



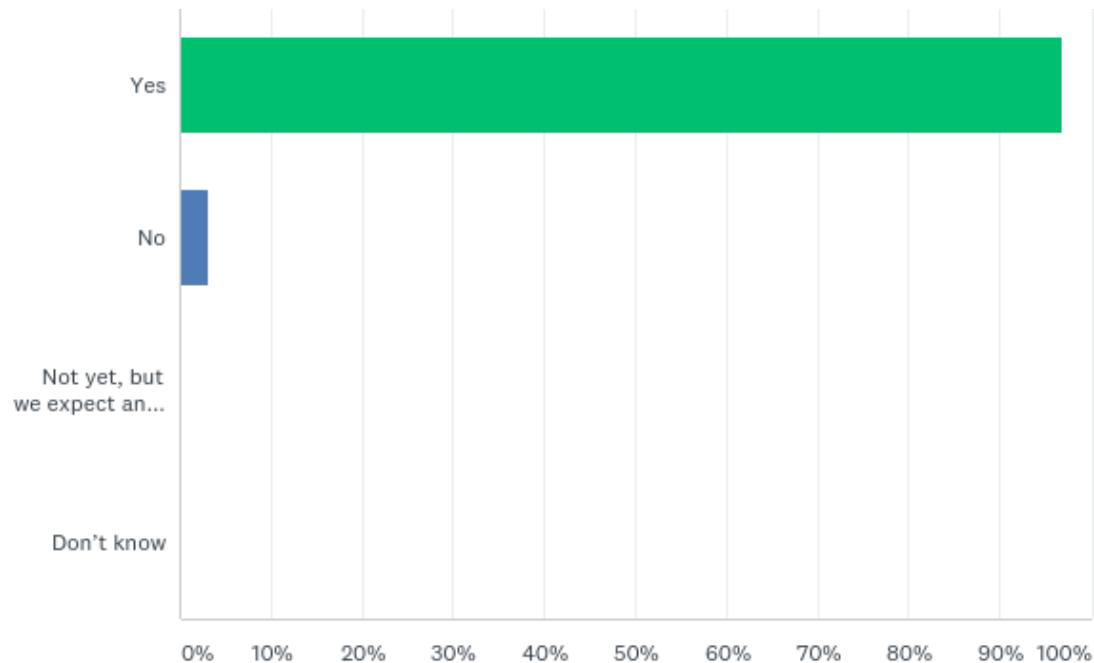
Coronavirus Impact Survey

Environment and Conservation Organisations

April 2020

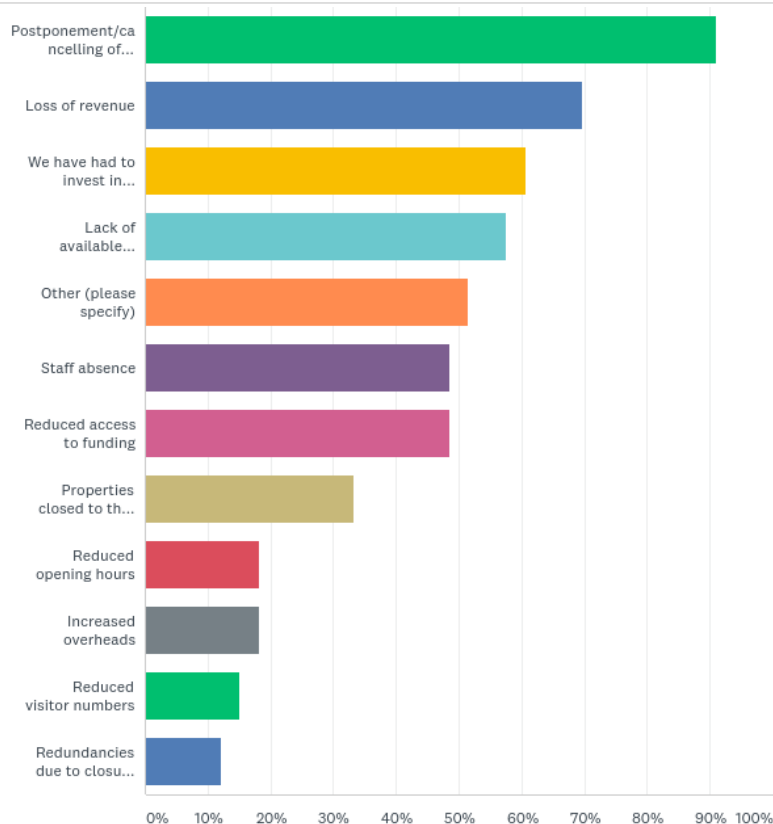
Has your organisation been affected by the recent coronavirus outbreak and the associated social distancing measures?

