

National Parks and Wildlife Services

Public Consultation on Wild Birds Declarations

Analysis

June 2023



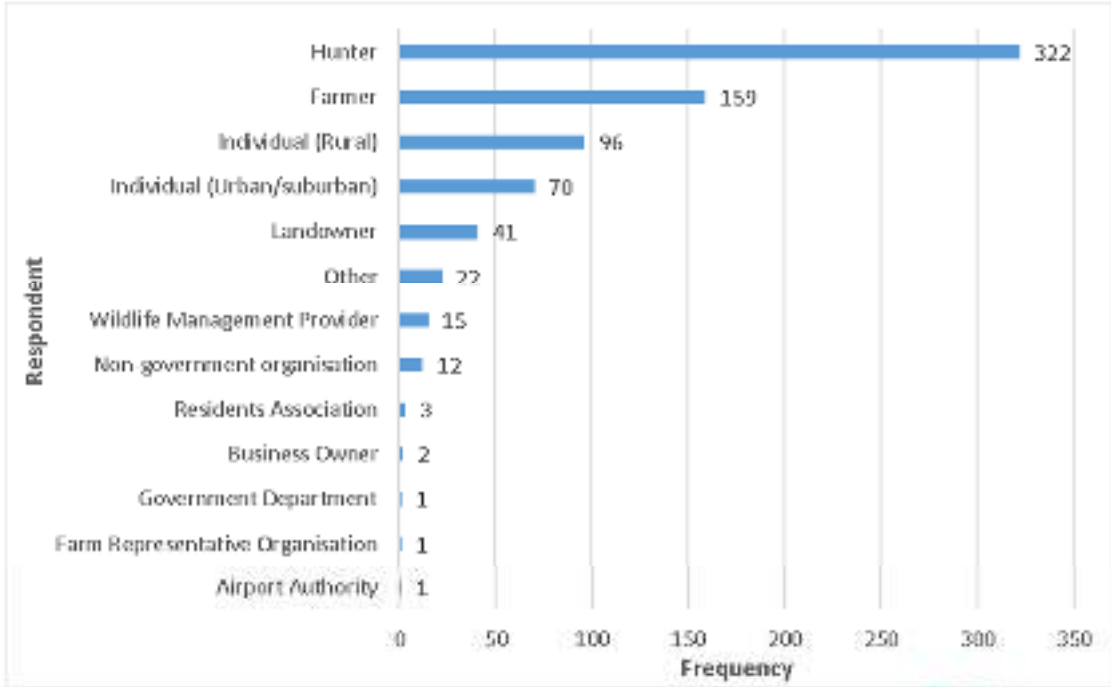


Survey Questions

Q.5	In what capacity are you responding to this survey, (please select only one)?
Q.6	If "Other" please provide details
Q.7	Please provide the name of the Organisation you are responding for (if applicable)?
Q.8	Are you familiar with the existence of the Wild Birds Declarations?
Q.9	Are you aware of the existence of a separate licensing regime for the management of birds under the Wildlife Acts by the NPWS i.e. Section 42 Licence under the Wildlife Acts?
Q.10	Have you taken actions under the Declarations at any time in 2022?
Q.11	If you answered Yes to Q10, please indicate under which Declaration you took those actions?
Q.12	If you selected General Declaration under Q11, please indicate the approximate number of actions taken
Q.13	If you selected the General Declaration under Q11, please identify the species that you dealt with
Q.14	If you answered Yes to Q10, were the actions taken under the Declaration successful in addressing the issue?
Q.15	If you answered No to Q14, please provide details of why it was not successful?
Q.16	Do you believe that different species should be added to the Declarations?
Q.17	If you answered Yes to Q16, please provide details of the species you believe should be added, the reasons why you believe they should be added and alternative solutions you have tried.
Q.18	Do you believe that any species should be removed from the Declarations?
Q.19	If you answered Yes to Q18, please provide details of the species you believe should be removed and the reasons why.
Q.20	Have you considered the use of alternative solutions, if yes please provide details?
Q.21	Please provide any other detail or information that you wish to share in relation to the operation of the Wild Bird Declarations

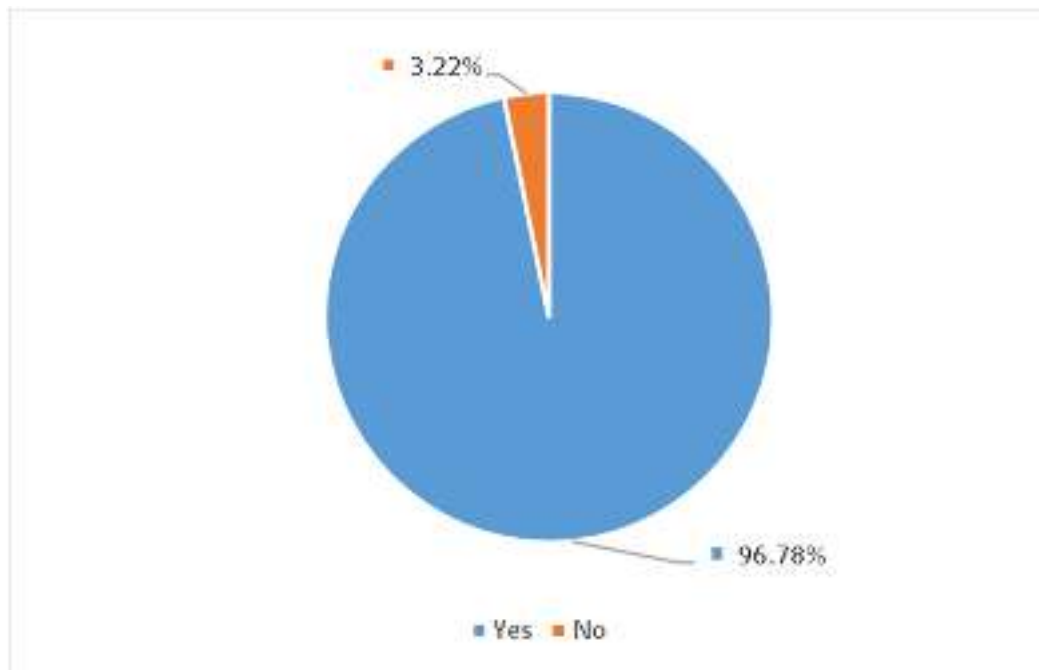


Q.5 & Q.6: In what capacity are you responding to this survey?



