



World Wide Views on Biodiversity

Summary for Palestine



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World Wide Views on Biodiversity Voting Results: Summary for Palestine

World Wide Views on Biodiversity (WWViews on Biodiversity) is a global democratic deliberation on biodiversity. It gathered citizen views on international biodiversity policy issues and disseminated them to policymakers involved in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It is the second of its kind (the first was on global warming in 2009) and part of efforts to close a widening democratic gap between citizens and policymakers as policymaking grows increasingly global in scale¹.

The WWViews on Biodiversity citizen consultation is part of the UN Decade on Biodiversity and a step towards reaching Aichi Biodiversity Target 1 of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which includes making people aware of the values of biodiversity. World Wide Views on Biodiversity aims to involve citizens around the world in the design of global biodiversity policy and to understand perspectives on biodiversity from young people and adults all over the world. By introducing the views of citizens into these discussions, policymakers will have a better basis for making decisions that are in tune with informed public opinion.

WWViews on Biodiversity involved 3,000 citizens in 25 countries spanning five continents (See Below). The citizens gathered in their countries on September 15th, 2012 to discuss some of the core issues at stake in the ongoing, international discussions and negotiations on how to stop the decline in biodiversity and fulfill the Global Strategic Plan for doing so. They received balanced information about biodiversity, discussed the issues with fellow citizens, and voted individually on the questions presented to them. The results of the citizens' votes were collected on the WWViews website, where it is possible to compare the results from different countries and continents. The results will be presented at COP11 (*CBD-Conference of Parties number 11*) in India in October 2012 and will give decision-makers a unique opportunity to get an insight into the views and perspectives of citizens worldwide on biodiversity policies.

The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ) is the national partner representing the Palestinian Territory in the WWViews project. ARIJ, in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Environment (MoE), prepared and conducted the consultation event on September 15th 2012 in the Palestinian Territory (PT) and reported the Palestinian voting results to the DBT - WWViews project coordinator and COP 11 Palestinian delegates. Relevant Palestinian organizations worked with ARIJ on facilitating the WWViews event day including the Biodiversity and Environment Research Center (BERC), the National Agriculture Research Center (NARC), the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Land Areas (ICARDA), the Land Reclamation Centre (LRC), the Economic and Social Development Centre of Palestine (ESDC), and Al Quds University. 132 Palestinian citizens were invited from the 11 governorates of the West Bank in cooperation with the heads of selected localities (39 localities). The selected citizens were ordinary people, chosen to reflect demographic diversity within the West Bank regarding age, gender, occupation, education and geographic locality types, where representative samples from the different governorates were selected.

¹ DBT, 2012. Results Report-Worldwide Views on Biodiversity

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The World Wide Views Event in Palestine on the 15th of September 2012

During the event on 15th September 2012, 104 Palestinians participated from the 11 Governorates of the West Bank. 9-10 people from each Governorate participated; 61% of participants were from urban areas and camps and the rest were citizens from rural areas. Participants were almost half male and half female (47%) and from all age groups: 16-24 (23% of total participants), 25-40 (31%), 41-60 (32%), and 61 years of age and above (14%). The participants were also diverse in terms of educational level: participants who had not attended school (1% of total participants), participants whose highest education was primary school (23%), participants whose highest education was high school (36%), and participants whose highest education was university (40%). Participants also had a diverse range of occupations and included employees, housekeepers, farmers, workers, salesmen, and students.



Registering at WWViews event in Palestine

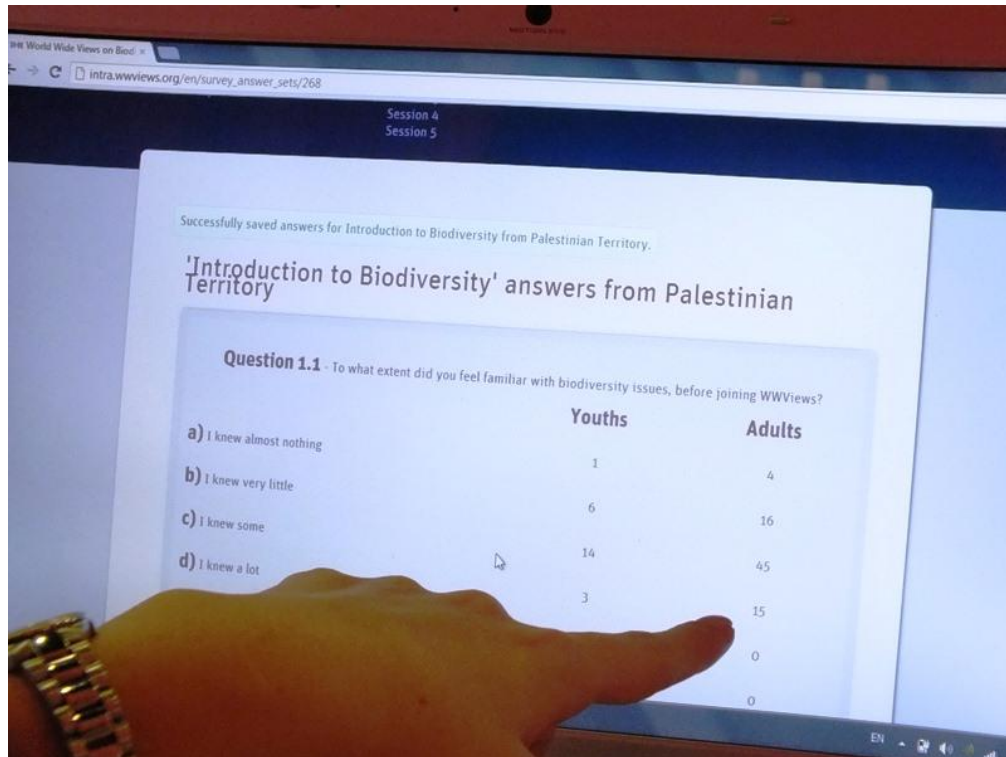


Round Table on the WWViews event in Palestine

The results from the Palestinian citizens' consultation on biodiversity were compatible with the results of the global consultation event, showing strong public support for taking further political action in order to halt the decline in biodiversity. The WWViews citizens expressed great concern over the loss of biodiversity and this concern is clearly reflected in the support for protective measures at the expense of economic aims. There is widespread willingness to share the costs of biodiversity protection although citizens also believed that developed countries should make larger financial contributions than developing countries. There is general support for expanding international biodiversity regulation and

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therefore the extent to which burdens and benefits are shared. Analysis of the Palestinian results² shows that the following points were emphasized:



Voting Results' Web Page - Palestinian Territory

² The results' interpretations included in this report are supported by the results report prepared by DBT on the WWViews on Biodiversity at global level, October 2012.

