



WWF and WILDLABS calling on tech savvy people for the Human Wildlife Conflict Tech Challenge

30,000€ for clever tool to solve human-wildlife conflicts

(3 July 2017) The number of (deadly) confrontations between people and wildlife such as tigers, elephants and polar bears is growing. The main cause of these encounters is the decrease and fragmentation of their habitats. Solving this problem is more urgent than ever to maintain local support for nature conservation. WWF and partner WILDLABS challenge universities, tech savvy people, innovative thinkers and doers to come up with new or improved tools to prevent human-wildlife conflict. Winners of the first Human Wildlife Conflict Tech Challenge will receive 30,000 Euros each to further develop and test their idea in the field.

In India alone, between 2013 – 2016 more than 1200 people lost their lives in conflicts with elephants and more than 100 people were killed by tigers. In return, an average 40 elephants a year are killed in retaliation for the damage they have done. Over the last two decades hundreds of ‘conflict polar bears’ have been killed throughout the Arctic. In Alaska, more than 160 bears have been killed in the last 15 years. All three species are on IUCN’s Red List of Threatened Species. **We need better solutions.**

There are numerous measures and tools to prevent human-wildlife conflict, from electric fences to deep trenches, chili bombs, bees, fire crackers and flashlights to education and better land use planning. But these approaches are not effective enough, or come too late to prevent interactions between humans and wildlife from escalating into full conflict. .

To reverse this growing threat for local people and wildlife, WWF and WILDLABS challenge engineers, designers and nature lovers to come up with new solutions or improve existing ones. There are two cases for which solutions can be designed: one for elephants in India and one for predators (polar bear and tiger). The two winners receive 30,000 Euros each to further develop and test the idea in the field.

Proposals can be submitted from 3 July to 12 September 2017.

All information about the Tech Challenge is to be found on <https://www.wildlabs.net/hwc-tech-challenge>