

# Survey responses


Public, Stakeholder and Indigenous

# Summary Stats

- 4,229 Total survey responses
  - ~50 Indigenous communities and organizations
  - 99 Stakeholders
  - ~4120 Public
- X


- Survey format
- Radio button questions gauge agreement with a statement – scale of agreement or importance
- Respondents have option to agree, be neutral or disagree, or offer ‘no opinion’

## Question options

 No opinion

 Disagree

 Neutral

 Agree

# Unique questions

## Stakeholder

Q24 How is nature important to your organization or community? Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.



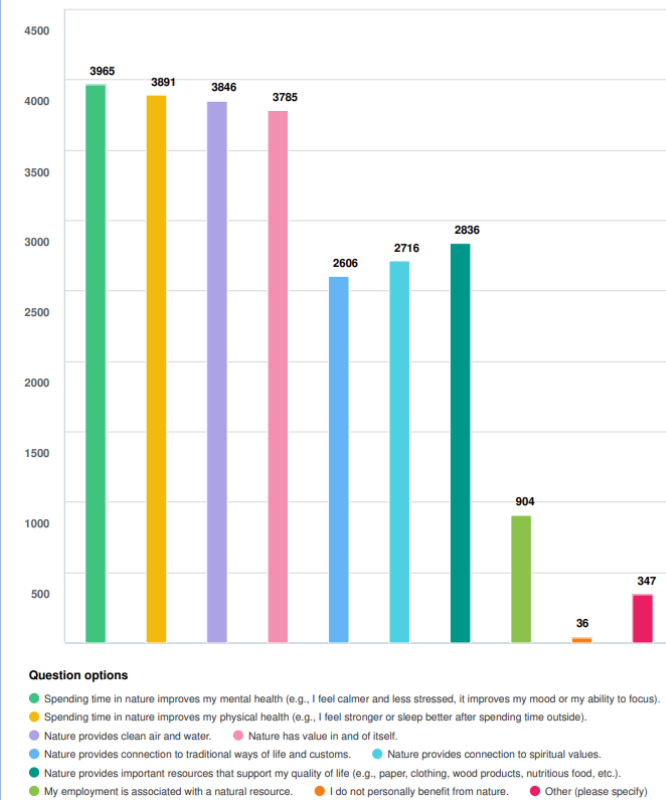
## Indigenous

NA

Great stats we can use here on how people value nature!

## Public

Q2 The list below identifies some direct benefits people receive from nature. How do you, personally, benefit from nature? Select all that apply.

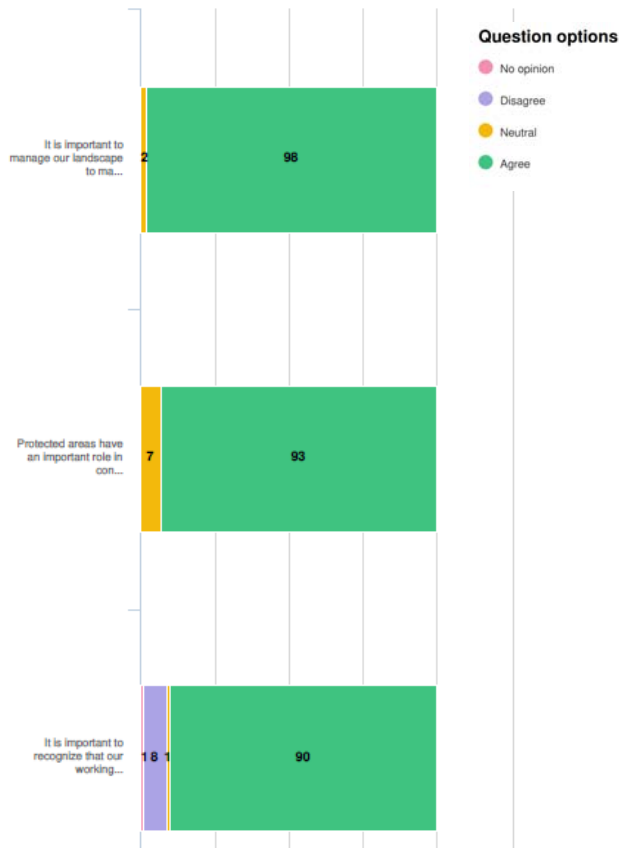


Classification: Protected A

# Question: Agreement – working landscapes and protected areas

## Stakeholder

Q28 Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.



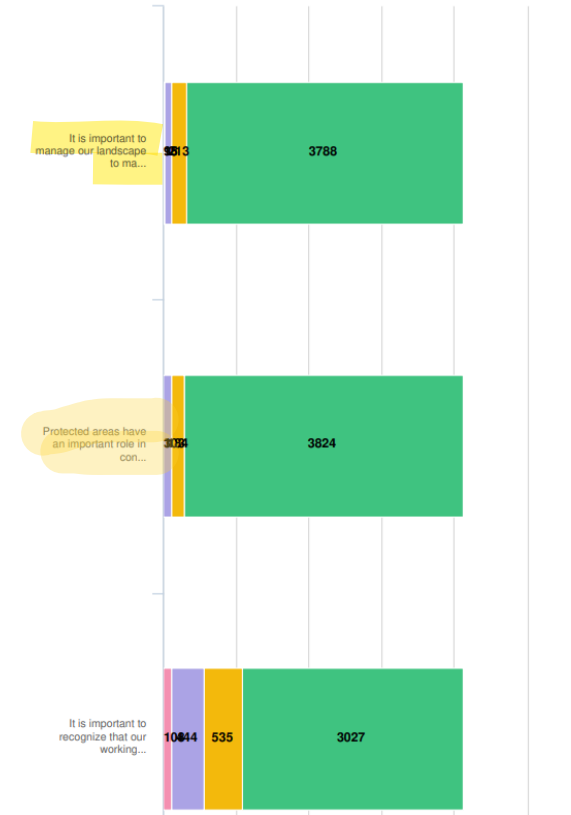
## Indigenous

Q28 Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.



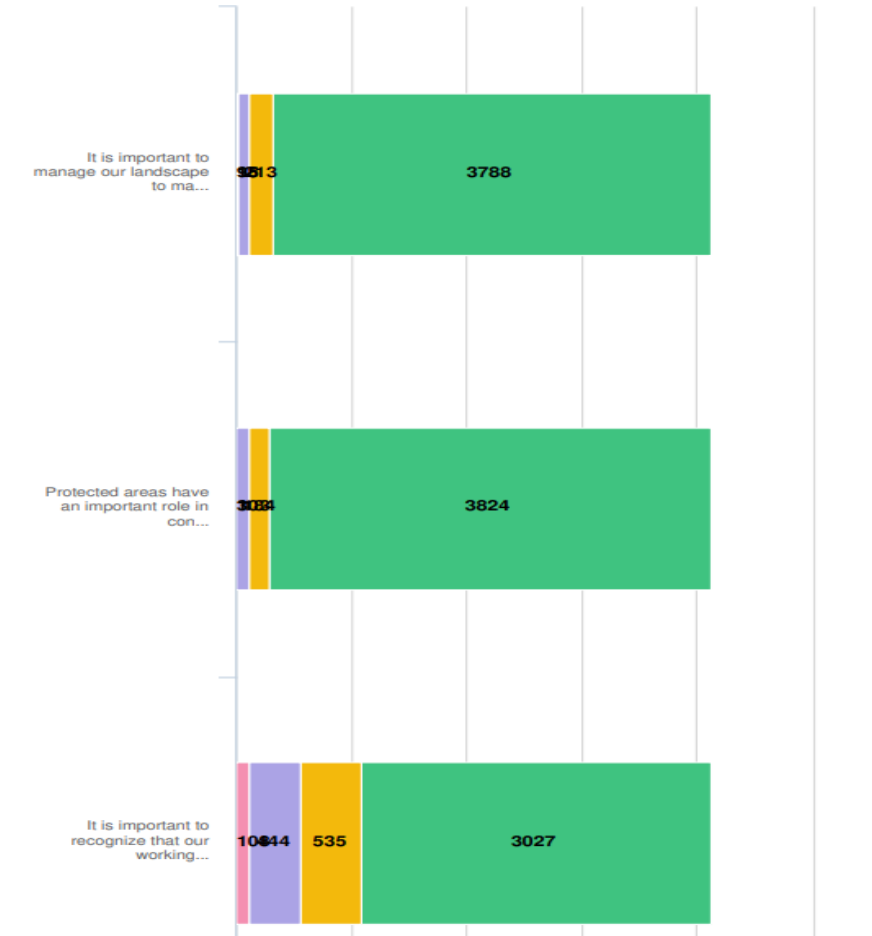
## Public

Q3 Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.



Classification: Protected A

**Q3** Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.



# Question: Agreement – healthy landscapes outcomes

## Stakeholder

Q30 The statements below describe potential outcomes related to this topic. How important would each outcome be to your community or organization?



## Indigenous

Q30 The statements below describe potential outcomes related to this topic. How important would each outcome be to your community or organization?



## Public

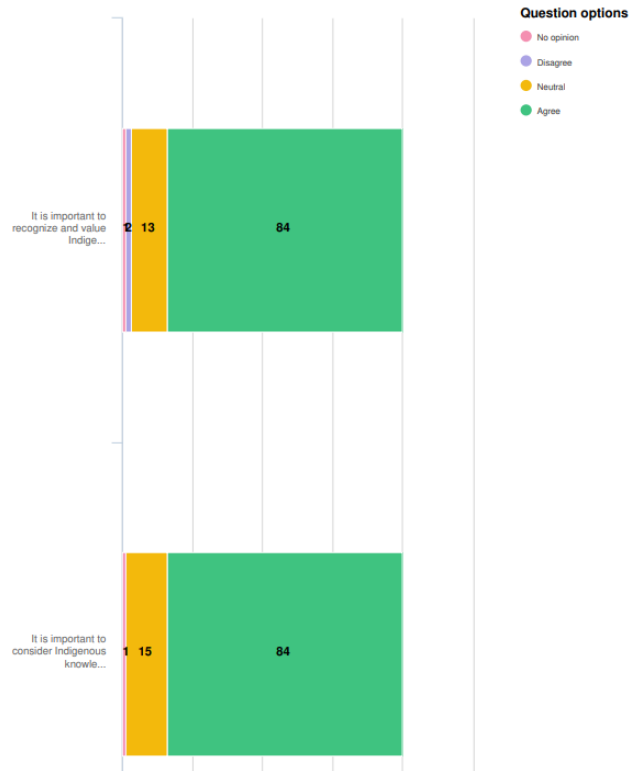
NA

Classification: Protected A

# Question: Agreement – Indigenous knowledge

## Stakeholder

Q35 Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

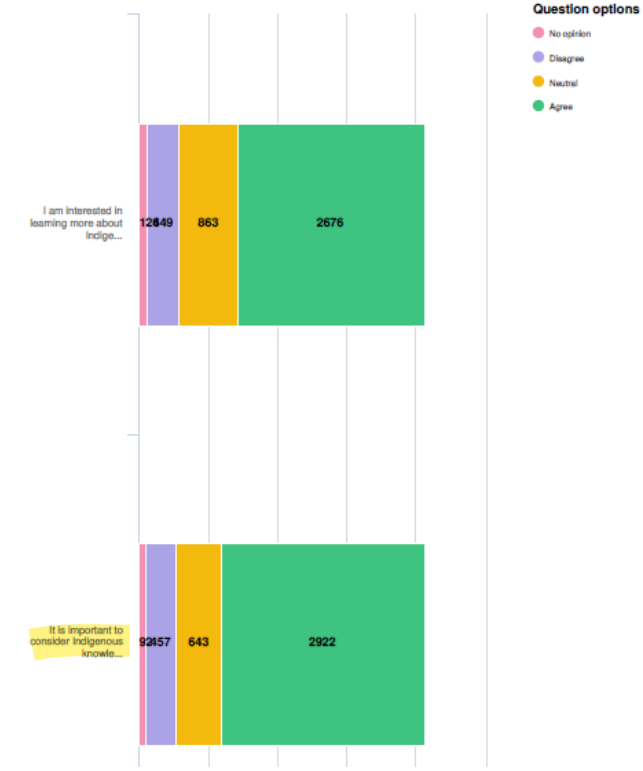


## Indigenous

NA

## Public

Q5 Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.



# Question: Indigenous - outcomes

## Stakeholder

Q37 The statements below describe potential outcomes related to this topic. How important would each outcome be to your community or organization?



## Indigenous

Q37 The statements below describe potential outcomes related to this topic. How important would each outcome be to your community or organization?



## Public

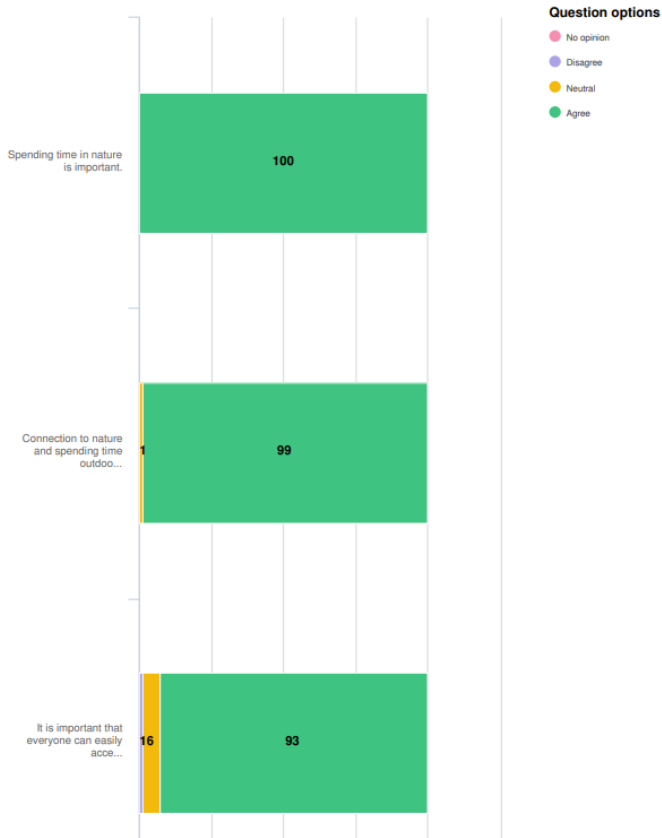
NA

Classification: Protected A

# Question: Agreement – connection to nature

## Stakeholder

Q42 Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.



