – or active opposition to conservation – such as protests, hostility or  
254 objections – and in more highly developed countries, we find that stakeholder-based interventions are  
255 favoured. These authors often perceive that social, sometimes non-material factors, sustain the conflict  
256 and hence stakeholder interventions commonly target emotions and aim to increase dialogue and trust,  
257 with the idea that shared, and agreed-upon problems and solutions can be met (Redpath et al., 2017;  
258 Young et al., 2016). However, as documented elsewhere (Peterson et al., 2005; Reed, 2008) in our  
259 sample, stakeholder-based interventions vary considerably in style and motivation. Some advocate for  
260 collaborative decision-making or more devolved governance (Dandy et al., 2014), whereas others focus  
261 on increasing decision-making transparency or on conducting stakeholder consultations (Elston et al.,  
262 2014).

263 In terms of behavioural threats, we find that economic interventions are recommended less selectively,  
264 but they are more common in less developed countries. This result contrasts with that found for wildlife  
265 impact compensation (Ravenelle and Nyhus, 2017), but this might be because we also considered other  
266 economic mechanisms (like alternative livelihoods), and other contexts such as natural resource where  
267 economic interventions are common (Agrawal et al., 2014). Economic interventions were generally best  
268 supported by evidence and reasoning, but no article considered whether it mattered which group or  
269 institution was conducting the recommended intervention, despite indications that perceptions of trust  
270 can play a key role in responses to conservation interventions (Stern and Coleman, 2015). Cognitive  
271 interventions associated with no variables, suggesting they may be deemed suitable across contexts.  
272 However, we found many cognitive interventions to be undeveloped in reasoning and unsupported by  
273 evidence. Given critiques of the information deficit model underpinning information-based  
274 interventions (Heberlein, 2012; Schultz, 2011), we suggest they would benefit from further testing.

275 Like similar reviews (Estévez et al., 2015; Peterson et al., 2010; Ravenelle and Nyhus, 2017), we were  
276 unable to include non-English-language articles or grey literature, which would likely have provided  
277 further insight. Our conclusions are also limited to recommendations about interventions which are  
278 unlikely to be accurate reflections of actually implemented interventions – as recommendations are  
279 likely less limited by resources or other constraints. Hence, comparing our findings with implemented  
280 interventions, including in regions such as South America which are underrepresented in our sample,  
281 would be useful future work. The rigour of the analysis could also have been improved by training  
282 multiple coders (e.g., Peterson et al., 2010), increasing the sample size and checking the quality of  
283 references used as evidence. Experiments could also be designed to test our findings; for example, a  
284 choice experiment with conflict managers or researchers could test the effect of framing on intervention  
285 preferences.

286 Our finding that framing seems to influence whether socially-focused interventions are recommended is  
287 significant because all conservation conflicts are ultimately rooted in social conflicts (Redpath et al.,  
288 2013). For instance, beyond wildlife impacts, cultural factors such as religion, or levels of opposition to  
289 conservation can determine levels of the retaliatory killing of wildlife (Dickman and Hazzah, 2015; Mariki  
290 et al., 2015). Likewise, illegal activities such as poaching or protected area encroachment often reflect  
291 protest, opposition or resistance to conservation (Holmes, 2007; Stern, 2008). Reframing conflicts to  
292 better reflect their root cause is therefore crucial for successful conflict management (Peterson et al.,  
293 2010; Young et al., 2010). Our attempts at exploring the possible influence of disciplinary silos on both  
294 framing and intervention recommendations proved unfruitful. However, others have identified  
295 disciplinary silos in conservation (Margles et al., 2010), and that interventions recommended by  
296 conservation researchers may reflect their disciplinary training (Sandbrook et al., 2013). Hence, given  
297 these findings and the importance of framing identified here, we suggest it would be beneficial for

298 researchers to think more broadly about conflicts in conservation, and look beyond the literature  
299 specifically related to their study context.

300 Future work should examine the extent to which authors' disciplinary background, beliefs, expertise or  
301 the nature of the conflict itself influence their intervention recommendations. For instance, does  
302 variation in ethical positions or rationales for conservation (Holmes et al., 2017) influence the types of  
303 intervention recommended? Do those that perceive illegal behaviour as being more or less legitimate  
304 (e.g., Sheil et al., 2016) differ in the extent to which they advocate enforcement over participatory  
305 approaches? Likewise, the reasons why enforcement and stakeholder-based interventions appear to  
306 differ depending upon the development status of countries needs to be explored. Does this trend just  
307 reflect the increased presence of threatened species or protected areas, or does it represent  
308 perceptions of the strength of governance, or more problematic biases revolving around top-down  
309 conservation that prevail where conservationists have relatively more power (Duffy, 2014; Kashwan,  
310 2017; Sandbrook, 2017)? Future work could also look at factors such as the broader socio-economic,  
311 cultural or governance context, as well as the involvement of particularly marginalised or minority  
312 communities in conflicts.

