

Managing Human-Wildlife Conflicts Compensation Claims Data Collection and Payments Using a Scheme Administrator

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Abstract : Human-wildlife conflicts (HWCs) are the main threat to conservation in Africa. This is because wildlife needs overlap with those of humans. In Kenya, about 70% of wildlife occurs outside protected areas. As a result, wildlife and human range overlap, causing HWCs. The HWCs in Kenya occur in the drylands adjacent to protected areas. The top five counties with the highest incidences of HWC are Taita Taveta, Narok, Lamu, Kajiado, and Laikipia. The common wildlife species responsible for HWCs are elephants, buffaloes, hyenas, hippos, leopards, baboons, monkeys, snakes, and crocodiles. To ensure individuals affected by the conflicts are compensated, Kenya has developed a model of HWC compensation claims data collection and payment. We collected data on HWC from all eight Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Conservation Areas from 2009 to 2019. Additional data was collected from stakeholders' consultative workshops held in the Conservation Areas and a literature review regarding payment of injuries and ongoing insurance schemes being practiced in areas. This was followed by the description of the claims administration process and calculation of the pricing of the compensation claims. We further developed a digital platform for data capture and processing of all reported conflict cases and payments. Our product recognized four categories of HWC (i.e., human death and injury, property damage, crop destruction, and livestock predation). Personal bodily injury and human death were provided based on the Continental Scale of Benefits. We proposed a maximum of Kenya Shillings (KES) 3,000,000 for death. Medical, pharmaceutical, and hospital expenses were capped at a maximum of KES 150,000, as well as funeral costs at KES 50,000. Pain and suffering were proposed to be paid for 12 months at the rate of KES 13,500 per month. Crop damage was to be based on farm input costs at a maximum of KES 150,000 per claim. Livestock predation leading to death was based on Tropical Livestock Unit (TLU), which is equivalent to KES 30,000, which includes Cattle (1 TLU = KES 30,000), Camel (1.4 TLU = KES 42,000), Goat (0.15 TLU = 4,500), Sheep (0.15 TLU = 4,500), and Donkey (0.5 TLU = KES 15,000). Property destruction (buildings, outside structures and harvested crops) was capped at KES 150,000 per any one claim. We conclude that it is possible to use an administrator to collect data on HWC compensation claims and make payments using technology. The success of the new approach will depend on a piloting program. We recommended that a pilot scheme be initiated for eight months in Taita Taveta, Kajiado, Baringo, Laikipia, Narok, and Meru Counties. This will test the claims administration process as well as harmonize data collection methods. The results of this pilot will be crucial in adjusting the scheme before country-wide roll out.

Keywords : human-wildlife conflicts, compensation, human death and injury, crop destruction, predation, property destruction

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