

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



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Bear, Wolf and Lynx in the Alps  
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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

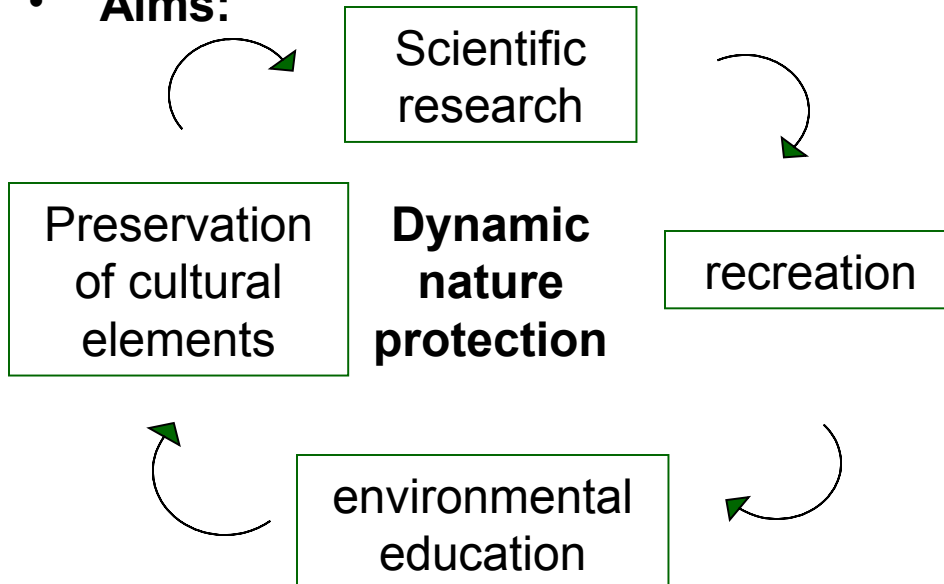
# BACKGROUND



## 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

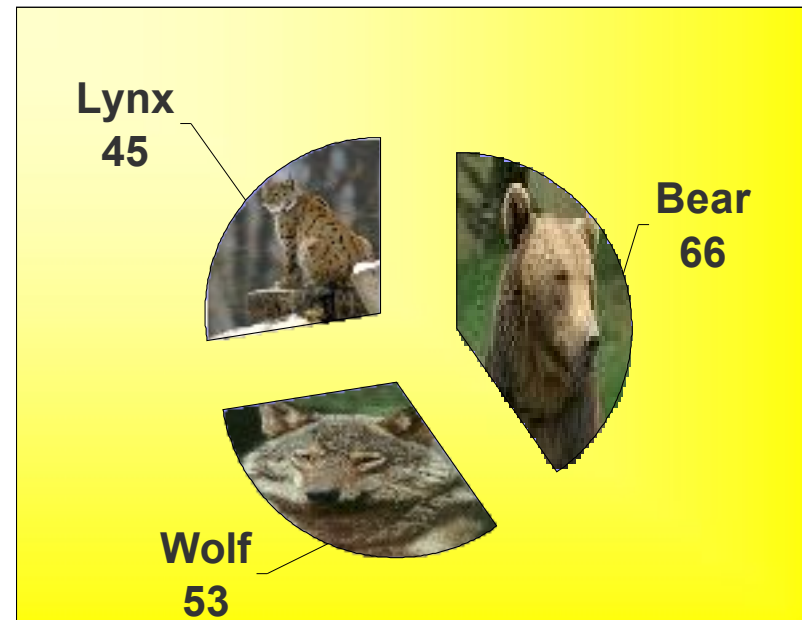


## Berchtesgaden National Park

## 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	<b>75</b>
intelligent	52	<b>66</b>	54
shy	47	60	<b>80</b>
secretive	26	41	<b>67</b>
strong	<b>93</b>	24	13
fast	26	50	<b>75</b>
nice/cuddly	7	1	<b>8</b>
greedy	<b>31</b>	21	6
dangerous	41	<b>43</b>	10
bad/evil	2	<b>11</b>	3

