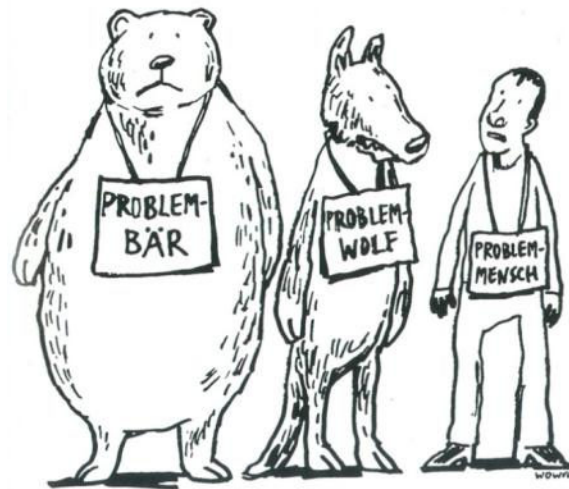


Man & Large Carnivores

Manuela von Arx



Carnivore Ecology & Wildlife Management

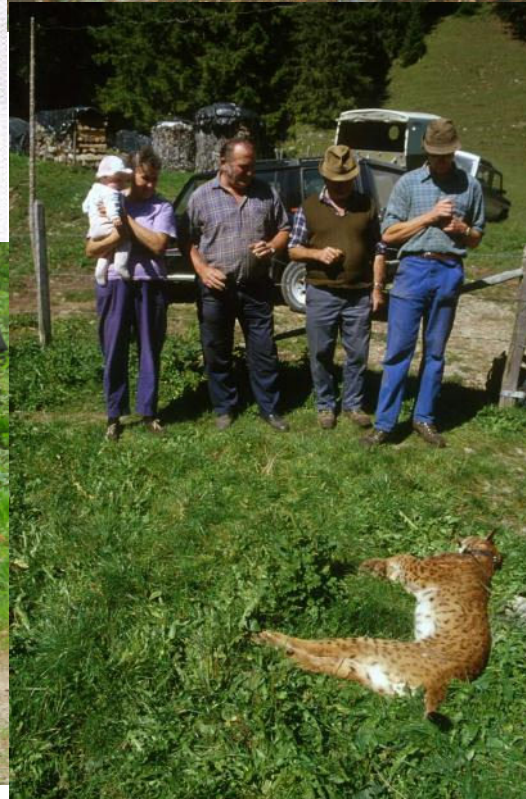
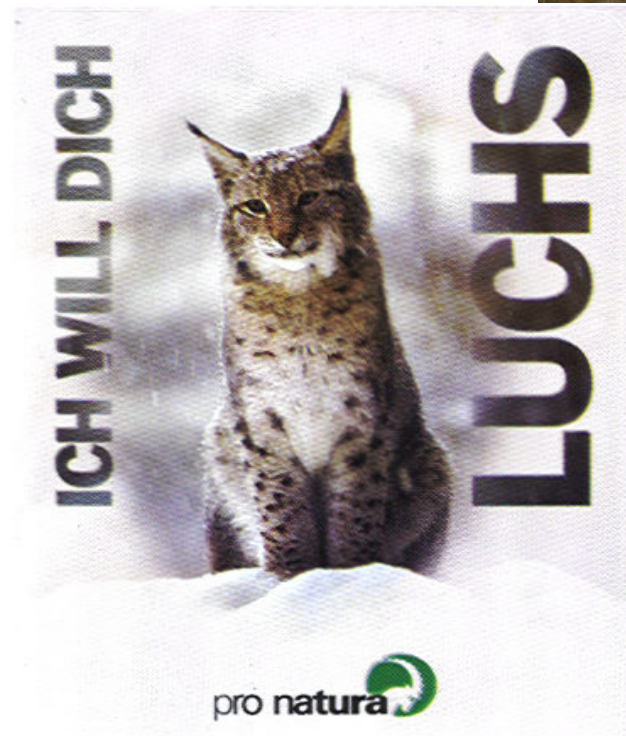
Man & Large Carnivores

Case Study Switzerland

1. Conflicts related to large carnivores
2. Measures to reduce conflicts
3. Policy
4. «Human dimensions» and communication

1. Conflicts related to large carnivores

Which kind of conflicts exist related to large carnivores?



Cognitive Conflicts:

- Differences in thinking & in perception, knowledge & information

Examples:

- Numbers, densities and trends of large carnivore populations
- The extent to which the modern European landscape provides potentially suitable habitats for large carnivores
- The extent to which large carnivores pose a risk to human safety
- The extent of depredation of large carnivores on livestock compared to other mortality factors
- The impacts of large carnivores on prey species and on hunting
- The ecological role of large carnivores
- Misperceptions concerning the role of different management levels
- Misinformation

Value conflicts:

- Difference in the importance of an issue (if an issue is considered good or bad, right or wrong)

Examples:

- The right to exist & «benefit» of large carnivores (What do we need large carnivores for?)
- Nature protection vs. nature use / The role of humans in and with nature, respectively
- Symbolic meaning of large carnivores in relation with subjects they are only marginally concerned with
 - > particularly what concerns changes in rural areas (e.g. decline of traditional rural economic activities, urbanisation and shifts from traditional to modern lifestyles, lack of respect for local knowledge)

Economic conflicts:

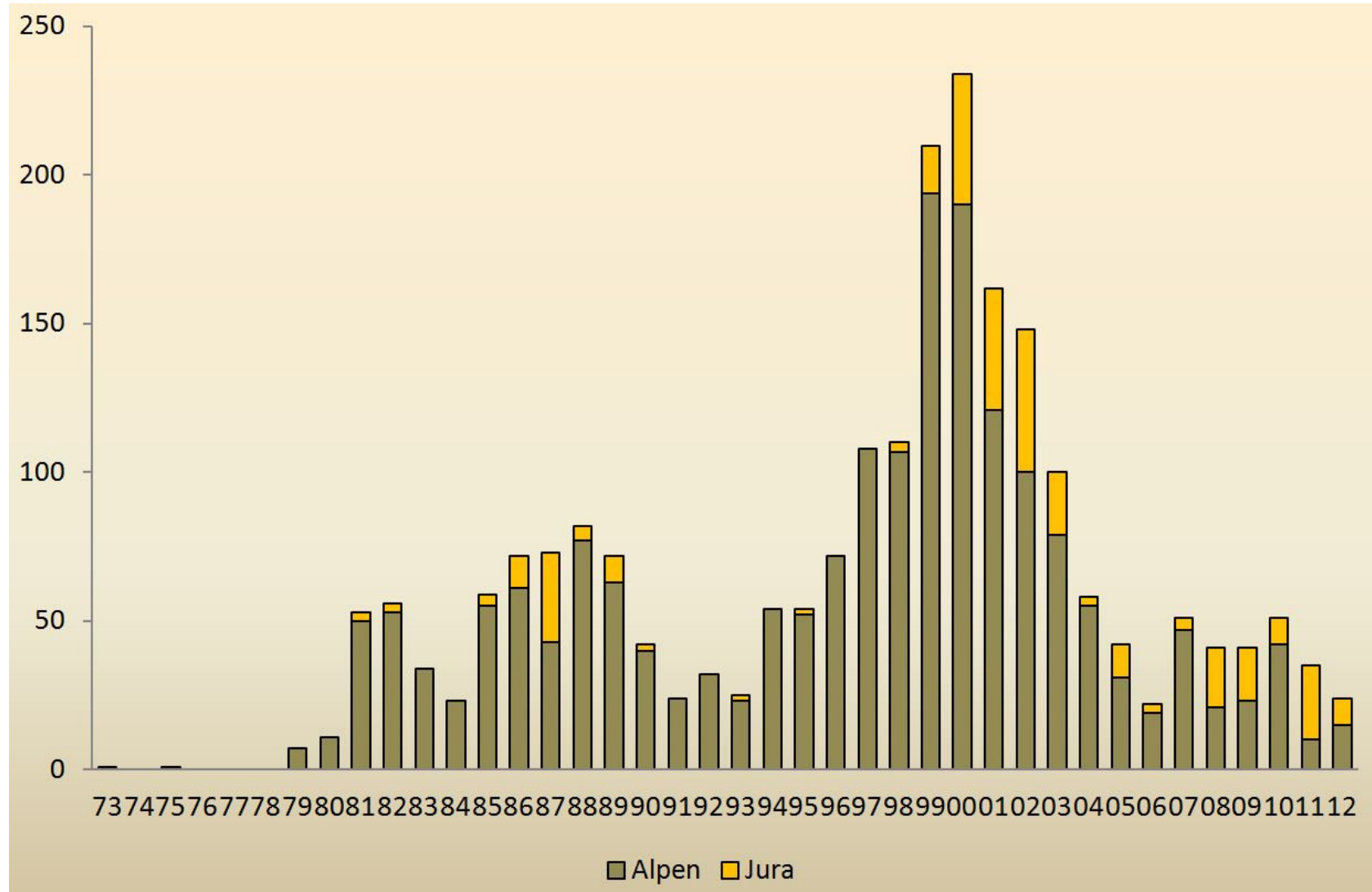
- Differences perceived between costs and benefits of an issue people/interest groups experience

Examples:

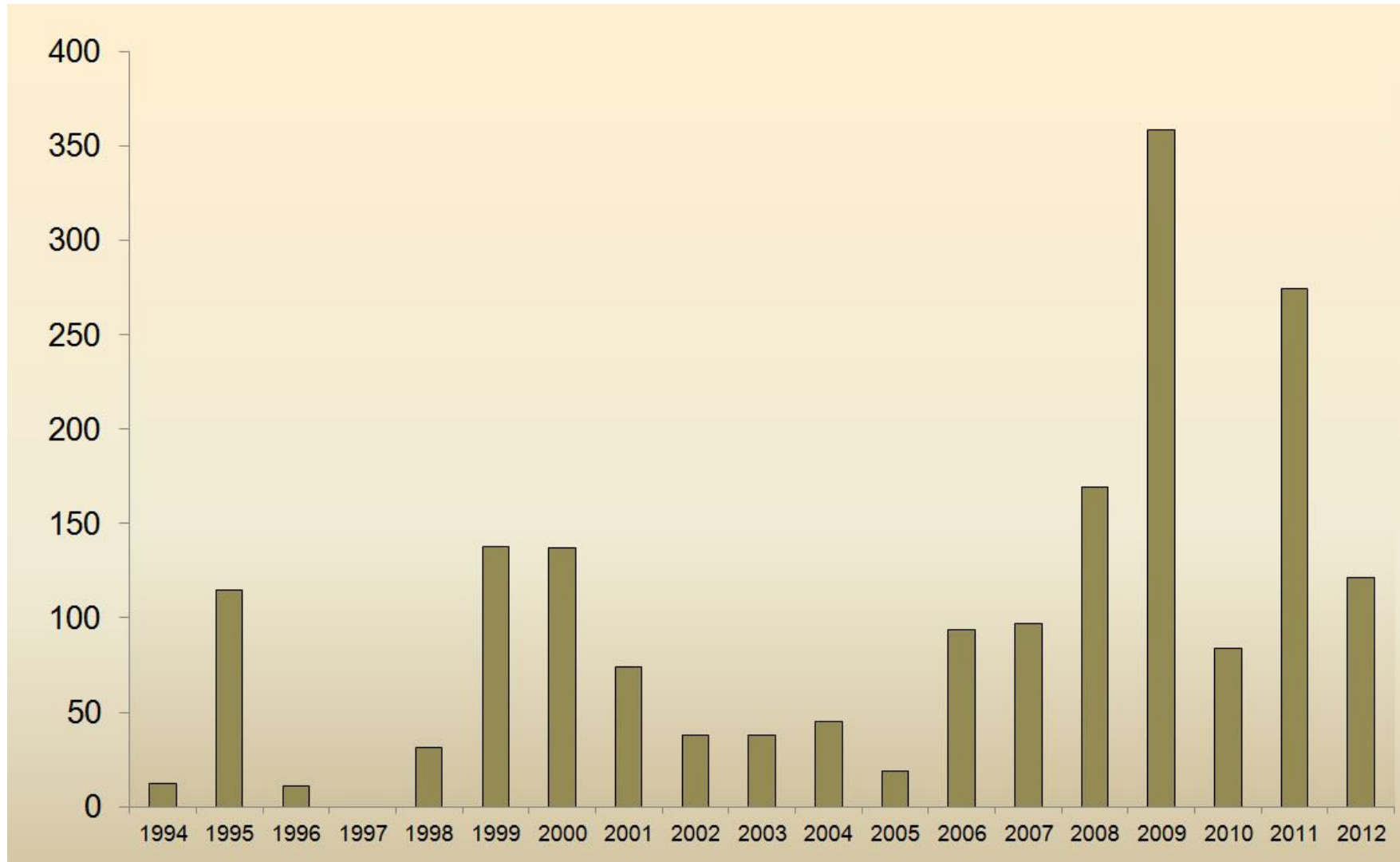
- Depredation on domestic livestock
- Destruction of beehives and other private property by bears
- Competition for shared «prey» between hunters and large carnivores
- Vehicle collisions with large carnivores
- The danger of injury for humans by large carnivores (is very low but perception is often different and fear is widespread)



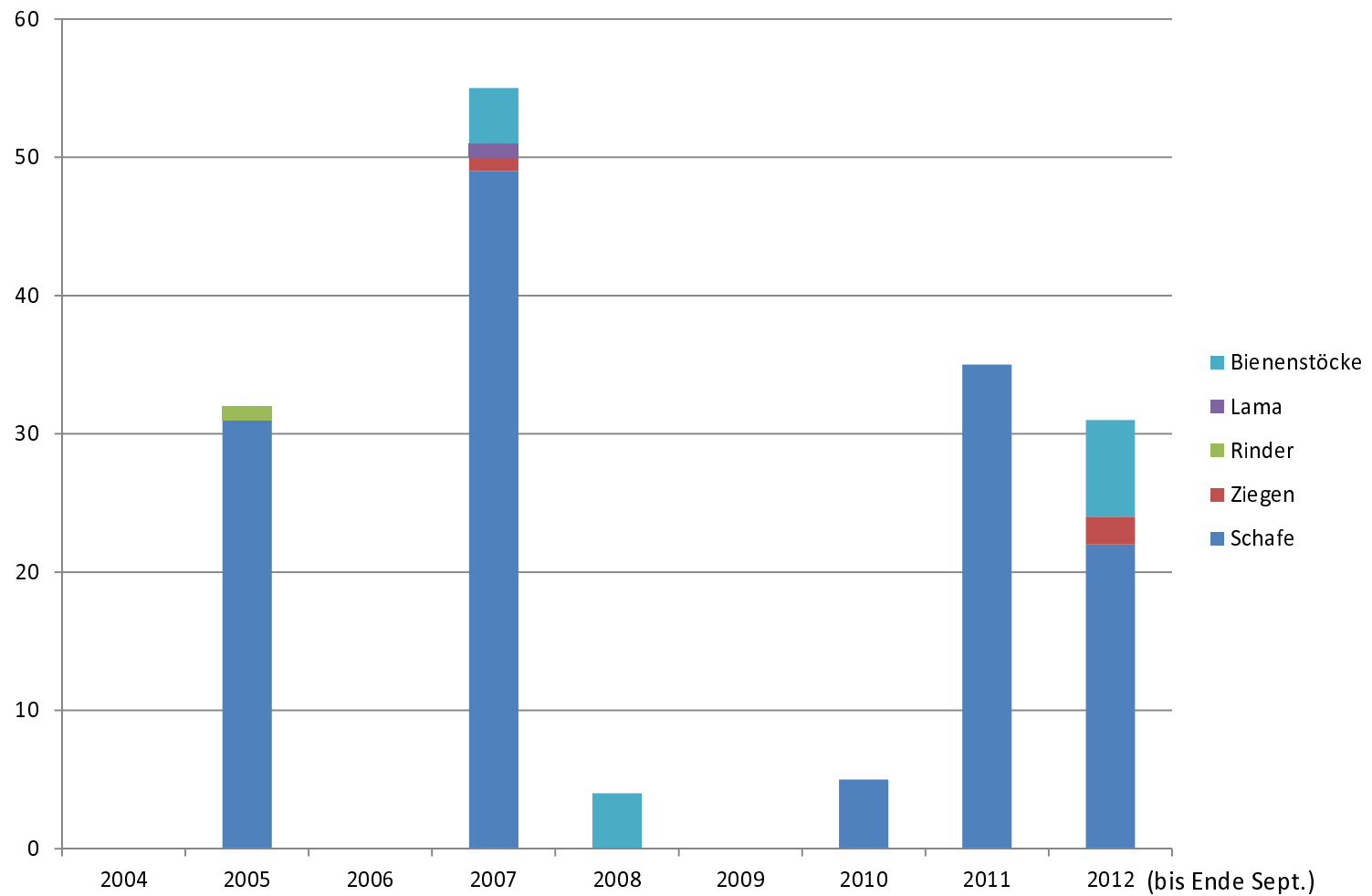
Economic conflicts: Number of livestock killed by lynx in CH 1973-2012