Answered: 32



In what way has/will your organisation been/be affected by the coronavirus outbreak and the associated social distancing measures? Select all that apply

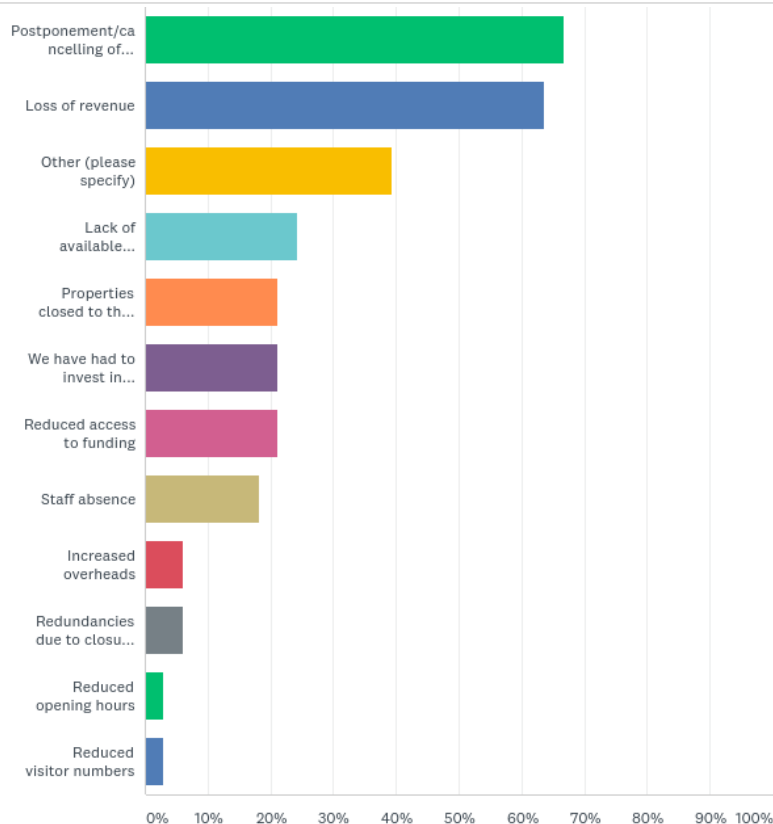
Answered: 33



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Postponement/cancelling of planned events	90.91% 30
Loss of revenue	69.70% 23
We have had to invest in IT/home working	60.61% 20
Lack of available volunteers	57.58% 19
Other (please specify)	51.52% 17
Staff absence	48.48% 16
Reduced access to funding	48.48% 16
Properties closed to the public	33.33% 11
Reduced opening hours	18.18% 6
Increased overheads	18.18% 6
Reduced visitor numbers	15.15% 5
Redundancies due to closure of sites/reduced income/activity	12.12% 4
Total Respondents: 33	

Of the impacts listed below, please select the top 3 which are/will affect(ing) your organisation?

Answered: 33



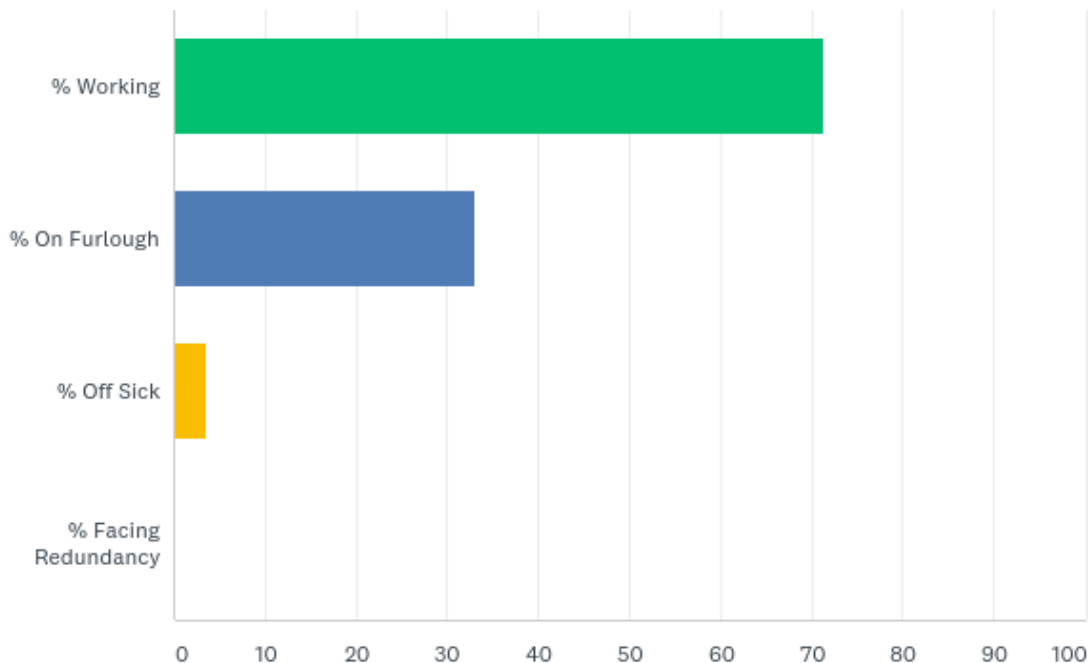
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Postponement/cancelling of planned events	66.67% 22
Loss of revenue	63.64% 21
Other (please specify)	39.39% 13
Lack of available volunteers	24.24% 8
Properties closed to the public	21.21% 7
We have had to invest in IT/home working	21.21% 7
Reduced access to funding	21.21% 7
Staff absence	18.18% 6
Increased overheads	6.06% 2
Redundancies due to closure of sites/reduced income/activity	6.06% 2
Reduced opening hours	3.03% 1
Reduced visitor numbers	3.03% 1
Total Respondents: 33	

