

ATTITUDES TOWARD WILDLIFE AND THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK IN THE MAKULEKE COMMUNITY, SOUTH AFRICA

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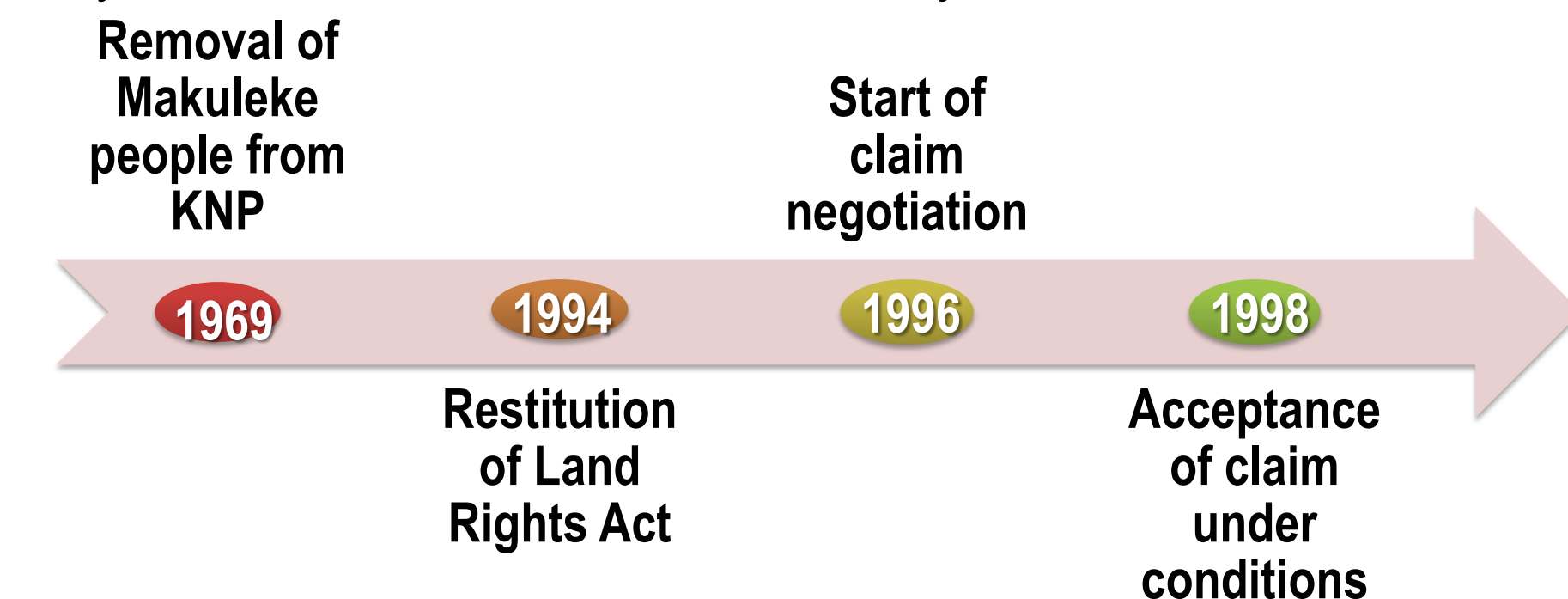
Center for African Studies, Master of Sustainable Development Practice



