



ROUND 17
2020/21

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL ATTITUDES SURVEY (SASAS)

National results: Attitudes towards the Environment

26 May 2021

OVERVIEW

SURVEY BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

- The HSRC's South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) is a nationally representative survey series that was established in 2003, with the aim of monitoring underlying value change in the country. As part of its broader thematic focus on the public relationship with science, the survey has fielding modules of questions on attitudes to the environment. Part of this engagement has been done through membership of the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP, est. 1984), which consists of close to 50 member countries who annually field detailed 60-item modules of questions on issues of international social relevance. The ISSP first fielded a dedicated environment module in 1993, with replications in 2010 and 2020. Through the HSRC SASAS series, South Africa fielded the 2010 and 2020 ISSP Environment modules. The results of the 2020 fielding of the module in SASAS is the focus of this short briefing report, together with the findings of a special supplement focused on attitudes towards litter and littering.
- In terms of sample design, the survey consisted of a sample of 500 Population Census Small Area Layers (SALs). These served as the primary sampling units, and were stratified by province, geographical sub-type, and majority population group. A total of 2844 individuals aged 16 and older were interviewed in households which were geographically spread across the country's nine provinces. The data was weighted and benchmarked to the latest available mid-year population estimates (2020) to ensure that the results are representative of the population older than 15 years. Strict ethical and quality protocols were followed.
- Fieldwork for this SASAS round began in late February 2020 but was interrupted by the hard national lockdown implemented in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, which came into effect on 27 March. At the time of survey suspension, approximately 40% of interviews had been completed. After approximately six months, on 21 September 2020, restrictions were lowered to alert level 1 and the HSRC deemed it safe to send fieldworkers back to the field, subject to a re-application to the HSRC's Research Ethics Committee (REC). The REC required a complete new SASAS fieldwork plan and an outline of safety protocols to safeguard survey participants and the interviewing teams. Approval to continue fieldwork was granted in October 2020 and in early November 2020 fieldwork resumed. By January 2021, fieldwork was completed in all provinces apart from the Eastern Cape and Western Cape. The SASAS fieldwork round was finally completed on 15 February 2021.
- The HSRC is currently partnering with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment as well as the CSIR in developing survey-based instruments to measure and monitor environmental awareness and behaviour in the country. This briefing report forms an initial HSRC-led contribution to the ongoing research forming part of this partnership. It focuses on high-level national results from the SASAS 2020 environment module. More in-depth analysis will follow in coming months.

SURVEY RESULTS

The salience of environmental issues (Qs 1, 2, 15 and 16)

- In the public agenda, **the environment does not feature as a strong national priority in the country today, relative to other challenges**. On 3% of the adult public mentioned it as the most pressing issue in the country, and 5% mentioned it as the second most important priority. This is almost unchanged relative to 2010. The top five priorities in 2020 were

education, health care, poverty, crime, and the economy. This suggests that basic social needs are given precedence over environmental considerations.

- When asked directly about level of personal concern about environmental issues, **44% expressed concern about the environment while 20% were unconcerned**. The balance was either ambivalent (34%) or uncertain (2%). Environmental concern is 14 percentage points lower than in 2010 (39% in 2010; 20% in 2020), with increases in the share unconcerned (+5 percentage points) and ambivalence (+9 percentage points).
- The **most pressing environmental issues the public was worried about in 2020 were water shortages (33%), air pollution (19%) and water pollution (14%)**. Climate change was mentioned by 9% of adults as the top national environmental concern. The main changes between 2010 and 2020 was an increase in concern over water shortages (+7 percentage points) and decreases in the share mentioning air pollution (-5 percentage points) and water pollution (-4 percentage points). Climate change has remained virtually unchanged (+2 percentage points).

Climate change beliefs (Qs 17-19)

- With regard to climate change beliefs, a sizeable share of the public expresses some form of climate scepticism. The survey results show that **16% believed that the world's climate is not changing (trend sceptics)**. A further **28% believe that the climate has been changing but mainly due to natural processes (attribution sceptics)**, while 47% acknowledged the contribution of human activity (27% equally with natural processes and 20% mostly due to human activity).
- The survey also showed that **23% of South Africans voice impact scepticism**, implying that they do not think climate change will have negative impacts on the world as a whole. By contrast, close to half (48%) recognised the negative impact that climate change is likely to have globally, while 28% were ambivalent or uncertain. Almost identical findings were found when spatial reference in the impact scepticism question was changing from the impact globally to South Africa specifically (24% sceptical, 47% convinced of adverse impact, 28% ambivalent/uncertain).

Attitudes towards environment, science, and nature (Qs 20-25)

- The survey included a set of items on beliefs concerning the environment, science and nature, all captured on standard agreement scales. The key findings are as follows:
- **A large share (47%) of South Africans believe that modern science will solve our environmental problems** without having to significantly change our way of life. A far smaller share (18%) disagreed with this viewpoint, while 36% were ambivalent or uncertain.
- South Africans are also **more inclined to favour (47%) than oppose (23%) the view that we worry excessively about the future of the environment and not enough about the basic economic issues of today (prices, jobs)**.
- With regard to the human impact on the environment, **53% agreed that 'almost everything we do in modern life harms the environment'**, while only 16% disagreed. More worrying is the fact that **50% believe that we worry too much about the impact of human progress on the environment**.
- From an economic perspective, **56% believed that economic growth is needed first in order to protect the environment**. There was some recognition that the pursuit of economic

growth may have adverse environmental consequences, with 41% agreeing that ‘economic growth always harms the environment’.

