

DAFM Survey Report

Working Towards Ireland's Shared Vision for Forestry and a New Forest Strategy

May 2022

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Part 1

Introduction



Introduction

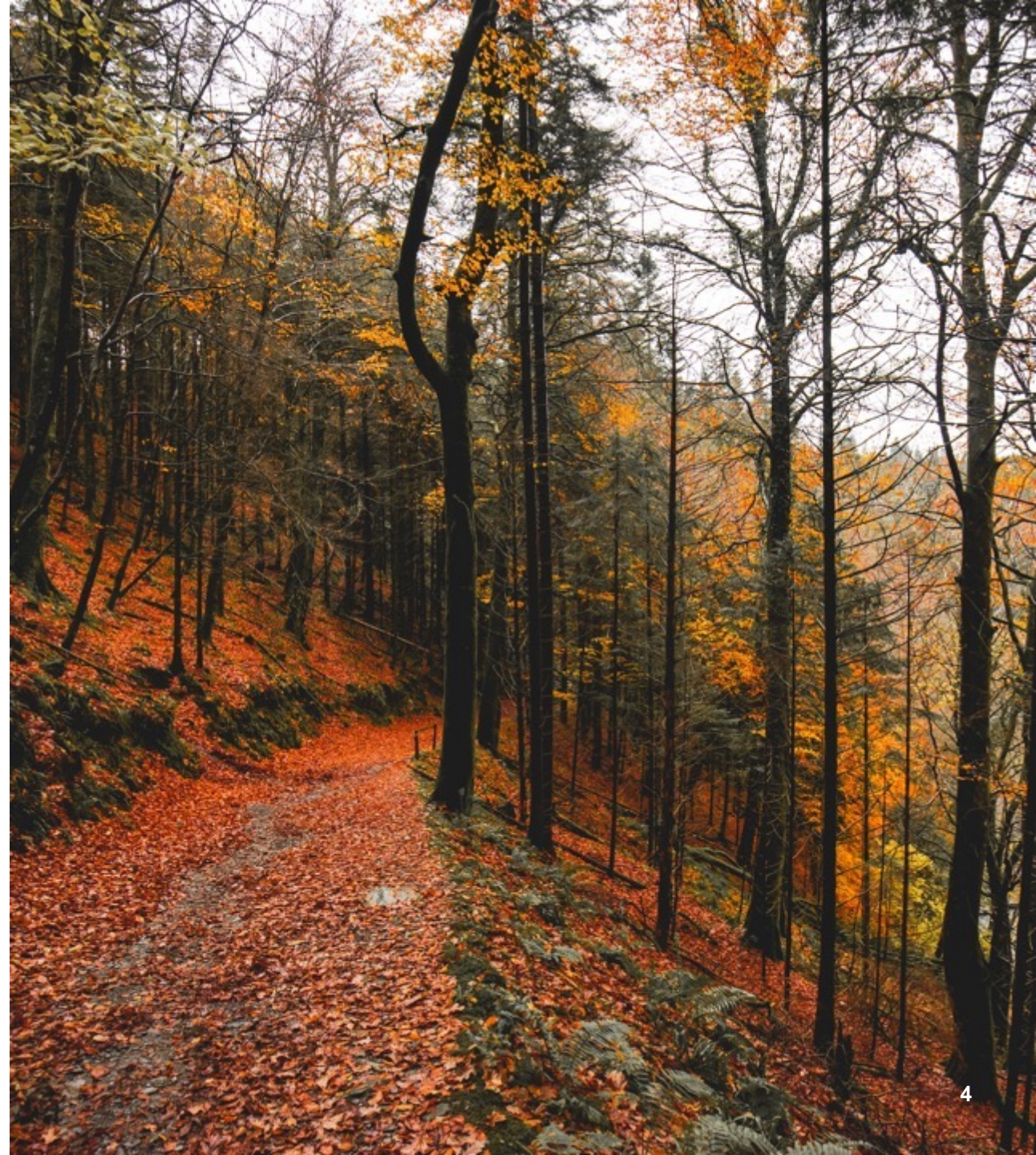
Trees are a vital part of Ireland's natural heritage. Ireland needs more of them, with the right trees planted in the right places for the right reasons.

Ireland needs a coherent and broadly accepted Vision and Strategy for the development of its forestry sector.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine sought input from the public to assist in realising a shared national vision for the role of trees and forests in Ireland's future and a new Forest Strategy to implement this vision.

We heard opinions and views from people across every county in Ireland on the role of trees and forests of all shapes and sizes in Ireland's future

There were 3,148 responses to the online survey and 34 valid written submissions.



Overview

This consultation survey ran from the 16th of March until the 27th of April 2022. Responses were received from individuals, private organisations, public authorities, and academic institutions.

The consultation survey was online and included a series of open and closed ended questions. There was also an option to submit a written submission.

These survey responses and written submissions were analysed by M-CO on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, using quantitative and qualitative approaches.

The primary qualitative method applied was Thematic Analysis as this helps to identify common themes across the responses. All responses and submissions were analysed using qualitative analysis software (MaxQDA).

This report outlines the findings of the consultation and follows the structure of the survey, which in turn reflects the focus of the proposed vision: **Right Reason, Right Trees, Right Places and Right Management.**



Part 2

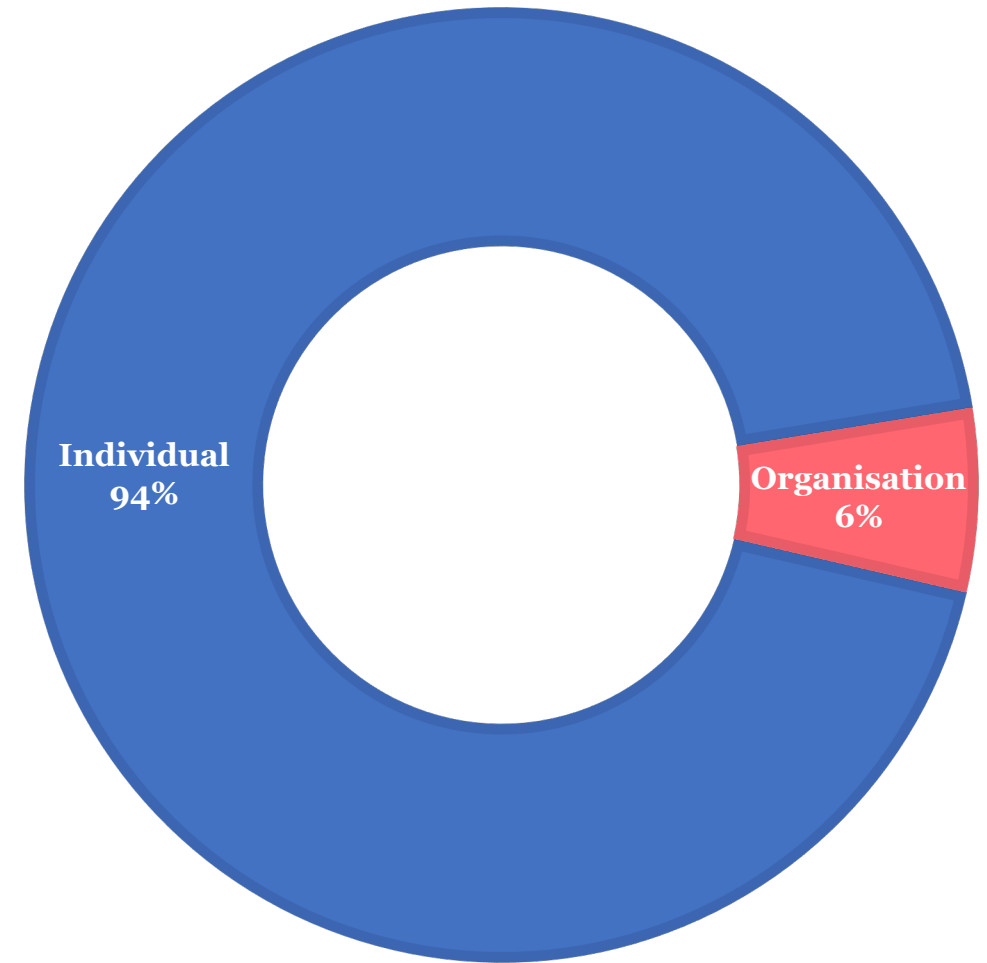
Findings

Key Demographics

Are you completing this questionnaire as an individual or an organisation?

The majority of responses to the online survey (94%) came from individuals with 185 responses received from organisations.

29 of the written submissions were from organisations whereas 15 were from individuals.



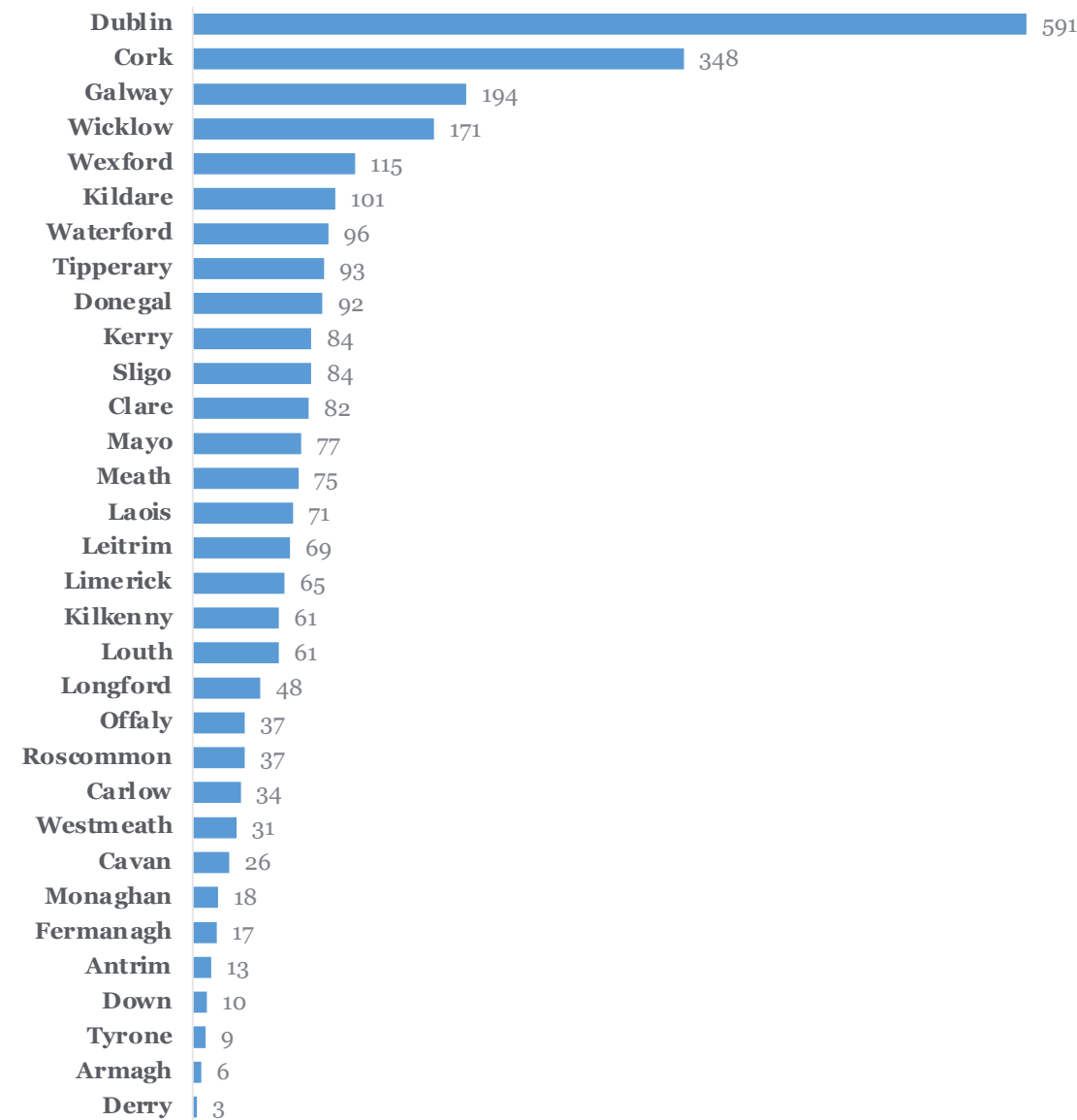
N = 3142 : %

What county do you live in? (individual)

The survey had responses from every county in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

363 people declined to indicate where they were located.

This was a very balanced response from all counties. While Dublin responses (22%) were below the national representation(28%), and some of the smaller counties such as Wicklow, Limerick and Leitrim were above the national representation, these are small samples and not large enough to be statistically significant.

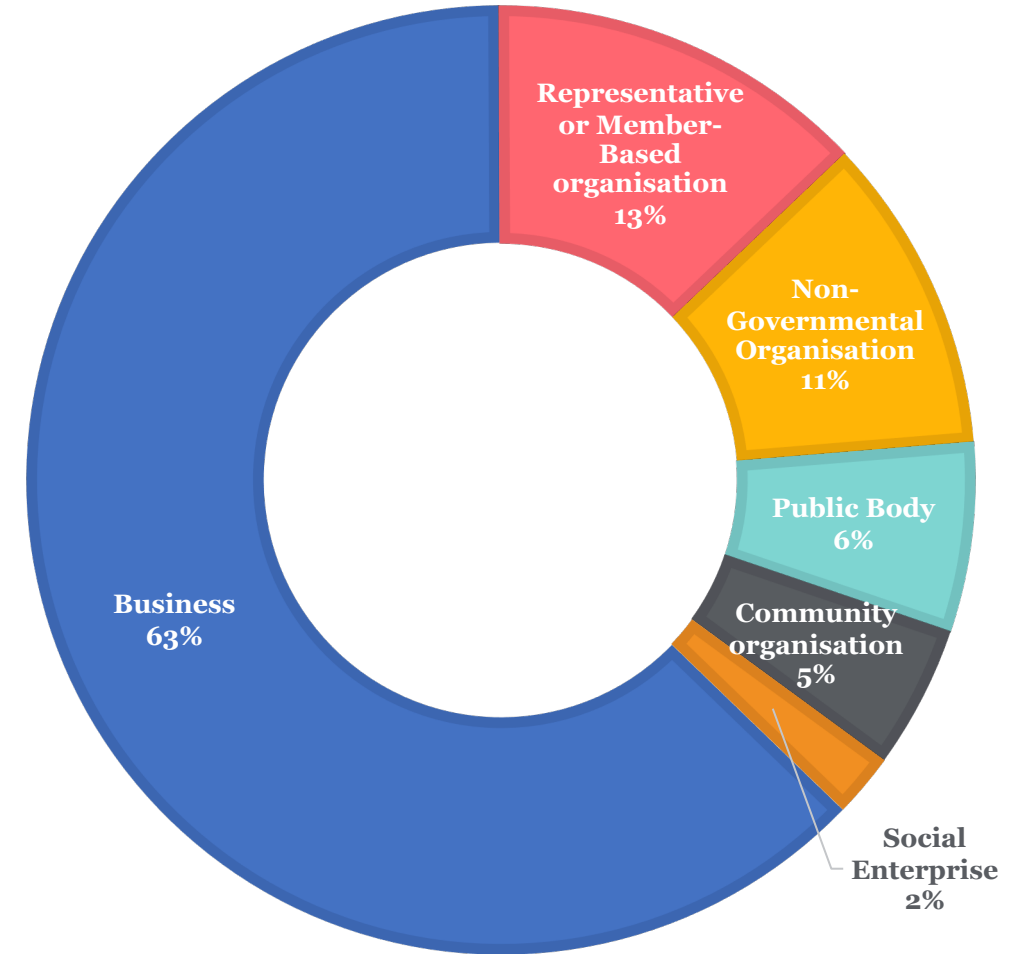


N = 2819, Unanswered = 363

What type of organisation are you representing?