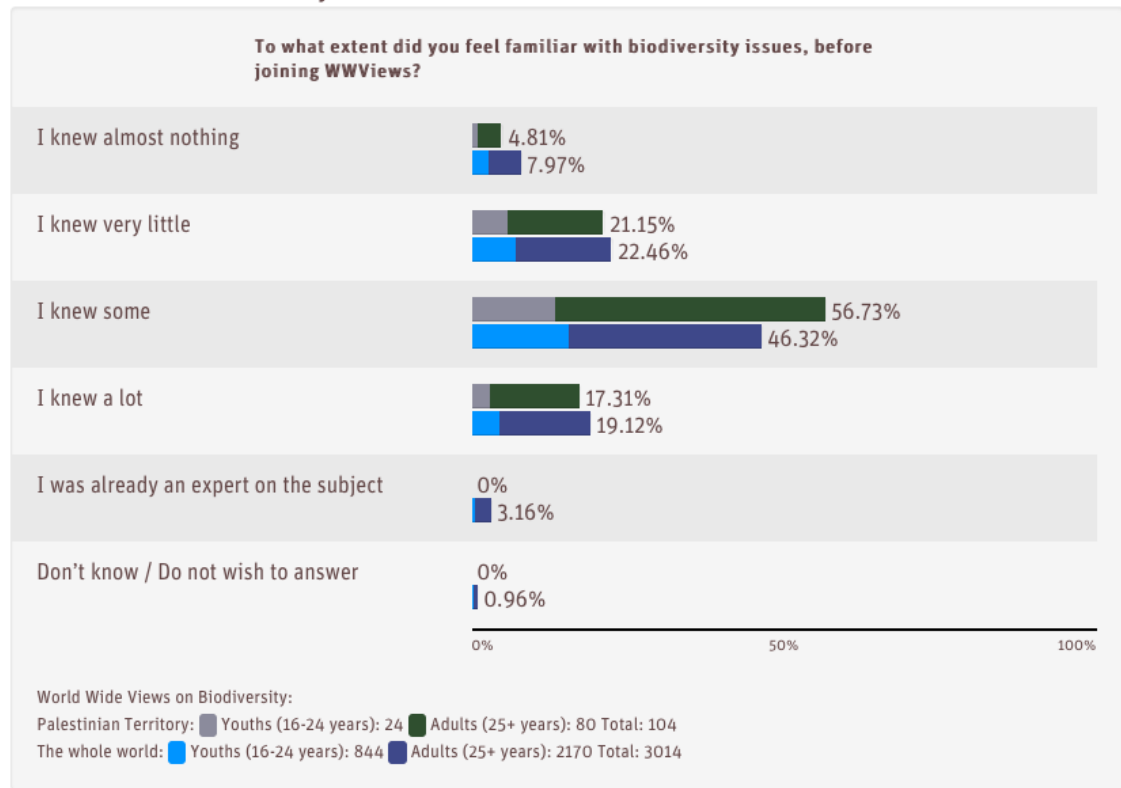
RESULTS: AWARENESS AND CONCERN

Most Palestinian citizens do have some knowledge of biodiversity.

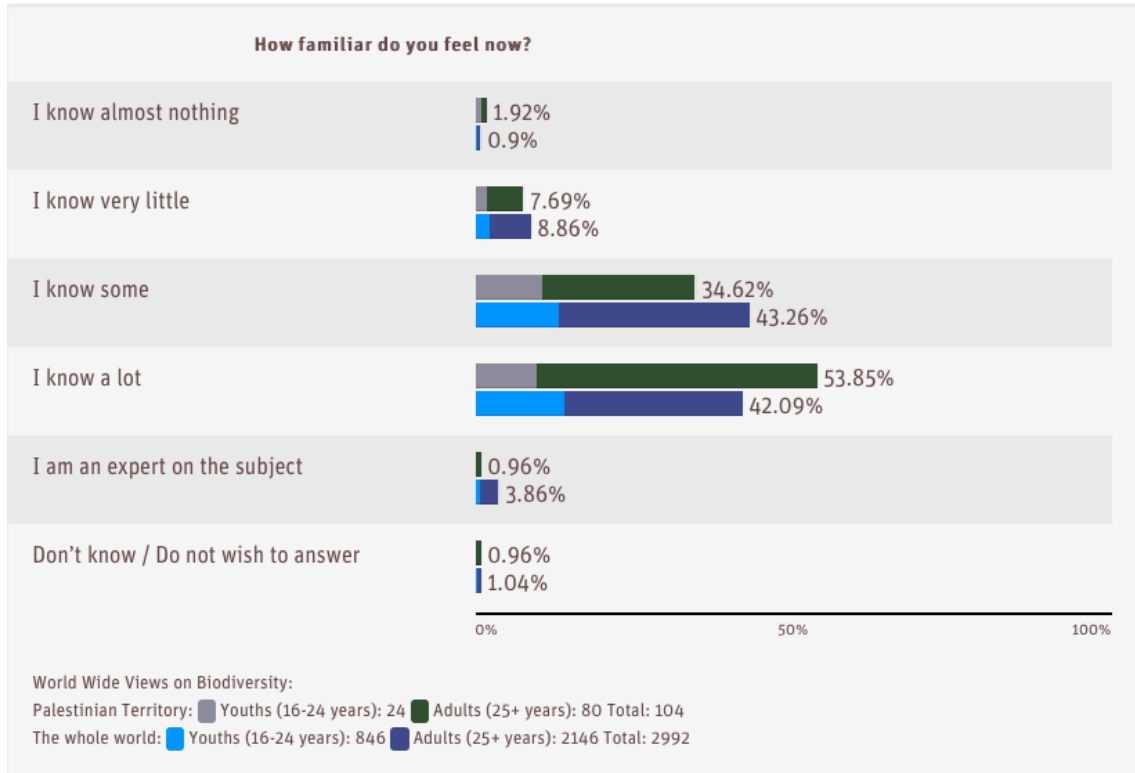
This is compatible with the global voting results.

- 57% of Palestinian citizens said they had some knowledge about biodiversity issues before joining the WWViews project and 17% said they knew a lot about biodiversity before joining.
- 26% said they knew nothing or very little before joining WWViews. 1.9% said they still knew nothing about biodiversity after having joined. 53.85% said they now knew a lot.

