

Case Study Data Collection Framework: AC Consultations with Wildlife

Taanishi/Hello! To help you navigate this document, please see table of contents below.

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*If you have already visited my webpage, you can skip section 1.

This research has been approved by the University of Saskatchewan Research Ethics Board

1. Introduction to Me, and My Research

Thank you so much for your willingness to participate in this study that will help us generate, prepare, and present information on Animal Communicator (AC) engagements with wildlife. Participation should take 7-21* hours of your time, and an honorarium will be provided to compensate for your time.

We hope that this research will provide crucial baseline knowledge for further study of animal communication, and its implications for research, policy, and fieldwork, such as land management, wildlife rehabilitation, conservation, or other environmental science work.

We are aiming for this research to pave the way for more-than-human animal voices to be heard, offering the opportunity to bring their voices forward for meaningful consultation in areas that impact them.

Finally, we hope that upon engaging with this research study and our findings, that Indigenous land managers can determine whether a collaboration with ACs is desired.

This research study will take a case study approach, and this case study framework document will:

- Provide guidance for us as we work together
- Help us determine if you have a case study that we might be able to use for this study
- Provide a framework to flush out the details of the case

*The amount of time needed to complete this project will be dependent on factors such as, the information you have readily available, the turnaround time for revisions of the document, whether you and the researcher work together on the first draft of the document or if you fill in the first draft independently.

2. Preparations for Working Together

Writing a case study is a collaborative endeavor; I look forward to working with you to document your project!

Before we meet, please ensure that you have carefully read and identified any questions you have about the consent form and this case study framework document. Both the consent form and case study framework documents are essential to ensuring an equitable and ethical partnership, and to manage expectations about the project moving forward.

The next step is that you and I will meet to a) review the consent form, b) make a final determination whether the case meets the criteria for my study; and c) assuming we go forward, determine how you would like to work together to document the case study. Options that are available to you are: a) you write the first draft by yourself and send it to me to provide input, or b) we co-construct the first draft during an in-depth zoom interview.

Once these pre-requisites are met, and you have signed and submitted the signature section of the consent form, then documentation of the case study can commence. **Even after our first meeting when I have answered your questions, I strongly encourage you to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you might have, and I will be happy to answer them.**

Please note: If your case is not selected for a full case study write-up, it may still be a valuable 'short synopsis', which is a very brief description of the case*. We can discuss this option as well. Note that given the limitations of funding for this project, there is no honoraria provided for short synopses. However, we hope that the knowledge that you are contributing to widening understanding of the ways in which IIC is used in wildlife contexts will be adequate compensation.

3. How to Construct a Case Study

This section outlines some general guidelines and provides an overview of typical content in a case study. It will also help us know whether your case study is a good candidate to document for this study. Please read on!

- The approximate length for each section is listed in italics at the beginning of each section. This suggested length is assuming you are using 12-point font, single spaced, with an estimated total of 6-12 pages. Any diagrams or charts may affect this, as will inclusion of documented dialogue with animals (if relevant and available).
- Any areas with blue italicized text are prompts to help you start writing and documenting your case. When documenting your case, please ensure that you maintain the anonymity of any third-party participants involved. This can be adhered to by carefully omitting identifiable

information about these individuals. We will need to talk through examples of how to do this appropriately as the narrative gets developed.

- Please note that your name will be changed in all versions of the case study and replaced with a pseudonym. This is an extra measure of precaution to help ensure the protection of any third-party participants involved in your case.
- You are welcome to share about your involvement in this study with others at any time during the project. Carefully consider the potential impact on other third-party participants involved as you share.
- After the first draft is completed, we will work together to review suggested edits, places to elaborate, or to pare down the case. This may require several back-and-forth emails and/or follow-up meetings to finalize the document.
- I may also need your advice about how to access important contextual information (e.g. historical documents that give background about the ongoing human-animal conflict situation in which you intervened; reports from community organizations that give follow-up information on the project in question). I will also need to add a section about methods, and how the case was documented (e.g. from memory, from detailed journal notes, etc.)