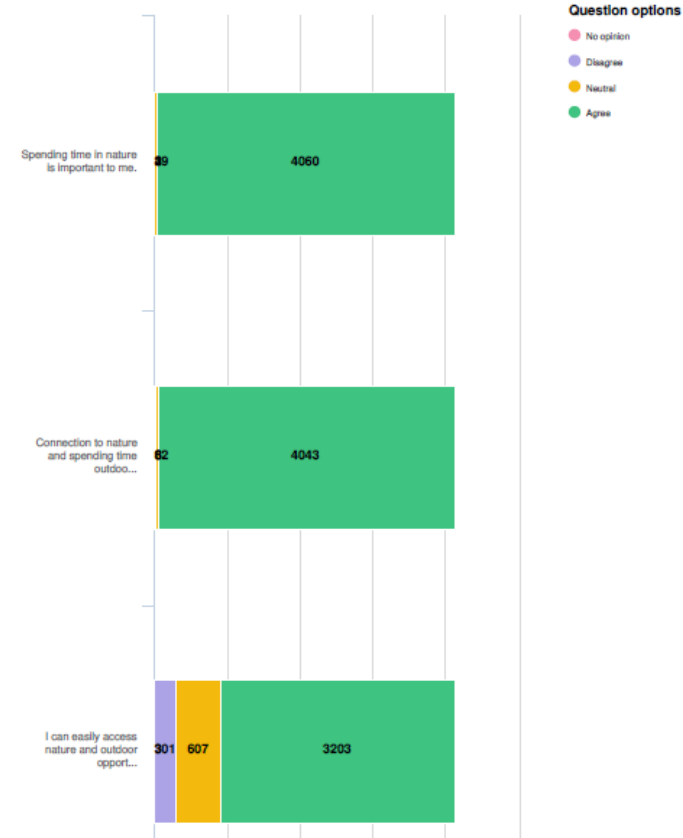
## Indigenous

Q42 Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.



## Public

Q7 Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.



Classification: Protected A

# Question: Connection to nature - outcomes

## Stakeholder

Q44 The statements below describe potential outcomes related to this topic. How important would each outcome be to your community or organization?



## Indigenous

Q44 The statements below describe potential outcomes related to this topic. How important would each outcome be to your community or organization?



## Public

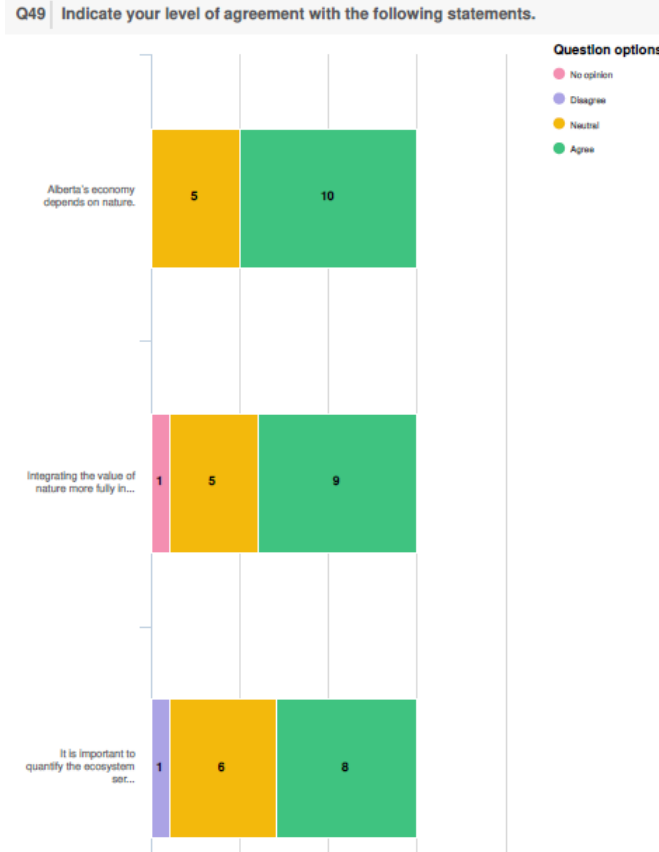
NA

# Question: Agreement – nature and economy

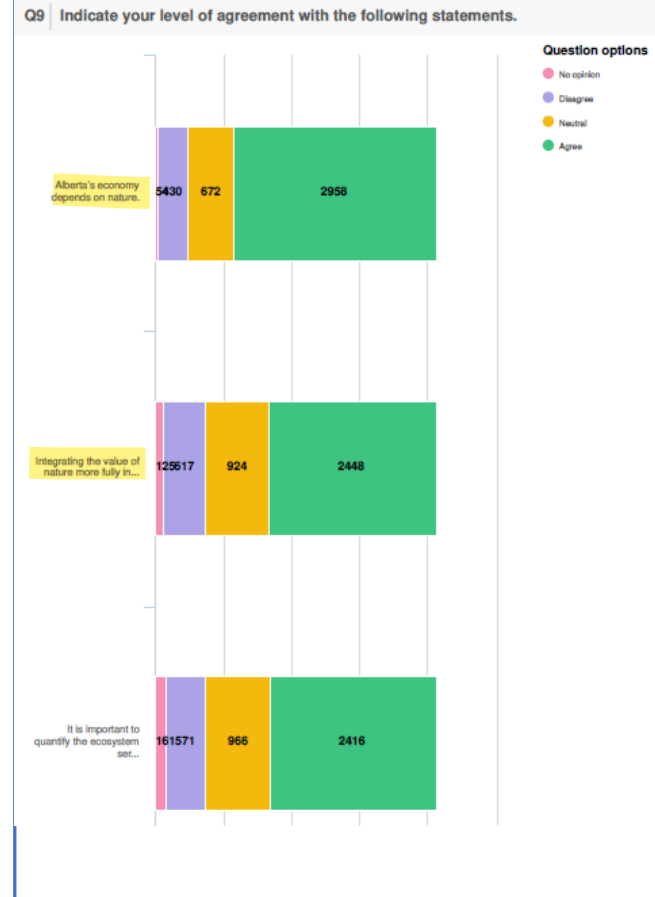
## Stakeholder



## Indigenous



## Public



Classification: Protected A

# Question: nature and economy - outcomes

## Stakeholder

Q51 The statements below describe potential outcomes related to this topic. How important would each outcome be to your community or organization?



## Indigenous

Q51 The statements below describe potential outcomes related to this topic. How important would each outcome be to your community or organization?



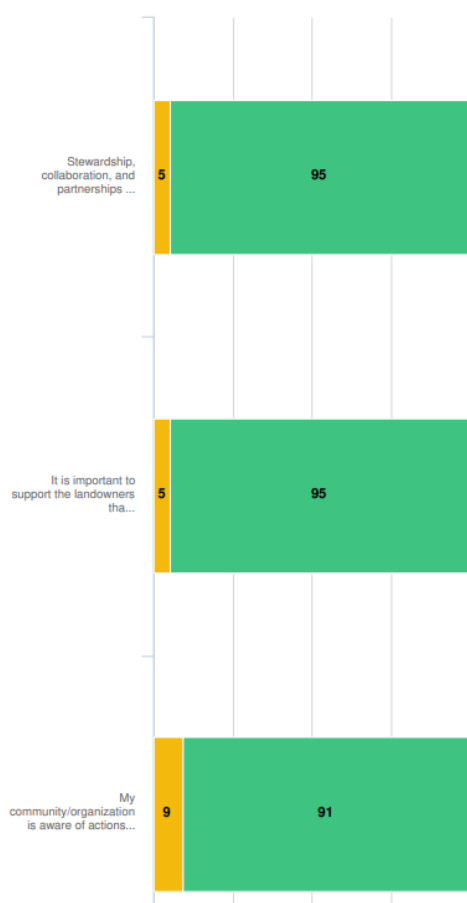
## Public

NA

Classification: Protected A

# Question: Agreement – stewardship and partnerships

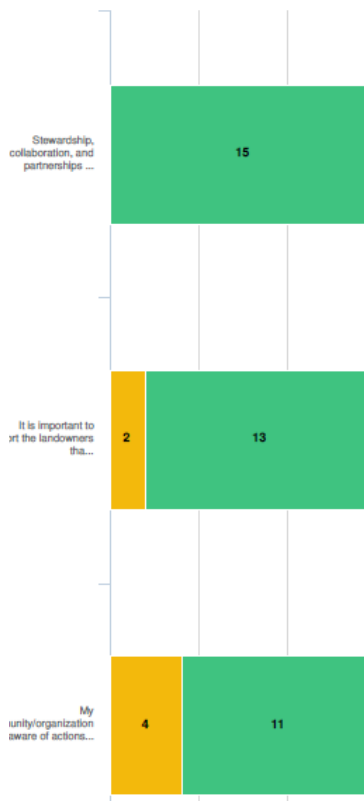
Q56 Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.



Indigenous

Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

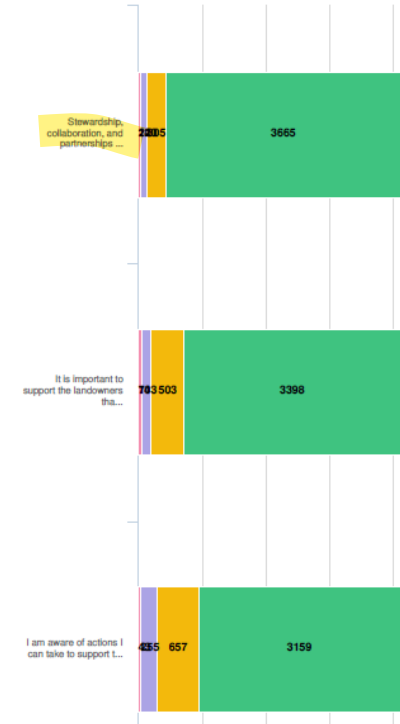
Question options  
 No opinion  
 Disagree  
 Neutral  
 Agree



Public

Q11 Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

Question options  
 No opinion  
 Disagree  
 Neutral  
 Agree



Classification: Protected A

# Question: Stewardship and partnerships - outcomes

## Stakeholder

Q58 The statements below describe potential outcomes related to this topic. How important would each outcome be to your community or organization?



## Indigenous

Q58 The statements below describe potential outcomes related to this topic. How important would each outcome be to your community or organization?



## Public

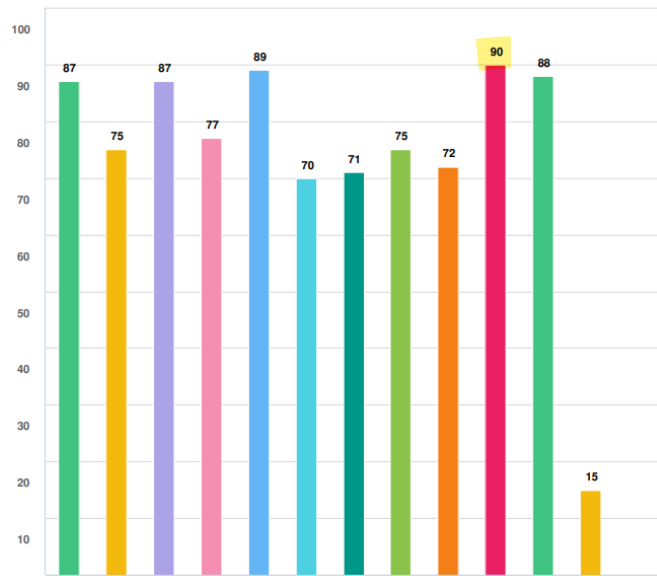
NA

Classification: Protected A

# Question: Important actions - conservation

## Stakeholder

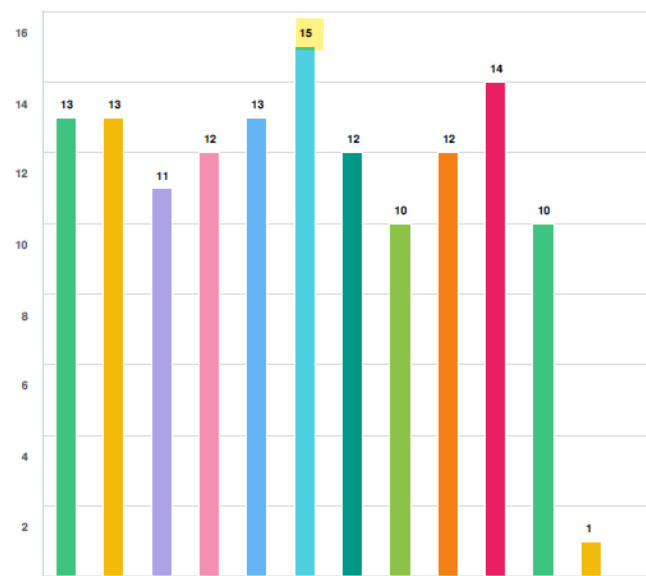
Q63 Indicate which of the following are important to your community or organization. Select all that apply.



- Question options**
- None of the above.
  - Other (please specify)
  - Recognizing stewardship actions by landowners, communities and organizations.
  - Cultivating a strong environmental stewardship ethic and shared commitment to nature.
  - Mobilizing society through communication to raise awareness and knowledge and encourage action on nature.
  - Continuing to advance land use planning initiatives (e.g., regional and subregional planning).
  - Improving access to nature to support health and well-being.
  - Supporting Indigenous leadership and initiatives in conservation.
  - Maintaining threatened ecosystems (e.g., grasslands, wetlands) across our landscapes.
  - Restoring disturbed ecosystems.
  - Reducing the introduction and spread of invasive species.
  - Recovering species at risk.
  - Recognizing the contributions of all lands to maintaining the health of our ecosystems and the province's biodiversity.

## Indigenous

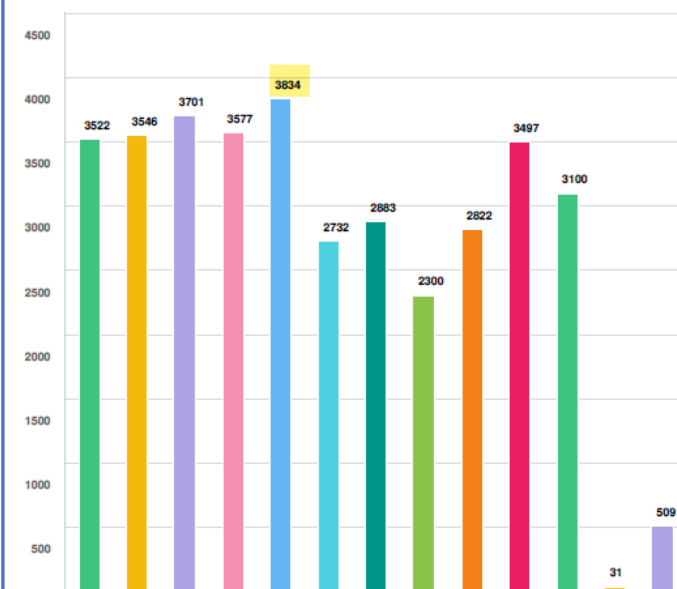
Q63 Indicate which of the following are important to your community or organization. Select all that apply.



