

Preface

When we talk about human–wildlife interactions, negative experiences are often most forefront, including situations that involve the injury or death of humans and non-human animals by wild animals, and those that cause damage to crops or to other human belongings. Discourses around human–wildlife conflicts have, indeed, grabbed the attention of practitioners, managers and researchers in the last few decades since this type of conflict is considered to be one of the most critical challenges facing wildlife conservation. However, human–wildlife interactions go beyond the negative impacts that species have on the environment or humans and their belongings. In fact, the research emphasis has recently expanded from a focus on conflicts to include the broad spectrum of interactions between people and wildlife that range from negative to neutral to positive.

In response to this timely and emerging trend, we aim to build upon Woodroffe, Thirgood and Rabinowitz's 2005 book, *People and Wildlife, Conflict or Coexistence?*, by placing a greater emphasis on the coexistence aspect of human–wildlife interactions. Our goal is to contribute to the development of more comprehensive frameworks and approaches, and present a variety of perspectives and solutions that emphasize positive rather than negative aspects of human–wildlife interactions. To foster the inclusion of coexistence in human–wildlife interactions, this book uses the *conflict-to-coexistence continuum* (Frank 2016) as a leitmotiv. This continuum spans from negative to positive attitudes and/or behaviours, which defines the different degrees of conflict and coexistence that characterize human–wildlife interactions. The book also encourages complementary as well as competing perspectives on human–wildlife interactions, as the intent of this contribution is to propose new directions for how best to include positive interactions in human–wildlife research and conservation.

We are thankful and feel very fortunate to have worked with a remarkable team of renowned experts on this book. Together, we have

explored and discussed the conceptual and practical implications, as well as the innovative aspects of shifting the paradigm to encompass human–wildlife coexistence. The first five chapters of this book focus on conceptualizing coexistence and analysing human–wildlife interactions from an anthropocentric standpoint (Chapter 1). We also look at values (Chapter 2), social identity (Chapter 3), emotions (Chapter 4) and tolerance (Chapter 5) from a positive interaction perspective. Novel theories and frameworks are described to better encompass and assess the role played by these factors in shaping human–wildlife relationships. The following nine chapters (Chapters 6–14) portray a series of case studies that include different degrees of neutral to positive interactions between humans and wildlife. The case studies apply frameworks for coexisting with urban wildlife (Chapter 6), governance of long-distance migration (Chapter 8) and effectiveness and acceptability of interventions for coexistence with predators (Chapter 12). Understanding the place wildlife holds in different landscapes is another key theme explored through the lens of carnivores (Chapter 7). The conflict-to-coexistence concept is discussed further by looking at problematic species in Japan (Chapter 9), Indonesia and the USA (Chapter 10) and invasive species in the USA (Chapter 13). The use of beehives as barriers to reduce crop raiding by African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) (Chapter 11) highlights an innovative approach towards increasing positive interactions with wildlife. To conclude, we offer an overview focused on European institutions working at different scales to foster human–wildlife coexistence for large herbivores and carnivores (Chapter 14). Many of the examples given in this book are biased towards terrestrial wildlife (e.g. elephants, large carnivores and monkeys) due to a historical focus on these taxa. However, the concepts and outcomes of these case studies are broadly applicable to other taxa, and may provide inspiration and solutions to improve the understanding and assessment of neutral to positive interactions with wildlife. In addition, they provide insights into stakeholder engagement and power distribution that can be extrapolated to any wildlife species and are relevant to anyone working on human–wildlife interactions. The last four chapters (Chapters 15–19) depict pathways to make coexistence happen. A series of topics developed in other disciplines, including world-view perspectives (Chapter 15), conservation marketing (Chapter 16), incremental and radical innovation (Chapter 17), socio-ecological and landscape approaches (Chapter 18) and conservation planning (Chapter 19) are discussed from a social science standpoint and applied to foster coexistence with

wildlife. A world map (Figure 0.1) that includes all of the topics, species and locations addressed in this book is presented in this preface to offer the reader a better understanding of the broad, diverse and innovative ideas our team has explored, applied and implemented to shift the focus of human dimensions discourse from conflict to coexistence. These new perspectives further push the conflict-to-coexistence continuum and challenge its scale and singular dimension to better encompass the multifaceted nature of human-wildlife interactions. Following the example of Woodroffe et al. (2005), we close the book by offering our conclusions and hopes for a future that entails coexistence with wildlife.

Human-wildlife interactions – and clashes of opinions among stakeholders regarding how to deal with the encounters – will grow as the boundaries between the space in which humans and wildlife exist become more blurred. Through the innovative conceptual and applied contributions in this book, we aim to catalyse a paradigm shift from discourse on human-wildlife conflict to dialogue promoting human-wildlife interactions and coexistence. Exploring when and why people start to accept wildlife in their proximity is key to this endeavour and represents a pathway by which we may begin to shift toward mechanisms that enhance the willingness to coexist with wild species.

References

- Frank, B. (2016). Human-wildlife conflicts, the need to include tolerance and coexistence: An introductory comment. *Society & Natural Resources*, 29(6), 738–43.
- Woodroffe, R., Thirgood, S. & Rabinowitz, A. (2005). *People and Wildlife, Conflict or Coexistence?* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Beatrice Frank
Jenny A. Glikman
Silvio Marchini