



Passport

The Newsletter of the International Wildlife Management Working Group of The Wildlife Society

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Message from the Chair

Greetings IWMWG Members!

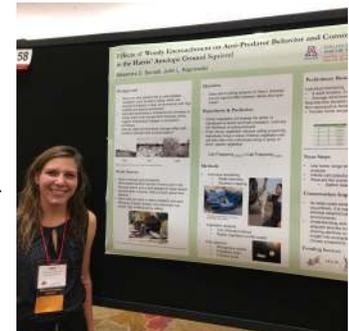
Welcome to another rich and absorbing edition of the Passport. In this issue, our 2017 Travel Grant winner Rekha Warriier provides some fascinating insight on the challenges for conservation in rural India, and Juan Carlos Bravo offers views on grassroots conservation in Mexico and the need for coordinated transboundary conservation efforts. These issues are the *raison d'être* for the IWMWG, and it is thriving thanks to the active participation of its diverse and passion-driven members.

Our annual WG meeting during the TWS Conference in Albuquerque was a packed house and produced an impressive list of future directions to consider and small army of volunteers for committees to achieve discussed goals. Those committees are now working on determining the feasibility of initiating an international peer co-mentoring program, exploring fundraising options to increase the funds available for travel grants, and defining the potential future directions of international involvement for TWS.

I am happy to announce we will host a symposium at the 25th TWS Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio that builds on our successful co-sponsored symposium at last year's conference. This year our half-day symposium on Tuesday 9 October focuses on "Grassroots Community Engagement: a Critical Tool for Global Wildlife Conservation". We are very grateful to the large number of members who participated in the survey-based decision on symposium topic, and we are confident our uniquely blended panel of speakers will serve up a major conference highlight for all attendees.

In the past, I have urged members to support our mission through participation, and there may be no better way than to run for a position on the IWMWG Executive Board. The Chair-Elect position is up for election in May. The Board will nominate two candidates for the election to Chair-Elect, and additional consenting nominees may be added to the slate upon the signed support of ≥ 6 members. The elected individual will serve a two-year term as Chair-Elect, followed by a two-year term as Chair. The nomination form is available at <http://wildlife.org/iwmwg/about/student-travel-grants/>.

As you will see on page 2, we are accepting applications for the 2018 Travel Grant. These are competitive awards, with preference given to students from developing countries but a domestic travel award is available for conference attendees presenting work that aligns with the IWMWG mission.



IWMWG Treasurer Allie Burnett with her poster at the TWS Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA.



IWMWG Chair-Elect Melissa Merrick presenting on how inter-individual variation in wildlife can inform management.



Symposium organizer Dave Christianson (left) with presenter Juan Carlos Bravo.

International Wildlife Law and the One-horned Rhinoceros



Juri Goswami is a Research Scholar at the National Law University in Assam, India. She has a postgraduate LL.M. degree in International Environmental Law. She presented a poster titled “People’s Engagement in Wildlife Management with Special Reference to Kaziranga National Park, Assam” at The Wildlife Society’s Annual Conference in September. Here, she shares with the *Passport* some of her thoughts about the role of laws in wildlife management:

The function of laws is to bring social order. Laws with stringent provisions for dealing with situations such as poaching are important to the proper management and conservation of wildlife. For example, fear of repercussions such as incarceration and fines can dissuade potential poachers. Together with educational outreach and reducing the market demand for illegal wildlife products, laws can reduce the incidence of poaching.

“Keeping in mind the international significance of the one-horned rhinoceros, which is found only in Assam, international cooperation is a must.”

Juri’s poster focused specifically on the one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) in Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Assam, India. She further explains, “Here, most of the people of the nearby villages are illiterate and poor...to fulfill their livelihood they help the poachers coming from the outside. Therefore, we are trying to create other mode(s) of livelihood for them (e.g. agriculture, weaving) which would develop an environmental culture to live in harmony with nature among themselves.” There is a growing public-private partnership as a result of grass roots efforts. Conservation of the one-horned rhinoceros has benefited from a combination of Indian law (chiefly the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972), international law (GATT Provisions Section 20), and state law (1980 The Wildlife (Protection) Rules and the 2009 amendment to the Wildlife Protection Assam Act), all in concert with public outreach focused on awareness, engagement and economic opportunities.

Juri is interested in starting a project in Assam in collaboration with The Wildlife Society’s International Wildlife Management Working Group, with the goal of identifying best management practices for wildlife resource protection and conservation that could be applied uniformly across the globe.

IWMWG Travel Grants Available: Apply by July 15



Each year, the IWMWG provides funds to support travel to the TWS Annual Conference. Applications for grants for this year’s conference in Cleveland, Ohio (October 7-11) are being accepted through July 15. We will award up to 2 international and 1 domestic travel grants; award amounts are \$750 and \$500, respectively. Paper or poster contributed must be related to international wildlife management. Awardees are asked to participate in the IWMWG meeting at the conference, and to contribute towards an article in this newsletter about their research and their experience at the conference.