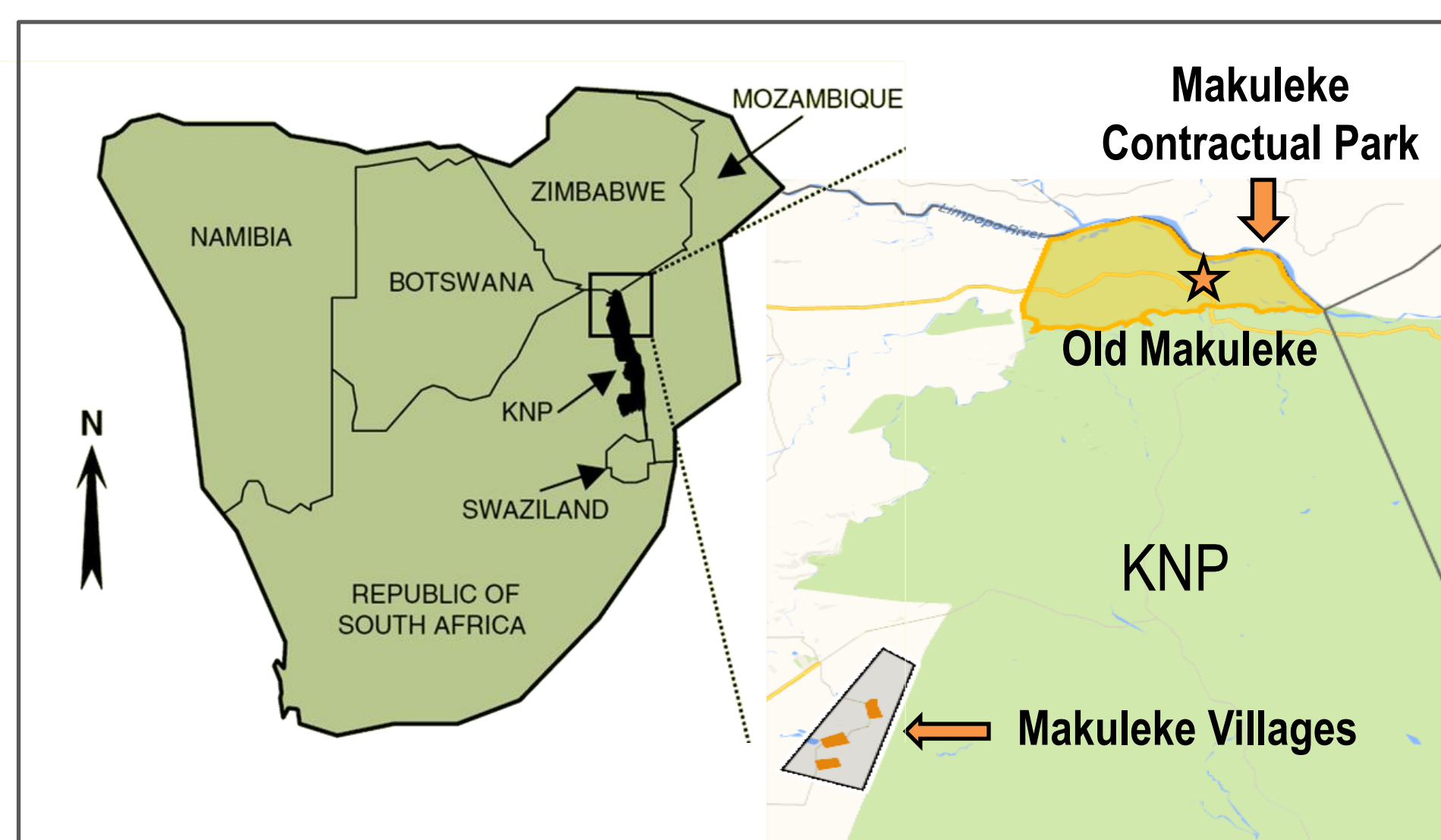
BACKGROUND

The Makuleke community was forcibly removed from Kruger National Park (KNP) during the apartheid and relocated 32 mi to the south. After years of negotiations the community recovered their land under the condition that it be used for conservation purposes and that it remains protected within KNP.

Key events for the Makuleke community



Currently the community owns 22,000 ha of KNP managed by the Communal Property Association (CPA) that searches to maximize the benefits from this land (tourism, jobs, game meat, etc).



OBJECTIVE:

- Identify the attitudes of people toward wildlife and KNP in the context of a community based natural resources management program and explore the underlying factors that might influence these attitudes.