- Question options**
- None of the above.
  - Other (please specify)
  - Recognizing stewardship actions by landowners, communities and organizations.
  - Cultivating a strong environmental stewardship ethic and shared commitment to nature.
  - Mobilizing society through communication to raise awareness and knowledge and encourage action on nature.
  - Continuing to advance land use planning initiatives (e.g., regional and subregional planning).
  - Improving access to nature to support health and well-being.
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  - Maintaining threatened ecosystems (e.g., grasslands, wetlands) across our landscapes.
  - Restoring disturbed ecosystems.
  - Reducing the introduction and spread of invasive species.
  - Recovering species at risk.
  - Recognizing the contributions of all lands to maintaining the health of our ecosystems and the province's biodiversity.

## Public

Q13 Which of the following actions are important to pursue to improve conservation, management and restoration of nature in Alberta? Select all that apply.



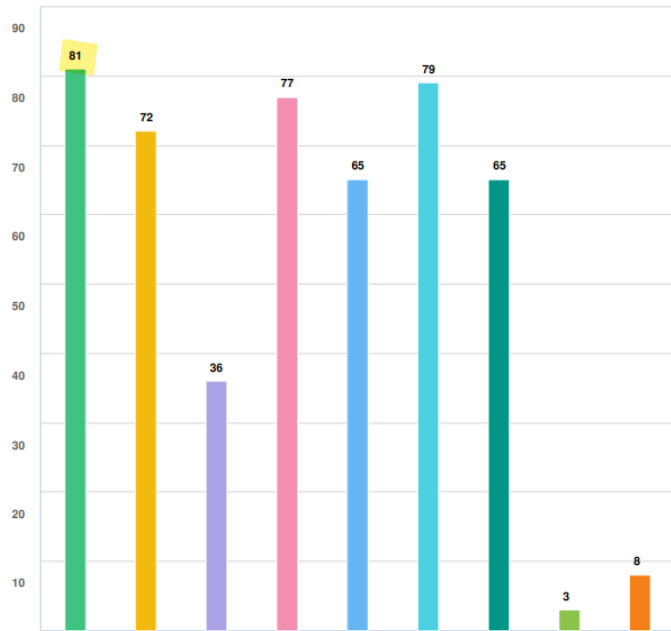
- Question options**
- Other (please specify)
  - None of the above.
  - Recognizing stewardship actions by landowners, communities and organizations.
  - Cultivating a strong environmental stewardship ethic and shared commitment to nature.
  - Mobilizing society through communication to raise awareness and knowledge and encourage action on nature.
  - Continuing to advance land use planning initiatives (e.g., regional and subregional planning).
  - Improving access to nature to support health and well-being.
  - Supporting Indigenous leadership and initiatives in conservation.
  - Maintaining threatened ecosystems (e.g., grasslands, wetlands) across our landscapes.
  - Restoring disturbed ecosystems.
  - Reducing the introduction and spread of invasive species.
  - Recovering species at risk.
  - Recognizing the contributions of all lands to maintaining the health of our ecosystems and the province's biodiversity.

Classification: Protected A

# Question: Important actions - economy

## Stakeholder

Q64 Indicate which of the following are important to your community or organization. Select all that apply.

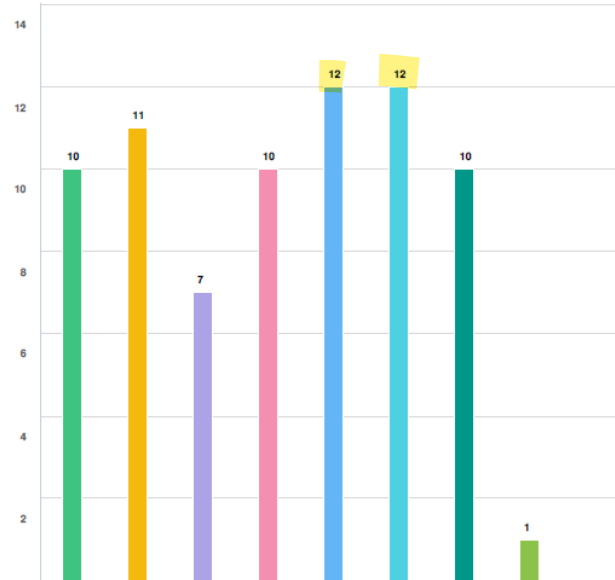


**Question options**

- Other (please specify)
- None of the above
- Progress towards systems that improve efficiency in resource use, such as improving recycling of material and reducing waste (circular economies)
- Increasing financial resources allocated to environmental stewardship
- Developing guidelines and objectives for nature across activities and sectors
- Improving sustainability of natural resource-based industries
- Developing systems to trade nature/biodiversity credits
- Quantifying the benefits received from nature
- Creating economic incentives to protect and manage natural resources and ecosystems

## Indigenous

Q64 Indicate which of the following are important to your community or organization. Select all that apply.

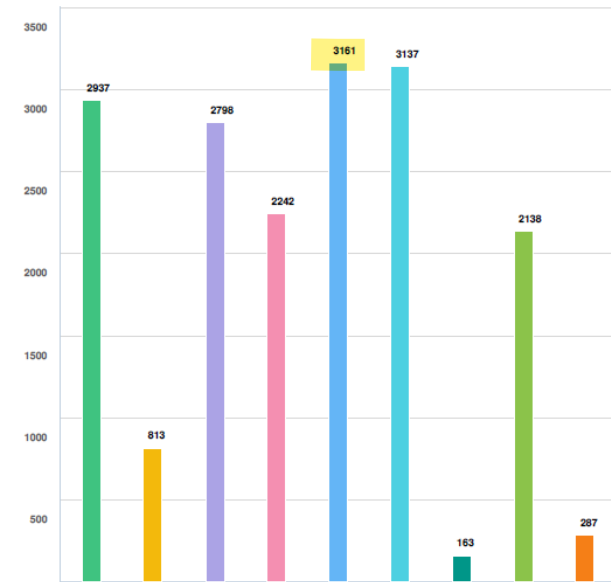


**Question options**

- Other (please specify)
- None of the above
- Progress towards systems that improve efficiency in resource use, such as improving recycling of material and reducing waste (circular economies)
- Increasing financial resources allocated to environmental stewardship
- Developing guidelines and objectives for nature across activities and sectors
- Improving sustainability of natural resource-based industries
- Developing systems to trade nature/biodiversity credits
- Quantifying the benefits received from nature
- Creating economic incentives to protect and manage natural resources and ecosystems

## Public

Q14 Integrating nature into systems across our society will help us account for the value of nature to our communities and economy. Which of the following actions are important to pursue? Select all that apply.



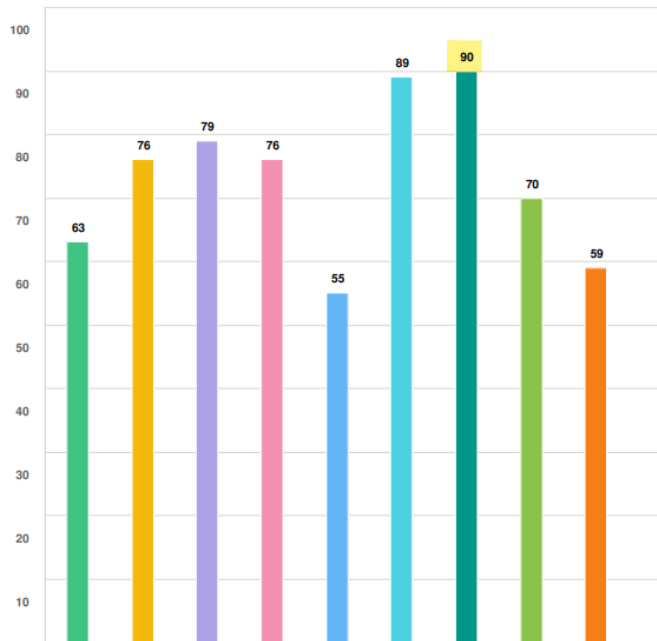
**Question options**

- Other (please specify)
- None of the above
- Progress towards systems that improve efficiency in resource use, such as improving recycling of material and reducing waste (circular economies)
- Increasing financial resources allocated to environmental stewardship
- Developing guidelines and objectives for nature across activities and sectors
- Improving sustainability of natural resource-based industries
- Developing systems to trade nature/biodiversity credits
- Quantifying the benefits received from nature
- Creating economic incentives to protect and manage natural resources and ecosystems

# Question: areas for action

## Stakeholder

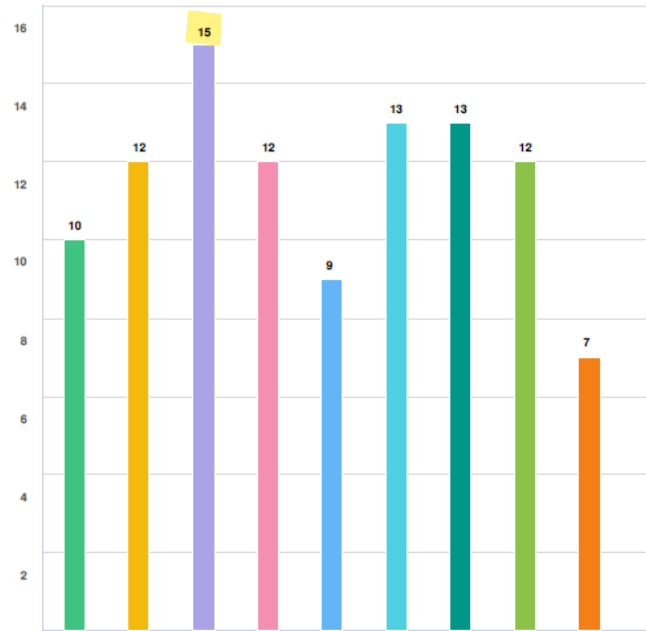
Q66 A nature strategy will need to broadly identify areas where we need to take action. Which of the potential areas for action below are important to your community or organization? Select all that apply.



- Question options**
- None of the above.
  - Support standardized indicators and data to report on our natural capital.
  - Enhance our regulatory systems to ensure sustainable management of natural resources.
  - Encourage practices that promote biodiversity and nature.
  - Continue to conserve habitats, species, and unique land features important to the health of our landscapes.
  - Support mechanisms for nature markets and conditions to support a nature-positive economy.
  - Develop guidelines and objectives for healthy landscapes across activities and sectors.
  - Collaborate with Indigenous communities and organizations.
  - Increase the use of nature-based solutions in Alberta.
  - Create equitable opportunities to connect to nature.

## Indigenous

Q66 A nature strategy will need to broadly identify areas where we need to take action. Which of the potential areas for action below are important to your community or organization? Select all that apply.



- Question options**
- None of the above.
  - Support standardized indicators and data to report on our natural capital.
  - Enhance our regulatory systems to ensure sustainable management of natural resources.
  - Encourage practices that promote biodiversity and nature.
  - Continue to conserve habitats, species, and unique land features important to the health of our landscapes.
  - Support mechanisms for nature markets and conditions to support a nature-positive economy.
  - Develop guidelines and objectives for healthy landscapes across activities and sectors.
  - Collaborate with Indigenous communities and organizations.
  - Increase the use of nature-based solutions in Alberta.
  - Create equitable opportunities to connect to nature.

## Public

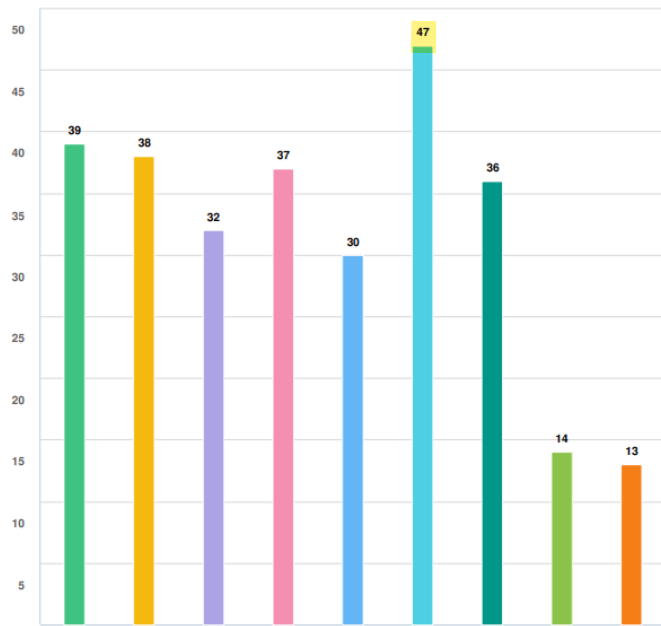
NA

Cl:

# Question: making progress

## Stakeholder

Q68 From your community's or organization's perspective, where is Alberta's government making progress towards conserving, managing and restoring nature? Select all that apply.

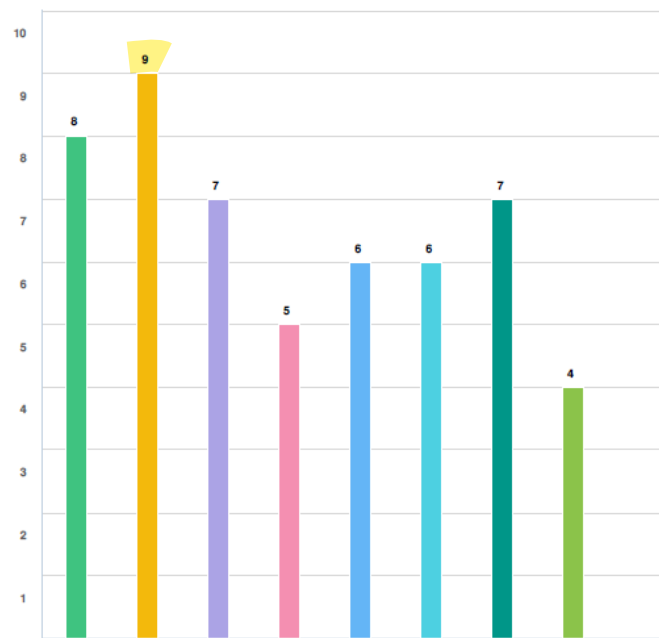


### Question options

- Other (please specify)
- Using nature-based solutions to address societal challenges such as natural hazards (flood, wildfire), food security and climate change.
- Ensuring access to nature and improving opportunities to pursue activities in nature (outdoor recreation, being in nature, tourism).
- Reducing threats to biodiversity loss.
- Integrating biodiversity into our management systems.
- Advancing relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations.
- Continuing to build our network of parks and protected areas.
- None of the above.
- Sustainable use of natural resources.

## Indigenous

Q68 From your community's or organization's perspective, where is Alberta's government making progress towards conserving, managing and restoring nature? Select all that apply.