Introduction to Biodiversity



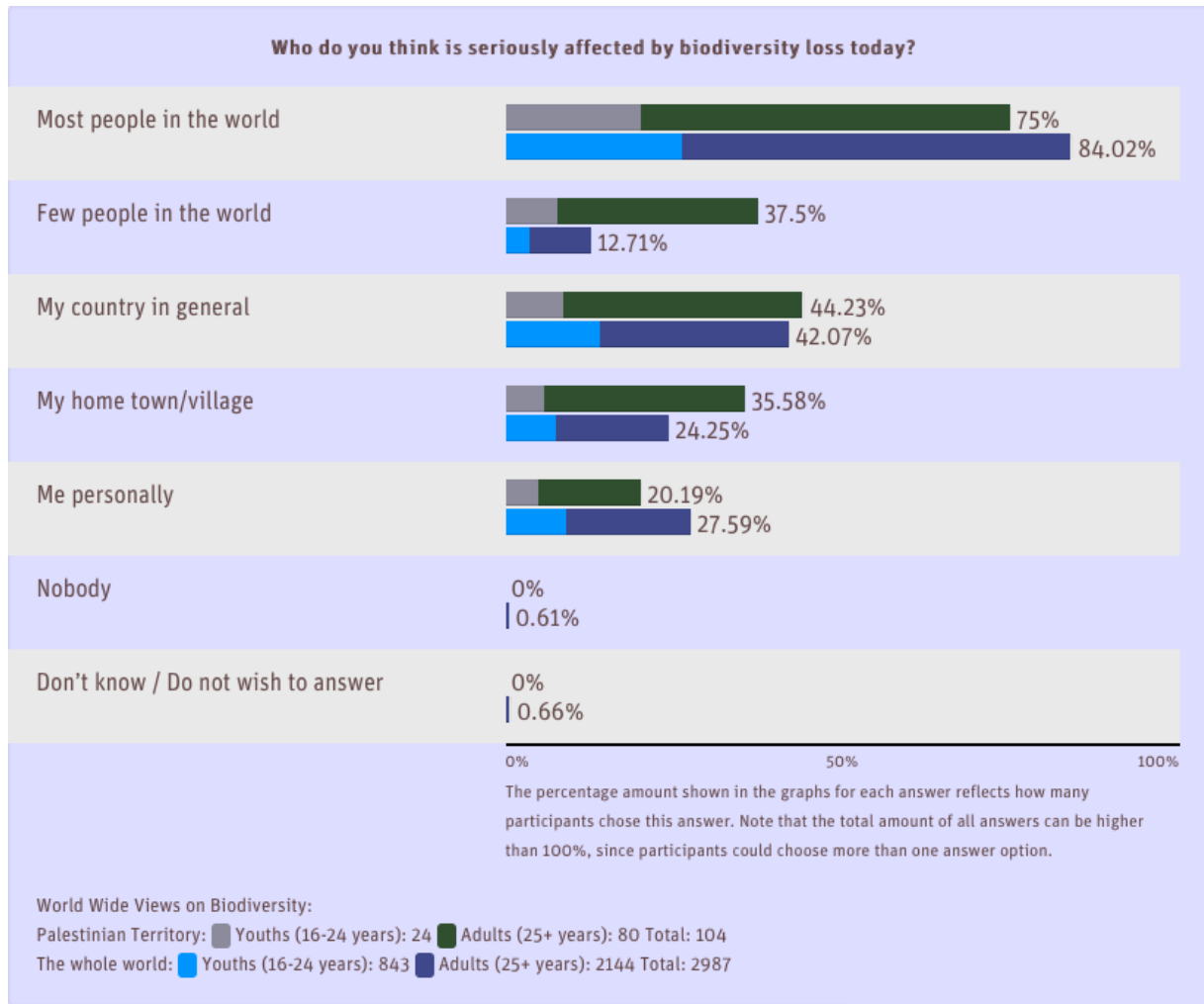
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Assessment: The proportion of Palestinian participants that had some knowledge or knew a lot is fairly high. This should be good news for policymakers relying on public awareness for the successful implementation of policy initiatives. Additionally, the WWViews project was successful as a method for raising public awareness about biodiversity and national policy issues among participants.

Palestinian citizens think most people in the world are seriously affected by biodiversity loss but Palestine is more affected than other countries.

- 75% of Palestinian citizens said most people in the world are seriously affected by biodiversity loss, but 44.23% said that Palestine is seriously affected today.
- 35.58% said that their home village was affected and 20% said they are personally affected.

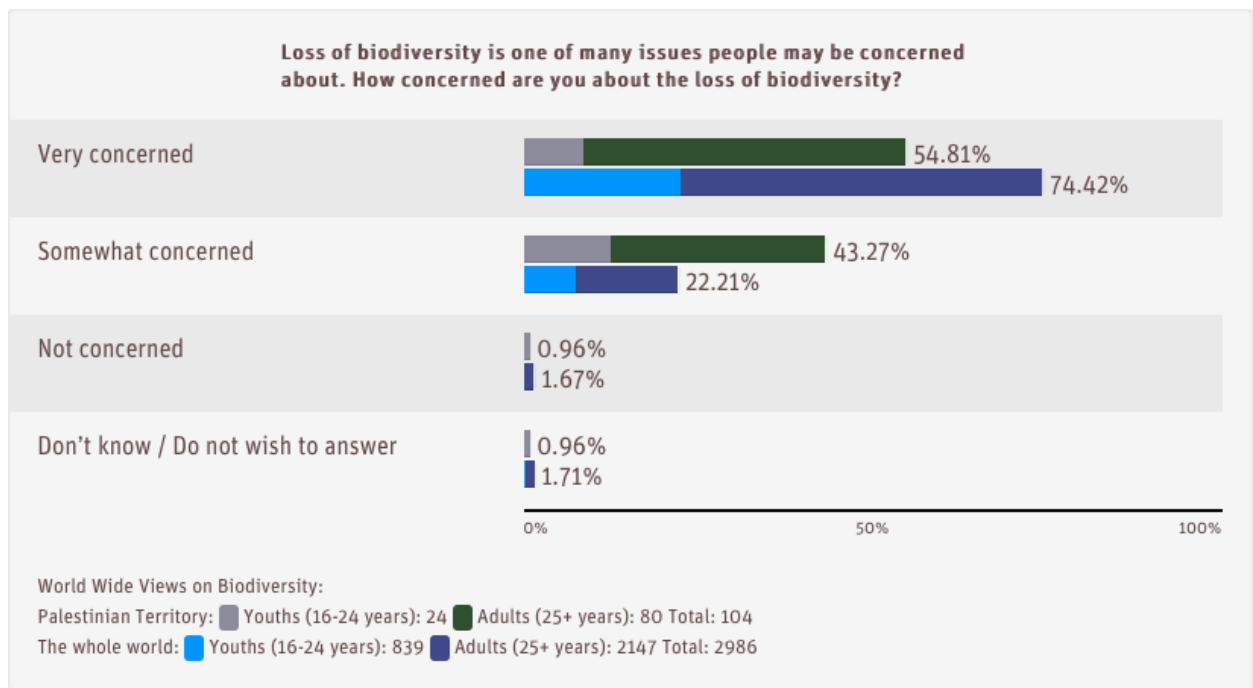


Assessment: A higher proportion of Palestinian participants think that their country is more seriously affected by biodiversity loss than the rest of the world, indicating a more acute sense of economic dependency on the direct use of natural resources and an awareness of resource misuse by the Palestinian Authority; highlighting the impact of Israeli occupation on level of biodiversity loss. Given that a fairly high number of participants noted that their home village or they were personally affected, another response is needed whereby Palestinian national plans should address concerns about biodiversity at national and at local level.

Palestinians are very concerned about the loss of biodiversity

This is compatible with the global voting results.

- 54.8% of Palestinian citizens said that they are very concerned about biodiversity loss. Most of them were adults.
- 43.27% said that they are somewhat concerned about biodiversity loss. Most of them were youth.



