



Dr. Eva M. Gross

Linking conservation and development

Freelance consultant

- ✓ Consultation on sustainable development projects
- ✓ Consultation on nature conservation projects
- ✓ Addressing human-wildlife conflict mitigation
- ✓ Studies/surveys (social & natural science approaches)
- ✓ Project planning, monitoring and evaluation



Summary

Raised in Germany, Iran, Indonesia and Nepal I am a culturally sensitive professional who loves working interdisciplinary and internationally. During fifteen years of work experience in nature conservation NGOs, I have built up a solid conservation background and gained profound knowledge in project development, management, monitoring and evaluation.

I have spent over 10 years involving local communities into nature conservation endeavours in African and Asian countries, using participatory and democratic approaches. My speciality is applying community-based methods to the management of human-wildlife conflicts (HWC) and the development of alternative and sustainable livelihoods in rural and remote areas. In partnership with local NGOs, I developed a series of community-based conservation projects with the aim of benefitting both, people and wildlife. Experience in building up and managing collaborations with local partners and the steering of project activities have added to my portfolio as well.

My analytical skills help me to understand complex socio-ecological systems and subjects easily and to respond to them appropriately. Additionally, I am an enthusiastic and curious hands-on person, who likes exploring and relates easily with people I am working with. I am used to travelling in remote areas and difficult terrain.

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Work history

- Since 10/18 **Freelance consultant** - conservation and development, Schriesheim, Germany
Integrating human dimensions into biodiversity conservation.
www.eva-gross.com
- KfW **Consultancy** for the development of a HWC management scheme of the Malawi-
Germany Zambia Transfrontier Conservation Area.
- WWF NL **Lead Author** of “A Future for all: The Need for Human-Wildlife Coexistence”,
the global WWF/UNEP report.
- WWF **Preparation** of a summary workshop report on Wildlife Crime in Europe in the
Germany framework of the EuroLargeCarnivores project.
- WCS **Consultancy** for the creation of a HWC mitigation/coexistence outline for NSR,
Mozambique (Niassa Special Reserve) Mozambique.
- GIZ India **Consultancy** on mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts in India. Support to the
development of a National Strategy for HWC Mitigation as part of the Indo-
German Biodiversity Programme.
- Anonymous **Review and assessment** of humanitarian and development project proposals for
Philanthropy African and Asian countries for a private philanthropist. Development of
LogFrames, monitoring and evaluation strategy.
- Elmayer **Co-trainer** at the Life Euro Large Carnivore project on Communication for
Institute Conflict resolution
- GIZ **Review and analysis** of the current situation of human-elephant conflicts and
Germany the mitigation strategies used.
- FZS **Human-elephant conflict mitigation** trainings in three Game Management
Zambia Areas adjacent to North Luangwa National Park, Zambia
- Aaranyak **New strategies for a peaceful coexistence** with elephants in the Golagath
India district of Assam, India
- 04/2008 – **Programme Director** at *Awely, des animaux et des hommes*, Orléans, France
09/2018 Project development, planning, training, management, monitoring and evaluation
of community-based projects in Africa and Asia, development of education tools.
Local partner NGOs, with whom projects were implemented, in brackets:
DR Congo: Development of small scale livestock breeding and income generation
activities with hunters and bushmeat sellers, as an alternative to hunting of
endangered bonobos in remote areas of the Equateur Province (Groupe d’Appui à
la Conservation des Ecosystèmes de Basankusu et Bolomba).
Cameroon: Conservation education for the protection of Western lowland
gorillas, supported a school and community education in the vicinity of the Dja
Reserve (Projet Grand Singes).
Zambia: Finding of farmer-based solutions for human-wildlife conflicts
(especially with African elephants), development of a human-wildlife conflict
assessment scheme and data analysis (Conservation South Luangwa,
Conservation Lower Zambezi and Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust).
Tanzania: Implementation of a human-wildlife conflict assessment scheme and
development of strategies to decrease crop damage by large herbivores and

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livestock damage by lions, leopards and hyenas with pastoralist Maasai communities (African People and Wildlife).

India: Development and implementation of the integrated Manas Tiger Conservation Project with focus on socio-economic surveys and participatory approaches to develop sustainable livelihoods and conservation education within a Bengal tiger conservation project in Assam (Aaranyak).

