

# Giants and Guardians: A Global Conservation Comparison 🌍

**Comparing Challenges & Solutions in Africa, the Us and Canada**



# **Challenges We Will Compare:**

1. Habitat Fragmentation
2. Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC)
3. Illegal Exploitation (Trade/Poaching)

# Challenge 1: Habitat Fragmentation

## Challenge 1: Sliced Habitats (Fragmentation)

**Definition:** "When human development (roads, towns, logging) cuts natural landscapes into isolated pieces."

### North American Example

**The Problem:** Highways and logging break up migration routes for **Grizzlies** and **Caribou**. Small populations get isolated and can't find new mates or enough resources.

### Africa Example

**The Problem:** Settlements and farms cut **Elephant Corridors**, preventing herds from reaching vital seasonal food and water sources.

**Connect the Dots:** "The problem is the same: the animals can't move."

### Global Solution Connectivity & Wildlife Crossings

(The need to link habitats).

**Resource Link for Students:** [Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative \(Y2Y\)](#)

# Solution Spotlight: Wildlife Crossings

**North America-** Massive **Overpasses** (bridges) and **Underpasses** (tunnels) are built over and under highways (e.g., Banff National Park, Utah). **Video Link: WATCH:** [Incredible Wildlife Overpass \(Video\)](#)

**Africa/Asia-** Similar **Underpasses** or dedicated **tunnels** are built beneath roads or railways, specifically designed for large, wide animals like elephants.

**Contrast:** "The engineering is the same—we're creating safe passage across human infrastructure.

**"Key Takeaway:** This is a **Universal Engineering Solution** to Fragmentation.

# Challenge 2: Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC)

## Challenge 2: Learning to Coexist (HWC)

**Definition:** "Conflict happens when our needs directly clash with an animal's needs (food, space, safety)."

**North America HWC- Grizzlies:** Attracted to human garbage, fruit trees, and unsecured food. Conflicts lead to the animal being **euthanized** or **relocated**. **Resource Link for Students:** [Getting along with grizzly bears \(Knowable Magazine\)](#)

**Africa HWC- Elephants:** Raid highly valuable crops (corn, wheat), leading farmers to use lethal force to protect their livelihoods.

**Focus:** "This is a survival issue for both the farmer and the elephant."

**"Principle Exchange Discussion Point:** Africa uses **non-lethal deterrents** like beehive fences to scare elephants away. What creative, non-lethal solutions can North America adapt for its bears or coyotes?

**Activity Resource:** [How to Outsmart an Elephant \(WWF Activity\)](#)

# Challenge 3: Illegal Exploitation

## Challenge 3: The Threat of the Trade (Poaching & Trafficking)

**Definition:** The illegal movement of animal parts for profit.

**Africa Focus- Poaching:** Elephants are targeted primarily for their **ivory**. This trade is a major driver of population collapse.

**Speaker Note:** "This is a global crime worth billions, often tied to organized crime networks."**U.S. / Canada Role-Consumer Market:** North America is a major destination for illegal wildlife products (exotic pets, illegal timber, animal parts). We are part of the *demand* chain.

**Action:** Discuss Canada's new restrictions on elephant ivory trade.

**Civic Action - Resource for Students:** [Illegal Wildlife Trade: Investigations \(WWF-UK\)](#)

# Conclusion and Next Steps

## Conclusion: Global Guardianship & Your Role

**Final Thought:** "Conservation is not just local; it requires a global exchange of ideas."

### Synthesis Questions:

1. How is a **Wildlife Overpass** in Banff National Park related to an **Elephant Tunnel** in India?
2. What is the most effective way a student can help stop the **Illegal Wildlife Trade**? (**Facilitate:** Encourage students to return to the Principle Exchange idea from Slide 4.)

**Homework / Next Step Assignment:** Review one of the linked resources. Write a 5-sentence summary of how that specific solution (e.g., beehive fences or Y2Y corridors) successfully addressed one of the three challenges we discussed today.

**Resource Links:** Provide the three most relevant links as a short list.



# Elephants - Grizzly Bear - Caribou

