

Summary of Consultation Responses

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Appendix 1: Results

Appendix 2: Comments

1. Network User Background

1.1 Geographical location of respondents

74 responses in total, from 26 countries (most well-represented being United States, Indonesia, Russia, and Ghana); generally adequate geographical representation i.e. at least some responses from all major global regions (Europe, Central Asia & Russia, South & South East Asia, East Asia, Africa, North America & Canada, and South America). However, no responses from Central America, Australasia or Pacific areas.

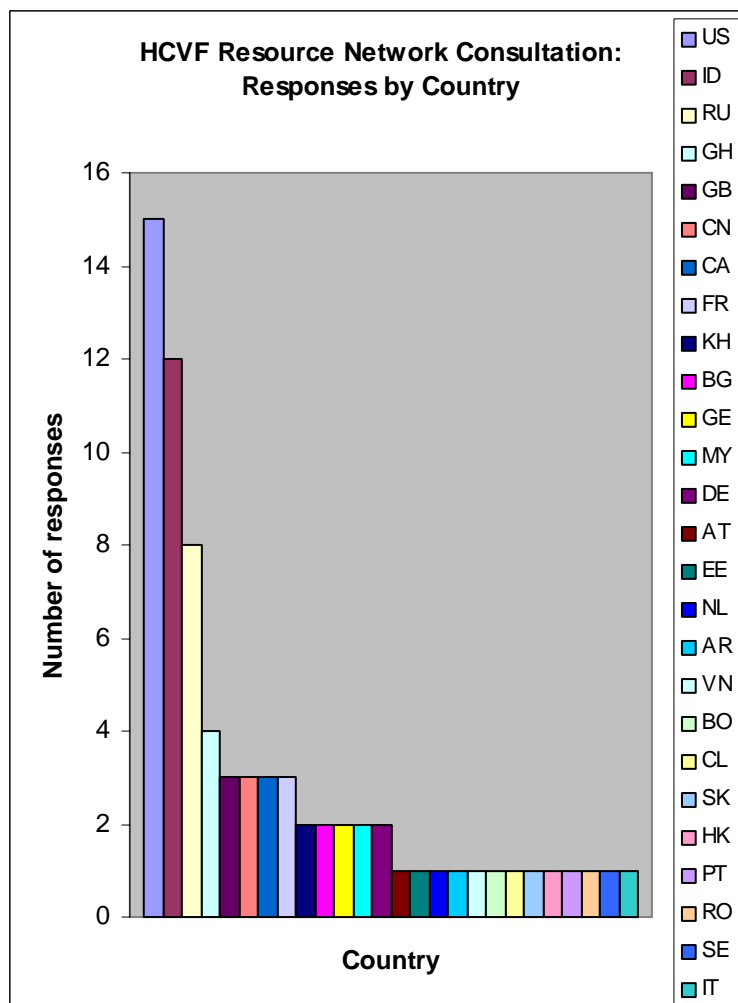


Figure 1.1

1.2 Interest in the Resource Network

All suggested categories of interest represented, with most respondents classifying themselves as certification system and/or system users and practitioners. The least well-represented category was that of involvement in lending and/or procurement policies (1 response).

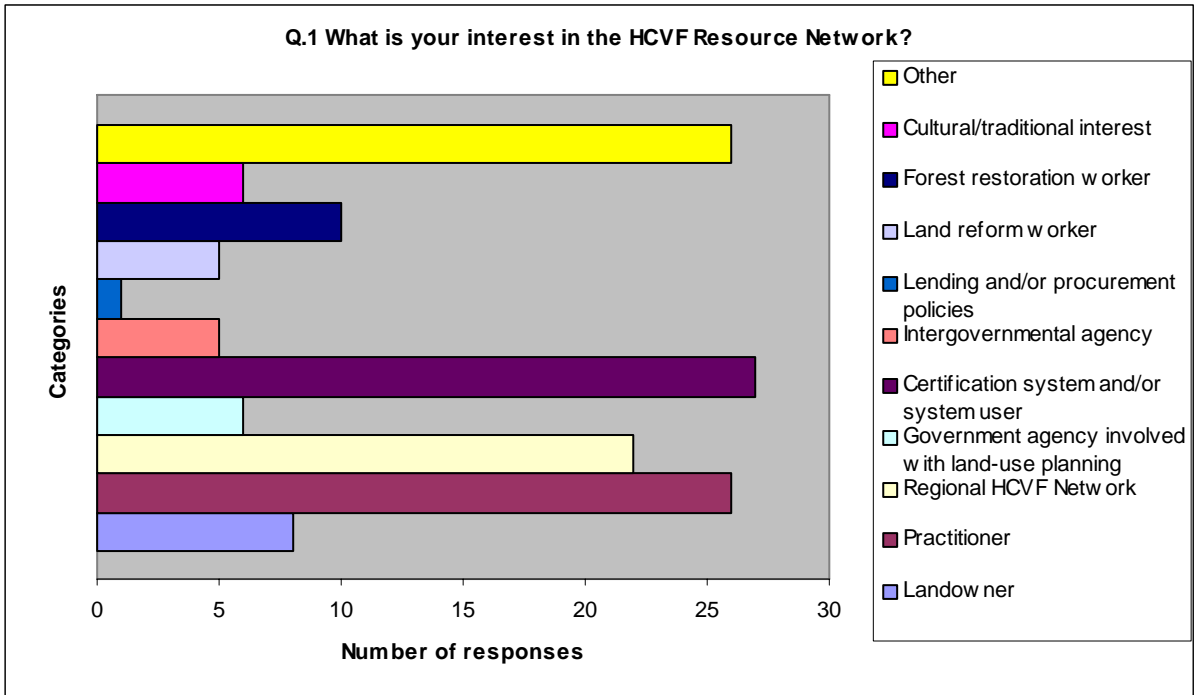


Figure 1.2

1.3 “Other” categories

Main other categories of interest were by respondents listing themselves as working for NGOs, as conservation advocates, researchers and/or academics, and as consultants.