Of the 185 organisations that responded to the survey, 116 were businesses. Representative organisations and NGOs were the next two most prevalent groups of organisations.

The list of organisations is included in Annex 1.



N = 185 : %

Do you agree with the following statement?

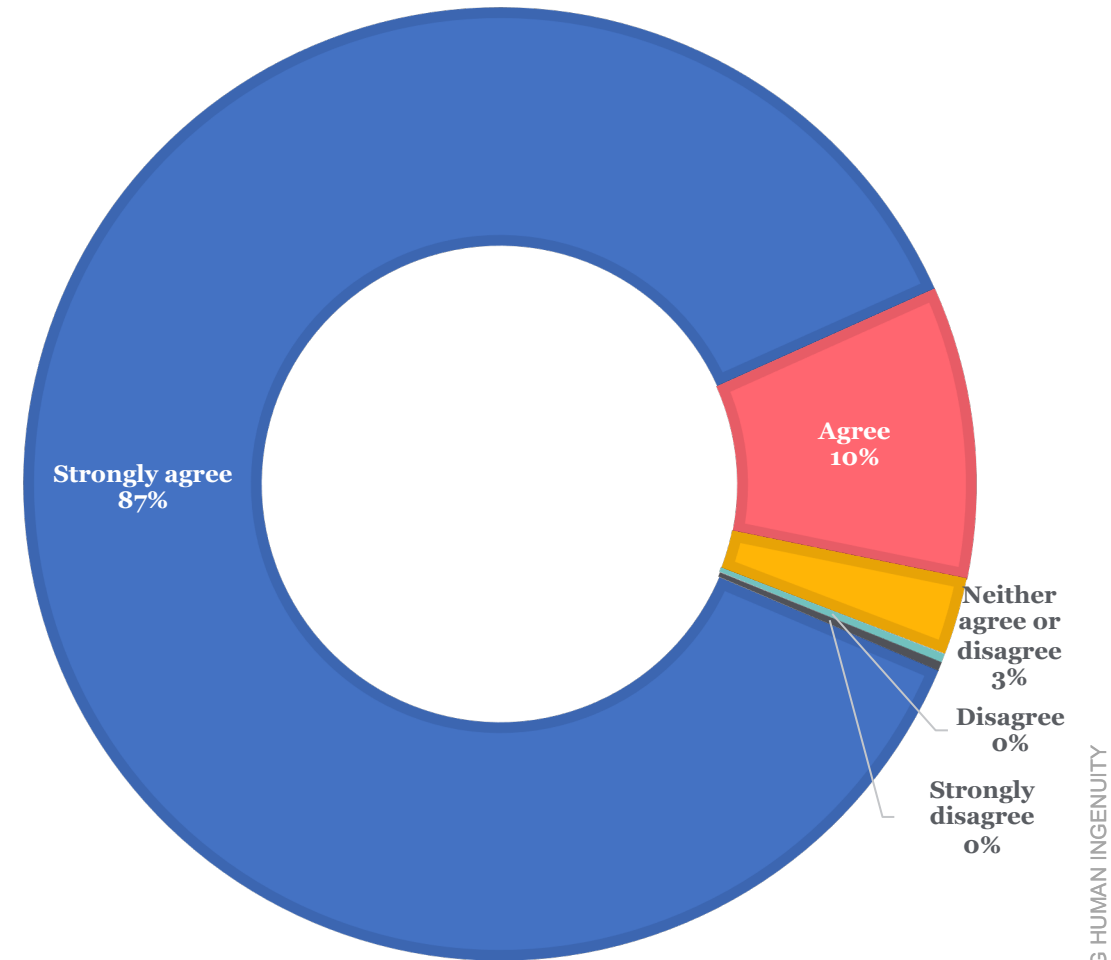
“Ireland needs more forests”

There was almost unanimous agreement that Ireland needs more forests (**97% agree**). What the later questions in the survey allow us to understand is why, under what conditions and at what scale people in Ireland will welcome more forests.

It is worth noting that 11 people “Disagreed” and 8 people “Strongly disagreed” but on reviewing their responses to the open ended questions, the disagreement is largely driven by concerns about the species of trees planted, locations of planting and historical approaches to forestry management, rather than not wanting more trees.

This quote is indicative of the responses that disagreed “*We already have too much of the wrong kind of forestry, owned by the wrong kind of owners. What we need is to focus not on quantity but on quality.*”

While the number of people disagreeing is low, almost 40% of those that disagreed are located in Leitrim and this reflects local concerns raised elsewhere through the survey responses.



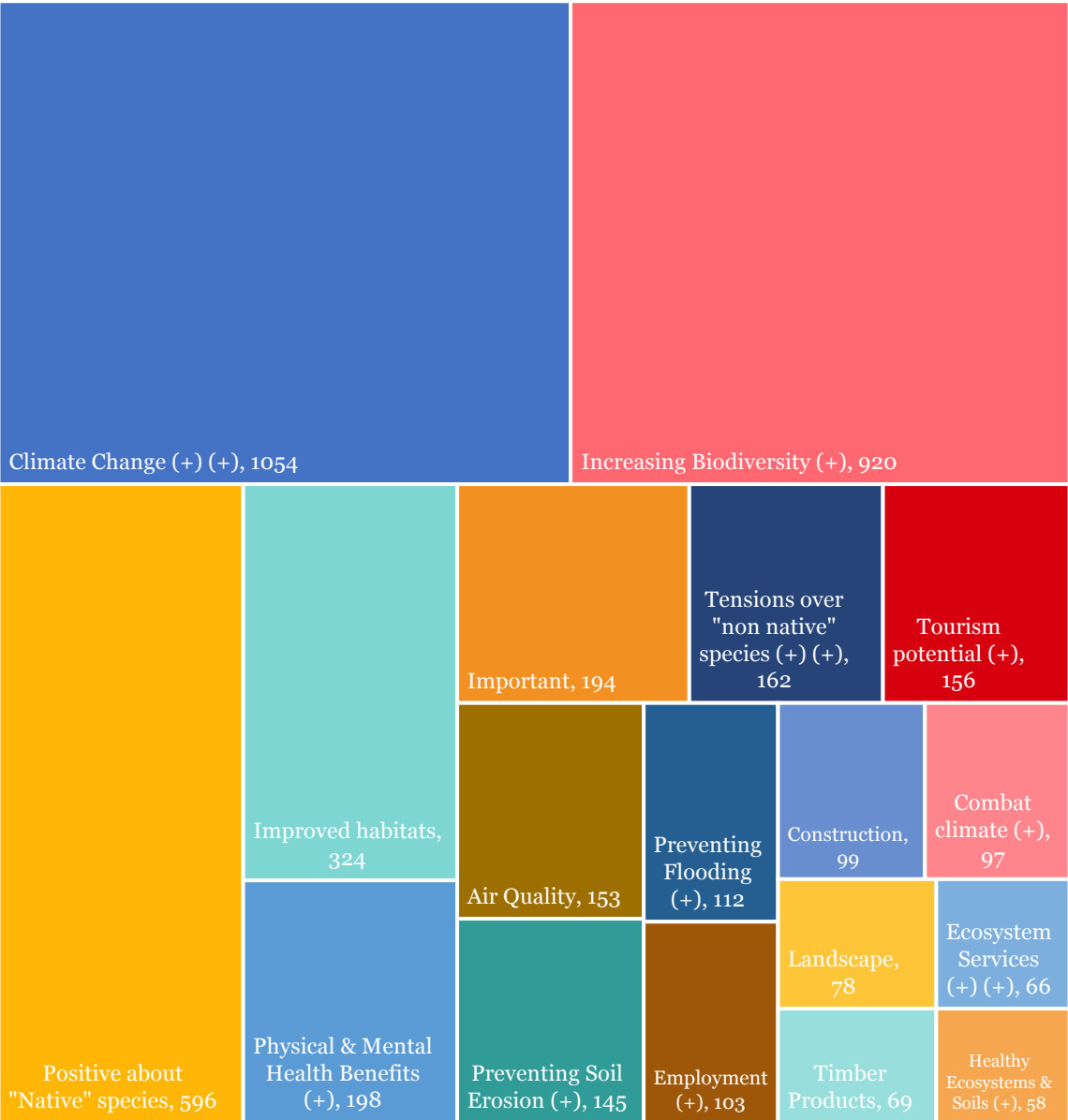
Do you agree with the following statement?

“Ireland needs more forests because..”

Through the open ended question, people articulated the reasons why they wanted more trees. The responses to this question broadly set the tone of the rest of the responses to the survey.

The chart on the right provides a high level thematic analysis of responses. Climate change (expressed mainly as carbon sequestration/sinks and climate adaptation such as flood prevention and soil integrity), Nature (expressed mainly as biodiversity, improved habitats and ecosystems) were the dominant themes discussed. These were supported by wider environmental benefits (or ecosystem services) such as improved air quality.

A large number of responses discussed the desire for increased “native” and broadleaf species with a significant discussion around the tensions around non-native species. The majority of those that access forests for recreation would like to see more native species whereas landowners with forestry and those employed in forestry consider a need for diversity in species.



N = 2652

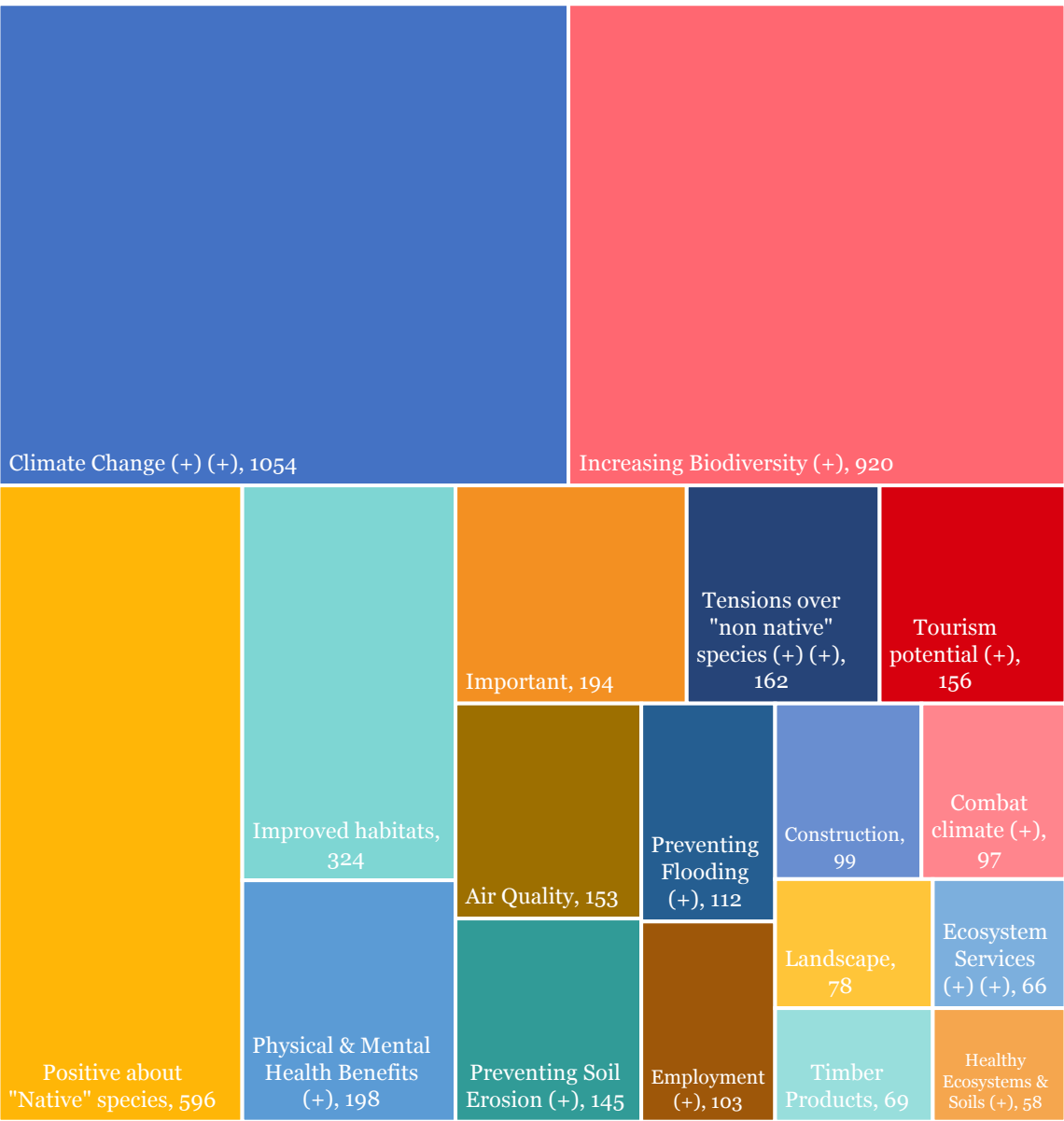
Do you agree with the following statement?

“Ireland needs more forests because..”

The economic impacts of forests were recognised with an emphasis on the benefits to rural employment across all stages of the supply chain (planting, management, timber products). The responses on economic impact were closely associated to the potential for timber products in general and timber for construction.

Another dominant issue linked in the responses to the economic impact was the tourism potential of forests (either as destinations or part of wider routes or combined destinations). This was typically expressed as the potential for forest trails, linking greenways and other common recreation activities. While typically positive, the concerns around liability and insurance for land owners started to emerge at this stage.

The recognition of the physical and mental health benefits of forests was often linked to the discussion on access, tourism and recreation. The impacts on mental health was expressed in many ways such as the provision of space for physical exercise through to the positive aesthetics of forests and green spaces more generally.



N = 2652

Additional Insights

This is a small section of quotes illustrating contrasting responses to the question - *Do you agree with the following statement? "Ireland Needs more Forests"*

Forests are good for carbon capture, mental health, enriching biodiversity, cooling the climate, boosting bee populations, preventing soil erosion, improving air quality, providing habitat to hundreds of species.

Forests are of key importance to achieving climate change objectives at a global and local level. They prevent flooding, provide habitat for local fauna and also provide vital space for outdoor recreation.

Ireland has to import wood from abroad to fulfil its requirements. We don't have control of our supply chain and this is particularly evident now with inflation running so high.

Additional Insights

This is a small section of quotes illustrating contrasting responses to the question - *Do you agree with the following statement? "Ireland Needs more Forests"*

(forests are) keeping over 12000 people employed in rural Ireland, provides space for recreational users and helps tackle Climate change.

We need more forests to meet our own domestic timber needs, develop more timber building technologies and industries, increase forest cover nationally to sequester more CO2 and provide additional rural employment.

We already have more than our fair share of forestry. Forestry is pushing people out of rural communities and destroying countryside. The land can never be returned to its original state after it has been planted.