Other answers included:

- Loss of a season of biological surveying and recording
- Need to furlough staff
- Reduced ability to deliver funded outputs
- Loss of opportunity for membership promotion
- Impact on core work streams e.g. policy development

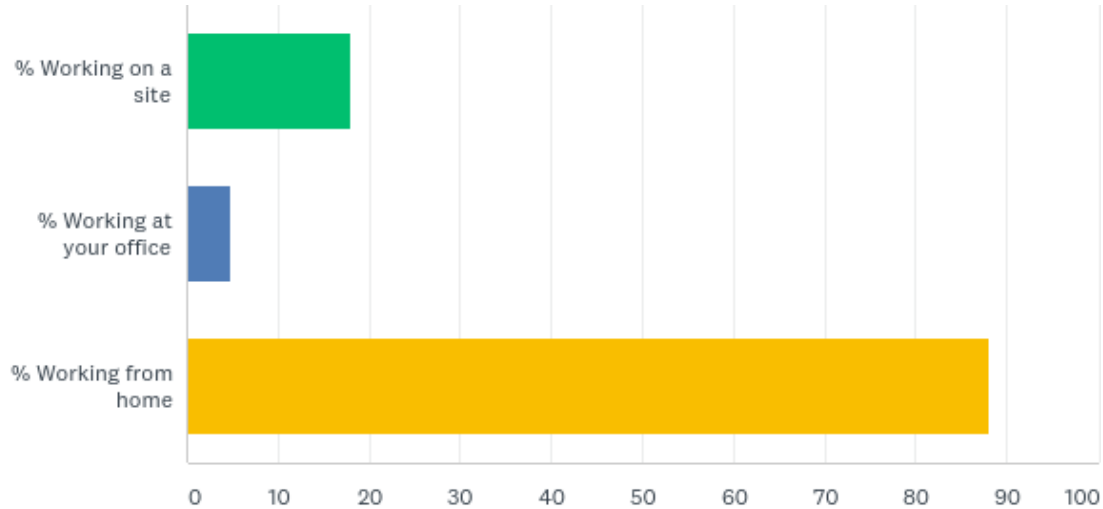
Staffing (not volunteers) – can you estimate from the 1st May what percentage of your employees will be:

Answered: 30



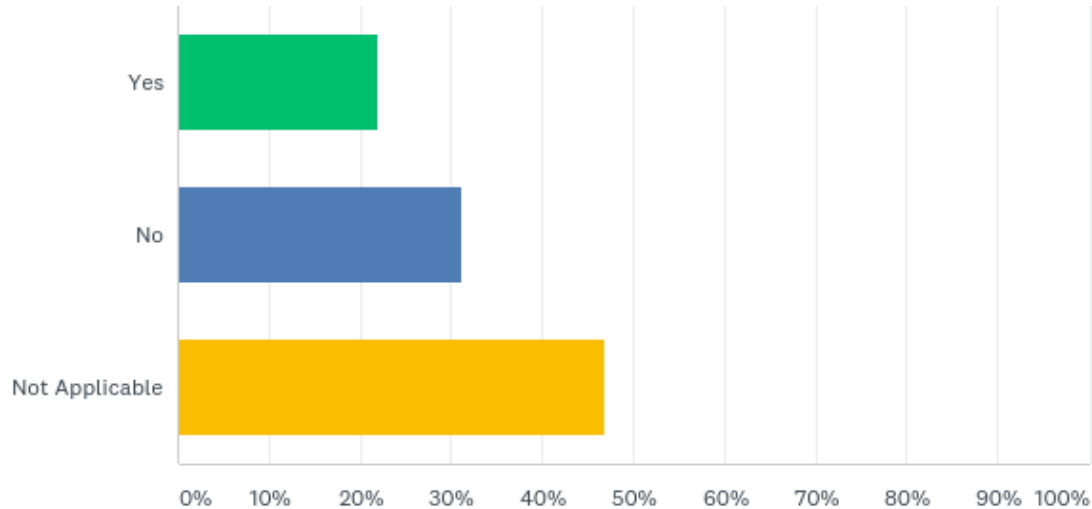
If working, what percentage of your staff are:

Answered: 29



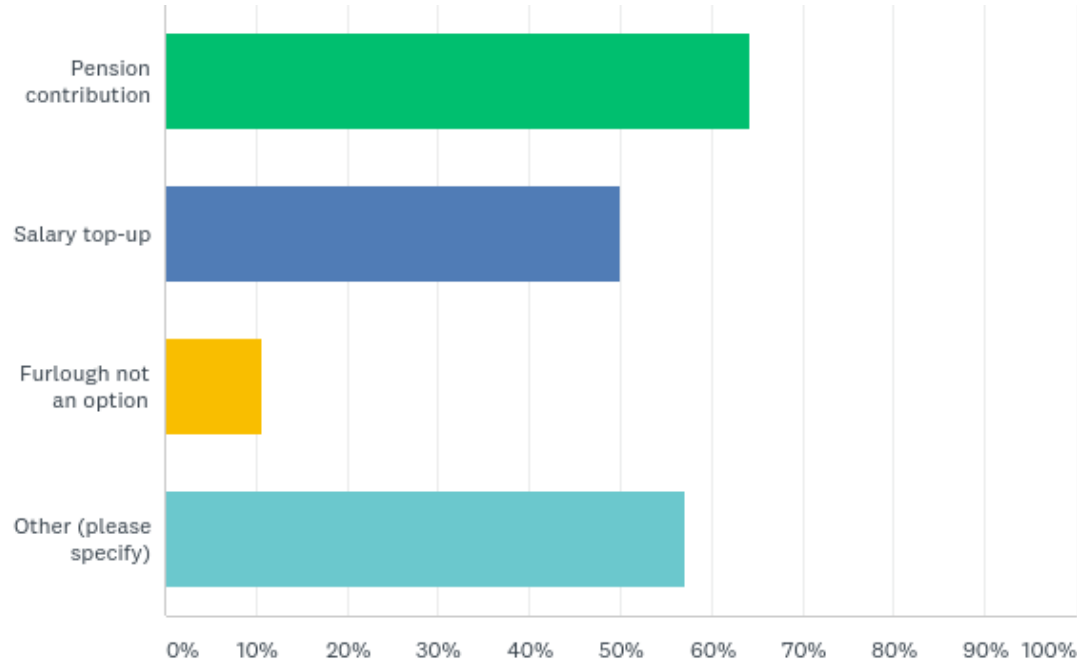
If furlough is in place, are you considering a rotation of staff?

Answered: 32



What other staff costs will be incurred that are not covered by the furlough scheme? Select all that apply

Answered: 28

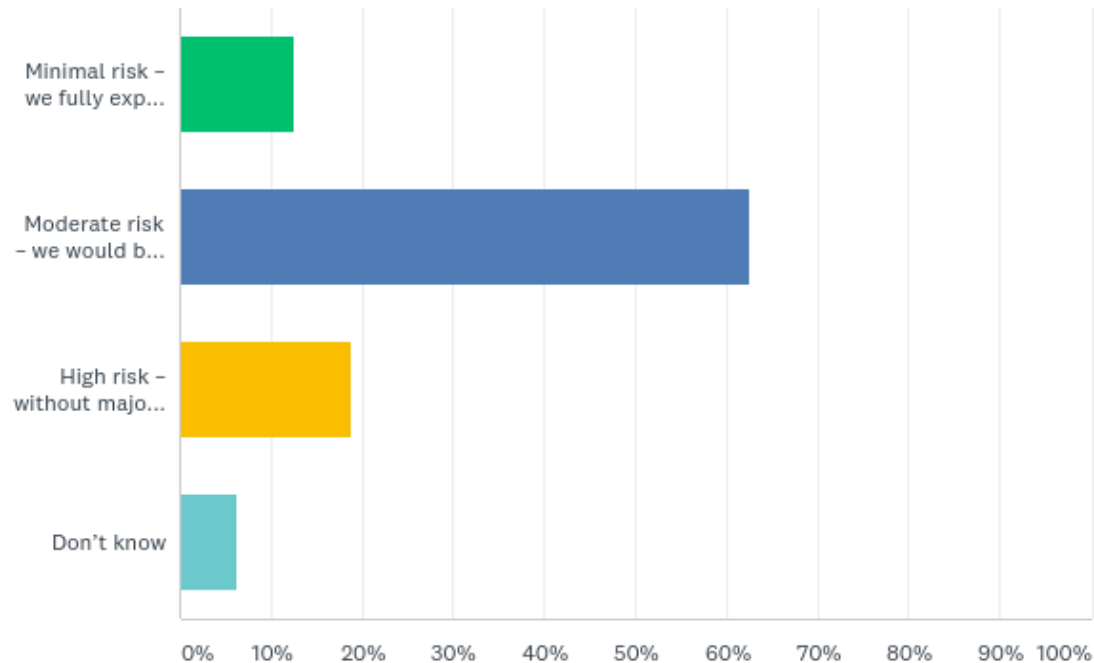


Other answers included:

- Accrual of annual leave
- Mental cost to those at home and at work
- Full cost recovery
- PPE
- Rent
- Taxes
- Websites
- Insurance
- Accountancy
- Monthly essential car users allowance
- Reduction in staff hours from June onwards
- Unknown
- Not sure

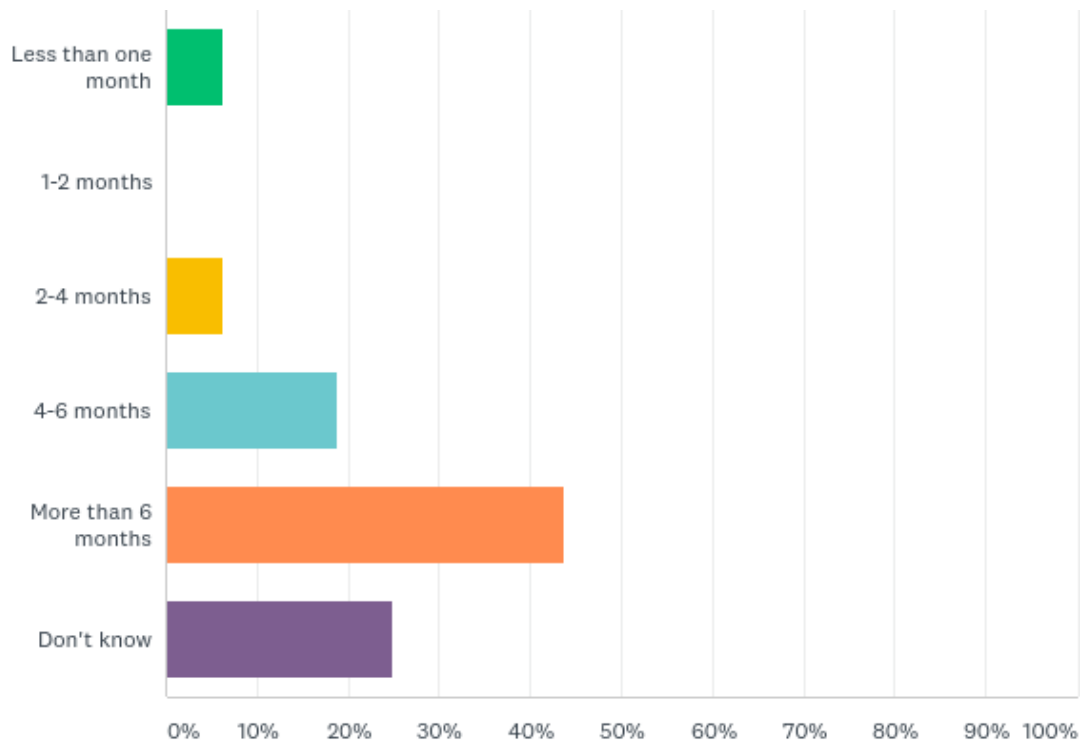
In your opinion, what level of risk does the coronavirus pose to the long-term viability of your organisation?