Guidelines for IWMWG travel grant applicants:

To be eligible, an individual’s paper/poster first must be accepted for presentation by the Program Committee (for contributed papers and posters) or the organizer of a TWS-sanctioned symposium or special poster session. Applicants must meet the following eligibility standards:

1. Be a member of The Wildlife Society or a visitor sponsored by a TWS member in good standing
2. Be a member of the International Wildlife Management Working Group
3. Be a senior author and presenter of an accepted paper or poster
4. Preference will be given to students from developing countries.

Applications are available on our webpage at wildlife.org/iwmwg/about/student-travel-grants.

IWMWG Meeting Energized with Passionate Engagement

IWMWG Chair-elect Melissa Merrick facilitated an engaging and productive face-to-face meeting of the IWMWG at the annual conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. The lively discussion included TWS international involvement, and the concept of an international peer mentoring program. IWMWG will revisit a TWS survey done in 2004 in order to determine what the membership is interested in seeing TWS do internationally. We will also work to develop a program that pairs wildlifera from different countries at future TWS annual conferences, and to develop new methods of fundraising to increase monies available for travel grants. (Photos by Claire Crow)



TWS President John McDonald, above, shared that Council added a translation aid to the TWS website to facilitate international participation.

John Koprowski, left, emphasized that mentoring is a two-way street, that wildlife management in the USA can benefit from lessons learned and innovations from other parts of the world.



TWS CEO Ed Thompson, left, requested that IWMWG members send suggestions to him of key international organizations with which TWS should be in touch.



Rick Baydack (left) participated along with Shane Mahoney via Rick's phone. Shane brought up the importance of sustainability. Both Shane and Rick support the idea of TWS joining the IUCN.

Wildlifera from across the globe worked together on addressing big picture issues, sharing creative ideas and a few laughs. The IWMWG meeting is a great opportunity to network while making a difference.



Rekha Warriier presenting (above) and participating in IWMWG meeting (below) at TWS 2017 Conference (Photos by Claire Crow)



“Never before had I been so aware of my privilege... I struggled with the idea that perhaps conservation may not be the most prudent use of limited financial resources.”



Female tiger photographed in a sugarcane patch near the Sharada River.

Tigers and People Outside of Protected Areas

Interview by Claire Crow, photos courtesy of Rekha Warriier

Rekha Warriier is a PhD candidate in Ecology at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, USA. She received a travel grant from the IWMWG to present at the annual conference on “A Novel Application of Dynamic Occupancy Models with False Positive Errors to Quantify the Seasonal Use of Sugarcane Farmlands in Northern India by Tigers”.

Please provide a brief description of your research.

My research is focused on understanding the conservation value of sugarcane farmlands adjoining protected tiger reserves in northern India. Tigers are an endangered large carnivore species, currently extant on 7% of their historical distributional range. Seventy percent of the global tiger population occurs in densely populated landscapes in India. The presence of tigers outside protected area boundaries often leaves them vulnerable to poaching and results in deaths from human-wildlife conflicts. There is an urgent need to expand the scope of existing conservation initiatives beyond protected area boundaries. My research site is located in the state of Uttar Pradesh in northern India. This region has historically experienced significant human-tiger conflicts. A particular focus of my study is to understand the space use patterns of tigers and other large mammals in privately owned sugarcane farming areas, where human-tiger conflicts are especially frequent. The information generated through my study will aid in the development of a landscape scale management strategy for tigers in the area with an emphasis on human-tiger conflict prevention.

What are some challenges that you have met in your research?

There were three principal challenges that I encountered during my research. The first and most important one was generating adequate funding to support this work. The work was eventually funded by grants for WWF-India, The Rufford Foundation and the Center for Collaborative Conservation at CSU. The second challenge was navigating the complex social circumstances of rural northern India- a region dominated by very patriarchal communities. My work involved an incredible amount of interactions with local landowners, and convincing men to talk to me or requesting that women in many households be allowed to be interviewed was very difficult. The final challenge was coming to terms with the incredible poverty that is rampant in this region. Despite being part of the fastest growing economy in the world, this area has some of the lowest human development indices. Never before have I been so aware of my privilege and I struggled with the idea that perhaps conservation may not be the most prudent use of limited financial resources in this area. I



Rekha interviewed owners of sugarcane farms in Uttar Pradesh, India, for information about tiger sightings on private land adjacent to protected reserves. The tall sugarcane provides cover for tigers.

