Park-People Relationships human perceptions of protected areas within the context of visitation

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Why against protected areas?



source: Mayer 2018





Changed relationship between locals & PA

- social support is needed to ensure an adequate, and well-managed network of PA
- PA will only **fulfil their aspirations if their operation is linked to socio-economic development** (IUCN, 1994)
- paradigmatic shift in the understanding of nature conservation from the protection of nature "from people" to its conservation "with people"
- socio-cultural issues related to protected areas (PAs) are a decisive precondition for successful nature and biodiversity protection
- strict protection measures can only be implemented if these measures are supported by the population of the adjacent areas
- political pressures fuelled by negative local attitudes towards PAs could lead to the softening or delaying of protection policies or even stop the designation of PAs



"Park-People-Relationship" (PPR) vs. Acceptance

Acceptance

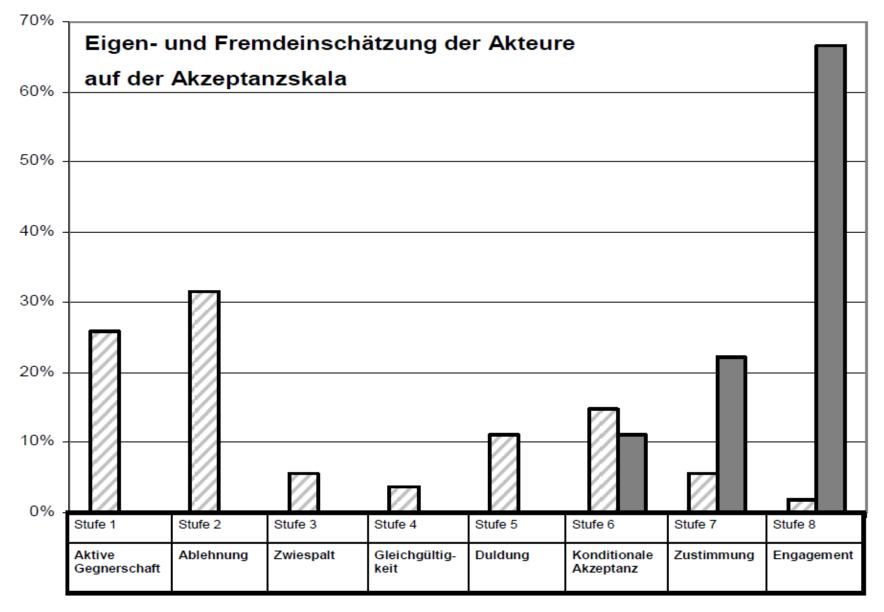
- A **latent variable** predominantly **operationalized as an attitude**, which, unlike values and norms, can be more volatile in space and time
- There is **no such thing as general acceptance** of an object
- There is always a scale from rejection (aversion, resistance) through neutrality (indifference) to approval or identification
- should not be not limited to pure polarization between approval and rejection of a situation, but rather examines its causes