Economic conflicts: Number of livestock killed by wolves in CH 1994-2012



Economic conflicts: Number of livestock killed and bee hives plundered by bears in CH 2004-2012



Behavioural conflicts / Relationship conflicts:

- Personal conflicts between individuals or organisations

Examples:

- Can concern subjects that have nothing to do with the current issue
 - The underlying cause can lie in the past
 - Mistrust towards authorities / other interest groups / single individuals
 - Insufficient integration of relevant stakeholders
-
- **Most conflicts in wildlife and natural resources management are behavioural / relationship conflicts**

A combination of different conflicts affects the acceptance toward large carnivores: e.g. Lynx Simmental (canton of Bern, CH)

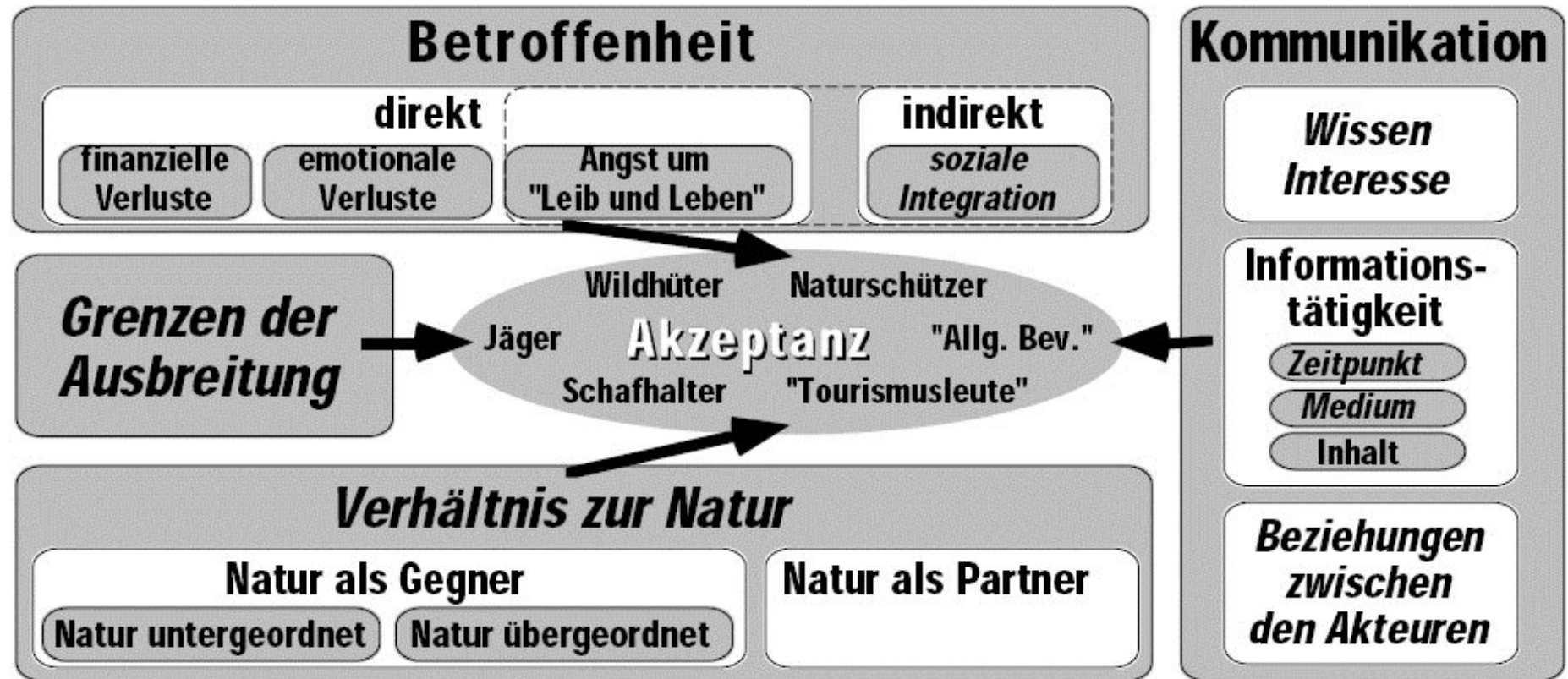


Abb. 1: Faktoren, von denen die Akzeptanz des Luchses abhängt (*kursiv* = wichtigste Faktoren).
Fig. 1: Facteurs dont dépend l'acceptation du lynx (*en italique* = facteurs importants).

Egli et al. 1998

2. Measures to reduce conflicts

Which measures are taken in Switzerland to reduce these conflicts or to avoid them, respectively?

