



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PhD Position in Human-Wildlife Coexistence

University of British Columbia and Wildlife Institute of India

Assessing ecological and social drivers and mitigations of human-wildlife conflict in India

We seek an outstanding graduate student to begin a **four year Ph.D. position in January or May 2021** at the [University of British Columbia](#). The research will be part of a collaborative, interdisciplinary project involving two UBC research groups--the [Wildlife and Conservation Economics Lab](#) (WCEL) and [Wildlife Coexistence Lab](#) (WildCo)—and the [Wildlife Institute of India](#) (WII), as well as other partners. Accordingly, the student will work under the guidance of Dr. Sumeet Gulati (WCEL), Dr. Cole Burton (WildCo), and Dr. Ramesh Krishnamurthy (WII). The student will be registered in the PhD program of either the [Faculty of Land and Foods](#) or [Faculty of Forestry](#), and will be expected to spend time in both Canada and India.

The research will involve collecting, modelling, and integrating data on socioeconomic and ecological correlates of conflict between people and wildlife (particularly tiger, leopard and elephant) across selected sites in India. A key motivation for this position is to work with local project partners to develop rigorous scientific evidence that can support wildlife management and policy development on this important issue. The successful applicant will help design, implement and analyze survey data on human casualties and socioeconomic factors, and undertake spatial analyses linking the human data with population and habitat data for target wildlife species (including existing data from extensive camera trap sampling).

Applicants should have a M.Sc. in wildlife ecology, conservation biology, environmental economics, or environmental science (or related field), experience with causal data analysis and field work, a strong interest in human-wildlife interactions, and a desire to conduct applied research to inform policy. We particularly seek candidates with some combination of the following experience and skills: surveys involving camera trapping, meta-data analyses, remote sensing and GIS analysis (e.g., ERDAS, ArcGIS, QGIS), and advanced econometric or statistical analysis.

The student will be expected to share time between UBC's Vancouver campus, the WII Landscape Ecology and Visualization Laboratory in Dehradun, and several field sites in India. Funding is available to support stipend, travel, and research costs; however, the successful candidate must be eligible for scholarship support (e.g. <https://www.grad.ubc.ca/scholarships-awards-funding>).

Interested applicants should send an email as soon as possible to wildlife.ubc@gmail.com with the *Subject: PhD in Human-Wildlife Conflict in India* and including a single pdf with: a) brief statement of interest, b) Curriculum Vitae, and c) copy of transcripts (unofficial ok). **Full applications to the UBC graduate program will be due by either July 15, 2020 (for January 2021 start) or November 15, 2020 (for May 2021 start).**

Indian citizens are encouraged to apply. Equity and diversity are essential to academic excellence. An open and diverse community fosters the inclusion of voices that have been underrepresented or discouraged. We also encourage applications from members of groups that have been marginalized on any grounds enumerated under the B.C. Human Rights Code, including sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, racialization, disability, political belief, religion, marital or family status, age, and/or status as an Indigenous person.