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CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND TOOLS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ANDEAN BEAR-HUMAN CONFLICTS

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Carnivore-human conflict has been identified as a key factor for the conservation of carnivore populations. The Andean bear-human conflict is not an exception, with and increment in the awareness and effort to manage the conflict in many countries.

In 2009, Wildlife Conservation Society, The Ministry of the Environment and the Colombia Park System organized a national workshop "Principles of Andean Bear Humans Conflict Resolution". A framework for the resolution of conflicts was developed based on the document "Principles of Conflict Resolution between Humans and Bears" developed by the Conflict Expert Team of the Bear Specialist Group.

As a result of the workshop, The National Institutional Round Table for the Management of Conflicts was summoned headed by the Ministry of the Environment, with the goal of developing the tools and legal norms to manage the conflict in Colombia.

WCS as member of the roundtable took the task to develop several of the tools required to manage the conflict. WCS developed the "Manual for the Identification of Predation of Domestic Animals by Carnivores", and the "Guide for the Diagnostic of the Conflict Landscape".

The manual focus on the identification of the cause of death and the identification of the predator species. The guide focus on the characterization of the conflict landscape in relation to the risk of conflict of the human activities of the site. Both the manual and the guide were tested by local environmental authorities at 2 different localities with Andean bear-human conflicts reports. The tools and the results of the pilot studies will be presented.