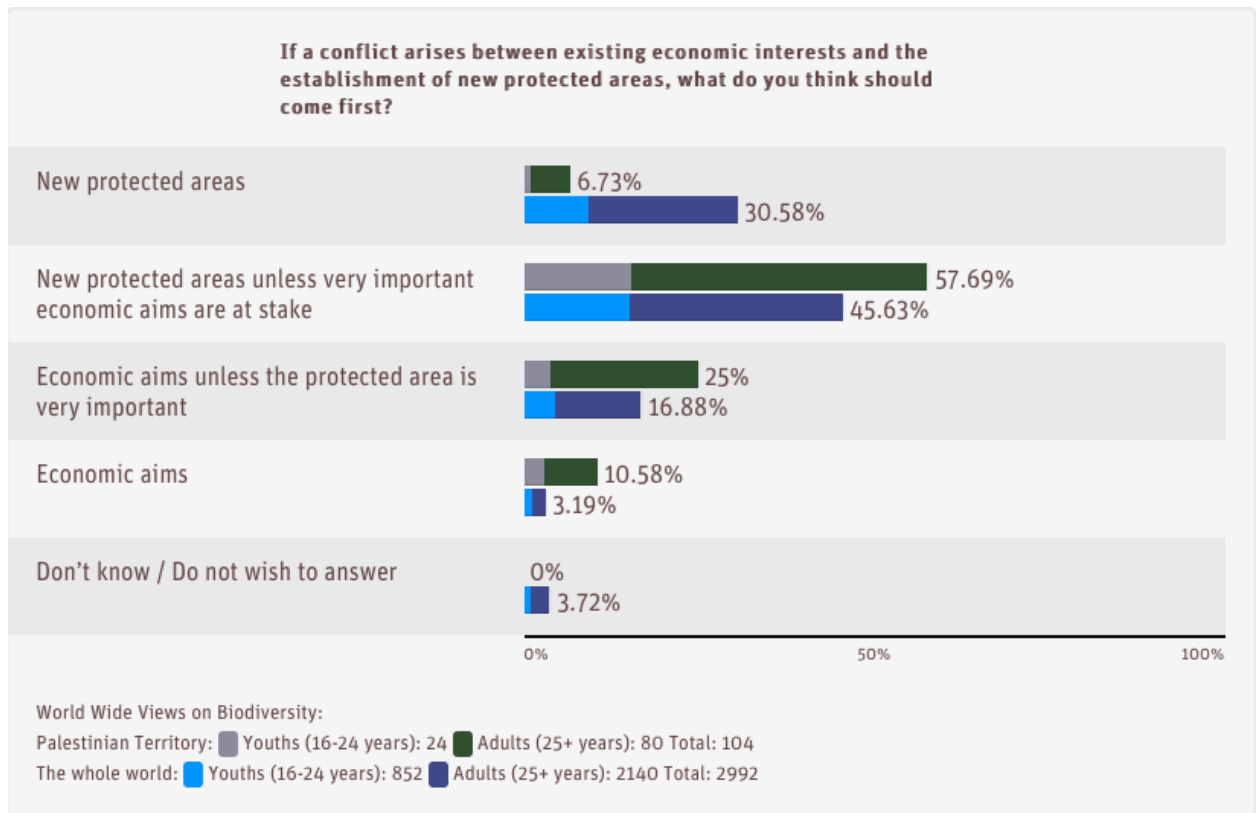
Assessment: There is a widespread concern among Palestinians over the loss of biodiversity. The results indicate that if citizens receive information about biodiversity loss, they tend to be concerned. The Palestinian results conformed with the trend whereby developing countries were more concerned than developed countries, reflecting their greater dependency on the direct use of natural resources and their greater vulnerability to the cultural and economic erosion that accompanies biodiversity loss. Youth were less concerned and this is another issue that should be dealt with carefully, especially when building and targeting the awareness campaign programs.

RESULTS: BIODIVERSITY ON LAND

Palestinians think that establishment of new protected areas should be given higher priority than economic aims

This is compatible with the global voting results.

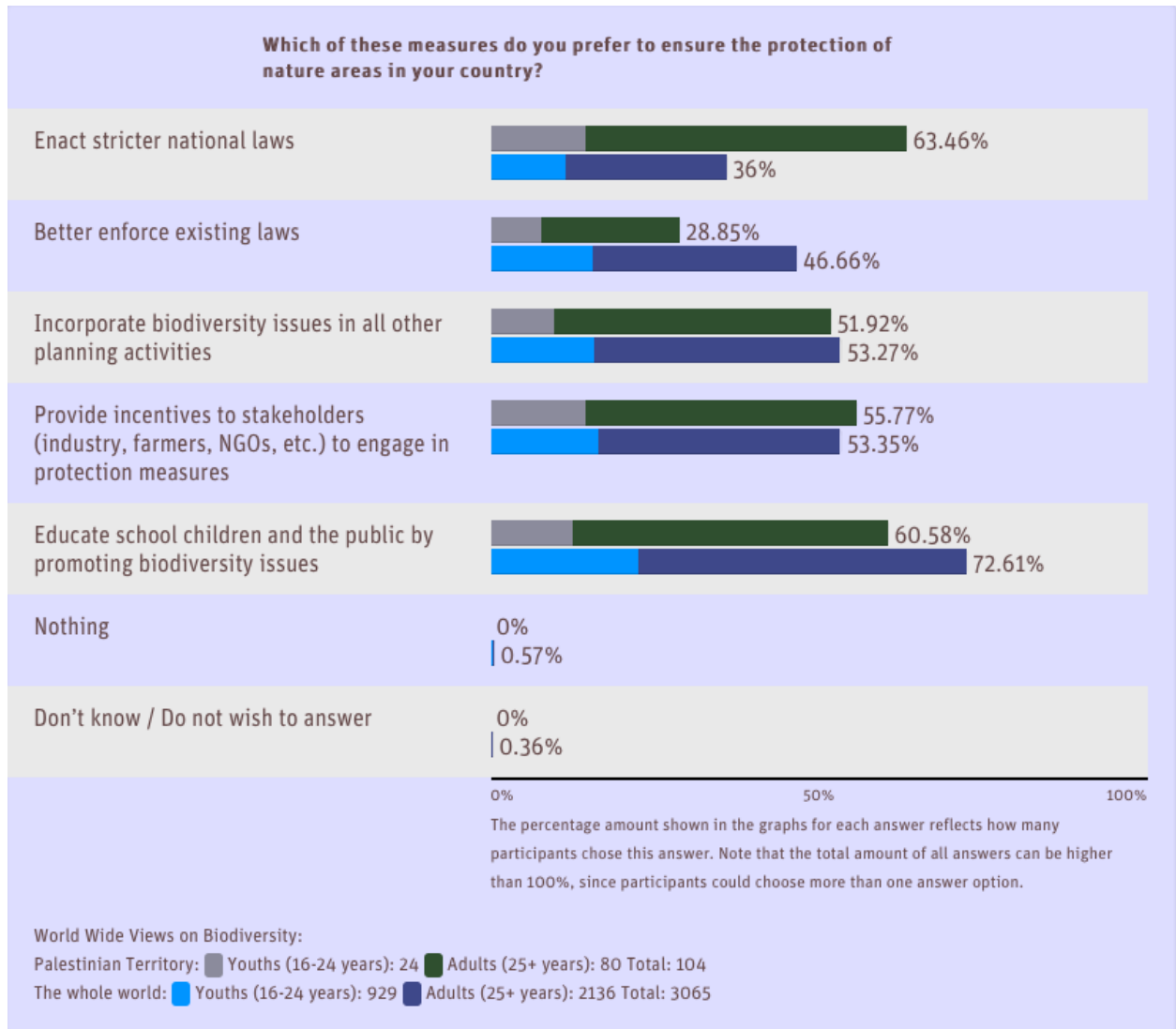
- 57.7% of Palestinian citizens said that establishing new protected areas on land should have higher priority than economic aims unless these are very important.