METHODS

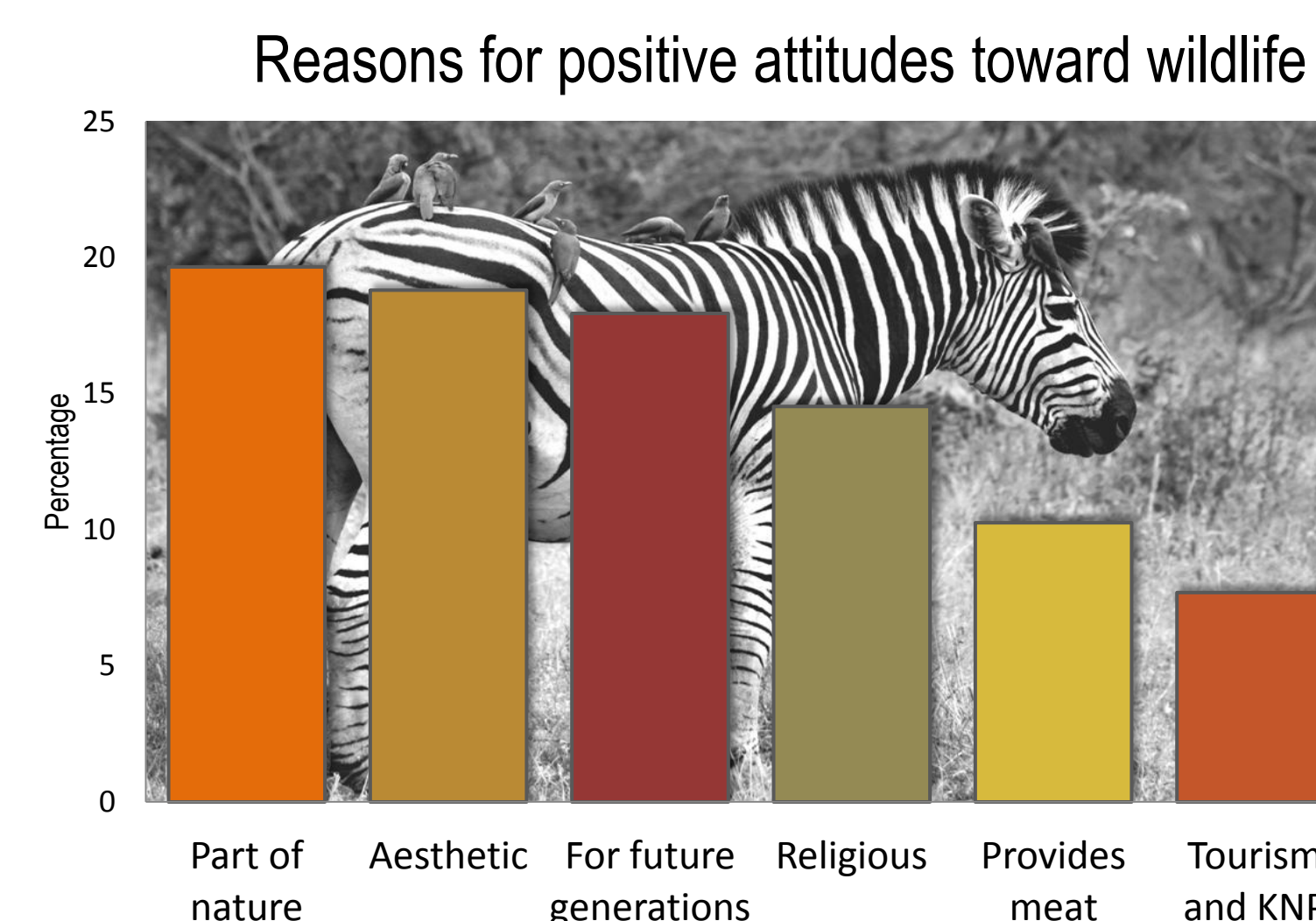
- Data collection from May-July 2014:
 - Randomized sample of households
 - Livelihood surveys - Open Data Kit tool
 - Discussion group
 - 5 trained translators
- Data collected: livelihood profile, demographic information, attitudes toward wildlife and KNP.