- These set of findings point a somewhat concerning (and complex) set of environmental beliefs, that place strong faith in science to overcome pressing environmental challenges, and emphasis on resolving basic economic needs prior to addressing environmental challenges (without necessarily recognising the interconnections between these priorities).

Respondent’s (hypothetical) behaviour and environmental protection (Qs 26-29, 52-57)

- The survey included a series of questions about the willingness to engage (hypothetically) in environmental protection behaviours. The results show that **only between a quarter and fifth of South Africans would be willing to pay higher prices (31% willing), accept cuts in their standard of living (28%), or pay much higher taxes in order to protect the environment.** By contrast, between 42% and 45% were unwilling to support such propositions.
- A third (35%) opposed the suggestion of reducing the size of the country’s protected nature areas in order to open them up for economic development, while 32% expressed a willingness to do so, and 27% were ambivalent or uncertain.
- **Only a fifth (21%) of South Africans said that always or often recycled glass, tins, plastic or paper,** while 23% reported doing this sometimes, and 47% never. The remaining 9% stated that recycling was not available at their place of residence. A similar share (20%) said that they avoid buying certain products for environmental reasons.
- In terms of **other environmental actions**, 12% reported that they belonged to a group focused on preserving or protecting the environment, while 6% reported having signed an environmental petition, donated money to an environmental group, or protesting about an environmental issue in the last five years (2015-2020 period).

Environmental efficacy, scepticism (Qs 30-36)

- From a personal efficacy viewpoint, **50% agreed that it was too difficult for someone like them to personally do much about the environment**, compared to 22% who disagreed and 28% who were ambivalent/uncertain.
- **Slightly over two-fifths (43%) agreed that they do what is right for the environment**, even if costs more in time or money, while 26% opposed this view. Yet, 41% also held the view that there were more important things in life than protecting the environment, and 38% agreed that many claims about environmental threats are exaggerated.
- **47% stated that there was no point in doing what they can for the environment if others do not do the same.** This suggests that South Africans believe that individual engagement in pro-environmental actions are likely to be of little effect in addressing environmental problems if it is not accompanied with collective action.

Dangers of specific environmental problems (Qs 37-43)

- The survey included questions on the perceive dangers associated with seven environmental problems, ranging from air pollution caused by cars to nuclear power stations.
- The share reporting these problems as very or extremely dangerous to the environment ranged from 48% to 65%. In descending order of perceived danger were air pollution caused by industry (65% very/extremely dangerous), pollution of the country’s rivers, lakes and

streams (64%), nuclear power stations (59%), climate change (58%), pesticides and chemicals used in farming (55%), air pollution caused by cars (55%), and the genetic modification of crops (48%).

- Only between 7 and 17% reported that these seven problems were 'not very' or 'not at all' dangerous for the environment.

Environmental policy (Qs 44-45)

- Survey respondents were asked about their preferred approach to getting business and industry, as well as people and their families, to protect the environment.
- South Africans' **dominant preference for business and industry** is for them to be heavily fined for damaging the environment (39% favour this option), followed by usage of the tax system to reward businesses that protect the environment (30%), and education and information campaigns about the advantages of environmental protection (26%).
- With regard to **people and their families**, there was fairly even support for heavy fines (30%), tax rewards (31%), and education/information campaigns (34%). There was a slightly greater emphasis on the latter option than was the case for business and industry, and lower relative support for heavy fines.

Interaction with nature (Qs 46-47)

- **Just over a third (36%) of South Africans enjoy being outside in nature to 'a great extent'**. A further 34% say they enjoy interacting with nature 'to some extent', while 28% responded 'not at all' or 'to a small extent'. Despite South Africans natural abundance, this finding regarding intentional interaction with nature is quite surprising.
- In the year prior to interviewing, 56% reported engaging in leisure activities outside in nature on at least one occasion, while 42% did not. The survey revealed that 17% engaged in such leisure activities several times a week or more. These results will have been influenced by the COVID-19 lockdown during 2020. However, 40% of our interviewing was conducted prior to the March 2020 hard lockdown. Comparing the pre- and post-samples based on this question, we found very nominal variation in frequency of leisure activities outside in nature.

Exposure to environmental harm (Qs 58-60)

- In terms of exposure neighbourhood-level environmental harm, 14% said that that their local neighbourhood was affected to a great extent by air pollution. Similarly, 17% reported that their neighbourhood was seriously affected by water pollution and extreme weather events.
- Slightly over half of South Africans (53-54%) said that these issues affected their local neighbourhoods to a small extent or not at all.

