

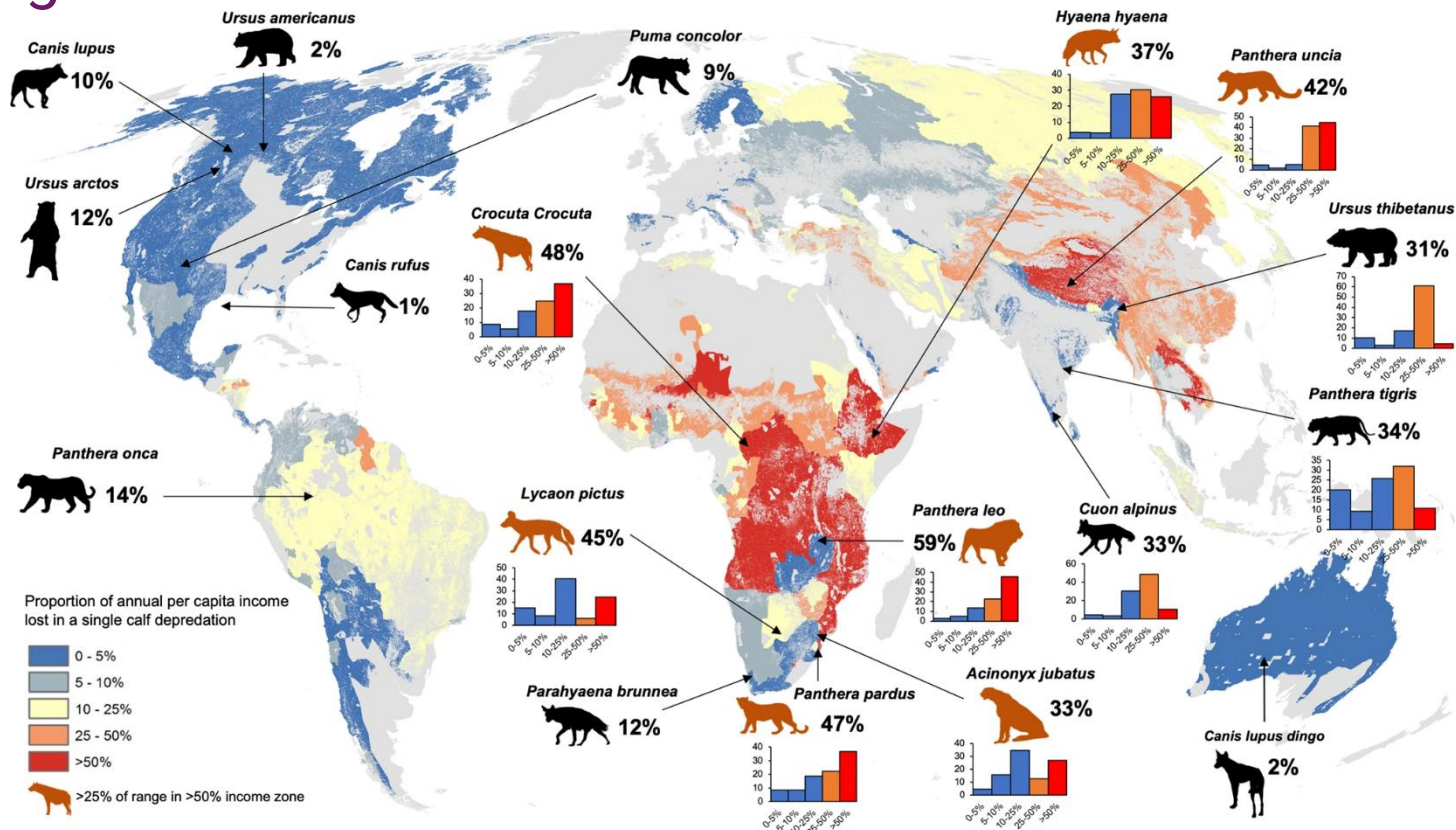


Conflicting Goals – Large Carnivores in Grazing Landscapes

Grazing 4 Agroecology Conference – Oct. 7, 2025 Kalmar, Sweden

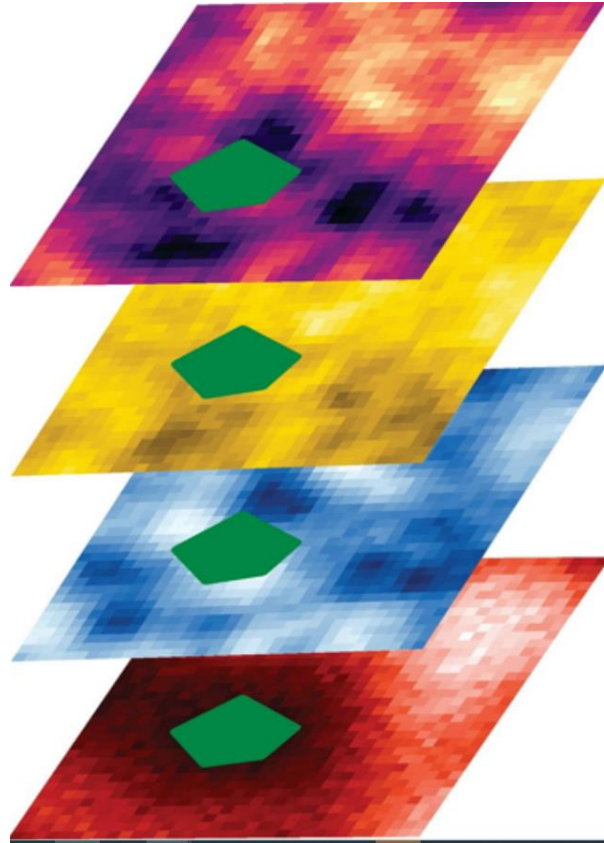
Dr. Eick von Ruschkowski

Setting the Scene: Human-Wildlife Conflicts



Source: Braczkowski et al. (2023)

Setting the Scene: Human-Wildlife Conflict



Conservation conflict

=

Intolerance

+

Risk perception

+

Impact

Source: Lecuyer et al. (2022)

Human-Wildlife Conflict as a “wicked problem”

Table 1. Examples of wicked problems in ecosystem management.

Management problem	Example of management question	Reasons for wickedness
Control of infectious disease	Where and when will outbreaks and spread of infectious diseases occur? Will vaccinations and other control strategies be effective?	Nonlinear population dynamics of disease vectors and hosts; feed-backs between disease incidence and human behavior (14)
Non-point source pollution	Which sources (e.g., agricultural or urban runoff) and pollutants should managers target to improve water quality?	Complex causality from multiple pollution sources; long lag times in system response (16)
Fire management at urban-wildland interface	Should managers suppress fires?	Unintended consequences of increased fuel loads and fire intensity (66)
Conservation of biodiversity	How much and where should places be protected from other sectors (e.g., mining, roads, fishing)? How to protect species with ranges outside protected areas? How to rectify inequities for local communities that lose access to resources?	Differences in values (35); mismatch in ecological and administrative boundaries (42); divergent objectives of stakeholders (56)

Source: Defries & Nagendra 2017

Definition of a wicked problem

Wicked environmental problems (Rittel & Webber 1973; Balint et al. 2011):

- ... are characterized by a high degree of scientific uncertainty and deep disagreement on values. The issues are highly complex.
- The definition of a wicked environmental problem itself is in the eye of the beholder, or the stakeholder, and therefore there is no single correct formulation of any particular problem, but rather multiple definitions, conflicting interests and objectives.
- Consequently, there is no single, correct, optimal solution. The decision maker must come to a conclusion without knowing if all feasible and desirable options have been explored, and any management choice will ultimately be better or worse rather than true or false.
- **The source for disagreement is usually not the scientific uncertainty, but rather the conflicting personal values and world views.**
- Asymmetrical distribution of power and interests.