RESULTS

- 141 surveys were collected in the three villages

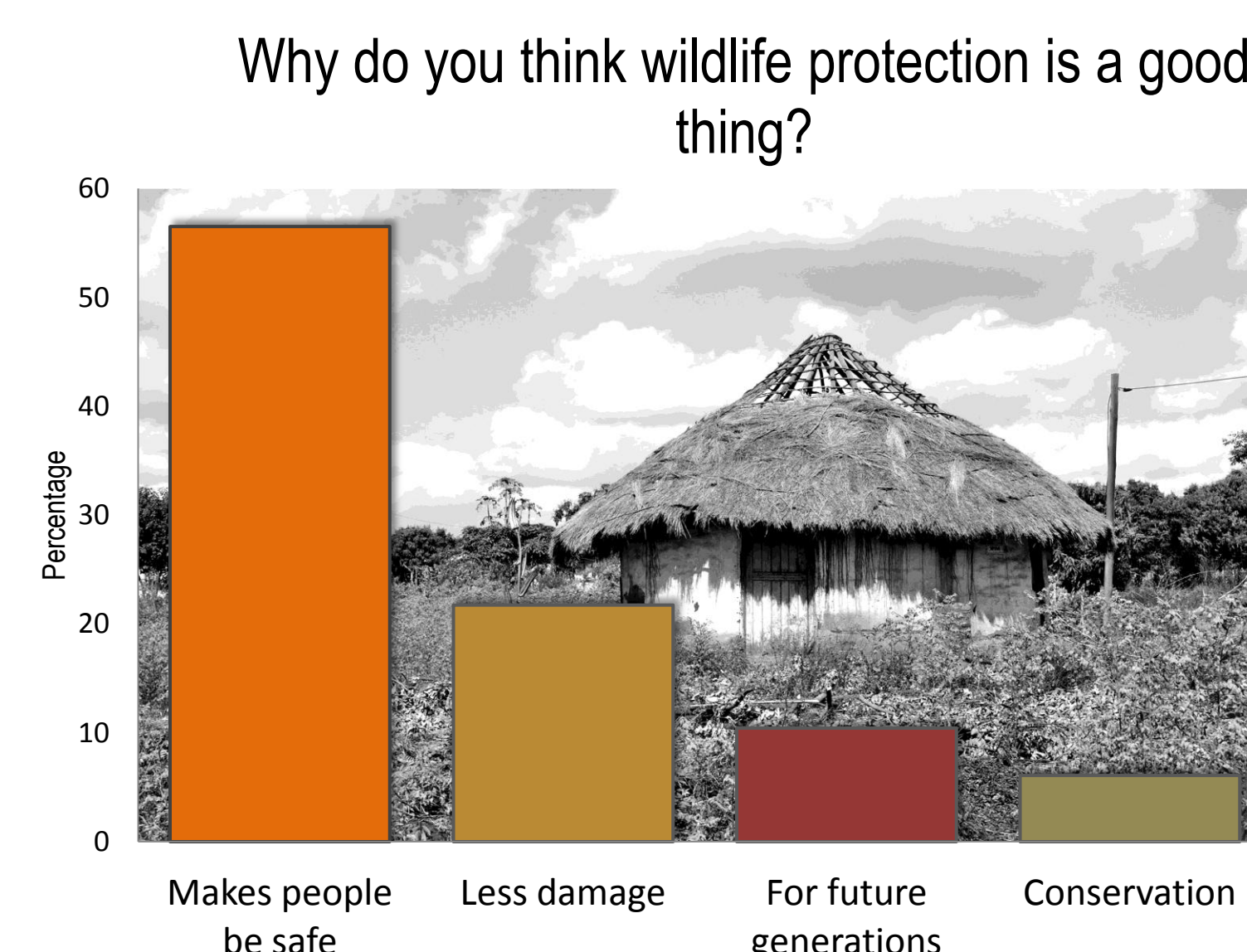
Only **8** respondents received some type of benefit from the CPA during the last year, none of them in the form of cash