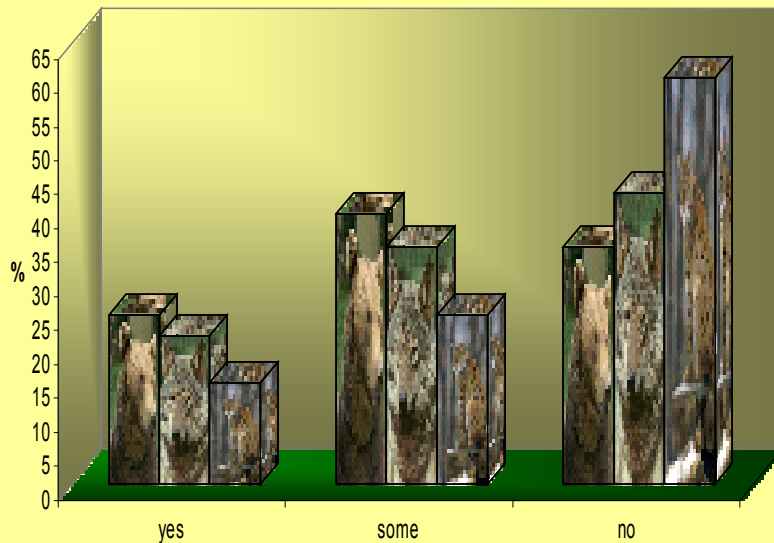
### Maramures Mountains Nature Park

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

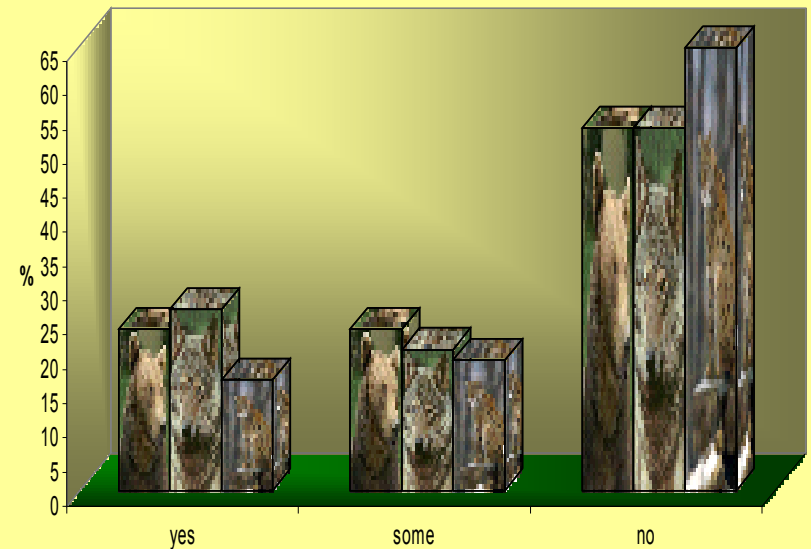
# Do you have reservations about going to an area inhabited by bear, wolf or lynx?



## Berchtesgaden National Park



## Maramures Mountains Nature Park



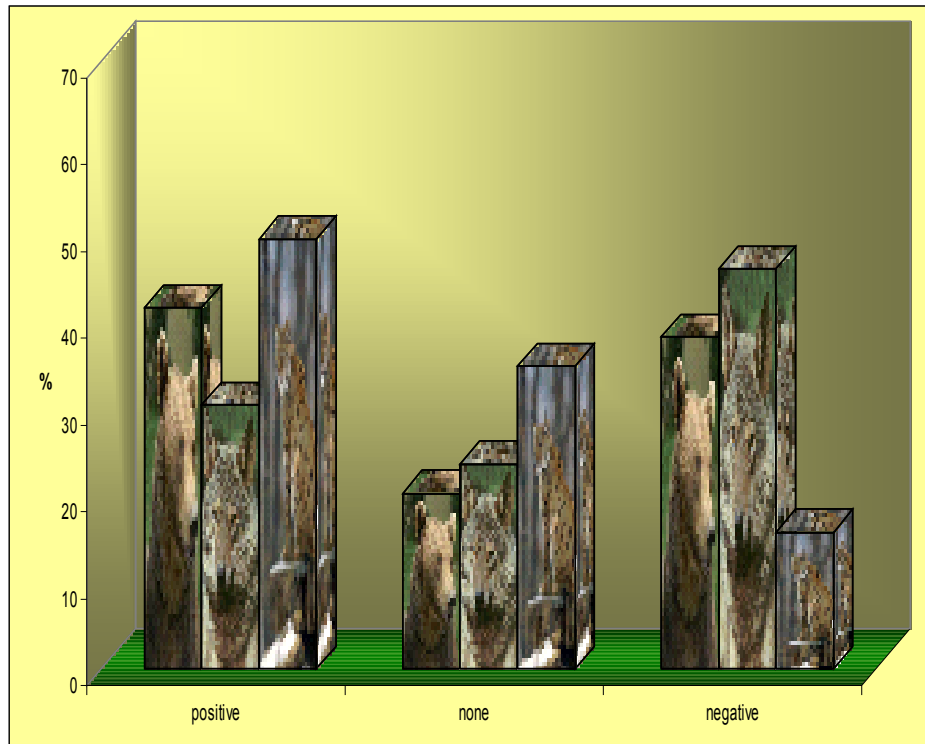
- Reservations are bigger in Berchtesgaden
- Smallest reservation to go to an area inhabited by lynx