The Right Reasons

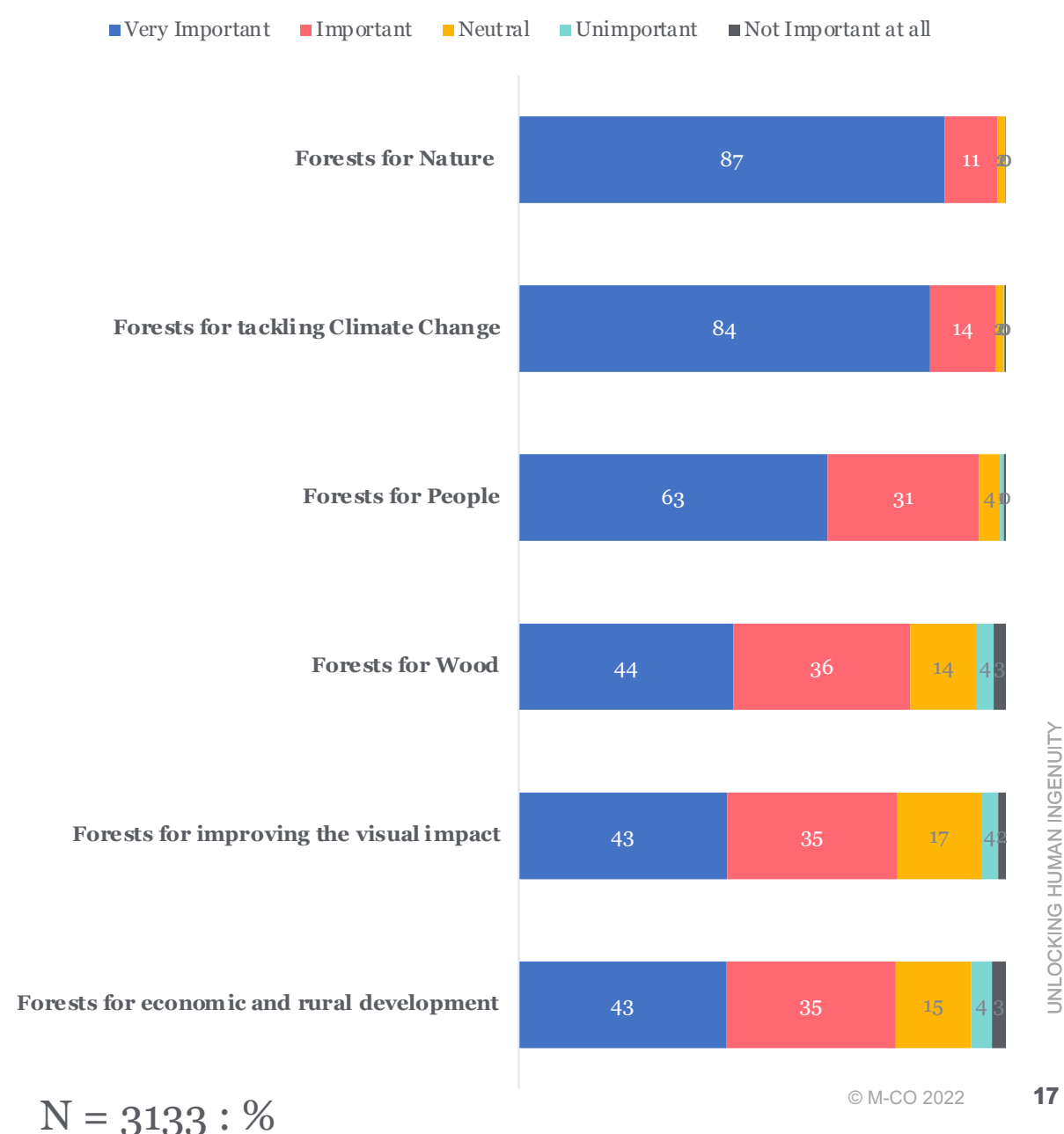
The Right Reasons

When you think of forests and the creation of new forests in Ireland how important are the following reasons for you ?

The survey asked people about what may be the “right reasons” to plant trees. In terms of the right reasons, both **nature (98%)** (interpreted by respondents as biodiversity, ecosystems and habitats) and **climate change (98%)** were the themes seen as important by a majority of those that responded to the survey. This was also reflected in the written submissions.

While there was more divergence on the perceived levels of importance of trees for **Wood, Visual Impacts on Landscape and Economic Development**, the number of people that view these as unimportant is small (< 7%).

As will be seen in later questions, in particular the open ended responses, the reasons for divergence include the perceived tensions between, for example, the carbon sequestration potential of trees, the harvesting of trees for timber products and the historical negative impacts associated with fast growing conifers.



The Right Reasons

Please provide more detail explaining your answers to this question if you wish.

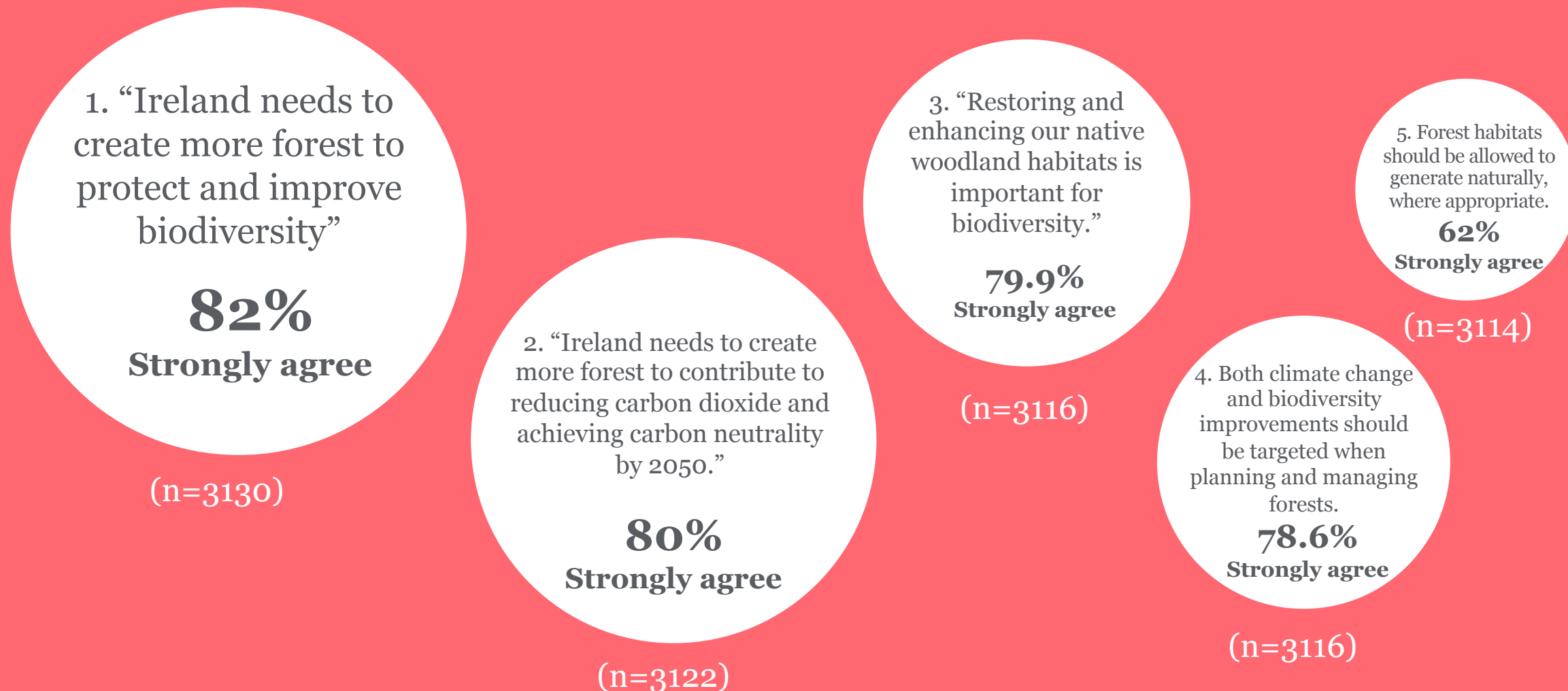
Through the open ended question, people articulated what they considered to be the right reasons for more trees.

The chart on the right provides a high level thematic analysis of responses. What is evident from the analysis of these responses was that both climate and biodiversity remained the most dominant issue of interest.



Right Reasons - Tackling Climate Change and enhancing Biodiversity

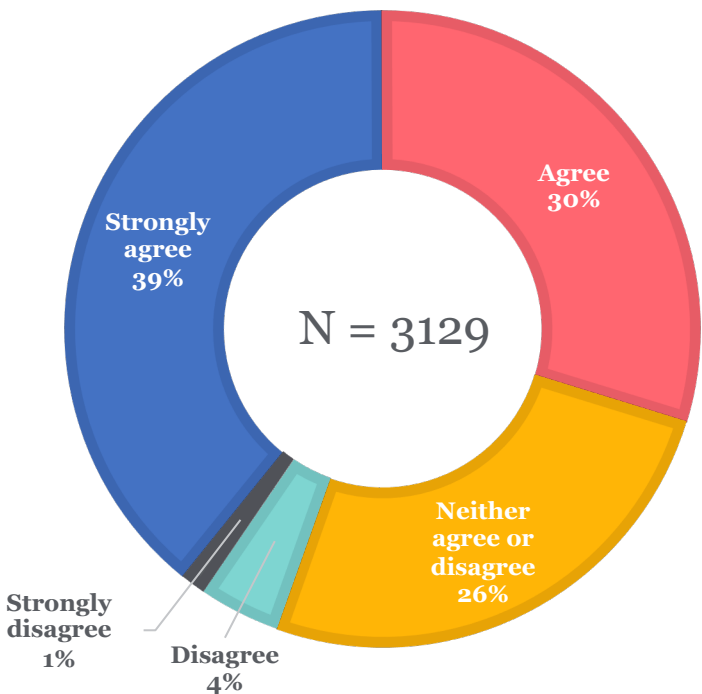
The survey asked if people agree or disagree with the following statements. The chart below shows the percentage of people that “**strongly agreed**” with the statements. As seen in other questions, the combination of Strongly Agree and Agree raised the level of agreement significantly.



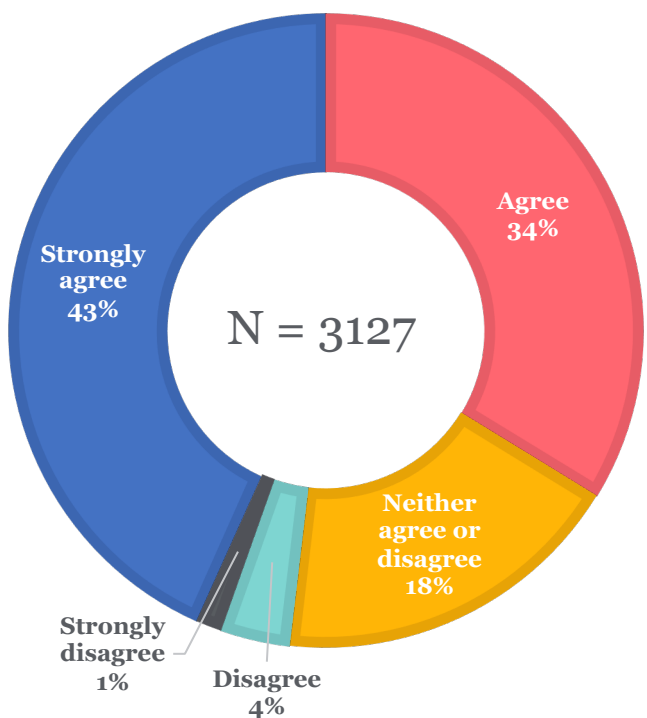
Right Reasons - Forests for Wood

The survey asked if people agree or disagree with the following statements. When viewed together, the charts below illustrate the tension between the consistent preference for wood and timber products being used in Irish homes. The contradiction between desire for Irish grown timber for Irish homes and desire for fast growing trees indicates a need to communicate widely about timber use.

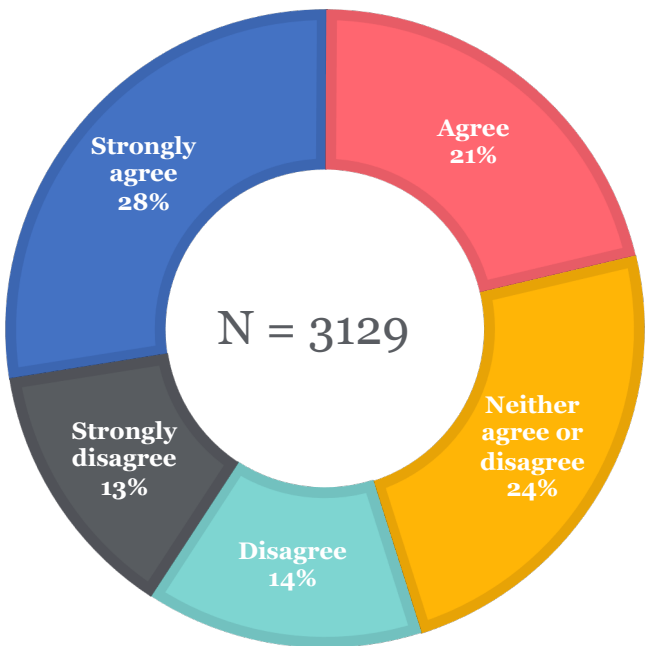
IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE USE A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF WOOD PRODUCTS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF IRISH HOMES.



IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE USE LOCAL IRISH GROWN TIMBER FOR BUILDING HOMES IN IRELAND.



IRELAND SHOULD PLANT, GROW AND HARVEST SUFFICIENT NUMBERS OF FAST-GROWING CONIFER TREES.