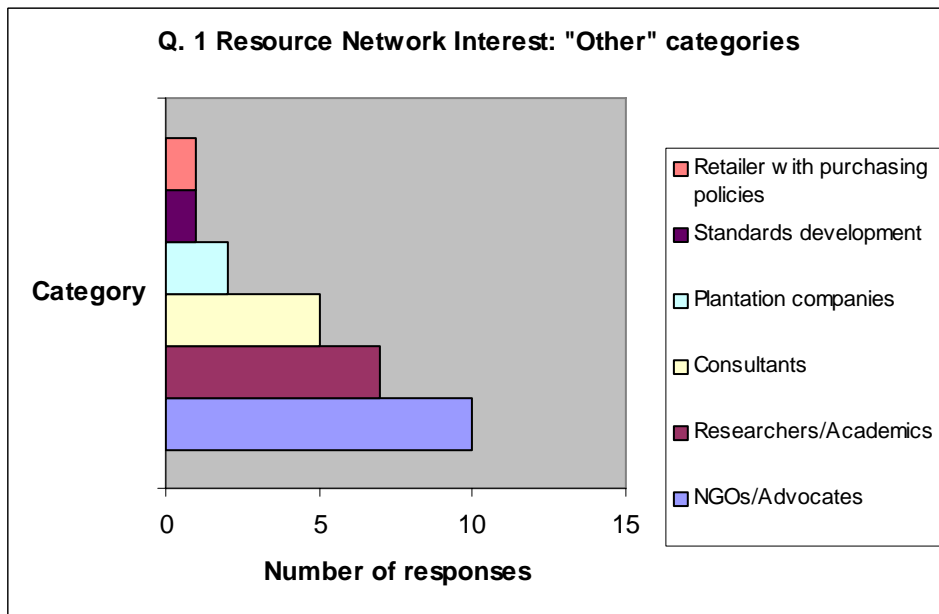


Figure 1.3

1.4 Comments

Generally expanding on individual respondent's interest in the network.

1.5 Use of the HCVF approach

Majority of respondents classified themselves as users of the approach (69%); the remaining (31%) did not consider themselves as such.

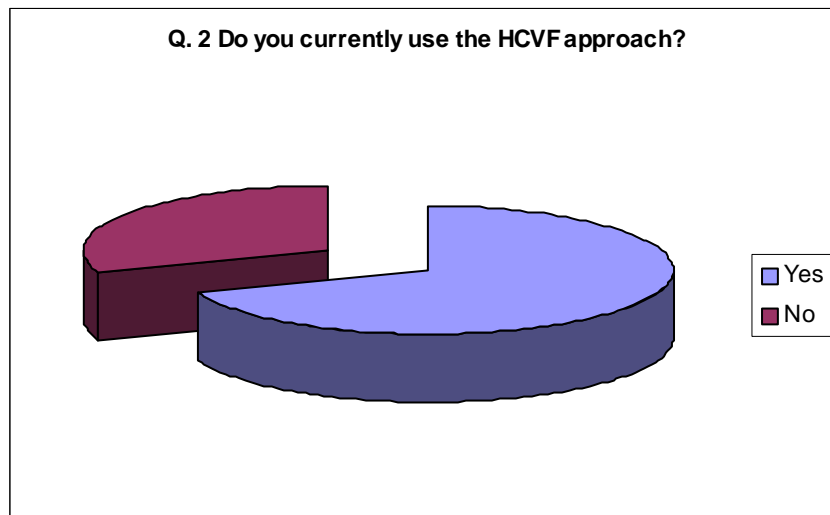


Figure 1.4

1.6 What the HCVF approach is used for

Of the 50 respondents that classed themselves as users, the main categories for which they used the approach were the identification and/or assessment of HCVs, the certification and management of natural forest, and for land-use planning. Use in a conversion context was also well represented (14 responses), whilst use for lending and/or procurement policies was again the least well-represented category (5 responses).

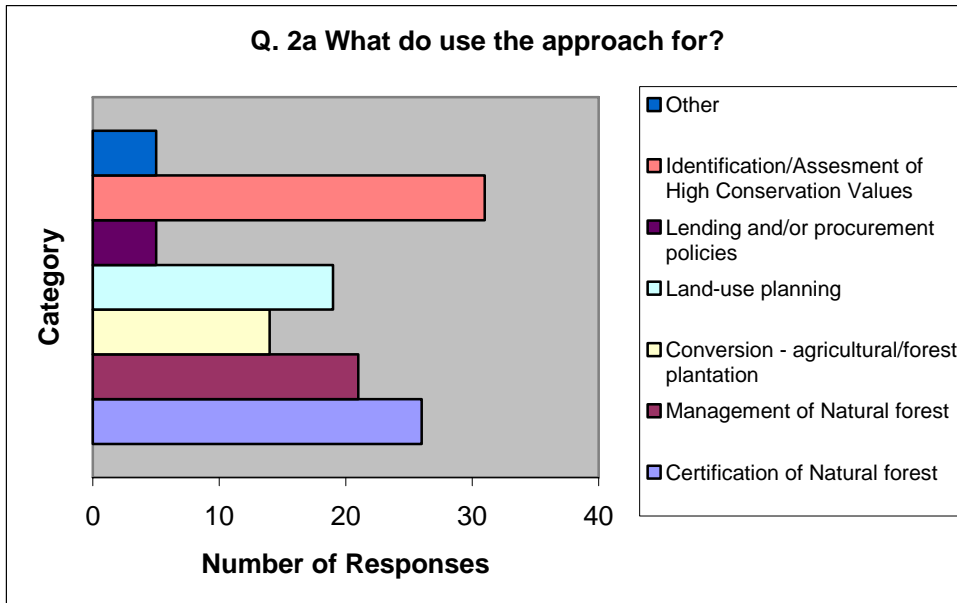


Figure 1.5

1.7 Other uses of the HCVF approach

The “Other” category (4 responses) comprised of use for priority setting for biodiversity conservation and strategy development, use in FM Standards, and use for evaluation of suppliers wood sourcing.

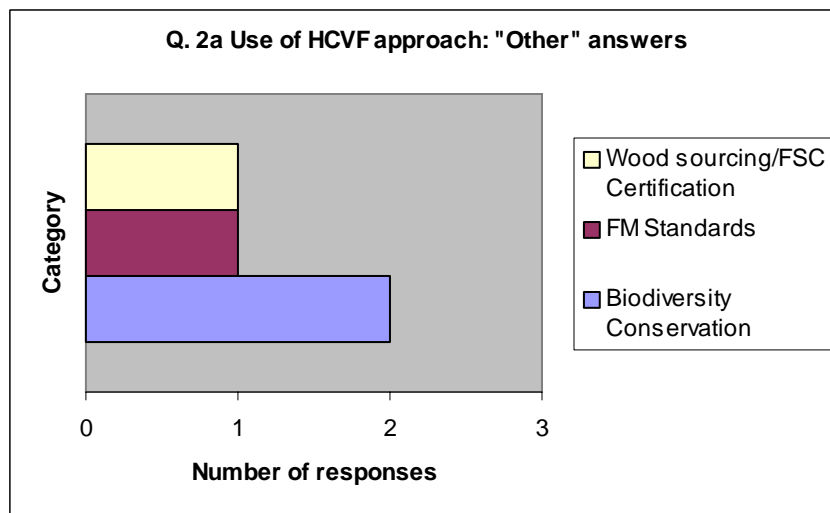


Figure 1.6

1.8 Comments

Generally expanding on individual respondent’s use of the HCVF approach.

