

Need to establish a Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation and Resource Utilization Framework- Laid

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Human-wildlife conflict is a growing threat, especially in Kerala, leading to human fatalities, crop destruction, and property damage. Existing mitigation measures remain reactive and inadequate, while compensation schemes fail to address the escalating crisis. The Government must urgently adopt a proactive and transparent framework to mitigate human-wildlife conflict. The creation of a Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Fund (WCMF) is urgently required to finance preventive infrastructure, victim compensation, conservation research, and conflict-reduction programs. Increased funding is necessary for precautionary measures. Innovative approaches like auctioning the animal remains from hunting should be thought of. Additionally, with no existing vermin list, species like wild boar, which cause severe damage, should be culled, and proceeds from their hunting be used to strengthen WCMF. Initiatives like auctioning the meat for human consumption should also be considered. The proceeds of such auctions should fund the Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Fund (WCMF). A balanced, evidence-based approach is crucial to protect lives, livelihoods, and biodiversity. I urge the Government to establish a Wildlife Conflict Mitigation and Resource Utilization framework and introduce necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure long-term, sustainable solutions.