Right Reasons - Forests for People

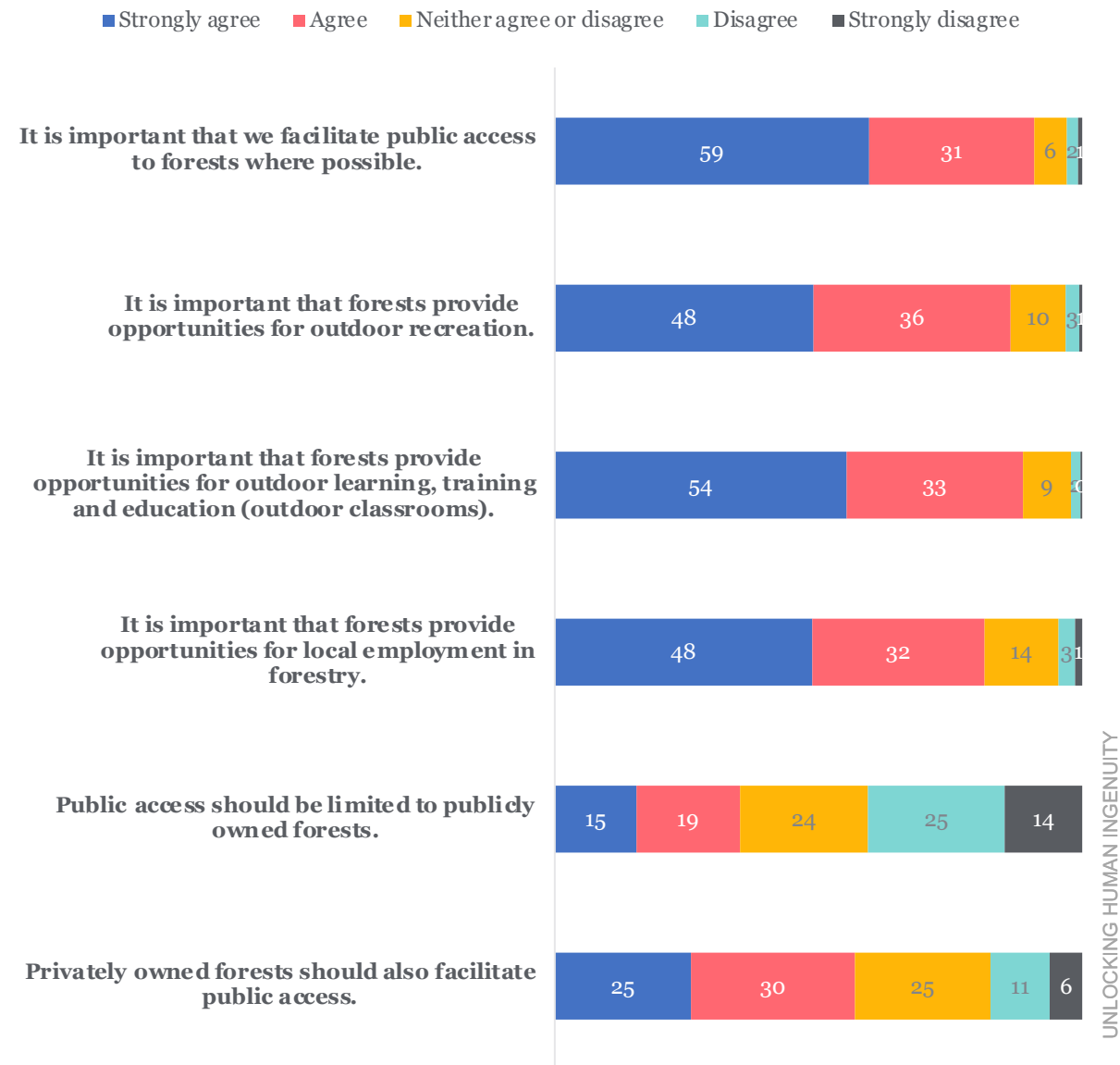
When considering the possible establishment of new forests in your community, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

The survey asked if people agreed or disagreed with the following statements. The context for this question is the growing interest in accessing forests for recreation, educational, cultural and health reasons. There are approximately 29 million visits to Irish forests every year and this creates tensions and risks around access.

There is a strong preference for ensuring access to forests in a general sense for a range of activities such as recreation and education. The responses highlight a divergence in preference when it comes to publicly or privately owned forests.

While a majority of people that responded (55%) agree that access to privately owned forests should be facilitated the lower level of agreement is driven by a number of factors such as concerns about **liability and insurance issues, anti-social behaviour** (dumping, fires, damage) and other safety concerns.

These concerns were particularly dominant among landowners but they were prominent among people that only access forests for recreation.



N = 3122 : %

Right Reasons - Forests for People

When considering the possible establishment of new forests in your community, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Through the open ended question, people articulated the social values of forests. The chart on the right provides a high level thematic analysis of these responses.

A majority of the responses were discussing the preference for increased access to forests and the benefits associated with this were typically expressed in terms of physical and mental health benefits arising from recreational activities.

There were a smaller but significant number of responses that discuss limiting or placing **conditionality on the access to private forests**.

There was a dominant focus on ensuring that landowners and farmers in general are protected from litigation but also the commercial (economic, operational) viability of farms is not compromised.



Additional Insights

This is a small section of quotes illustrating contrasting responses to the question related to “The Right Reasons”

As someone coming from an Irish farming background and community, and having completed the 'green cert' agricultural training recently, ... A well funded, comprehensive and long-running campaign of marketing and education needs to take place to develop an appreciation for forestry, re-wilded land, biodiversity, etc.

The most important reasons in my view would be to diversify the ecological systems in Ireland and provide meaningful and useful habitat to the largest range possible of animals and plants native to Ireland.

Private farm forestry isn't for public recreation so while I may be sympathetic to the concept (for public forests) the question is adding zero to policy makers understanding of the concerns of small farm forestry owners and indeed mis-leading conclusions could be extracted from it by policy-makers.

Additional Insights

This is a small section of quotes illustrating contrasting responses to the question related to “The Right Reasons”

While I see the need for climate and recreational goals in the forestry sector, there needs to be a shift in the negative opinions on commercial forestry in this country and it is incredibly misinformed.

We desperately need to improve our biodiversity, flood risk management and carbon sequestration, as well as providing areas of recreation to improve mental health among people, which has become more important due to the pandemic.

Redesigning of existing plantations, especially on uplands is urgently required to more sensitively incorporate them into our landscape and to restore damaged habitats including peatlands, wetlands and native woodlands that were planted in past.

The Right Trees

The Right Mix

When thinking about the future mix of forestry in Ireland, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

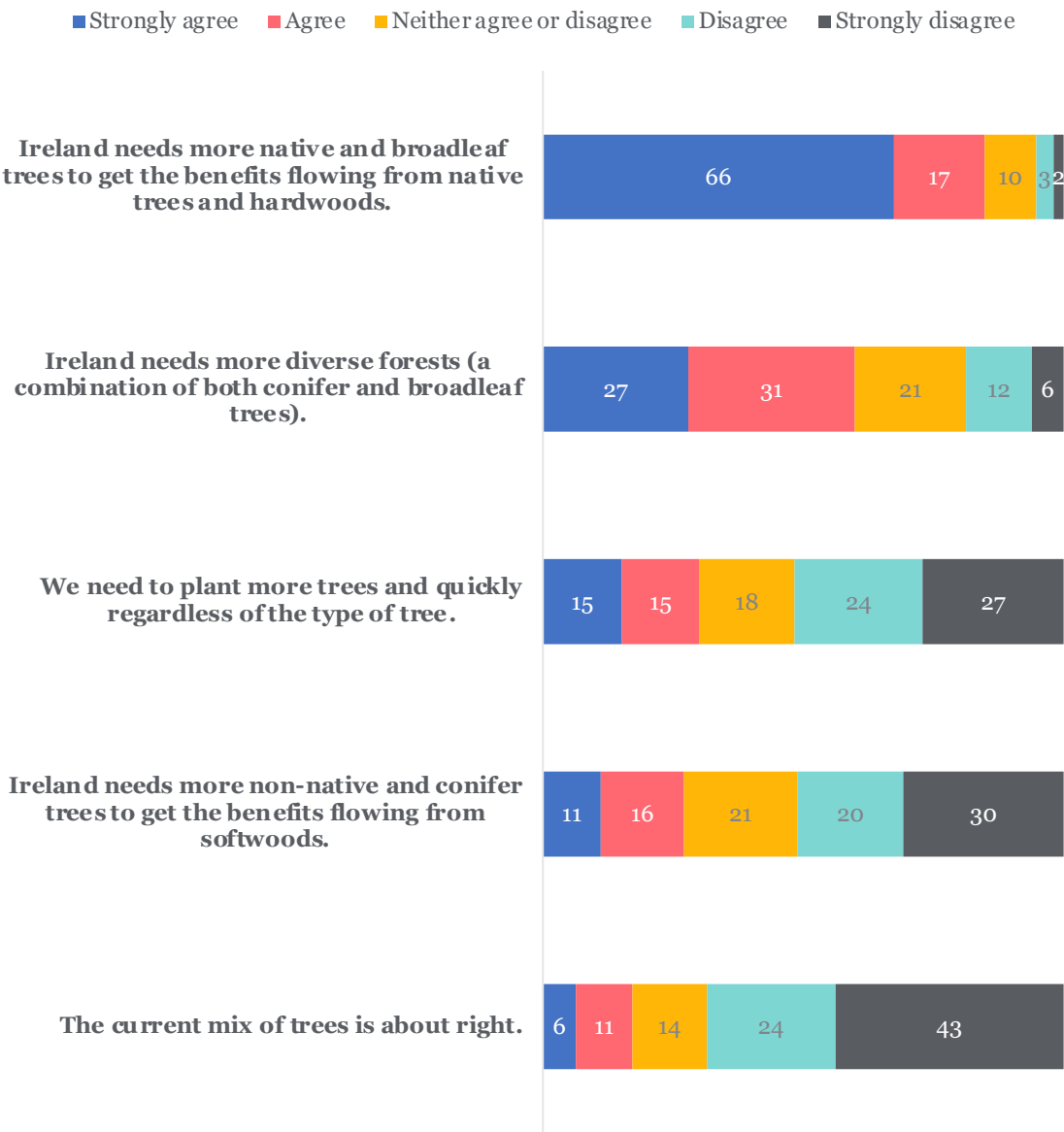
The survey asked if people agreed with the following statements in relation to the future mix of forestry.

There is a strong preference for increasing the amount of native broadleaf trees with **83% agreeing with this statement.**

While the strength and consistency of preference decreases significantly with the other statements, a majority (**58%**) **agree that there is a need for more diversity of species planted in Irish forest.**

Only 17% agreed that the current mix is about right.

This view is supported in the significant level of disagreement with the counterpoint statement about the current mix of trees.



Additional Insights

This is a small section of quotes illustrating contrasting responses to the question related to “The Right Trees”

The right tree in the right place is essential or it won't thrive (or will require a lot of inputs). The choice of tree should also be informed by the aim of the plantation i.e. timber, biodiversity etc.

We currently have far too many conifer plantations which will not host as much biodiversity as natural woodlands. We need to ensure we think about the landscape and what trees would work best there, and then plant those well. This should not be rushed it should be thought out really well.

We need to plant trees quickly and they should be native trees. I don't think there can be any excuse for anything else. We have an embarrassment of information on the benefits of planting native trees. I would view the planting of quickly growing non native conifers as pathetic.

Additional Insights

This is a small section of quotes illustrating contrasting responses to the question related to “The Right Trees”

A broad mix of native, non-invasive trees should make up our national forests. There should be no time wasted in choosing trees that are good for harvesting.

Tree types and their benefits has not been communicated well to the general public. For example, spruce in highland areas reduce risk of flooding and ash and birch in low land areas are important for biodiversity. The public know we need forests but are not informed enough to know what type, where or why they should be planted.

Rewilding and allowing forest to regenerate naturally has been shown to be effective even in the short term, if we start now and allow wild their space planting and manufacturing forests will not be necessary.

The Right Places

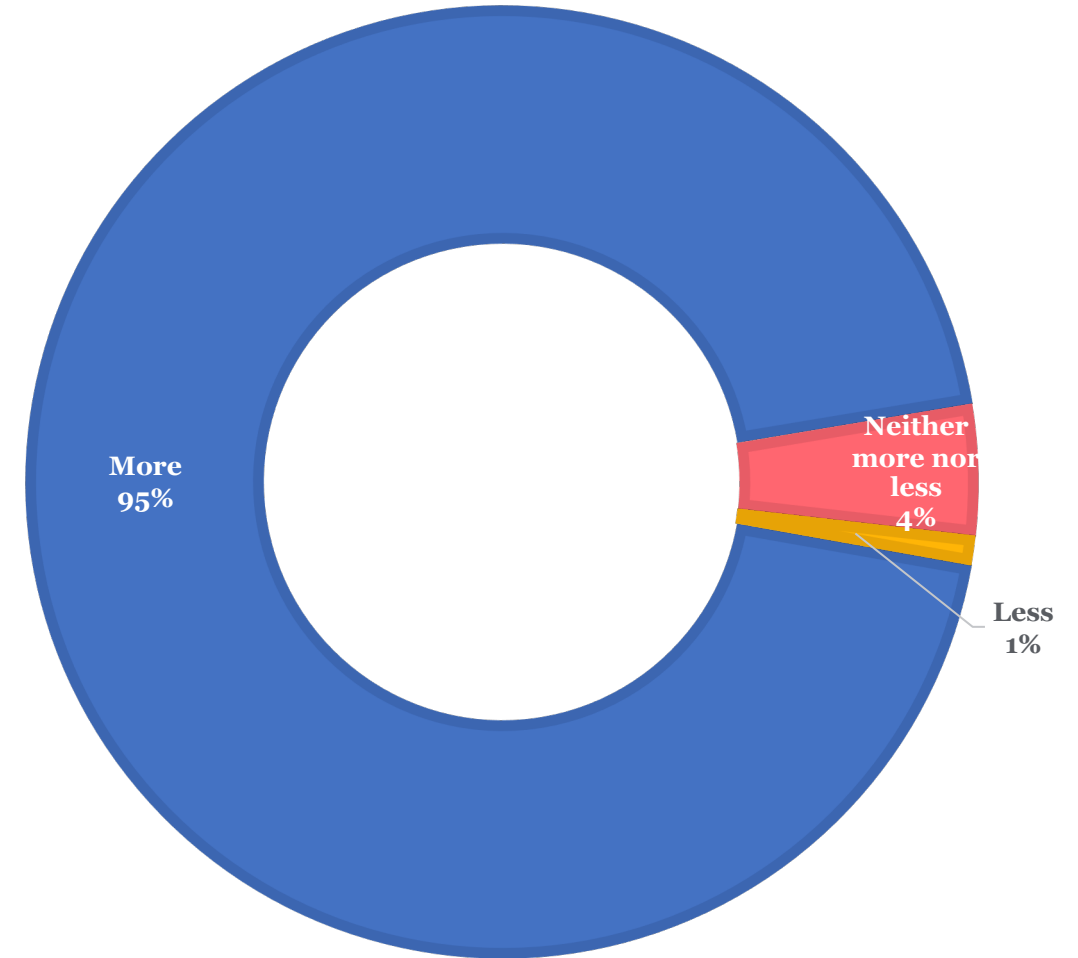
The Right Places

Would you like to have more or less forests in your part of Ireland?

The survey asked if people would like to have more or less forests in their part of Ireland. The responses are consistent with the answers to the opening question on whether Ireland needed more trees.

While only 27 people responded that they would like less forests in their area, it is worth noting that 62% of those were from Leitrim.

The concerns of these individuals relate broadly to tree type (e.g. conifers), proximity of planting to houses and a desire for more diverse forests.



N = 3103 : %

The Right Places

If you would like to have more forests in your part of Ireland, where are the areas you would like to see more forestry

The survey asked those that would like to have more forests in their part of Ireland where they would like to see more forestry.

This was a multiple choice question with no ranking applied and that partly explains the narrow range of responses.

There is a decrease in preference for more forestry on farmland and this is explored in more detail in following questions.

79.2%

On publicly owned land e.g. Local Authorities, OPW, Departments of State

76.7%

On upland areas but only where it is appropriate and suitable.

70.5%

In urban, suburban and industrial areas.

65.2%

On farmland

N = 2936 : %

The Right Places

Because you agree that more forests should be created on farmland, do you agree or disagree that forests should be established on the farmland areas below.

