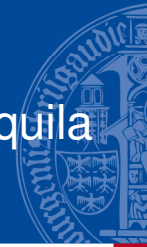


The Lynx Round Table – Lessons Learnt from a Participatory Conflict Management Approach in Southwest Germany

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10.10.2012, Engaging local communities in nature conservation, L'Aquila

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg



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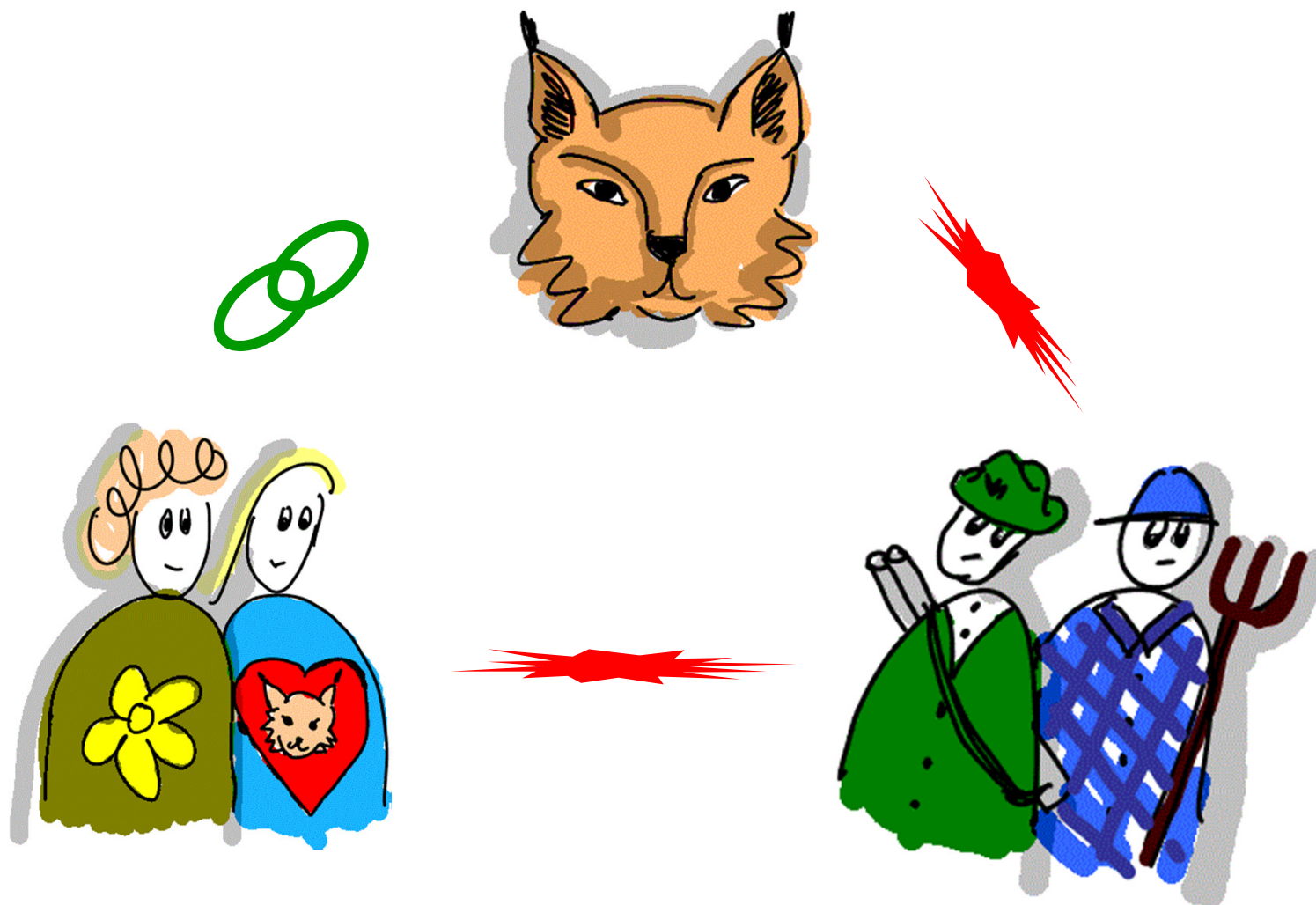
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Structure

- Background: the lynx conflict and the round table
- Results of the research project on the lynx conflict
- Conclusions and first steps into practice