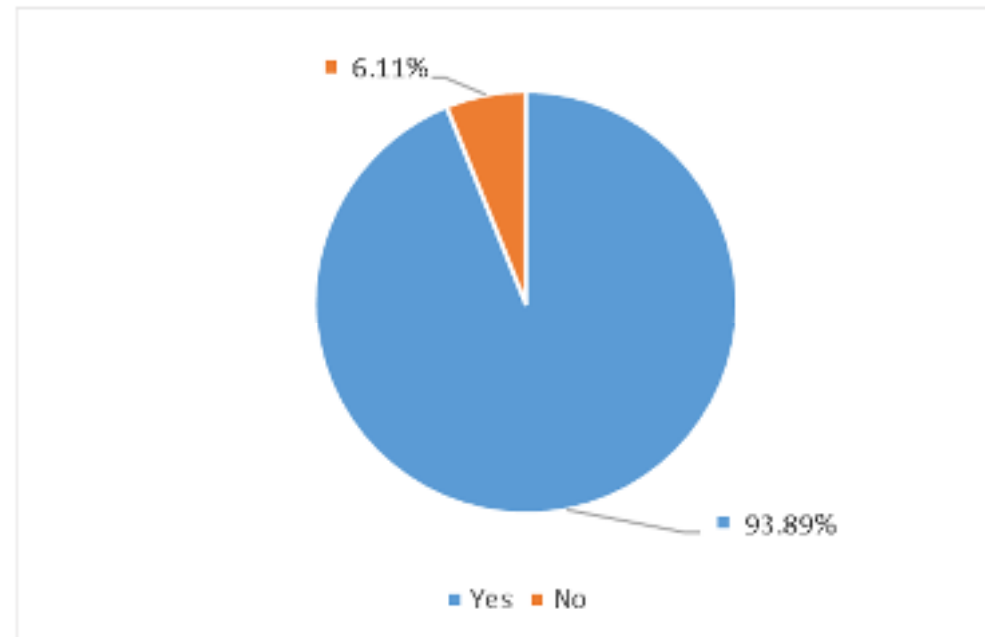


Q.8: Are you familiar with the existence of the Wild Birds Declarations?



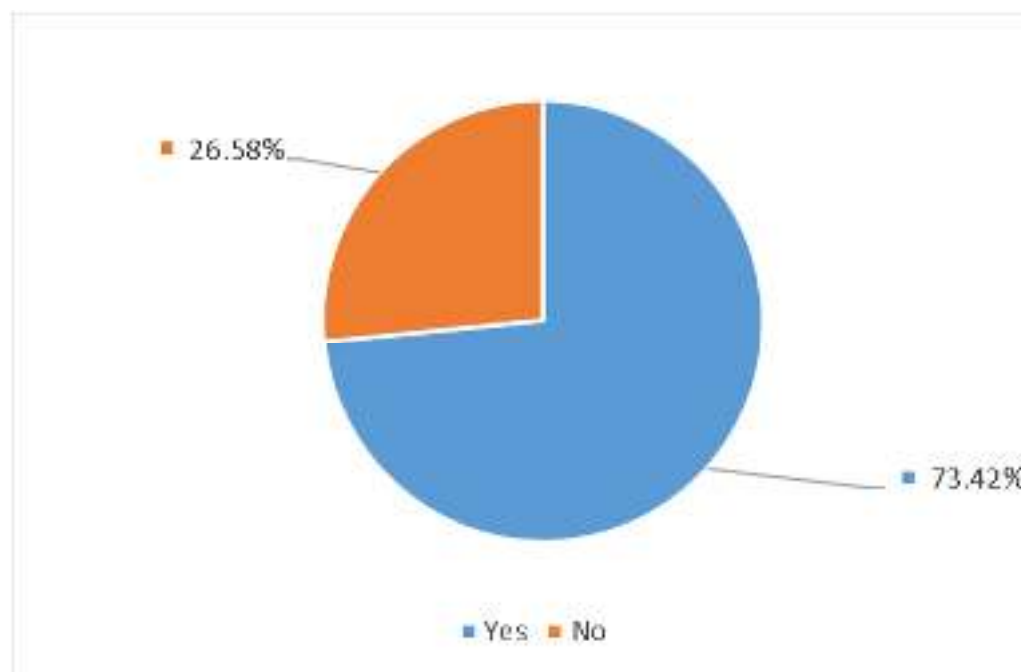
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Q.9: Are you aware of the existence of a separate licensing regime for the management of birds under the Wildlife Acts by the NPWS i.e. Section 42 Licence under the Wildlife Acts?



