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Title Research project	Community-Based Ecotourism as an effective Strategy to Reduce Human-Wildlife Conflicts: A Socio-Ecological Systems Perspective

### **Abstract**

Human wildlife conflicts have threatened human lives, livelihoods and wildlife at the same time reducing local support for conservation and creating resentment to conservation. They have come up as a result of competition for land use, as populations grow, habitats shrink hence the wildlife encroaches and feeds on domestic animals and field crops. Several methods have been suggested to mitigate this conflict, such as fencing and scaring off the wild animals but these have no lasting solutions as this conflict has escalated over the years. This research seeks to analyse the opportunities and strength of community based ecotourism as a meaningful strategy to reduce human wildlife conflicts. This strategy is expected to come out with more opportunities and strengths as a conflict resolution method for HWC as it advocates for co-existence with both sides benefiting from each other. The comparative study on levels of conflict between ecotourism areas and non-ecotourism areas is also expected to strengthen the expected results. The outcomes will make a significant contribution to the body of literature concerning HW conflict resolution strategies, specifically on the strengths, opportunities, constraints and weaknesses of community based ecotourism in Zimbabwe and Southern Africa as a whole.