

The Field of Conflict Recreational use – Nature conservation in National Parks and Biosphere Reserves



Karen Ziener,
University of Klagenfurt,
Colloquium Geography
and Regional Studies,
extract, 11. March 2004



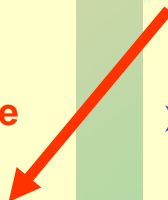
Theoretical basics and deficits

Conflicts between recreational use and nature conservation

- **Effects of tourism and recreation for nature and landscape in detail analysed**
- **Contrast and compatibility of nature conservation and nature utilisation discussed**
- **No conflict handling observed (praxis!)**
- **No typification / systematisation**
- **no relations between conflicts observed**

Social science conflict research

- **Comprehensive results and cognitions for the explanation, dynamic, handling and effects of conflicts**
- **Throughout other fields of research (e.g. marriage, family, enterprise, organisation), no connection to environment or nature conservation**



Theoretical basics and deficits

**Conflicts between recreational use
and nature conservation**

**Social science
conflict research**

**Conflicts in national parks and
biosphere reserves**

Functional Analysis of spatial-use conflicts

Acceptance research instead of conflict
research

- **Scarcely statements about national park / biosphere reserve specific conflict processes**
- **Importance of conflicts for the development of national parks and biosphere reserves was not (scarcely) thematised (conflict theory!)**

Research approach

1. Combination of landscape and spatial oriented research perspectives with activity oriented and conflict oriented research perspectives for the creation of a complex view of conflict
2. Application of the social science conflict research to the field of conflict recreational use versus nature conservation
3. Structuring of the complex and complicated field of conflict recreational use versus nature conservation
4. Analysis of conflict practice in different structured research regions
5. Realisation of this complex view of conflicts through change of perspective and a mix of methods

Integration of conflict perspective / term of conflict

nature and spatial science conflict view

Opposite / stress field between nature conservation and nature using, which is based on the effects of tourism and leisure time activities to nature and landscape

Conflicts are gathered through overlay of ecological and using attribute of landscape

→ Opposite objective (problem)

Solution contentual,
task of nature conservation and spatial planning

social science (social psycholog.) conflict definition

Two elements are contemporary opposed or/and incompatible

Controversy between at least two parties

Conflicts consist of subjects, the conflicting parties, and at least one object, the cause of the conflict

→ Opposite between persons

No single-sided solution, but only through action of both sides

landscape or
spatial oriented

Integration

**spatial conflict
potentials**

Conflict potentials

latent / inactive conflict parties and
the conflict subject

Research approach: conflict and field of conflict

Conflict

Conflicts consist of subjects, the conflicting parties, and at least one object, the cause of the conflict.

Field of Conflict

Recreational Use – Nature Conservation

Totality of all such conflicts in the region and the connections between it (system analysis)

Research regions

Rügen
island



- Landscape profile from the Baltic Sea to the Pannonian Region
- Holiday and recreation regions



Spreewald

- Legal, planning, political factors of different federal states and national state
- Old and new federal states
- National parks and biosphere reserves