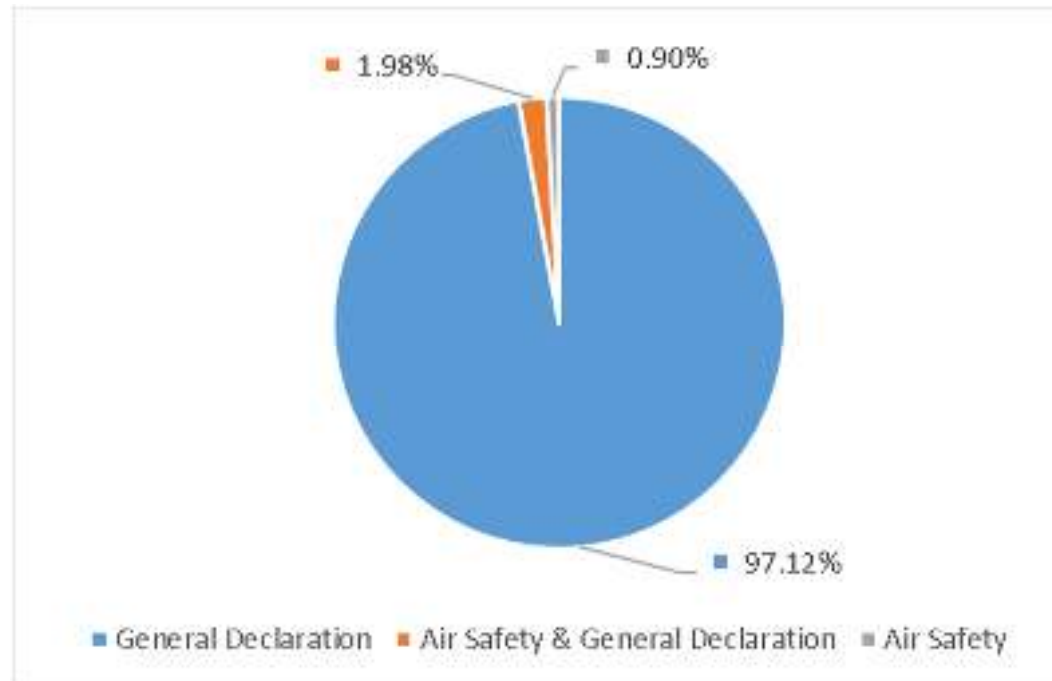


Q.10: Have you taken actions under the Declarations at any time in 2022?



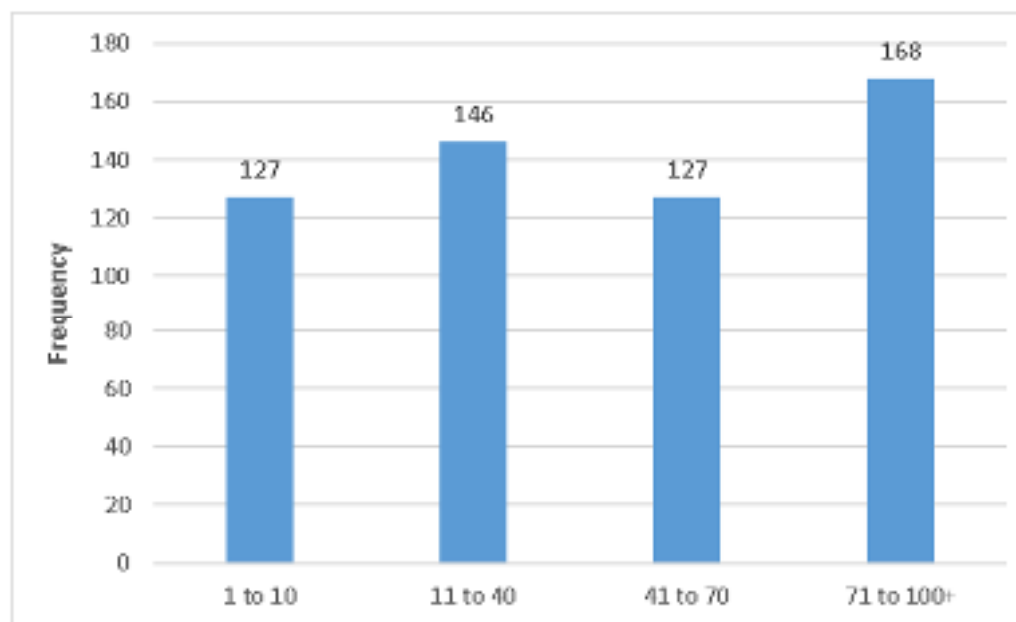
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Q.11: If you answered Yes to Q10, please indicate under which Declaration you took those actions?





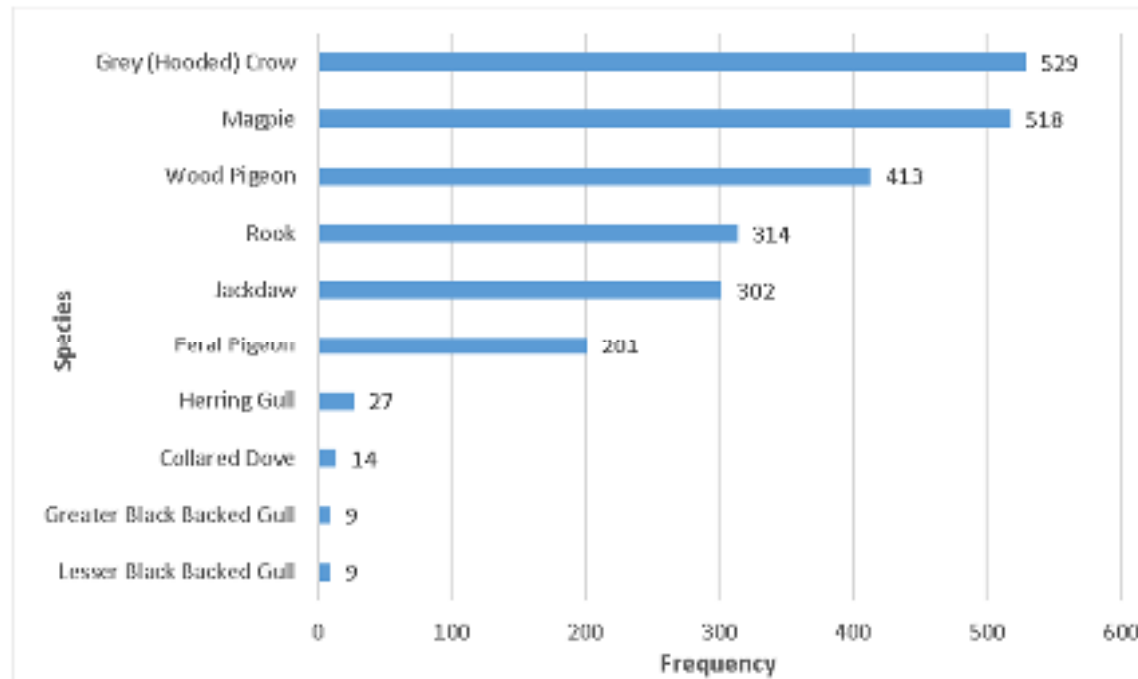
Q.12: If you selected General Declaration under Q11, please indicate the approximate number of actions taken