90% of the respondents were **not** able to name at least one project developed by the CPA during the last 2 years

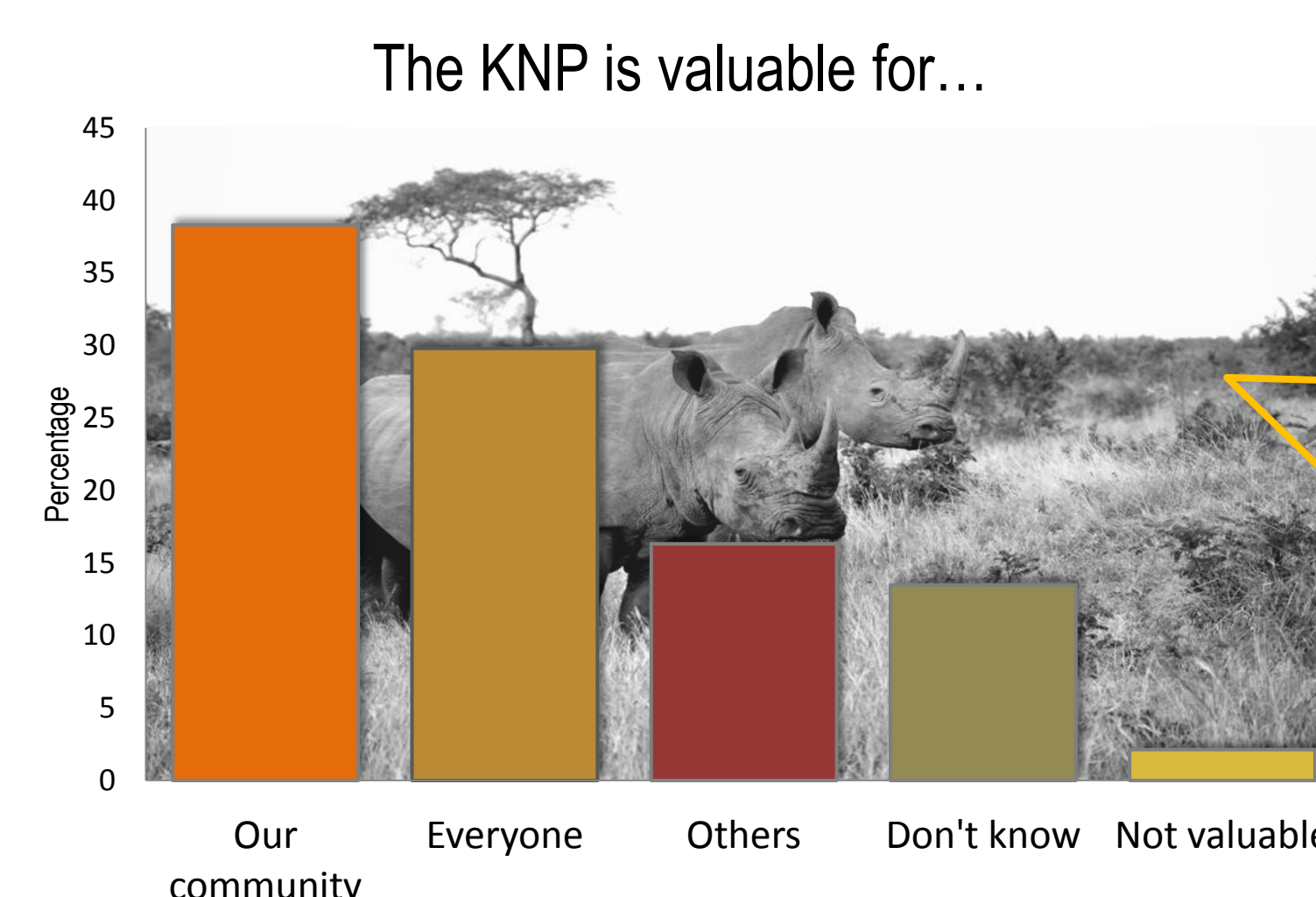


"Because we want it to be seen [wildlife] by our children and the next generation"