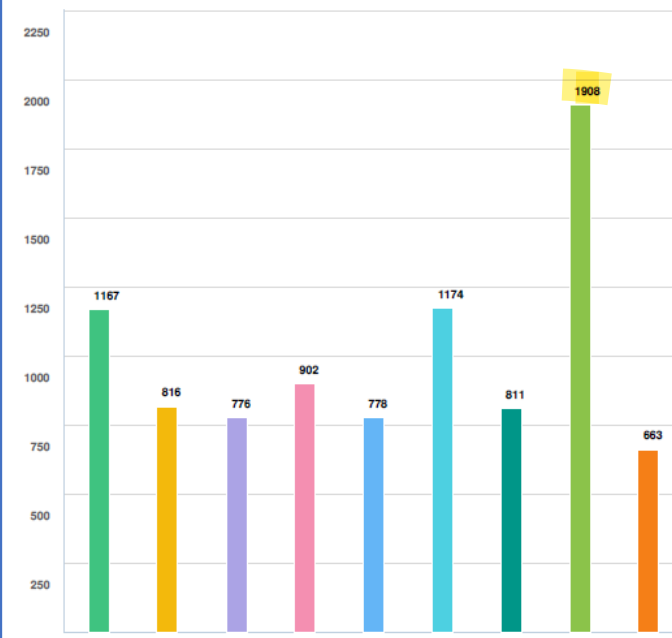


### Question options

- Other (please specify)
- Using nature-based solutions to address societal challenges such as natural hazards (flood, wildfire), food security and climate change.
- Ensuring access to nature and improving opportunities to pursue activities in nature (outdoor recreation, being in nature, tourism).
- Reducing threats to biodiversity loss.
- Integrating biodiversity into our management systems.
- Advancing relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations.
- Continuing to build our network of parks and protected areas.
- None of the above.
- Sustainable use of natural resources.

## Public

Q16 Where do you think Alberta's government is currently making progress towards conserving, managing and restoring nature? Select all that apply.



### Question options

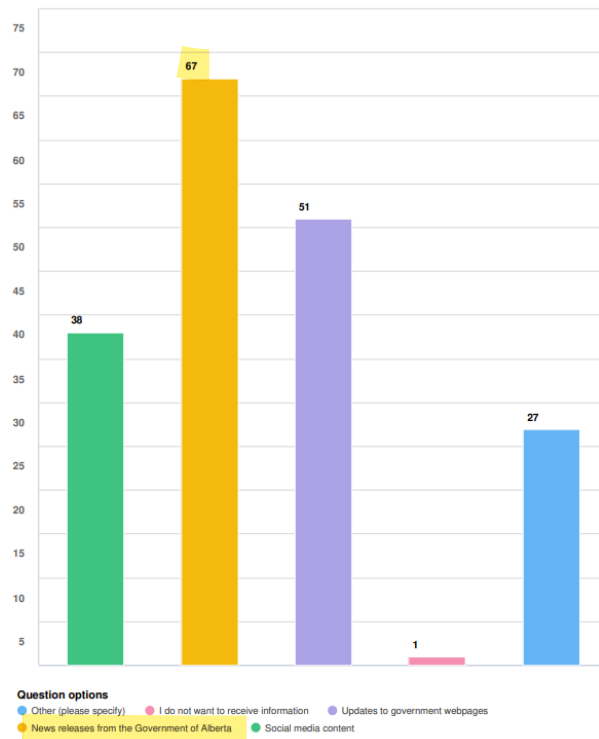
- Other (please specify)
- Using nature-based solutions to address societal challenges such as natural hazards (flood, wildfire), food security and climate change.
- Ensuring access to nature and improving opportunities to pursue activities in nature (outdoor recreation, being in nature, tourism).
- Reducing threats to biodiversity loss.
- Integrating biodiversity into our management systems.
- Advancing relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations.
- Continuing to build our network of parks and protected areas.
- None of the above.
- Sustainable use of natural resources.

Classification: Protected A

# Question: How would you like to be informed?

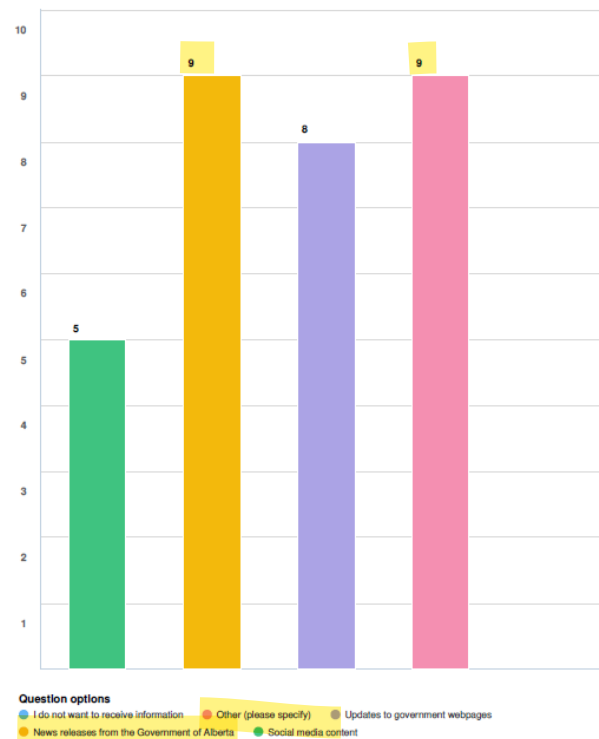
## Stakeholder

Q73 How would your community or organization like to be informed as the nature strategy advances?



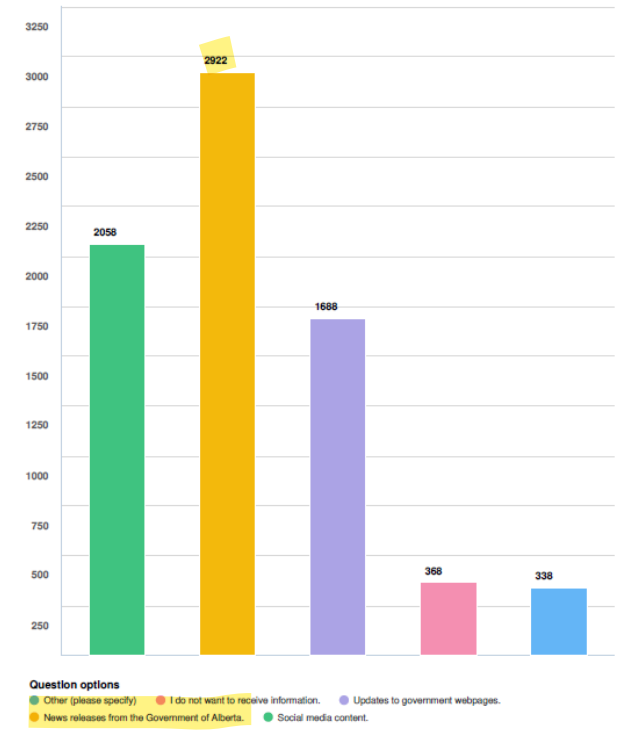
## Indigenous

Q73 How would your community or organization like to be informed as the nature strategy advances?



## Public

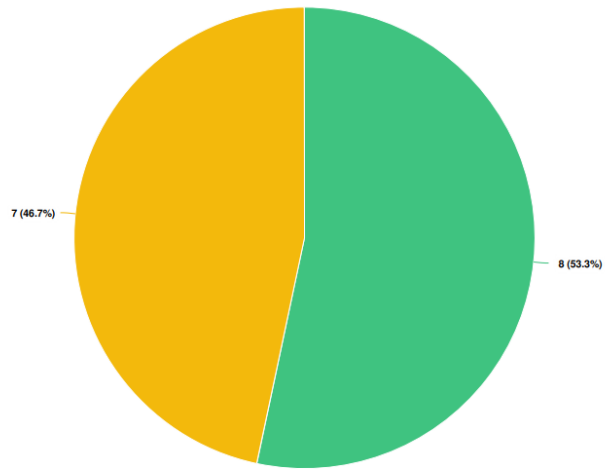
Q19 How would you like to receive information about the development of the nature strategy?



# Question: Experience completing the survey

## Stakeholder

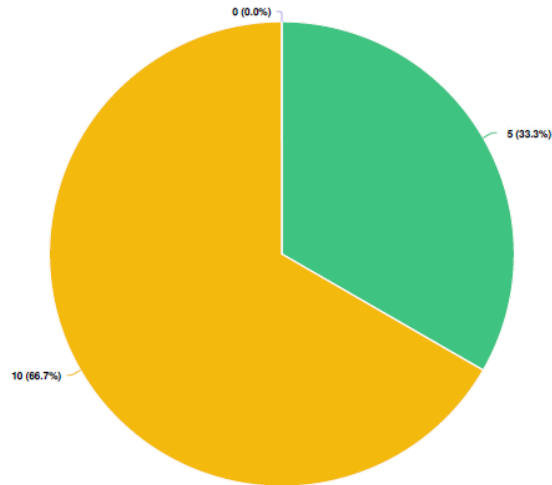
Q25 | I am responding on behalf of a:



Question options  
● Métis community or organization ● First Nation community or organization

## Indigenous

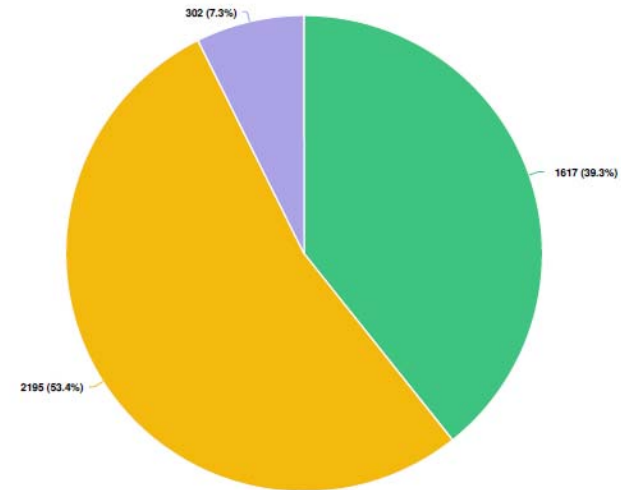
Q74 | How was your experience completing the survey?



Question options  
● Poor ● Acceptable ● Good

## Public

Q74 | How was your experience completing the survey?



Question options  
● Poor ● Acceptable ● Good

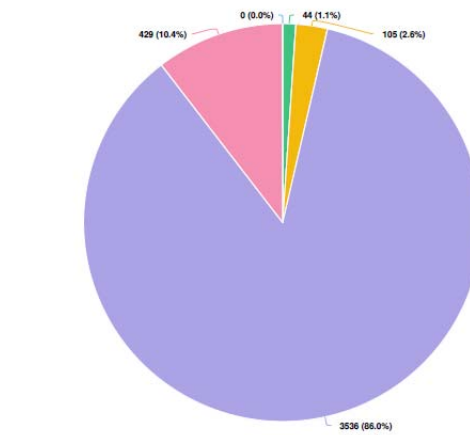
# Question: demographic

Stakeholder

NA

Indigenous

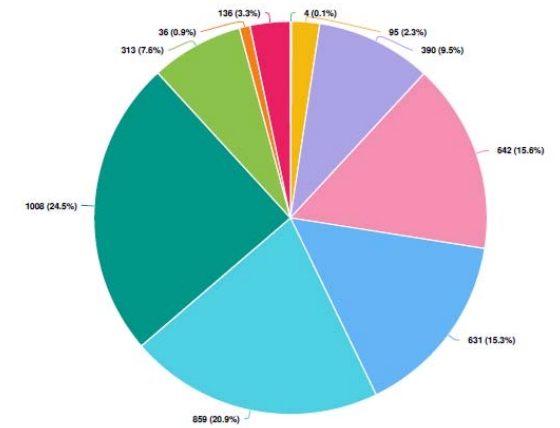
Q22 Do you identify as Indigenous?



Question options  
● Yes, Inuit ● Prefer not to say ● None of the above ● Yes, Metis ● Yes, First Nations

Public

Q21 What is your age?



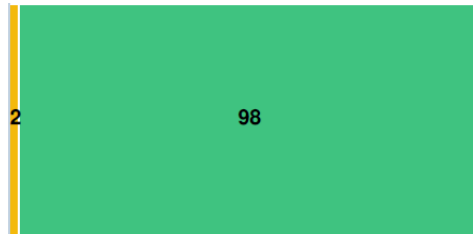
Question options  
● Prefer not to say ● 85 or older ● 75 to 84 ● 65 to 74 ● 55 to 64 ● 45 to 54 ● 35 to 44 ● 25 to 34 ● 18 to 24 ● Under 18

# Healthy landscapes

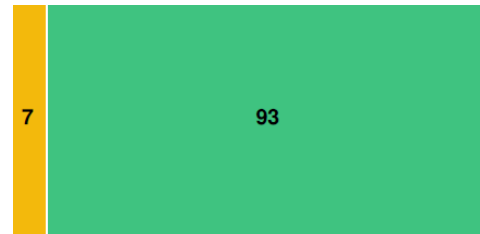
## Question options

- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- No opinion

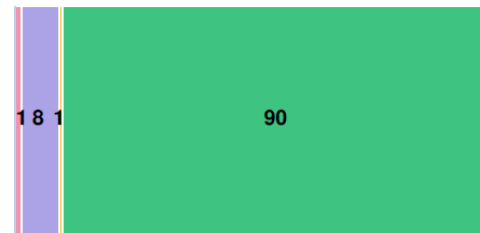
It is important to manage our landscape to maintain healthy ecosystems



Protected areas have an important role in conserving nature



It is important to recognize that working landscapes contribute to maintaining biodiversity and the health of our ecosystems



Classification: Protected A

## Engagement Overview

A survey collecting input on the nature strategy was open from September 12 to November 7, 2024. Survey respondents could self-select if they were answering as an individual member of the public, on behalf of an Indigenous community or organization, or on behalf of an organization as a stakeholder. The survey included ~~radio-button questions for level of agreement, multiple choice~~ and open-ended questions on topics that correspond with the four goals outlined in the strategy. Over 4,200 responses were received, 15 of which were on behalf of Indigenous communities or organizations and 99 on behalf of stakeholder organizations.

A Nature Summit was held in Calgary on October 16, 2024 with Indigenous communities and organizations and invited stakeholder guests, of which there were 69 individuals in attendance. Panels on larger themes regarding a nature strategy in Alberta were held with experts discussing and answering ~~audience~~ questions on various approaches to the following topics:

- Working landscapes: Successes and shared responsibility
- Overcoming challenges and future opportunities
- Nature and economy

Tabletop discussions were facilitated at the Nature Summit between Indigenous community and organization members and stakeholder participants from many sectors on the various values of nature and priorities for government in the development of a nature strategy.