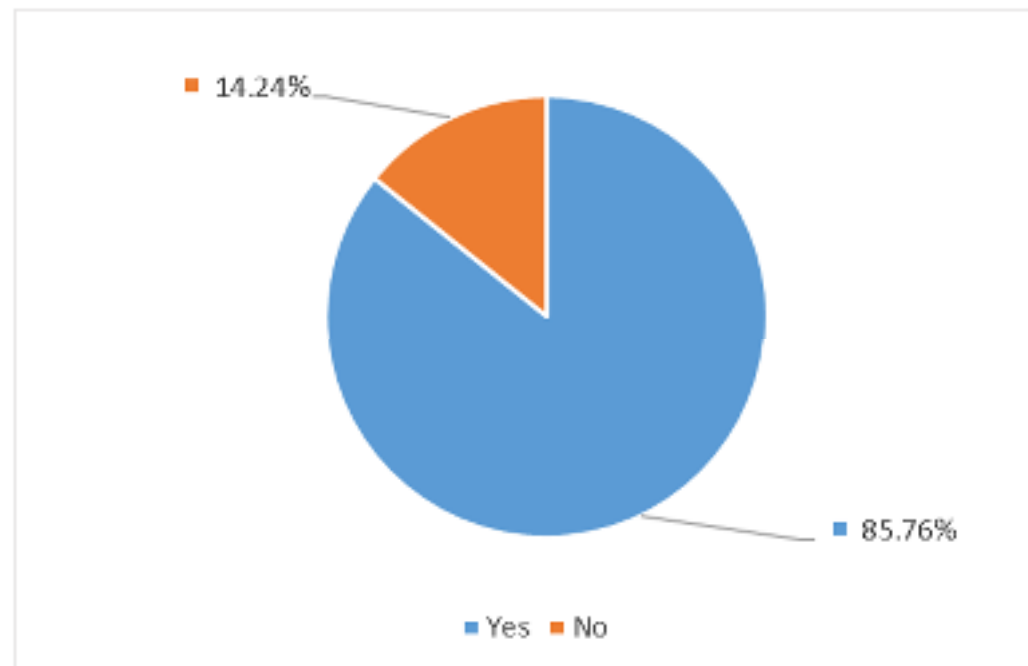
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Q.13: If you selected the General Declaration under Q11, please identify the species that you dealt with



Q.14: If you answered Yes to Q10, were the actions taken under the Declaration successful in addressing the issue?



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 Q.15: If you answered No to Q14, please provide details of why it was not successful?

“Too many to deal with. Didn’t even deal with a fraction of the problem for the crop farmers I was helping.”

“Grey crows and magpies are in huge numbers and constant conservation efforts don’t seem to be addressing the problems as a whole, although locally in areas where trapping is going on you can see the benefit to songbirds and game birds. Not enough people doing it.”


“Difficult to control grey crows and magpies in limited season. Magpies in particular are a serious threat to small birds nests. These predators should be on the list all year round”

“Quite a bit of damage was done to crops before we got the Declaration.”

“temporary easement of the issue but large numbers mean quickly return”



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Q.15: If you answered No to Q14, please provide details of why it was not successful?

“Some off my actions were successful. Bangers and kites scare crows were a waste of time”

“I shoot for a lot of beef farmers so they have a never ending supply of food. I haven't the time to operate larsen traps for the farm. I think it would be great to educate the farmers on bird control measures”

“A noticeable increase in song birds, pheasants and red squirrels after undertaking trapping in a small area.”

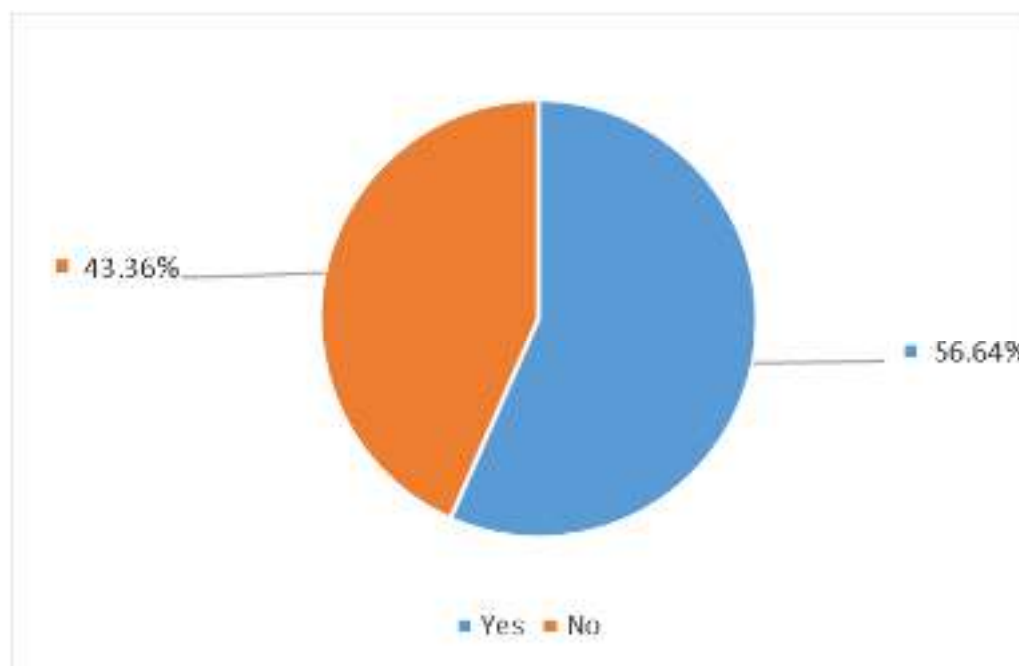
“Too many pigeon but it did assist in making them move to another area”