Litter / Littering (Qs 61-72)

- The survey also included a special supplement on attitudes towards litter and littering. Some of the highlights are outlined below:

- Litter in one's areas of residence represents a significant concern for South Africans. **Approximately two-thirds (68%) voiced concern about rubbish and litter in their area**, while 30% were not very or not at all concerned about this. South Africans were even more emphatic in their concern when referring to the country as a whole, with **76% expressing concern about rubbish and litter in South Africa. Concern over littering in the seas and oceans of the world stood at 69%** at the time of survey.
- **Rubbish and litter lying about one's area of residence is commonly reported**, with 63% stating it was very or fairly common and 37% saying it was not very or not at all common.
- An estimated **71% of South Africans reported picking up a piece of litter than someone else dropped in the past year**, with 27% saying this never happened and 2% uncertain. Among those picking up someone else's litter, 17% reported doing this daily and a further 15% at least once or twice a week.
- **In the last year, 78% reported seeing someone deliberately dropping litter**, with 23% saying this occurred daily, 15% once or twice a week and 11% at least once a fortnight. A further 30% was on a less frequent basis. Only 20% reported not having seen someone drop litter in the year prior to surveying.
- **In response to seeing someone deliberately litter, 42% said that they ignore the behaviour or do nothing.** When asked the reasons for this inaction, the most frequently mentioned responses were lack of time to do anything (31%) and worry over safety/fear (29%). Notable but slightly less commonly mentioned responses were beliefs that they could not do anything about it (23%), that it would not make a difference (22%), and that it was not any their business (21%). A final set of reasons, referred to by less than a fifth of adults, included views that deliberate littering is acceptable to litter since everyone does it (17%), that it creates jobs for those cleaning the area (15%), and that it is not wrong or important (7%). A tenth (10%) were too embarrassed to do anything about seeing someone else drop litter.
- A further **41% said that they personally do something when they see someone deliberately litter, while 12% try to get someone in authority to intervene.** Negligible shares take some other form of action (3%) or express uncertainty (2%) about how they typically respond. **The main reasons provided for personally intervening or getting an authority figure to intervene were a sense that it is morally wrong (47%), and feelings of anger or annoyance (41%).** Subsidiary motivations included care for the environment and a desire to keep it clean (25%), a desire to hold the litterer accountable (24%) and feeling fed up seeing littering happen frequently (22%).
- **In the year prior to surveying, 50% of South Africans admitted that they had deliberately dropped litter**, with 14% doing this a least a couple of times a week, 13% doing this between one and four times a month, and 23% doing this less often. By contrast, 48% said they had never dropped litter deliberately in the last year, while 2% were uncertain in response.
- The survey ended by asking respondents which **community activity concerning the environment** they would be most interested in (from a precoded set of seven options). **South Africans expressed greatest interest in community gardening activities (27%) and planting trees (25%), followed by cleaning streets and open areas (19%).** Building maintenance and upgrading street surfaces was each mentioned by 11%, while less than five percent mentioned cleaning rivers and spruits, and cleaning the veld.

ISSP ENVIRONMENT: WEIGHTED NATIONAL FREQUENCIES

1. Which of these issues is the most important for South Africa today? [Showcard 13]

	Weighted %
Health care	21
Education	24
Crime	17
The environment	3
Immigration	2
The economy	11
Terrorism	0
Poverty	20
None of these	1
(Can't choose)	0
TOTAL	100

<Concept: Salience of environmental issues: national priorities>

2. Which is the next most important for South Africa today? [Showcard 13]

	Weighted %
Health care	21
Education	24
Crime	17
The environment	5
Immigration	4
The economy	13
Terrorism	1
Poverty	15
None of these	1
(Can't choose)	0
TOTAL	100

<Concept: Salience of environmental issues: national priorities>

3. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements? *Private enterprise is the best way to solve South Africa's economic problems*

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	8
Agree	44
Neither agree nor disagree	24
Disagree	16
Strongly disagree	5
(Can't choose)	4
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	51
% disagreeing	21

<Concept: Left-right Dimension>

4. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements? *It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes*

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	16
Agree	51
Neither agree nor disagree	19
Disagree	10
Strongly disagree	3
(Can't choose)	2
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	67
% disagreeing	13

<Concept: Left-right Dimension>

5. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements? *South Africa should limit the import of foreign products in order to protect its national economy*

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	13
Agree	47
Neither agree nor disagree	22
Disagree	14
Strongly disagree	3
(Can't choose)	2
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	59
% disagreeing	16

<Concept: Nationalism>

6. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements? *South Africa should limit immigration in order to protect our national way of life*

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	18
Agree	49
Neither agree nor disagree	19
Disagree	10
Strongly disagree	2
(Can't choose)	2
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	67
% disagreeing	12

<Concept: Nationalism>

7. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements? *International organizations are taking away too much power from the South African government*

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	14
Agree	46
Neither agree nor disagree	23
Disagree	13
Strongly disagree	2
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	60
% disagreeing	15

<Concept: Nationalism>

8. Of the following things, which one do you think should be South Africa's highest priority? The most important thing it South Africa should do is...