Compensation of damages:

- Lynx (2008-2012): between 6'500 CHF and 17'000 CHF per year
 - Wolf (2008-2010): between 56'000 CHF and 145'000 CHF per year
 - Bear (2006-2011): between 0 CHF and 46'000 CHF per year
- Separation of the costs: 80% paid by the state (OFEV), 20% paid by the canton concerned

Compensation for lynx presence:

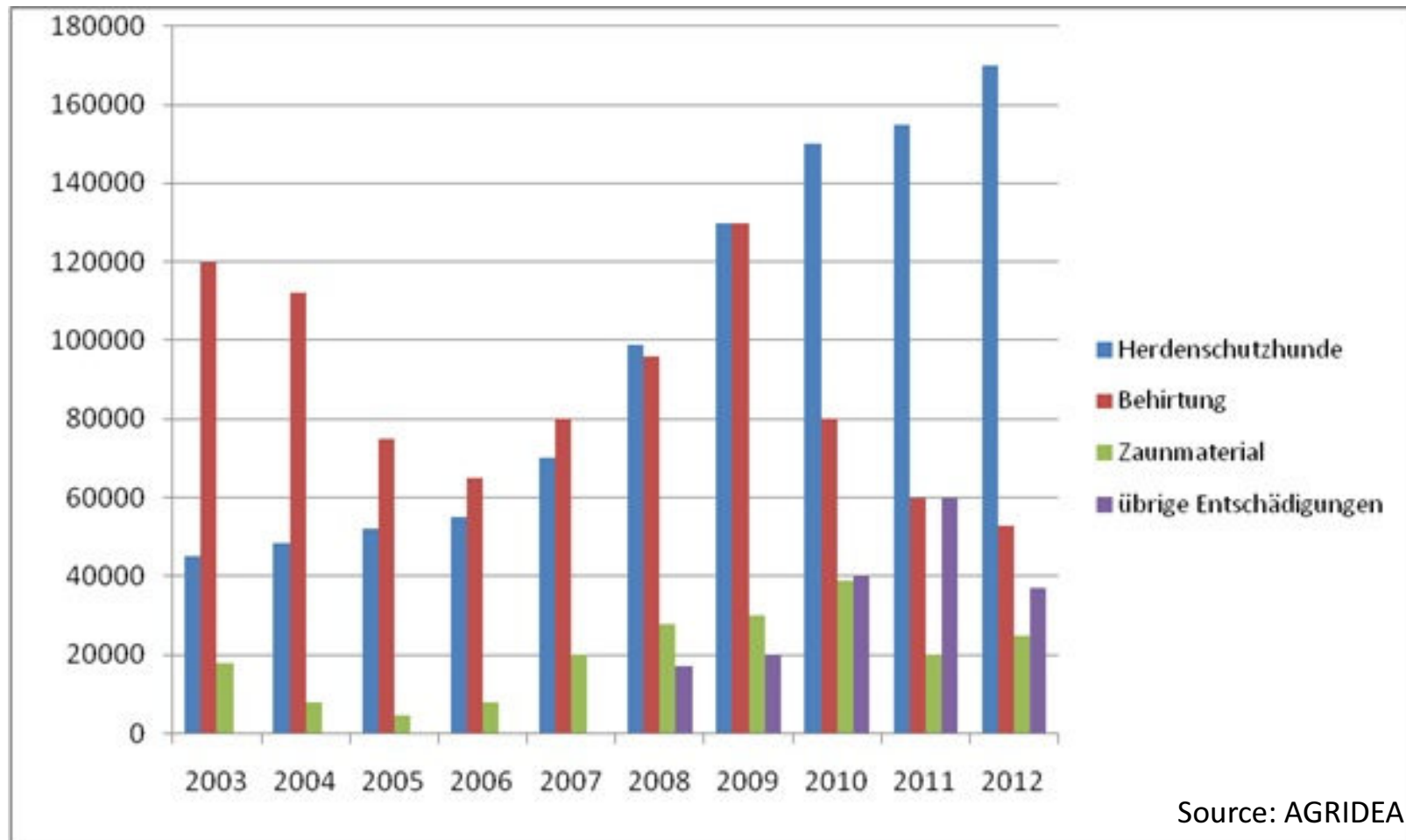
- Three cantons (Solothurn, St. Gallen, Zürich) pay compensation to hunting associations for lynx presence in their hunting ground

Damage prevention / Protection of flocks: **Methods**

- Livestock guarding dogs
- Shepherding
- Electric fences
- Bear: Garbage concept



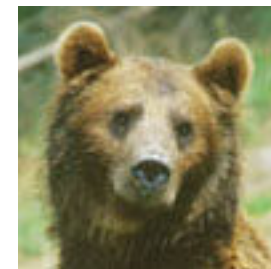
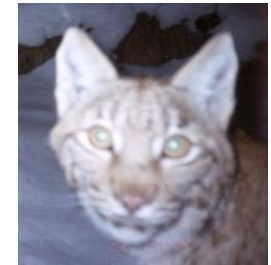
Damage prevention / Protection of flocks: Costs



➤ Budget for prevention measures in 2012: **850'000 CHF**

Removal of individuals causing damage: **Criteria**

- 35 livestock within 4 consecutive months
 - or at least 25 livestock within 1 month
 - Damages within a defined perimeter
 - Shooting permission valid for 60 days
-
- 15 livestock in a perimeter of 5 km radius within 12 months (12 if damage already during the previous year)
 - Shooting permission valid for 60 days
-
- «Risk bears:
 - No shyness towards humans besides aversive conditioning
 - Aggressive behaviour; chasing, attacking, killing of a human



Removal of individuals causing damage: Numbers



1997-2003: 7 Lynx



2000-2010:
7 Wolves



2008-2013:
2 Bears

Illegal killings / «self-justice»:



Illegal killings / «self-justice»:



Roughly 30 % of the lynx found dead in CH contained lead

Information / «Public awareness»:

- Which message shall be transmitted?
- With which media?
- Who is informing?
- Who is informed?
- At what time ?
- Adapt the language!



Information is important BUT:

- Information has no significant influence on the acceptance of large carnivores
- Information can polarise (role of the media...?!)
- Except for cognitive conflicts information material, education, sensibilisation etc. are not measures that help to resolve conflicts!