97% of respondents agreed that wildlife protection is a good thing

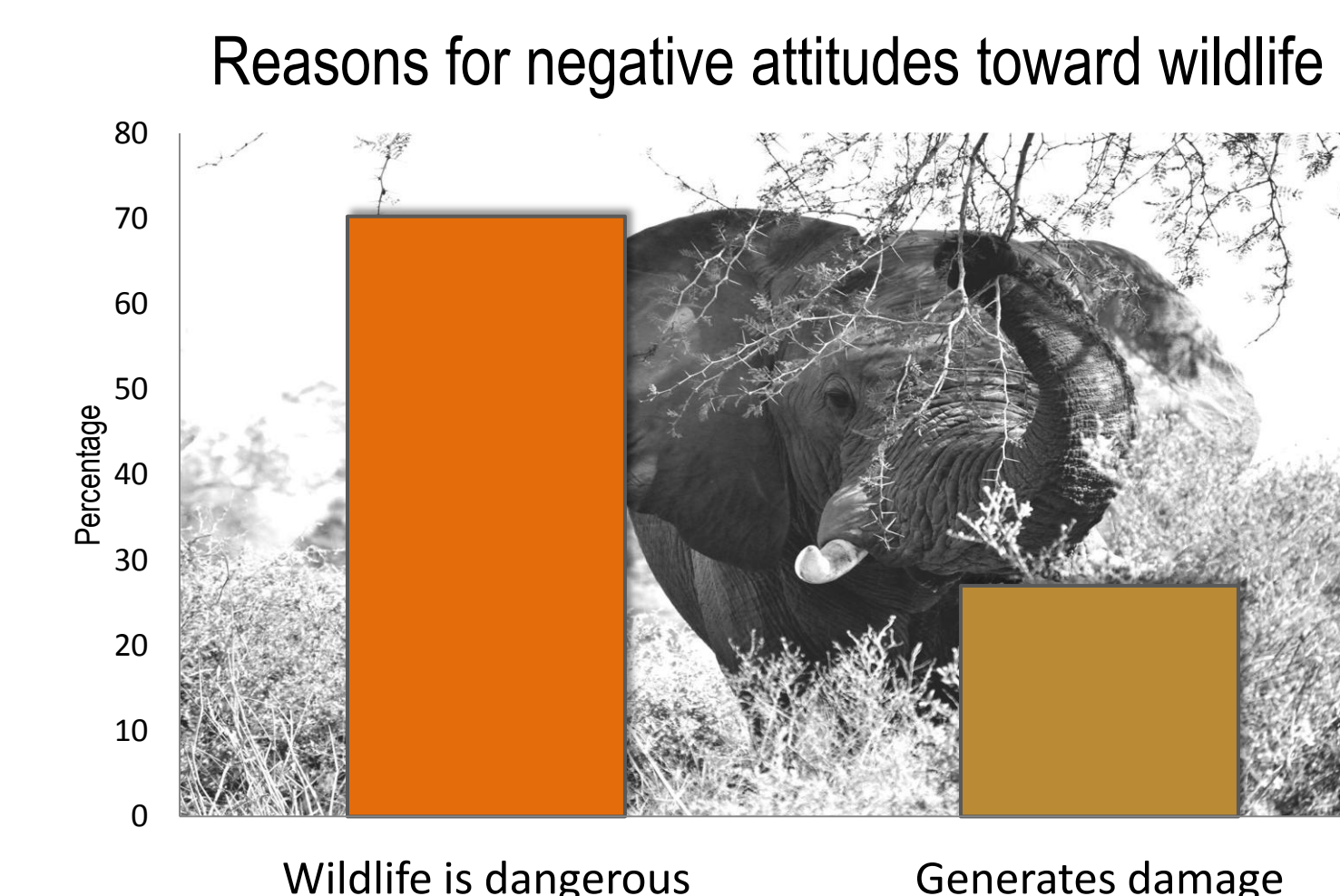
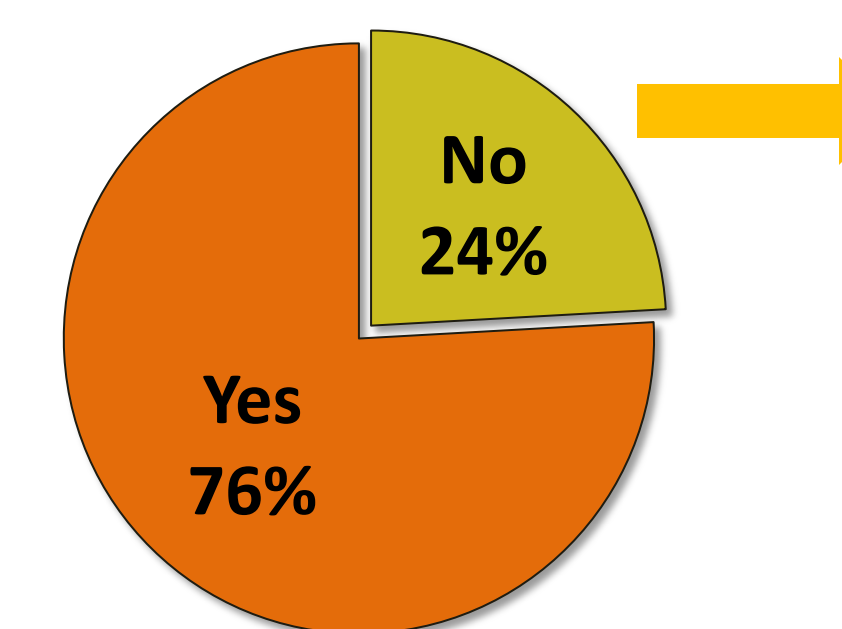