2. Proposed Charter Document

2.1 Charter for the Resource Network

Majority in favour of existence of charter (64%); of the rest, substantial with no opinion (24%), and a minority against (13%).

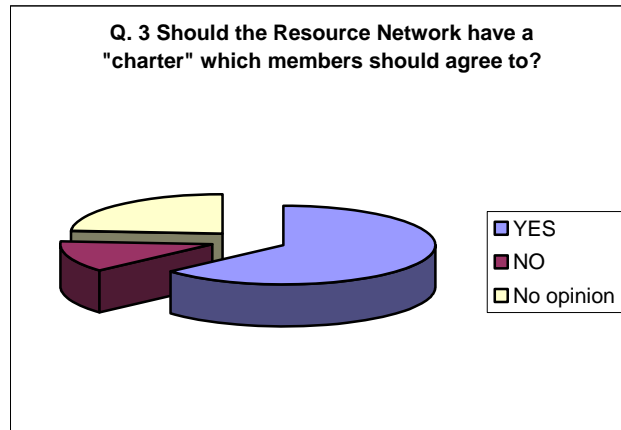


Figure 2.1

2.2 Reservations regarding a charter

- a) Imposing a rigid structure.
- b) Too inflexible.
- c) Undermining credibility from FSC certification.
- d) Why necessary?
- e) Charter vs. mandate?
- f) Need to put to vote?

2.3 Vision statement

Majority agreement with the statement (90%).

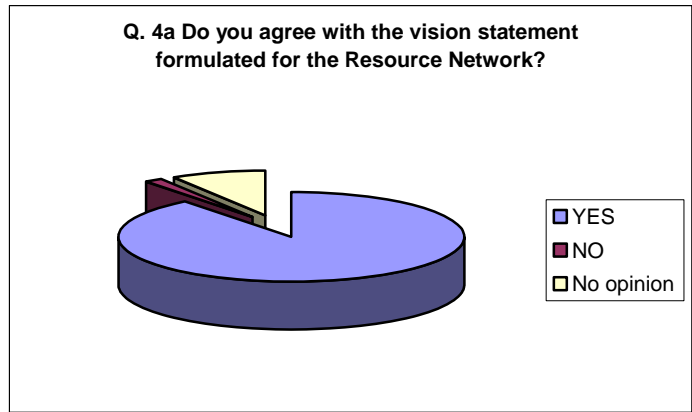


Figure 2.2

2.4 Mission objectives

Majority agreement with the objectives (91%).

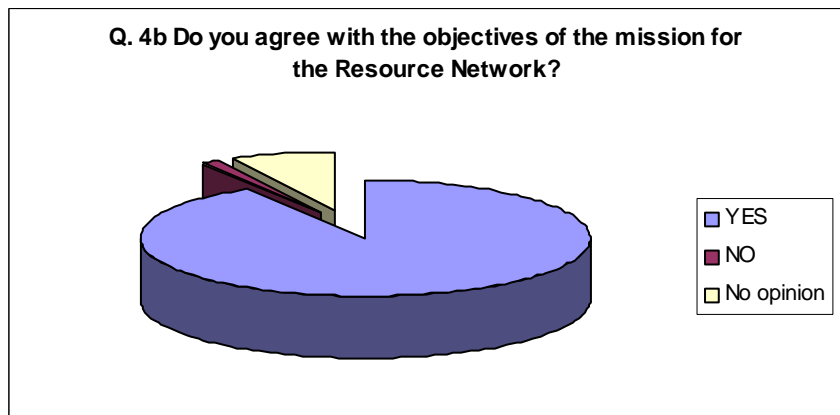


Figure 2.3

2.5 Charter content

Majority agreement with proposed content of the charter (77%), with some disagreement (9%), and those with no opinion (14%).

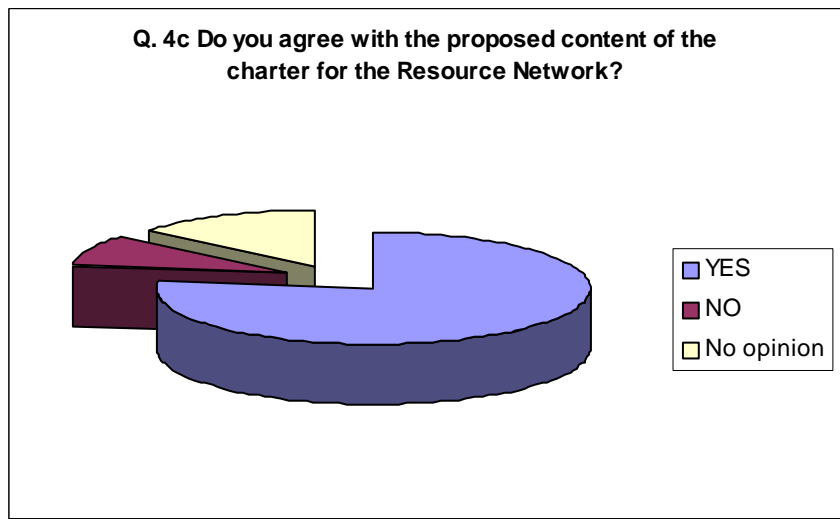


Figure 2.4

2.6 Comments on charter document

- a) It doesn't really say anything about Network organisation.
- b) It needs some editing.

3. Steering Group Composition

3.1 SG main composition

Majority in favour of SG being composed of users (71%), but with exceptions (22% did not agree, 7% with no opinion).

