

Attitudes Towards Large Carnivores in Protected Areas. A Comparison between Berchtesgaden National Park and Maramures Mountains Nature Park



Michaela KÜNZL
Jochen GRAB
Catriona BLUM

Bear, Wolf and Lynx in the Alps
March 13th 2009
Mittersill
Hohe Tauern National Park/Austria



Costel BUCUR



Outline



- Site location and park zonation
- Background information on both parks
- Comparative Conducted Questionnaires
- Key results
- Role of the (National) Parks
- Take home message
- Discussion



SITE LOCATION



PARK ZONATION






Berchtesgaden National Park



Maramures Mountains Nature Park



-  Core area
-  Transition zone
-  Management zone

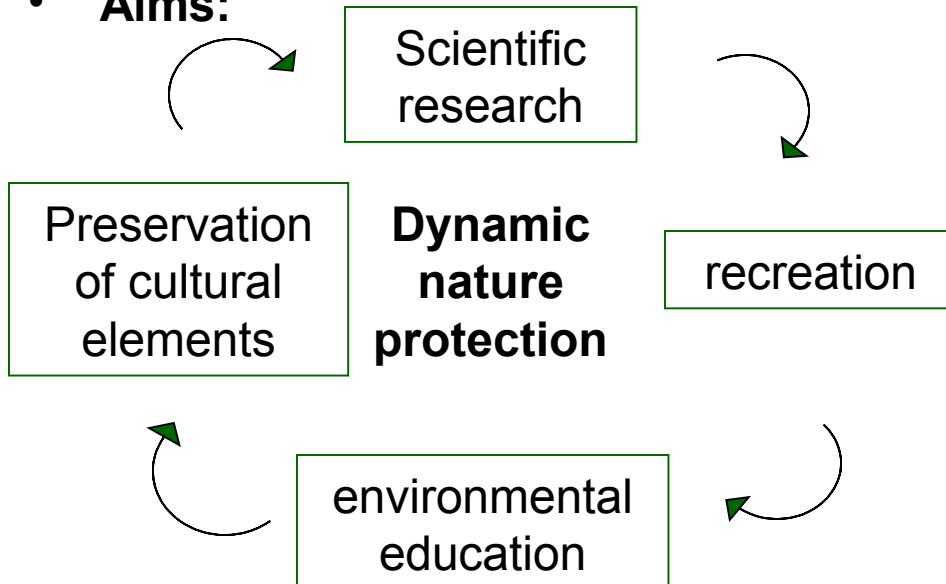
BACKGROUND



Berchtesgaden National Park

- established 1978
- IUCN category II
- staff: 65 positions
- Budget: ~ 4 mil. €
- Subordination: Bavarian Ministry of Environment

Aims:



Maramures Mountains Nature Park

- established 2005
- IUCN category V
- Staff: 16 positions (+50 foresters)
- Budget: ~ 0,14 mil. €
- Subordination: National Forest Administration

Aims:

- natural landscapes protection
- biodiversity preservation
- sustainable forestry
- preservation of local traditions
- encourage tourism on the basis of these values

CARNIVORE POPULATION

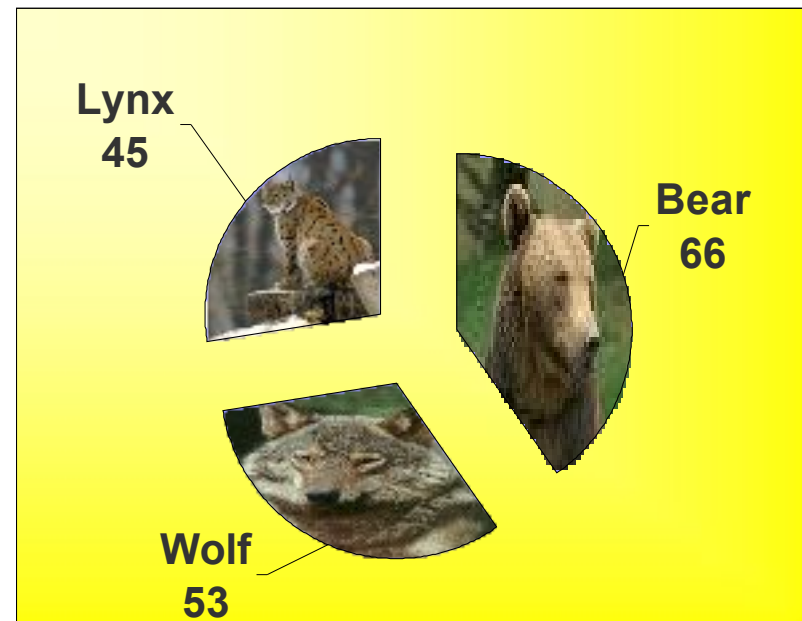


Berchtesgaden National Park

Maramures Mountains Nature Park

Last animals in Bavaria:

- bear – 1835
- wolf – 1882
- lynx – 1897



Which of these attributes do you associate with bear, wolf and lynx?

You can tick more than one.



Berchtesgaden National Park

	bear	wolf	lynx
beautiful	48	30	75
intelligent	52	66	54
shy	47	60	80
secretive	26	41	67
strong	93	24	13
fast	26	50	75
nice/cuddly	7	1	8
greedy	31	21	6
dangerous	41	43	10
bad/evil	2	11	3