"Because they [wildlife] kill people, so if they are protected they can't come [here]"



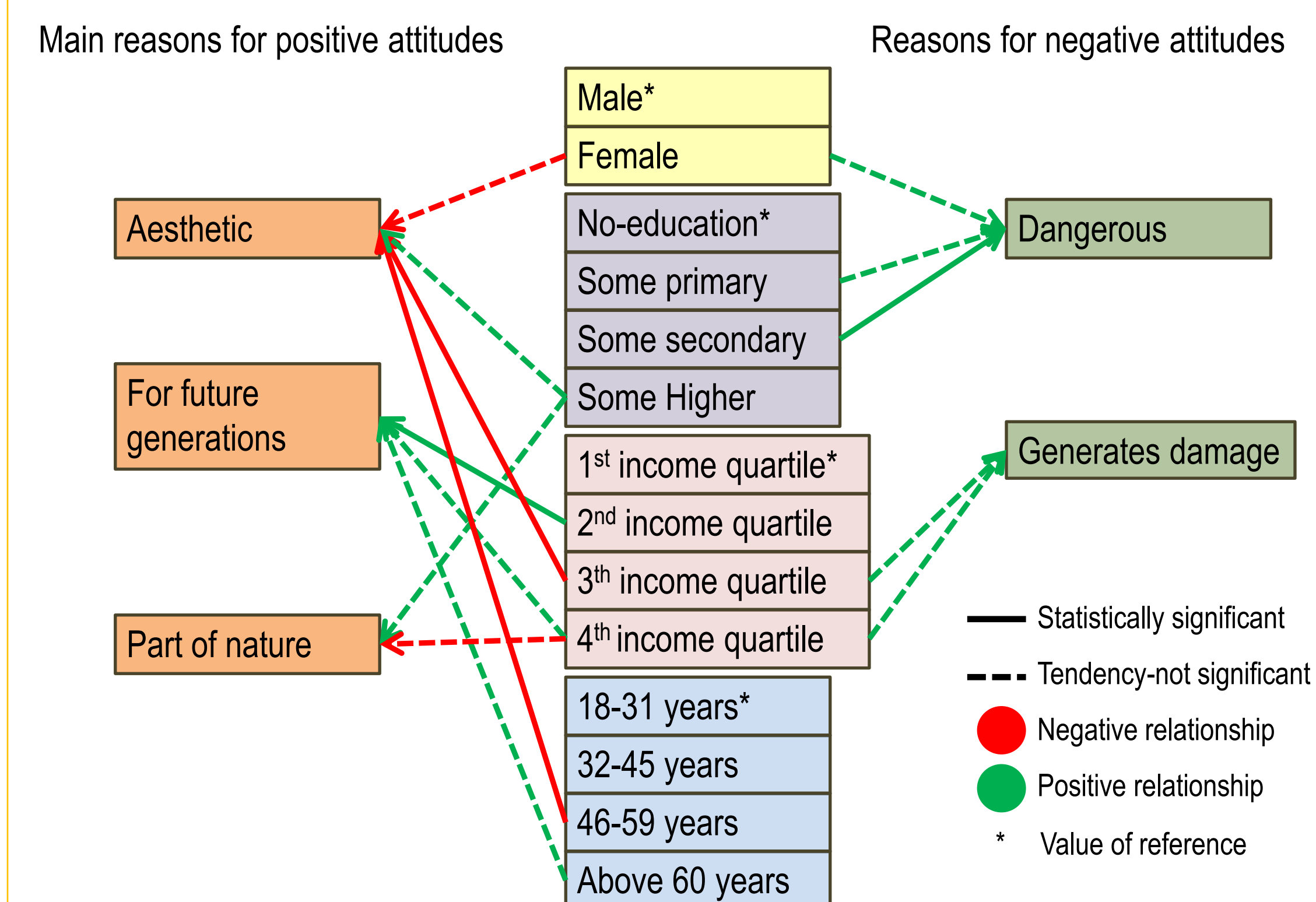
"Is valuable for the community because if there is a problem they [KNP staff] come and take the animals"

Do you like wildlife?



"We don't go fishing anymore because we are afraid of crocodiles and hippos"

Underlying factors influencing attitudes



Opinions regarding KNP

People from the Kruger park care about us

Responses

66% Agree

Parks managers treat us with respect

68% Agree

More frequent contact between the community and park managers would be desirable

74% Agree

CONCLUSIONS

- In general terms the respondents showed positive attitudes toward wildlife and the KNP.
- There are little or no economic incentives for these positive attitudes. But intangible benefits from wildlife and parks (e.g. aesthetic) seems important for the respondents.
- Wildlife protection is highly associated with park fences and not with actual protection. The reasoning behind this association is not explored in this study.
- Age and income level were the most influencing factors for the attitudes of the respondents toward wildlife, particularly for the positive ones.

IMPLICATIONS

- These results help to inform different stakeholders (e.g. park managers, researchers, practitioners, CPA, etc.) for prioritizing avenues for future actions that might not be directly related with economic incentives.
- Additionally, the study contributes to the discussion regarding the gap between biodiversity conservation in KNP and the development of neighboring rural communities.



Acknowledgement

Special thanks to the MDP program, the Makuleke Community, Nico Makhubele, and Lisbeth Ramothwala for their invaluable help in the field. Thanks to my committee, my family and my colleague Alex Sprague for her professionalism and hard work in South Africa.