Lake Neusiedl / Fertö



Danube Flood Plains

- different concepts of biosphere reserves

Harz



Rhön

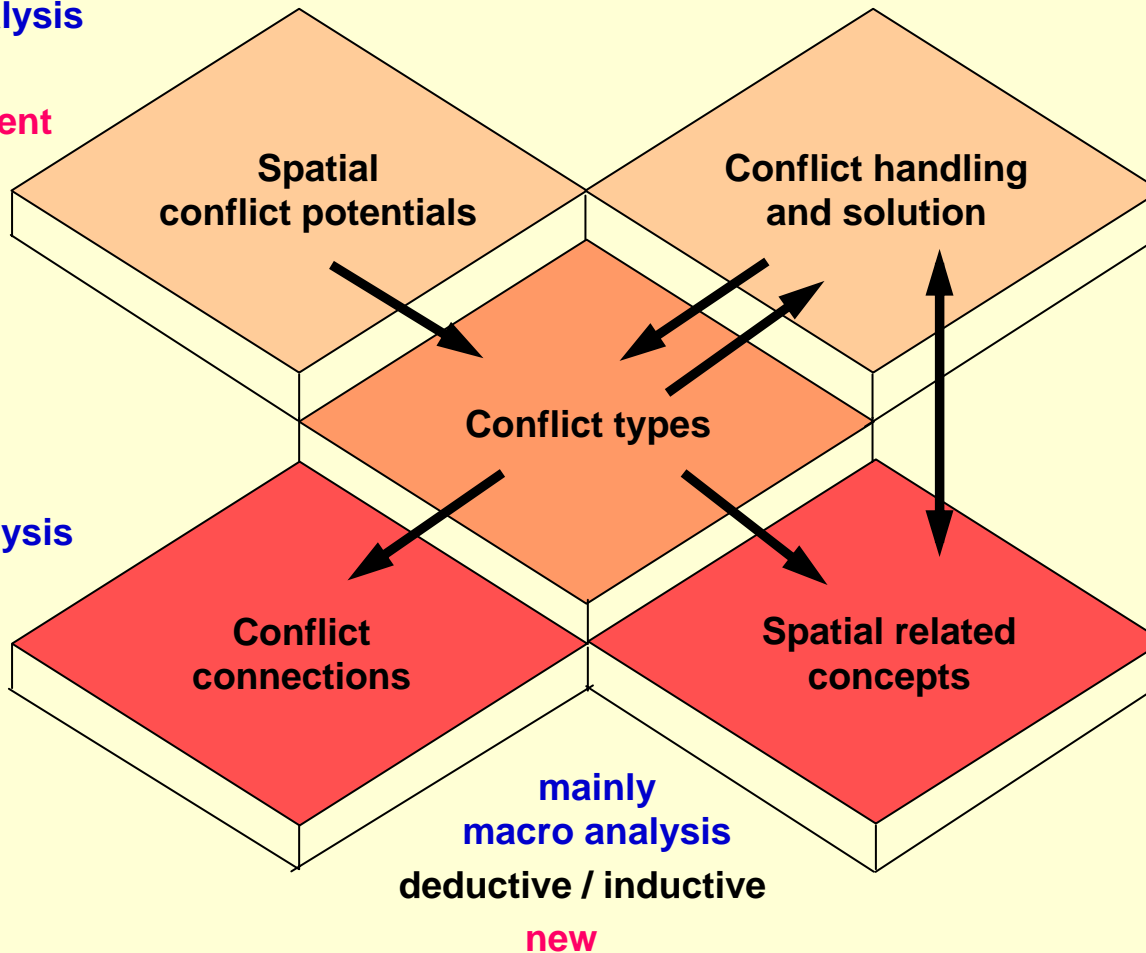
Modelling of the Field of Conflict Recreational use – Nature conservation in a Region