	Weighted %
Maintain order in the nation	31
Give people more say in government decisions	33
Fight rising prices	28
Protect freedom of speech	6
(Can't choose)	2
TOTAL	100

<Concept: Postmaterialism>

9. And which **one** do you think should be **South Africa's next highest priority**? The **second most** important thing it South Africa should do is...

	Weighted %
Maintain order in the nation	32
Give people more say in government decisions	32
Fight rising prices	25
Protect freedom of speech	9
(Can't choose)	2
TOTAL	100

<Concept: Postmaterialism>

10. Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you cannot be too careful in dealing with people? Please tell me on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means you can't be too careful and 5 means that most people can be trusted. [Showcard 14]

	Weighted %
You cannot be too careful	27
2	19
3	33
4	13
Most people can be trusted	8
(Can't choose)	1
TOTAL	100
% distrusting (codes 1-2)	46
% trusting (codes 4-5)	20

<Concept: Social and Political Trust: Social trust - General trust in people>

On a scale of 0 to 10, how much do you personally trust each of the following institutions? 0 means you do not trust an institution at all, and 10 means you trust it completely.

11. On a scale of 0 to 10, how much do you personally trust **university research centers**? 0 means you do not trust it at all, and 10 means you trust it completely. [Showcard 15]

	Weighted %
No trust at all	5
1	2
2	4
3	7
4	9
5 [scalar midpoint]	24
6	9
7	9
8	9
9	6
Complete trust	11
(Can't choose)	4
TOTAL	100
% distrusting (codes 0-4)	27
% trusting (codes 6-10)	44

<Concept: Trust in sources of information and institutions >

12. On a scale of 0 to 10, how much do you personally trust the news media? 0 means you do not trust it at all, and 10 means you trust it completely. [Showcard 15]

	Weighted %
No trust at all	5
1	2
2	4
3	8
4	10
5 [scalar midpoint]	25
6	15
7	11
8	8
9	3
Complete trust	8
(Can't choose)	1
TOTAL	100
% distrusting (codes 0-4)	29
% trusting (codes 6-10)	45

<Concept: Trust in sources of information and institutions >

13. On a scale of 0 to 10, how much do you personally trust business and industry? 0 means you do not trust it at all, and 10 means you trust it completely. [Showcard 15]

	Weighted %
No trust at all	5
1	3
2	4
3	7
4	10
5 [scalar midpoint]	28
6	14
7	12
8	7
9	2
Complete trust	6
(Can't choose)	2
TOTAL	100
% distrusting (codes 0-4)	29
% trusting (codes 6-10)	42

<Concept: Trust in sources of information and institutions >

14. On a scale of 0 to 10, how much do you personally trust the South African Parliament? 0 means you do not trust it at all, and 10 means you trust it completely. [Showcard 15]

	Weighted %
No trust at all	12
1	5
2	7
3	10
4	10
5 [scalar midpoint]	22
6	11
7	9
8	7
9	2
Complete trust	5
(Can't choose)	1
TOTAL	100
% distrusting (codes 0-4)	44
% trusting (codes 6-10)	34

<Concept: Social and Political Trust: Political trust>

15. Generally speaking, how concerned are you about environmental issues? Please tell me on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means you are not at all concerned and 5 means you are very concerned. [Showcard 16]

	Weighted %
Not at all concerned	8
2	12
3	34
4	20
Very concerned	24
(Can't choose)	2
TOTAL	100
% unconcerned (codes 1-2)	20
% concerned (codes 4-5)	44

<Concept: Salience of environmental issues: concern about environmental issues>

16. Here is a list of some different environmental problems. Which problem, if any, do you think is the most important for South Africa as a whole? [Showcard 17]

	Weighted %
Air pollution	19
Chemicals and pesticides	3
Water shortage	33
Water pollution	14
Nuclear waste	3
Household rubbish removal	7
Climate change	9
Genetically modified foods	2
Using up our natural resources	3
None of these	4
(Can't choose)	2
TOTAL	100

<Concept: Salience of environmental issues: salience of particular environmental issues>

17. There has been a lot of discussion about the world's climate and the idea it has been changing in recent decades. Which of the following statements comes closest to your opinion?

	Weighted %	
The world's climate has not been changing	16	Skip to Q.22
The world's climate has been changing mostly due to natural processes	28	Ask Q.0
The world's climate has been changing about equally due to natural processes and human activity	27	Ask Q.0
The world's climate has been changing mostly due to human activity	20	Ask Q.0
(Can't choose)	9	Ask Q.0
TOTAL	100	

<Concept: Climate change beliefs and relevant behaviours (New theme in 2020)>

18. On a scale from 0 to 10, how bad or good do you think the impacts of climate change will be for the world as a whole? 0 means extremely bad, 10 means extremely good. [Showcard 18]

	Weighted %
Extremely bad	14
1	6
2	8
3	8
4	12
5 [scalar midpoint]	24
6	10
7	6
8	3
9	2
Extremely good	3
(Can't choose)	4
TOTAL	100
% bad (codes 0-4)	48
% good (codes 6-10)	23

<Concept: Climate change beliefs and relevant behaviours (New theme in 2020)>

19. On a scale from 0 to 10, how bad or good do you think the impacts of climate change will be for South Africa as a whole? 0 means extremely bad, 10 means extremely good. [Showcard 18]