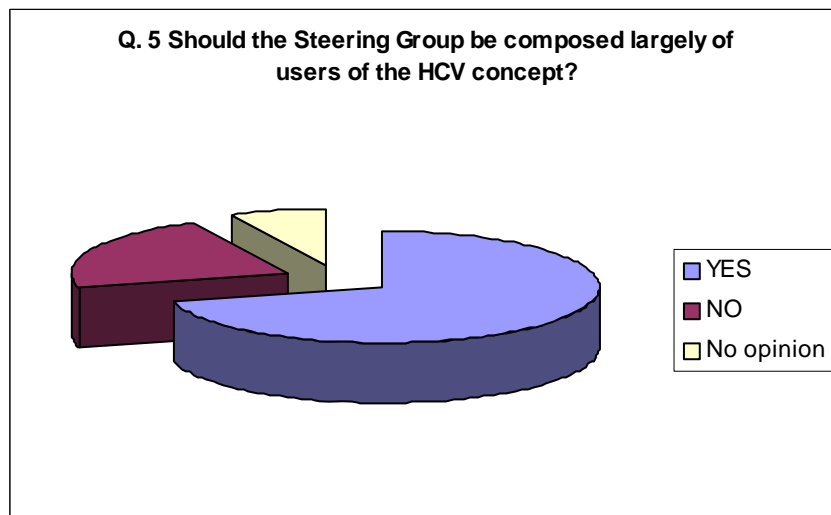


Figure 3.1

3.2 Comments on main SG composition

- a) Need to consider other stakeholders.
- b) Need to ensure regional balance.
- c) Voting process needs to be decided.
- d) Need for FSC endorsement?
- e) Definitions need to be clarified.

3.3 SG composition

All suggested categories of interest well and evenly represented, with both environmental and social organisations ranked top.

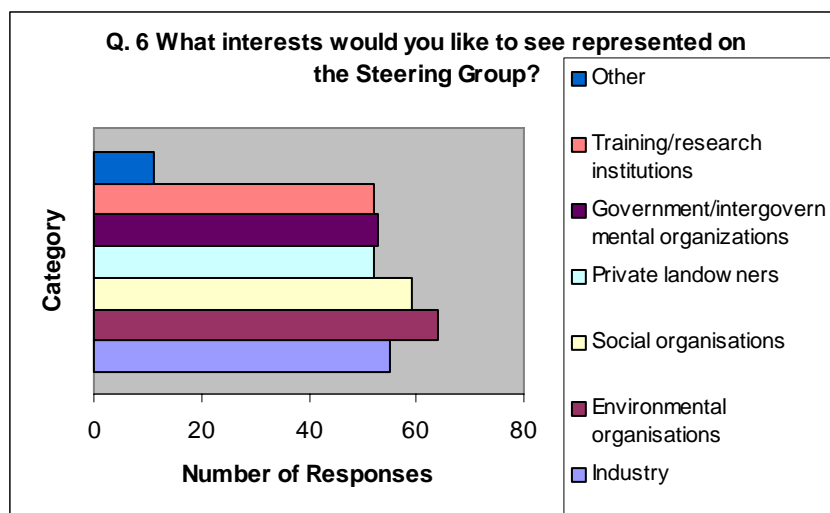


Figure 3.2

3.4 “Other” interests that need to be represented on SG

- a) Individual and technical experts.
- b) Foresters and forest managers.
- c) Indigenous and village communities/traditional authorities.
- d) The broader population.
- e) Land use planners.
- f) Systems scientists.
- g) Independents/academics.
- h) Certification bodies and/or auditors.

4. Issues for Working Groups and Discussion Groups

4.1 Working Groups (WGs)

Strong majority in favour of SG convening WGs (94%).

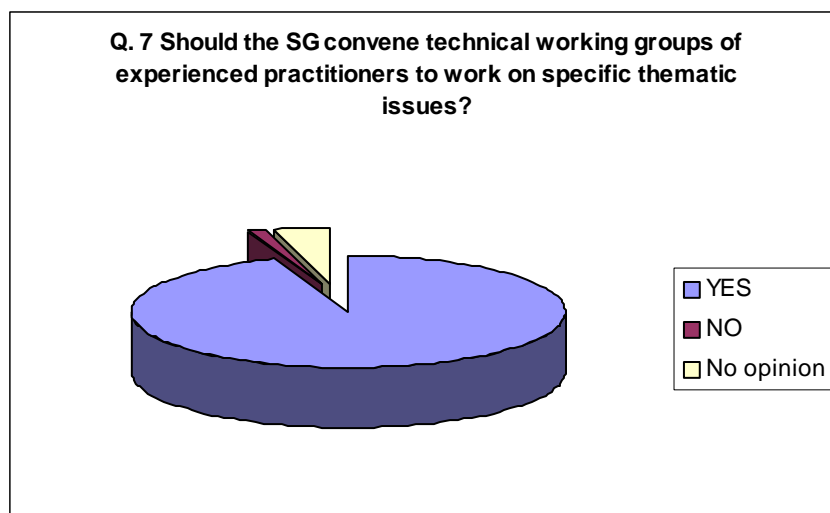


Figure 4.1

4.2 Comments about WGs

- a) Where are the funds?
- b) Ensure global representation.
- c) Ensure multi-disciplinarian.
- d) Ensure genuine need.

4.3 Priority issues for WGs

Overall responses to questions listed suggest that the two considered most vital for WGs to address are practical implementation in different national contexts, and use of HCV in a conversion context. The least important question appears to be techniques for the extension of the approach to ecosystems other than forests.

Each issue in more detail:

a) Techniques for the extension of approach to ecosystems other than forest: just over half the respondents considered this to be either vital (25%) or important (26%); a substantial number regarded it as useful (32%) whilst some respondents were not interested (13%), or even thought it would be a waste of time (4%).

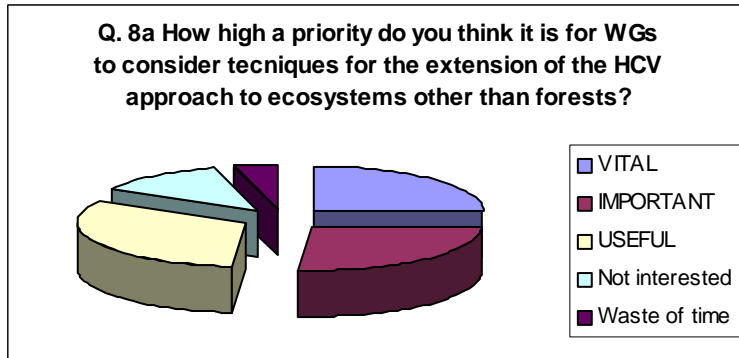


Figure 4.2

b) Collating information sources and links to HCV: although a slight majority considered this important (54%), fewer regarded it as vital (28%) with many seeing it as useful (18%); no one listed this as not interesting or a waste of time.