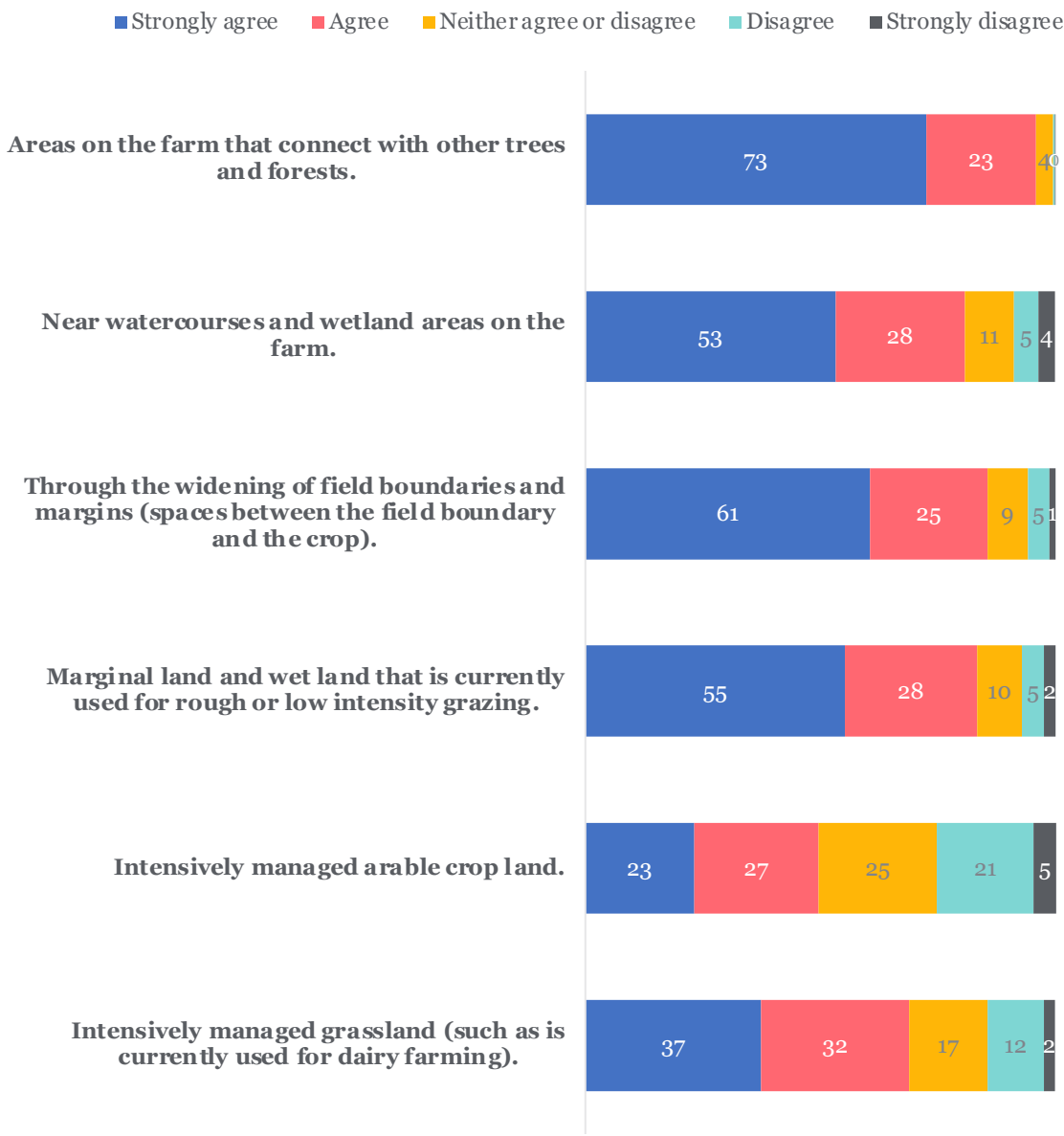
The survey asked those that would like to see more forests on farmland, where these forests should be located.

There is a clear preference for **protecting productive farmland as much as possible** but with a **tension between the types of farming** e.g. grassland compared to arable cropland.

The responses to the corresponding open ended question clearly show a preference for **planting on farmland in a way that enhances ecosystems and biodiversity** while protecting the commercial viability of the farm.

69% are in favour of more planting on intensively managed grassland (only 14% disagree) and **50% are in favour of more planting on arable land** (only 20% disagreeing).

There is a greater level of hesitancy about planting on wetlands or watercourses.



N = 2075 : %

Additional Insights

This is a small section of quotes illustrating contrasting responses to the question related to “The Right Places”

I have suggest intensively farmed land because it is already managed area, whereas wetlands and boundary/ grazing fields are the most wild/ natural areas of farm lands, they are ecosystems within themselves and should be left as they are.

The right tree in the right place is the important factor here. There is a tree for every area. Studies have shown that intensive grasslands and crops benefit from having trees interspersed in the landscape.

There is already a great deal of forestry in our area, but it is all quick-growing conifer, which when felled in one go just leaves scars on the landscape.

Additional Insights

This is a small section of quotes illustrating contrasting responses to the question related to “The Right Places”

A balance needs to be struck as to where to plant long term forests. Upland areas have suffered terribly by the green squares approach, but there are locations where it may be suitable. Pocket forests can be planted just about anywhere the soils and conditions allow.

In general, I think it is really important that sites are suitable, in terms of the local ecosystems, species etc, but also in terms of impact on the visual landscape. Ideally, I would want my planting to mimic what is already growing there, or what readily self seeds.

Currently we don't have the resident expertise to start rolling out these plans. For example, this year alone, thousands of bare root trees were being given to Community Groups at the end of the growing season. Many of these trees will die and many will be planted in inappropriate places.

The Right Management

The Right Management

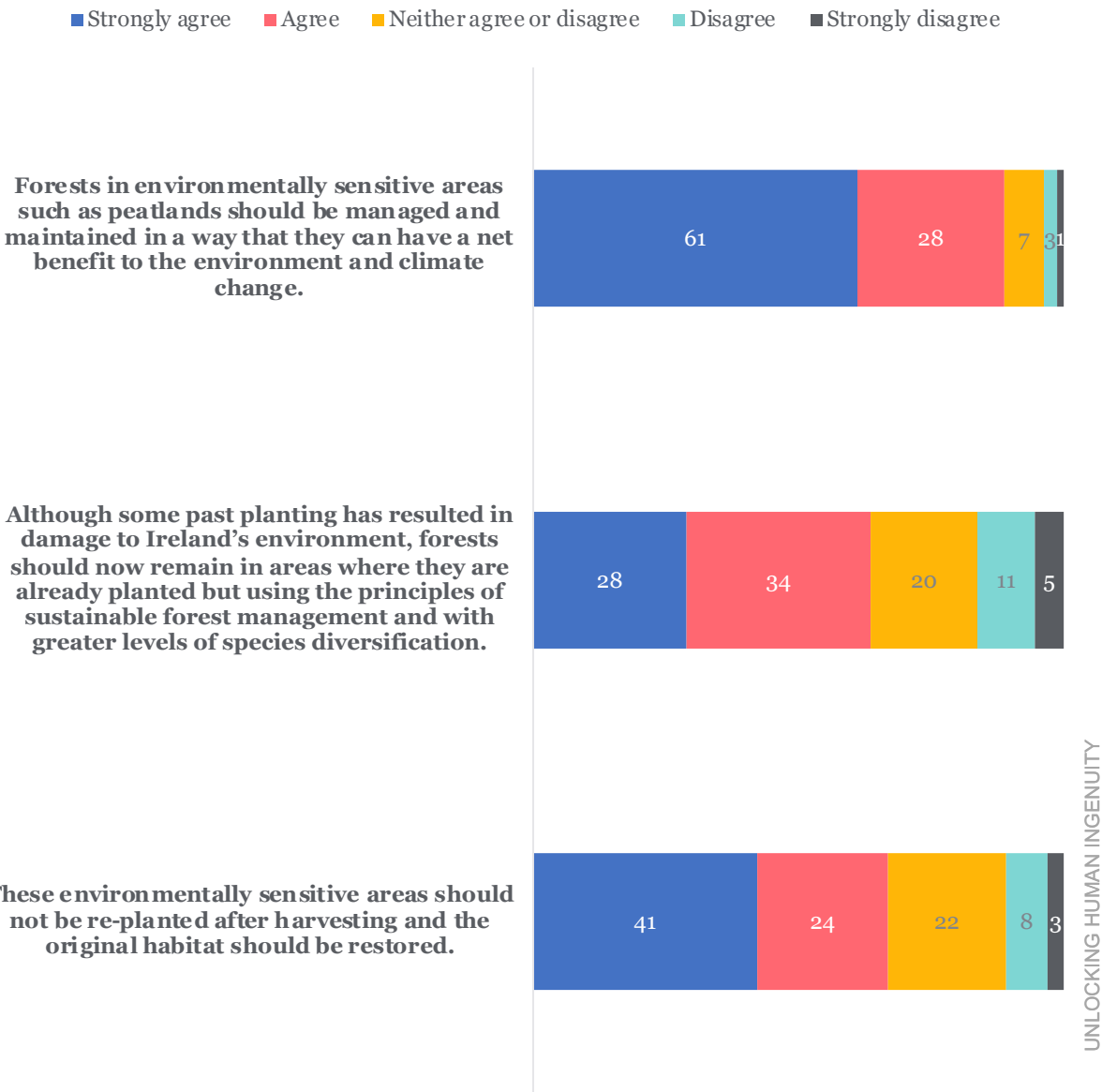
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

The survey asked people if they agreed or disagreed with the following statements in relation to forest management. The context for the question was primarily the recognition that many forests were planted in the wrong place, particularly on places like peatlands.

There is a **strong preference (89%)** for management methods that address environmental impact. **65%** of people that responded had a preference for restorative and regenerative practices for environmentally sensitive areas.

While there was no corresponding open ended question, the issue of enhancing biodiversity, ecosystems and habitats was a common theme across a number of other questions.

There was a **lower level of preference for keeping forests in environmentally sensitive areas**, even if supported by sustainable forest management practices.



The Right Management

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

The survey asked people to consider the role of trees in creating green spaces in urban areas.

There is an overwhelming preference (97%) for the inclusion of trees and urban forests in urban planning. 74% of people that responded to the survey consider stakeholder engagement an important part of the urban forestry process.

These responses are mirrored by the 76% of people that disagree with the idea that tree planting should be concentrated in urban areas.



N = 3113 : %

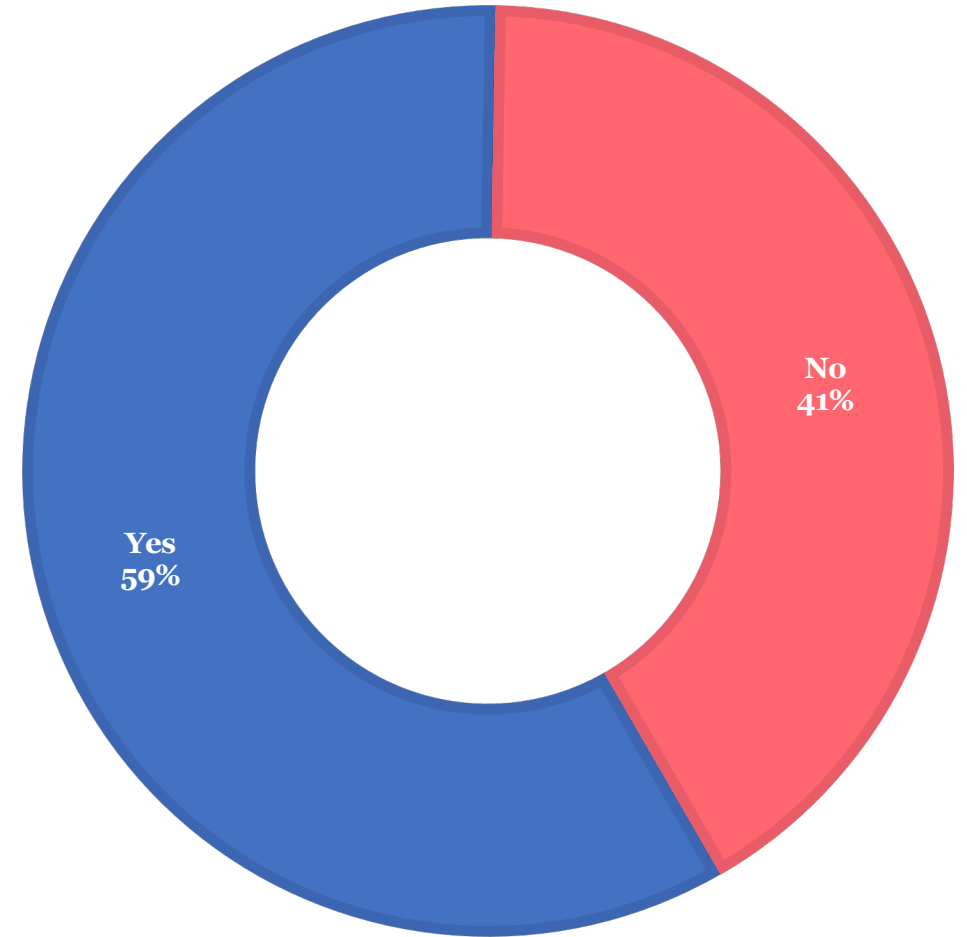
The Right Management

Do you think there would be greater acceptance of the use of non-native conifers in Ireland if a system like Continuous Cover Forestry was used more widely?

The survey asked people to consider approaches to increasing public acceptance of “non-native” conifers.

A majority of those that responded that forest management practices such as Continuous Cover Forestry could increase acceptance.

The open ended responses to this question help to explain the perceived conflicting views. The responses are more reflective of the perceptions of “non-native” conifers in general and the low likelihood of some people accepting increases in non-native conifers regardless of management practice.



N = 1422 : %

The Right Management

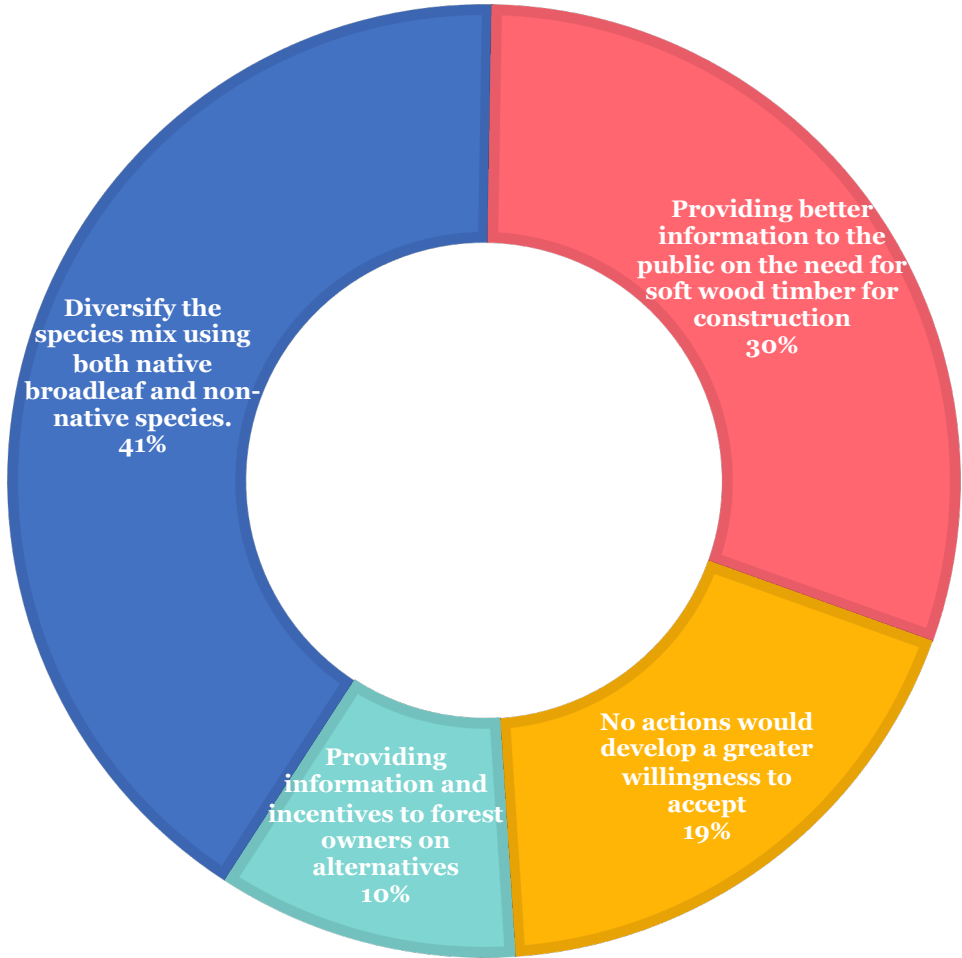
Which of the following actions do you think could develop a greater willingness to accept the planting of non-native conifer trees in Ireland?