Finally, letters from individual and joint stakeholder groups were received and reviewed, and one-on-one meetings with communities and organizations were held as requested.

## Engagement Results

### Collaboration with Indigenous Communities and Organizations

#### Indigenous Communities and Organizations

Participants at the Nature Summit communicated a need for an increase in consultation and engagement with Indigenous peoples. They described how Indigenous peoples have been guardians of the land for generations and emphasized that their communities and organizations have knowledge that is crucial ~~not to be overlooked~~ for this initiative. Indigenous people have ~~a~~ profound cultural connections and needs for a healthy landscape. Therefore, engagement early in the process is necessary and the importance of engagement to be meaningful was heard, especially when other consultation work with tighter timelines must take priority over the development of long-term, strategic level policy, creating pressures on capacity and resources.

#### Stakeholders

A majority of stakeholders were in agreement with a need to collaborate with Indigenous communities and organizations in the development and implementation of a nature strategy, as well as to educate people about the importance of nature to Indigenous peoples in particular. Knowledge keepers providing guidance in a strategy was identified as ~~helpful in~~ important to preventing further loss to biodiversity.

**Commented [AM1]:** Thoughts on boxes with memorable quotes (anonymous)?

**Commented [SG2]:** Not sure if I am following the intent of this statement

Surveys completed by stakeholders identified that ‘consideration’ or ‘inclusion’ of Indigenous knowledges is not reflective of the balance needed between Indigenous knowledge keepers and western scientists. There were calls for efforts towards outcomes of the strategy to go further than simply acknowledgement of Indigenous knowledges, and should be centered around engagement with Indigenous governments. The development of a well-defined process led by Indigenous communities and organizations was suggested for the integration and incorporation of Indigenous perspectives throughout a strategy, and partnership with interested First Nations in its development and next steps.

### Public

Many public respondents emphasized the importance of combining Indigenous knowledge with modern science for better conservation, natural resource management, and environmental stewardship. For example, it was outlined that Indigenous practices such as controlled burning and sustainable land use can significantly contribute to preserving natural landscapes and biodiversity. Overall, there was a notion in survey responses that integrating traditional wisdom with western scientific methods leads to more effective and sustainable practices. Several comments highlighted the need to respect and include Indigenous perspectives in strategy development, planning, and decision-making processes. Respondents stressed that Indigenous communities should be actively involved and their knowledge should be respected, valued and considered equal to western science.

Some survey respondents identified reluctance of Indigenous people to share their knowledges due to historical and ongoing mistrust. They also mentioned the challenges of meaningful engagement and the need to address these barriers to foster better collaboration. In some few cases, there was critical and skeptical views from members of the public regarding the relevance and applicability of Indigenous knowledge in modern contexts.

Commented [AM3]: Include?

Commented [SG4R3]: I think keeping it reflects the range of responses we received

## Healthy, Connected, and Resilient Landscapes

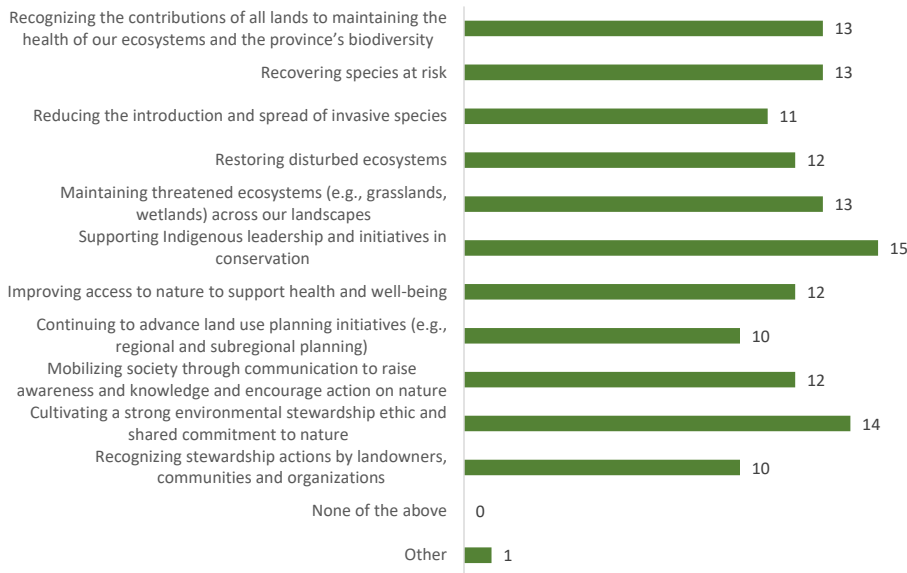
### Indigenous Communities and Organizations

When contemplating healthy landscapes through a nature strategy, it was clear through engagement input that land use decisions must include Indigenous knowledges and work to create partnerships in stewardship and monitoring. These perspectives must have an equal weight to western science regarding impacts to biodiversity, and interests beyond those of industry were described as needing more weight put behind them in government initiatives. Indigenous communities and organizations called for land use planning to continue, and through survey responses indicated a high interest in co-developing a strategy between the Government of Alberta and First Nation and Metis governments for greater success and the building of meaning and trust in the process.

Engagement input from the Nature Summit reinforced the notion that nature is integral for Indigenous ways of life and cultural survival, as outlined above, as well as the importance of facilitating collective work and promoting understanding between Indigenous groups and various sectors. In survey responses, there was general support for both protected areas as a method of conservation as well as realizing positive biodiversity outcomes from working landscapes where conservation is not the highest of priorities. However, working landscapes as a term and concept was not widely accepted by Indigenous communities and organizations throughout engagement, for the term can imply that industrial or agricultural uses are sole or most important purpose for public lands, disregarding traditional practices.

the exercising of treaty rights, or other land uses. An emphasis was also placed on reclamation of disturbed areas alongside preventing loss to biodiversity at the outset. Outcomes and areas for action including transparent data management and the expansion of Indigenous tourism as a player in conservation efforts while supporting local economies were put forward.

**Survey Question: Which of the following are important to your community or organization?**



**Stakeholders**

Survey responses from stakeholders demonstrated that nature is essential to livelihoods, communities, and human health, and particular care should be taken for threatened ecosystems in the province such as native grasslands. Ecosystem health was identified by many stakeholders to be the key management objective and highest priority of a nature strategy, such as ENGOs, agriculture, and municipalities. However, the approach to how best to maintain healthy landscapes created ambivalence among stakeholders.

Conservation through the expansion and proliferation of parks and protected areas in the province, particularly in sensitive areas, was voiced in surveys by stakeholders such as multiple ENGOs. Deemed to be the most effective way to maintain biodiversity by some stakeholders, protected areas should be representative of provincial landscapes and connected, including buffers for edge effects and migration corridors, continue to drive tourism, and contribute to well-being. Areas previously undisturbed by development was determined to be a priority through survey responses, especially those nearer to urban centres in the province. Finally, this subset of stakeholders many ENGOs called for management of

**Commented [SG5]:** For future candidate protected areas?

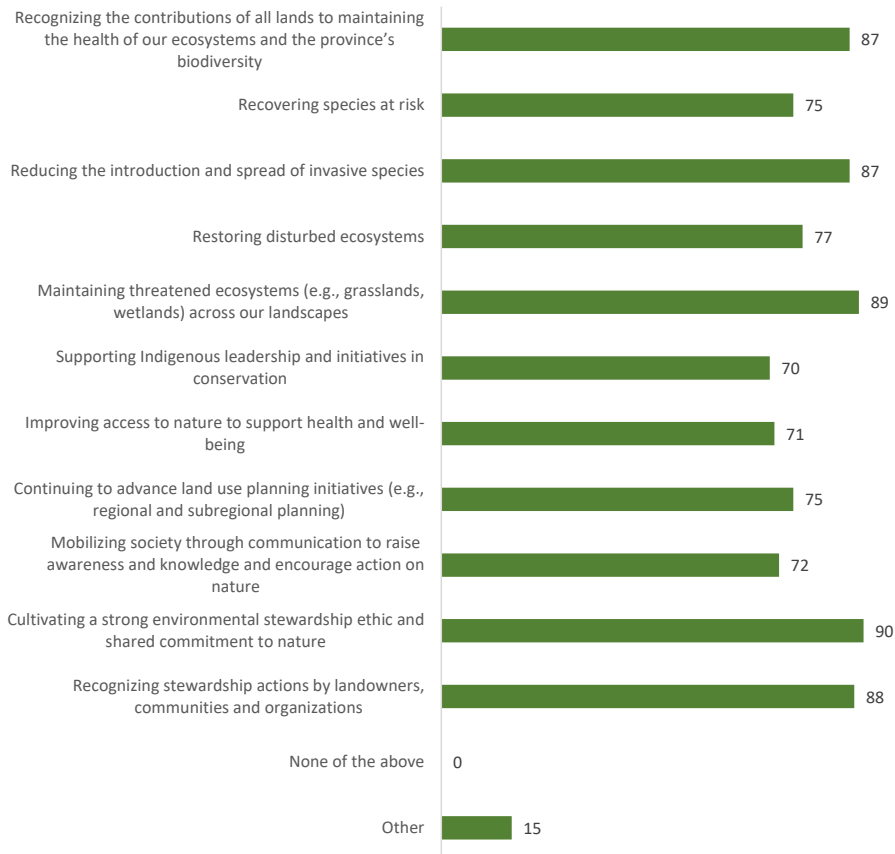
recreation access, better [integrating integration of](#) land-use planning and strengthened legislation for protection of nature, such as in riparian zones.

On the other hand, stakeholder representatives in forestry and energy suggested that formal protection of lands doesn't necessarily create healthy landscapes, and can risk losses to biodiversity in their establishment. The heightened threat of invasive species and a lack of effective management and enforcement in the face of increasing pressures of recreational use can lead to difficulties within parks and protected areas [to maintain biodiversity](#).

Stakeholders in various sectors, such as policy and research institutes, tourism groups, land trusts, and ENGOs described that intentional sustainable management of natural resources on working landscapes should be supported to ensure that ecosystems continue to provide benefits, and that these actions should be rewarded and incentivized. While the importance of protected areas was also recognized by these groups in some cases, areas between them such as privately owned lands without formal protection were emphasized for their important contributions to habitat connectivity, and that both approaches should be prioritized in a strategy. There were suggestions from these stakeholder groups that the term conservation area allows for the encompassing of multiple uses and values, and that best management practices are important to adopt in these cases.

However, some stakeholders indicated a level of skepticism for the concept of working landscapes in sectors such as multiple ENGOs. While there was a general lack of clarity surrounding the topic and requests for clearer definitions, sentiments were also expressed in survey responses that working landscapes fail to protect species from industrial development activities. Similar responses described that they provide poor habitat, create a loss in ecosystem service values, and contribute to exacerbated cumulative effects to landscapes that are not properly assessed. Recognizing the benefits of working landscapes was described as a reactive approach, only to be utilized once irreversible damage is done in an area. Regulation on industrial activity and land-use planning to understand compatibility of activities were suggested alternatives.

**Survey Question: Which of the following are important to your community or organization?**



**Public**

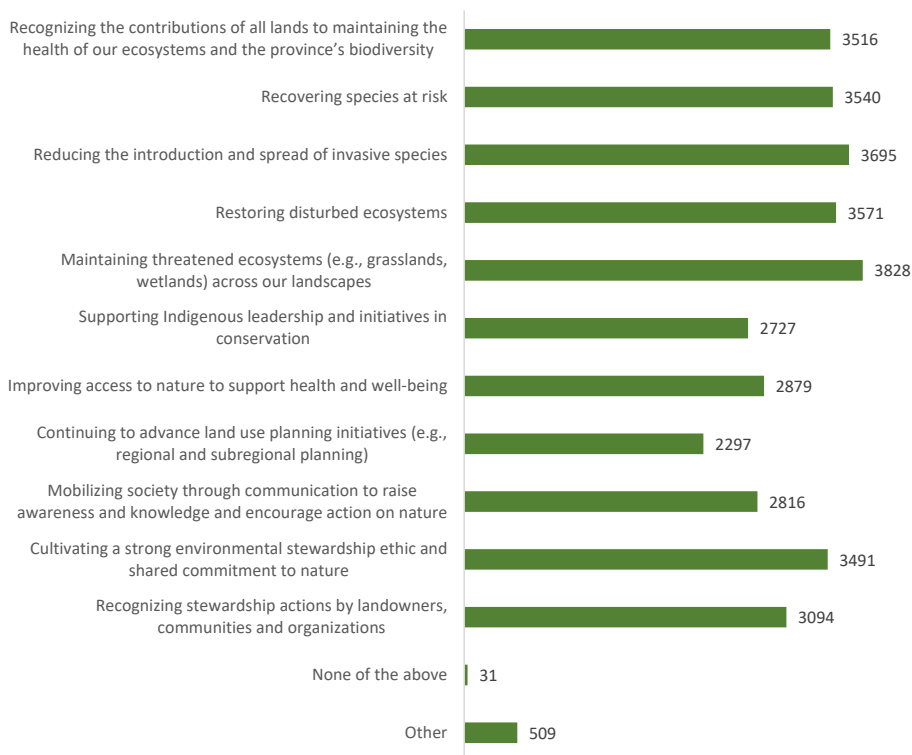
Through public survey responses in particular, there were calls for clear definitions of terms, healthy landscapes being one that required more detail and caused confusion in responses. For better accuracy and understanding, public respondents emphasized the need for precise language in a nature strategy.

Multiple members of the public highlighted the importance of balancing conservation efforts with economic development, such as the need for sustainable practices that allow for both the protection of natural areas and the responsible use of resources. Public survey respondents emphasized the importance of protected areas in conserving nature and maintaining biodiversity, if effectively managed.

Many comments focused on the negative impact of industrial activities such as mining, logging, and agriculture on biodiversity and ecosystem health. Respondents called for stricter regulations and better management practices to mitigate these impacts.

Finally, several responses underscored the importance of involving local communities and Indigenous peoples in conservation efforts. They highlighted the value of traditional knowledge and the need for collaborative approaches to managing natural landscapes.

**Survey Question: Which of the following actions are important to pursue to improve conservation, management, and restoration of nature in Alberta?**



## Well-Being and Connection to Nature

### Indigenous Communities and Organizations

Statements from written survey responses indicated that being connected to nature is paramount to Indigenous life and cultural survival, and there was nearly full agreement with survey statements regarding the importance of a connection to nature's contribution to well-being and mental health. It was suggested that nature could benefit people living in large urban centers, and the importance of informing on how nature is vital to all life and people. Comments from Indigenous communities and organizations outlined how equitable access to public lands, while important, must be carefully considered based on the ability of the ecosystem to withstand disturbance and avoid cumulative impacts, and that recreational uses such as off-highway vehicle use must be managed. Outcomes such as grants for Indigenous communities to establish areas for recreation or monitoring programs were identified through engagement.

