

Chapter 6

6.1 Mitigating Measures

The present work can recommend a few mitigating measures to alleviate human sloth bear conflicts.

- 1. Natural Water Resources:** The study suggested for the development of sustainable structures in the core areas of the protected habitats that would help in conserving rain-fed water sources without disturbing the natural habitat. This will be beneficial for sloth bears as well as other wildlife residing inside such areas restricting their movement into nearby human settlements. Forest department has constructed water resources such as guzzlers and ponds on the fringes of sloth bear habitats, however, developing and maintaining sustainable water resources inside the habitats can provide water during extreme dry conditions with limiting the movement in search of water.
- 2. Potential Conflict Zones:** The identified areas can be explicitly aimed at to develop region specific mitigation strategies. To understand the complex dynamics between humans and sloth bears to bring forth strategy intended to alleviate the conflict tools such as MaxEnt are useful. It is effective in incorporating multiple aspects of human bear conflicts to delineate the high-risk areas. The study emphasises on the validation of the delineated potential areas by conducting ground survey. This would increase the effectiveness of the results presented and can contribute to probable measures towards reducing human-bear conflict. Delineating the potential conflict zones will help in limiting the human movement in such areas, reducing the risk of encounters with bears. Based on such studies the wildlife managers can develop awareness programs and workshops for bear occupied areas and movements.

3. Ecological Corridors: The study recommends on ground validation of six identified potential links as ecological corridors for long term conservation planning. Though the forest department is developing these areas as corridors the habitats in the neighbouring states also should be considered. The areas identified can also be the areas of risk for human-sloth bear conflicts. This need a serious attention for policy makers and forest managers, that if these areas to be developed as sloth bear corridors, they need a thorough monitoring and regular awareness programs to make people informed about sloth bear occupancy and movements and how to be safe in sloth bear landscape. To study functionality of the structural corridors, it is recommended to employ camera traps for long term monitoring of animal movements, along with the scat DNA study and radio telemetry for identifying the movement pattern of sloth bears.