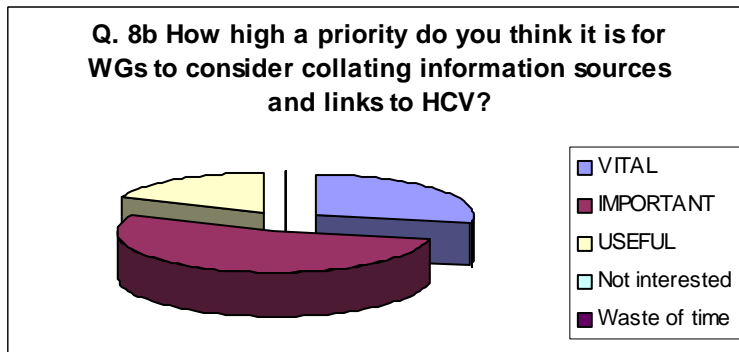


Figure 4.3

c) Practical implementation in different national contexts: over three-quarters of respondents saw this as vital (47%) or important (36%); all the rest regarded it as useful (17%).

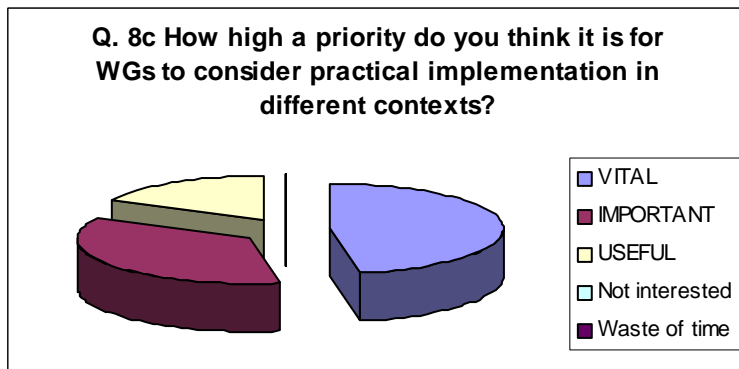


Figure 4.4

d) Use of HCV in a conversion context: again, a majority considered this issue to be vital (43%) or important (40%); a minority ranked it as useful

(14%), with both the not interested and waste of time categories getting one response each (3%).

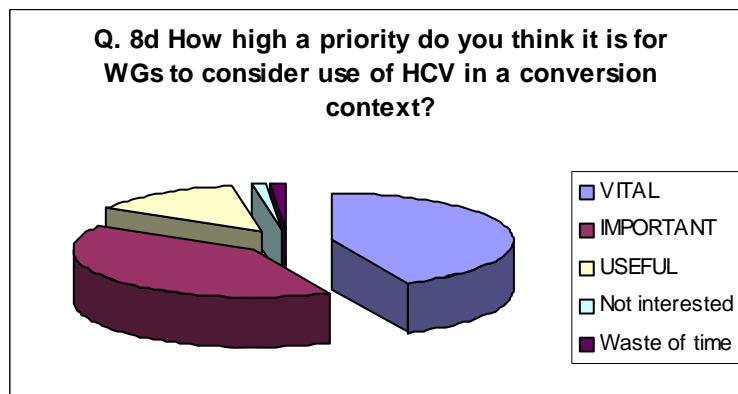


Figure 4.5

e) Reinforcing safeguards when used outside a certification

context: over half saw this as vital (26%) or important (33%); of the rest, a number listed it as useful (33%) but there was some no interest (7%) and one respondent considered it a waste of time.

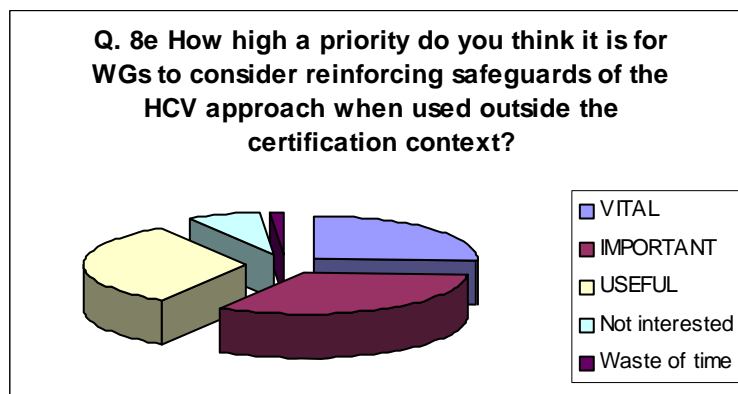


Figure 4.6

4.4 Preferred discussion mechanisms

Exactly half the respondents had a preference for e-mail based discussion groups (50%), and a number also liked the idea of a web bulletin board with subscription to some discussions (37%); there was a minority preference for discussions just via a web bulletin board.

Additional comments suggested the need to:

- a) avoid unnecessary e-mails
- b) supplement with seminars and conference calls

