

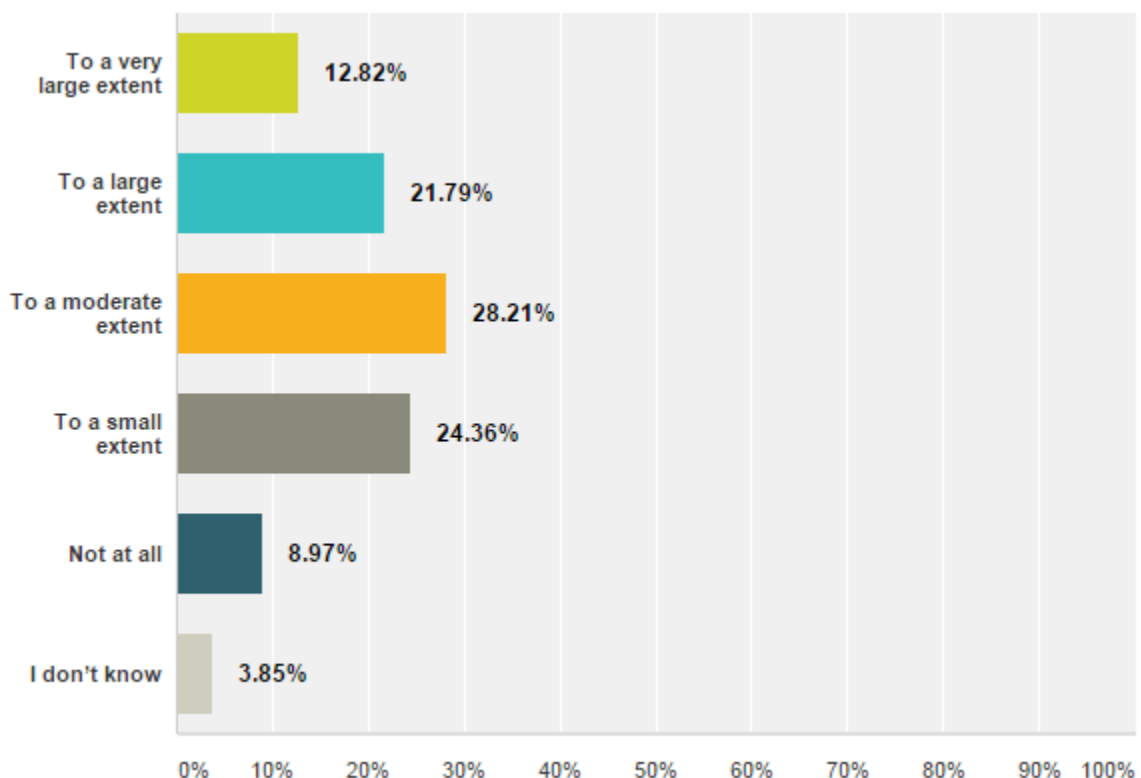
Survey on the involvement of Major Groups and Stakeholders in the generation, utilization and dissemination of environmental information developed by UNEP

The survey was created on the 11th November 2015 and distributed widely to the public and civil society; beyond UNEP accredited organizations. 78 responses were received before the date of analysis, 5th January 2016, with the majority of responses being received on the 3rd and 4th of December 2015, and a second peak appearing on 16th December 2015. These two peaks occurred in response to email reminders sent at those times.