313 We find that few authors provide ToC, authors rarely justify all intervention recommendations with  
314 published scientific evidence, and the adaptive approach was largely overlooked, despite the  
315 effectiveness of decision-making frameworks and adaptive management having been regularly  
316 advocated (e.g. Bunnefeld et al., 2017). The lack of causal-reasoning and scientific evidence is  
317 problematic as it suggests conservation interventions often borne out of intuition, group-think or  
318 convention rather than evidence (Eklund et al., 2017; Sutherland and Wordley, 2017), which might  
319 prevent otherwise successful interventions from being considered. One reason for the lack of ToC might  
320 be that only recently has a framework been developed to bridge different methodologies and guide  
321 their development for conservation (Qiu et al., 2018). Step-wise reasoning (ideally underpinned by

322 behavioural theory) and the outlining of clear goals would also make it easier to assess the effectiveness  
323 of interventions (Agrawal et al., 2014), thus contributing to the possible evidence-gap that we have  
324 highlighted. However, other forms of knowledge, including local ecological knowledge (LEK), or  
325 expert/stakeholder experience can also inform interventions (Sterling et al., 2017). We identify that such  
326 knowledge forms may be underrepresented in the published literature, and argue that future work  
327 could explore this trend further, and identify how best to incorporate multiple knowledge forms in  
328 conflict management.

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330

## 331 **Conclusions**

332 Individuals or groups who actively participate in conservation-related rule-breaking, such as protected  
333 area infringement, may as much be in conflict with conservation as those who poison livestock-raiding  
334 predators, or those who lobby against conservation regulations in parliament. Behavioural interventions  
335 recommended to tackle such conflicts vary with the types of behaviours targeted, the conflict frames  
336 adopted by authors, and by the evidence and reasoning underpinning them. Technical intervention  
337 recommendations are associated most with conflicts involving wildlife control (such as retaliatory killing)  
338 and those framed as 'human-wildlife conflict'. Enforcement-based recommendations are associated  
339 most with conflicts involving (often illegal) natural resource use, and those in less developed countries.  
340 In contrast, stakeholder-based intervention recommendations are associated most with conflicts framed  
341 as 'human-human conflicts' and more highly developed countries. We suggest that effective  
342 interventions should be informed by robust and appropriate evidence, and underpinned by carefully  
343 considered ToC. We highlight that other factors appear to influence intervention recommendations  
344 which might potentially lead to poor decisions being made. Lastly, we recommend that future studies

345 should make the theoretical and evidential basis of their recommendations clearer and research should  
346 study why certain conflict frames arise and their impact.

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348

## 349 **5. Recommendations**

- 350 - Researchers should seek to recognise and transcend the arbitrary barriers which categorise  
351 different conflicts, so that any entrenched silos do not lead to potentially successful solutions  
352 being overlooked.
- 353 - Researchers should further explore how the framing of conservation conflicts is generated and  
354 how it influences intervention suggestions.
- 355 - Those recommending conflict interventions should more clearly outline the social and  
356 environmental goals targeted, and the steps required to reach these goals.
- 357 - Those recommending conflict interventions should justify recommendations with greater  
358 evidence, including scientific and stakeholder-based knowledge.
- 359 - Researchers should aim to contribute to this evidence-base by testing the assumptions  
360 underpinning how particular interventions are intended to influence behaviours.

361

## 362 **6. Conflict of Interest**

363 The authors have no competing interests to declare.

## 364 **7. Policy and Ethics**

365 All appropriate ethics and other approvals were obtained for the research.

## 366 **8. Role of the funding source**

367 <Insert after review> provided funding for this research, and played no role in study design, data  
368 collection, analysis or interpretation.

369

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586

587 Table 1. A non-exhaustive and non-mutually exclusive list of different conflict drivers and associated frames presented in the literature, based  
 588 upon our interpretation.

