

AlpWeek

Alps in our hands

23.09.2024 - 25.09.2024

Nova Gorica, Slovenia

Alpski Teden

Alpe v naših rokah

Semaine Alpine

Alpes entre nos mains

Settimana Alpina

Alpi nelle nostre mani

AlpenWoche

Alpen in unseren Händen

Session No 08:

Modern challenges of pastoralism

Contribute to the Alpine atlas of pastoralism actors!



Alpine Pastoralism Network Map



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Map Layers
This map uses the following layers:
Perimeter of the Alpine Convention
Alpine Pastoralism Actors

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Title Alpine Pastoralism Network Map
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LIFE VARNA PAŠA

LIFE „SAFE GRAZING“

Supporting rural communities in Slovenia to reduce conflicts with bears and wolves through institutional collaboration, policy and education

LIFE22-NAT-SI-LIFE VARNA PASA (101113940)

Nika Mohorič



Zavod za gozdove
Slovenije

AlpWeek, Nova Gorica 25.9.2024



SHEPHERDING IN SLOVENIA

- Traditional way of grazing animals
- Widely present in the Alpine region a few generations ago
- Still practised today
- Why: preserving cultural heritage, preventing overgrowth, preserving the vitality of rural areas
- In decline:
 - Before WW II: 230 shepherds
 - 1995: 17 shepherds
 - 2017: 39 shepherds



SHEPHERDING IN SLOVENIA

- **Two different ways of shepherding today:**
 - Staying on the mountain to produce milk products (dairy cattle)
 - Leaving animals to graze freely – occasional/weekly visits (sheep and goats)
- **Returning of large carnivores in Alpine area – new challenges:**
 - **Shepherds with a different role**
 - Implementation of protective measures (difficult, high costs)
 - Presence of a shepherd – the only solution for a **high** mountain pastures



PROJECT LIFE VARNA PAŠA

LIFE VARNA PAŠA project aims:

- Improve acceptance and coexistence
 - long-term conservation
 - reducing conflicts caused by wolf and bear
-
- Duration 6 years

UNIQUE CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

- Slovenia Forest Service – lead partner (ZGS)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MKGP)
- Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia (KGZS)
- Agriculture and Forestry Institute Nova Gorica (KGZ - GO)
- University of Ljubljana (UL)
- Slovenian Beekeepers Association (ČZS)
- Municipality of Pivka (MP)



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA KMETIJSTVO,
GOZDARSTVO IN PREHRANO



Zavod za gozdove
Slovenije



Univerza v Ljubljani

MAIN ADRESSED TOPICS

- **Strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation** on conflict prevention with large carnivores
- **Improve and extend the use of conflict prevention measures** through active stakeholder participation, and develop cost-effective and rational measures to be integrated into national and regional agricultural policies
- **To fill the gap in systemic education on coexistence and conflict prevention** by developing educational modules and integrating them into formal and non-formal learning environments.



Strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation on conflict prevention

Establishment of a cross-sectoral advisory committee

- Management actions are carried out by different sectors and institutions
- Addressing issues through cooperation and partnership building among institution from different sectors

A cross-sectoral conflict mitigation and communication protocol

- A basis for communication activities

Upgrade of the damage assessment protocol and optimized educational course for damage officials

- Educational support system for damage officials



Conflict mitigation measures through active stakeholder involvement

- **Development of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) measure for shepherds in the Slovenian Alps**
- Adjust the current CAP measure for the use of livestock guarding dogs and supporting activities for promoting its implementation
- Improvement of the CAP measure for use of high electric nettings
- Development of new CAP measures for cattle and other large grazing animals
- Improvement of the damage prevention network among beekeepers and measures within national co-financing scheme



Development of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) measure for shepherds in the Slovenian Alps

- **Collaboration with two grazing communities and implementation of herd protection with a shepherd:**
 - Establish living conditions for shepherd, night enclosure, co-financing of a shepherd's salary, GPS collars for tracking the herd on pasture and cameras
 - Collaboration with first grazing community in process
 - Still in search for second grazing community
- Experience-exchange visit – information about shepherding
- **Grazing protocol and organization of educational course for shepherds**
- Promotion of shepherd resettlement by open door events and field visits for stakeholders
- **Assessment of factors affecting the implementation of these measures in the Slovenian Alps**
- **Implementation in new CAP after 2027**



Improving the knowledge base for long-term conflict mitigation through education and volunteer engagement