	Weighted %
Extremely bad	13
1	5
2	6
3	9
4	13
5 [scalar midpoint]	24
6	11
7	7
8	3
9	1
Extremely good	2
(Can't choose)	4
TOTAL	100
% bad (codes 0-4)	47
% good (codes 6-10)	24

<Concept: Climate change beliefs and relevant behaviours (New theme in 2020)>

20. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? [Showcard 1] *Modern science will solve our environmental problems with little change to our way of life*

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	7
Agree	39
Neither agree nor disagree	30
Disagree	14
Strongly disagree	4
(Can't choose)	6
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	47
% disagreeing	18

<Concept: Attitudes towards Environment, Science and Nature>

21. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? [Showcard 1] *We worry too much about the future of the environment and not enough about prices and jobs today*

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	10
Agree	37
Neither agree nor disagree	26
Disagree	19
Strongly disagree	4
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	47
% disagreeing	23

<Concept: Attitudes towards Environment, Science and Nature>

22. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? [Showcard 1] *Almost everything we do in modern life harms the environment*

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	10
Agree	43
Neither agree nor disagree	28
Disagree	14
Strongly disagree	2
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	53
% disagreeing	16

<Concept: Attitudes towards Environment, Science and Nature>

23. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? [Showcard 1] *People worry too much about human progress harming the environment*

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	7
Agree	42
Neither agree nor disagree	26
Disagree	18
Strongly disagree	3
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	50
% disagreeing	21

<Concept: Attitudes towards Environment, Science and Nature>

24. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? [Showcard 1] *In order to protect the environment South Africa needs economic growth*

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	11
Agree	45
Neither agree nor disagree	24
Disagree	14
Strongly disagree	3
(Can't choose)	4
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	56
% disagreeing	16

<Concept: Attitudes towards Environment, Science and Nature>

25. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? [*Showcard 1*] *Economic growth always harms the environment*

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	6
Agree	35
Neither agree nor disagree	31
Disagree	21
Strongly disagree	4
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	41
% disagreeing	25

<Concept: Attitudes towards Environment, Science and Nature>

26. How willing would you be to pay much higher prices in order to protect the environment?

	Weighted %
Very willing	7
Fairly willing	25
Neither willing nor unwilling	23
Fairly unwilling	19
Very unwilling	23
(Can't choose)	4
TOTAL	100
% willing	31
% unwilling	42

<Concept: Respondent's (Hypothetical) Behaviour & Env'tal Protection: Willingness to Make Trade-Offs for Environment>

27. And how willing would you be to pay much higher taxes in order to protect the environment?

	Weighted %
Very willing	6
Fairly willing	21
Neither willing nor unwilling	23
Fairly unwilling	18
Very unwilling	28
(Can't choose)	4
TOTAL	100
% willing	27
% unwilling	45

<Concept: Respondent's (Hypothetical) Behaviour & Env'tal Protection: Willingness to Make Trade-Offs for Environment>

28. And how willing would you be to accept cuts in your standard of living in order to protect the environment?

	Weighted %
Very willing	5
Fairly willing	22
Neither willing nor unwilling	24
Fairly unwilling	20
Very unwilling	26
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% willing	28
% unwilling	45

<Concept: Respondent's (Hypothetical) Behaviour & Env'tal Protection: Willingness to Make Trade-Offs for Environment>

29. How willing would you be to accept a reduction in the size of South Africa's protected nature areas, in order to open them up for economic development?

	Weighted %
Very willing	8
Fairly willing	24
Neither willing nor unwilling	29
Fairly unwilling	18
Very unwilling	17
(Can't choose)	4
TOTAL	100
% willing	32
% unwilling	35

<Concept: Respondent's (Hypothetical) Behaviour & Env'tal Protection: Willingness to Make Trade-Offs for Environment>

30. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements? [Showcard 1] *It is just too difficult for someone like me to do much about the environment*

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	10
Agree	40
Neither agree nor disagree	25
Disagree	17
Strongly disagree	5
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	50
% disagreeing	22

<Concept: Environmental Efficacy, Scepticism>

31. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements? [Showcard 1] *I do what is right for the environment, even when it costs more money or takes more time*

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	7
Agree	36
Neither agree nor disagree	28
Disagree	21
Strongly disagree	5
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	43
% disagreeing	26

<Concept: Environmental Efficacy, Scepticism>

32. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements? [Showcard 1] *There are more important things to do in life than protect the environment*

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	6
Agree	35
Neither agree nor disagree	29
Disagree	22
Strongly disagree	6
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	41
% disagreeing	28

<Concept: Environmental Efficacy, Scepticism>

- 33. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements? [Showcard 1] *There is no point in doing what I can for the environment unless others do the same***

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	9
Agree	38
Neither agree nor disagree	25
Disagree	21
Strongly disagree	5
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	47
% disagreeing	26

<Concept: Environmental Efficacy, Scepticism>

- 34. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements? [Showcard 1] *Many of the claims about environmental threats are exaggerated***