### Stakeholders

While there was a large amount of agreement from engaged stakeholders [on the importance of connecting with nature, ranked as important by 81-89% of stakeholders through radio-button survey responses](#), [on the importance of connecting with nature](#), many in the agriculture sector showed concern about increased access to nature and the respecting of landowner and property rights. Educating recreational users on responsible use was suggested by multiple stakeholder groups.

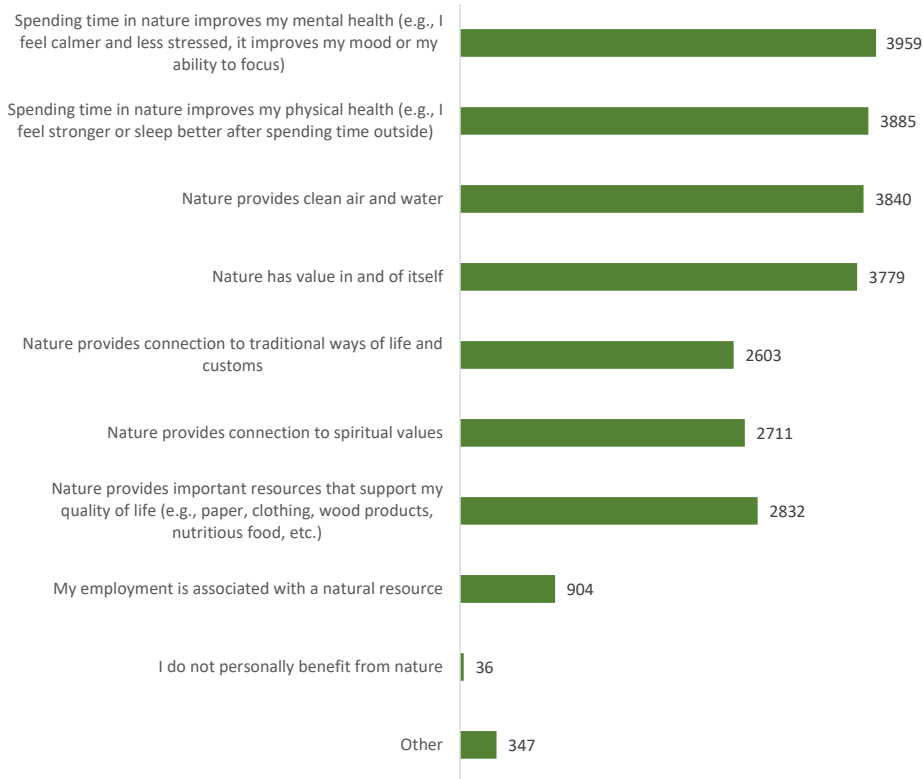
### Public

Through responses to the public survey, [there was widespread agreement with the general intent of this goal](#). The need for better access to natural areas, especially for those living in urban settings, people with physical disabilities, and those without personal vehicles was highlighted. There were concerns about the cost of accessing parks and natural spaces, such as the Kananaskis Conservation Pass, which some felt was prohibitive. Respondents expressed concerns about the equitable distribution of natural spaces and the need for policies that ensure all Albertans, regardless of income or location, can enjoy nature. There were mentions of the need for more natural areas close to cities and better public transportation options to reach these areas. Numerous respondents shared personal stories about how spending time in nature positively impacts their mental and physical health. They emphasized the need for natural spaces to support overall well-being and the importance of maintaining these areas for future generations.

At the same time, many members of the public emphasized the importance of protecting natural areas from overuse and industrial activities. There were calls for more parks and protected areas, better management of recreational activities, and stricter regulations on activities like off-road vehicle usage that can have negative ecological impacts.

Many responses highlighted the importance of educating the public about the benefits of nature and awareness of how to engage with it responsibly. There were suggestions for incorporating outdoor learning into school curriculums and promoting activities that foster a connection to nature.

### Survey Question: How do you, personally, benefit from nature?



## Nature and Economy

### Indigenous Communities and Organizations

Indigenous communities and organizations tended to be overall more neutral or skeptical about economic outcomes for nature than stakeholder groups, and in some cases thought other conservation approaches such as land-use planning should be prioritized over economic concepts or market-based tools. According to some Indigenous survey respondents, nature cannot be quantified but value can be placed on natural resources, which is an important distinction to be made in a nature strategy and there should be a role for Indigenous voices in determining the valuation placed on nature. In terms of economic activity, survey respondents in general promoted the expansion of tourism over oil and gas or mining, but spoke to the importance of leveraging best practices in industry and regulating them as standard practices.

**Survey Question: Which of the following are important to your community or organization?**



**Stakeholders**

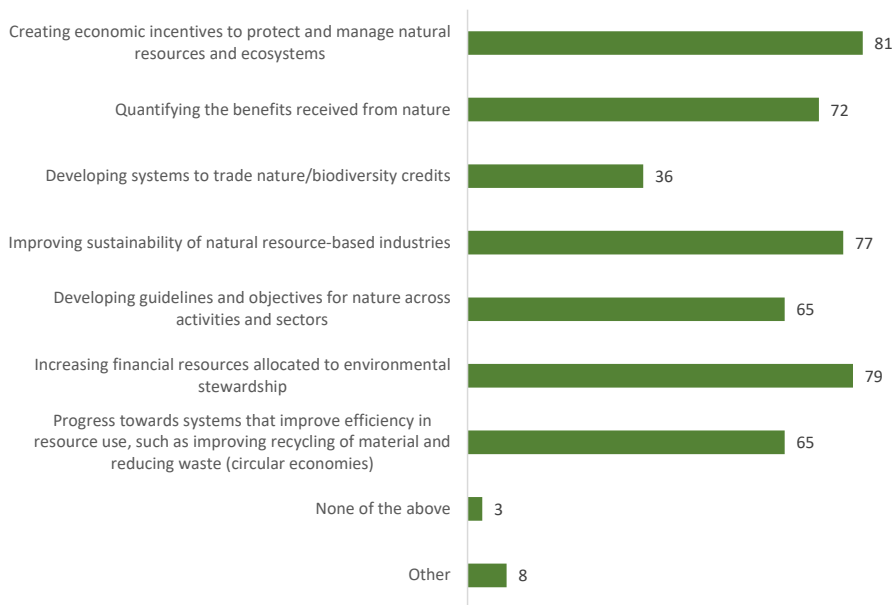
In written surveys, some stakeholder respondents stated that nature has inherent value that can not or should not be quantified. Quantification of the economic value of nature will always be a poor reflection of its importance, and time and efforts would be better spent focusing on addressing actions that degrade or destroy nature in the first place, according to environmental stakeholders. Risks such as undervaluing or inaccurately representing ecosystems, promoting development through quantification, or a replacement of legislation and policy through market-based mechanisms were outlined.

Stakeholders in support of internalizing nature in economic considerations, such as some agricultural producers, energy, and recreation organizations saw it as an effective way to communicate the importance of nature within conversations in society it has not historically been a part of. They saw ecological considerations as an externality, including potential costs and damages from resource extraction. Survey respondents described that recognizing the value of natural assets can build understanding and support for conservation, and situating nature and ecosystem services as functional and contributing pillars within the economic system can reframe perspectives and land-use decisions.

There was general support through radio-button survey questions for actions related to nature and economy such as quantifying benefits, economic incentives, increasing financial resources, and advancing circular economic thinking, but there was only 20-40% stakeholder support for statements regarding the development of trading systems for biodiversity credits. Recommendations such as

standardized assessments and performance metrics of valuation and the inclusion of valuing social and cultural values were provided.

### Survey Question: Which of the following are important to your community or organization?

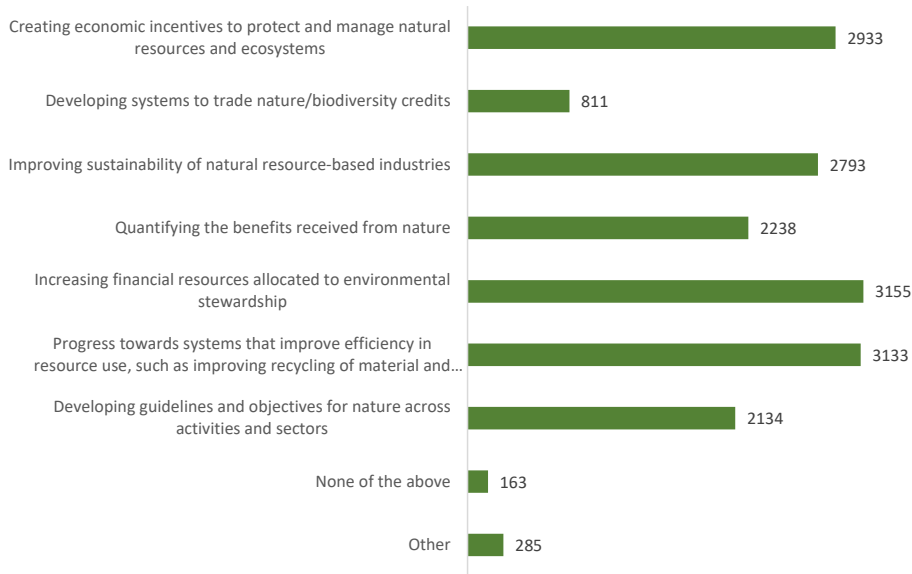


#### Public

In the midst of concerns expressed about over-exploitation and the negative impacts of industrial activities on ecosystems, many respondents to the public survey emphasized the importance of quantifying the economic value of nature and ecosystem services. They believed that understanding the monetary benefits of nature can help in making informed decisions about conservation and sustainable use. However, several responses underscored the intrinsic value of nature beyond its economic benefits. Respondents argued that nature should be valued for its own sake and that its protection is a moral and ethical obligation that is not easily quantified.

Throughout public respondents, there was a strong emphasis on the need for sustainable development practices that balance economic growth with environmental protection. Respondents suggested that integrating nature into the economy should not come at the expense of ecological health. Many respondents pointed out the economic benefits of tourism and recreation that depend on healthy natural environments and stressed the importance of maintaining and protecting natural areas to support economic activities such as these.

**Survey Question: Which of the following actions are important to pursue?**



**Supporting Stewardship and Partnerships**

**Indigenous Communities and Organizations**

Over 85% of survey responses from representatives of Indigenous communities and organizations indicated support for stewardship and partnership statements, and the sentiment of Indigenous consultation adding value to outcomes of a nature strategy in the province was evident throughout engagement on this topic. However, in some cases, respondents and Nature Summit attendees described that there can be differences in what should be considered appropriate or effective stewardship of nature and biodiversity between Indigenous and western perspectives. Comments from surveys included takeaways such as all land users and interest groups needing to be brought together to fully understand the trade-offs and the potential contributions of each towards achieving goals in a balanced way. The coordination of government ministries and industry was heard as a way to more smoothly promote conservation in the province, and also that relying on stewardship alone does not always work while the enforcement of fines for not meeting set environmental standards can be more effective in some cases. Calls were made for strengthened policies for natural protection that include Indigenous peoples in their creation processes.

Many First Nations and Métis communities have an interest in co-developing a nature strategy or participating on a government-to-government partnership and would require funding to support

capacity efforts. Regional or provincial advisory committees or councils that include industry, government, and Indigenous rightsholders was suggested through surveys, meetings, and at the Nature Summit.

### **Stakeholders**

For each survey statement regarding stewardship and the role of collaboration in conserving nature, there was more than 90% support from survey respondents representing stakeholders. Comments outlined the importance of working across government, stakeholders in various sectors, the research community, and Indigenous peoples. ENGOs, agriculture organizations, and land trusts placed emphasis on the need for increased funding dedicated to organizations that work in partnership with landowners, and recognition of those who are early adopters of stewardship principles and partnerships. The agricultural sector in particular was interested in greater education of the public as to how the industry can effectively contribute to conservation. Many stakeholders described a need for tools, economic mechanisms, or incentives to support voluntary stewardship alongside regulatory responsibilities. Some ENGOs expressed concern that some systems enacted by government may actually create incentive for resource extraction and development instead of protective measures for nature, and that collaboration is prevented by public land decisions made by government from which other voices are excluded.

Other outcomes from supporting collaboration and stewardship in nature conservation that were identified through engagement with stakeholders included public education, inclusivity in processes, and the measurement and tracking of improvements made over time.

### **Public**

Many members of the public saw value in supporting private landowners who contribute to ecosystem services through stewardship of their lands. This included providing financial incentives, education, and resources to help landowners maintain and enhance natural landscapes. While this was emphasized, there was also a strong sentiment that regulatory approaches are necessary to protect the environment. Respondents believe that relying solely on voluntary stewardship is insufficient and that stronger regulations and enforcement, particularly in cases of industrial activities, are needed to ensure the protection of biodiversity and prevention of environmental degradation.

The importance of collaboration and partnerships between various stakeholders, including government, non-governmental organizations, and landowners, was evident through public survey responses. Respondents highlighted the need for cooperative efforts to achieve conservation goals and manage natural resources effectively. Increasing education and outreach efforts to raise awareness about environmental conservation and stewardship practices was also mentioned by the public. Respondents suggested that more public education campaigns and community engagement initiatives are needed to promote sustainable practices.

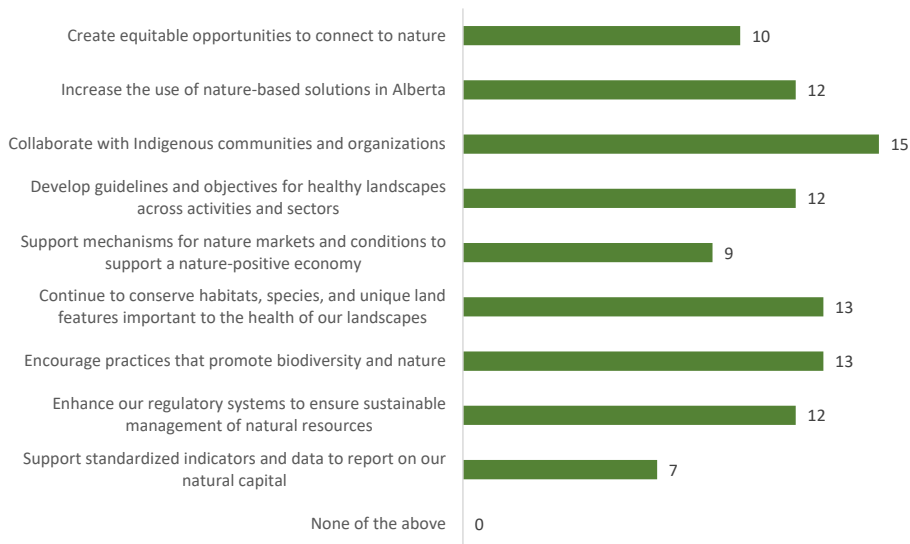
## **Areas of Progress, Areas of Action, and Priorities for Government**

### **Indigenous Communities and Organizations**

Through engagement via surveys and the in-person Nature Summit, priority areas of action for Indigenous communities and organizations for a nature strategy would be pursuing a co-development approach to implementation, and early and continuous participation and engagement. Finding ways to

facilitate companies shifting from climate-centric relationships with nature would be a government action to prioritize, and creating understanding of industry’s reliance on nature and business continuity market risks if the economy does not become more nature-positive. Indigenous tourism was listed as a conservation effort that supports local economies if actioned and supported by government.