Nepal: Securing of a long-term coexistence of farmers and large herbivores (Asian elephants and Greater one-horned rhinos) as well as large predators (leopards and tigers) in the vicinity of national parks in the lowlands of Nepal, through education, sustainable livelihood development (e.g. fostering the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic crops) and other human-wildlife conflict mitigation strategies (National Trust for Nature Conservation).

- 04/2003 – **Project Manager** at *Frankfurt Zoological Society*, Frankfurt, Germany
03/2008 Developing, conducting and managing conservation education projects in collaboration with Frankfurt Zoo: implementation of a volunteering system for conservation education, conception and implementation of events, and presentations on biodiversity conservation, development of mobile and interactive exhibits, website, fundraising, public relations.

Education

- 01/2011 – Post-graduate studies at the Faculty of Biological Sciences, *Goethe University*
04/2018 *Frankfurt am Main*, Frankfurt, Germany on “Comparative analysis of human-wildlife conflicts in Asia and Africa” (PhD/Dr. rer. nat., *magna cum laude*)
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. M. Niekisch, Jun. Prof. Dr. T. Müller
- 10/1995 – Study of Environmental Sciences (Diplom), *Leuphana University Lüneburg*,
06/2002 Germany with focus on nature conservation, conservation education and communication.
Thesis (Diplom): “Analysis of the economy of three forestry-concepts – regarding selected conifer-stocks in the forest holding of Uelzen”
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. W. Härdtle, Prof. Dr. K. von Gadow

Continuing education and training

- 08/2018 Advanced Project Management. Two days course at Goethe Research Academy for Early Career Researchers by Dr. T. Teichler/Lead to Trust
Focus on PM concepts like Waterfall, Agile approaches, SCRUM
- 06/2017 Successful negotiation: Harvard strategy. Two days course at Goethe Research Academy for Early Career Researchers by Dr. A. Topan
Principles of the Harvard Concept, exploring interests, working towards win-win solutions
- 06/2016 How to conduct tricky talks constructively. Full day course at Goethe Research Academy for Early Career Researchers by M. Hubrath/Uni-Support
Communication theory and training, relational dynamics, strategic negotiation

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11/2008 Conservation and Conflict: An Experiential training in the Skills, Theory and Process Conservation professionals Need to Better Analyse and Address Conflict. Three days course by Francine Madden and Brian McQuinn (HWCC, today Centre for Conservation Peacebuilding), Washington

Memberships

Since 2019 Member of the IUCN SSC Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP) Programme Advisory Committee

Since 2018 Independent reviewer for scientific journals (Wildlife Biology, Conservation Science and Practice, International Journal of Pest Management, Journal of Land Use Science etc.) and donor agencies (National Geographic Society)

Publications

- 2021 Gross EM, Jayasinghe N, Brooks A, Polet G, Wadhwa R, Hilderink-Koopmans F (2021) A Future for All: The Need for Human-Wildlife Coexistence (WWF, Gland, Switzerland).
- 2020 Gross EM, Lahkar BP, Subedi N, Nyirenda VR, Klebelsberg E, Jakoby O (2020) Elephants in the village: causes and consequences of property damage in Asia and Africa. Conservation Science and Practice. DOI: 10.1002/csp2.343
- 2019 Gross EM (2019) Tackling routes to coexistence. Human-elephant conflict in sub-Saharan Africa. Eschborn: GIZ Partnership against Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade, 86 p., DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.24301.33767
- Gross EM, Lahkar BP, Subedi N, Nyirenda VR, Lichtenfeld LL, Jakoby O (2019) Does traditional and advanced guarding reduce crop losses due to wildlife? A comparative analysis from Africa and Asia. Journal of Nature Conservation 50: doi j.jnc.2019.125712
- Gross EM (2019) Mit Chili auf Elefanten schießen. Natur 4/2019
- 2018 Gross EM (2018) Mit Chili-Kanonen gegen Elefanten. Agrarheute 7:108-111
- Gross EM, Lahkar BP, Subedi N, Nyirenda VR, Lichtenfeld LL, Jakoby O (2018) Seasonality, crop type and crop phenology influence crop damage by wildlife herbivores in Africa and Asia. Biodiversity and Conservation 27: 2029–2050
- 2017 Gross EM, Drouet-Hoguet N, Subedi N, Gross J (2017) The potential of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) to reduce crop damages by Asian Elephants (*Elephas maximus*). Crop Protection 100:29-37
- 2016 Gross EM, McRobb R, Gross J (2016) Cultivating alternative crops reduces crop losses due to African elephants. Journal of Pest Science 89:497-506
- 2015 Sarma JK, Brahma N, Pathak JK, Das B, Gross EM, Lahkar BP, Ahmed MF (2015) Summary Report of the Socio-economic Assessment of the Fringe Villages of Manas National Park. Aaranyak, Guwahati, India, 30 p.
- 2009 Gross EM, Fulconis R (2009) Awely - für Wildtiere und Menschen. Zeitschrift des Kölner Zoos 52:133-147