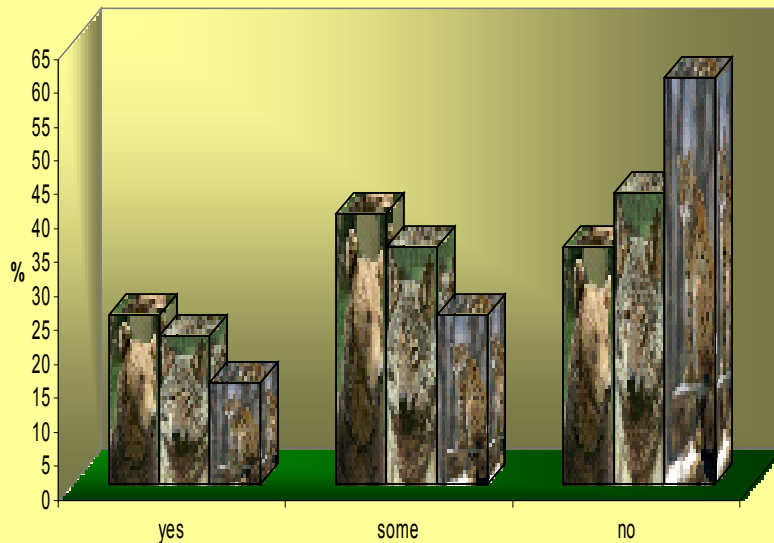
Maramures Mountains Nature Park

	bear	wolf	lynx
beautiful	40	15	51
intelligent	14	44	27
shy	10	14	19
secretive	14	16	43
strong	58	18	11
fast	13	40	41
nice/cuddly	9	2	24
greedy	14	36	12
dangerous	41	35	18
bad/evil	15	21	10

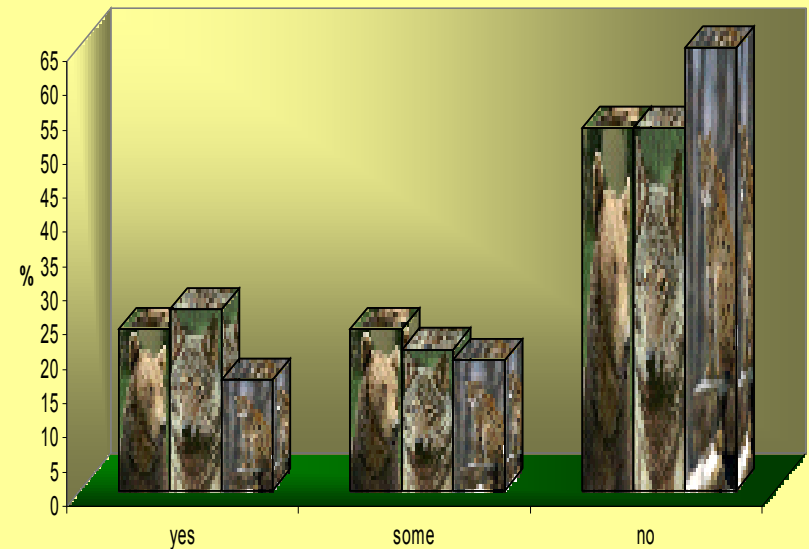
Do you have reservations about going to an area inhabited by bear, wolf or lynx?



Berchtesgaden National Park



Maramures Mountains Nature Park

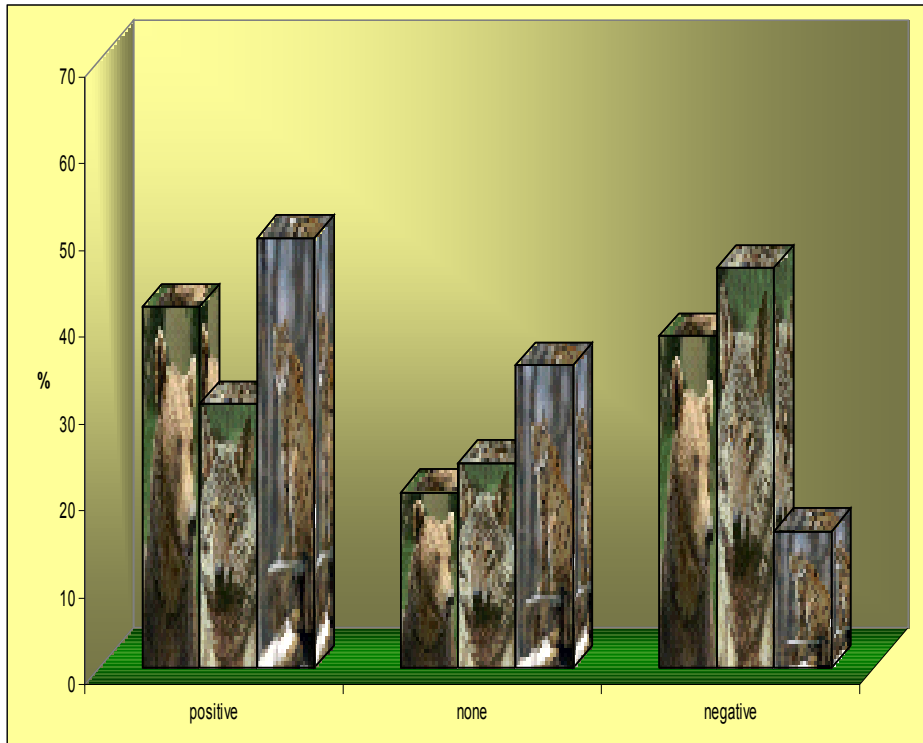


- Reservations are bigger in Berchtesgaden
- Smallest reservation to go to an area inhabited by lynx

How (would) does the presence of wolf, bear and lynx affect tourism (development) in the region?