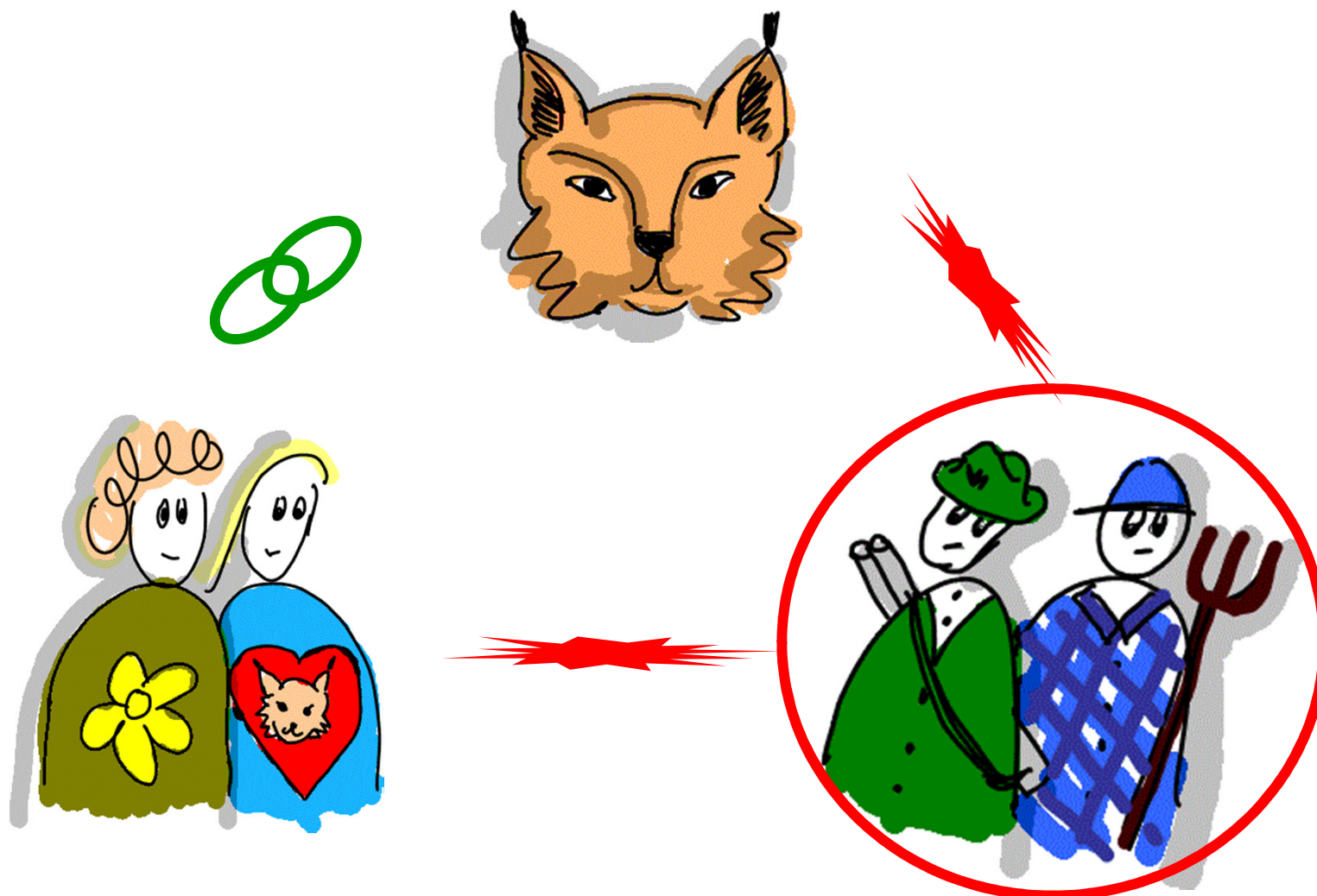
Background

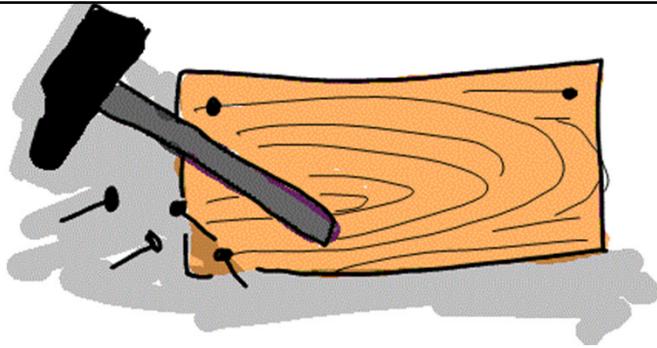


Agenda

- Personal contact and understanding between groups
- Transparency of occurrence and distribution of lynx
- Compensation for domestic animals
- Transparency of groups' activities
- Topics of interest (protection of herds, carnivores' influence on game,...
- Consequences of FFH and Natura 2000
- Research project on attitudes and habitat quality