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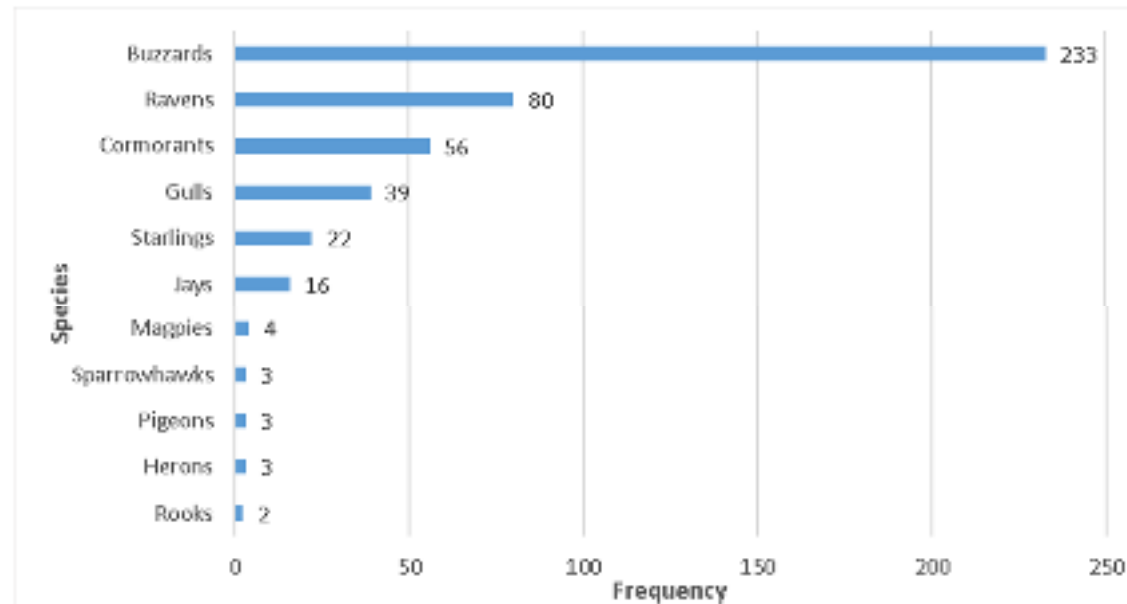


Q.16: Do you believe that different species should be added to the Declarations?



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Q.17: If you answered Yes to Q16, please provide details of the species you believe should be added





Q.17: Reasons why you believe they should be added **Buzzard**

*Farmers fear for lambs/livestock;
present in high numbers;
numbers increased drastically;
attacks on poultry and chickens;
predatory nature;*

*“problem for conservation
projects; collapse of the brown
hare population ”*

*“no natural predator; invasive
species”*

*“killing all kind of wildlife, wild
birds, red listed birds, ground
nesting birds; rabbits, hares,
squirrels; pheasants, ducks, fish
stocks”*

*“Their numbers are at levels now
that they require management”*



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Q.17: Reasons why you believe they should be added Ravens

“Predatory nature; eating livestock feed; a high risk to destroy crops”

“population is growing out of control; threat to song birds; nest predation; numbers are at levels now that they require management”

“pressure or hinder farmers ability to grow crops;”

“severe losses to sheep farmers in mountain area; damage to birds and lambs and sheep”

“problem for conservation projects e.g. grouse/hen harrier/curlew”



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Q.17: Reasons why you believe they should be added **Cormorants**

*“Damage to all fresh water fish;
destroying the fish population in
rivers and lakes”*

*“population has exploded year on
year; numbers on the inland
waterways are unchecked;
numbers have increased
alarmingly on inland waterways”*

“invasive species”

“vegetation damage”

*“decimating smolt returns to sea
and damaging trout and salmon
populations”*



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Q.17: Reasons why you believe they should be added Gulls

“increase in numbers; over population; avian influenza; digging out and disturbing seeds; danger to public amenities and disturbance”

“Any wildlife species that poses risk(s) to public health and safety should be controlled; faeces can spread disease and anti resistant antibiotics”

“Predatory nature; can be very aggressive; individuals attacked; general nuisance to members of the public; serious damage and costs”

“pest in greater Dublin area; area for control needs to be extended to include Bettystown and Laytown, Drogheda, Bray, Howth, Skerries and many parts of Dublin”

“prey on the eggs and young of other bird species”



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Q.17: Reasons why you believe they should be added
Starlings

"Have become feral; causing damage to stored food in sheds"

"creating issues by defecating in feed bowls; dirty and contaminate feed stuff"

"spread disease to calves"

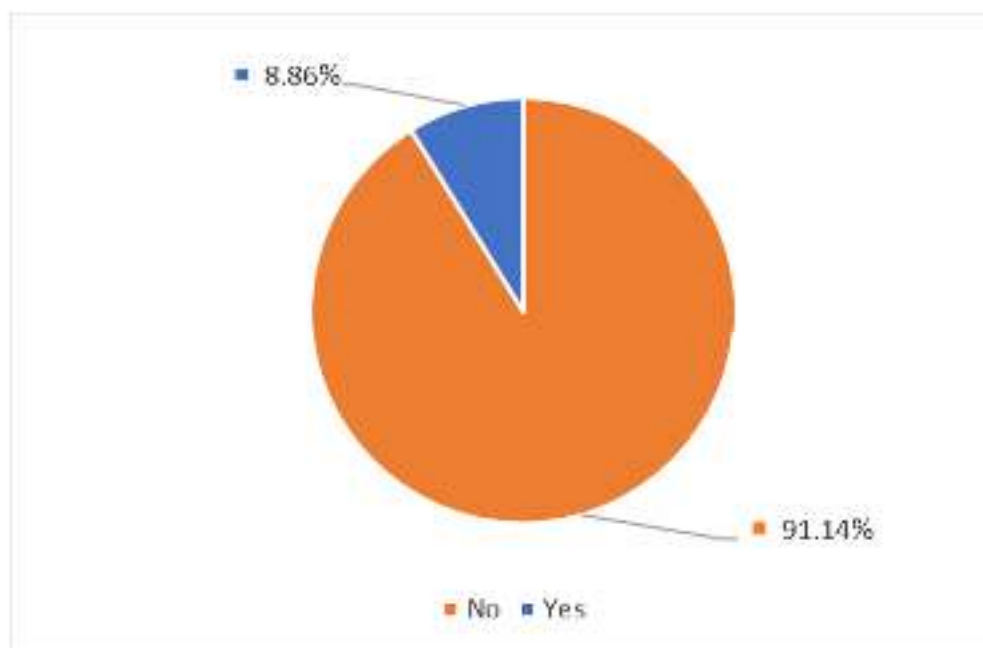
"health and safety around housing, sheds etc."