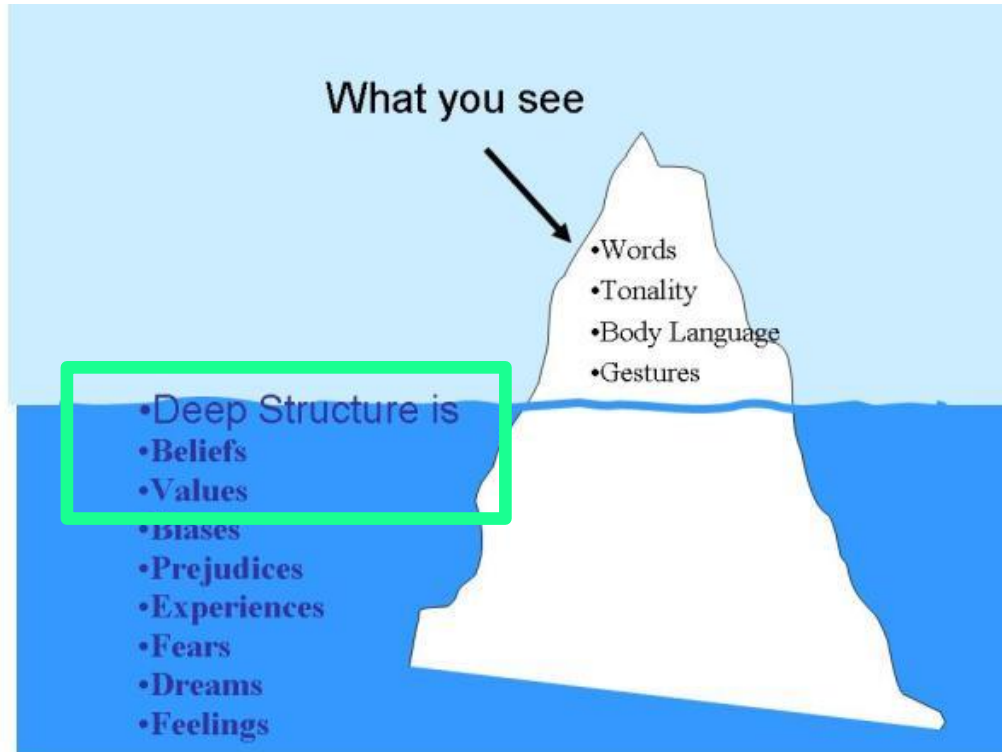
Quellen: Rittel & Webber 1973 / Balint et al. 2011

No solutions to „wicked problems“?

- Time-consuming!
- Regard it as a long-term, sometimes permanent process:
- Developing a **learning network** among the stakeholders, using an **adaptive, iterative, deliberative, analytical participatory process**. Most conflict mitigation processes between different land use interests are not set up in this way!
- Important component: Integrating stakeholder preferences with ecological and economical models.
- Wicked problems have no single best solution – decision makers must seek management policies and processes that are “satisficing”—that is, potentially broadly acceptable and implementable— rather than optimal. (“to satisfice = combining the terms “satisfy” and “suffice”). A satisficing strategy accepts an outcome or judgment as good enough or satisfactory without an expectation that it is in any sense optimal or best.

Sources: Rittel & Webber 1973 / Balint et al. 2011

Requirement: Understanding communications and culture



Quelle: <https://zestnzen.wordpress.com/2012/01/26/how-to-understand-cross-cultural-communication/>

Root Causes for Conflict: Differences in Values

The Concept of „Wildlife Value Orientations“:

- Basic beliefs that shape how people view and relate to wildlife, typically categorized into domination (human domination, wildlife for human benefit), mutualistic (human-wildlife equality and harmony), pluralistic (a mix of utilitarian and mutualistic views that are situation-dependent), and distanced (little interest or connection to wildlife).
- Understanding these orientations is crucial for wildlife management, as they influence people's acceptance of different conservation strategies and help predict human behavior towards wildlife.
- In simple words: Do I consider wildlife an enemy?
- Human-Wildlife Conflicts are proxies for social conflicts.