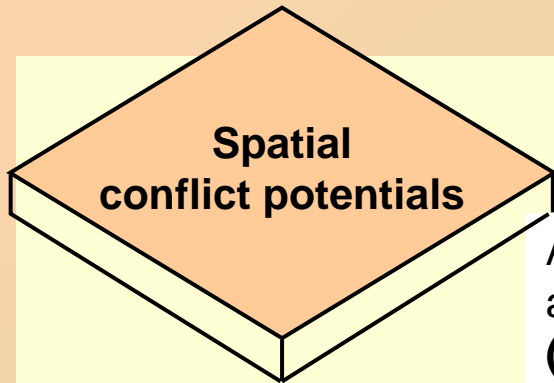
macro analysis
inductive
advancement

micro analysis
deductive
application

macro /
micro analysis
inductive
new

macro /
micro analysis
deductive /
inductive
connecting



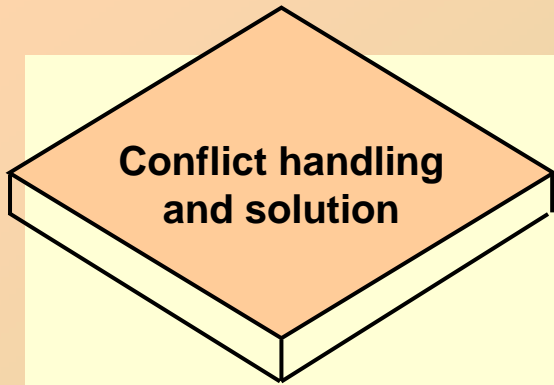


A landscape is evaluated as being both **worth protecting** and **attractive for recreation and leisure-time activities (general view)**.

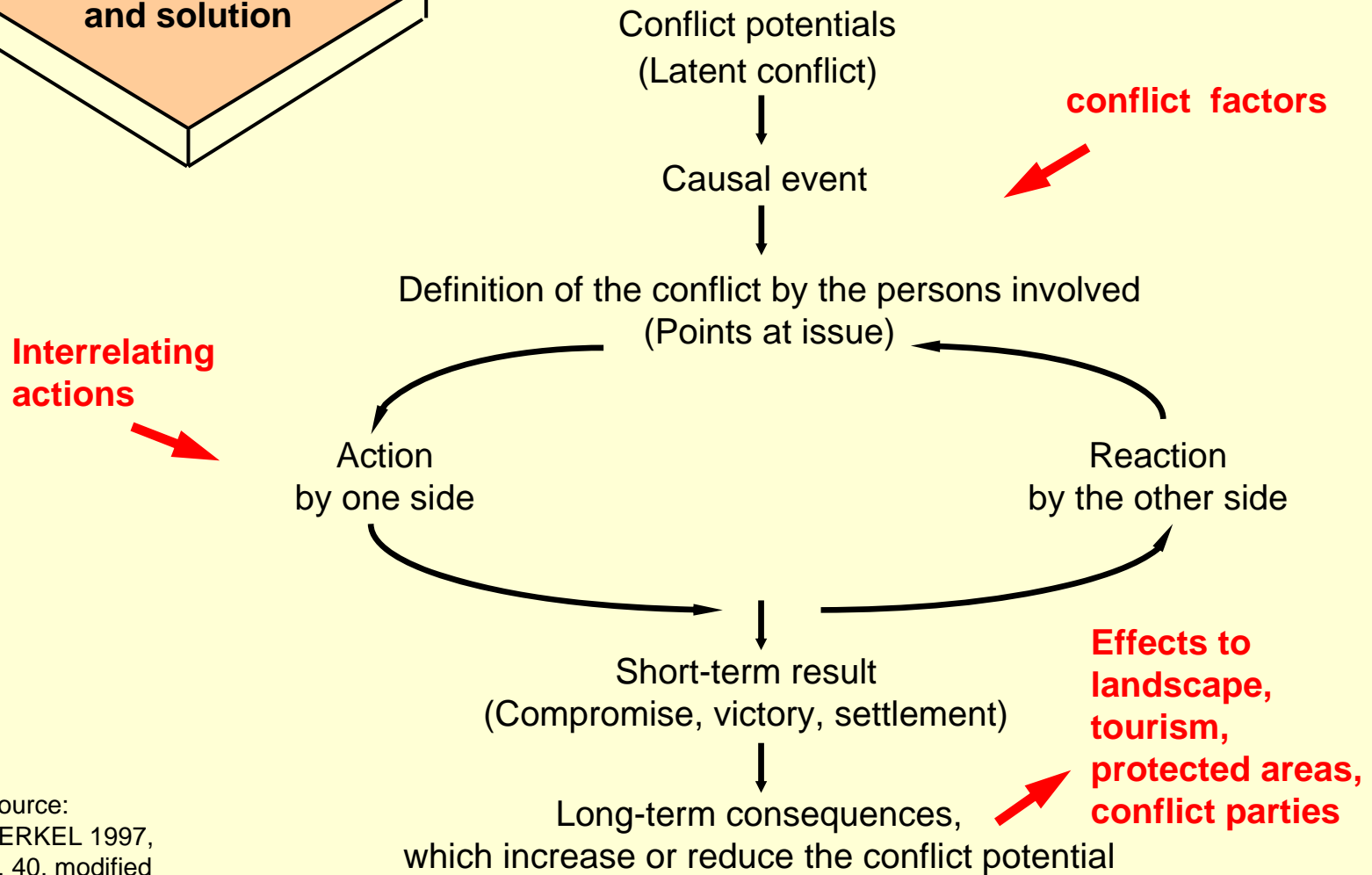
An unfavourable relationship exists between the **sensitivity of a landscape** and the **intensity of its use for recreation and leisure-time activities (ecological view)**.