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

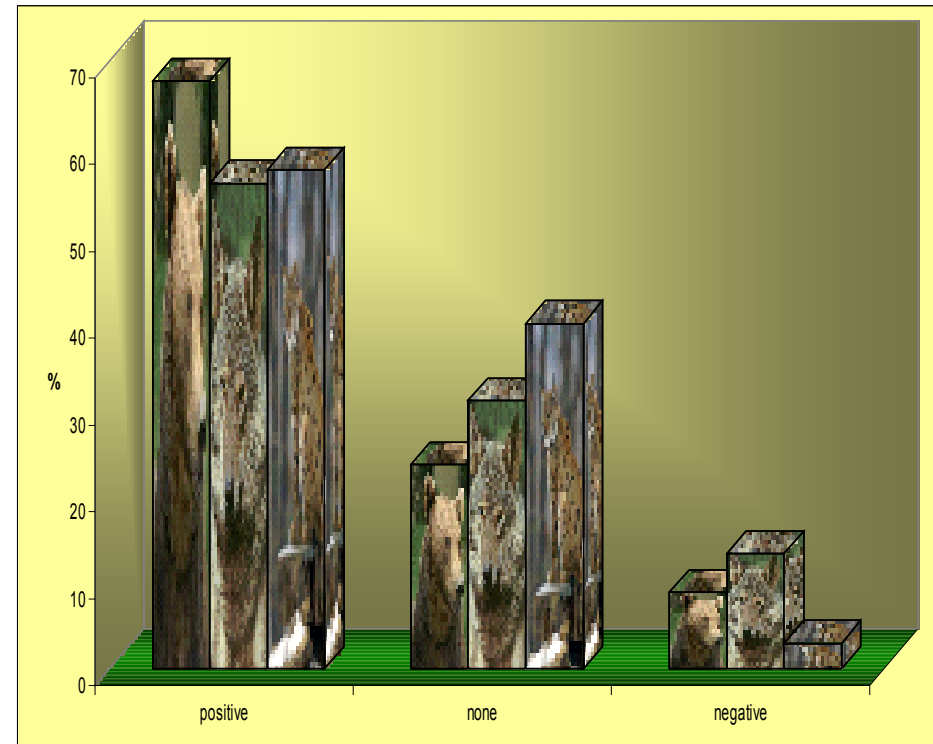


## Berchtesgaden National Park



tourist repellents

## Maramures Mountains Nature Park



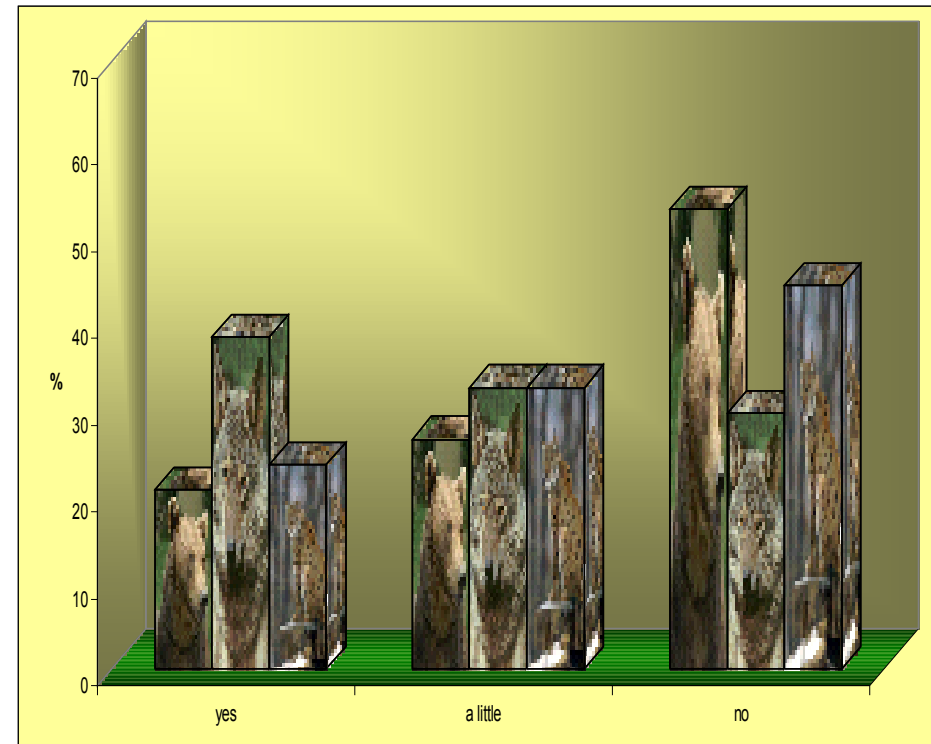
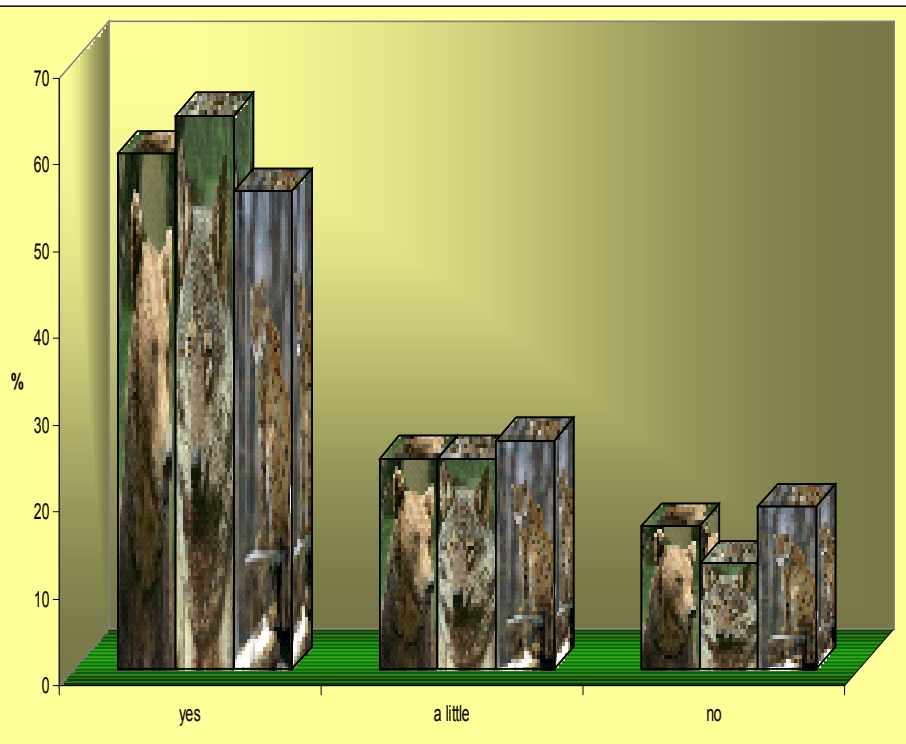
tourist magnets