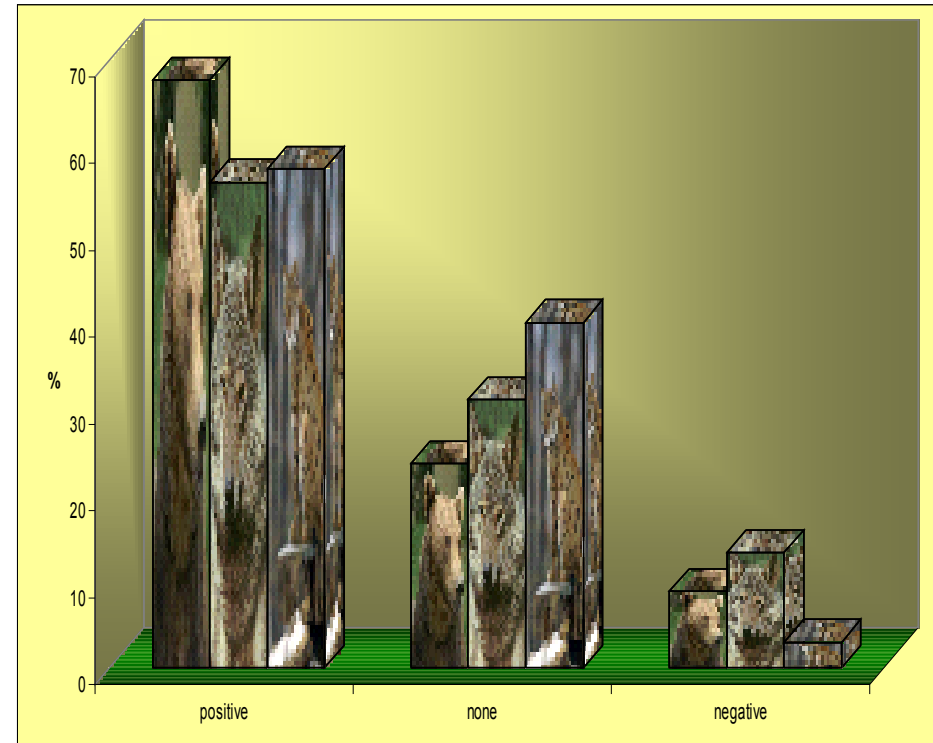


Berchtesgaden National Park



tourist repellents

Maramures Mountains Nature Park



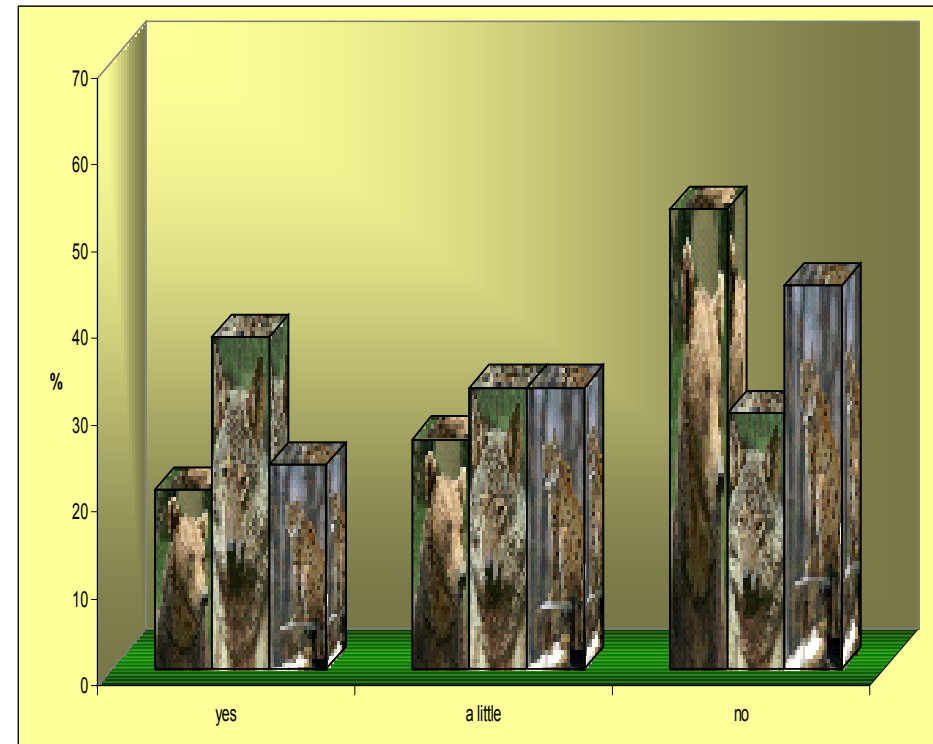
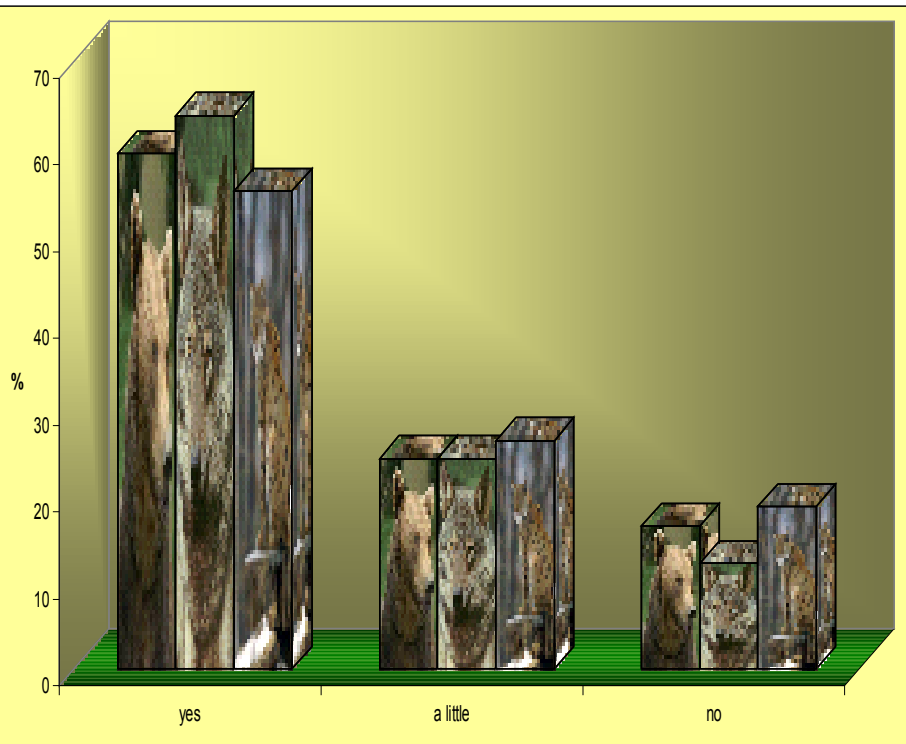
tourist magnets

Do you have the perception that bear, wolf and lynx are (serious) competitors of hunters?