Background





Research Question

„How are farmers' and hunters' perceptions of the lynx constituted and legitimated?“

-> Group Discussions



Results

Effects of the
lynx



Relationship
between
stakeholder groups





„If we want to talk about acceptance we have to start at the very beginning: WHO wants the lynx and WHY?“

Hunters' perceptions

*„Hunters are
the murderers
of game“*



*„Hunters don't
shoot enough
ungulates“*



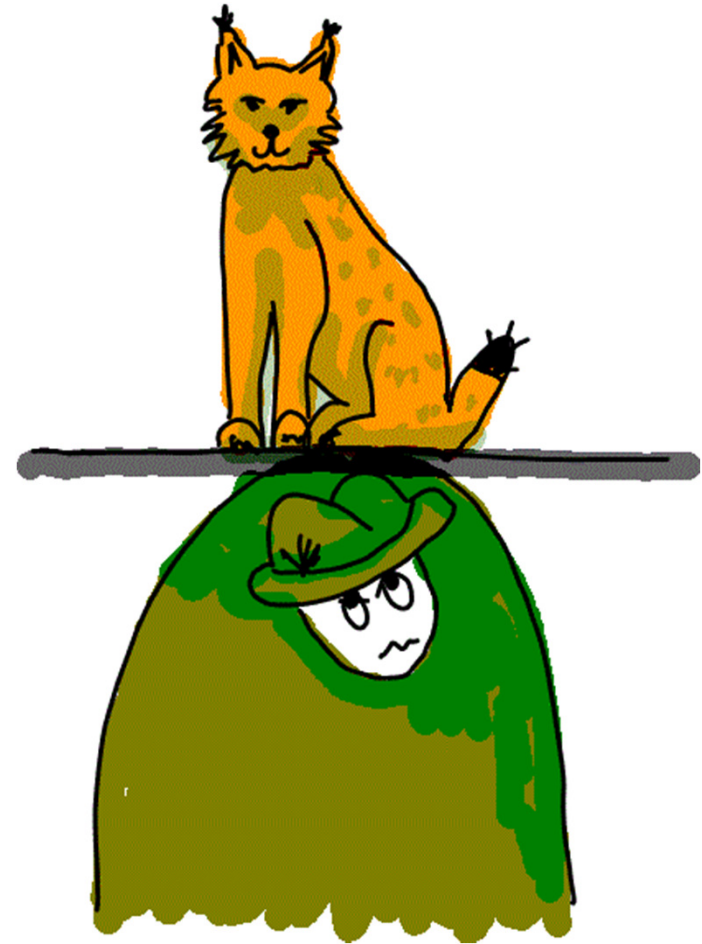
*„That’s actually the **aim** of those groups: to stop hunting. `If we have the lynx we don’t need those hunters anymore’.“*



- > **Threat to identity**
- > **Group conflict**

„If the lynx is being reintroduced to ruin the hunt for us, I don't see why hunters should accept it.“

- > Reactance
- > Illegal killings



Conclusions

- The lynx conflict is a **group conflict**, in which
- the lynx becomes a **symbol for** which group can impose their **values and norms** on the others.
- Loss of values, norms, identity is perceived as a **threat to existence**,
- which causes **reactance** among farmers and hunters
- and furthermore **out-group discrimination**



Conclusions

- Acceptance of the groups with their values and interests
- Mutual acknowledgement of their competences
- Empowering hunters and farmers by involving them in the carnivore management
- Transfer of information on conflict dynamics and carnivore biology



„Transfer & Communication Projekt Large Carnivores“

Goals:

- Groups have profound knowledge about carnivores
- Better communication structures in four model regions

Content:

- Transfer information
- Internet forum
- Local forums
- Communication trainings for key persons and „networkers“ of all groups



