History
Conserving ecological connectivity allows species to adapt to the challenges of a growing human population. Connectivity reduces human-caused fragmentation by linking landscapes, enabling species to move and ecosystems processes to flow.

Under the IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas, the Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group’s (CCSG) ultimate goal is to improve ecological connectivity on a global scale through the identification, retention and effective management of Areas of Connectivity Conservation. Within these areas, roads, and other linear infrastructure, such as railways and canals, have significant impacts on natural systems. This type of infrastructure becomes a barrier to ecological connectivity, and can increase wildlife collisions that threaten human safety.

Transport Working Group
The CCSG has formed the Transport Working Group (TWG) to provide guidance on strategies that avoid, minimize, mitigate or compensate for the impacts of surface transportation systems on connectivity.

The Future
The guidance developed by the Transport Working Group can also be used more broadly, not solely within Areas of Connectivity Conservation. TWG’s reports, case studies and website information will synthesize existing documents from around the world. They intend to complement, rather than replicate, other international efforts by providing resources at variety of scales. These include broad global goals and finer scale, project-level design and technical specifications. TWG will create “living” documents and websites providing guidance that can be added to, and updated, as new information becomes available.
DEVELOPING CONNECTIVITY-SENSITIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

Process
The TWG will collaborate with international partners to help make transport systems more permeable and reduce their lethality to species in the following arenas:

POLICY
Inform legislative and administrative efforts by providing examples of codes, standards, legal provisions and other specifications.

SCIENCE
Gather best available science regarding a) transport systems' impacts b) monitoring effectiveness, c) prioritization of mitigation locations and future research

FINANCE
Evaluate financial tools that encourage the design and implementation of best practices.

CULTURAL
Engage with local, regional and national communities as appropriate to design and implement best practices sensitive to cultural concerns.

PRACTICE
Provide technical designs and engineering techniques that support effective mitigation of transport infrastructure.

RESILIENCE
Identify strategies that promote ecological connectivity while addressing the effects of climate change and extreme natural events.

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