Berchtesgaden National Park

Maramures Mountains Nature Park

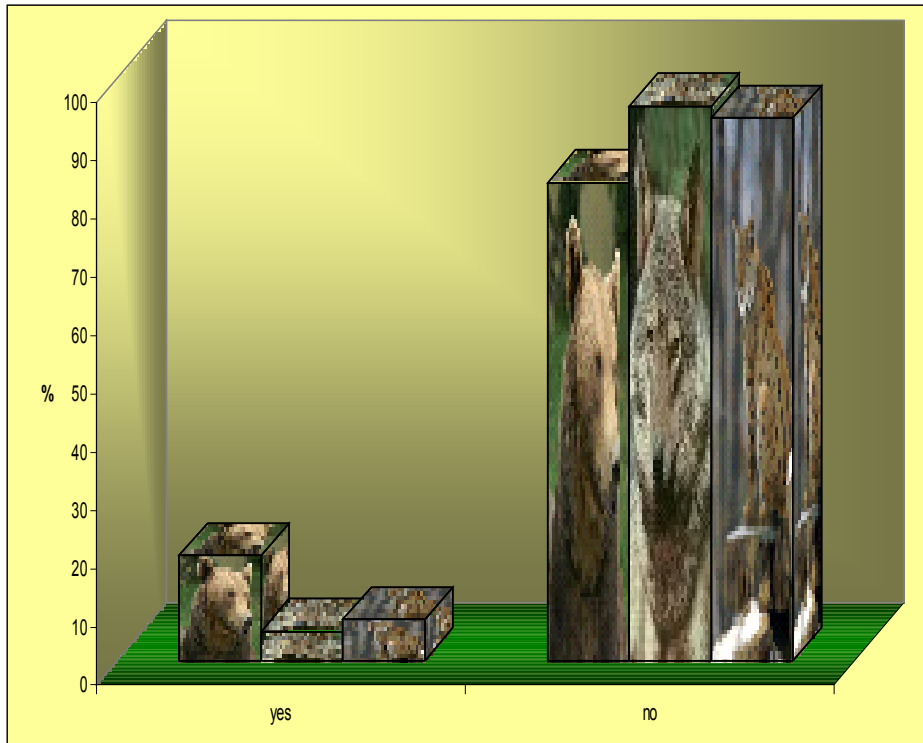


- In Berchtesgaden all carnivores are seen as serious competitors
- In Romania the wolf is regarded to compete with hunters

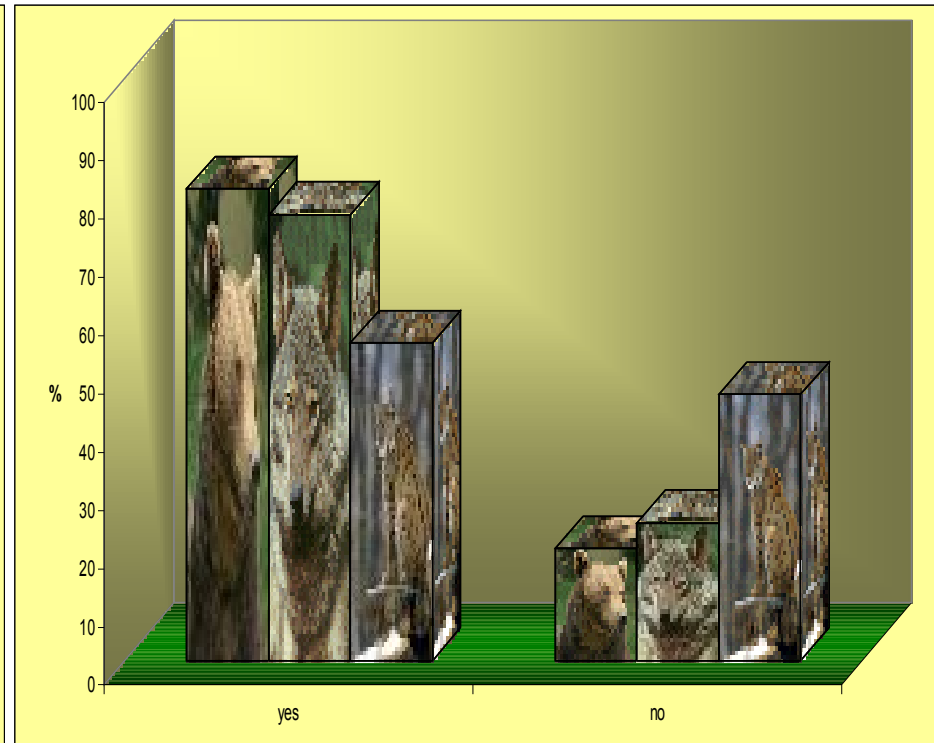
Have you ever seen a bear, wolf or lynx in the wilderness or their footprints?



Berchtesgaden National Park



Maramures Mountains Nature Park

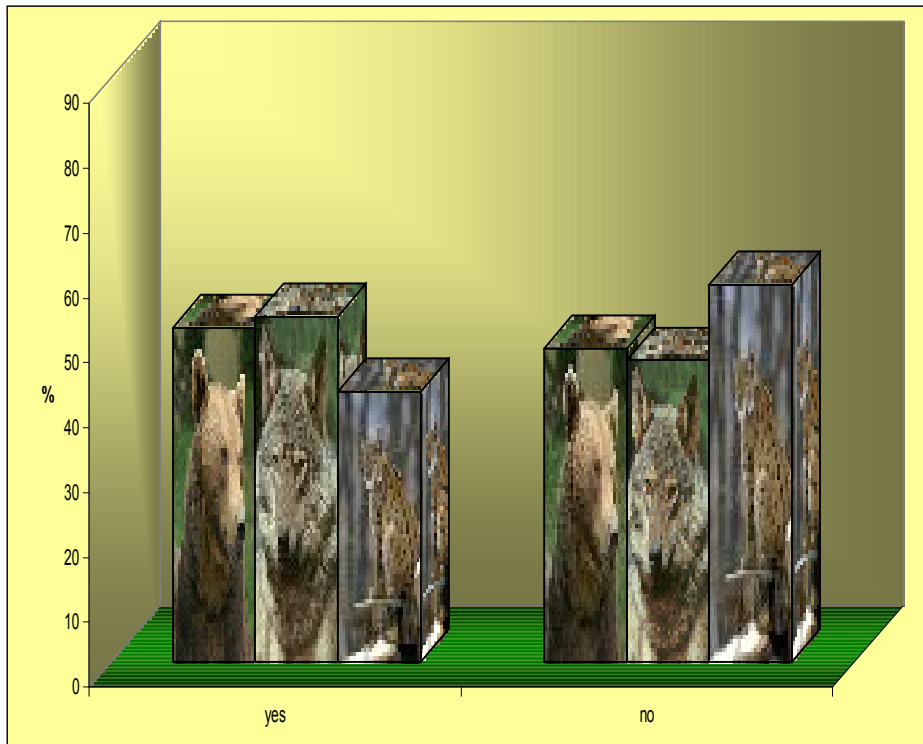


- In Berchtesgaden very few people have encountered these animals or seen their footprints

Does the presence of bear, wolf or lynx negatively affect livestock husbandry in the region?