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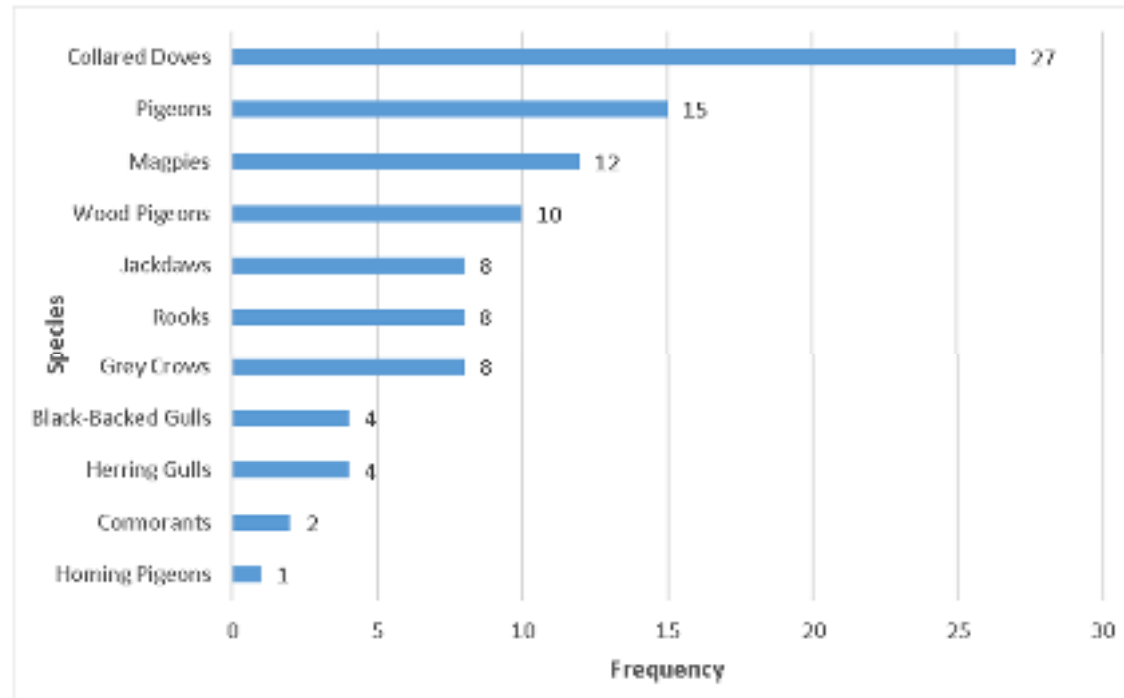
Q.18: Do you believe that any species should be removed from the Declarations?




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Q.19: If you answered Yes to Q18, please provide details of the species you believe should be removed.



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Q.19: If you answered Yes to Q18, please provide details of the reasons why they should be removed

Collared Dove

“declining numbers; not enough of them to have a detrimental impact; they don’t do any harm and are a bird of peace;; relatively rare species in Ireland; not abundant in numbers to cause damage to crops or a threat to native species; relatively rare species”

“Not a pest species; have never seen it create any major problems”


“ All species should be removed - these birds are part of our wildlife heritage and have a right to exist free from persecution.”

“non-lethal alternatives are an option”

“under increased pressure during the breeding season especially from magpies”



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Q.19: If you answered Yes to Q18, please provide details of the reasons why they should be removed

Wood Pigeon

“questioned the claim that wood pigeons actually cause crop damage and therefore these birds should be removed from the derogations”


“shooting them while they are nesting breeding during the summer is cruel”

“they are classed as a game bird yet we shoot them all year including the nesting season”

“Our area has very few woodpigeon left compared to 40 years ago;; scarcer than what they were”



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Q.19: If you answered Yes to Q18, please provide details of the reasons why they should be removed

Gulls

“these are amber-listed birds of conservation concern; every effort should be made to protect them and stop all killing; should request an assessment of the potential impact of such measures on the conservation status of the relevant gull species; ”

“Herring gull - no known negative impact observed of those species”


“the numbers of some species of gull is relatively small in Balbriggan and do not pose a threat to public health and safety here”

“the breeding population of Herring Gull has declined by more than 50%; ”

“it is noted that the three species of Gull are currently listed on the Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland as a result of declines in their breeding populations and ranges”



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Q.19: If you answered Yes to Q18, please provide details of the reasons why they should be removed

Other Bird Species

“Rooks - aren't high in number compared to jackdaws or collared doves; fairly harmless; scarcer than what they were ”

“Jackdaw - fairly harmless; scarcer than what they were ”

“Lapwing - declining numbers notwithstanding air safety issues; fairly harmless ”