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



## Berchtesgaden National Park

## Maramures Mountains Nature Park

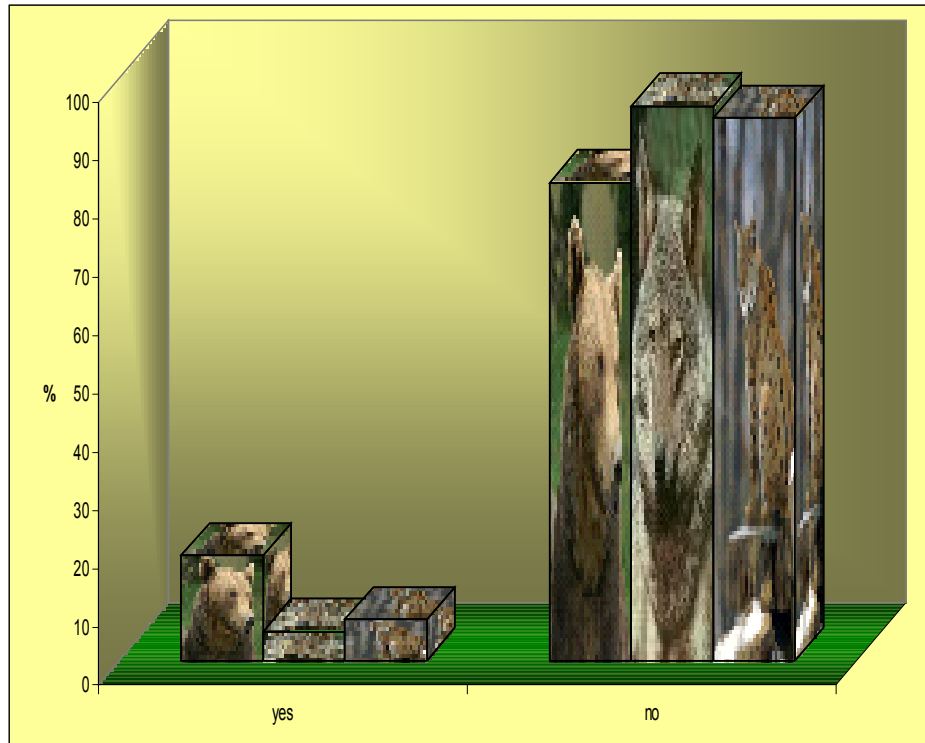


- In Berchtesgaden all carnivores are seen as serious competitors
- In Romania the wolf is regarded to compete with hunters

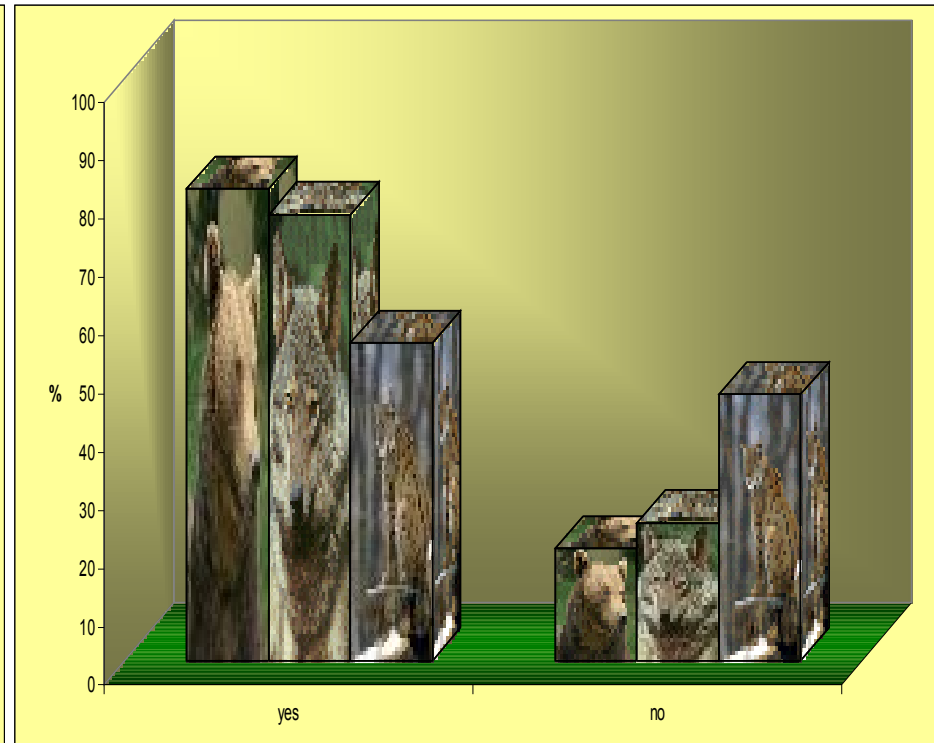
Have you ever seen a bear, wolf or lynx in the wilderness or their footprints?



### Berchtesgaden National Park



### Maramures Mountains Nature Park

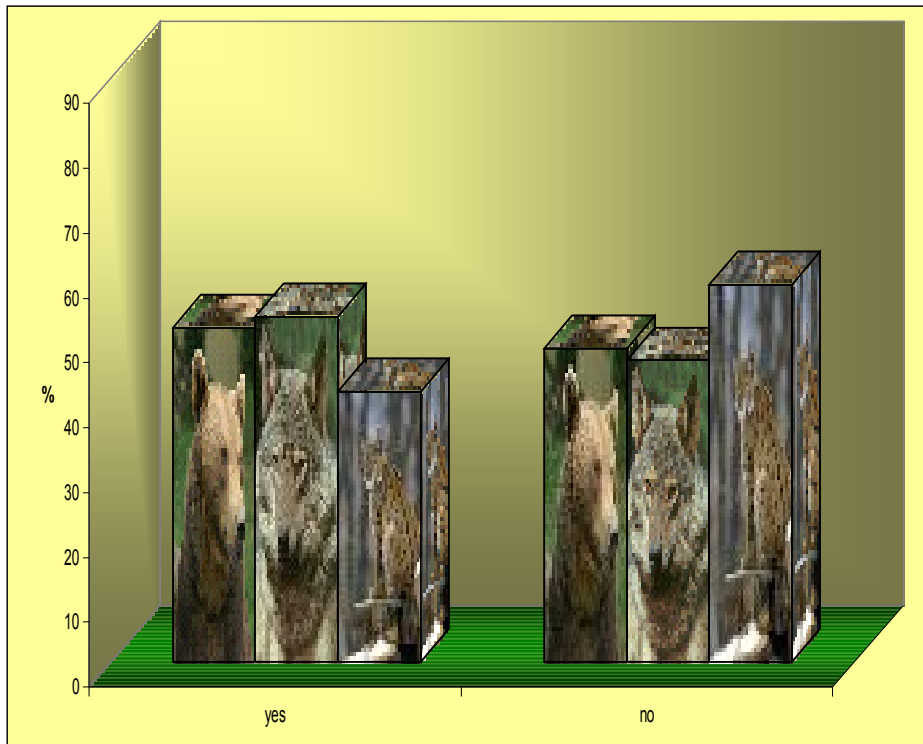


- In Berchtesgaden very few people have encountered these animals or seen their footprints