Park-People Relationship as a more comprehensive term



Acceptancescale by Sauer

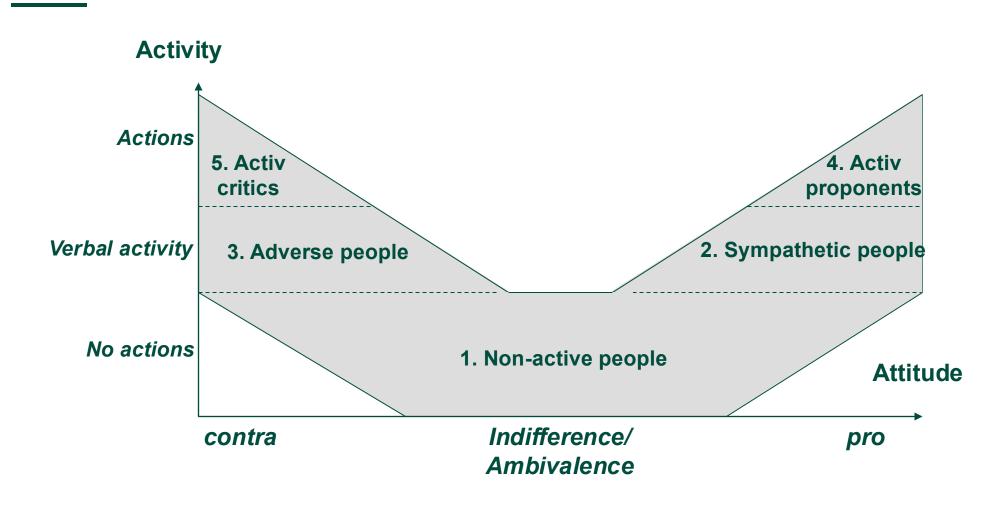


- Betroffene und ihre Verbände
- Naturschutzvertreter

source: Sauer et al. 2005

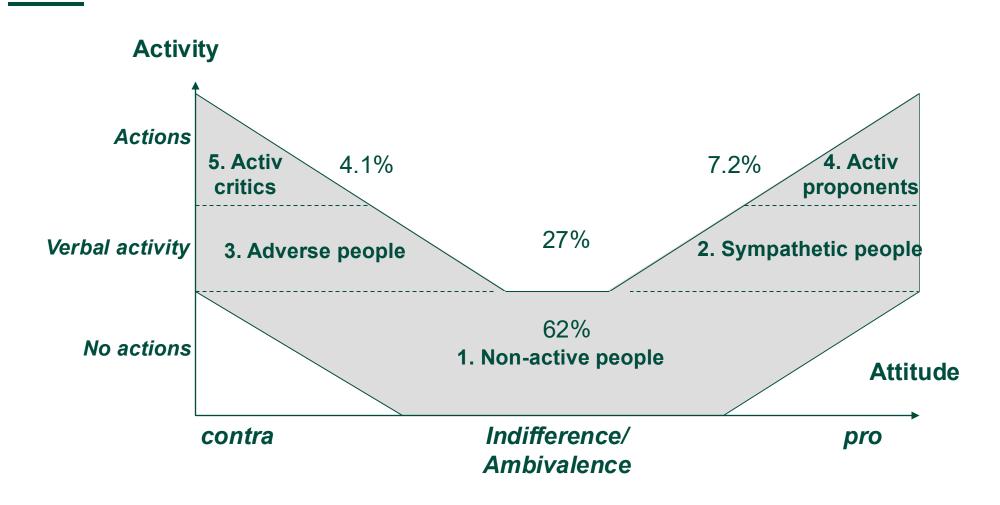


Acceptance levels by Liebecke





Acceptance levels – national park Bavarian Forest





Why aversion to PA?

- Economic disadvantages or unfavorable financial and organizational framework conditions
- Lack of familiarity with nature conservation goals
- Contradictory values and beliefs
- Forms of **communication** that are experienced by those involved as unsatisfactory or authoritarian
- Fear of behavioral restrictions, paternalism, and external control

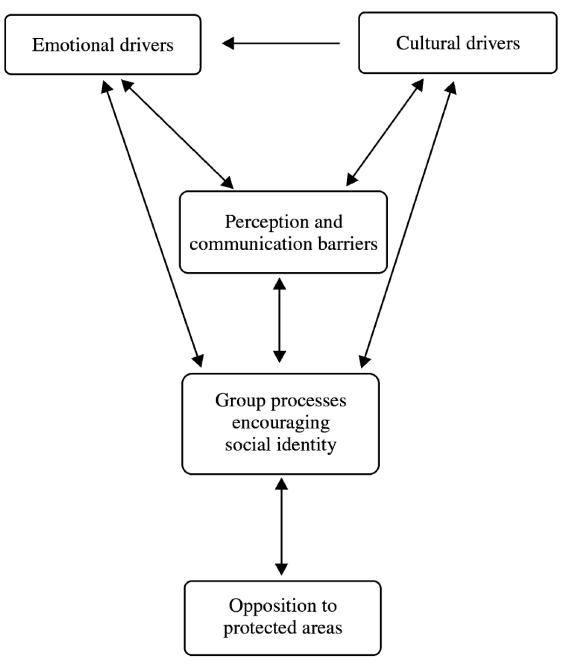




Why aversion to PA?