Four large information events

Target groups:

- Hunters
- Foresters
- Nature Conservationists
- Farmers/Shepherds

Structure:

- Information on wolf and lynx
- Facilitated discussions in small mixed groups

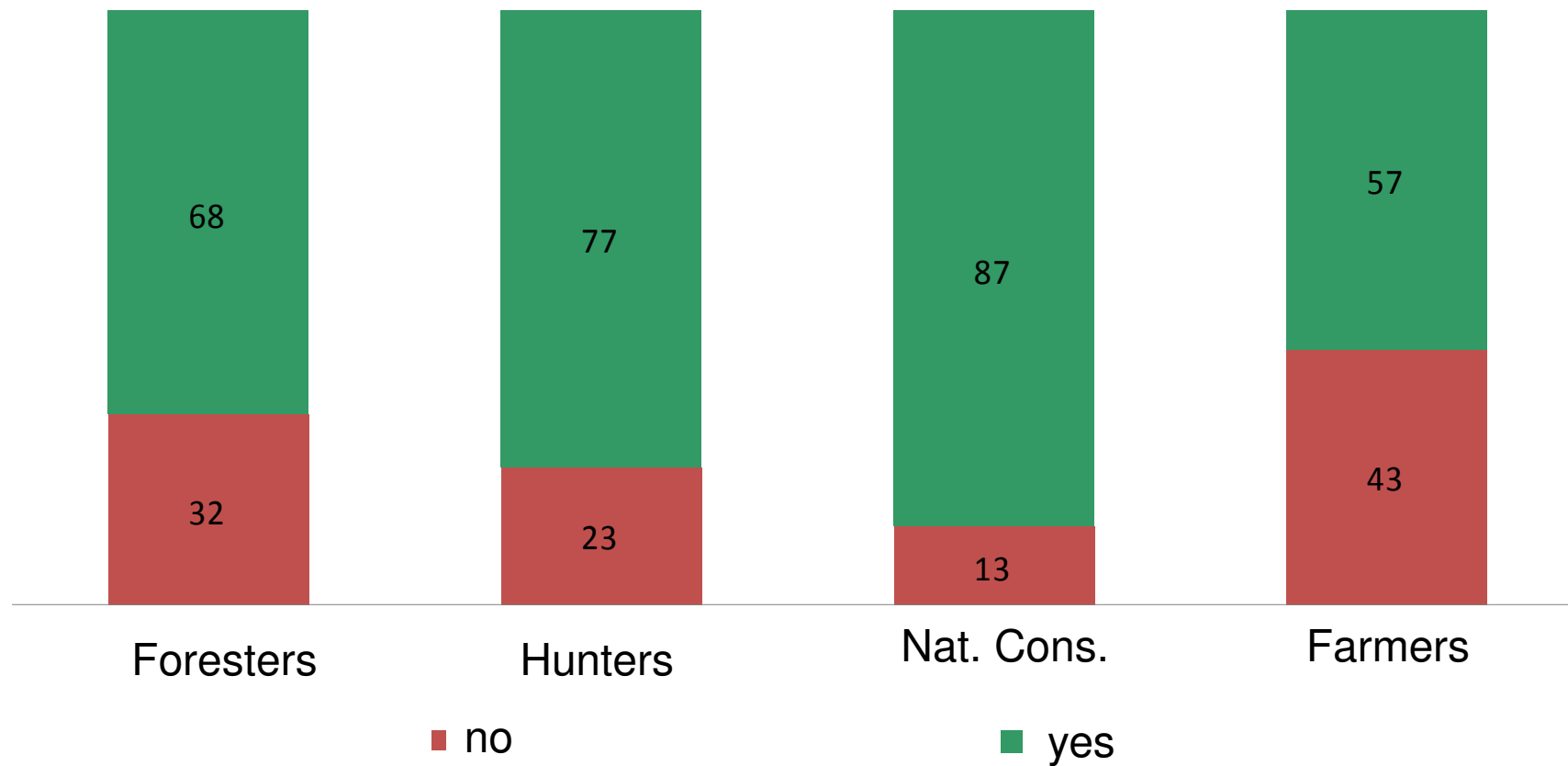


Mixed Group Discussions

- Do you experience the communication and interaction between the groups as problematic? If so, why?
- What should be done about that? How could you contribute to make it better?



Can you understand the interests and needs of the other groups better after this event?



Diskussion