**Survey Question: Which of the potential areas for action below are important to your community or organization?**



**Stakeholders**

Areas for action that should be prioritized in a nature strategy, as identified by stakeholders, varied greatly based on sector. Those in agriculture were skeptical of protected areas proliferation and expansion, but that market-based mechanisms were an important way to recognize and incentivize maintenance of biodiversity in the province with assessment and quantification. Specifically, those interested in livestock and grazing saw supporting landowners to adopt new practices as a priority. Recognition and leveraging of actions already being undertaken, such as by organizations in agriculture and forestry, was a theme in areas for action in order to avoid the duplication of efforts for nature conservation, as well as coordination across government and red tape reduction. Approaching conservation from a multi-species or landscape perspective as opposed to species-at-risk being the only consideration was detailed by forestry stakeholders. The measurement of success against standards and indicators for nature strategy outcomes, with clear timelines and adequate funding, was emphasized with great importance by various sectors including environmental stakeholders as well as energy and recreation organizations. Forestry stakeholders suggested leveraging existing reporting frameworks to do so. The importance of education was mentioned by nearly all stakeholders on various topics throughout engagement on nature and biodiversity conservation in the province.

**Survey Question: Which of the potential areas for action below are important to your community or organization?**



**Public**

In terms of areas for action, many public respondents emphasized the importance of establishing new conservation areas and the expansion of existing parks, completing land use planning in the province, and protection of headwaters. The need for effective regulation and enforcement to protect nature was outlined in public feedback, including strengthened enforcement of existing rules, establishing firm regulations for industries, and ensuring that penalties for environmental damage are severe enough to deter harmful activities.

Respondents suggested promoting sustainable agriculture, encouraging the use of renewable energy, and providing financial incentives for conservation efforts. There were also calls for creating economic incentives for industries to adopt sustainable practices and for landowners to manage their land in environmentally conscious ways. Action items suggested stressed the importance of educating the public about the benefits of nature and the need for conservation, including incorporating nature education into school curricula, promoting urban green spaces, and encouraging community involvement in conservation efforts.

Finally, there was emphasis placed on the need for collaboration between the Alberta government, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders. Public feedback highlighted the importance of

supporting Indigenous-led conservation initiatives and ensuring that Indigenous knowledges and perspectives are integrated into conservation strategies.

## Engagement Next Steps

## Healthy Landscapes

1. **Definition and Clarity of Terms:** Many respondents expressed confusion and requested clearer definitions for terms like "working landscapes" and "unhealthy landscapes." They emphasized the need for precise language to ensure accurate responses and understanding.
2. **Balance Between Conservation and Development:** A significant number of responses highlighted the importance of balancing conservation efforts with economic development. Respondents discussed the need for sustainable practices that allow for both the protection of natural areas and the responsible use of resources.
3. **Role of Protected Areas:** There was a strong consensus on the importance of protected areas in conserving nature and maintaining biodiversity. Respondents emphasized that protected areas should be managed effectively to ensure they contribute positively to the environment.
4. **Impact of Human Activities:** Many comments focused on the negative impact of human activities such as mining, logging, and agriculture on biodiversity and ecosystem health. Respondents called for stricter regulations and better management practices to mitigate these impacts.
5. **Community and Indigenous Involvement:** Several responses underscored the importance of involving local communities and Indigenous peoples in conservation efforts. They highlighted the value of traditional knowledge and the need for collaborative approaches to managing natural landscapes.

## Indigenous

1. **Integration of Indigenous Knowledge and Modern Science:** Many respondents emphasized the importance of combining Indigenous knowledge with modern science for better land management and environmental stewardship. They believe that integrating traditional wisdom with contemporary scientific methods can lead to more effective and sustainable practices.
2. **Respect and Inclusion of Indigenous Perspectives:** A significant number of comments highlighted the need to respect and include Indigenous perspectives in planning and decision-making processes. Respondents stressed that Indigenous communities should be actively involved and their knowledge should be valued and considered equal to Western science.
3. **Challenges and Barriers to Indigenous Knowledge Sharing:** Some respondents pointed out the reluctance of Indigenous people to share their knowledge due to historical and ongoing mistrust. They also mentioned the challenges of meaningful engagement and the need to address these barriers to foster better collaboration.
4. **Environmental Stewardship and Conservation:** Many comments focused on the role of Indigenous knowledge in environmental stewardship and conservation. Respondents believe that Indigenous practices, such as controlled burning and

sustainable land use, can significantly contribute to preserving natural landscapes and biodiversity.

5. **Criticism and Skepticism:** There were also critical and skeptical views regarding the relevance and applicability of Indigenous knowledge in modern contexts. Some respondents questioned the effectiveness of traditional practices and expressed concerns about romanticizing Indigenous knowledge without critical evaluation.

## **Connecting to Nature**

1. **Accessibility and Inclusivity:** Many respondents highlighted the need for better access to natural areas, especially for those living in urban settings, people with physical disabilities, and those without personal vehicles. There were concerns about the cost of accessing parks and natural spaces, such as the Kananaskis Conservation Pass, which some felt was prohibitive.
2. **Conservation and Protection:** A significant number of responses emphasized the importance of protecting natural areas from overuse and industrial activities. There were calls for more parks and protected areas, better management of recreational activities, and stricter regulations on activities like off-roading that can damage the environment.
3. **Equity and Fairness:** Respondents expressed concerns about the equitable distribution of natural spaces and the need for policies that ensure all Albertans, regardless of income or location, can enjoy nature. There were mentions of the need for more natural areas close to cities and better public transportation options to reach these areas.
4. **Environmental Education and Awareness:** Many responses highlighted the importance of educating the public about the benefits of nature and how to engage with it responsibly. There were suggestions for incorporating outdoor learning into school curriculums and promoting activities that foster a connection to nature.
5. **Mental and Physical Health Benefits:** Numerous respondents shared personal stories about how spending time in nature positively impacts their mental and physical health. They emphasized the need for natural spaces to support overall well-being and the importance of maintaining these areas for future generations.

## **Nature and Economy**

1. **Economic Value of Nature:** Many respondents emphasized the importance of quantifying the economic value of nature and ecosystem services. They believe that understanding the monetary benefits of nature can help in making informed decisions about conservation and sustainable use.
2. **Conservation and Preservation:** A significant number of responses highlighted the need to prioritize conservation and preservation of natural areas.

Respondents expressed concerns about over-exploitation and the potential negative impacts of industrial activities on ecosystems.

3. **Sustainable Development:** There is a strong emphasis on the need for sustainable development practices that balance economic growth with environmental protection. Respondents suggested that integrating nature into the economy should not come at the expense of ecological health.
4. **Tourism and Recreation:** Many respondents pointed out the economic benefits of tourism and recreation that depend on healthy natural environments. They stressed the importance of maintaining and protecting natural areas to support tourism and related economic activities.
5. **Intrinsic Value of Nature:** Several responses underscored the intrinsic value of nature beyond its economic benefits. Respondents argued that nature should be valued for its own sake and that its protection is a moral and ethical obligation.

## **Stewardship**

1. **Support for Landowners:** Many respondents emphasized the importance of supporting landowners who contribute to ecosystem services through stewardship of their land. This includes providing financial incentives, education, and resources to help landowners maintain and enhance natural landscapes.
2. **Regulatory Approaches:** There is a strong sentiment that regulatory approaches are necessary to protect the environment. Respondents believe that relying solely on voluntary stewardship is insufficient and that stronger regulations and enforcement are needed to ensure the protection of natural areas.
3. **Collaboration and Partnerships:** The importance of collaboration and partnerships between various stakeholders, including government, non-governmental organizations, and landowners, is a recurring theme. Respondents highlighted the need for cooperative efforts to achieve conservation goals and manage natural resources effectively.
4. **Education and Outreach:** Increasing education and outreach efforts to raise awareness about environmental conservation and stewardship practices is a key theme. Respondents suggested that more public education campaigns and community engagement initiatives are needed to promote sustainable practices.
5. **Concerns about Industrial Impact:** Many respondents expressed concerns about the negative impact of industrial activities, such as mining and logging, on the environment. There is a call for stricter regulations and better management of industrial activities to prevent environmental degradation and protect biodiversity.

## **Actions**

1. **Conservation and Protection of Natural Areas:** Many respondents emphasized the importance of establishing new conservation areas, protecting 30% of Alberta by 2030, and completing land use planning. There were also calls for protecting headwaters, creating larger parks, and ensuring that natural areas are not exploited for profit.
2. **Regulation and Enforcement:** A significant number of responses highlighted the need for stronger regulations and enforcement to protect nature. This includes better enforcement of existing rules, establishing firm regulations for industries, and ensuring that penalties for environmental damage are severe enough to deter harmful activities.
3. **Sustainable Practices and Incentives:** Respondents suggested promoting sustainable agriculture, encouraging the use of renewable energy, and providing financial incentives for conservation efforts. There were also calls for creating economic incentives for industries to adopt sustainable practices and for landowners to manage their land in environmentally friendly ways.
4. **Public Education and Engagement:** Many responses stressed the importance of educating the public about the benefits of nature and the need for conservation. This includes incorporating nature education into school curricula, promoting urban green spaces, and encouraging community involvement in conservation efforts.
5. **Collaboration and Indigenous Leadership:** There was a strong emphasis on the need for collaboration between the government, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders. Respondents highlighted the importance of supporting Indigenous-led conservation initiatives and ensuring that Indigenous knowledge and perspectives are integrated into conservation strategies

## General

1. **Lack of Trust in Government Initiatives:** Many respondents expressed skepticism about the government's commitment to genuine environmental protection. They believe that the government's actions often prioritize economic gains over ecological sustainability. There is a strong sentiment that the government is more interested in exploiting natural resources than in preserving them.
2. **Need for Clear and Transparent Communication:** Respondents highlighted the need for the government to provide more detailed and transparent information about its nature strategy and related initiatives. They want to see clear, measurable goals and regular updates on progress. There is also a call for more public consultation and involvement in decision-making processes.
3. **Concerns about Specific Environmental Issues:** Several specific environmental concerns were repeatedly mentioned, including the impact of coal mining, the need for better forest management to prevent wildfires, and the protection of water resources. Respondents are particularly worried about the potential

environmental damage from coal mining in the eastern slopes and the lack of effective measures to address orphan wells.

4. **Desire for Stronger Conservation Efforts:** Many respondents called for more robust conservation efforts, including the expansion of protected areas, better enforcement of environmental regulations, and increased funding for conservation programs. There is a strong desire to see Alberta commit to protecting 30% of its land by 2030 and to take bold steps to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.
5. **Integration of Indigenous Knowledge and Perspectives:** There is a significant emphasis on the importance of integrating Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into the development and implementation of Alberta's nature strategy. Respondents believe that Indigenous communities should play a central role in managing and protecting natural resources, and that their traditional knowledge can provide valuable insights for sustainable environmental practices.

## Indigenous Engagement Summary

- 26(1)(a)(iii) 1. Summary
- 26(1)(b) 2. Feedback
  - Survey
  - Summit table discussions
  - Emails/Letters/Meetings

### Key Summary

- Many First Nations and Métis communities have an interest in co-developing the strategy or participating on a government-to-government partnership and would require funding to support capacity efforts.
- A regional or provincial advisory committee with Industry, government and Indigenous has been suggested through survey and at the Nature Summit.
- Land use decisions when contemplating healthy landscapes and biodiversity, must include Indigenous knowledge and have an equal weight to western science regarding impacts to biodiversity.
- Land use planning under ALSA needs to continue.
- We need to collaborate, educate people about the importance of Nature to Indigenous people, in the way it differs from most, and we need to have knowledge keepers providing guidance to prevent further loss.

### Feedback

Engagement Product	General Summary	Key takeaway	Calls to Action	
Indigenous Survey Agreement Statements  <b>Healthy Landscapes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement to manage landscape for maintaining healthy ecosystems, support working landscapes, protected areas.</li> <li>• High interest to co-develop strategy with adequate capacity funding to participate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must include Indigenous Knowledge to be successful.</li> <li>• Must have reclamation, not just conservation.</li> <li>• Current management practices are not effective to prevent further loss.</li> <li>• Too much weight given to Industry interests instead of Indigenous knowledge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-develop with Metis and FN governments.</li> <li>• <b>Implement and regulate Coal Policy, protect eastern slopes – working for industry.</b></li> <li>• Build meaning and trust.</li> <li>• Need transparent data on landscape management</li> <li>• Facilitate collectively working together to bridge gaps and promote understanding between various levels and society.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Most critical:</b></p> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <p><b>Most constructive:</b></p> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>
Indigenous Survey Agreement Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language of ‘considering Indigenous Knowledge’ does not reflect the balance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must go further than simply acknowledging and considering Indigenous knowledge must be centered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a system or process, defined, and led by Indigenous governments so that Indigenous knowledge can be incorporated and valued equally to western science.</li> </ul>	