Demands on using the area by those seeking recreation and leisure-time activity, are opposed to **restrictions resulting from environmental protection (user's view)**.

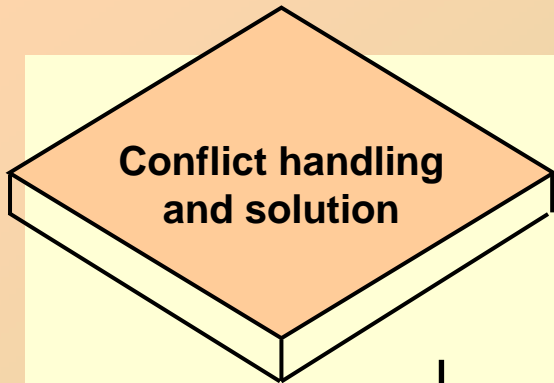
Boundary of potential conflict spaces



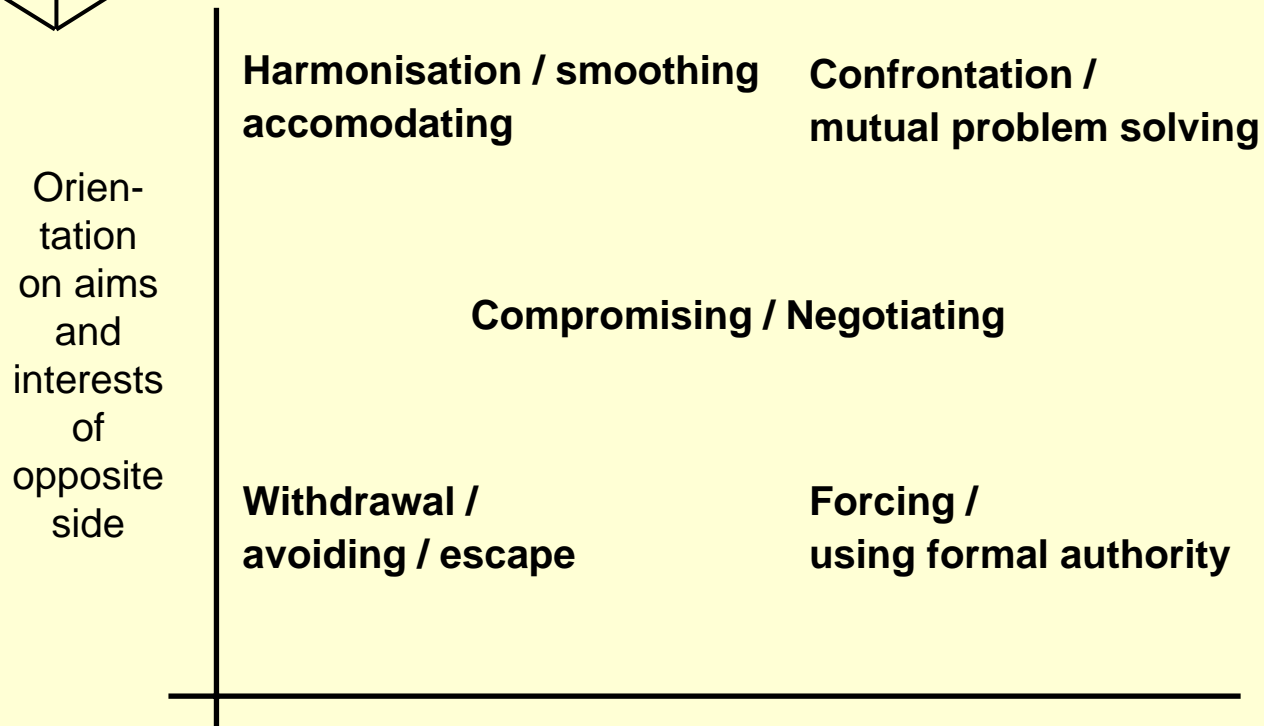
Model of conflict process according to BERKEL