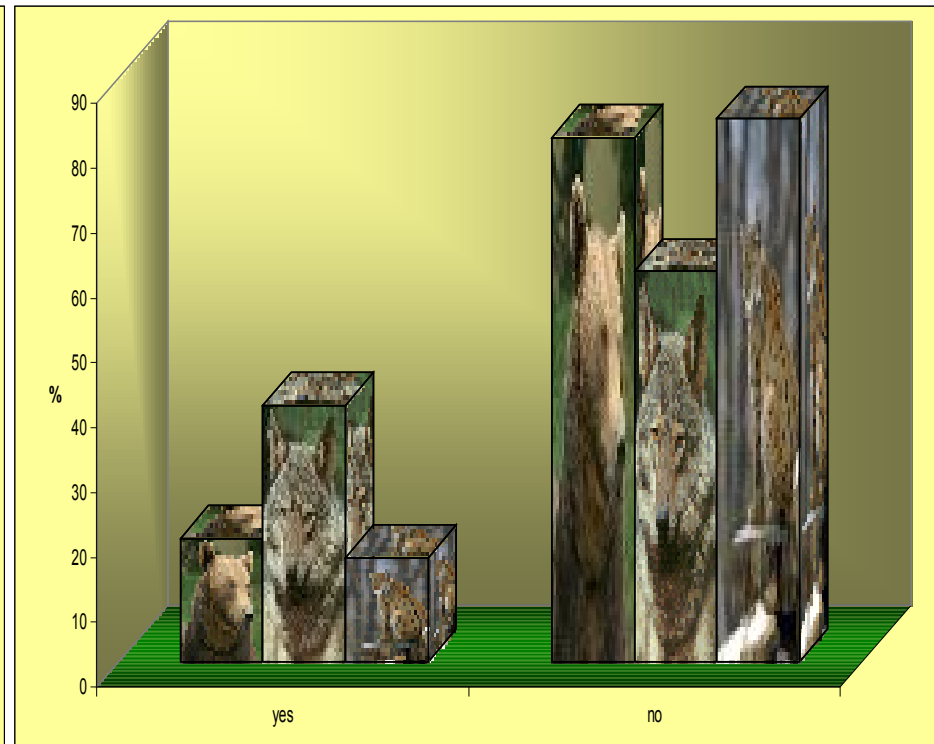
# Does the presence of bear, wolf or lynx negatively affect livestock husbandry in the region?



## Berchtesgaden National Park



## Maramures Mountains Nature Park

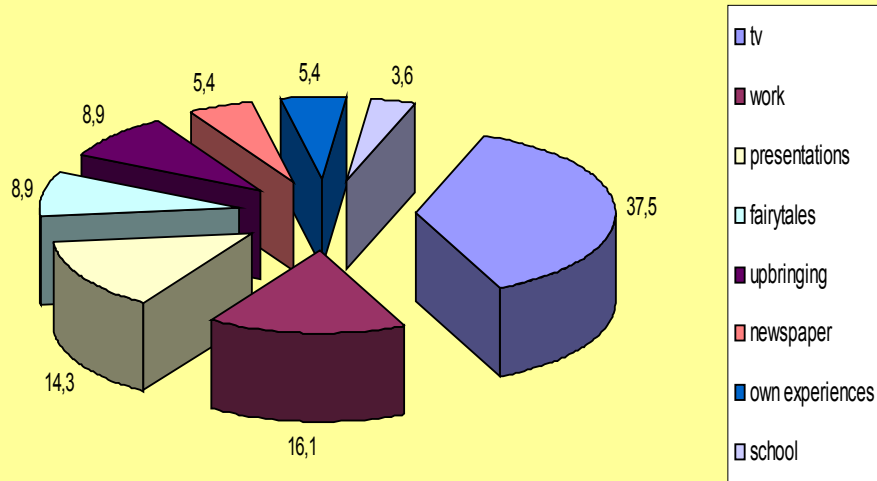


- Although livestock depredation exists in Romania the general opinion is that carnivores do not negatively affect livestock husbandry
- Nevertheless, the wolf is seen as most problematic

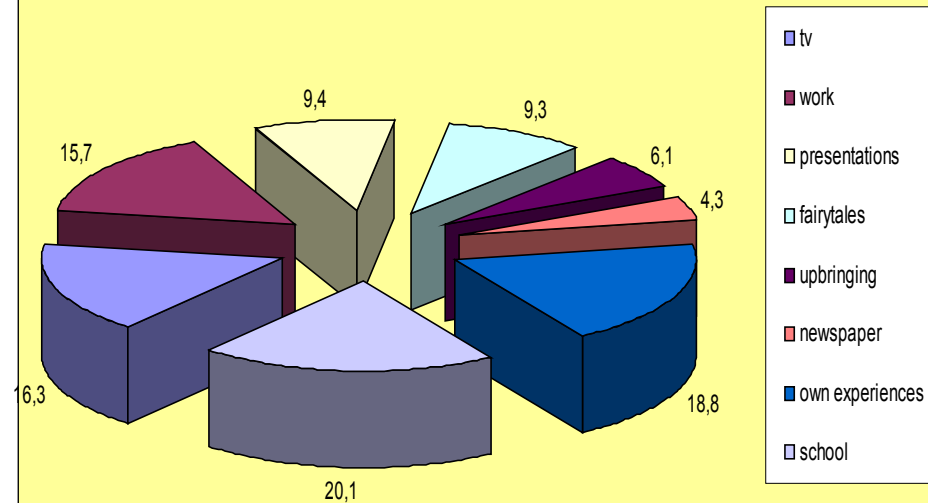
# How did you form your opinion of bear, wolf or lynx?