Conflict drivers	Otherwise framed as
<p>Wildlife impacts            including livestock depredation or crop-raiding and/or human injury, with associated retaliatory killing or persecution of wildlife and/or active opposition to conservation efforts trying to prevent this. Similar conflicts surround proposed reintroductions, or predator management on recreational hunting estates.</p>	<p>Human-wildlife conflict (HWC), (Woodroffe et al., 2005) coexistence (Rust and Marker, 2014), human-wildlife relations/interactions (Pooley et al., 2016) stakeholder conflict (Redpath et al., 2015) persecution (Whitfield et al., 2004), pest-control (Delibes-Mateos et al., 2013)</p>
<p>Resource-use and restrictions            Including unsustainable or illegal harvest of fauna and flora and associated efforts to prevent/reduce such harvest. This includes commercial activities (e.g. logging, fisheries, wildlife trade, recreational hunting) and non-commercial activities (e.g. subsistence hunting or foraging).</p>	<p>Natural resource related conflict (NRRC) (De Pourcq et al., 2017), Illegal wildlife trade (Nijman, 2010), logging, poaching, unsustainable use, encroachment (Mackenzie et al., 2012) fisheries management (Marzano et al., 2013), common-pool resource conflict (Adams et al., 2003)</p>
<p>Land-use decisions            including protected area establishment, land-use change, relocations and/or associated loss of livelihoods, traditions identity. Associated behaviours may include 'encroachment' and local (or international) opposition to conservation regulations and organisations</p>	<p>People-park conflict (Stern, 2008), environmental justice, indigenous rights, land-use conflict (West et al., 2006)</p>
<p>Conservation governance            Lack of transparency in decision-making process, lack of trust, unequal power dynamics, ineffective governance</p>	<p>Stakeholder conflict (Young et al., 2016), conservation governance (Lute et al., 2018; Peterson et al., 2005; Stern and Coleman, 2015), natural-resource management (Raik et al., 2008)</p>
<p>Development and economics            including conflicts between poverty and/or economic growth and conservation, commercial or state-sanctioned development in 'green' spaces or protected areas, and associated civic and organisational protest/opposition</p>	<p>Development conflict, Natural resource management, (Bockstael et al., 2016; Hopcraft et al., 2015), poverty traps (Vedeld et al., 2012), Environmental Kuznets Curve (Czech, 2008)</p>
<p>Clashing of values            including animal-rights campaigns against lethal control, or trophy hunting. Also includes conflicts over different approaches, philosophies or ethics</p>	<p>Animal welfare (Crowley et al., 2017), human-human conflict (Redpath et al., 2015), conservation values (Holmes et al., 2017), conflict over stakeholder participation (López-Bao et al., 2017)</p>

591 Table 2. Our typology of conservation conflict intervention types, behavioural threats, and frames.

Variable	Examples	References
Intervention type		
Technical	<p>Wildlife control lethal (traps, shooting, pesticides, poison), non-lethal (translocation, deterrents, diversionary feeding, fertility/disease management)</p> <p>Habitat manipulation buffer crops, alternative food, barriers (fences, nets, enclosures)</p> <p>Livelihoods livestock /crop protection, guarding , modify crops, rotations, immunization</p> <p>People control barriers, surveillance systems, modified gear, signposts</p>	(Lute et al., 2018; Nyhus, 2016; Pooley et al., 2016; Sutherland et al., 2017)
Cognitive	<p>Livelihood training husbandry techniques, crop cycles, sustainable yields</p> <p>Awareness wildlife attitudes and perceptions, conservation benefits</p> <p>Regulatory information species protection laws, quotas, access rights</p>	(Baruch-Mordo et al., 2011; Holmes, 2003; Keane et al., 2011)
Economic	<p>Remuneration compensation &amp; insurance schemes (state, charitable, private)</p> <p>Incentives direct payments, payments for ecosystem services, tourism income, sustainable use/harvest</p> <p>Employment direct employment, alternative livelihoods</p> <p>Services education, healthcare, infrastructure</p>	(Kremen et al., 2000; Ravenelle and Nyhus, 2017; Wünscher and Engel, 2012)
Enforcement	<p>Regulation creation protective status, land-use zoning, land rights, quotas, trade-bans, equipment/practice ban (e.g., poisons)</p> <p>Regulation enforcement</p>	(Agrawal et al., 2014; Arias, 2015; Challender et al., 2015; Donald et al., 2007)