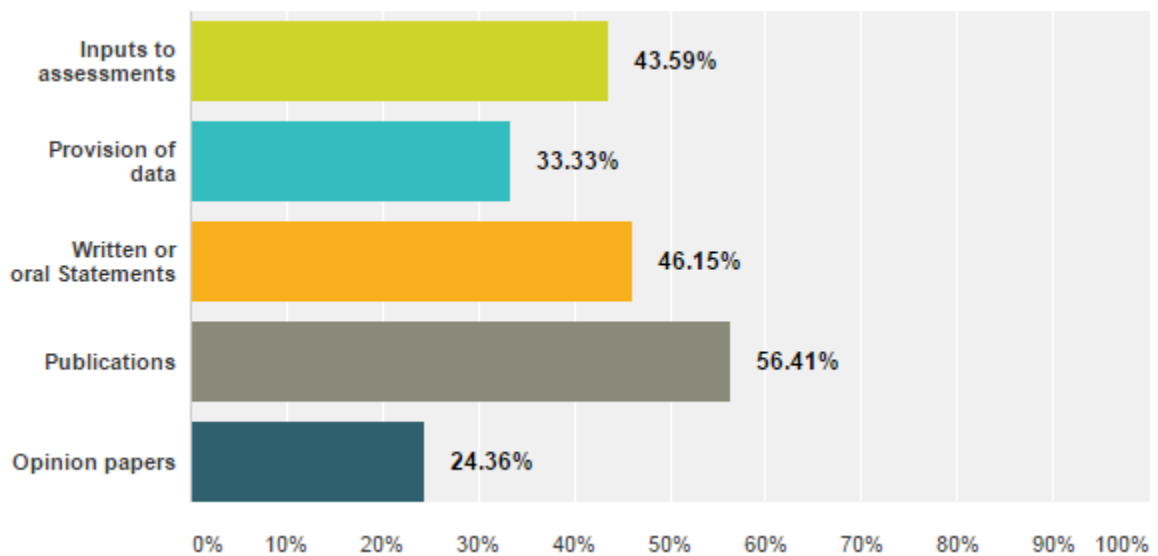
The survey consisted of 11 questions, largely multiple choice with an option for providing additional comments.

Analysis of question responses:

1. Name and address of organization
2. Name and email address of person taking the survey
3. a) To what extent have you or your organization contributed to the generation of environmental information by UNEP?



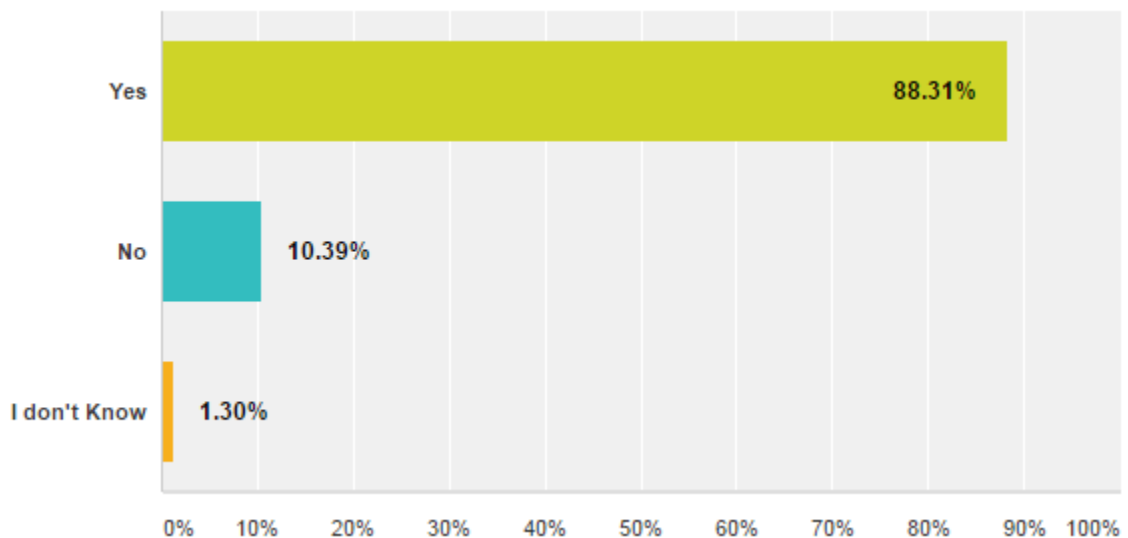
b) What was the nature of the contribution made by you or your organization?