## Berchtesgaden National Park



## Maramures Mountains Nature Park

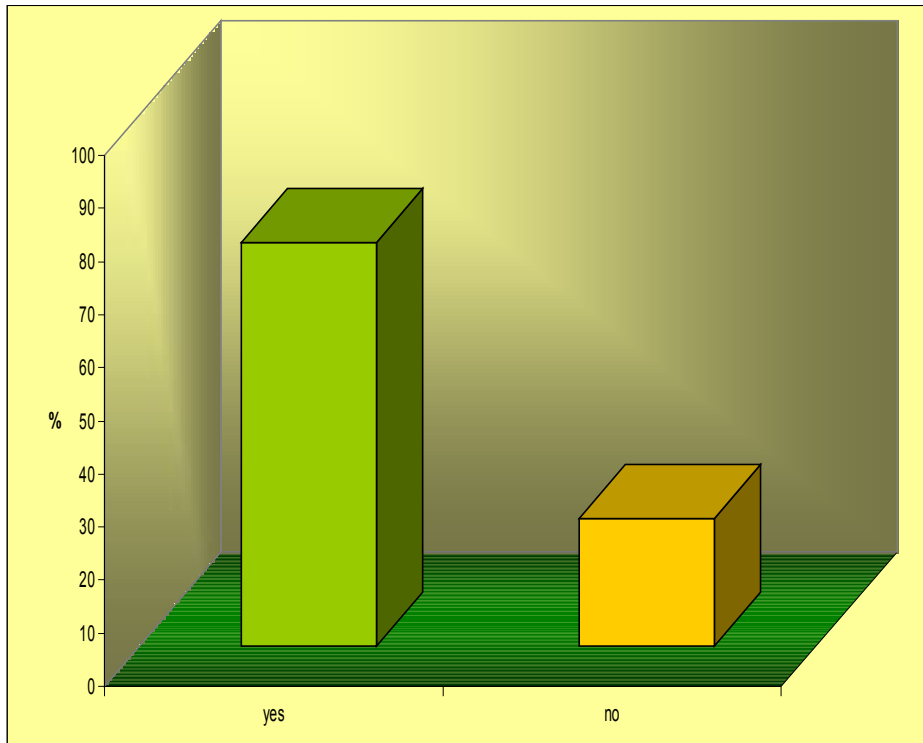


**In Berchtesgaden the majority formed their opinion through tv (37.5%) and work (16.1). In Maramures through school (20.1%), own experiences (18.8) and tv (16.3%)**

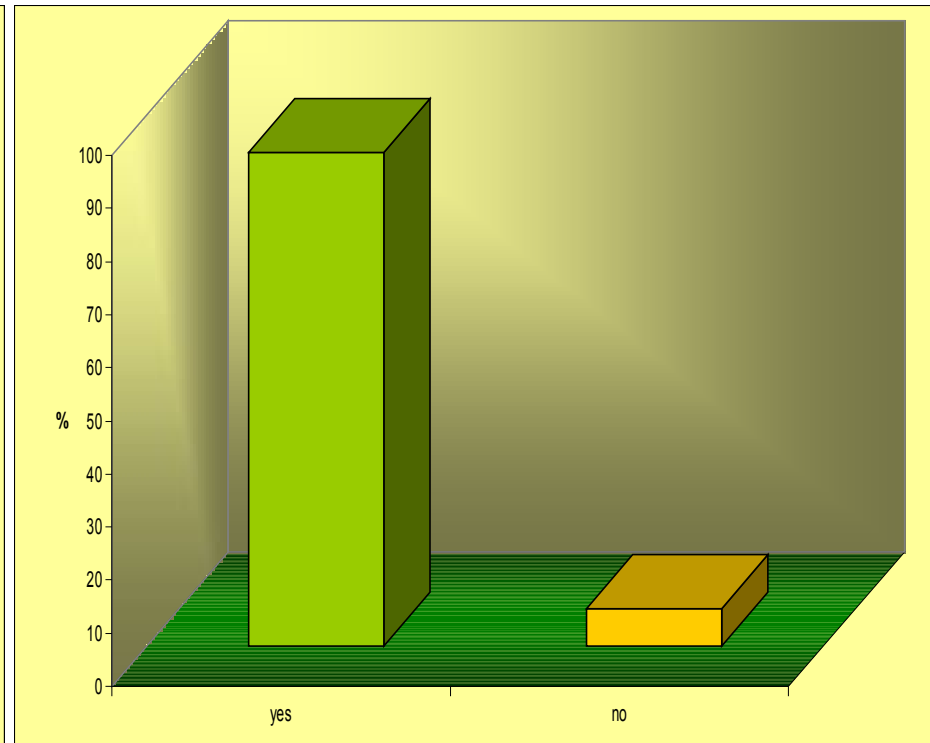
# Would you be interested to learn more about these animals?