Assessment: There is strong Palestinian support for reaching Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 of increasing the area of protected land to 17%. It is also remarkable that despite the financial crises, economic concerns are not given priority, a trend across the developing countries in general. This indicates that Palestinians are open to the idea that environmental protection and economic improvement go hand-in-hand.

Palestinians think that efforts should be made to protect nature areas and enacting stricter national laws is the most preferred measure

- 63.46% of Palestinian participants said that enacting stricter national laws is the most preferable measure to ensure the protection of nature areas in Palestine.

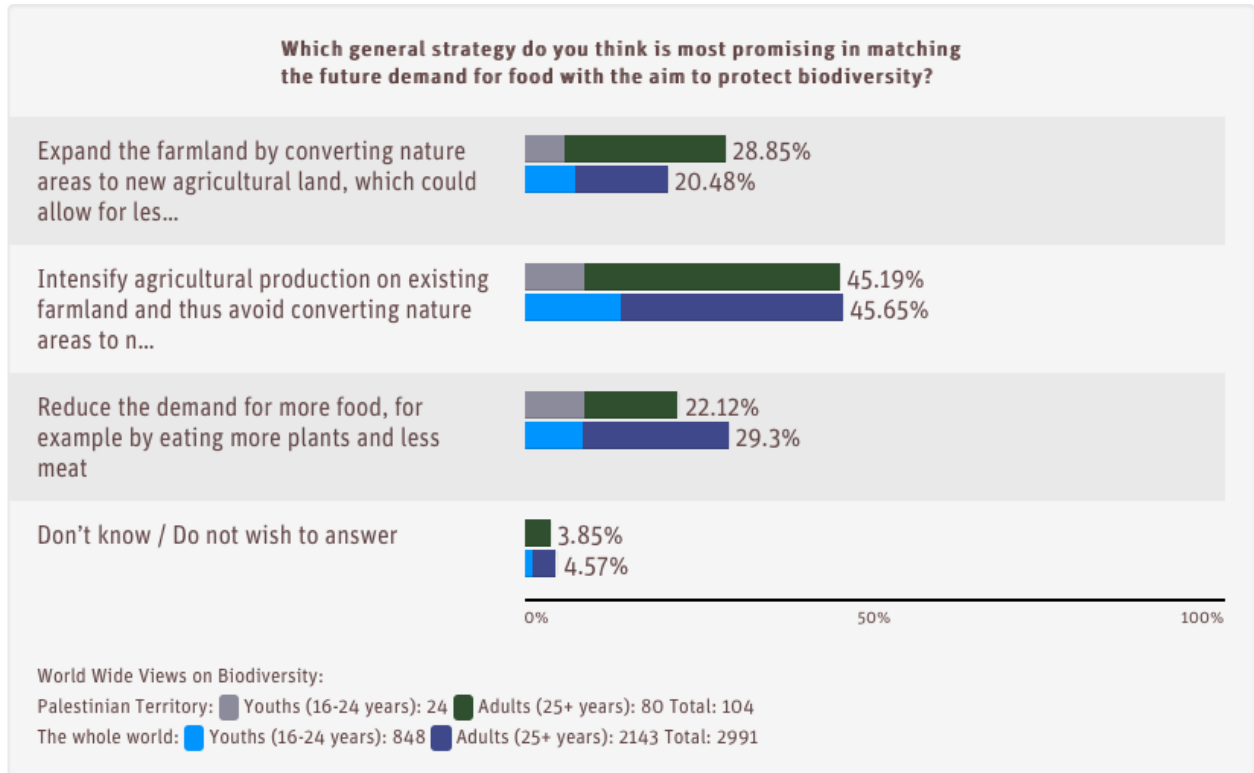


Assessment: This sends a strong message to national policy makers and encourages them to take a closer look at their national policy results towards nature protection. This result forms another message to the international community concerning the status of Palestine, since Palestinian rights as an occupied nation are not acknowledged and/or enforced by international laws. This also reveals a popular awareness that biodiversity governance should be improved.

Palestinians think that the future demand for food must be dealt with by intensifying agricultural production on existing farmland and avoiding converting nature areas to agricultural lands

This is partially compatible with the global results, but results show that developed countries think eating less meat and more plants would be a better solution.

- 45.2% of Palestinian citizens want to intensify agricultural production on existing farmland in order to balance the future demand for food with protecting biodiversity.
- 28.85% of Palestinian participants support the expansion of agricultural lands.



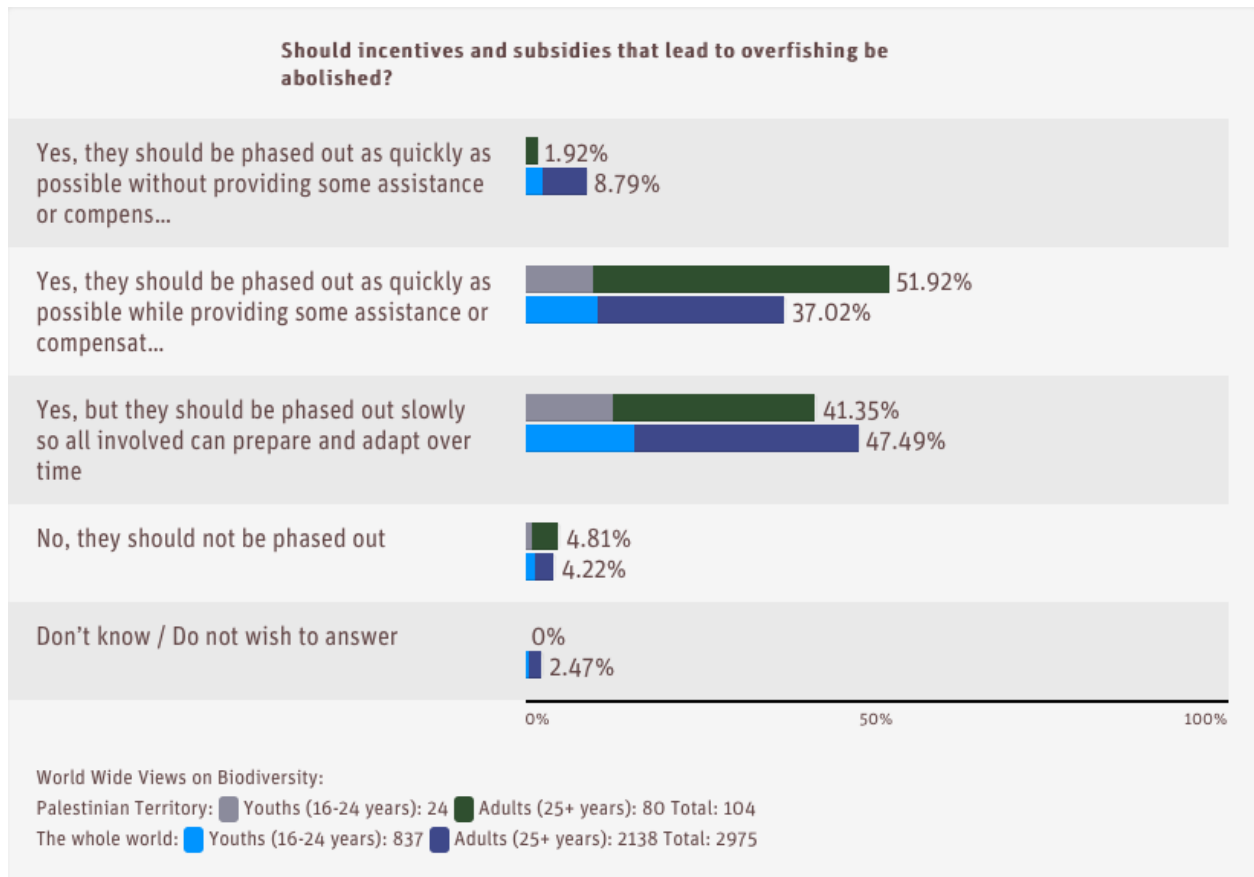
Assessment: These results point to a new challenge: the need to implement new agricultural practices and technologies that will diminish the conversion of natural areas into farmland. These results challenge Palestinian policymakers to support the implementation of such practices and technologies.