- Establishment of volunteer network „**Help a farmer**“
- Development of a **practice-based educational program** and inclusion into the CAP system
- Development of an **outdoor learning program**, using large carnivore conflict mitigation as an example, and its integration into forest pedagogy practices
- **Involvement of schools and universities** and introducing **large carnivore and conflict mitigation topics into the curriculum**



CLOSURE

The overall objectives of the project LIFE VARNA PAŠA are to:

- improve cross-sectoral communication and cooperation, which will lead to coordinated and consistent communication between institutions
- help farmers through improvement of already existing measures and development of needed measures
- fill the gap of general lack of knowledge about large carnivores and understanding of nature which, will lead to better tolerance of both species



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

www.varna-pasa.si (Google: Safe grazing)

LIFE DINALP BEAR
LIFE15 NAT/SI/000550

ZAVOD ZA GOZDOVE SLOVENIJE
Slovenia Forest Service

I want to protect my property

The damage case happened

Turn to us

Search portal

Home | Humans and large carnivores | Human property protection | Damage cases | About us

ALL ABOUT THE HUMAN PROPERTY PROTECTION AGAINST PROTECTED SPECIES

Welcome to the portal SAFE GRAZING

Effective protection measures

There are several ways to protect property from large carnivores. If properly used, all listed protection ...

[READ MORE](#)



leucht  *alps*

Alps Week-Session 8

Modern challenges of pastoralism - An environmental conflict management perspective

25.09.2024

Eva-Maria Cattoen



Eva-Maria Cattoen

Managing director - LechtAlps

Mediator and expert for participatory processes and conflict management in the environmental and regional development sector

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'There is no place for the wolf in our society'

'Coexistence is not possible'

'Predators and pastoralism do not go together'

'The return of large carnivores is the end for alpine pasture farming'

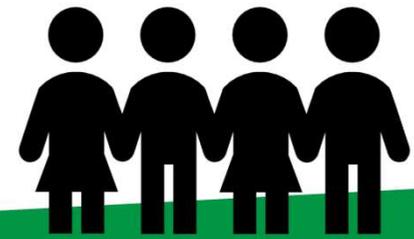
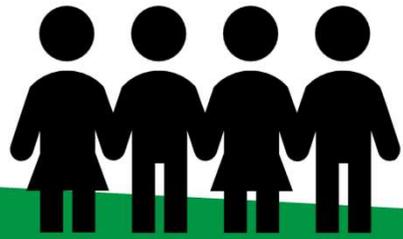
'Herd protection is too costly and often not feasible'

'Biodiversity is a precious good that needs to be protected'

'Large carnivores have a right to exist'

'The protection of large carnivores is not arguable'

'Coexistence is the only option'