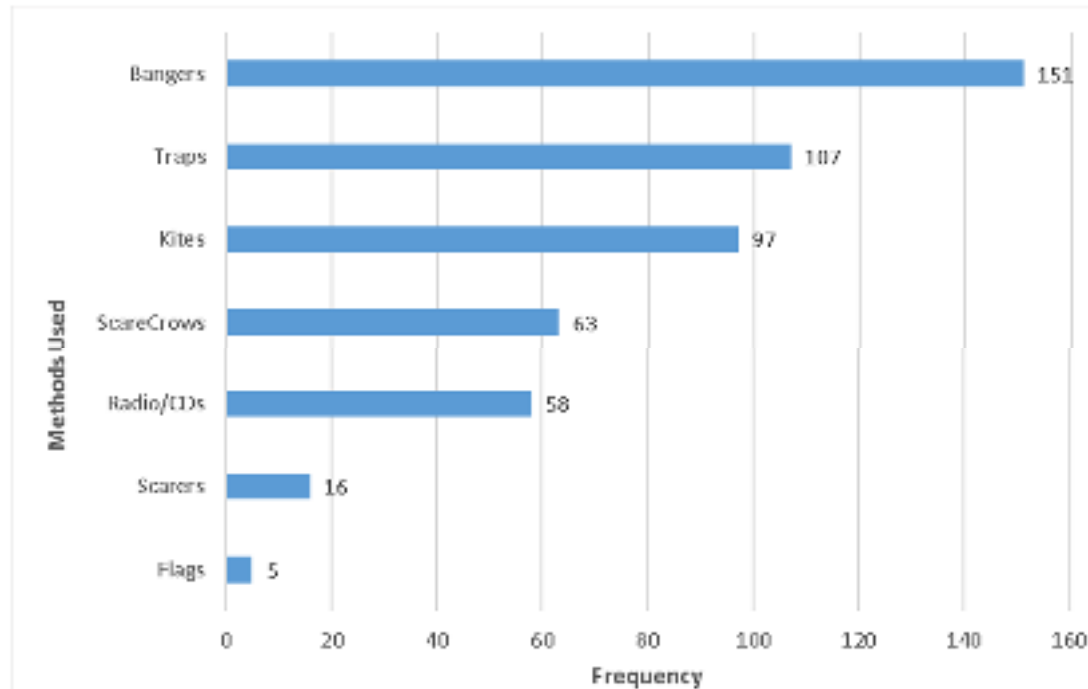
“All species should be removed - these birds are part of our wildlife heritage and have a right to exist free from persecution”



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Q.20: Have you considered the use of alternative solutions, if yes please provide details?



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Q.20: Have you considered the use of alternative solutions, if yes please provide details?

“crow bangers; scarecrow; decoys and spinners; hanging up CD, kites, model owls, falcons; bird scarers; gas cannon; trapping, using nets and cages; reflective tape; dummy birds on roofs; use of spikes, netting, wires and fake birds of prey is pointless ”

“become immune to scare objects; work best in conjunction with shooting”

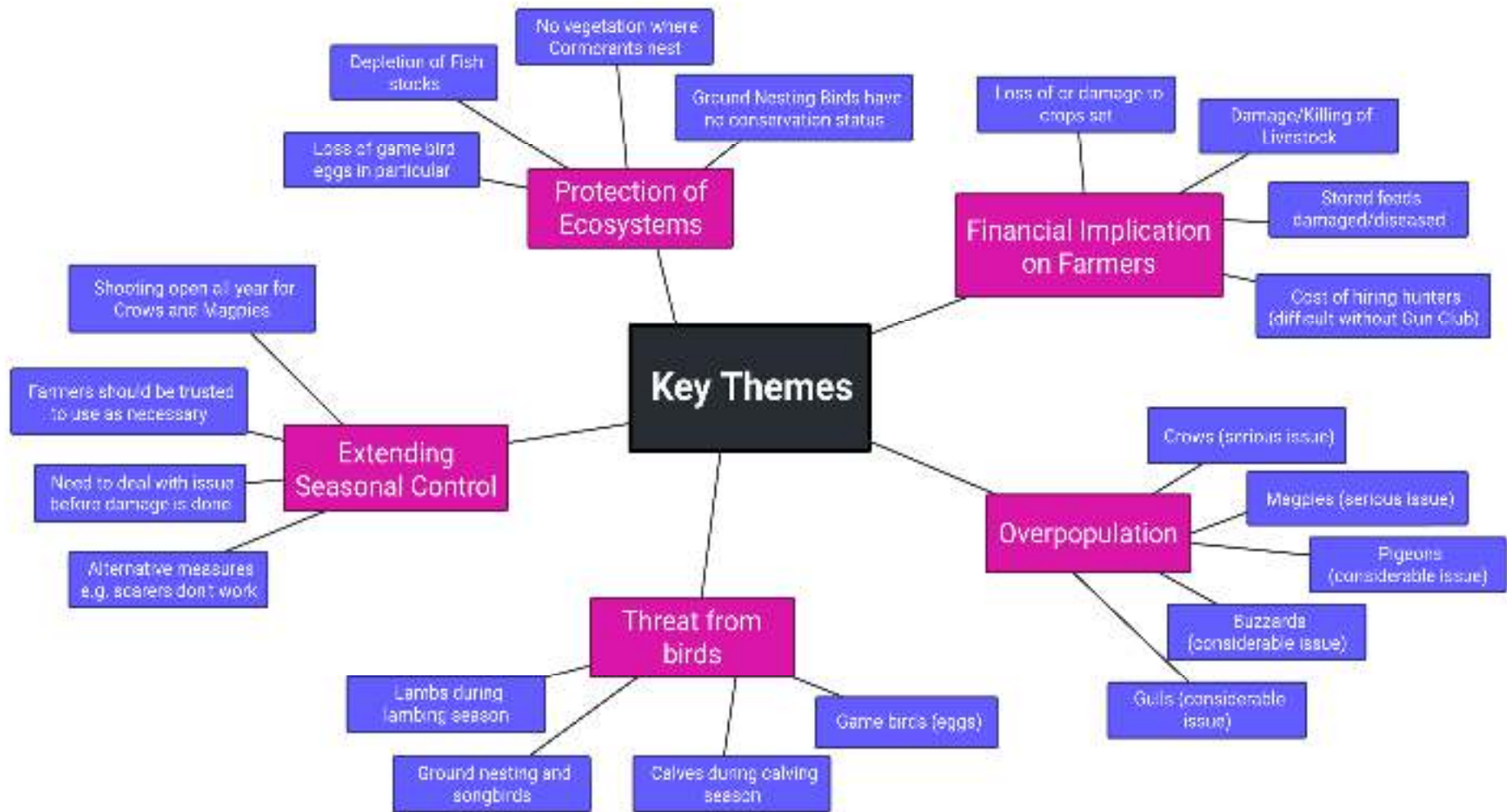
“section 42 licence is an alternative but takes too long to acquire it; shooting and trapping are the only effective solutions”

“persistent nest/egg removal is the most effective non-harm 'satisfactory' solution for deterring gulls; strongly urge a non-lethal alternative be implemented for the control of the bird population; an area be considered as a wildlife sanctuary where birds can be safely released to”

“provision of nesting areas for various hawk species; encourage buzzards into the area.”