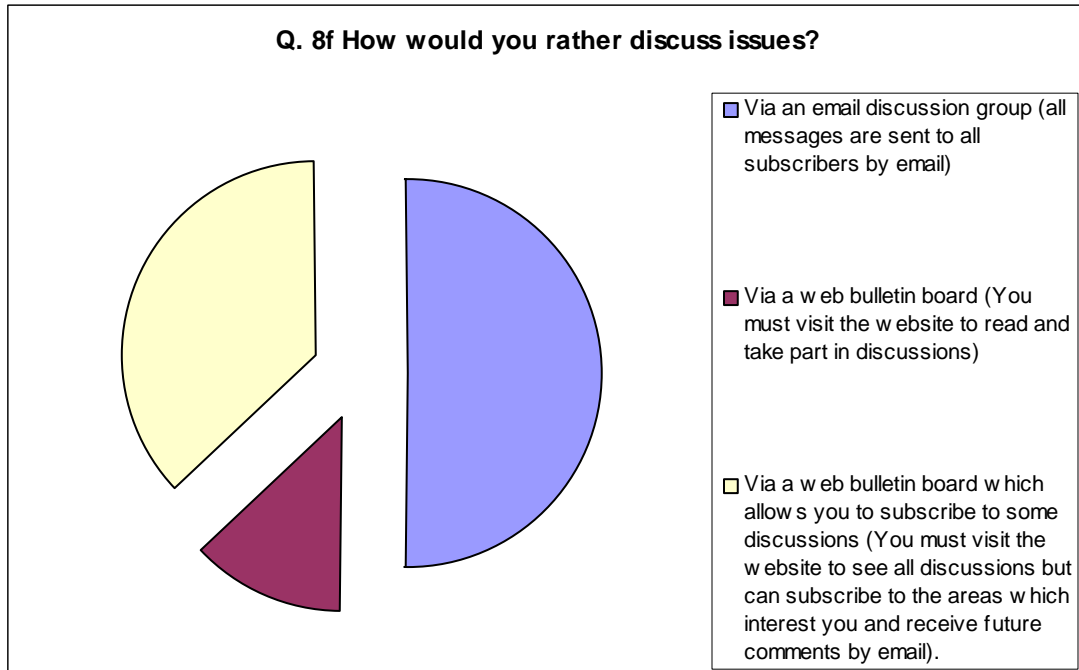


Figure 4.7

4.5 Other priorities to consider

- a) Guidance for inclusion in forest management planning
- b) Guidelines for determination and assessment of social criteria, and human rights issues
- c) Relation between management and conservation interests in multi-purpose forests
- d) Guidance on implementation by certification bodies
- e) Guidance on the development of national/sub-national indicators in the context of FSC national standards development
- f) Standardizing data collection
- g) Strengthening country-level toolkits and consistency of national interpretations
- h) Making HCVF practical for industry to use
- i) Sharing lessons learnt, and coordinating opinions of users and stakeholders
- j) Application across multiple tenures in a broader landscape.
- k) The importance of HCV within a community forest
- l) The development of 'Voluntary environment manager's rules (codes) with regard to HCV areas'
- m) A stronger focus in areas where environmental problems are big (e.g. China)
- n) How to reduce the cost of implementation

- o) The relation between oil palm plantation and HCVF concept
- p) Integration with other agencies and systems

4.6. Discussion means

Again, a preference for e-mail discussion groups (57%)

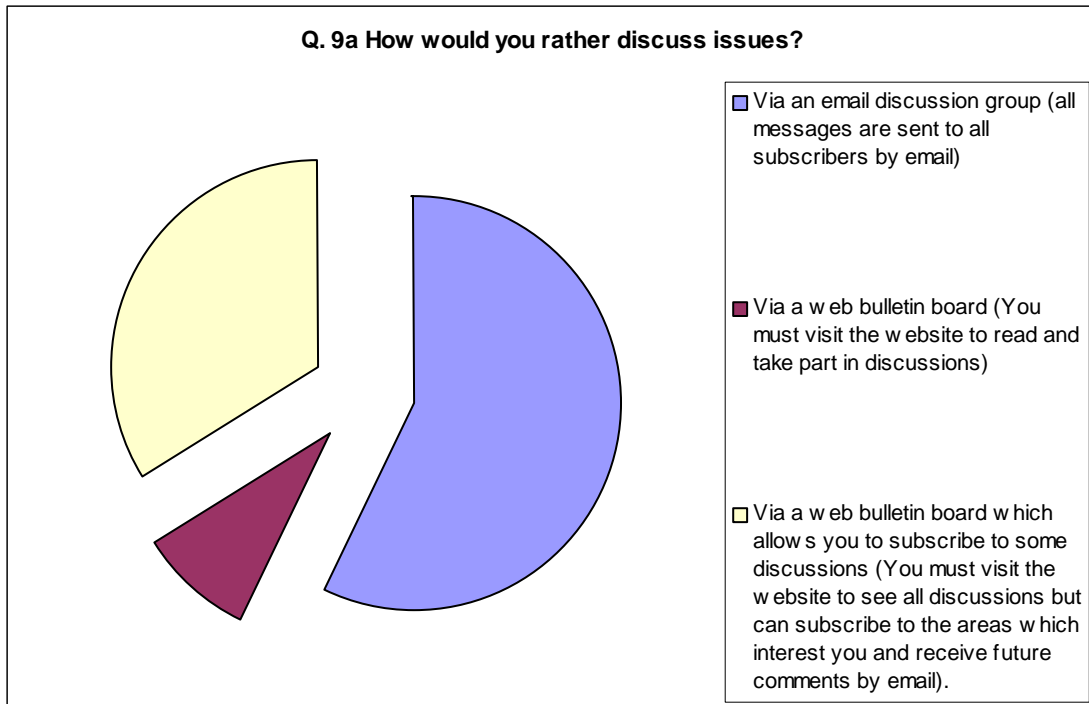


Figure 4.8

5. Resource Network Activities

5.1 Priority issues for the Resource Network to consider

Overall responses to activities listed suggest that the one considered most vital to address is toolkit revision and/or the provision of nationally appropriate guidance. The least important activity appears to be the promotion of centres of social and environmental expertise.

Each issue in more detail:

a) Regional network consolidation (including training and technical assistance): over three-quarters of respondents considered this to be either vital (28%) or important (52%); a number regarded it as useful (14%) whilst a minority were not interested or thought it would be a waste of time (6% combined).

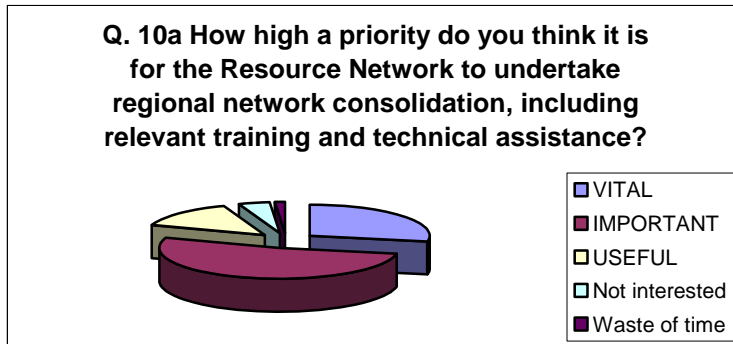


Figure 5.1

b) Communication and promotion: a majority considered this vital (25%) or important (40%) whilst a substantial proportion of the remainder saw it as a useful activity (32%).

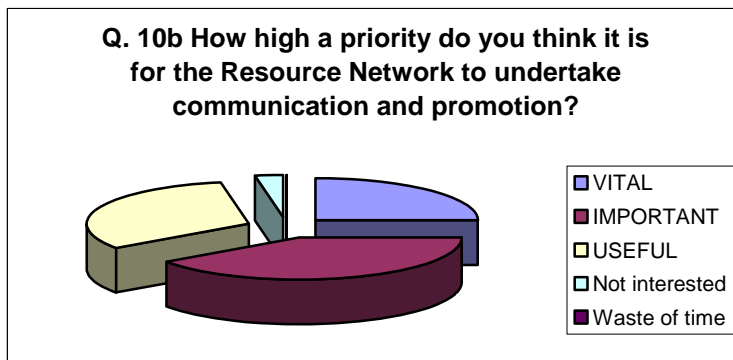


Figure 5.2

c) Information provision and data exchange: over 80% of respondents saw this as vital (29%) or important (53%); nearly all the rest regarded it as useful (16%).