4. Case Study Content

4a. Case Study Title

4b. Case Study “Elevator pitch” (one or two sentence(s)):

- *Example: Two-year project working on relocation of pack of wolves, so humans and wolves could co-exist more peacefully after a period of discord between the two species.*

4c. Introduction (~2 pages, or 20% of the paper): This is the section where you describe the context from which the case study came about. Typically, you would identify your role in the project, as well as any other stakeholders (human or more-than-human) and your relationship with them. As you do so, however, be general so that they are not identifiable (e.g. a sanctuary director, rather than the name and location of the sanctuary). Identify the circumstances that led to your involvement in the project, how you were introduced to the (case/situation) and invited to become involved. Then finally, describe the significance of the project and its importance for the stakeholders. This can take the form of answers to the following questions:

- *Who? – How did you get involved? Were you invited by humans, by animals? Did you take the initiative to get involved?*
- *What? – Problem, situation, or question.*
 - *If you haven’t already done so, include a description of what the situation was before you arrived, why you were invited to get involved.*
 - *Did you have a prior relationship with any of the individuals involved, including the animals?*

- *When? Provide a timeline of events to get started -see the chart below as an example of the format you could use.*
 - o *Consider: when did each back-and-forth conversation happen? Were there multiple communications or a single communication? And any other details we may need to paint a fuller picture of the project.*

Sample timeline:

| Date | Event | Outcome |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| (example) 2008-2014 | Ongoing conflict between humans and wolves | Wolves were being shot as a means for population control, which was having a ripple effect on community and ecosystem wellbeing |
| (example cont'd) Oct. 2019 | I was contacted by a community member, and asked to mediate some problem-solving sessions between humans and wolves | I reached out to the wolves to see if they would be interested in participating in a mediation session |
| | | |

- *Why? – Describe the significance of the project.*
 - o *Why is your project important for the stakeholders, including both human and more-than-human?*

4d. Methods (~3 pages, or 30% of the paper): This is generally the longest section. This is where you describe in as much detail as you can, what happened during the project. First describe how you chose to proceed in order to address the problem/question/situation you outlined in the introduction and timeline. Then describe why those methods were chosen, whether they were appropriate, and what happened as a result of those chosen methods. Depending on how you think, the timeline chart, with an additional ‘comments’ column like the sample above, might be helpful. Some questions to get you started:

- *What did you do? Be sure to include your processes for initiating communication with the animal(s).*
- *How did you address the problem, situation, or question?*
- *Why did you address the problem, situation, or question this way?*
- *What happened?*

4e. Outcomes (if known) (~1.5 pages, or 15% of the paper): If you know the results, or outcomes, of the communication(s) please describe them. Be sure to identify (in general terms) your sources of information about results, keeping in mind the need for anonymity of third-party participants. First summarize key outcomes of your project, then elaborate on them with as great of detail as possible.

- *What was the outcome(s) of your project? How were you able to determine this? Please provide details, as much as you can.*
- *Reflect on the outcomes: For example, you could highlight results that were surprising for you, and similarly, you might highlight results that were unsurprising.*
 - o *Were there any outcomes or other things that happened that surprised you?*
 - o *Were there any outcomes or other things that happened that were unsurprising?*

4f. Discussion and Conclusion (~2.5 pages, or 25% of the paper): This section is meant for you to wrap up any final thoughts about the project. You might, for example, discuss whether your methods were effective, what you might change and what you might carry over in future projects. You might also share any tangible outcomes that came from your conversations with animals or other stakeholders, and your vision for future projects that might carry forward from this project, if applicable.

- *Were your methods effective? Provide details regarding how you know this.*
- *If you were to do this project again, what would you do differently?*
- *If you were to do this project again, what would you keep the same?*
- *Were there any tangible outcomes that came from your research/conversations with animals? With the humans involved?*
- *Were there any unanticipated consequences (positive, negative or neutral) for animals, humans, organizations, ecosystems?*

4g. Assumptions: Sometimes, when collecting data or conducting research, we make assumptions based on our worldview or how we perceive/experience the world around us. It is important that we list these assumptions so that those who read our research are well-placed to understand who we are as individuals and the baseline assumptions we have about IIC. *As we write the case, we will be able to identify assumptions that are important to make clear for readers.* I have done this in writing my own proposal, so I have listed some examples from my own list of assumptions below to help shape your own.

My Preliminary assumptions about IIC, and how ACs are using it:

- *ACs communicate with animals, and act as translators and/or mediators between animals and the humans they interact with.*
- *IIC is a nonverbal form of communication that can occur between two beings, regardless of distance.*

3h. Glossary of terms: If you use any jargon and/or acronyms in your paper, please be sure to either define them directly in your paper, or to list a glossary of terms at the end for those unfamiliar with the language used.

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This is a working document. Please contact sydney.kuppenbender@usask.ca for more information about this study, to participate, or for permission to use or adapt this form for your own research.

For primary researcher (Sydney Kuppenbender)’s use:

Case Study Number: _____

Case Study Author Pseudonym: _____