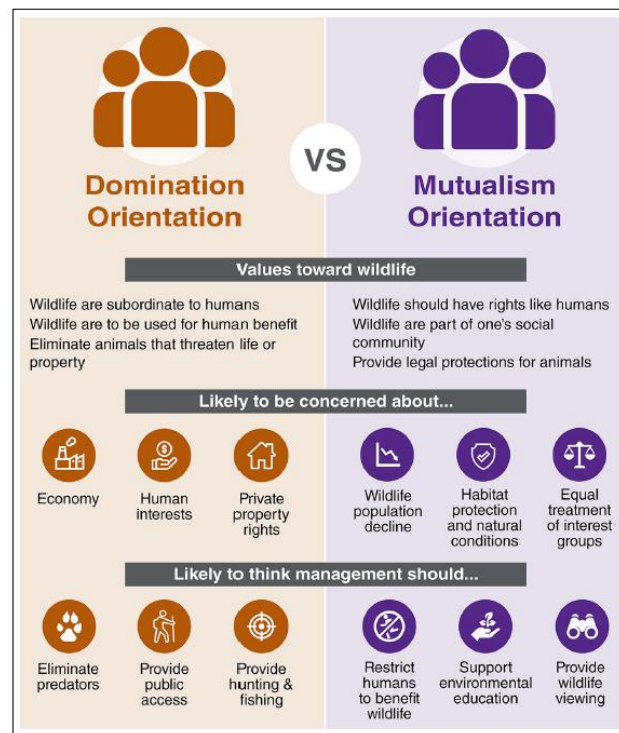


Figure 1. Overview of wildlife value dimensions for the sociocultural index.

Every stakeholder has a valid position in conflict mitigation



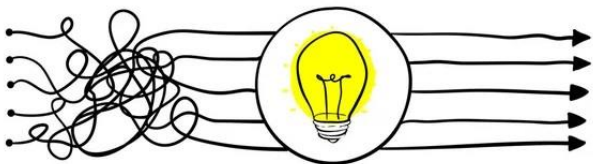
PHOTO: MADDY PRICE / THE BALANCE

Source: <https://www.thebalancemoney.com/conflict-resolutions-skills-2063739>

Coexistence: A common goal or a dream?

It depends...

- Some conflicts maybe beyond the point where a solution is possible if the framing remains unchanged.
- Solutions in human-wildlife conflict situations will remain impossible as long as the involved stakeholder will remain in the individual bubble, avoiding the development of joint objectives.
- If stakeholders believe that there will be easy solutions, the outcome will be negative.
- If you don't start collaborating, you will never achieve results.



Source: Goscinnny & Uderzo

Conflicting Goals: Three reading recommendations

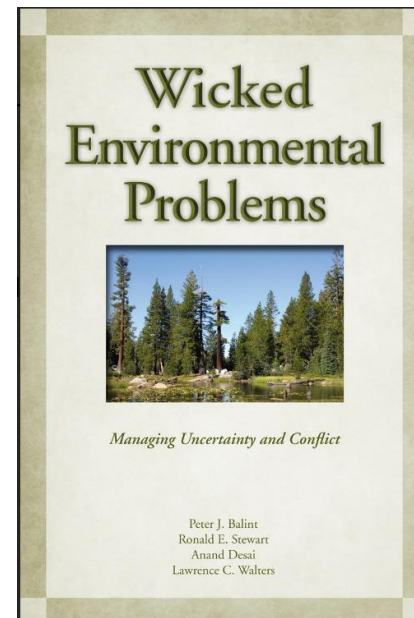
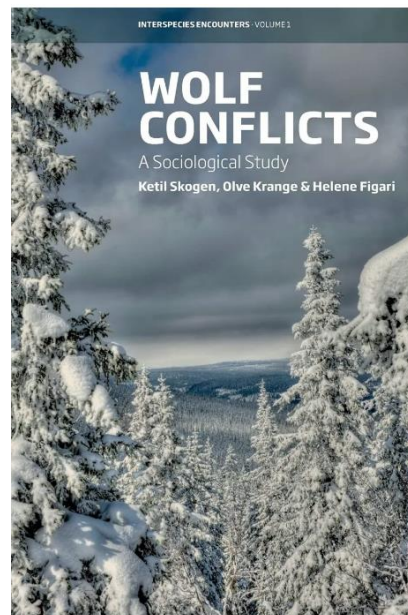


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Why social values cannot be changed for the sake of conservation

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Thank you very much for
your attention!