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Presentations at conferences/commissions (selection)

- 2020 Gross EM (2020) Does guarding reduce crop losses due to wildlife? A comparative analysis from Africa and Asia [oral presentation]. Pathways Africa, February 16-19, Limuru, Kenya
- Gross EM (2020) Naturschutzkonflikte in Entwicklungs- und Schwellenländern: verstehen – verhindern – vermindern. Fachgespräch Biodiversität der KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau), Februar 04, Frankfurt, Germany
- 2019 Gross EM (2019) Wege zur friedlichen Koexistenz. Mensch-Elefant-Konflikte in Subsahara-Afrika. Expertenvortrag im Rahmen der Ressortrunde Partnerschaft gegen Wilderei und illegalen Wildtierhandel des BMU, BMZ und GIZ, September 12, Bonn, Germany
- 2018 Gross EM, Hofer H. (2018) Including communities in evidence-based conservation [Special session, chair and organisor]. Pathways Conference Europe 2018: Resurrecting the Wild!? September 16-19, Goslar, Germany
- Gross EM (2018) Changing perspectives: Using local knowledge for finding solutions to human-elephant conflicts in Zambia [oral presentation]. Pathways Conference Europe 2018: Resurrecting the Wild!? September 16-19, Goslar, Germany
- Gross EM (2018) Cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants has potential to decrease human-elephant conflicts in Asia and Africa [oral presentation]. Pathways Africa, January 8-11, Windhoek, Namibia
- 2017 Gross EM, McRobb R, Drouet-Hoguet N, Subedi N, Gross J (2017) Cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants has potential to decrease human-elephant conflicts [oral presentation]. International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB), July 23-27, Cartagena, Colombia
- Gross EM, Lahkar BP, Subedi N, Nyirenda VR, Lichtenfeld LL, Jakoby O (2017) Seasonality, crop type and crop phenology influence crop damages by wildlife herbivores in Africa and Asia [poster presentation]. International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB), July 23-27, Cartagena, Colombia
- 2016 Gross EM, McRobb R, Subedi N, Gross J (2016) Cultivating alternative crops reduces crop losses due to elephants [oral presentation]. 15th International Elephant & Rhino Conservation Research Symposium, November 14-18, Singapore
- 2010 Gross EM (2010) Naturschutz – den Menschen im Fokus [oral presentation]. Praxisforum Umweltwissenschaften, January 12, University Lüneburg, Germany
- 2007 Gross EM (2007) Vom Sumatratiger zum Einkaufswagen [oral presentation and workshop]. Conference on Biodiversity and Conservation education, Arbeitsgemeinschaft Natur- und Umweltbildung (ANU), November 29-30, Witzenhausen, Germany
- Gross EM, Weiser M. (2007) Ambassadors for Conservation: A cooperation project of Frankfurt Zoological Society and Frankfurt Zoo [oral presentation]. EAZA Zoo Educators Conference, Partnership in Education for Sustainability, October 28-31, Budapest, Hungary

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Awards

- 04/2015 Terre de Femmes International: Prix Mention Spéciale du Jury
Fondation Yves Rocher, Paris, France
- 02/2015 Trophée de Femmes Germany: 1st national price, € 10,000
Fondation Yves Rocher, Stuttgart, Germany

Others

Languages: German (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate)

Computer Skills: MS Office (incl. MS Access), R, Adobe Photoshop, etc.

Interests: Hiking, diving, photography, travelling

Personal: married, 2 daughters (born 2012)

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