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Rise in human-wildlife conflict cases in various parts of India over the last few years has resulted in negative public sentiment towards wildlife, especially in conflict areas. The most common outcome, of course, is people killing the wild animal(s) involved in or having the potential of conflict with humans. The forest department personnel have to deal with such wildlife emergencies, and over the course of our research we realized that they are not trained or equipped to deal with wildlife emergencies promptly and effectively. Their knee-jerk response further complicates the situation.

The Rufford Small Grant funded projects, "Training of resource personnel in the use of tranquilization techniques and transponder chips to assist the Maharashtra Forest Department, Western India, in managing problem leopards on a state wide level"(Vidya Athreya 2003 – 2004) and "Standardization of procedures required for dealing with wildlife emergencies by training veterinarians and forest department personnel in states with high human- wildlife conflict in India" (Aniruddha Belsare 2005-2006) were aimed at capacity building of the forest department personnel.

This work was presented as a poster "CAPACITY BUILDING OF WILDLIFE MANAGERS IN DEALING WITH WILDLIFE EMERGENCIES" at the 2007 annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology at Port Elizabeth, South Africa 1-5 July 2007.



The interaction with other researchers, especially those working on human-wildlife conflict issues elsewhere, was very interesting. Amongst other reasons, the lack of scientific studies of the conflict species seems to be a serious hurdle in formulating effective conflict mitigation guidelines in India. Capacity building of wildlife managers along with inputs/recommendations from scientific studies on conflict species will result in better mitigation of human-wildlife conflict.