Berchtesgaden National Park



Maramures Mountains Nature Park

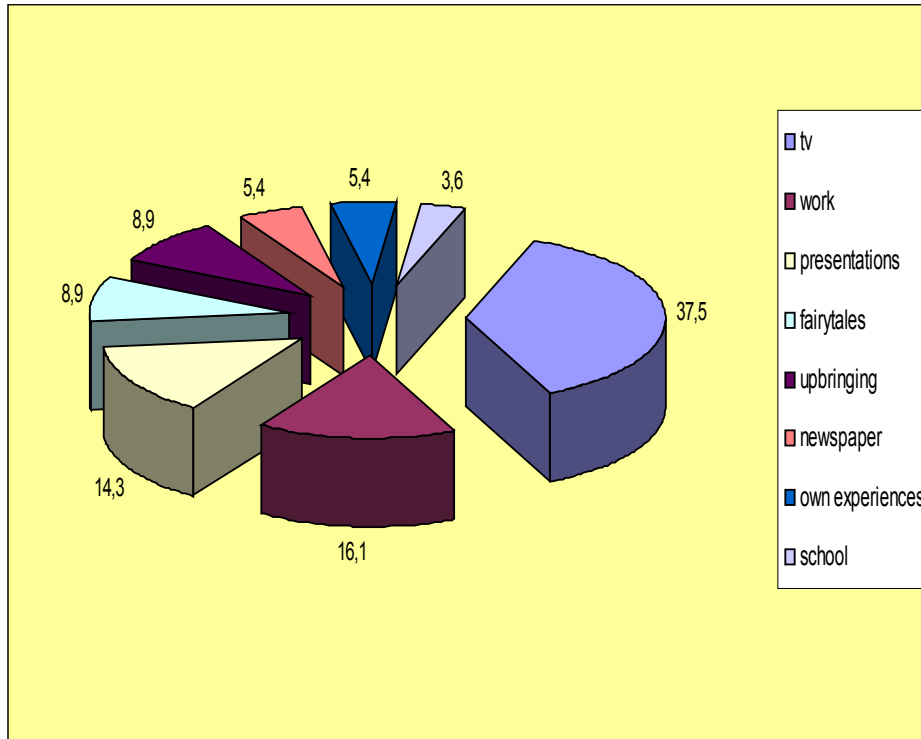


- Although livestock depredation exists in Romania the general opinion is that carnivores do not negatively affect livestock husbandry
- Nevertheless, the wolf is seen as most problematic

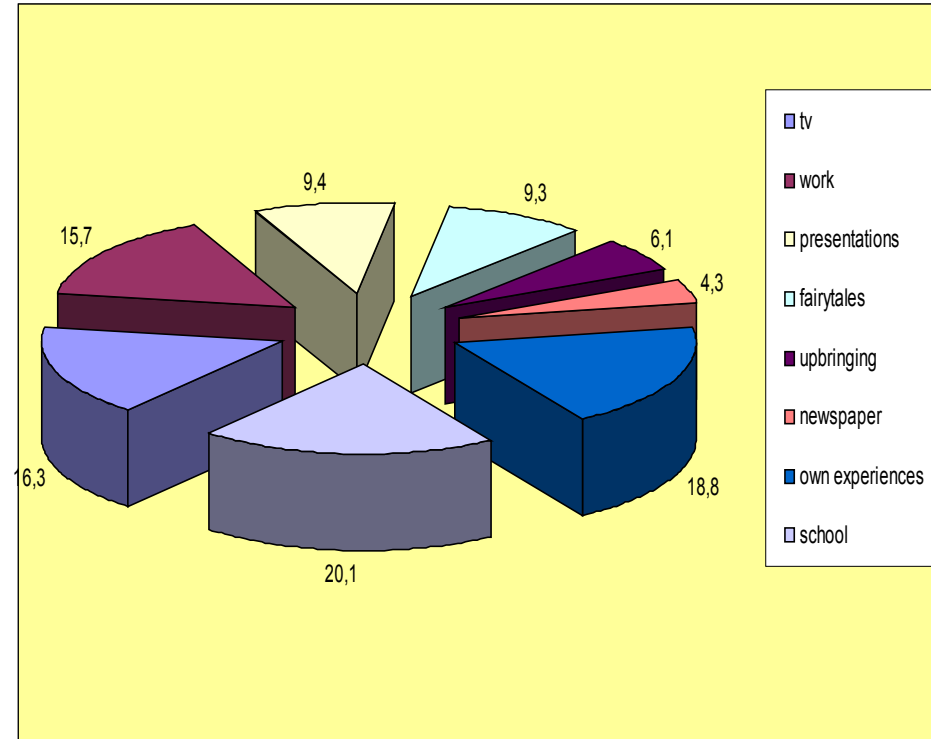
How did you form your opinion of bear, wolf or lynx?