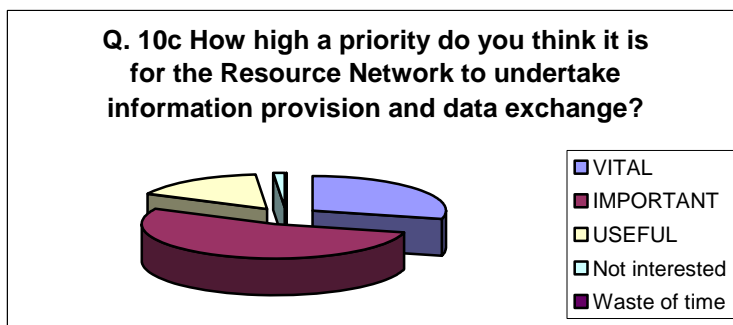


Figure 5.3

d) Independent peer review and mediation of assessments: again, a majority considered this issue to be vital (23%) or important (45%) whilst a number of respondents ranked it as useful (27%).

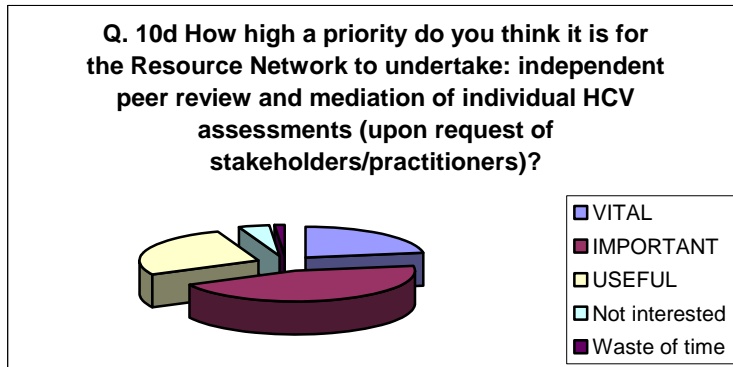


Figure 5.4

e) Promotion of centres of social and environmental expertise: just over half saw this as vital (17%) or important (36%); of the rest, a number listed it as useful (36%) but there was some degree of no interest (7%) with three respondents considering it a waste of time.

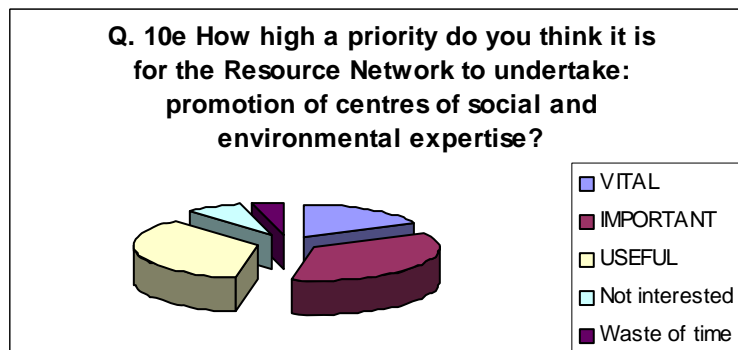


Figure 5.5

f) Toolkit revision and/or provision of national process guidance: over three-quarters of respondents saw this as vital (38%) or important (41%); almost all of the rest regarded it as useful (19%) with only two respondents listing that they were uninterested.

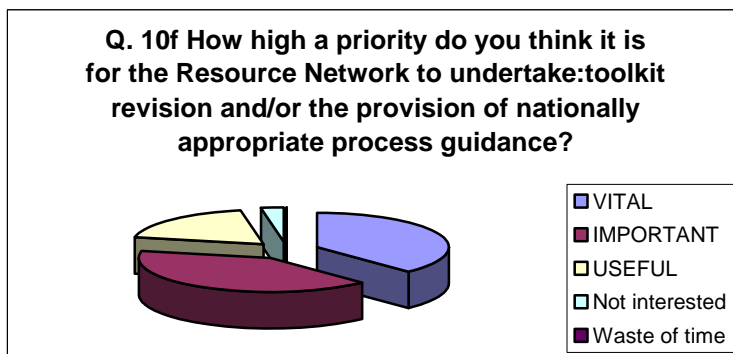


Figure 5.6

5.2 Other priorities for the Resource Network

- a) Guidance to standards setting processes
- b) Training and research
- c) Linking initiatives
- d) Promote HCVF toolkit for buyers
- e) Mapping
- f) Dispute resolution

5.3 Comments

- a) Need involvement of FSC NIs
- b) Network should remain informal

6. Website Development

6.1 Projects database

Just over two-thirds of respondents considered this to be a vital (25%) or important (42%) priority for the website. Of the remainder, almost everyone thought it would be a useful task (30%).

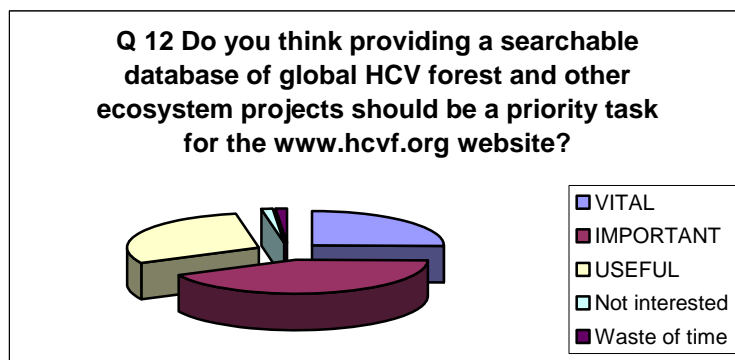


Figure 6.1

6.2 Contributing information to a projects database

A majority were in favour of contributing information to such a database (83%).