And what about behavioural / relationship conflicts?



(Pro Natura magazine 1/1999)

3. Policy

What are the political developments concerning «Man and Large Carnivores»?

Political demarches:

- 28 motions, interpellations or postulates concerning large carnivores were treated by the Swiss parliament from 2001 to 2010.
 - The majority of motions aimed at weakening the protection of large carnivores or declining the damage and increasing the compensation of damage caused by large carnivores, respectively.
 - The peak was in the years 2009-2010 when it came to 7 and 5, respectively, political demarches.
- While demarches up to 2008 were mainly denied, things changed in 2009/10.

Quelle: <http://www.bafu.admin.ch/dokumentation/gesetzgebung/01225/03179/03181/index.html?lang=de>



Political demarches: 2009-2010

	Year	Name of demarche	Type & ID of demarche	Parliamentarian
+	2010	Large carnivore management. Facilitated regulation	Motion 10.3605	Hansjörg Hassler
+	2010	Revision of Article 22 of the Bern Convention	Motion 10.3264	Jean-René Fournier
+	2010	Support for the State for the livestock protection in regard to large carnivores	Motion 10.3242	Hansjörg Hassler
-	2010	Room for manoeuvre for a useful regulation of the wolf population	Motion 10.3098	Viola Amherd
+	2010	Prevention of damage due to large carnivores	Motion 10.3008	Commission NR
	2009	Large carnivore concepts	Interpellation 09.3952	Ruedi Lustenberger
+	2009	Prevention of wildlife damage	Motion 09.3951	Ruedi Lustenberger
-	2009	Downgrading of the wolf protection status in the Bern Convention	Motion 09.3813	Roberto Schmidt
+	2009	Regulation of the wolf and large carnivore populations	Motion 09.3812	Roberto Schmidt
-	2009	Withdraw from the Bern Convention	Motion 09.3790	Oskar Freysinger
	2009	Lynx reintroduction project LUNO	Interpellation 09.3503	Maximilian Reimann
	2009	Conflicts of interest between lynx and hunters	Interpellation 09.3284	Tiana Angelina Moser

➤ Implementation mainly through revision of the Hunting Ordinance.



Revision of the Ordinance for Hunting and the Protection of wild living mammals and birds (JSV):

- Under certain circumstances the cantons can ask for temporary measures to regulate populations of protected species (like large carnivores)
- The large carnivore concepts (=management plans) are currently under revision (to include criteria for «regulation»)

Joint position paper on large carnivore policy of the following national associations:



JagdSchweiz
ChasseSuisse
CacciaSvizzera
CatschaSvizra



Schweizerischer Schafzuchtverband
Fédération suisse d'élevage ovin
Federazione svizzera d'allevamento ovino



Bern, 8. Mai 2012

Gemeinsame Grundsätze der Verbände zur Grossraubtierpolitik

Die vier Verbände JagdSchweiz, Pro Natura, Schweizerischer Schafzuchtverband und WWF Schweiz haben sich auf gemeinsame Grundsätze, Ziele und Handlungsfelder in der Grossraubtierpolitik geeinigt. Sie verpflichten sich zu einer lösungsorientierten Zusammenarbeit.