Berchtesgaden National Park



Maramures Mountains Nature Park

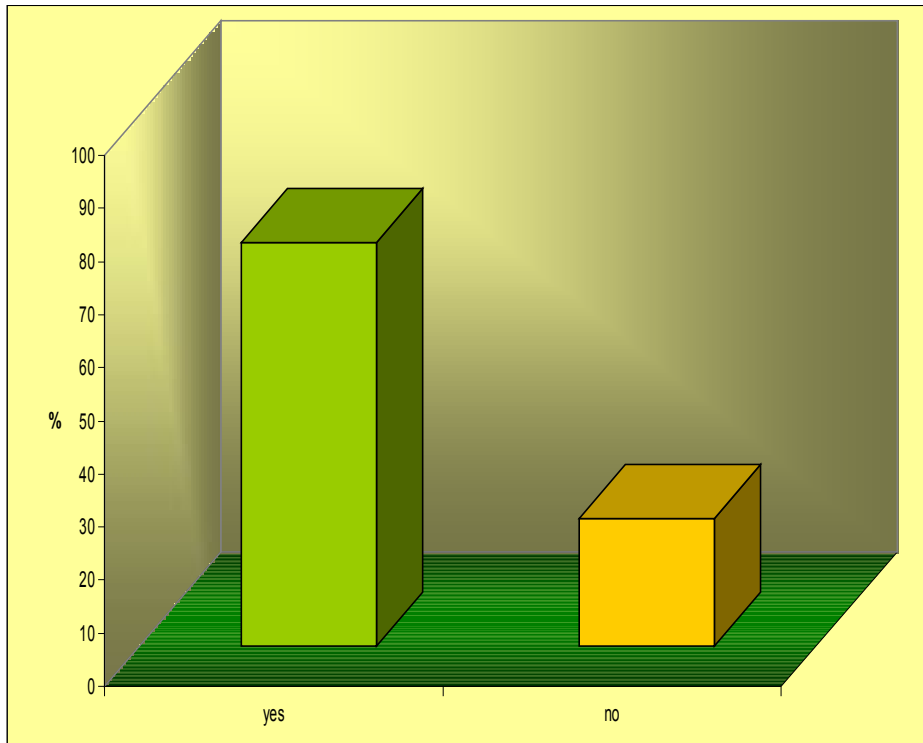


In Berchtesgaden the majority formed their opinion through tv (37.5%) and work (16.1). In Maramures through school (20.1%), own experiences (18.8) and tv (16.3%)

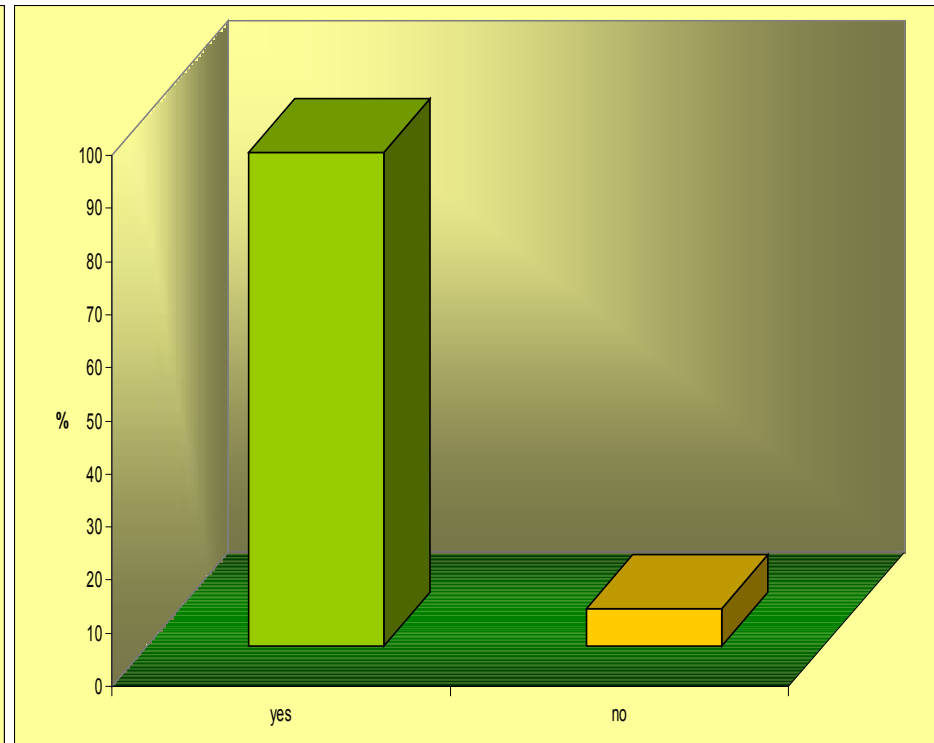
Would you be interested to learn more about these animals?