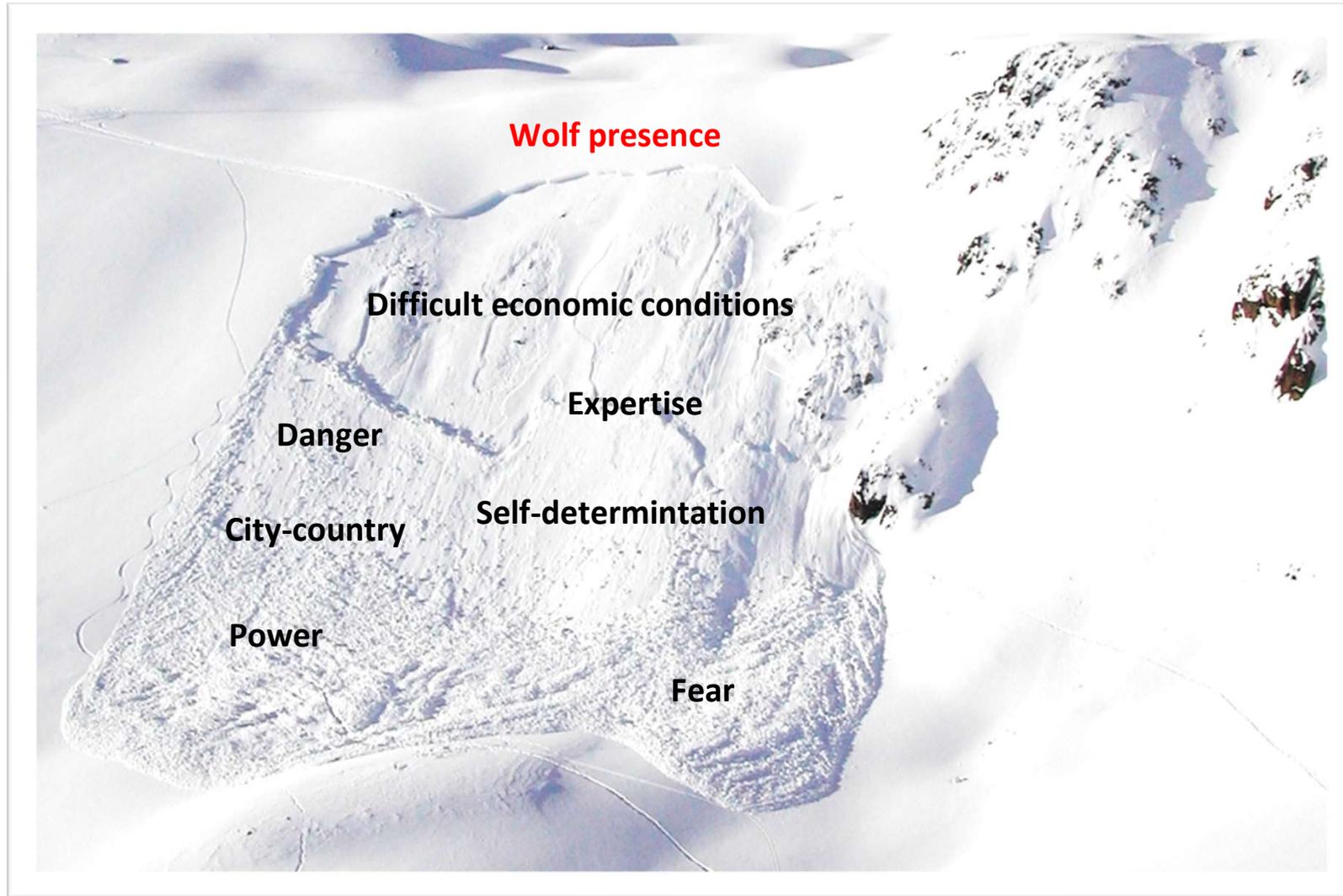


Conflict management

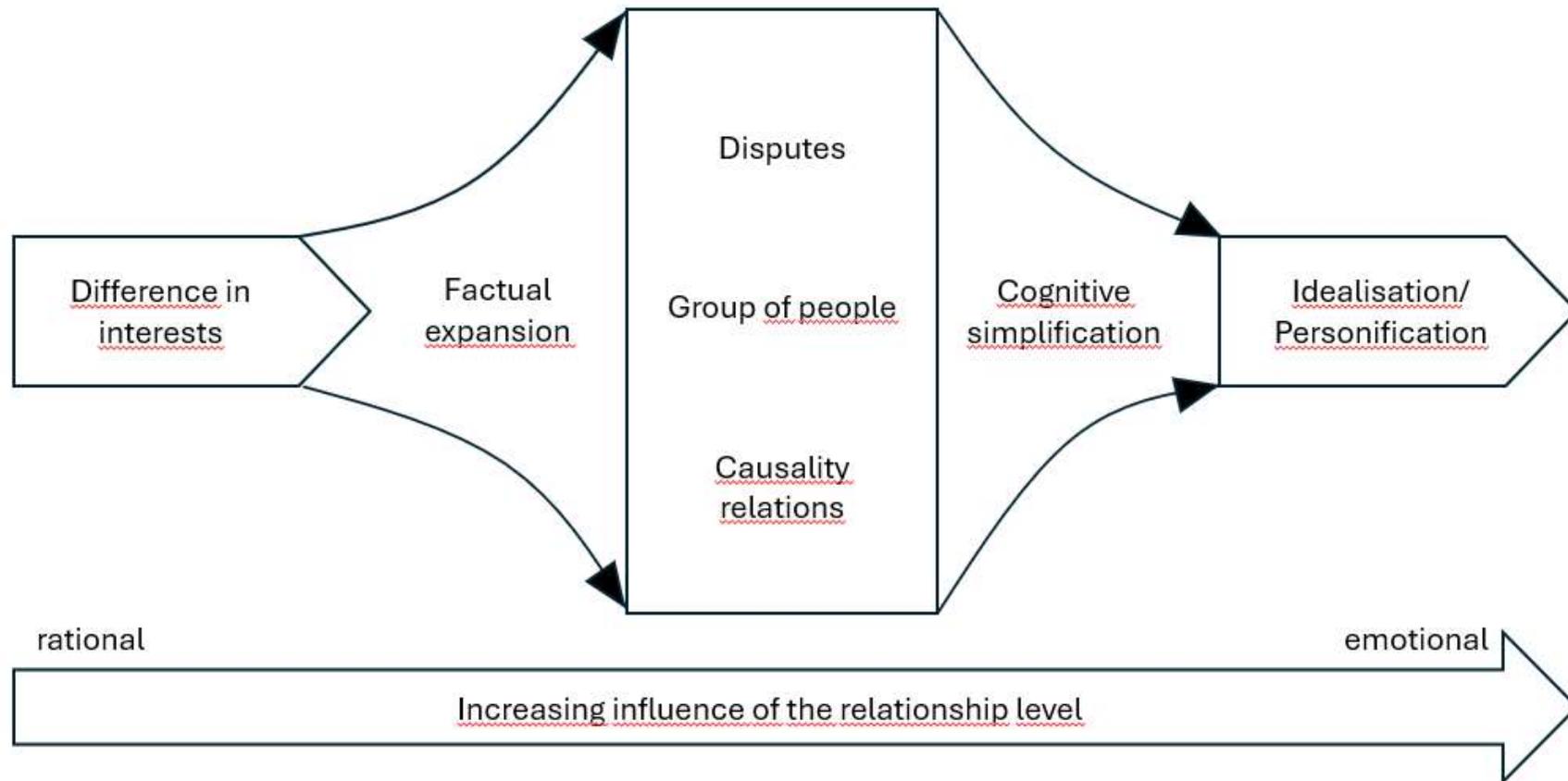


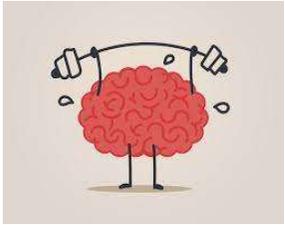
**WHY DO
CONFLICTS
ESCALATE?**

It's not about one only issue...



When conflicts expand and escalate ...





How we avoid overloading ...

- When it gets complex, the probability for mental shortcuts (bias) is rising.

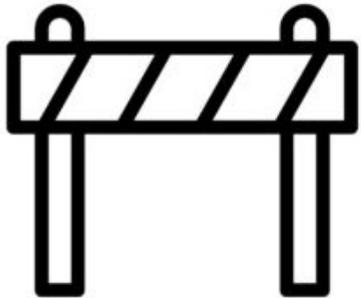
Three common biases in connection with coexistence can be observed broadly:

1. **Confirmation bias:** People deliberately consume the same media or surround yourself with people who confirm your own opinion; there is a lack of balance
2. **Information ignorance:** People deliberately ignore inconvenient information, facts and issues because you don't want to deal with the topic.
3. **In-Group – Out-Group Bias:** is a pattern of favoring members of one's in-group over out-group members.





What are common barriers that hinder cooperation?