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	6
Agree	32
Neither agree nor disagree	29
Disagree	22
Strongly disagree	6
(Can't choose)	5
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	38
% disagreeing	29

<Concept: Environmental Efficacy, Scepticism>

- 35. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements? [Showcard 1] *I find it hard to know whether the way I live is helpful or harmful to the environment***

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	7
Agree	39
Neither agree nor disagree	28
Disagree	20
Strongly disagree	4
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	45
% disagreeing	24

<Concept: Environmental Efficacy, Scepticism>

- 36. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements? [Showcard 1] *Environmental problems have a direct effect on my everyday life***

	Weighted %
Strongly agree	7
Agree	42
Neither agree nor disagree	28
Disagree	16
Strongly disagree	4
(Can't choose)	2
TOTAL	100
% agreeing	49
% disagreeing	20

<Concept: Environmental Efficacy, Scepticism>

37. In general, do you think that air pollution caused by cars is...? [Showcard 19]

	Weighted %
...extremely dangerous to the environment	22
...very dangerous	32
...somewhat dangerous	30
...not very dangerous	11
...or, not dangerous at all for the environment?	2
(Can't choose)	2
TOTAL	100
% dangerous	55
% not dangerous	13

<Concept: Dangers of Specific Environmental Problems>

38. In general, do you think that air pollution caused by industry is...? [Showcard 19]

	Weighted %
...extremely dangerous to the environment	29
...very dangerous	36
...somewhat dangerous	26
...not very dangerous	6
...or, not dangerous at all for the environment?	1
(Can't choose)	2
TOTAL	100
% dangerous	65
% not dangerous	7

<Concept: Dangers of Specific Environmental Problems>

39. And do you think that pesticides and chemicals used in farming are...? [Showcard 19]

	Weighted %
...extremely dangerous to the environment	21
...very dangerous	34
...somewhat dangerous	29
...not very dangerous	10
...or, not dangerous at all for the environment?	3
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% dangerous	55
% not dangerous	13

<Concept: Dangers of Specific Environmental Problems>

40. And do you think that pollution of South Africa's rivers, lakes and streams is...? [Showcard 19]

	Weighted %
...extremely dangerous to the environment	27
...very dangerous	37
...somewhat dangerous	23
...not very dangerous	10
...or, not dangerous at all for the environment?	1
(Can't choose)	2
TOTAL	100
% dangerous	64
% not dangerous	11

<Concept: Dangers of Specific Environmental Problems>

41. In general, do you think that a rise in the world's temperature caused by climate change is ...? [Showcard 19]

	Weighted %
...extremely dangerous to the environment	22
...very dangerous	36
...somewhat dangerous	28
...not very dangerous	9
...or, not dangerous at all for the environment?	3
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% dangerous	58
% not dangerous	11

<Concept: Dangers of Specific Environmental Problems>

42. And do you think that modifying the genes of certain crops is ... ? [Showcard 19]

	Weighted %
...extremely dangerous to the environment	17
...very dangerous	32
...somewhat dangerous	29
...not very dangerous	14
...or, not dangerous at all for the environment?	3
(Can't choose)	5
TOTAL	100
% dangerous	48
% not dangerous	17

<Concept: Dangers of Specific Environmental Problems>

43. And do you think that nuclear power stations are...? [Showcard 19]

	Weighted %
...extremely dangerous to the environment	26
...very dangerous	33
...somewhat dangerous	24
...not very dangerous	10
...or, not dangerous at all for the environment?	2
(Can't choose)	5
TOTAL	100
% dangerous	59
% not dangerous	12

<Concept: Dangers of Specific Environmental Problems>

44. Which of these approaches do you think would be the best way of getting business and industry in South Africa to protect the environment?

	Weighted %
Heavy fines for businesses that damage the environment	39
Use the tax system to reward businesses that protect the environment	30
More information and education for businesses about the advantages of protecting the environment	26
(Can't choose)	5
TOTAL	100

<Concept: Environmental Policy>

45. Which of these approaches do you think would be the best way of getting people and their families in South Africa to protect the environment?

	Weighted %
Heavy fines for businesses that damage the environment	30
Use the tax system to reward people that protect the environment	31
More information and education for businesses about the advantages of protecting the environment	34
(Can't choose)	5
TOTAL	100

<Concept: Environmental Policy>

46. How much, if at all, do you enjoy being outside in nature?

	Weighted %
Not at all	10
To a small extent	18
To some extent	34
To a great extent	23
To a very great extent	13
(Can't choose)	2
TOTAL	100
% not at all / small extent	28
% great / very great extent	36

<Concept: Interaction with nature – intentional>

47. In the last twelve months how often, if at all, have you engaged in any leisure activities outside in nature, such as hiking, bird watching, swimming, skiing, other outdoor activities or just relaxing?

	Weighted %
Daily	6
Several times a week	11
Several times a month	18
Several times a year	22
Never	42
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% Once or more	56
% Never	42

<Concept: Interaction with nature – intentional>

48. In the last twelve months, how many trips did you make by plane? Count outward and return journeys, including transfers, as one trip.