The survey asked people to identify from a series of options that could develop a greater willingness to accept the planting of non-native conifer trees in Ireland.

Interestingly only 36% of people that answered No to the previous question selected “No actions would develop a greater willingness to accept the planting of non-native conifer trees in Ireland”.

Within this cohort that voted no to the previous question, 32% suggested that providing better information to the public on the need for soft wood timber for construction could increase willingness, 26% suggested diversifying the species mix and 5% suggested information and incentives to forest owners on alternatives.

This indicates potential openness to approaches that would lead to greater levels of acceptance of non-native conifers but this perception would need to be tracked over time.

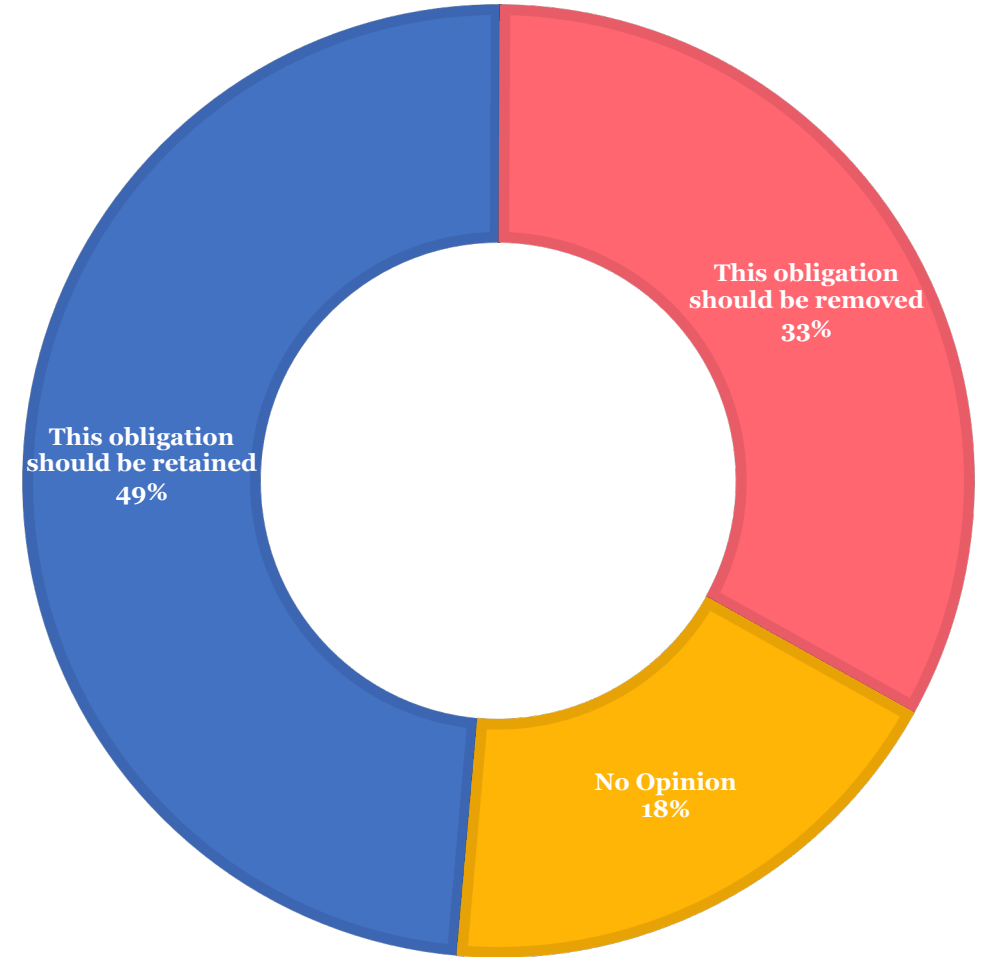


N = 1745 : %

The Right Management

What do you think, if any, is the greatest risk associated with this obligation to replant?

The survey asked people to consider the obligation to replant and how this can be a barrier to landowners.



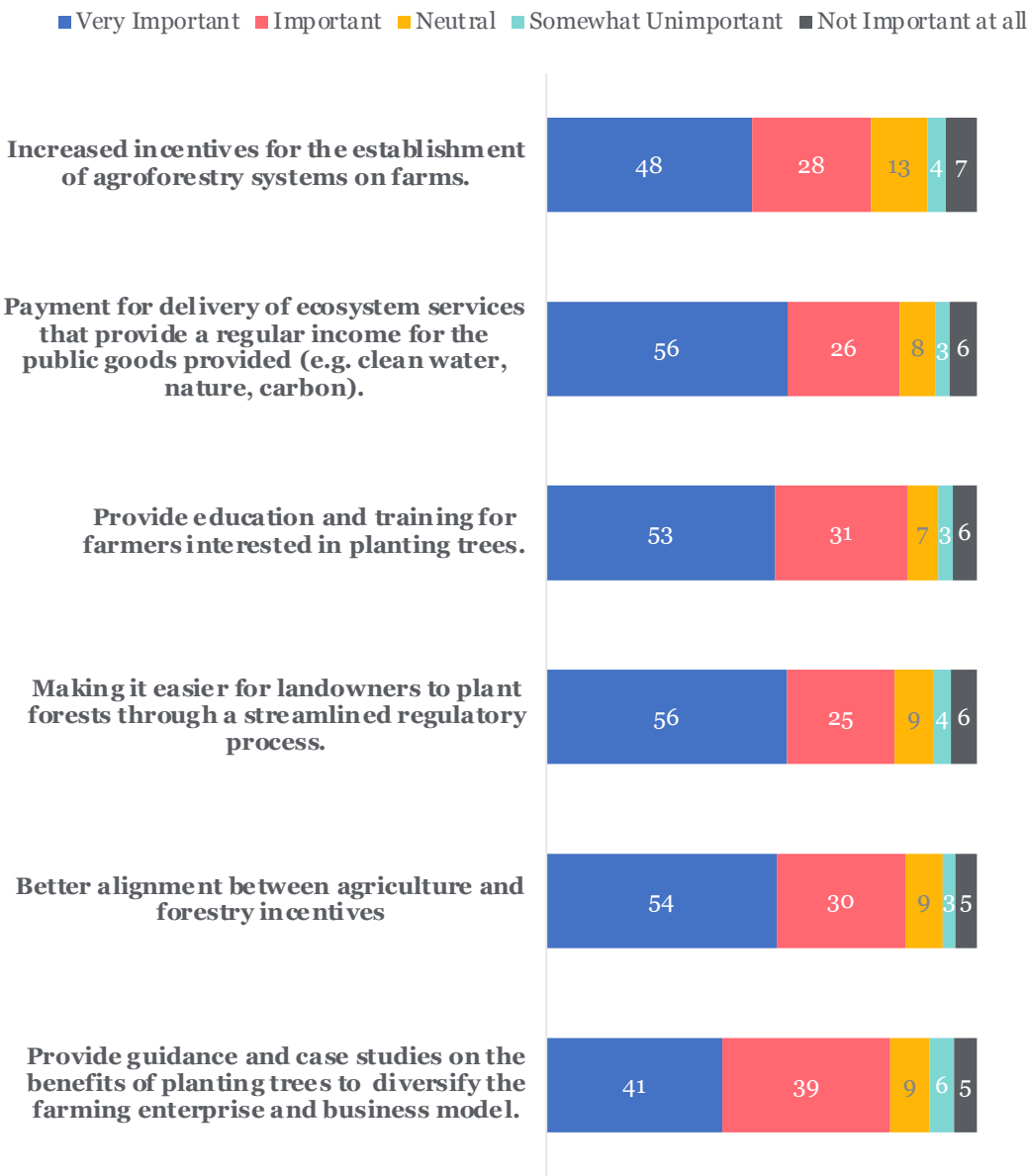
N = 1760 : %

The Right Management

How important do you think the following actions would be in encouraging more farmers to plant trees?

The survey asked people to consider a number of actions that may encourage more farmers to plant trees. The context to this question was the barriers to planting such as competing EU payments, unfavourable attitudes to forestry, perceptions around planting trees on productive agricultural land or the impact on their farm enterprise.

There was no significant divergence in responses as people felt all options were important. The two responses with the highest preference (84%) were education and training for farmers and alignment between agriculture and forestry incentives.



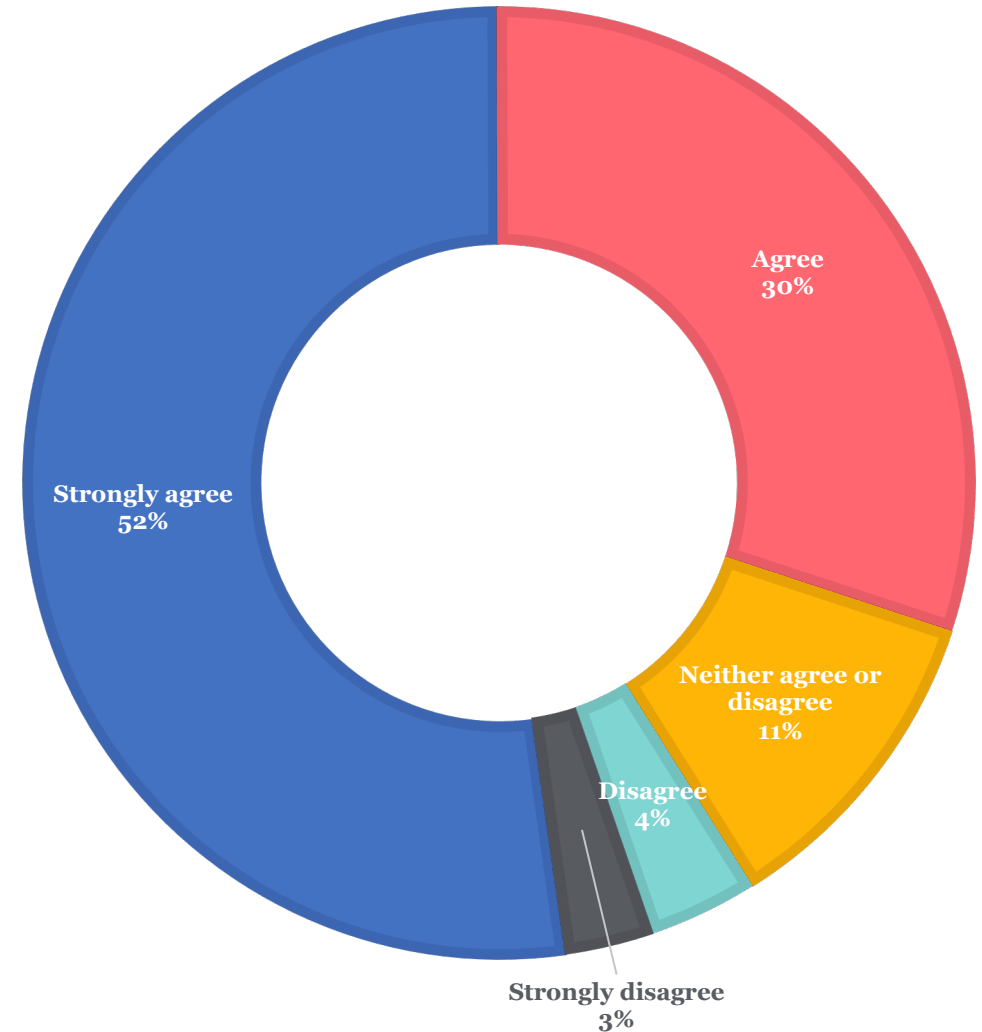
N = 1727 : %

The Right Management

Do you agree or disagree that managing deer, including culling, is an essential part of forest management in Ireland, where deer populations are impacting negatively on forests?

The survey asked people to consider options for managing deer where deer populations are impacting negatively on forests.

82% of people agree that managing deer, including culling, was a necessary measure.



N = 1765 : %

The Right Management

How effective do you think the actions below would be in reducing damage to diverse and native forests caused by deer?

The survey asked people to consider a series of actions that may reduce damage to diverse and native forests caused by deer.

There was a greater preference (85%) for the development of a national or all island policy on sustainable deer management. This was followed by the creation of a single authority to manage and implement the deer policy (72%) followed by the development of domestic markets for venison.



Part 3

Vision

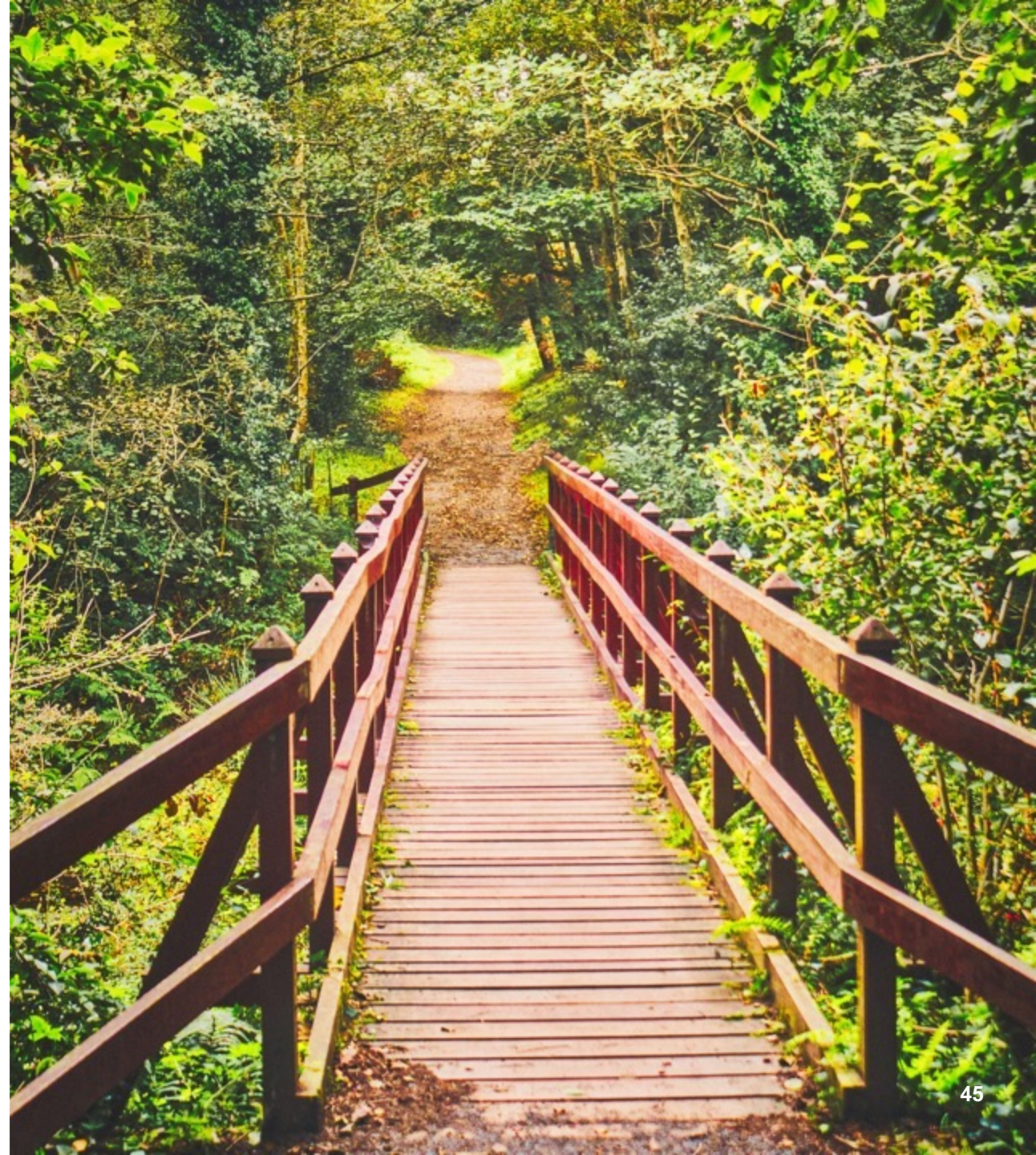
The Draft Vision

The draft vision was introduced at the start and end of the online survey.