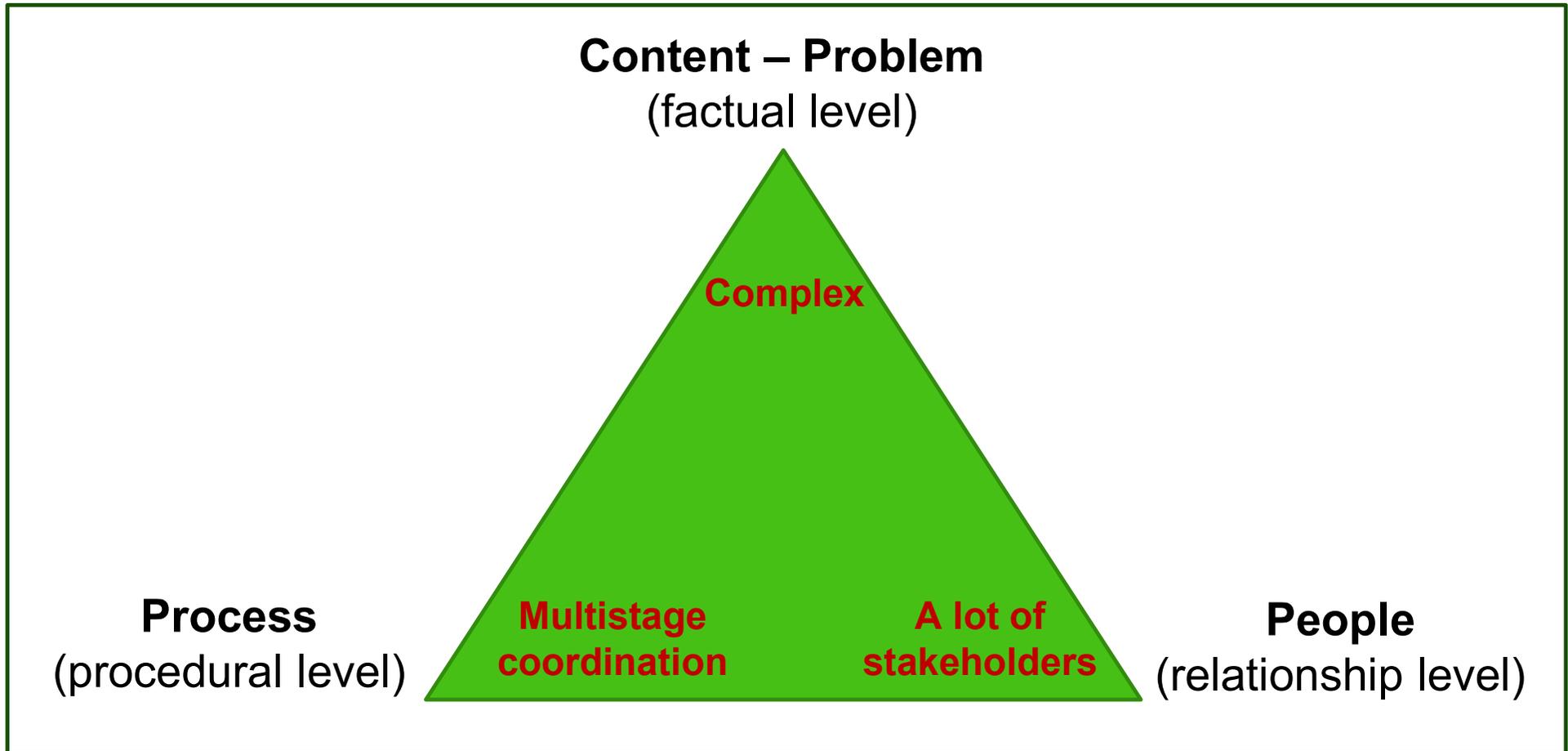
- Risk to lose face - group affiliation and pressure
- Pride
- Fear of being controlled by others
- Prejudices
- Denial
- Lack of knowledge
- Existential fears: e. g. additional costs and efforts
- Insecurity
- Fear of making mistakes



**HOW TO DEAL
WITH OR
PREVENT
CONFLICTS?**



Conflict management: Three levels





How to deal with mental shortcuts ...

Negative consequences can be cushioned by...

- Attention - awareness
- (Facilitated) group work
- Multiple sources of information/perspectives
- An open, empathetic attitude
- Taking necessary time for complex/ difficult questions

BUT some bias can also have positive effects...

Example Ikea-effect: „The more we help to shape or work on something, the more value it has for us.“

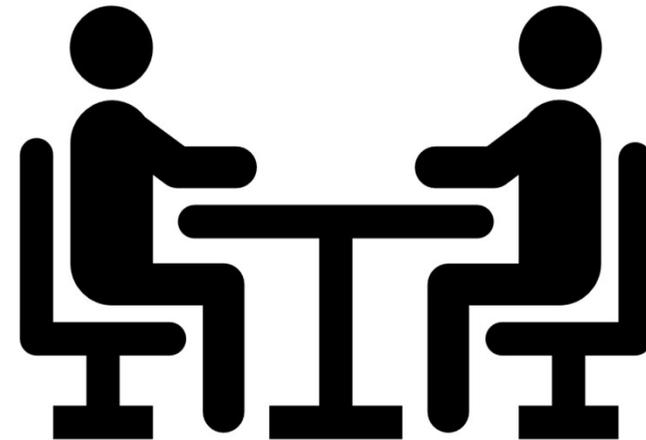




How to achieve openness for collaboration?