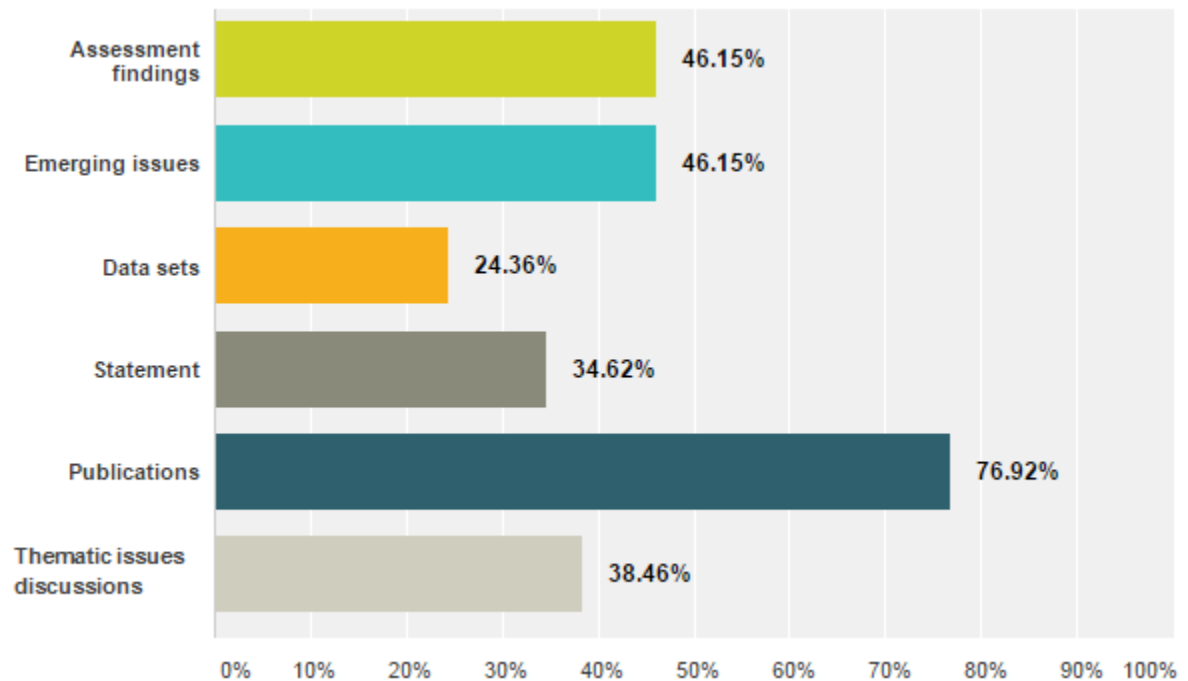
Any comments / specific examples: (29 responses)

- Reposting UNEP information on their social media sites,
- Writing opinion papers (as individuals),
- Raising awareness in their respective region,
- Providing data,
- Completing surveys, and
- Attending and making statements at UNEP meetings.

4. a) Have you or your organization accessed environmental information generated by UNEP?



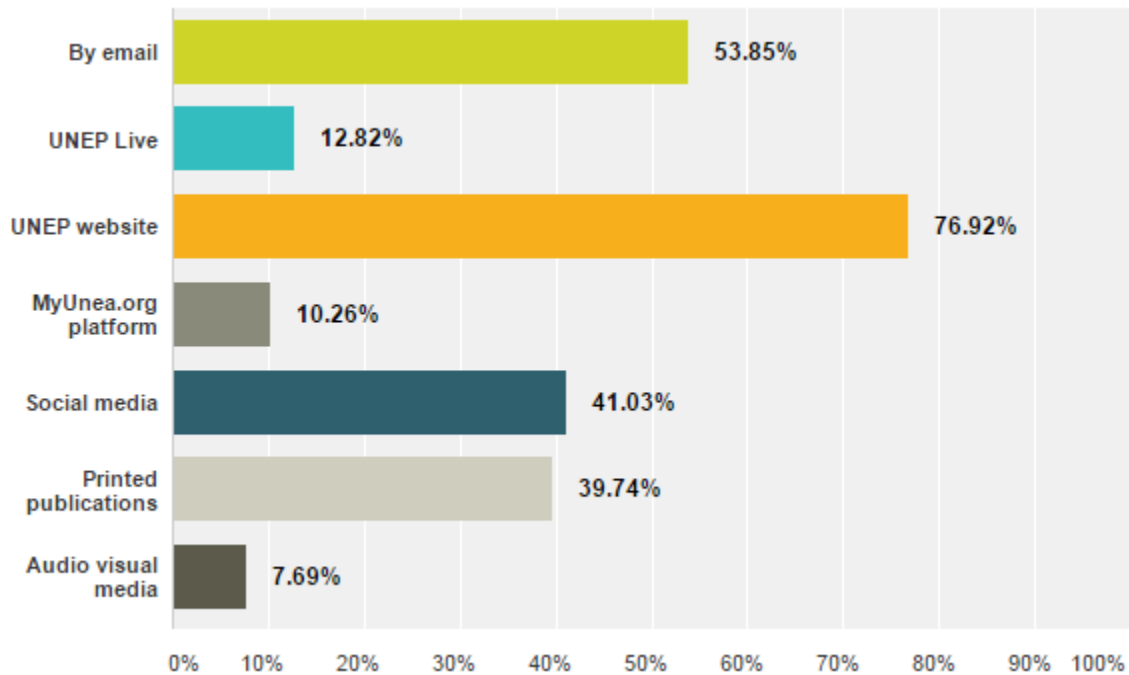
b) If yes please give details on the nature and examples of the information you accessed



