

**The Influence of People's Practices and Beliefs on Conservation:
A Case Study on Human-Carnivore Relationships from the
Multiple Use Buffer Zone of the Panna Tiger Reserve, India**

S. S. Kolipaka*, G. A. Persoon, H. H. de Iongh and D. P. Srivastava

*Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Developmental Sociology, Leiden University,
Leiden, The Netherlands*

**E-mail: kolipaka.s.s@gmail.com*

KEYWORDS Human-Carnivore Interactions. Human-Wildlife Conflicts. Tolerance. Intrinsic Values. Norms. Non-monitory Motivators. Coexistence. Carnivores. Tigers. Social Factors

ABSTRACT The case presented in this paper is a unique situation of livestock pastoralists, living in the buffer zone of Panna Tiger Reserve in India, displaying unusually high tolerance towards large carnivores in spite of frequent predation incidents. The researchers dissect the case, examine local people's practices and draw attention to factors influencing people's practices. Through interviews and personal observations the researchers collected detailed information on people's practices and the factors influencing such practices. They collected information on large carnivores near 29 villages in the buffer zone and looked at factors influencing their presence in these areas. Their findings reveal the play and working of several social factors that are instrumental in influencing people's tolerance and people's behaviours towards forests and wildlife and recommend that carnivore conservation projects focusing outside protected areas should critically assess the influence of such aspects on their conservation goals. And wherever applicable, find ways to innovatively model them into their conservation plans.