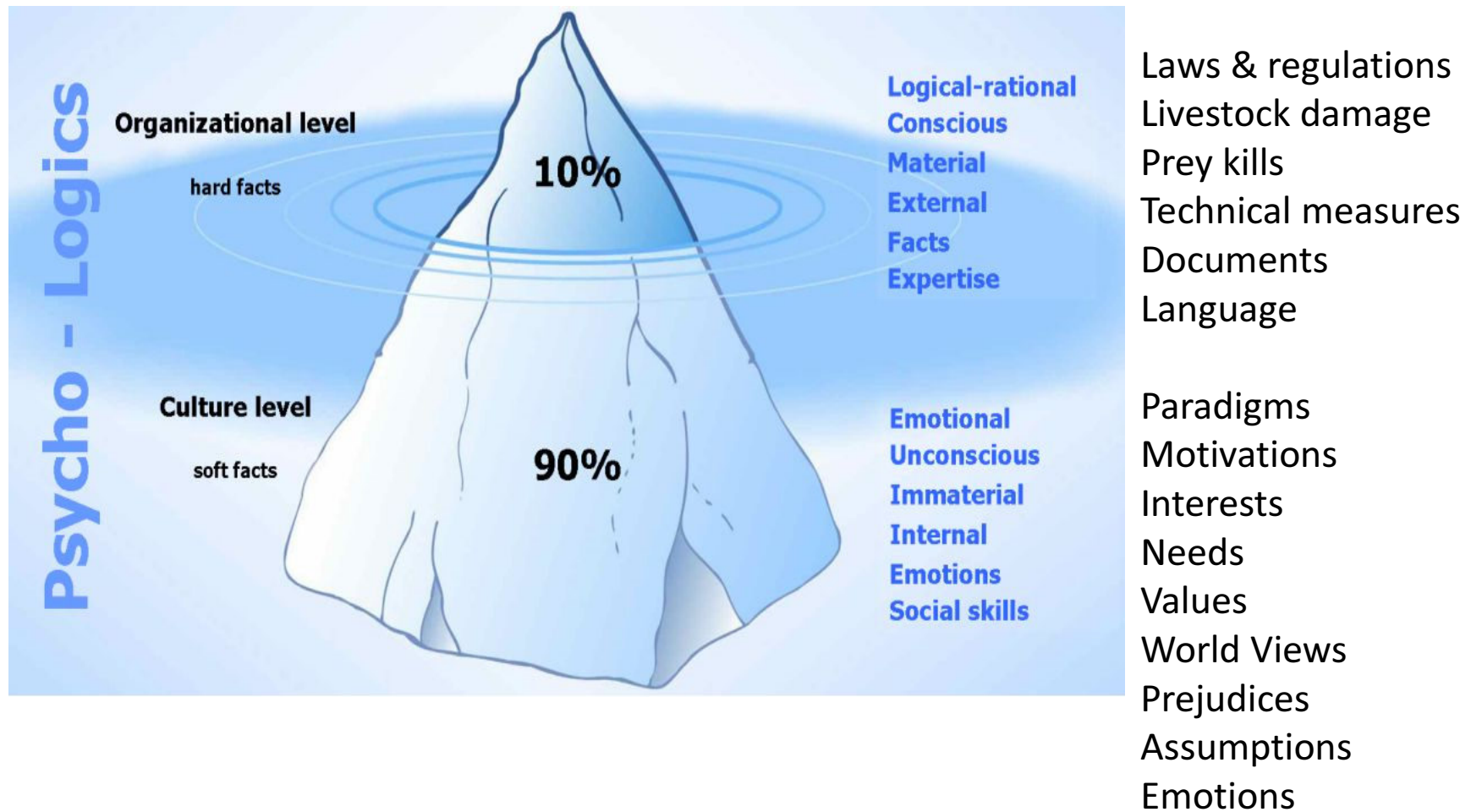
4. «Human dimensions» and communication

Why are the measures presented so far not sufficient and what is needed for a comprehensive approach?

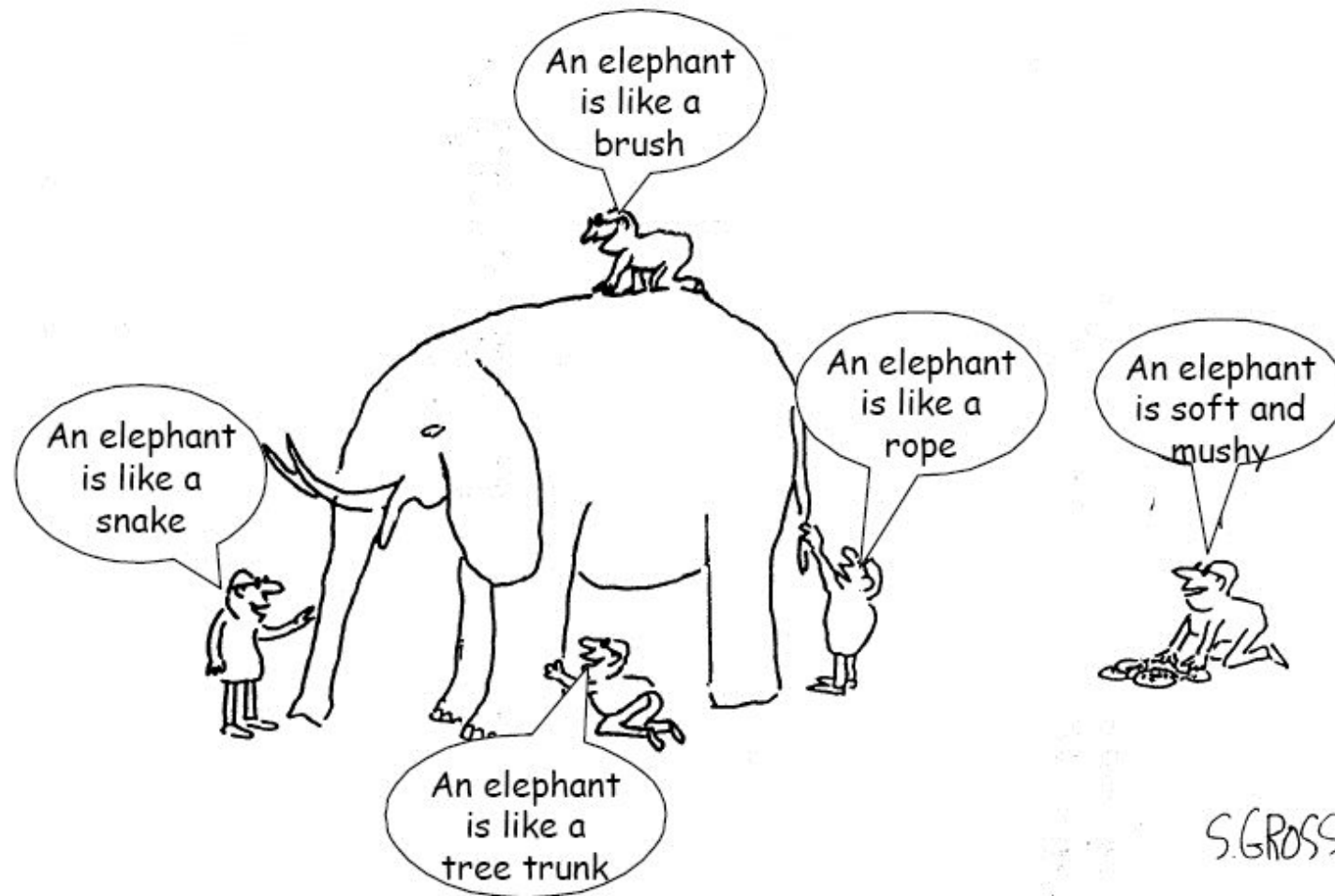
Why «human dimensions»?

- Significant conflicts often remain even after „damages“ were reduced.
 - Most approaches (and studies) only consider the technical aspects of conflict resolution (e.g. prevention methods, compensation).
 - However, the attitude of local people towards large carnivores is complex
 - with social and cultural factors influencing the conflict intensity.
- Man-large carnivore conflicts are often manifestations of underlying human-human conflicts
- Aim of human dimension research: to understand the attitude towards large carnivores and their management and identify conflicts.
- But then not only „study“ people but collaborate with them!