## Berchtesgaden National Park



## Maramures Mountains Nature Park

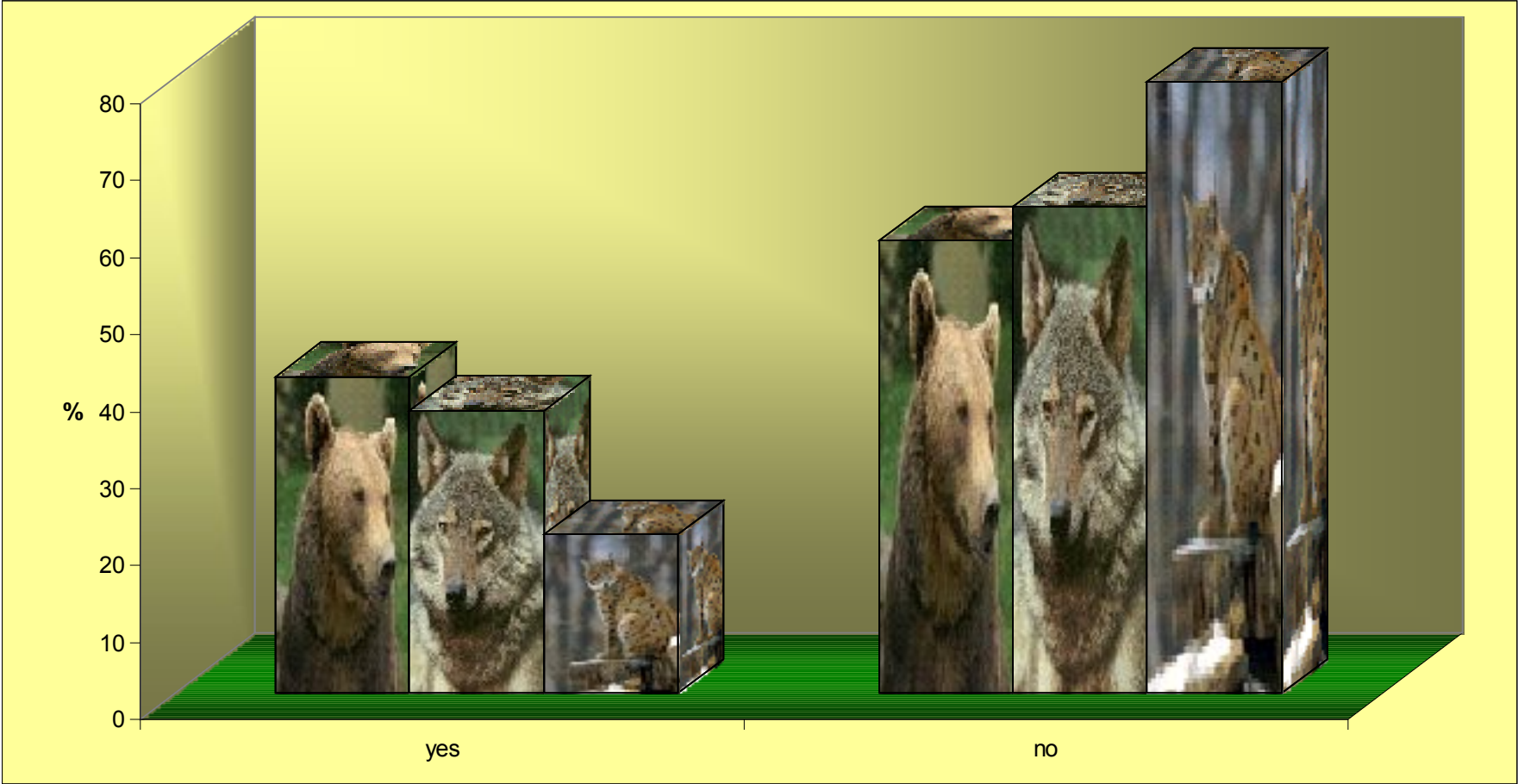


- People are interested
- Point of first approach for management ??