RESULTS: BIODIVERSITY AT SEA

Palestinians think that incentives and subsidies leading to overfishing should be phased out

This is compatible with the global voting results.

- 95.25% of Palestinian citizens think that incentives and subsidies leading to overfishing should be phased out.
- 51.9% of Palestinian citizens want to phase out subsidies and think it should happen quickly, and 41.35% think it should happen slowly so that all involved can prepare and adapt over time.

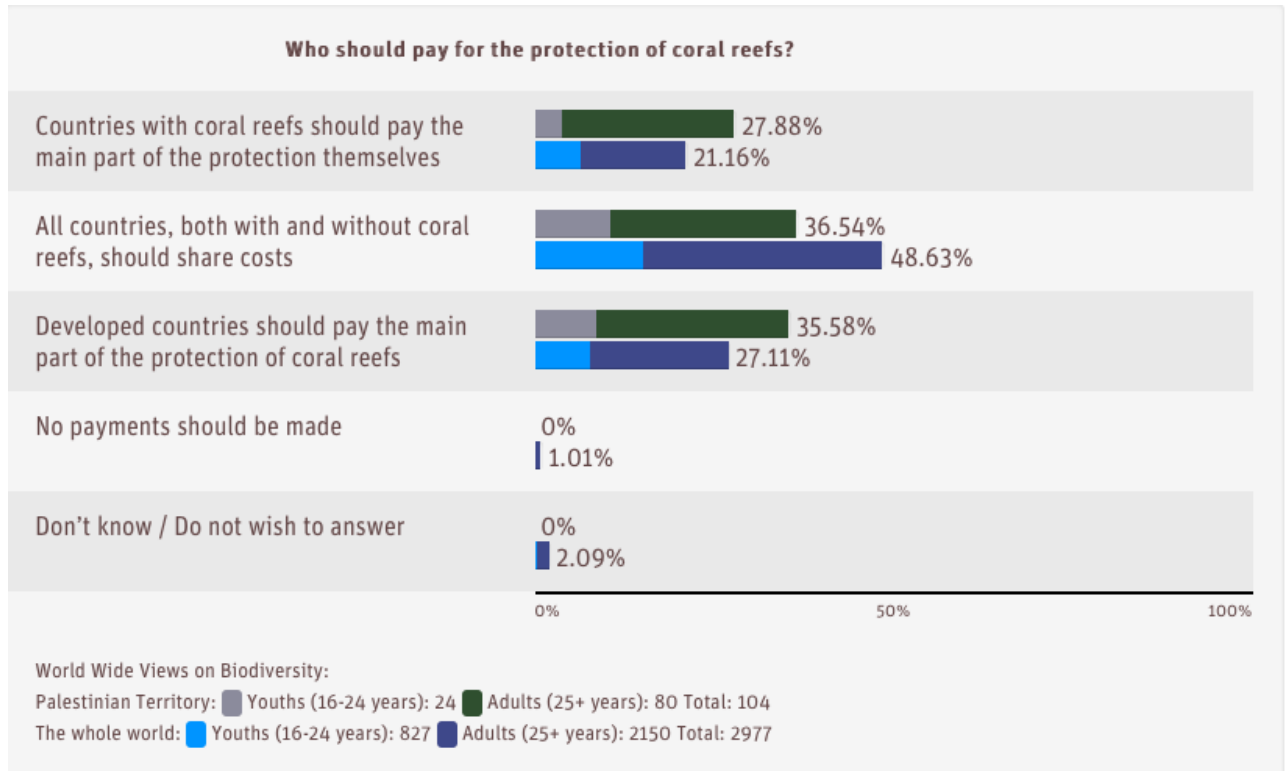


Assessment: These results give international policy makers a clear mandate to reach Aichi Target 6 (avoiding overfishing). Although Palestinians do not have an access or mandate on the Mediterranean Sea along the Gaza Strip shores, Palestinian citizens still indicated their support for reducing overfishing in Gaza, challenging international policy makers to adopt this request at national level and even in an occupied country like Palestine.

Palestinians think that the protection of coral reefs is a shared responsibility

This is compatible with the global voting results.

- 100% of Palestinian participants think that all countries should contribute to the protection of coral reefs.
- 36.54% think that financial contributions should be equal, 35.58% think that developed countries should pay the main sum, and 27.88% think that countries with coral reefs should pay the main sum.

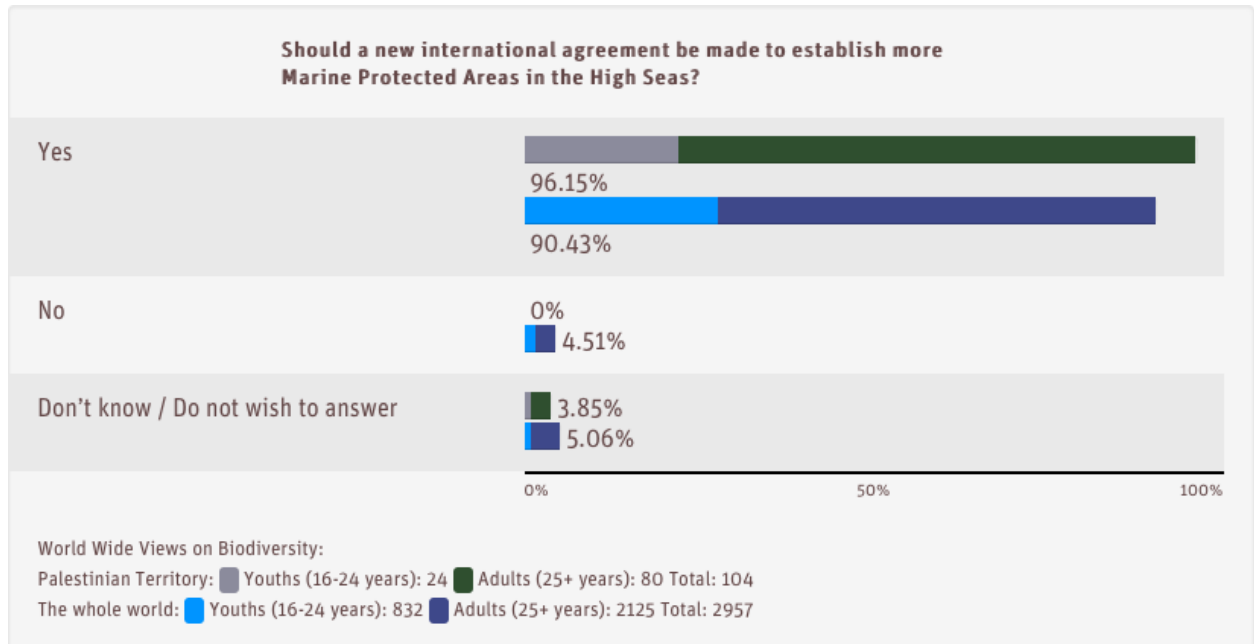


Assessment: Most citizens support Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 of minimizing the pressure on coral reefs, and many expect developed countries to pay the most in achieving this.