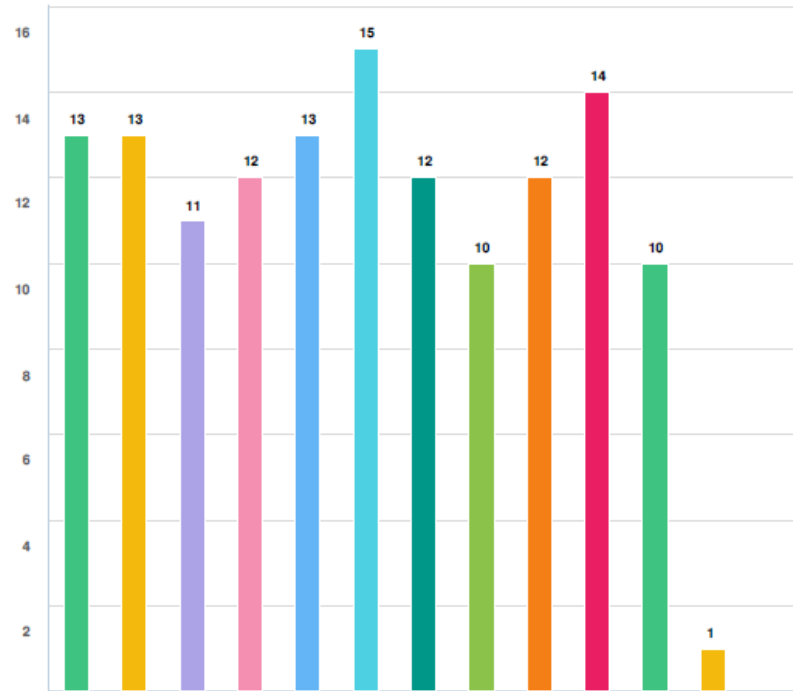
Engagement Product	General Summary	Key takeaway	Calls to Action	
<b>Indigenous</b>	needed between knowledge keepers and western scientists.	around engagement with Indigenous governments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explicit in not engaging with non-Indigenous organizations to build Indigenous knowledge or include Indigenous perspectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with interested Nations on developing <b>this part of the strategy.</b></li> </ul>	
Indigenous Survey Agreement Statements  <b>Connecting to Nature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All in agreement.</li> <li>• Being connected to nature is paramount to Indigenous life.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equitable access to public lands must be carefully considered based on the ability of the ecosystem to withstand disturbance and avoid cumulative impacts.</li> <li>• Nature would benefit inner city people to reconnect to earth.</li> <li>• Recreation must be controlled – OHV use must be managed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education. People need to be informed on how important Nature is to life, for all people.</li> <li>• Grant Indigenous communities the funds and land to develop areas for recreation, for all people.</li> <li>• Develop Indigenous monitoring and stewardship programs.</li> </ul>	
Indigenous Survey Agreement Statements  <b>Nature and Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Split agreement and neutral regarding nature and economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get back to land-use planning.</li> <li>• Nature cannot be quantified but value can be placed on resources</li> <li>• Indigenous knowledge can play a significant role in placing value on nature.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return to land-use planning under ALSA.</li> <li>• Promote tourism instead of oil, gas, mining.</li> <li>• Leverage the best practices and regulate them as standard practice.</li> </ul>	
Indigenous Survey Agreement Statements  <b>Stewardship and Partnership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous consultation will add value.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All land users and interest groups must be brought together to understand trade-offs and potential contributions to achieving balance and goals.</li> <li>• Government ministries and Industry must be coordinated to contribute to outcomes.</li> <li>• Relying on stewardship does not work. Fines for not</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish regional advisory councils.</li> <li>• Strengthen policies, improve land management, and ensure protection of nature while including Indigenous peoples in the creation of such policies.</li> </ul>	

26(1)(a)(iii)  
26(1)(b)

Engagement Product	General Summary	Key takeaway	Calls to Action	
		measuring to standards seem to be the most effective		
<b>Actions Listed in Survey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize a co-development approach to the creation and implementation of the Nature Strategy with Indigenous peoples within Alberta.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for Indigenous peoples within Alberta to continuously participate and engage in the creation of the Nature Strategy and have the real ability to have their perspectives and goals reflected in the strategy.</li> <li>• The rapid decline of our natural ecosystems is a major risk for business continuity. Companies need to shifting from climate-centric to holistic, integrated approaches to addressing nature.</li> <li>• Systems-level transformation is necessary — incremental change will not suffice for a nature-positive world. Companies must understand their reliance and impacts on nature, and accelerate action to address them in order to mitigate serious physical, regulatory, reputational and market risks.</li> <li>• Recognize and support (both in practice and economically) Métis-led conservation initiatives throughout the province.</li> </ul>			
<b>Summit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase consultation and engagement with Indigenous peoples; Indigenous peoples have been guardians of the land for generations and have knowledge for this initiative.</li> <li>• Include Indigenous early and ensure engagement is meaningful where input is included. Indigenous people have a profound connection and need for a healthy landscape.</li> <li>• Indigenous knowledge is lacking – it must be included.</li> <li>• Enable Indigenous-led acquisition of land or more authority for conservation; provide the land that is meaningful to way of life and give Indigenous communities the funding and authority to monitor and steward the land. Create a partnership in land-use management.</li> <li>• Nature is integral for Indigenous way of life and cultural survival; Indigenous tourism can be a player in conservation efforts while supporting local economies.</li> <li>• Need reclamation but regulations create conflict, not being able to return to natural state properly or effectively</li> </ul>			
Meetings and Letters	Co-developing and creating mutually beneficial economy / conservation.	•	•	

## Conservation

Q63 Indicate which of the following are important to your community or organization. Select all that apply.

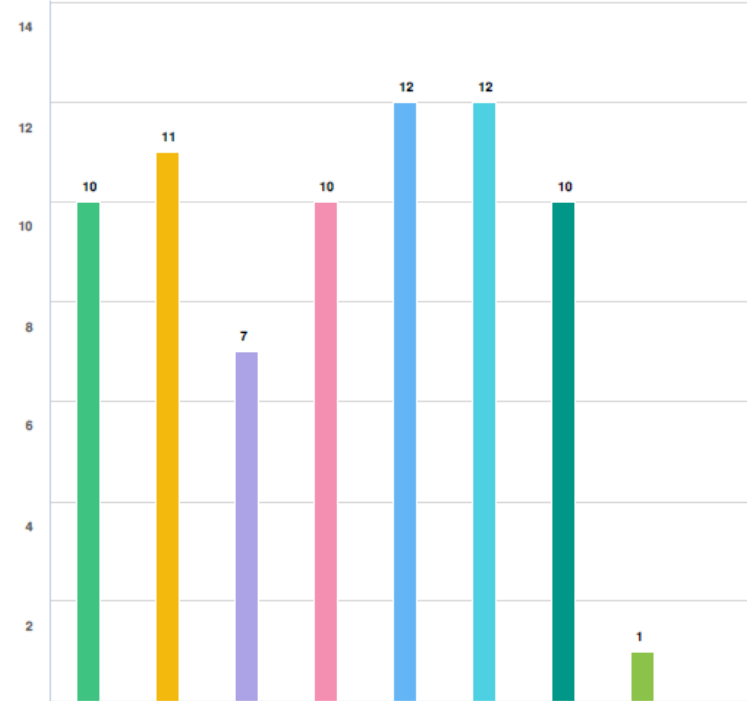


### Question options

- None of the above.    Other (please specify)
- Recognizing stewardship actions by landowners, communities and organizations.
- Cultivating a strong environmental stewardship ethic and shared commitment to nature.
- Mobilizing society through communication to raise awareness and knowledge and encourage action on nature.
- Continuing to advance land use planning initiatives (e.g., regional and subregional planning).
- Improving access to nature to support health and well-being.
- Supporting Indigenous leadership and initiatives in conservation.
- Maintaining threatened ecosystems (e.g., grasslands, wetlands) across our landscapes.    Restoring disturbed ecosystems.
- Reducing the introduction and spread of invasive species.    Recovering species at risk.
- Recognizing the contributions of all lands to maintaining the health of our ecosystems and the province's biodiversity.

## Economy

Q64 Indicate which of the following are important to your community or organization. Select all that apply.

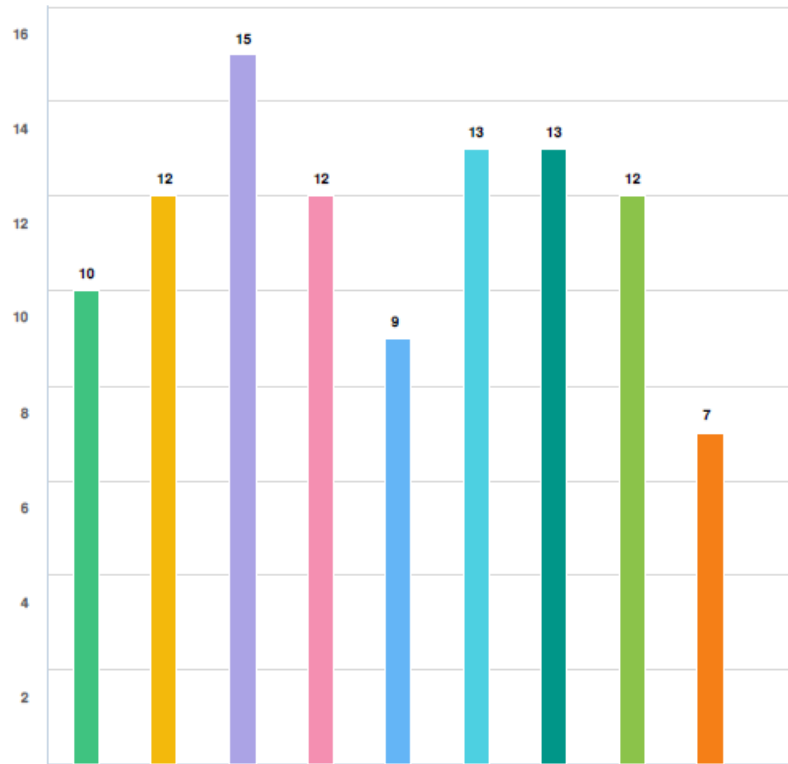


### Question options

- Other (please specify)    None of the above.
- Progress towards systems that improve efficiency in resource use, such as improving recycling of material and reducing waste (circular economies).
- Increasing financial resources allocated to environmental stewardship.
- Developing guidelines and objectives for nature across activities and sectors.
- Improving sustainability of natural resource-based industries.    Developing systems to trade nature/biodiversity credits.
- Quantifying the benefits received from nature.
- Creating economic incentives to protect and manage natural resources and ecosystems.

## Areas of Priorities

**Q66** A nature strategy will need to broadly identify areas where we need to take action. Which of the potential areas for action below are important to your community or organization? Select all that apply.

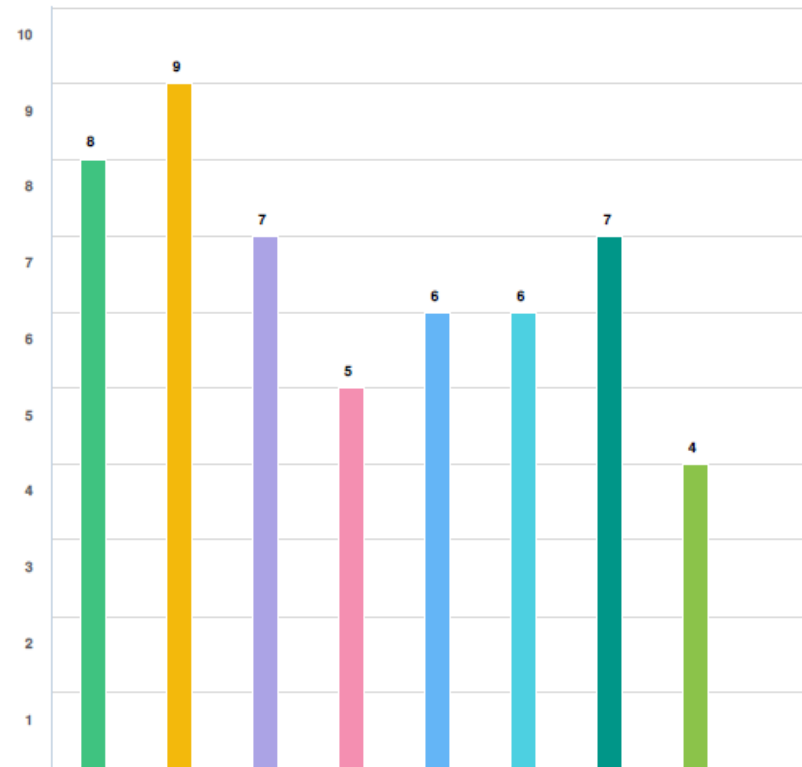


### Question options

- None of the above.
- Support standardized indicators and data to report on our natural capital.
- Enhance our regulatory systems to ensure sustainable management of natural resources.
- Encourage practices that promote biodiversity and nature.
- Continue to conserve habitats, species, and unique land features important to the health of our landscapes.
- Support mechanisms for nature markets and conditions to support a nature-positive economy.
- Develop guidelines and objectives for healthy landscapes across activities and sectors.
- Collaborate with Indigenous communities and organizations.
- Increase the use of nature-based solutions in Alberta.
- Create equitable opportunities to connect to nature.

## Making Progress

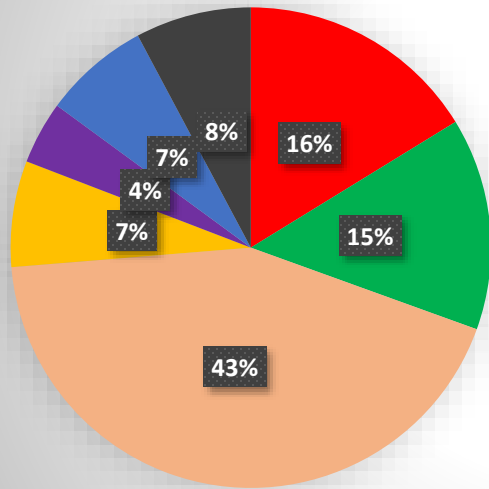
**Q68** From your community's or organization's perspective, where is Alberta's government making progress towards conserving, managing and restoring nature? Select all that apply.



### Question options

- Other (please specify)
- None of the above.
- Using nature-based solutions to address societal challenges such as natural hazards (flood, wildfire), food security and climate change.
- Ensuring access to nature and improving opportunities to pursue activities in nature (outdoor recreation, being in nature, tourism).
- Reducing threats to biodiversity loss.
- Sustainable use of natural resources.
- Integrating biodiversity into our management systems.
- Advancing relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations.
- Continuing to build our network of parks and protected areas.

## Themes from NS Survey - Indigenous Responses



- Skepticism of current measures
- Expanding parks and protected areas (access to nature)
- Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and community planning
- Emphasis on education
- Need for long-term vision for conservation
- Nature-positive economy (nature focused economic planning)
- Other

By community (in progress)

Indigenous Community /Organization	Main Themes	What we heard	How input is incorporated
		•	•
	Co-develop strategy.	• Would like an Indigenous only meeting.	•
		•	•
	Conservation does not achieve healthy landscapes – need reclamation	•	•
		•	•
		•	•
	Policy	• Implement coal policy as legislation	• Regulatory enhancement for implementing policy direction.

26(1)(a)(iii)  
 26(1)(b)  
 26(1)(a)(iii)  
 26(1)(b)

Indigenous Community /Organization	Main Themes	What we heard	How input is incorporated
(This cell is shaded grey and contains red text from the adjacent page)		•	•
		•	•
		•	•
	Co-develop strategy	Offensive to use language to manage nature. Want to work on something that benefits the objectives of the strategy and long standing interest in protecting traditional areas.	
	Co-develop strategy.		
<b>Indigenous Stakeholders</b>			
(This cell is shaded grey)		•	•
		•	•
Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation		•	•
Beyond the River		•	•