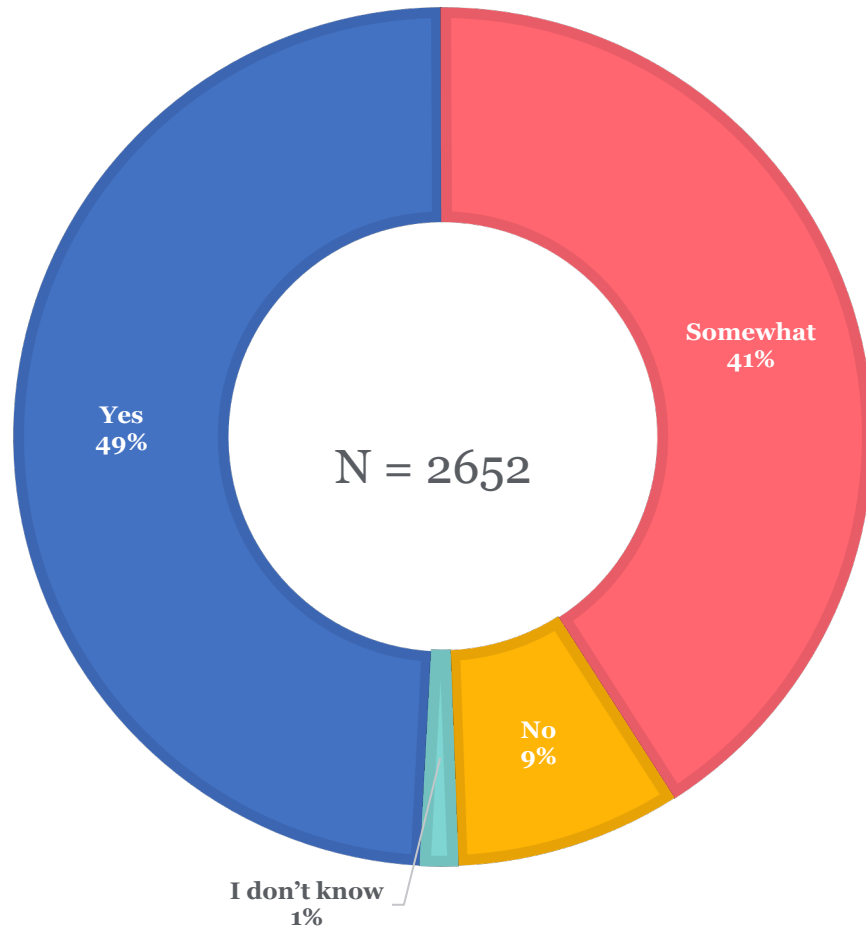
At the start of the survey people were asked if the draft was compelling and whether it clarified a sense of purpose, direction, intent to change from the current approach to forestry in Ireland.

At the end of the survey people were asked what aspects of this vision statement, if any, would they change.

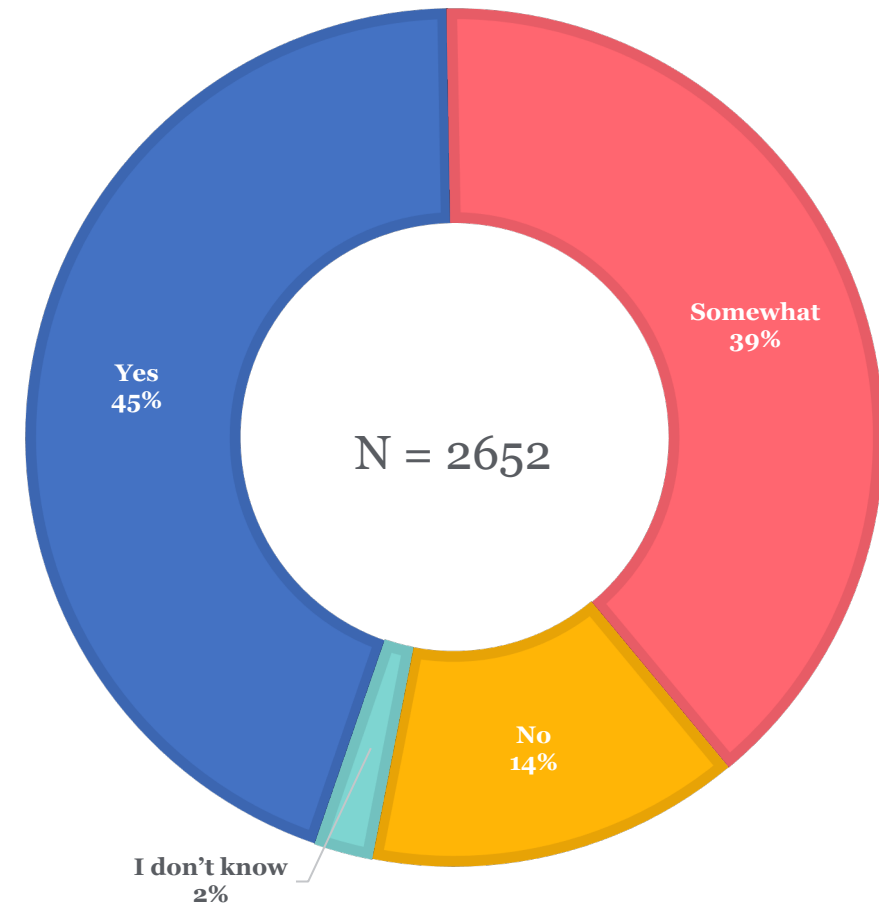
The rationale for this was to see if people would change perspectives or add additional insights after completing the survey.



Is this a compelling vision for Trees,
Woods and Forests by 2050?



Does it clarify a sense of purpose,
direction, intent to change from the
current approach to forestry?



The Draft Vision

The responses to the opening questions on the vision indicate a cautious welcome to the vision statement with **49% indicating that it was compelling** and **45% indicating that it clarified a sense of purpose and direction.**

The mixed view in terms of high levels of “somewhat” may reflect the fact that this was the first time people read the vision and they arrived to the survey with pre-conceived ideas about the survey and issues of forests in general..



The Draft Vision

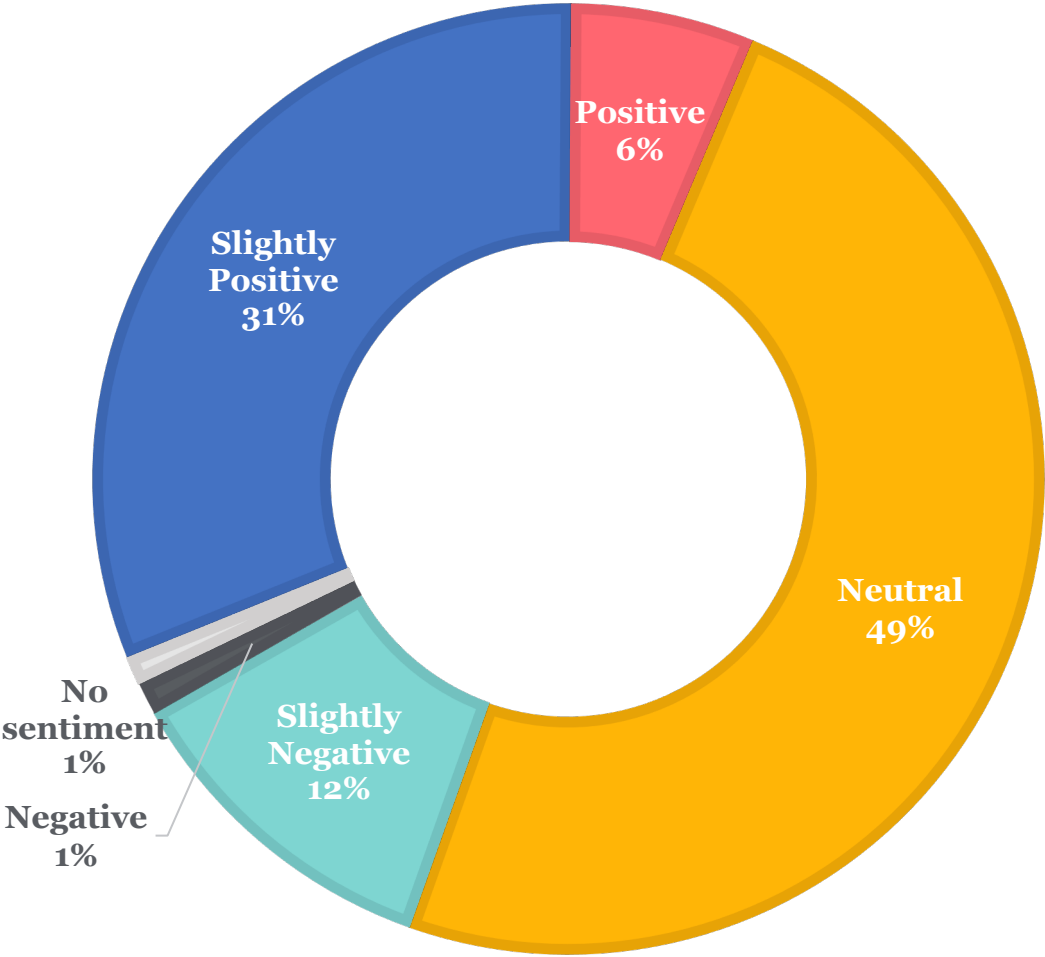
Considering how you answered the questions throughout this survey, what aspects of this vision statement, if any, would you change?

Through the open ended question about the vision at the end of the survey, people were asked to reflect on the vision statement again. 821 people responded to the open ended question.

A high level **sentiment analysis** was performed on these responses. Sentiment analysis uses a lexicon to evaluate sentiments and scoring is assigned to words with either negative, positive or neutral connotations.

This analysis shows responses being broadly similar to the questions on the vision asked at the start of the survey with **36%** are positive and **49%** are neutral.

Within the the “neutral” we observed a number of responses that support the vision but express a number of issues, caveats and concerns such as the need for more ambition, the need for clarity on targets and the need to see implementation.



N = 821 : %

The Draft Vision

Considering how you answered the questions throughout this survey, what aspects of this vision statement, if any, would you change?

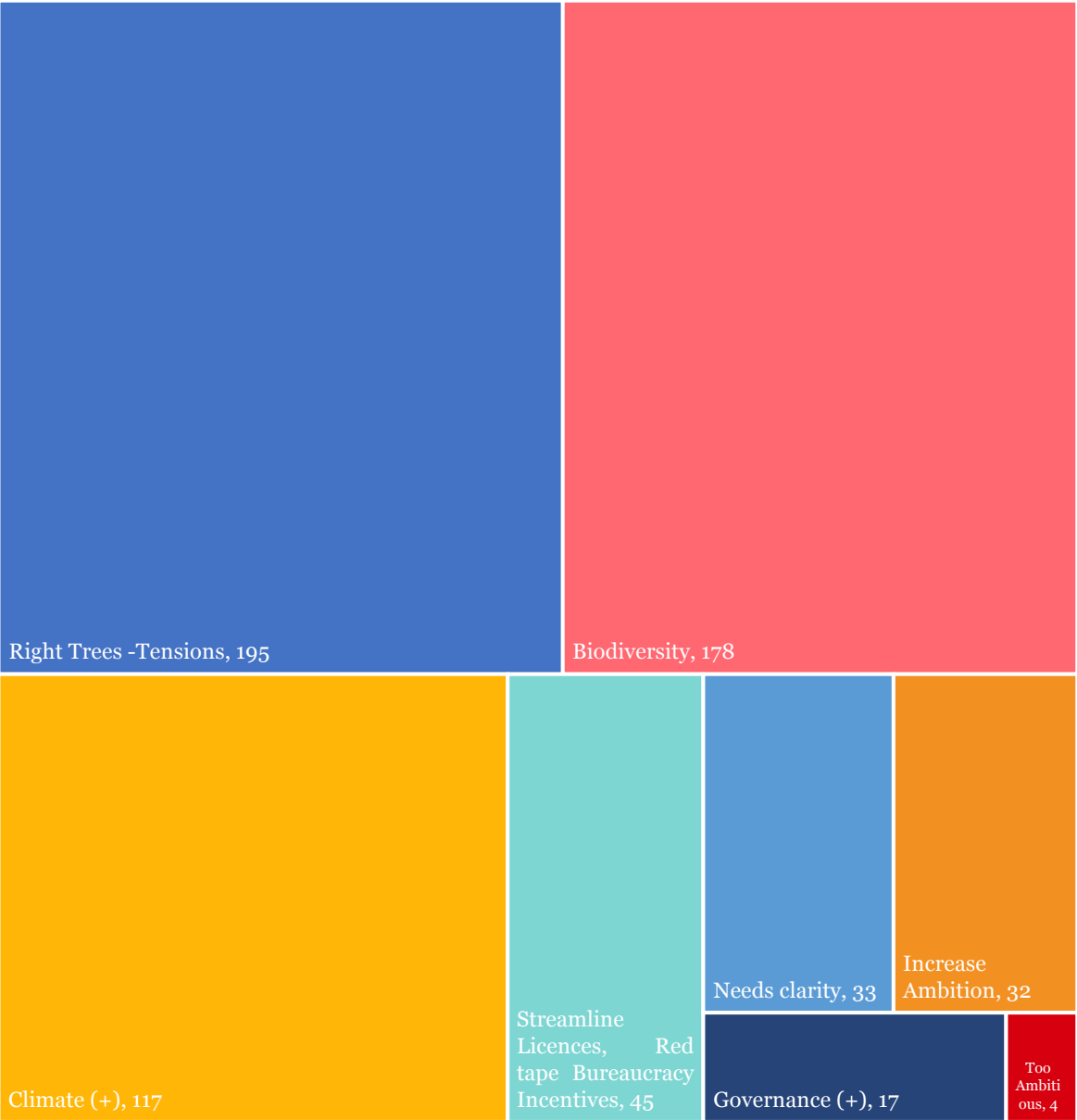
Within the responses a number of dominant themes emerged to help explain what was observed through the sentiment analysis.