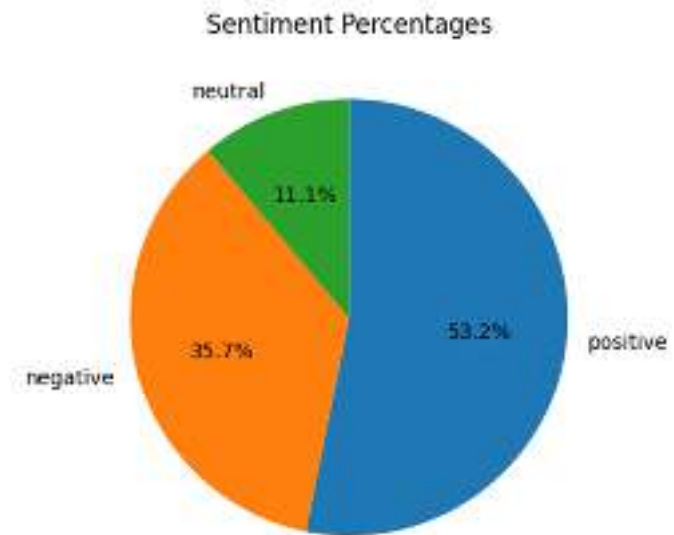
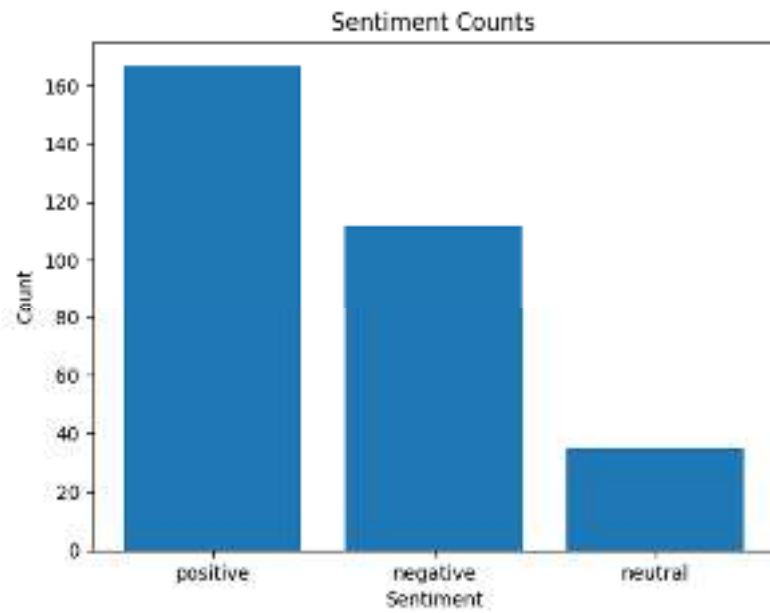


Q.21: Please provide any other detail or information that you wish to share in relation to the operation of the Wild Bird Declarations

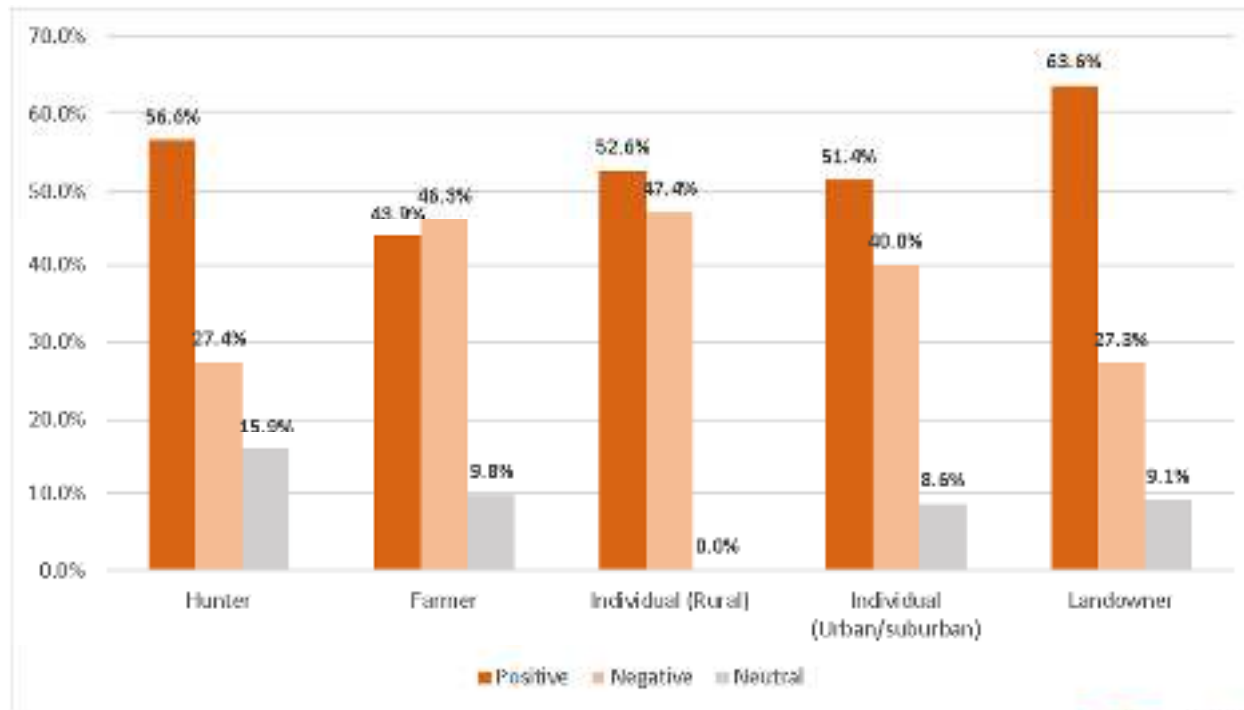




Sentiment in Responses



Sentiment in Responses



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