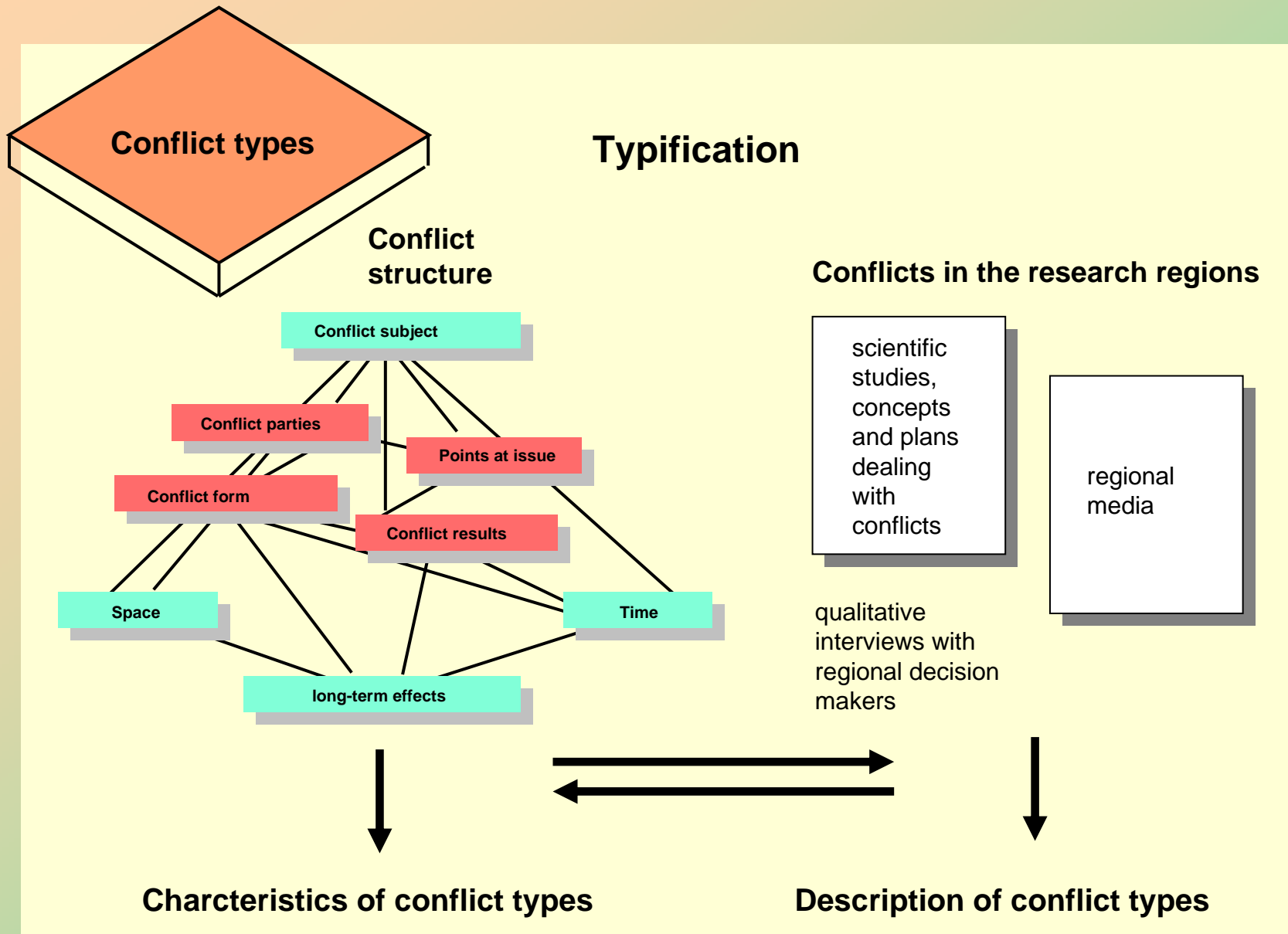
Source:
BERKEL 1997,
S. 40, modified



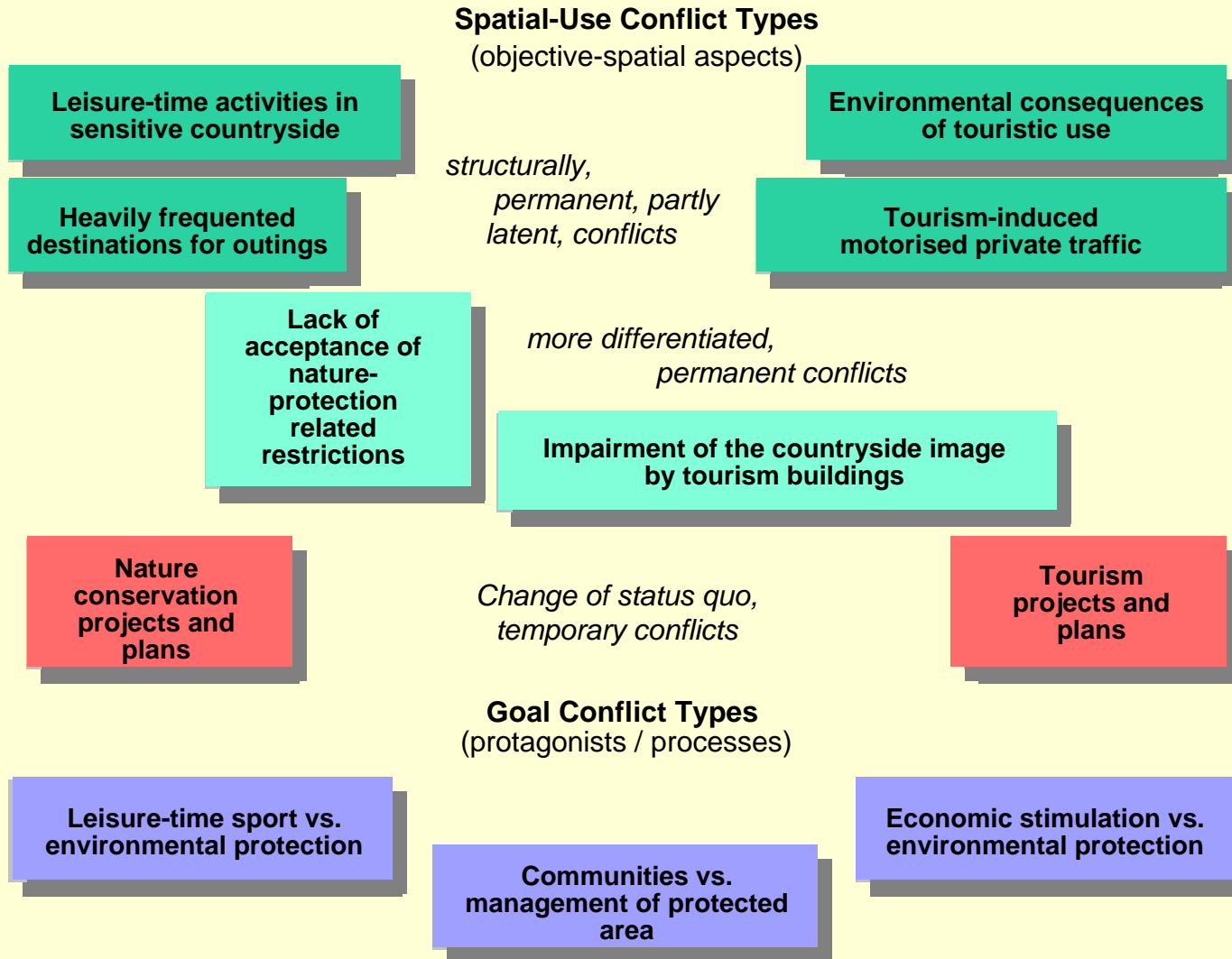
Conflict styles



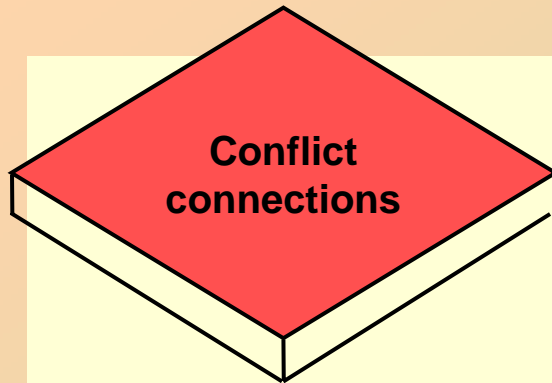
Source: own compilation after
BERKEL 1987, BERKEL 1997,
REGNET 1992



Conflict types between recreational use and nature conservation



Source: ZIENER 2003



Micro analysis

Conflict experiences of participants

- Attitudes to conflicts, generally (e.g. solvability, importance)
- Get to know the other conflict parties (e.g. interests and aims, behaviour in the conflict)
- Conflict solution competence (e.g. procedures, strategies)
- Factual solving of problems (e.g. sustainability strategies, functional separation)