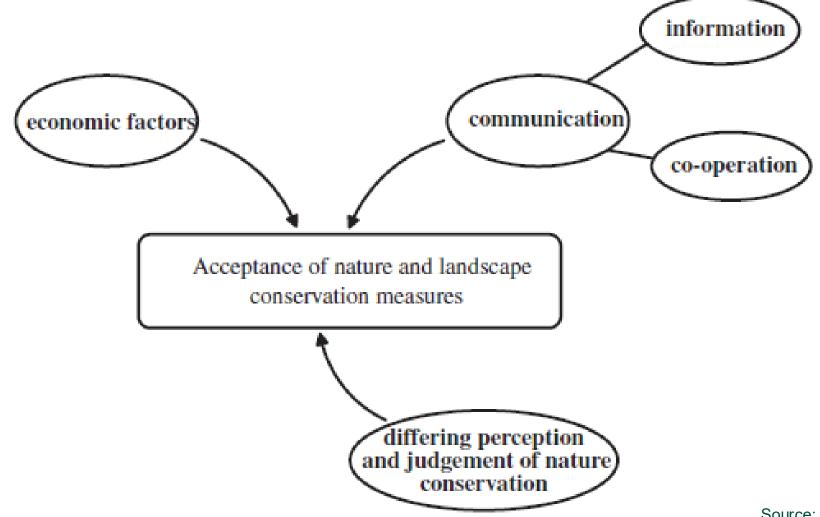
Social barriers







Influence factors on PPR



Source: SCHENK et al. 2007: 71



How to measure PPR

- "Acceptance crater" (NIMBY phenomenon)
- "Mayor's question" (continuation of the protected area yes/no; express support or opposition today)
- Direct question about overall attitudes
- Aggregation of several attitude questions

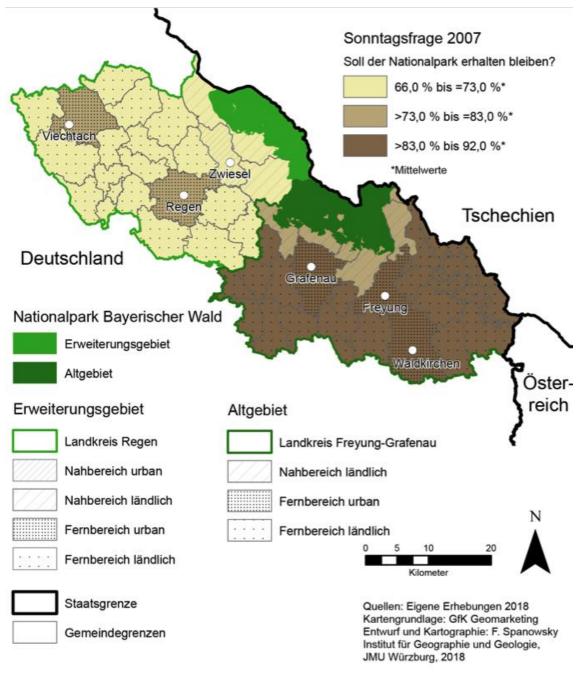
> There is a lack of multivariate models to test the relative importance of influencing factors

Source: Marius Mayer



How to measure PPR

"Acceptance crater"
Bavarian Forest





Further influencing factors

"New" inhabitants(to the region) vs. Locals

• Immigrants have more positive opinions about PA management

Income/Education

The higher the income and education, the higher an acceptance of PA management

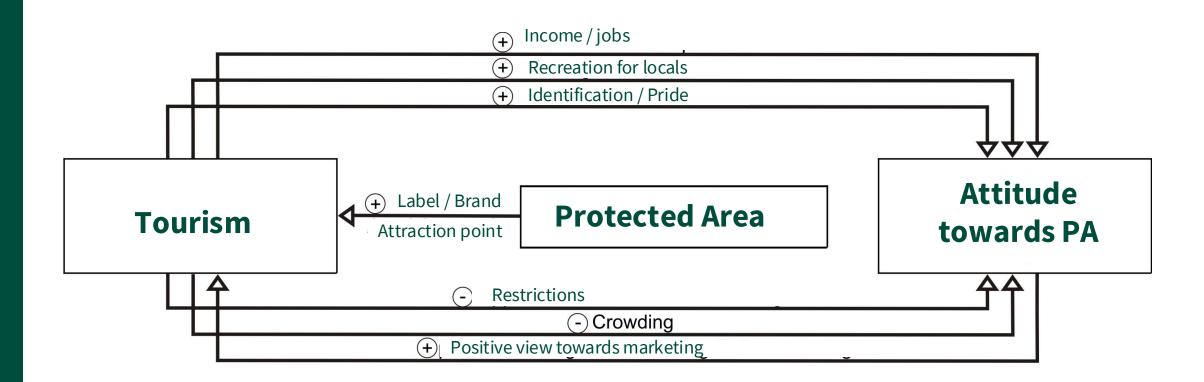
Age

 Older people have a more critical attitude toward PA management and tourism development

