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**FORMULATING PLANNING STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATING HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS:
IN THE CASE OF PANATHADY**

ABSTRACT

Human-wildlife conflict (HWC) is an increasingly significant obstacle to the conservation of wildlife and growing human developmental activities. Human-wildlife conflicts have been in existence as long as wild animals and people shared the same landscape and resources. The HWC is not restricted to particular geographic region or climatic conditions but is common to all areas where wildlife and human population coexist. Conflict between people and animals is one of the main threats to the continued survival of many species in different parts of the world, and is also a significant threat to local human populations and developmental activities. If solutions to conflicts are not adequate, local support for conservation also declines.

The study aimed to formulate planning strategies as a long-term solution for the management of human wildlife conflict of fringe areas of Panathady forest fringe area. Panathady forest division lies in Panathady grama panchayath which is in Kasaragod district of Kerala, India. To achieve the aim, in the first stage of study conducted background study on HWC, its impacts and prevailing mitigation measures and best practices to mitigate HWC. The study identified and analyzed more than 50 research articles for the same and identified major parameters and delineated the study area with respect to it. The study will be using different surveying methods identified from the background study to assess the impact of HWC on various sectors in the area. The major limitation of the primary data collection will be the limited time available for the study. The major focus of the primary study will be to understand the needs of local community and local biodiversity in relation to the impact of HWC in the area. Based on the analysis and inferences, the final planning strategies will be formulated to meet the local land-use needs and to reduce the HWC in a sustainable manner. The study outcome will be beneficial for the authorities and stakeholders involved in forest conservation and local area improvement for future development processes.