While there is overwhelming support for more trees there are still tensions around the right tree in the right place.

There is a consistent preference for native broadleaves but those working in forestry or landowners with forest are less likely to be resistant to non-native species.

A number of responses queried the ambition behind the vision. This was typically expressed as 2030 and 2050 being too late with regards climate and biodiversity.

A smaller number of responses queried the timeline as being overly ambitious and unachievable.



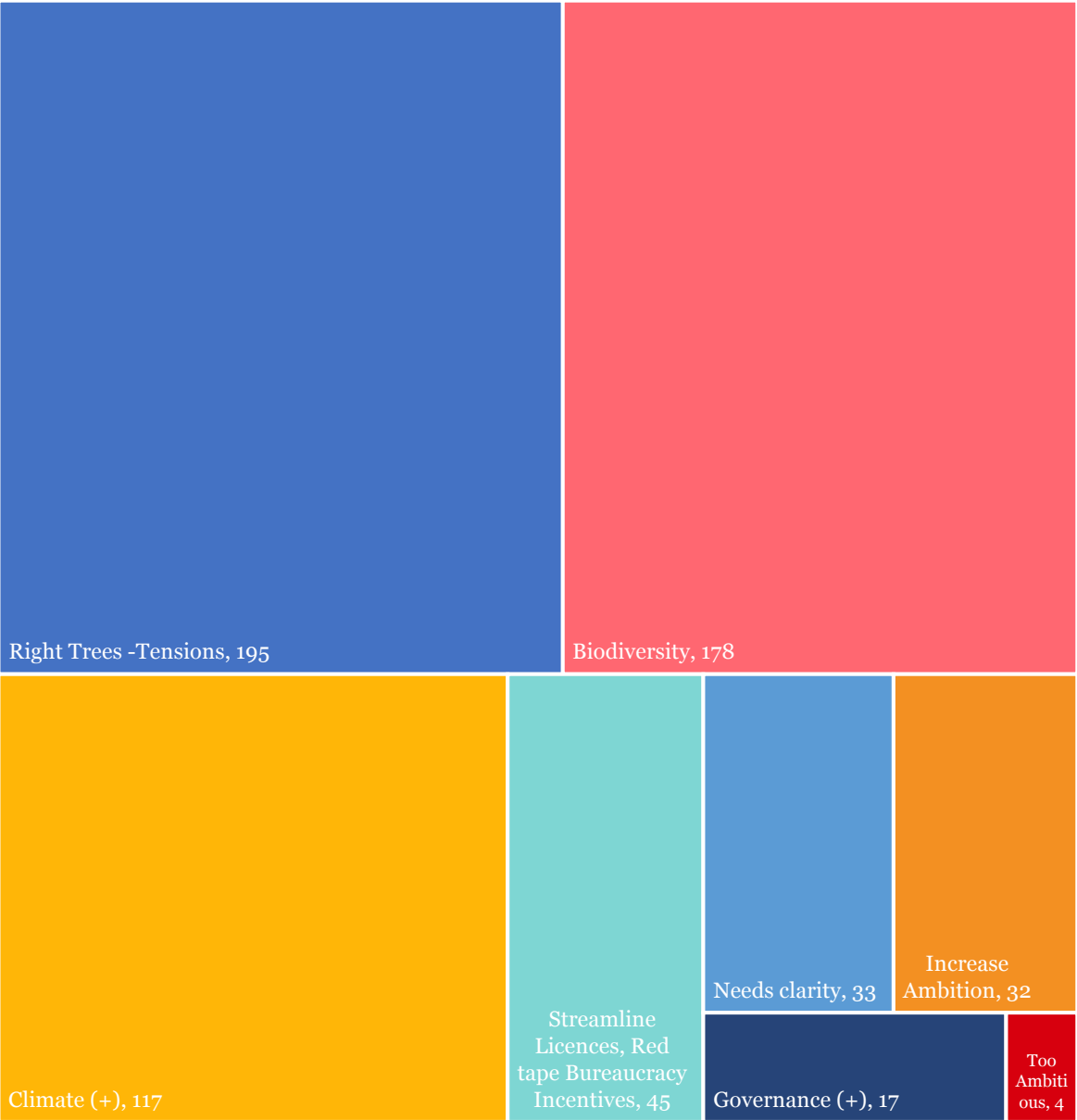
The Draft Vision

Considering how you answered the questions throughout this survey, what aspects of this vision statement, if any, would you change?

There were a number of responses dealing with the licencing system and this was typically expressed as an urgent measure to “bring landowners and farmers along” the journey to achieving the targets.

While there were direct frustrations expressed, the responses were mainly focussed on the resolvability of the issue.

Linked to this, a small number of responses dealt with the issue of governance and the system of agencies required to achieve the vision.



Additional Insights

This is a small section of quotes illustrating contrasting responses to the question related to “The Right Places”

Who is the audience of the vision statement? Personally, I find it too clinical. I would love to see more appeal to how it could be used, a vision of a family playing, wildlife thriving etc.

I would not change anything, however, I would like to see action. Reform the licencing system, encourage afforestation, reach the 8,000 ha target, issue licences for felling and trust forestry professionals to make judgements of their own accord. Stop treating them like school children.

This is an aspirational statement. It is not going happen by 2050, but it might by 2070, and that's okay. We need patience, combined with FAST action on policies.

Additional Insights

This is a small section of quotes illustrating contrasting responses to the question related to “Considering how you answered the questions throughout this survey, what aspects of this vision statement, if any, would you change?”

I think the statement that all legacy issues have been resolved is so broad sweeping and I'm not sure what that is based on. If it is true, then be more specific and clarify what you are referring to. And leave it open for people to refute or challenge this. If it is not true then don't say it!

In general, I think it is really important that sites are suitable, in terms of the local ecosystems, species etc, but also in terms of impact on the visual landscape. Ideally, I would want my planting to mimic what is already growing there, or what readily self seeds.

The final paragraph doesn't accurately portray the current situation. There is still a significant issue with management of forests. Diversification isn't anywhere near what it should be.

Landowners and Farmer differences

- All responses, both quantitative and qualitative were reviewed to identify if any groups differed based on their responses. We reviewed the responses from those identifying as landowners or farmers and in general they were in line with other groups.
- There were some areas where they agreed or disagreed more strongly and these are identified throughout the report, and some comments are provided on the following slide to illustrate their point of view,
- **Access-** Landowners were less likely to agree that access to privately owned forests should be facilitated the lower level of agreement is driven by a number of factors such as concerns about **liability and insurance issues, anti-social behaviour** (dumping, fires, damage) and other safety concerns. In the open ended responses, suggestions were made around limiting or placing **conditionality on the access to private forests**. here was a dominant focus on ensuring that landowners and farmers in general are protected from litigation but also the commercial (economic, operational) viability of farms is not compromised.
- **Type of tree planted-** In the open ended question around the proposed vision for forestry, those working in forestry or landowners with forest are less likely to be resistant to non-native species being part of the vision.
- **Where trees are planted-** Farmers and landowners were not significantly more or less likely to agree to whether trees should be planted on farmland.

Additional Insights

This is a small section of quotes illustrating contrasting responses among and about landowners

A scheme that encourages farmers to set aside a field for rewilding or planting native trees and RETAIN their payments under various schemes would have a very good uptake in my opinion.

Private land should be accessible but it also needs policy and insurance protection against accidents, loss and criminality. Policy needs to find this balance.

We have enough publicly owned forest to facilitate public access . Allowing public access to privately owned forests is a recipe for trouble; health and safety issues, fire risk, public liability insurance.

Part 4

SUMMARY



Summary findings & key issues

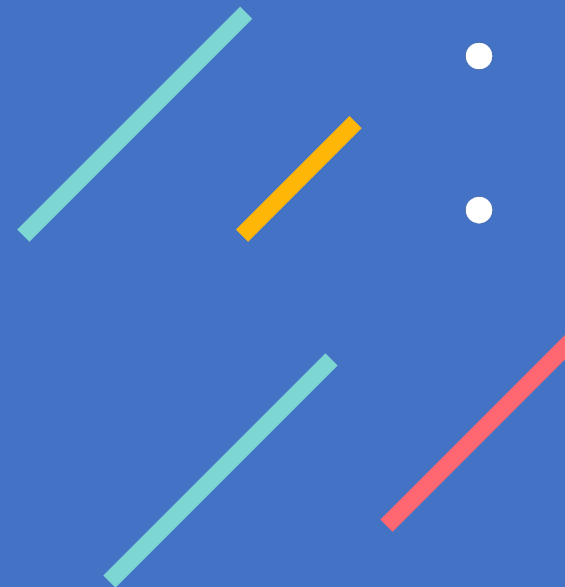
- There is **overwhelming support for the creation of more forests** in Ireland but the **tensions around the right tree and right place remain**.
- These **tensions are deeply engrained** and influence people's perspective on the vision and potential of the wider policy as it clearly influenced people's responses to the survey.
- There are many people opposed to non-native species but have **different levels of resistance and hostility, so it is not a simple binary for/against debate**.
- In general, those that are less resistant to non-native feel those that are resistant are misinformed. Those that are resistant feel there is 'profiteering' at the expense of the environment (biodiversity in particular) and that the perceived negative environmental impacts are too great to bear.
- It is **unlikely that these attitudes will be overcome in the medium to short term**, so it is important to **recognise the spectrum of views and find common ground** e.g., increased diversity in tree species, greater community engagement, transparency in communications, community gain etc.
- The **climate, biodiversity and wider environmental benefits of forests are well understood**, but there is a need to ensure transparency when communicating the impacts of existing approaches to species, location and management of forests.
- There is a broad recognition of the need for **conditionality around access** to private forests where viable, particularly around liability, insurance and tackling anti-social behaviour.

Summary findings & key issues

- There is a need for more **clarity around the communication of targets** (achievability, impact on landscape).
- There is a need for **wider and deeper engagement around the projected scale and needs of commercial forestry** and the wider supply and a greater national understanding of the economic and social benefits of potential green jobs in this sector.
- Alongside the direct economic impact and employment in forestry, the **spillover effects on rural community resilience and sustainability** are significant, including those from associated tourism and reduced environmental impacts on human health.
- The above can only happen with an evolved governance structure in terms of **oversight, streamlined licensing, co-ordination of incentives to landowners and farmers (e.g. CAP)** and community buy-in (both metaphorically and financially).

Part 5

ANNEXES



Annex 1 - Organisations

- A&F Tree Services Ltd.
- AIFC (Association of Irish Forestry Consultants)
- Allied Woodlands Ltd
- An Dulra Co-Op
- An Taisce
- Anam Valley Farm
- Arbonaut Ltd
- Armagh Timber Products Ltd
- B MC NAMEE & CO LTD
- Balcas Timber Ltd
- Ballinatone plant hire ltd
- Ballyconnell Gun Club
- BALLYMOUNTAIN BUILDERS PROVIDERS LTD
- Ballynahinch Castle Hotel
- BirdWatch Ireland
- Brophy Timber Services Ltd
- BROSAN HAULAGE
- Burke's of Rathnew Homevalue
- Cahir and district gun club
- Carlow County Council
- Carraig Dúlra
- Catch my carbon ltd.
- Cavan Tree Services
- Celbridge Heritage and River Catchment Association
- CELT (Centre for Environmental Living & Training)
- Chadwicks Group Ireland
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
- CHURCHFIELD HAULAGE LTD
- CJ Sheeran Limited
- Climate Action Louisburgh Locality (CALL)
- Coillte
- Coillte CGA
- College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland
- Commscope
- Construction Industry Ferderation
- Core Build Group
- Cork Environmental Forum
- cork nature network
- Crainn Trálíp
- Crann - Trees for Ireland
- Cygnum Timber Frame
- Danone
- DTE Manufacturing Ltd
- Dublin City Council
- Dublin Friends of the Earth
- E. Flaherty Timber Ext Ltd
- Earthridge International
- Easy Treesie
- Easytree.ie
- Ecc timber products

Annex 1 - Organisations

- Edible Landscape Project
- Emerald Forestry Consulting
- Envirico Ltd.
- Etex Ireland Ltd
- Fairy Council Of Ireland
- Foraois Growth Ltd
- Forest Industries Ireland
- Forest Owners Co op
- Forestlink ltd
- Forestry Services Ltd
- ForestSales.ie
- Ghadwicks Group/Grafton Group
- GLANBIA
- Glennonbrothers
- Goodwins Build & DIY Products
- Goulding Chemicals Ltd
- Goulding Fertilisers Ltd
- GP Wood Limited
- Grafton group
- Green Belt ltd
- Green Economy Foundation - Trees on the Land Project
- HPC Sales Limited
- Industrial Packaging Ltd
- Integrated Timber Solutions Ltd
- Ire Wel Pallets Limited
- Ireland West Angling
- Irish Agroforestry Forum
- Irish Bioenergy Association
- Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association
- Irish Doctors for the Environment (registered charity number: 2025893)
- Irish Farmers Association
- Irish Forest Owners
- Irish Society of Specialists in Public Health Medicine (ISSPHM)
- Irish Timber Growers Association
- IRISH URNS AND KEEPSAKES LIMITED
- Irish Water
- Irish Wood Producers
- J McKenna Ltd
- Laois Sawmills
- LAWPRO
- Limerick and Tipperary Woodland Owners Ltd
- Lismore Estate
- Lynch Harvesting Ltd
- McDonogh Trade Centre Ltd
- Meadowrock Ltd
- Medite
- MEDITE SMARTPLY
- Mental Health Ireland
- Michael Doherty Haulage Ltd
- Michael Norris Freight Services Ltd
- Mid Cork Pallets and Packaging

Annex 1 - Organisations

- Mid Western Forestry
- Mountaineering Ireland
- Nargc
- NATIONAL REGIONAL GAME COUNCIL
- NB Firewood
- North West Forest Services
- NUI Galway
- Protect Moylisha Hill
- Protrans Limited
- Quercus Technologies Ltd
- Roadtrain Ltd
- Roland Forestry Ltd
- Roots and Wings
- Rural Ireland organisation
- Sar Caman Teo
- Servier (Ireland) Industries Ltd
- Shawbrook wood
- Síor Consulting Limited
- SMARTPLY
- Spotta
- Stakelums Home & Hardware
- Sustainability in 3 Steps Ltd t/a Sustineo
- Sustainable Water Network (SWAN)
- SWS Forestry
- Teagasc
- TempleCrone Co-operative Society Ltd.
- The Abhainn da Loilíoch Woodland Group
- The Pallet Centre Ltd
- The Society of Irish Foresters
- topline group
- Treacy's Homevalue
- TREESPACE
- Tune Up
- United hardware
- Unpacked Ireland
- Uplift
- Veon Ltd
- W&G Baird
- Waddington Europe
- Waterford Forest Owners Group
- Western Forestry Co-op
- wolfslime
- Woodfab Timber Limited
- Woodlands of Ireland

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