“A female tiger with a year-old cub stayed near the Sharada River throughout my study. A few farmers from the nearby village had seen her, and most knew of her presence by her tracks. There were no instances of tiger attacks on people or livestock in that village.”

now see this as an indication that conservation practices in India, and perhaps in other developing nations, should have social justice as a core tenet.

What are you most proud of in your research?

Designing a study to understand space use patterns of an elusive large carnivore (tigers) in agricultural lands presents many logistical and modeling challenges, particularly when there are financial constraints. I am pleased with the fact that we were able to apply some of the most cutting-edge methods in quantitative ecology to devise a cost-effective and a widely applicable survey methodology.

Please provide a brief description of your experience at the TWS annual conference in Albuquerque.

Since I have spent many years working as a field biologist with field seasons that extend for 8 months a year I had not had the opportunity to attend very many conferences. TWS was perhaps my 3rd professional conference. I was delighted to have the opportunity to attend and am grateful to the IWMWG for making the trip possible for me. The conference most importantly exposed me to some of the incredible research work being conducted by my peers across the USA and elsewhere. Getting the opportunity to meet with experts in different fields and making professional contacts was perhaps the most rewarding aspect of the TWS experience for me. Finally, I enjoyed participating in the IWMWG meeting (my first!) and learning about the various issues that were of concern to the group. I look forward to more interactions.

How do you think attending the conference might impact your future work?

I believe the contacts with professors and other graduate students I made during the meeting have helped open some professional vistas for me. In addition, I came away with research ideas that I am excited to build upon in the coming months.



Some of the challenges of working in strongly patriarchal communities were convincing men to talk with a female researcher, and arranging to interview the women of the households as well as the men.

Perspectives: Bi-national Conservation

Interview by Claire Crow

Juan Carlos Bravo is the Director of the Mexico Program at Wildlands Network in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico. He presented “An Overview of Advances in Connectivity Conservation at the Borderlands of Sonora and Chihuahua” in the “Connecting Wildlife and Science: Borderlands and Beyond” symposium, which was organized by the University of Arizona School of Natural Resources with support from the IWMWG.

Why is working internationally important in wildlife management?

Many species move between countries, some have separate populations in different countries, others persist in one country but have been extirpated from another and finally, there are those that are affected by traffic or other issues that transcend borders. In all these cases, extinction is better prevented through international collaboration and nowhere is this more evident than in the regions around countries’ borders. Species had been established in the landscape long before the notion of countries even existed, so naturally they have no regard for our attempt to subdivide the planet in different jurisdictions. If you add to that the emergence of global-scale problems such as climate change then it only makes sense to increase international collaboration, to draft joint recovery plans, to raise awareness among managers of the differences in levels of protection, management practices and community involvement.

How can the members of The Wildlife Society best support wildlife management and research across international boundaries?

Start by asking questions: What species do we share with other countries, do we manage them



Juan Carlos presenting an overview of advances in connectivity conservation at the symposium co-sponsored by the IWMWG.
(Photo by Claire Crow)

“Start by asking questions: what species do we share with other countries, do we manage them similarly, are they equally threatened in our respective places?”

“Meals are an important networking ritual in rural communities in Mexico... one should not underestimate the capacity for building a friendship over a taco and a beer.”

“U.S. researchers could make a greater effort to generate cross-boundary data, models and research.”

“(Data-sharing) platforms... with a fully bilingual interface (make) it easier.”

similarly, are they equally threatened in our respective places? Does the group of species I work with have populations in a neighboring country, which could benefit from my research or management experience? Who in other countries works with these species, what are their expectations for recovery of endangered species? Researchers and managers will find lots of common ground and some very specific needs. Regional guides for specific groups are lacking in many cases; that (would be) a good place to start.

Special attention should be given where there are instances of asymmetrical capacities for conservation as in the case of the USA and Mexico, where too easily the agenda can be set and driven by over-eager and well-funded managers that may not have the sensitivity to address issues in regions with less capacity. Specifically, state-level agencies in the USA should increase their efforts to advance recovery in Mexico of the species they have an interest in, before promoting translocations of individuals into the USA. In the past, conflict has resulted when conservation in source areas has not been promoted adequately. Collegiate planning that effectively engages stakeholders of all sectors can address this, but too often state government agencies only work with those willing to follow their pre-established agenda.

What can wildlife professionals in the United States and Canada learn from wildlife professionals in Mexico and other countries?

Resourcefulness in the face of adversity. Know the community and spend time in communal meals to build ties with individuals. Meals are an important networking ritual in rural communities in Mexico, but are often just a logistic procedure for U.S. researchers, dealt with through the swift consumption of some GORP and a drink of water, yet one should not underestimate the capacity for building a friendship over a taco and a beer. And when you work in difficult terrain, which can mean the geography of a place, or the political landscape of protecting endangered carnivores, or the shameful rule of organized crime in many rural areas, a friend may be all you have going for you.