Macro analysis

Objective-spatial hierarchies

- planning and administrations levels
e.g. NP Hochharz

temporal hierarchies

- Sequence and parallelism of conflicts

Complex conflict situations

- Situations which combine different interacting conflicts and conflict fields,
- Big number of participants, variety of interests and requirements
- Spatial concentration (e.g. Brocken, Hiddensee Island) or objective bundling (e.g. Landscape structure plan Spreewald)

Literature

ZIENER, Karen (2003): Das Konfliktfeld Erholungsnutzung – Naturschutz in Nationalparks und Biosphärenreservaten, Aachen (Habilitation thesis, 460 p.).

ZIENER, Karen (2005): Auf dem Weg zu einer regionalen und vorausschauenden Konfliktstrategie für Nationalparke und Biosphärenreservate: Sechs Regionen unter die Lupe genommen, Klagenfurt (Klagenfurter Geographische Schriften, Heft 25, 290 p.).

BERKEL, Karl (1987): Zur Sozialpsychologie des Konflikts in Organisationen. In: Schulz-Gambard, Jürgen (Ed.): Angewandte Sozialpsychologie: Konzepte, Ergebnisse, Perspektiven, München-Weinheim, p. 153-167.

BERKEL, Karl (1997): Konflikttraining. Konflikte verstehen, analysieren, bewältigen, Heidelberg (Arbeitshefte für Führungspsychologie, Band 15).

REGNET, Erika (1992): Konflikte in Organisationen: Formen, Funktion und Bewältigung, Göttingen, Stuttgart (Beiträge zur Organisationspsychologie, Band 12).

Thank you