Two examples

- Active involvement of those affected
- Find and identify common interests

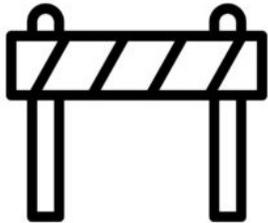




Case 1 – Volunteers helping farmers with herd protection

MOTIVATION

- Existential fears: e. g. additional costs and efforts



BARRIERS

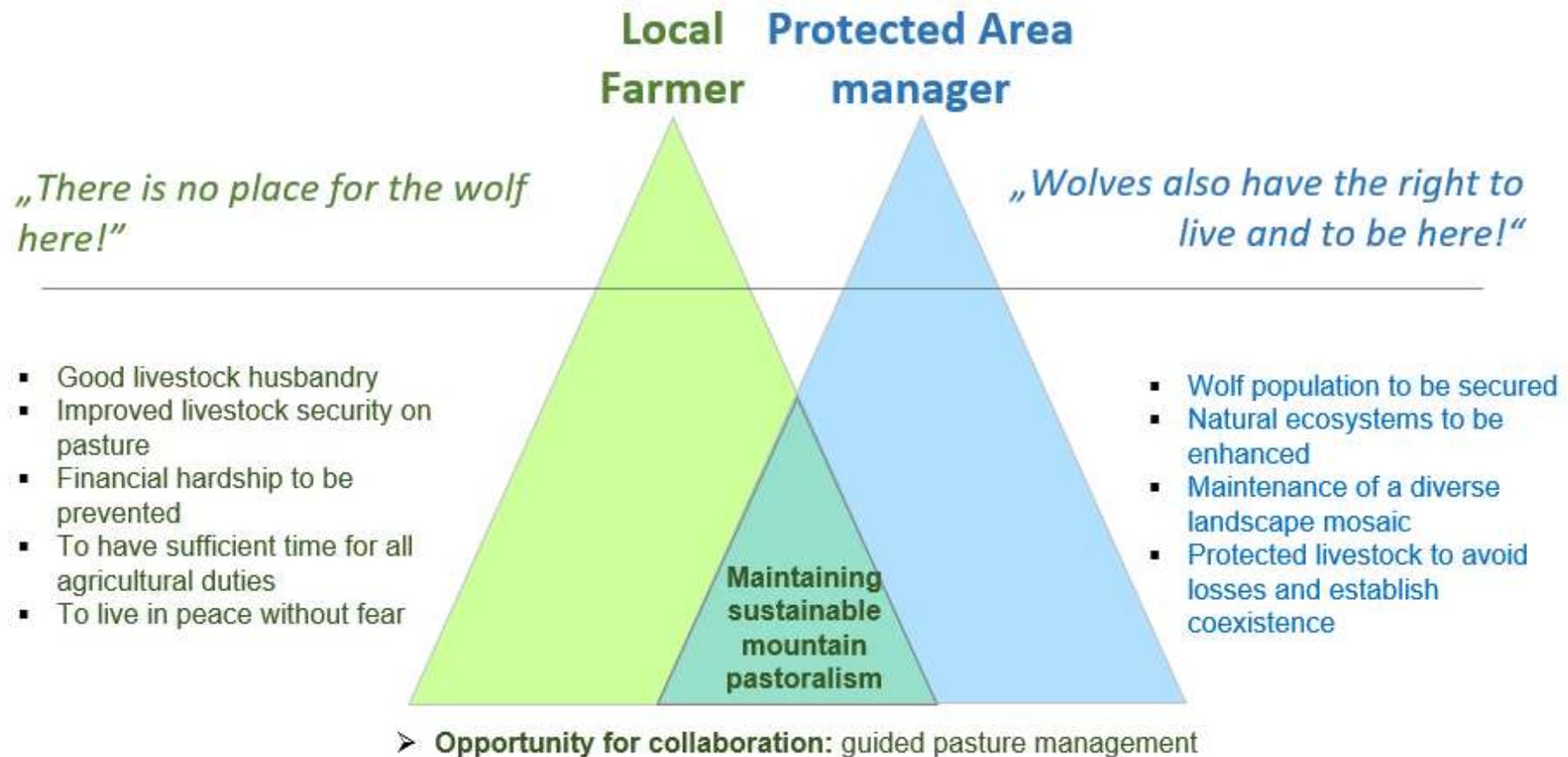
- **Risk to lose face - group affiliation and pressure**
- **Fear of being controlled by others**
- **Prejudices**
- **Pride**

HOW TO OVERCOME?

- Active role and involvement of those affected (→ support to take the lead)
- From supplicant to offerer (→ inverse roles and communication)



Case 2 – Open the frame, find common interests





Successful conflict management supports broadly accepted solutions

- looking behind taken positions and identifying possible underlying interests
- making sure that all those strongly affected are heard and valued
- using suitable communication (and tools)
- handling conflict potential and taking measures against escalation
- identifying common ground/interests to build on

THANKS A LOT!
QUESTIONS?

Lecht  *lps*

With people for the Alps!

www.LechtAlps.com

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