Berchtesgaden National Park



Maramures Mountains Nature Park

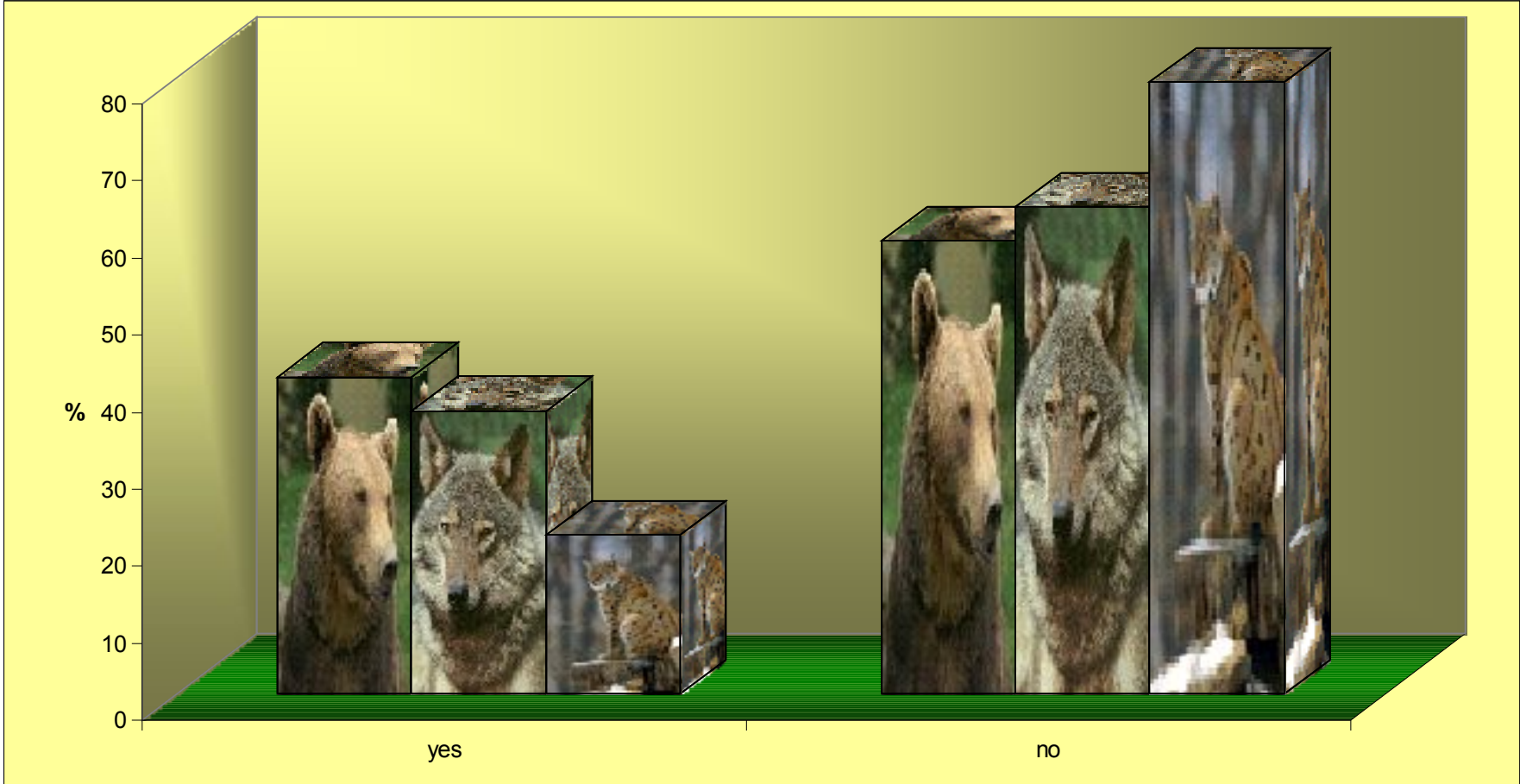


- People are interested
- Point of first approach for management ??

Are you afraid of bear, wolf or lynx?



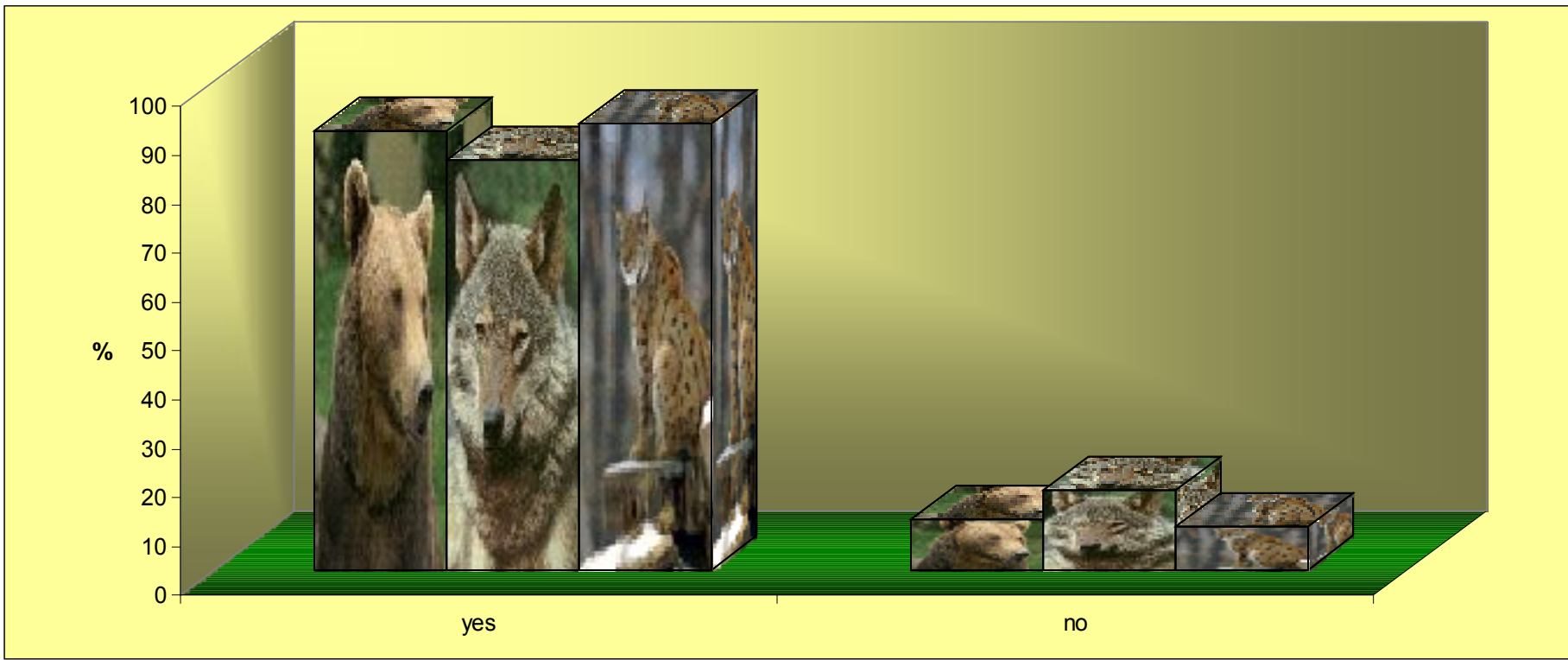
Maramures Mountains Nature Park



Would you mind if bear, wolf or lynx went extinct in the region? If yes, WHY?