	Weighted %
0	73
1	6
2	5
3	1
4	1
5	1
6	0
7	0
8	5
9	0
10	0
11	0
12	0
14	0
15	0
18	0
20	0
40	0
42	0
45	0
(Don't know)	6
TOTAL	100
Mean score (excluding Don't Know responses)	1.01
Mean score (for those reporting 1 or more trips, excl. Don't Know responses)	4.55

<Concept: Climate change beliefs and relevant behaviours – climate behaviours: transportation (New theme)>

49. In a typical week, about how many hours do you spend in a car or another motor vehicle, including motorcycles, trucks, and vans, but not counting public transport? (Do not include shared rides in cars, buses, minibuses, and collective taxis.)

	Weighted %
0	36
1	8
2	11
3	5
4	3
5	5
6	3
7	1
8	11
9	1
10	3
More than 10	9
(Don't know)	5
TOTAL	100
Mean score (excluding Don't Know responses)	5.11
Mean score (for those reporting 1 or more hours, excl. Don't Know responses)	8.19

<Concept: Climate change beliefs and relevant behaviours – climate behaviours: transportation (New theme)>

50. In a typical week, on how many days do you eat beef, lamb/mutton, or products that contain them?

	Weighted %
0 days	11
1	16
2	17
3	21
4	16
5	8
6	2
7 days	6
(Can't choose)	2
TOTAL	100
Mean (excluding 'can't choose)	2.81

<Concept: Climate change beliefs and relevant behaviours – climate behaviours: diet (New theme)>

51. How many rooms are there in your main house (or apartment)? Do not count any kitchens, bathrooms, garages, balconies, or hallways.

	Weighted %
0	1
1	10
2	26
3	26
4	16
5	11
6	4
7	1
8	3
9	1
10	1
More than 10	1
(Don't know)	1
TOTAL	100
Mean score (excluding Don't Know responses)	3.37
Mean score (for those reporting 1 or more room, excl. Don't Know responses)	3.39

<Concept: Climate change beliefs and relevant behaviours – climate behaviours: housing (New theme)>

52. How often do you make a special effort to sort glass or tins or plastic or newspapers and so on for recycling?

	Weighted %
Always	6
Often	15
Sometimes	23
Never	47
(Recycling is not available where I live)	9
TOTAL	100
% always / often	21
% sometimes / never	70

<Concept: Respondent's (Hypothetical) Behaviour & Env'tal Protection: R's Environmental Behaviour>

53. And how often do you avoid buying certain products for environmental reasons?

	Weighted %
Always	5
Often	15
Sometimes	28
Never	44
(Recycling is not available where I live)	8
TOTAL	100
% always / often	20
% sometimes / never	72

<Concept: Respondent's (Hypothetical) Behaviour & Env'tal Protection: R's Environmental Behaviour>

54. Are you a member of any group whose main aim is to preserve or protect the environment?

	Weighted %
Yes	12
No	88
TOTAL	100

<Concept: Respondent's (Hypothetical) Behaviour & Env'tal Protection: Member of group to preserve environment>

55. In the last five years, have you signed a petition about an environmental issue?

	Weighted %
Yes, I have	6
No, I have not	94
TOTAL	100

<Concept: Respondent's (Hypothetical) Behaviour & Env'tal Protection: R's Environmental Behaviour>

56. In the last five years, have you given money to an environmental group?

	Weighted %
Yes, I have	6
No, I have not	94
TOTAL	100

<Concept: Respondent's (Hypothetical) Behaviour & Env'tal Protection: R's Environmental Behaviour>

57. In the last five years, have you taken part in a protest or demonstration about an environmental issue?

	Weighted %
Yes, I have	6
No, I have not	94
TOTAL	100

<Concept: Respondent's (Hypothetical) Behaviour & Env'tal Protection: R's Environmental Behaviour>

58. Thinking about your neighbourhood, to what extent, if at all, was it affected by Air pollution over the last twelve months?

	Weighted %
Not at all	28
To a small extent	26
To some extent	27
To a great extent	10
To a very great extent	4
(Can't choose)	4
TOTAL	100
% not at all / small extent	54
% great / very great extent	14

<Concept: Exposure to environmental issues/harm>

59. Thinking about your neighbourhood, to what extent, if at all, was it affected by Water pollution over the last twelve months?

	Weighted %
Not at all	30
To a small extent	23
To some extent	27
To a great extent	12
To a very great extent	5
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% not at all / small extent	53
% great / very great extent	17

<Concept: Exposure to environmental issues/harm>

60. Thinking about your neighbourhood, to what extent, if at all, was it affected by Extreme weather events (such as severe storms, droughts, floods, heat waves, tornados, etc.) over the last twelve months?