Sources: Mayer 2018



Relationship Tourism & PPR

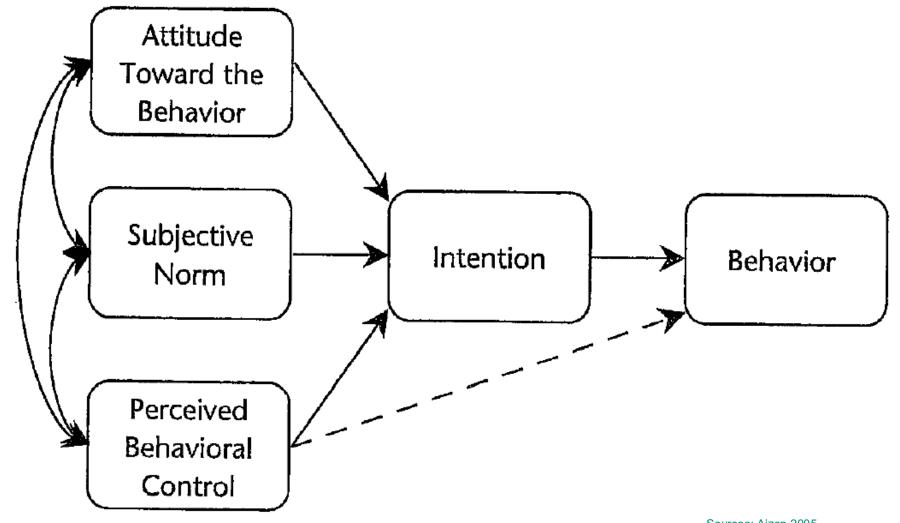




Relationship Tourism & PPR

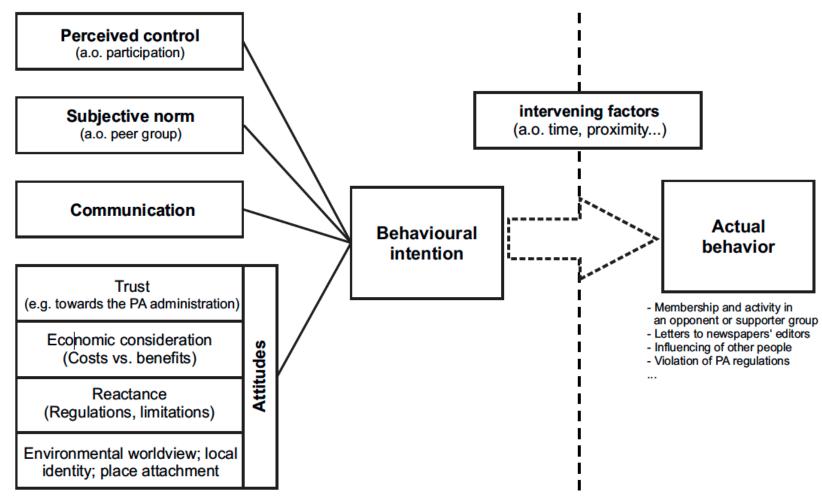






Sources: Ajzen 2005





Sources: Mayer et al. 2023





- Representative, standardized, quantitative telephone surveys in 14 protected area regions in the Euroregion in 2019 and 2020
- Between 370 and 403 interviews per area, a total of 5,547
- Based on existing "acceptance" studies in Germany
- Population: Residents of the survey areas (>18 years old)
- Weighting: by age and gender
- 43 questions in three question blocks





Moderating Factors Independent Variables Communication How interested are you in Socio-demographic Number of used information sources (about the PA) the protected area? Variables · How well do you feel informed about the work of the PA administration? **Dependent Variables** Trust · How much trust do you have in the work of the PA administration? The PA administration is doing a good job "Sunday Question": Keep or dissolve the **Economic Assessment** PA? How important is the PA for tourism in your region? • The PA supports the economic development of the region Change of the · The quality of tourism in the region improved since the personal attitude towards the PA since designation of the PA · Which groups of actors profit most from the existence of the its designation/since moving in the region • The PA has positive effects on the image of the region Actions in favour of/against the PA Reactance · Are there any restrictions for your daily life due to living in or near the PA? Environmental worldview / Local Identity/ Place attachment ronmental worldview **Nationality** Protected area category nature and landscape in my region (PL, GER) (NLP, LP, BR) Sources: Mayer et al. 2023



- Communication, trust, economic viability and reactance statistically influence the personal interest & attitudes towards PA
- Different protection regimes affect the level of awareness of protected areas
- Low tourism intensity also affects the awareness of positive economic effects of tourism in PA

- ➤ Attitutes & behaviour of local population towards PA (& tourism) relate to a combination of different attributes
- >A single parameter would miss the overall picture



Exercise – LEGO Serious Play!