# Are you afraid of bear, wolf or lynx?



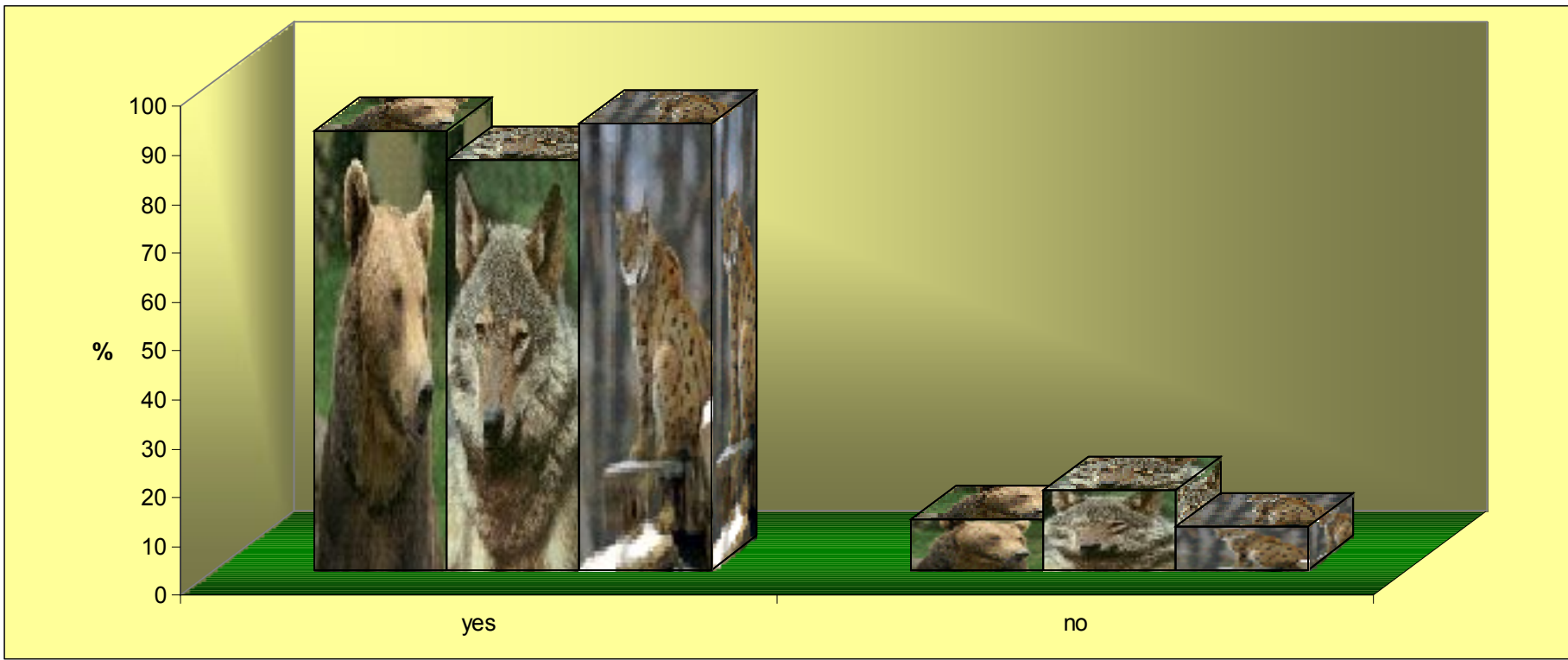
Maramures Mountains Nature Park



# 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

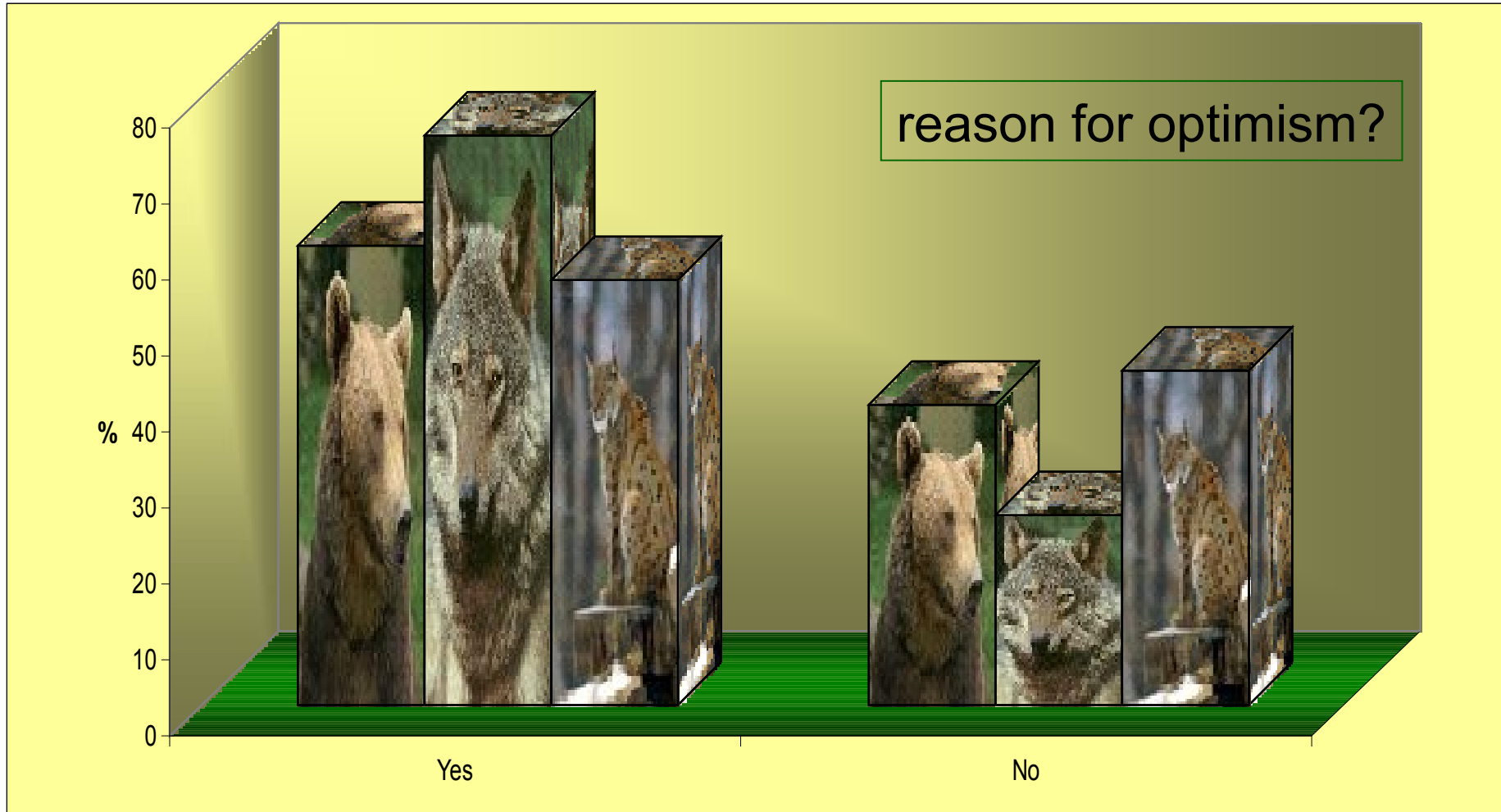
part of the trophic pyramid – control herbivores



# 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

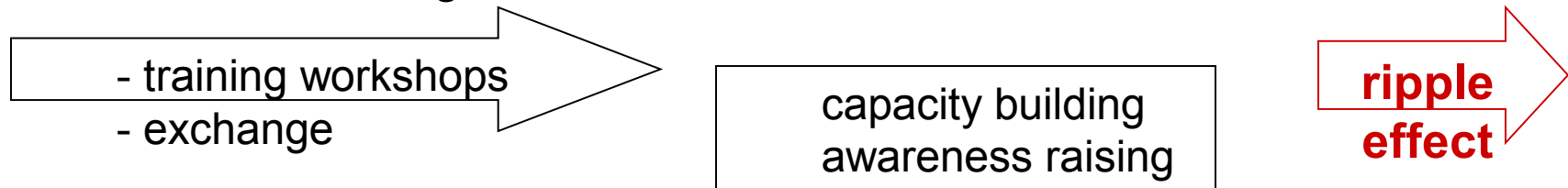
**Link: People's attitudes greatly influence a successful comeback and a peaceful coexistence with them, therefore National Parks play an important role as mediators between humans and carnivores**

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

Thank you!



Ausgang  
Eingang

Servus und good bye

Eingang  
Ausgang