	Weighted %
Not at all	27
To a small extent	27
To some extent	26
To a great extent	12
To a very great extent	4
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% not at all / small extent	54
% great / very great extent	17

<Concept: Exposure to environmental issues/harm>

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT: ATTITUDES TOWARDS LITTER/LITTERING

61. Generally speaking, how concerned are you about the following? *Rubbish and litter in your area*

	Weighted %
Very concerned	38
Somewhat concerned	30
Not very concerned	19
Not at all concerned	11
(Can't choose)	2
TOTAL	100
% very/somewhat concerned	68
% not very/not at all concerned	30

<Concept: Littering: concern>

62. Generally speaking, how concerned are you about the following? *Rubbish and litter in South Africa*

	Weighted %
Very concerned	42
Somewhat concerned	34
Not very concerned	15
Not at all concerned	8
(Can't choose)	1
TOTAL	100
% very/somewhat concerned	76
% not very/not at all concerned	23

<Concept: Littering: concern>

63. Generally speaking, how concerned are you about the following? *Rubbish and litter in the oceans/seas*

	Weighted %
Very concerned	37
Somewhat concerned	31
Not very concerned	19
Not at all concerned	10
(Can't choose)	3
TOTAL	100
% very/somewhat concerned	69
% not very/not at all concerned	29

<Concept: Littering: concern>

64. How common or uncommon is rubbish and litter lying about in your area?

	Weighted %
Very common	26
Fairly common	36
Not very common	26
Not at all common	11
(Don't know)	1
TOTAL	100
% very/fairly common	63
% not very/not at all common	37

<Concept: Littering: prevalence>

65. How often in the last 12 months have you picked up a piece of litter that someone else had dropped?

	Weighted %
Every day or almost every day	17
At least once or twice a week	15
At least once or twice every two weeks	12
At least once or twice every month	8
At least once or twice every six months	4
Less often than this	16
Never	27
(Don't know)	2
TOTAL	100

<Concept: Littering: picking up litter>

67. How often in the last 12 months have you seen someone deliberately dropping litter?

	Weighted %	
Every day or almost every day	23	Ask Q. 68
At least once or twice a week	15	Ask Q. 68
At least once or twice every two weeks	11	Ask Q. 68
At least once or twice every month	9	Ask Q. 68
At least once or twice every six months	5	Ask Q. 68
Less often than this	16	Ask Q. 68
Never	20	Skip to Q. 71
(Don't know)	2	Skip to Q. 71
TOTAL	100	

<Concept: Littering: witnessed deliberate littering>

68. What, if anything, do you generally do when you see this?

	Weighted %	
Ignore the behaviour / do nothing	42	Ask Q. 69
Do something about it myself	41	Skip to Q. 70
Try to get someone in authority to do something about it	12	Skip to Q. 70
Some other action (SPECIFY)	3	Skip to Q. 70
(Don't know)	2	Skip to Q. 71
TOTAL	100	

<Concept: Littering: response to deliberate littering>

69. Many people would do nothing if they saw someone deliberately dropping litter. What are your reasons for generally doing nothing? [Showcard X]

INTERVIEWER: MULTIPLE RESPONSES ALLOWED. CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY.

	Weighted %	
a. I think it is okay since everybody does it	17	Skip to Q. 71
b. It is okay since it generates jobs for people cleaning the area	15	Skip to Q. 71
c. I don't have time to do anything	31	Skip to Q. 71
d. I don't think what they are doing is wrong or that important	7	Skip to Q. 71
e. I don't think it will make a difference	22	Skip to Q. 71
f. I am worried about my own safety / too scared or frightened to do anything	29	Skip to Q. 71
g. I am too embarrassed to do anything	10	Skip to Q. 71
h. I don't think it is any of my business	21	Skip to Q. 71
i. I can't really do anything about it	23	Skip to Q. 71
j. Other (SPECIFY)	1	Skip to Q. 71
k. (Don't know)	1	Skip to Q. 71
TOTAL	177	

<Concept: Littering: Reasons for inaction in response to deliberate littering>

70. And what are your main reasons for doing something when you see someone deliberately dropping litter?

INTERVIEWER: MULTIPLE RESPONSES ALLOWED. CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY.

	Weighted %
a. I get angry/annoyed	41
b. I want to make sure that the person doesn't get away with it	24
c. I think what they are doing is wrong	47
d. I have seen it happen too often and am fed up	22
e. I care about the environment and want to keep it clean	25
f. Other (SPECIFY)	2
g. (Don't know)	2
TOTAL	162

<Concept: Littering: Reasons for action in response to deliberate littering>

71. How often in the last 12 months have you deliberately dropped litter?

	Weighted %
Every day or almost every day	6
At least once or twice a week	8
At least once or twice every two weeks	7
At least once or twice every month	6
At least once or twice every six months	4
Less often than this	19
Never	48
(Can't choose)	2
TOTAL	100

<Concept: Littering: Personal deliberate littering>

72. What happens to your household garbage?

	Weighted %
Garbage removers take it away	53
We take it to a specific rubbish dump	9
We dump it over the fence	4
We burn it	28
We take into the veld	5
We throw outside the house	1
Other (specify)	0
TOTAL	100

<Concept: Household refuse disposal>

73. Which ONE of the following community activities concerning the environment would you be interested in?

	Weighted %
Planting trees	25
Cleaning the streets and open areas	19
Maintenance of buildings	11
Upgrading the street surfaces	11
Gardening	27
Cleaning rivers and spruits	3
Cleaning the veld	3
Other (specify)	1
TOTAL	100

<Concept: Interest in community environmental activities>

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