Palestinians think that more protected areas should be established in the High Seas

This is compatible with the global voting results.

- 96.2% of Palestinian citizens support the creation of new marine protected areas in the High Seas.

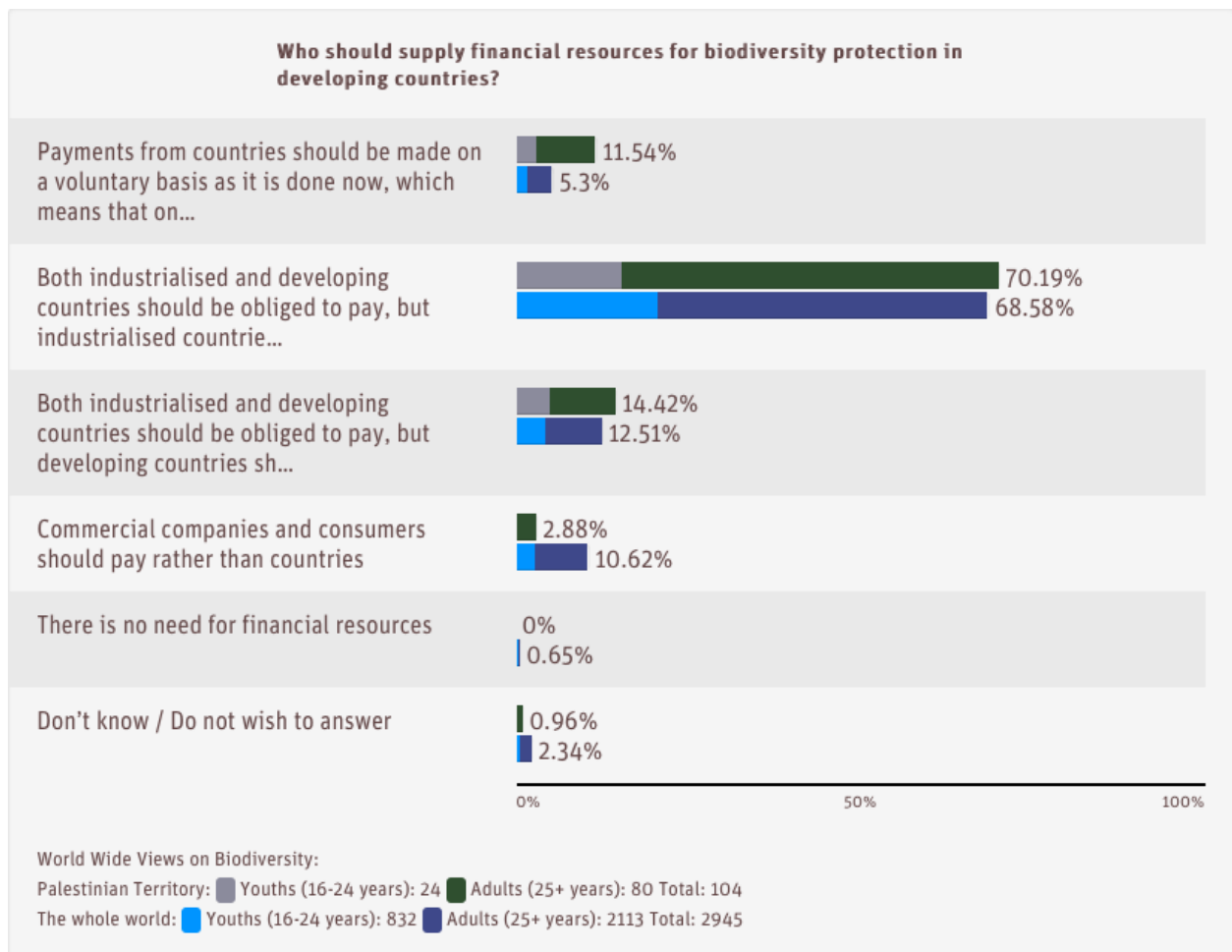


Assessment: There is strong Palestinian support for reaching Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 of protecting at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, especially regarding those seas with no country sovereign rights.

RESULTS: BURDEN AND BENEFIT SHARING

Palestinians think that all countries should pay for protecting biodiversity in developing countries.

- 70.2% of Palestinian citizens think that both industrialized and developing countries should be obliged to pay, but that industrialized countries should pay the main part.

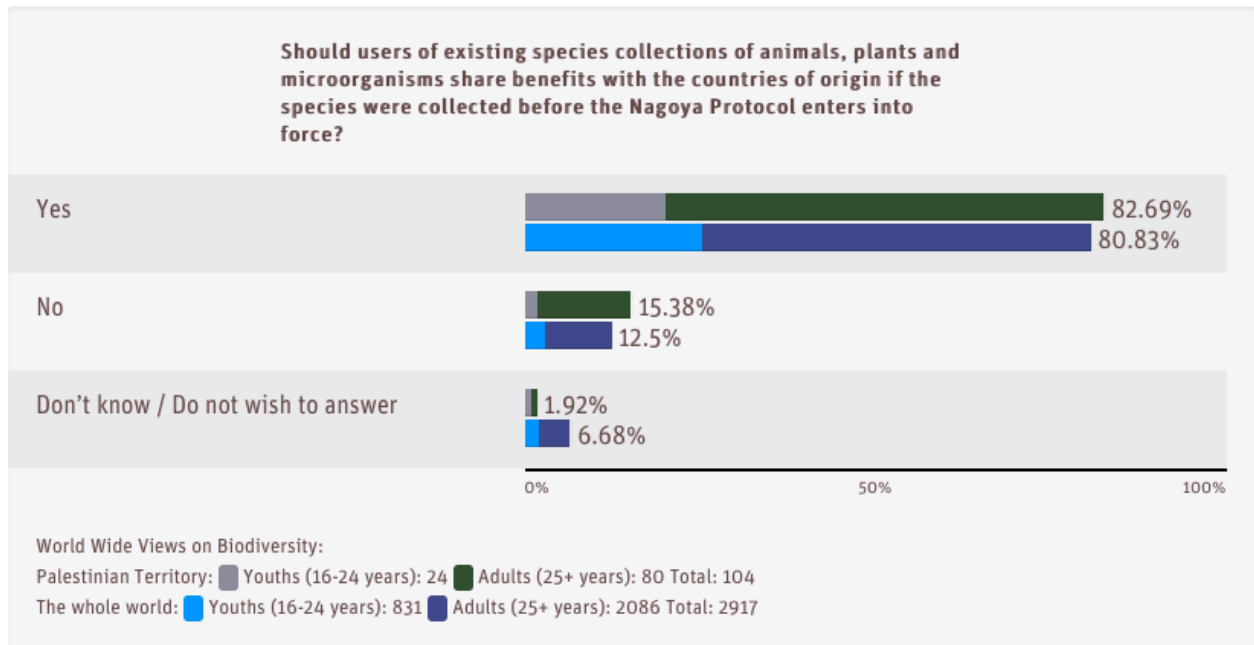


Assessment: Voting in favour of obliging developed countries to pay the main part is an important input for political negotiators about mobilizing resources for biodiversity protection in developing countries. This is the same message that Palestinians would like to highlight concerning who should pay for the Palestinian biodiversity loss caused by occupation?