Also I've noticed a higher inclination of researchers in Mexico to go through the effort of creating habitat models across borders, and in general to look at what is going on north of the border in terms of planning. It may be that datasets and public plans for the U.S. are more accessible and that a majority of Mexican researchers are bilingual, but I still think U.S. researchers could make a greater effort to generate cross-boundary data, models and research that can inform management in the borderlands.

How can the members of the International Wildlife Management Working Group best support your work and that of others in the conservation of wildlife with bi-national distribution?

There's probably many more ways than I can think of off the top of my head. But here goes something.

Considering expanding research in the borderlands to cover environmentally meaningful units, such as basins, mountain ranges, ecoregions, etc. and sharing as much data publicly as possible through standard platforms such as Databasin. I provide it as an example because I love maps and it has a fully bilingual interface, making it easier for colleagues in Mexico who may not speak English.

Contact me if you think you are willing and able to travel to Mexico and have skills useful in road ecology, large landscape conservation and carnivore management that can be applicable here. I will be facilitating workshops for park rangers, students and road engineers.

Donate used equipment and guides to students and young researchers. Donate to, serve on the boards of, and collaborate with bi-national groups such as

Wildlands Network, Sky Island Alliance and Northern Jaguar Project. Inform people of existing bi-national work and the need to continue collaborations aimed at understanding and protecting a shared landscape.

Help Your Working Group Design a Sticker!

Here's a fun, creative opportunity to help spread the word about our working group - you can cook up the design for a sticker that centers on our working group logo (pictured at right).



We imagine that a rectangular sticker of high quality would allow space for images on either side of the logo. We'd love to see your ideas about ways to represent international wildlife management, and/or some of the major issues or themes involved in managing and conserving wildlife across borders or at a global scale.

The goal is to create a unique sticker that engages the interest of wildlife professionals and students attending the next TWS conference in October, while increasing the visibility of our WG. If you'd like to contribute your ideas, please submit your design as a jpg or pdf to Claire Crow at corvid.feat@gmail.com. A jpg of the logo has been sent as an attachment along with the distribution of this newsletter.

Please feel free to contact Claire with any questions, or if you need the logo in another format.

Important upcoming events and deadlines:

July 15, 2018. Deadline for IWMGW Travel Grant Applications
application available at <http://wildlife.org/iwmwg/about/student-travel-grants>

Oct 7-11, 2018. 25th TWS Annual Conference, Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

Be sure to have the next annual TWS conference on your calendar. The annual face-to-face meeting of our working group will take place at the conference. This annual meeting is our best opportunity to get together in-person and share ideas for the group's agenda for the year. Also, the IWMWG is sponsoring an exciting symposium at the conference "Grassroots Community Engagement: a Critical Tool for Global Wildlife Conservation". The membership of the IWMWG came up with great topic ideas and suggested speakers, resulting in an exciting lineup with ten 20-minute presentations followed by a discussion. As soon as the working group meeting and the symposium are assigned time slots, we will send out notice to the working group membership.

It's not too early to start thinking about possible symposia that our working group might sponsor for the **2019 annual meeting in Reno, Nevada, USA.**

Join us - How to become a member of the IWMWG

Membership in the TWS IWMWG includes a subscription to the *Passport* (the working group's newsletter) and opportunities to collaborate on international wildlife management-related topics. You can join or renew your membership by logging in to The Wildlife Society portal and adding the IWMWG to your annual membership; the cost is \$10.

Current TWS Members can join by:

1. Going to <http://wildlife.force.com/>
2. Enter your email address on file and password
3. Click on 'membership' tab at the top, click on "Add Organization Unit Membership"
4. Under "Working Groups", click on "Add Working Groups"
5. Select "International Wildlife Management Working Group"
6. Check out by entering your payment information

THE WILDLIFE
SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL
WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
WORKING GROUP

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Please send me your comments
and suggestions for future issues!*

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International
Wildlife
Management
Working Group

Vision

The IWMWG will increase collaboration among wildlife professionals around the world.

Mission

The IWMWG will provide a forum for information exchange through expanded use of communication technologies.

Goals

1. To promote meetings and electronic communication among professionals worldwide working in wildlife management and habitat conservation.
2. To sponsor symposia and workshops and to host forums at The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference and other affiliated meetings.
3. To assist TWS staff in preparing technical reviews, position statements and other materials related to international wildlife management issues.
4. To encourage wildlife professionals worldwide to become members and participate in TWS activities and events.

Working Group Officers:

Chair: Jonathan Derbridge (derbridge@email.arizona.edu)

Chair-elect: Melissa Merrick (mmerrick@email.arizona.edu)

Secretary/Treasurer: Allie Burnett (aburnett93@email.arizona.edu)

Past Chair: Robin White (rpwhite@usgs.gov)