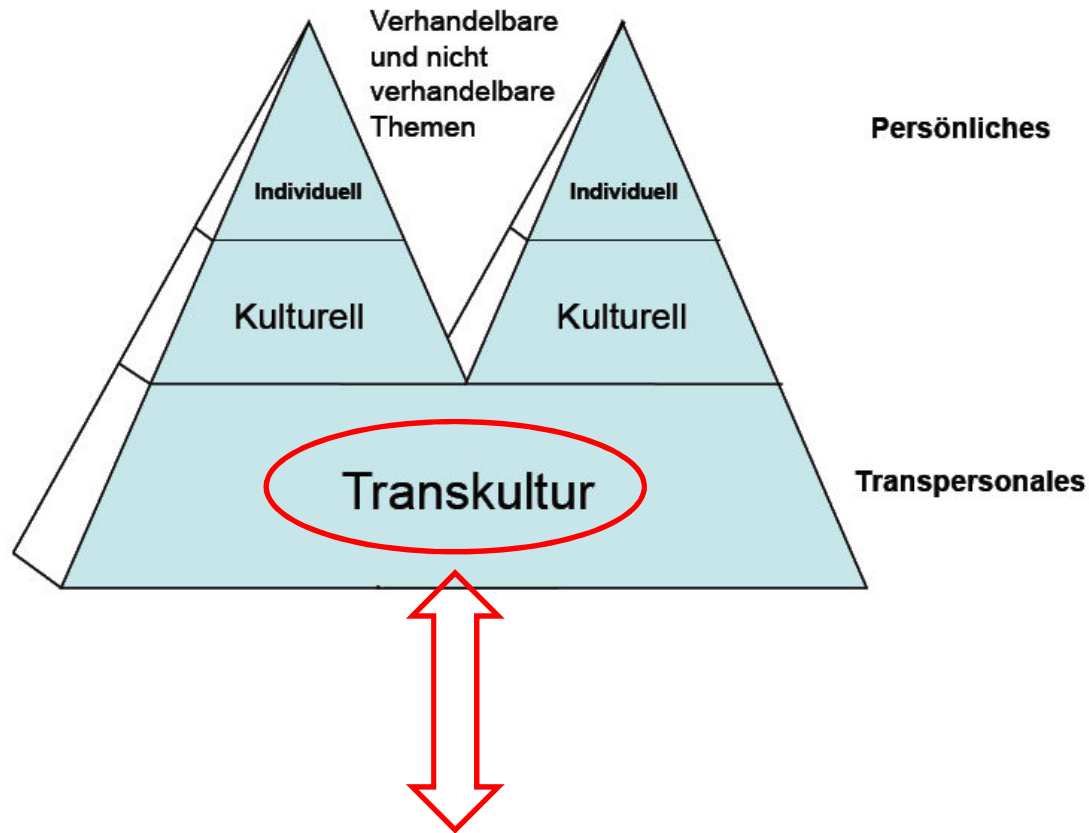
Culture-iceberg: e.g. large carnivore management



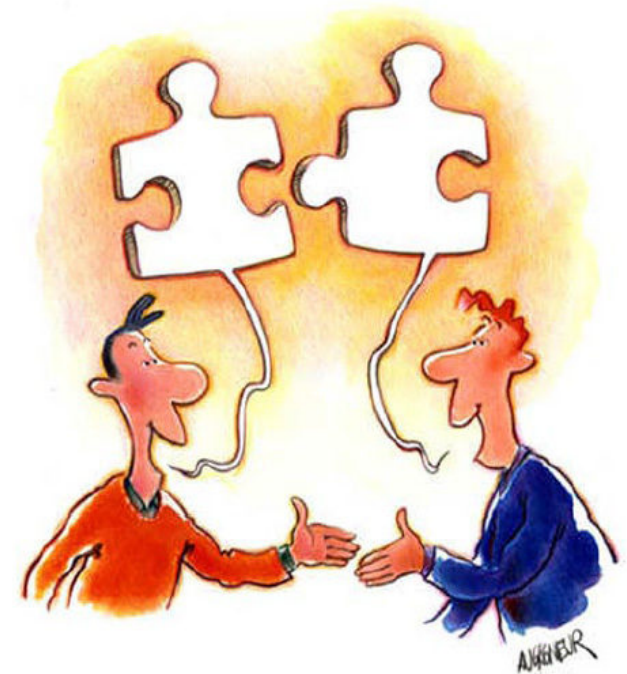
Differences in world views and perceptions:



Extended culture-iceberg-model:



through communication



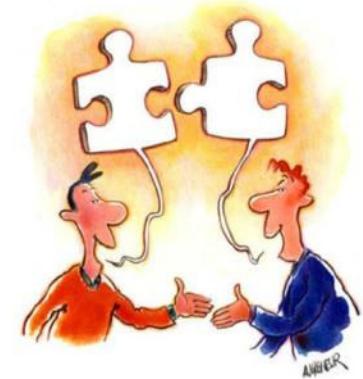
Communication:

- 10 % verbal
- 20-25 % para-verbal (e.g. volume, voice level)
- ca. 65 % non-verbal (e.g. body language, gestures)

- «One cannot not communicate.» Every behaviour is communication and communication influences behaviour.

- «Every communication has a content aspect and a relation aspect.» Later determines the first.
(Paul Watzlawick)

- «We are born with two ears and one mouth, and we should be listening at least as twice as much as talking (to the various interest groups and general public)» (Alistair Bath)



Thank you for your attention:



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