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	increased patrols, trials, punishments, reduced corruption, legal processes	
Stakeholder	<p>Stakeholder engagement  participatory planning, knowledge sharing, consultations, deliberations</p> <p>Conflict resolution  trust building, transformation, third-parties</p> <p>Devolution  community-based natural resource management, land rights, power sharing</p>	(Madden and McQuinn, 2014; Peterson et al., 2005; Young et al., 2016)
Behavioural threat		
Wildlife control	<p>Lethal  retaliatory killing, persecution of wildlife</p> <p>Non lethal  Harassment, scarring of wildlife</p>	(Jensen et al., 2008; Marquez et al., 2013; Nyhus, 2016)
Resource use	<p>Illegal  poaching, bush-meat, wildlife trade, encroachment</p> <p>Non-illegal  unsustainable harvest (e.g., logging, fisheries)</p>	(Nijman, 2010; Watson et al., 2013)
Environment change	<p>Land-use  development, recreation, agriculture</p> <p>Ecosystem  stewardship, management change</p>	(Bockstael et al., 2016; Gross et al., 2013)
Indirect damage	<p>Primary damage  pollution, bycatch, collisions</p> <p>Secondary  spread of disease or invasive-species, consumer demand</p>	(Gilman, 2011; Lin et al., 2013)
Active opposition	<p>Protest  civic protest, lobbying, campaigns against conservation efforts</p> <p>Resistance  sabotage, hostility, non-participation with conservation efforts</p>	(Holmes, 2007; Stern, 2008)

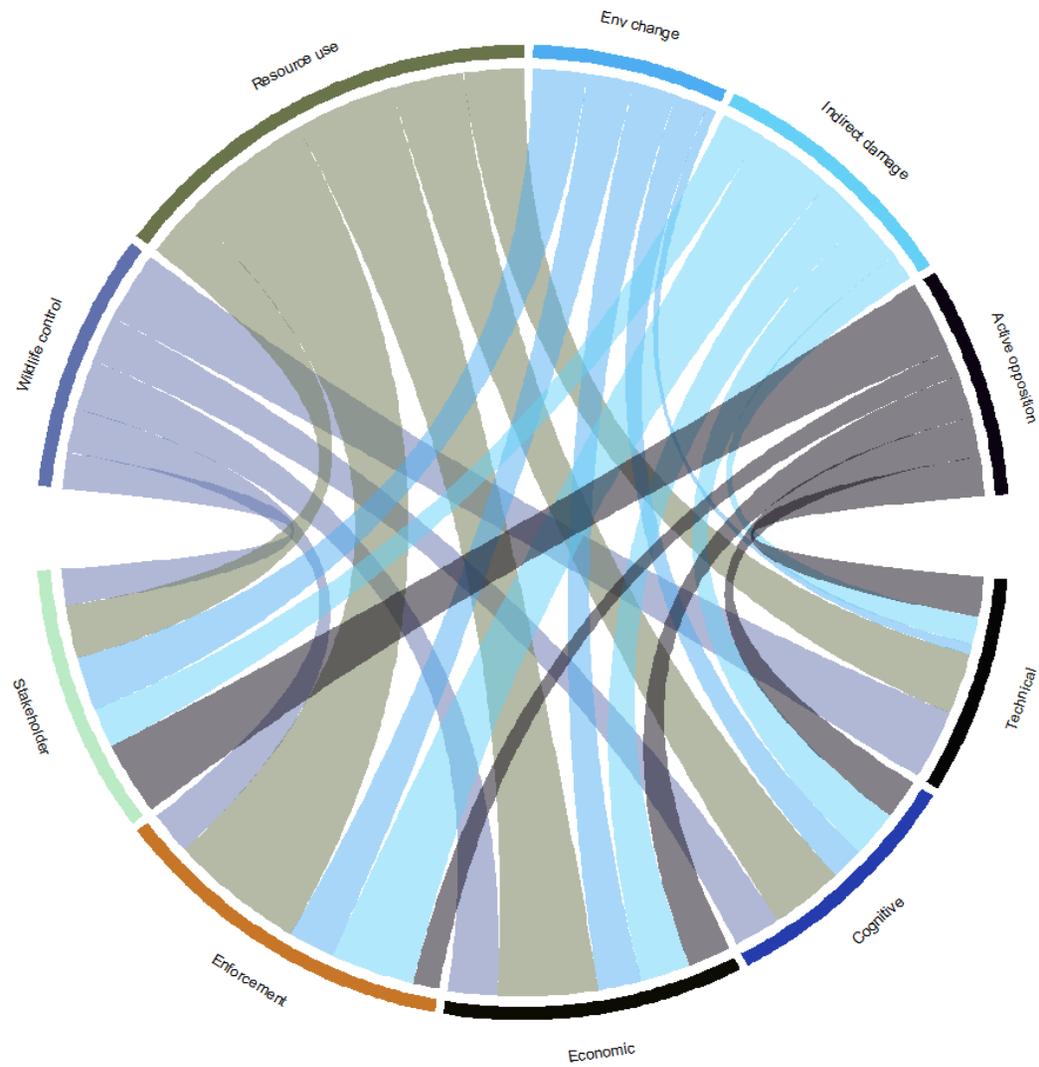
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Frame