Maramures Mountains Nature Park



emotional

appreciation of nature

'they are simply beautiful'

ecological

principle biodiversity indicators

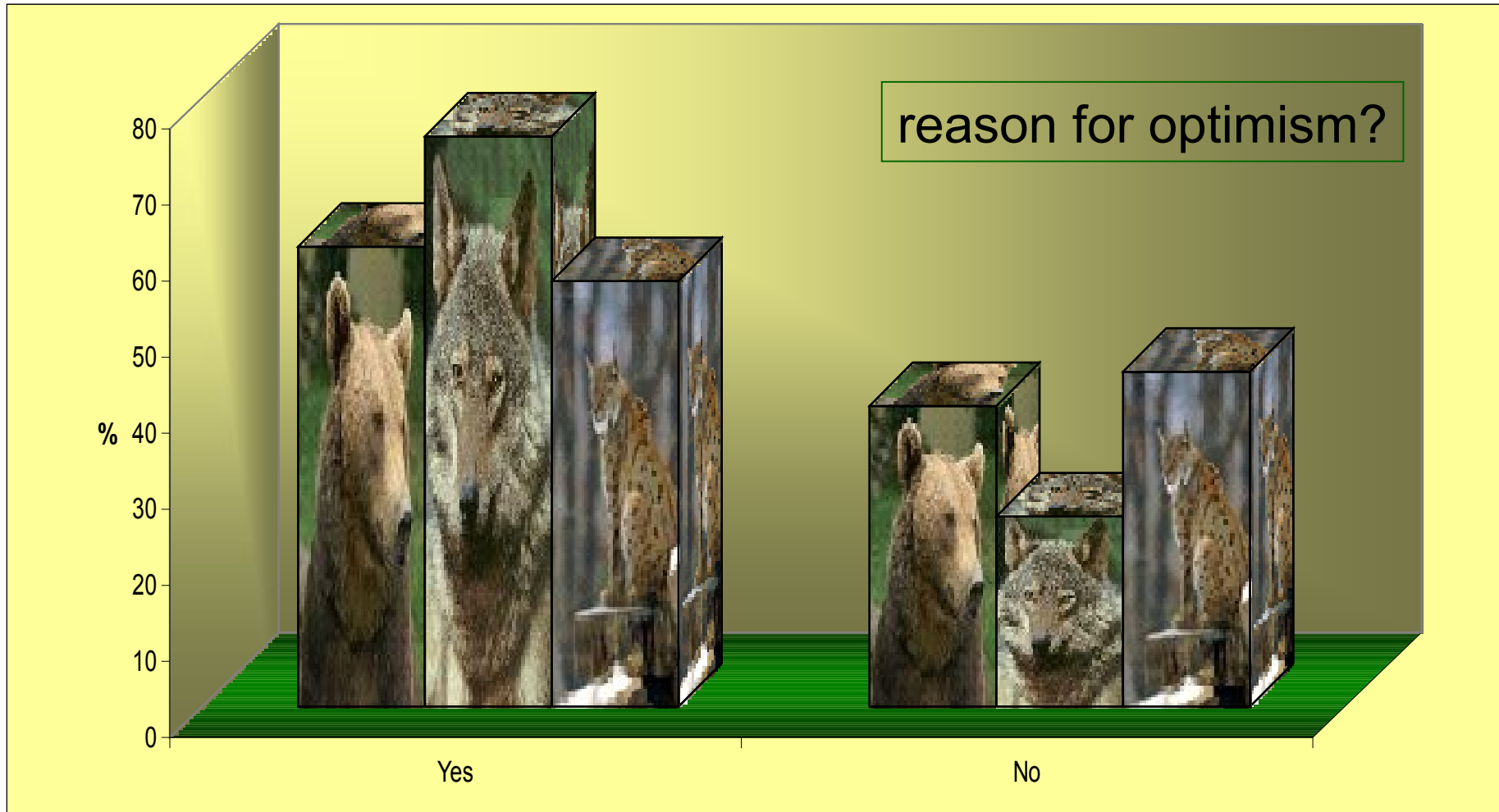
essential for ecosystem functioning

part of the trophic pyramid – control herbivores

Would you appreciate the presence of bear, wolf or lynx in Berchtesgaden National Park?



Berchtesgaden National Park



KEY RESULTS



1. Most positive attitude towards the lynx
2. Negative attitude towards the wolf in particular in Berchtesgaden
 - damage to livestock
 - conflicts with hunters
3. prejudice *vs* experience
4. deep seated fear *vs* reality
5. unfounded rejection *vs* acceptance & tolerance
6. tamed *vs* wild landscape
7. developed *vs* less developed country

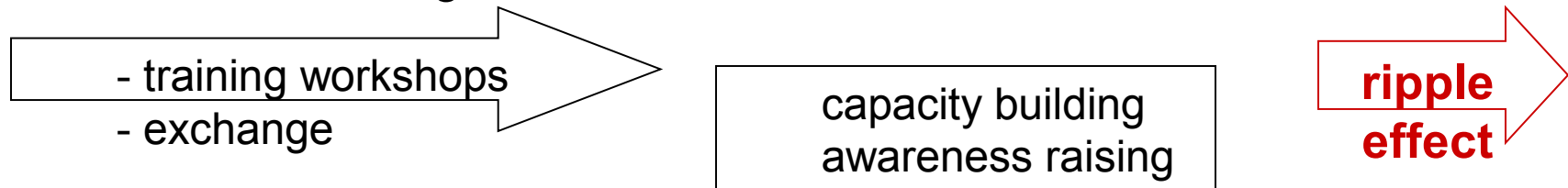
Link: People's attitudes greatly influence a successful comeback and a peaceful coexistence with them, therefore National Parks play an important role as mediators between humans and carnivores

THE ROLE OF PROTECTED AREAS



change and influence people's attitudes and perception

1. equip National Park staff with knowledge to deal with human dimension of large carnivore conservation



2. NP staff as mediators

- involve local stakeholders
- tourists – raise visitor awareness
- environmental education (schools)
- regular attitude surveys as part of the management plan
- close collaboration with hunters and farmers

3. International collaboration & exchange of management practices

**long
term
vision**

THE ROLE OF PROTECTED AREAS



4. Risk assessment

Berchtesgaden NP

anticipate conflicts & people's reactions

Maramures MNP

manage growing tourism &
uncontrolled economic development

ROOM FOR DISCUSSION



1. Are such comparisons useful? Do they help to reduce prejudice?
2. Should the Alpine-Carpathian partnership be strengthened? Can we learn from each other?



References



- **Images:**
 - http://www.madmacscustom.com/images/Bear_Print_Sketch.jpg
 - <http://www.campeco.com/animals/lynxprint.gif>

Thank you!



Ausgang
Eingang

Servus und good bye

Eingang
Ausgang