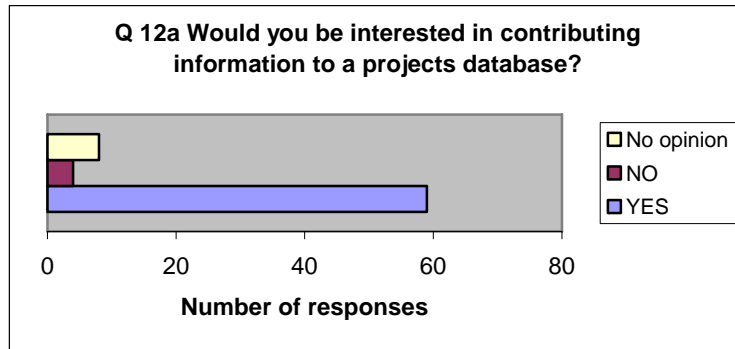


Figure 6.2

6.3 Using a projects database

Almost every one replied that they would be interested in using a projects database (94%).

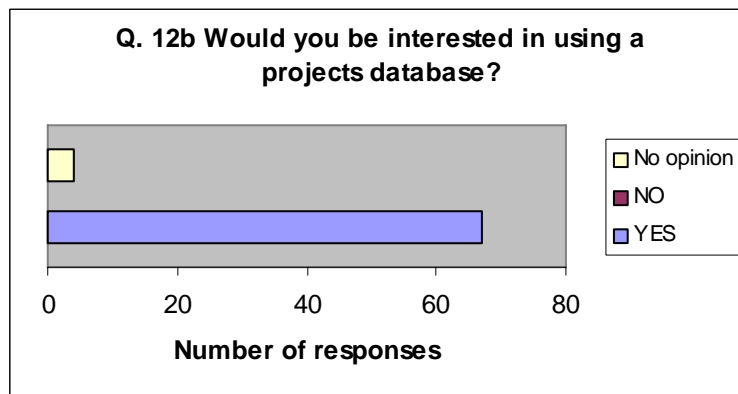


Figure 6.3

6.4 Comments on a projects database

- a) Need to distinguish between potential and actual HCVF
- b) What are consequences of listing? (need clear objectives)
- c) Information exists in foreign languages (hence need for translations)
- d) Start simple
- e) Case studies may be more important

6.5 Practitioners database

Again a majority considered this to be a priority task but slightly less vital than a projects database (vital: 23%; important: 36%); almost everyone else saw it as useful (37%).



Figure 6.4

6.6 Contributing information to a practitioners database

Just over three quarters were in favour of contributing information (76%), although 7 respondents answered "no" (10%).

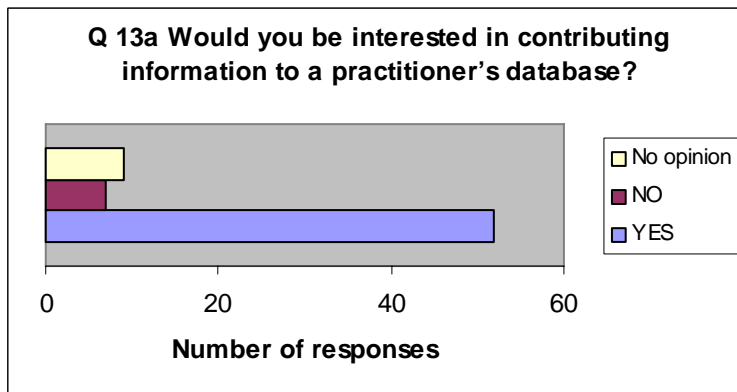


Figure 6.5

6.7 Using a practitioners database

A majority expressed an interest in using such a database (86%).

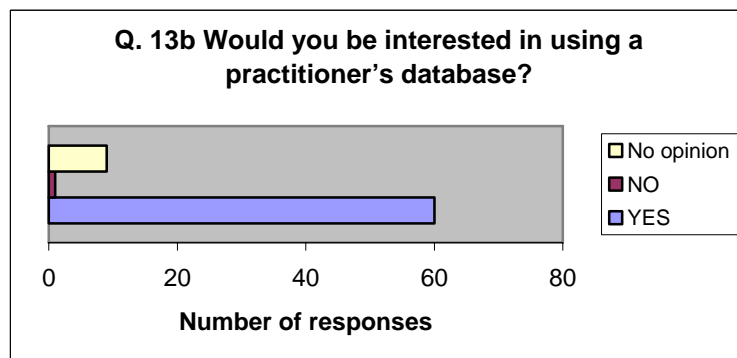


Figure 6.6

6.8 Comments on a practitioner's database

- a) How useful as a specific database? (perhaps would be better to add to projects)
- b) How appropriate if primary purpose is to identify consultants?
- c) Information exists in foreign languages (so a need for translations)

6.9 Additional information from website

- a) Up to date technological advances
- b) Links to related websites
- c) Help with understanding requirements of national toolkits
- d) Updates of HCVF use outside of forestry
- e) Case studies
- f) Publications
- g) Typical rates charged by experts
- h) Regional centre activities

6.10 Additional services from website

Over half the respondents had no opinion on this (54%); however, a number of respondents did wish to see other services (27%).

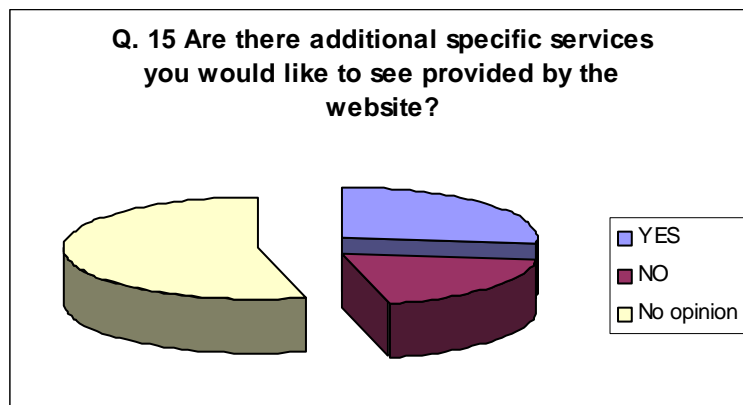


Figure 6.7

6.11 Comments on additional services

- a) Highlighting controversies and debates (discussion fora)
- b) Advocating policy formation amongst government to increase uptake
- c) Assessor training
- d) Facilitating annual national toolkit forum meeting

- e) Facilitating annual global meetings
- f) Facilitating meetings between practitioners and donors

NB: there was a problem with the dialogue box here, so all respondents who ticked "Yes" were subsequently contacted and offered a chance to provide more details of the specific services required. Most of these replied that they had already listed these under Q. 14 (what other information should the website provide?).