Palestinians think that benefit sharing should apply to genetic resources already collected

This is compatible with the global voting results.

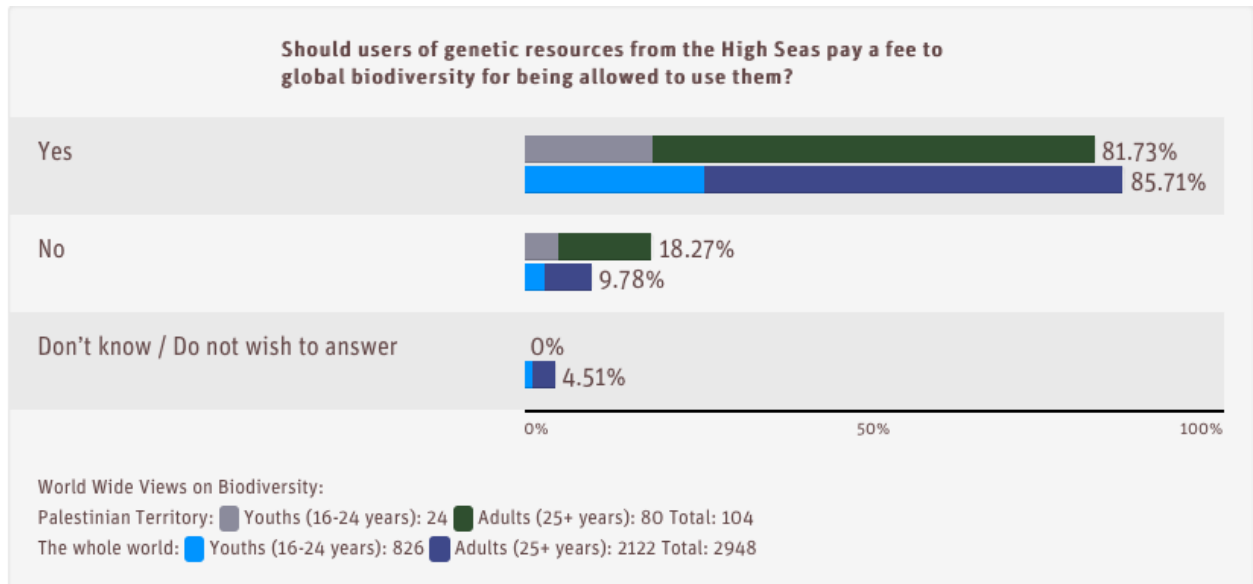
- 82.7% of Palestinian citizens think that users of existing collections of animals, plants and microorganisms should share benefits with the countries of origin if the species were collected before the Nagoya Protocol entered into force.



Assessment: It is unsurprising to find that Palestinians think they should be compensated as well as developing countries for resources extracted in the past by outsiders and occupiers who benefited from these transfers. This should be taken into account by policy makers when implementing domestic or international legislation, with some attention paid to the future implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

Palestinians think that the use of genetic resources from the High Seas should benefit biodiversity
This is compatible with the global voting results.

- 81.7% of Palestinian citizens voted in favour of making users of genetic resources from the High Seas pay a fee to global diversity in exchange for being allowed to use them.



Assessment: This sends a message to policy makers that a new international agreement on rules to be applied on the High Seas is necessary, and that the introduction of fees for using genetic resources is a popular idea.

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The results show that the Palestinian votes were highly compatible with the votes of the rest of the world, primarily with the votes of developing countries. There were some differences in voting results in the Palestinian case concerning several issues such as who should pay for increased biodiversity protection on land or at sea, emphasising that the developed and industrialised countries should pay the main part. In addition, the votes highlighted the importance of enforcing laws at both national and international levels for the protection of biodiversity, setting new international agreements towards benefit sharing of use of genetic resources. The votes also highlighted the Palestinian case by indicating that Palestine is more affected by biodiversity loss than other countries and should be rewarded for the utilisation of its biological results by outsiders and occupiers before and after the Nagoya Protocol.

The results from the worldwide events will be presented by the Danish Board of Technology and the Danish Ministry of the Environment in the main event of COP 11, forming an important opportunity for Palestinian views on biodiversity conservation to be expressed at the global level. Additionally, the World Wide Views on Biodiversity project will lead to deeper Palestinian engagement with biodiversity policy and a better understanding of biodiversity issues amongst the participating citizens and civil society organizations. The project has engaged Palestinian citizens in the political decision-making processes, and is a unique opportunity to make Palestinian decision-makers at COP11 acquainted with the informed views of citizens worldwide.

For more information about the WWViews on Biodiversity project, please visit the project website: <http://biodiversity.wwviews.or>

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On September 15, 2012 the first WWViews meeting started at 9 am in Japan. The last one finished 25 hours later in USA, Arizona. Meetings were held in twenty-five countries.

BOLIVIA	MALDIVES
BRAZIL	NEPAL
CAMEROON	NIGERIA
CANADA	PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
CHINA	PHILIPPINES
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	SAINT LUCIA
DENMARK	SOUTH AFRICA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
FRANCE	UGANDA
GERMANY	USA
INDIA	VIETNAM
INDONESIA	ZAMBIA
JAPAN	

Source: DBT, 2012. Results Report-Worldwide Views on Biodiversity



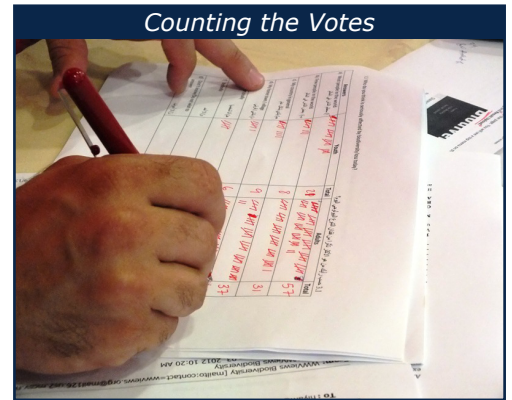
For more information about the WWViews on Biodiversity project, please visit the project website:
<http://biodiversity.wwviews.org/>.



Round table debates



ARIJ WWViews Project Team



Counting the Votes



Round table debates



WWViews Facilitators Team - Palestine