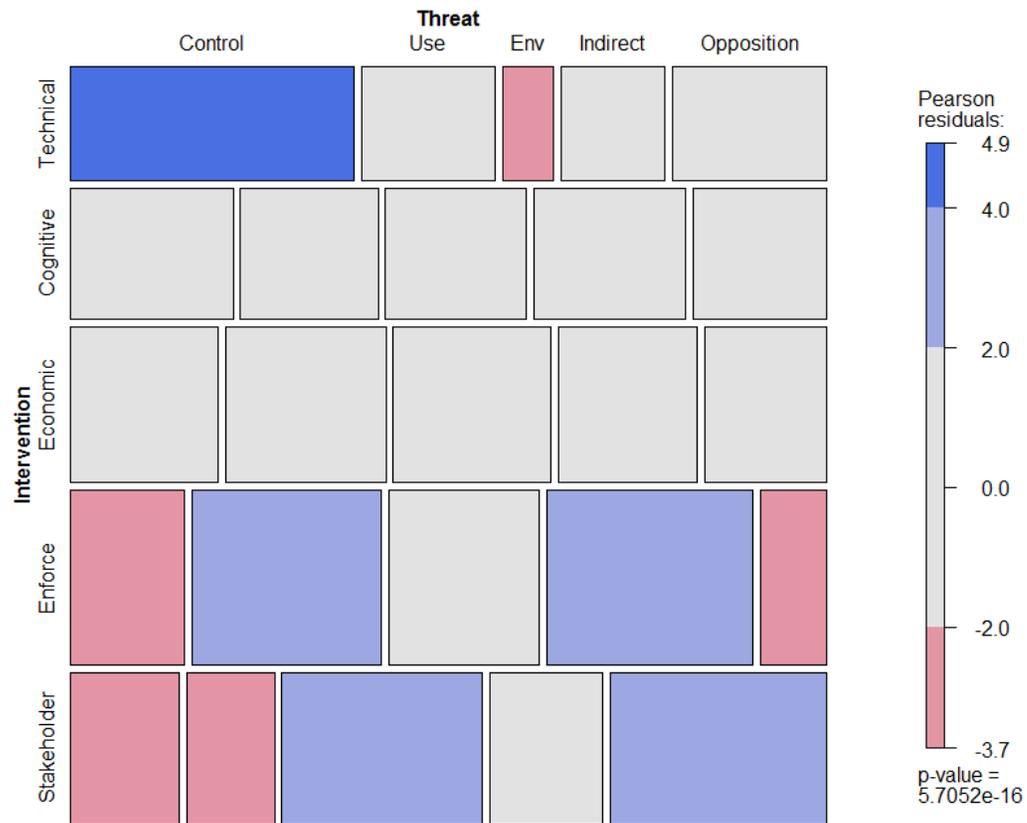
Human-wildlife conflict (HWC)	Authors describe conflict as primarily occurring between humans and other animals. Often involves crop/livestock loss and associated retaliatory killing of wildlife	(Nyhus, 2016; Woodroffe et al., 2005)
Illegal resource use (IRU)	Authors describe rule-breaking natural resource use (such as illegal wildlife trade, logging, bush meat, fisheries, encroachment), without reference to underlying relationships between different stakeholders. These behaviours are usually considered illegitimate	(Nijman, 2010; Solomon et al., 2015)
Human-human conflict (HHC)	Authors describe human disagreements between particular actors over conservation actions or decisions Conservation-related rule-breaking may be considered as acts of protest or resistance	(De Pourcq et al., 2017; Redpath et al., 2015)

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594 Figure 1. Chord diagram showing the relationship between behavioural threats (top) and recommended intervention types (bottom). The width of each outer  
 595 rim depicts the proportion of total articles describing each threat and intervention type. The direction and width of inner flows show the proportion of articles  
 596 within each behavioural threat category that recommend each intervention type. 'Env' = Environment. <colour required in print>



597

598 Figure 2: A mosaic plot depicting the association between intervention recommendations and behavioural threats, colour-coded by Pearson's residual values,  
 599 with blue cells indicating significantly more observations than would be expected under independence (positive association), red cells indicating fewer  
 600 observations than would be expected (negative association). Box size is proportional to the observed frequencies of each cross-classification. 'Control = Wildlife  
 601 control, 'Use' = Resource Use, 'Env' = Environment change, 'Indirect' = Indirect damage, 'Opposition' = Active opposition, and 'Enforce' = Enforcement <colour  
 602 required in print>