Answered: 32



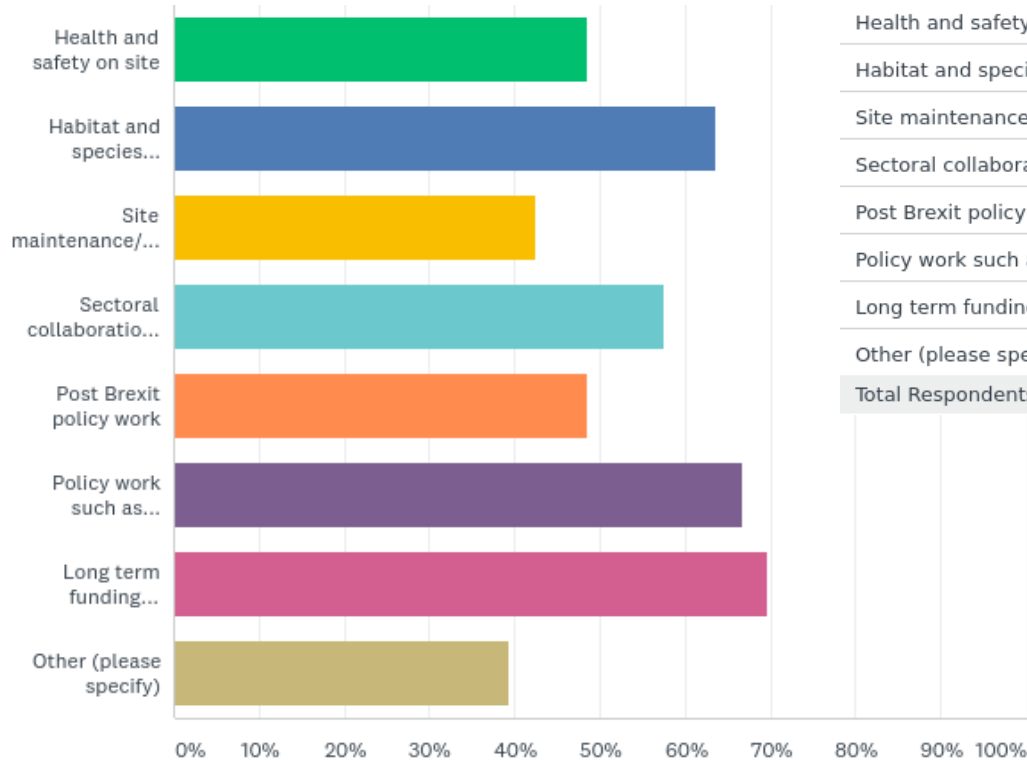
Based on your financial reserves and current level of income/overhead, please tell us how long you would be able to continue to operate if the current restrictions continue:

Answered: 32



What do you view is the essential work that must continue across the sector (short strategic/NI wide work rather than site or organisation based detail), select all that apply:

Answered: 33



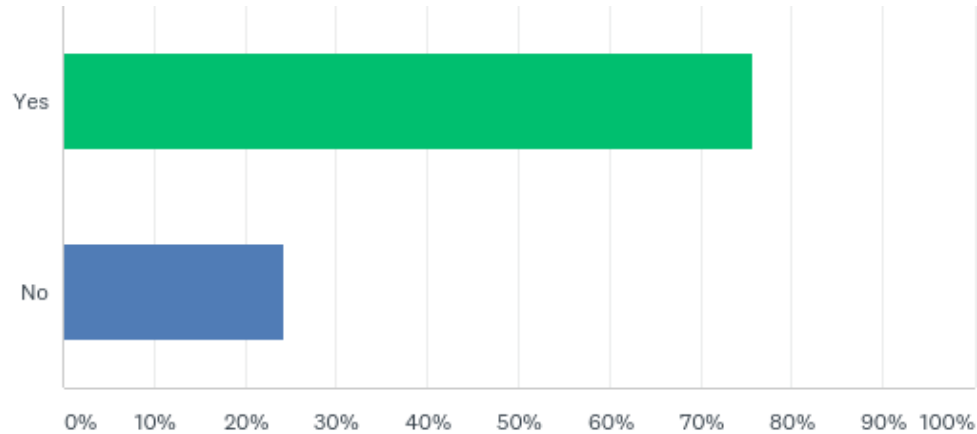
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Health and safety on site	48.48% 16
Habitat and species management	63.64% 21
Site maintenance/visitor access	42.42% 14
Sectoral collaboration/communications	57.58% 19
Post Brexit policy work	48.48% 16
Policy work such as progression of environment-related bills	66.67% 22
Long term funding programme related work, e.g. Interreg, Peace Plus	69.70% 23
Other (please specify)	39.39% 13
Total Respondents: 33	

Other answers included:

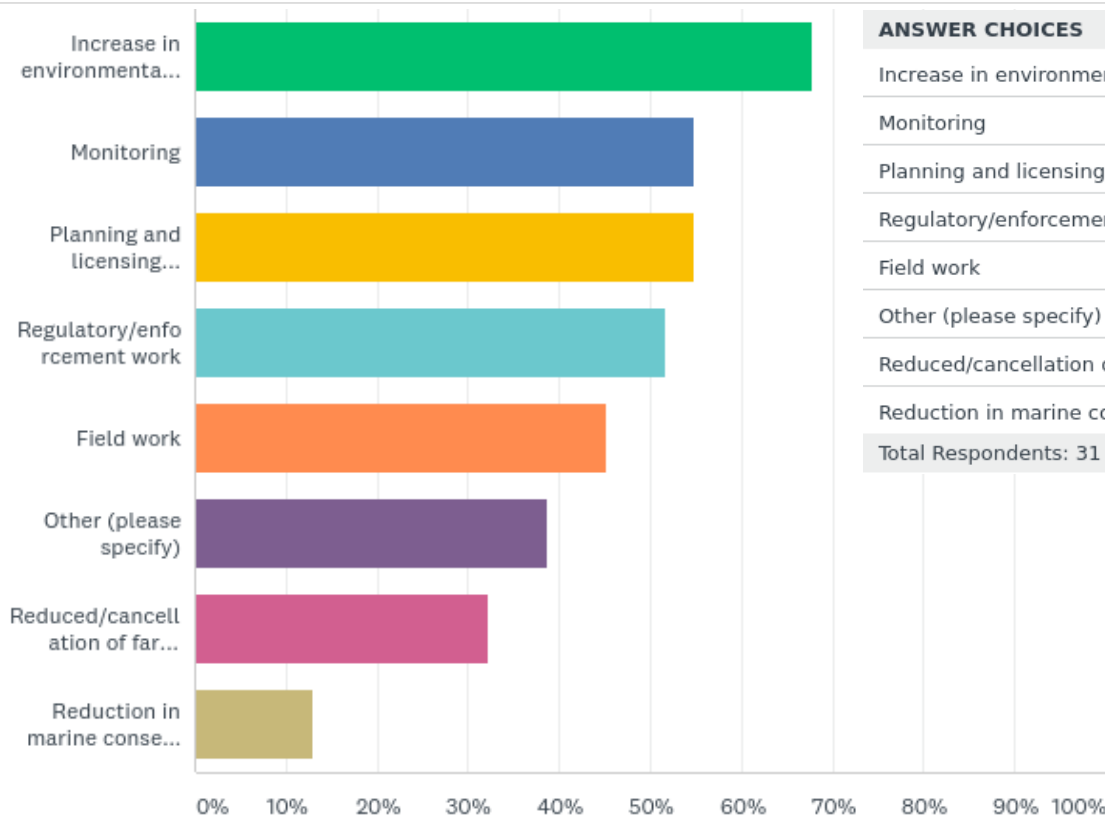
- Collaboration around harnessing community goodwill, translating this to caring for environment post-crisis
- Preparation for safe re-opening of access to countryside
- Education for sustainable development
- More sector efficiency work (e.g. env. hub)
- Sector needs to maintain widest possible range of activity at this time

Have you started planning towards the recovery phase?

Answered: 33



In dealing with the effects of COVID-19, DAERA and the eNGO sector will have reduced capacity. What in your view are the biggest threats to our environment? Select all that apply - Reduction/suspension of:



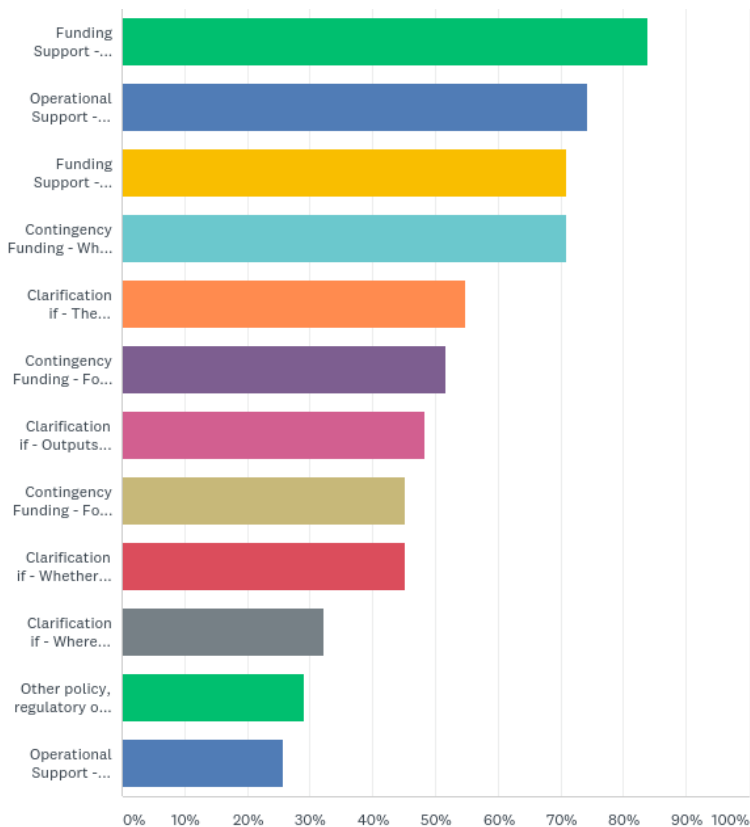
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Increase in environmental crime	67.74% 21
Monitoring	54.84% 17
Planning and licensing decisions/comments	54.84% 17
Regulatory/enforcement work	51.61% 16
Field work	45.16% 14
Other (please specify)	38.71% 12
Reduced/cancellation of farm inspections	32.26% 10
Reduction in marine consents and comments	12.90% 4
Total Respondents: 31	

Other answers included:

- Reduced capacity to drive medium to long term strategy actions
- Lack of practical conservation work for species and habitats
- Major issues such as air pollution and climate change will not be prioritise as concerns grow for economic recovery
- Future funding being directed away from environment

What funding or other support or measures could Government/Funders take to help organisations in our sector during this crisis? Select all that apply

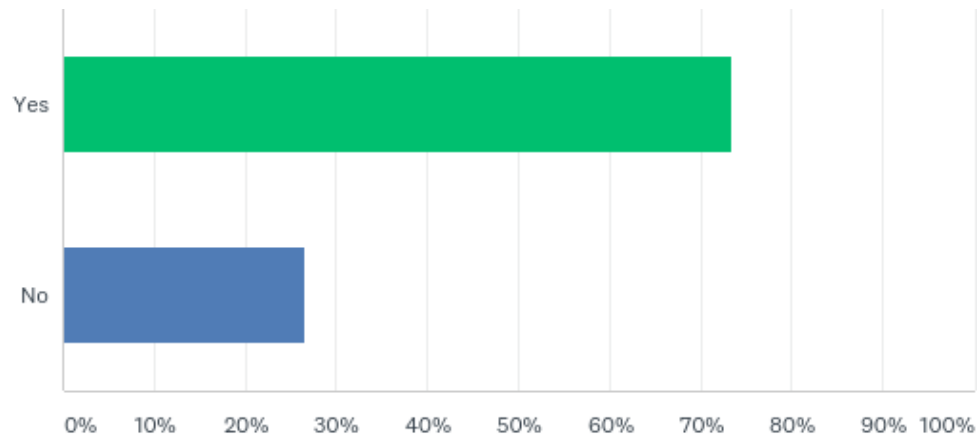
Answered: 31



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Funding Support - Clarification of funders policy on what/how grants or contracts will continue	83.87% 26
Operational Support - Greater flexibility in meeting deadlines on existing projects/grants	74.19% 23
Funding Support - Payment in advance rather than arrears to assist with cashflow	70.97% 22
Contingency Funding - Where match funding may no longer be available	70.97% 22
Clarification if - The environment sector can undertake additional work from EMFG/NIEA within EF grants	54.84% 17
Contingency Funding - For revenue lost due to closures	51.61% 16
Clarification if - Outputs can be decreased, as match funding may be more difficult to access	48.39% 15
Contingency Funding - For essential projects (not normally funded by DAERA) where alternative income streams have dried up	45.16% 14
Clarification if - Whether there are types of work which can be funded to be done at home, such as research (which would not have been included in the original Letters of Offer)	45.16% 14
Clarification if - Where possible the sharing of tasks among sector organisations would be permitted	32.26% 10
Other policy, regulatory or financial steps (please describe)	29.03% 9
Operational Support - Assistance with organisational infrastructure such as IT.	25.81% 8
Total Respondents: 31	

Do you feel that you are able to access the necessary guidance on managing the impact of coronavirus on your organisation?

Answered: 30



Key Findings

- 97% organisations impacted by covid
- Main impacts
 - Loss of revenue
 - Events cancelled
 - Loss of volunteers
 - Homeworking costs
- Financial losses – vary widely
 - 62% feel covid is a moderate risk
 - 19% a high risk
 - 43% feel they can continue to operate past 6 months if current situation continues
- Staff – of the organisations that are eligible, 68% are using furlough
 - 88% staff are working from home
- Essential work that must continue includes:
 - Policy, advocacy, habitats/species, sectoral collaboration
 - Focus on management of access to green space
- Main threats to the environment during lockdown
 - Environmental crime including fly tipping, lack of monitoring and enforcement
 - Longer term concern that the economic recovery will be at the cost of the environment; when 2020 should have been a year of optimism for the environment

What does the Sector need from Government and Funders?

- Short term – clarification of flexibility around funding
 - Reduce need for match funding
 - More payments in advance
 - Flexibility with work programmes, targets, measures
 - Re-profiling of in-year budgets
- At present it seems that eNGOs will not be able to access many of the other funding programmes set up by Government. Consideration should be given to:
 - Emergency funding
 - Covid-related funding (such as help with homeworking, PPE)
- Medium term
 - Restoration of broader funding programme as soon as possible, with new prioritisations
 - Consider options for moving from ‘Furlough’ to ‘Back to Work’ support

What does the Sector need from Government and Funders? (contd.)

- Medium term
 - Partnership approach from Government, Agencies and NGOs on re-opening sites and countryside
 - Clarification around essential workers
 - Clarity around timescales
 - Joint messaging and communications
- Longer Term Policy – there needs to be a focus on the recovery, with an emphasis that the economic recovery must not be at the expense of the environment
 - Renewed focus climate change and nature related policy
 - Potential for the Green economy
 - Issues around planning
 - Sustainable tourism