Any comments / specific examples: (16 responses)

- Information emailed out by the UNEP Civil Society Team,
- Several comments referred to various UNEP reports e.g. GEO and National reports, and publications e.g. COP21 and 10YFP associated publications,
- UNEP information accessed online, specifically from social media,
- UNEP data sets e.g. on water quality and information sources e.g. thematic maps, disaster risk reduction strategies and green solutions.

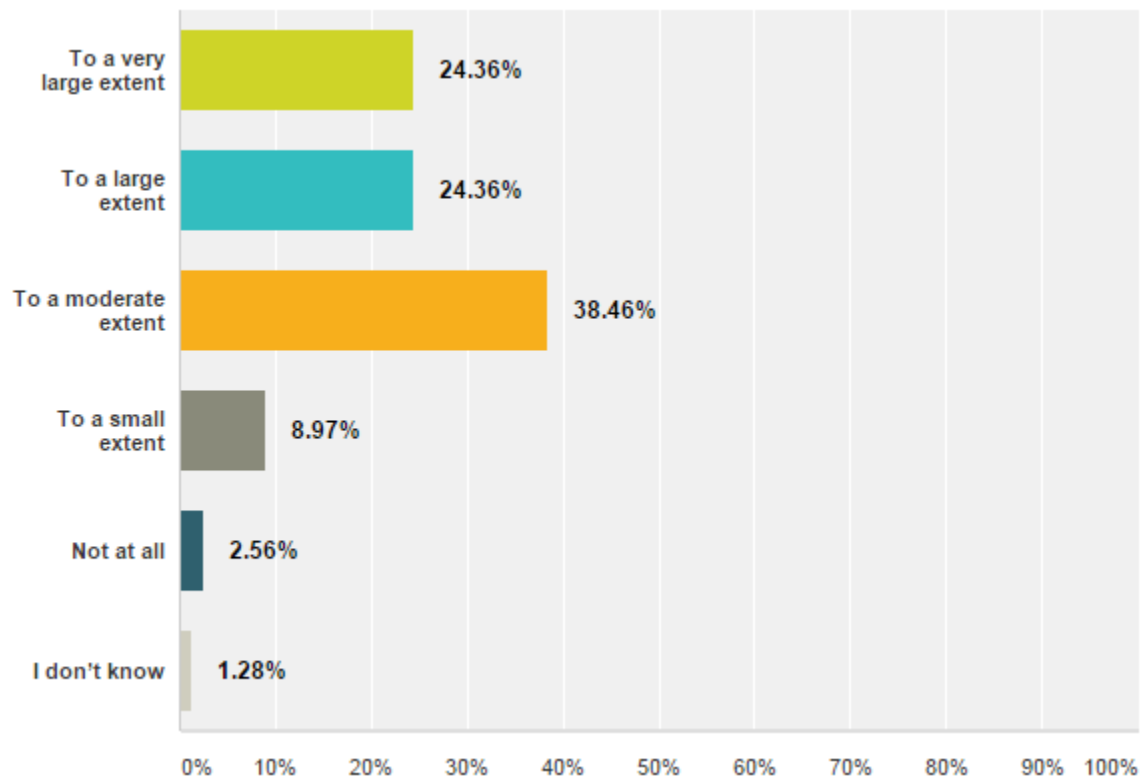
5. What is the mode by which you accessed the environmental information generated by UNEP?



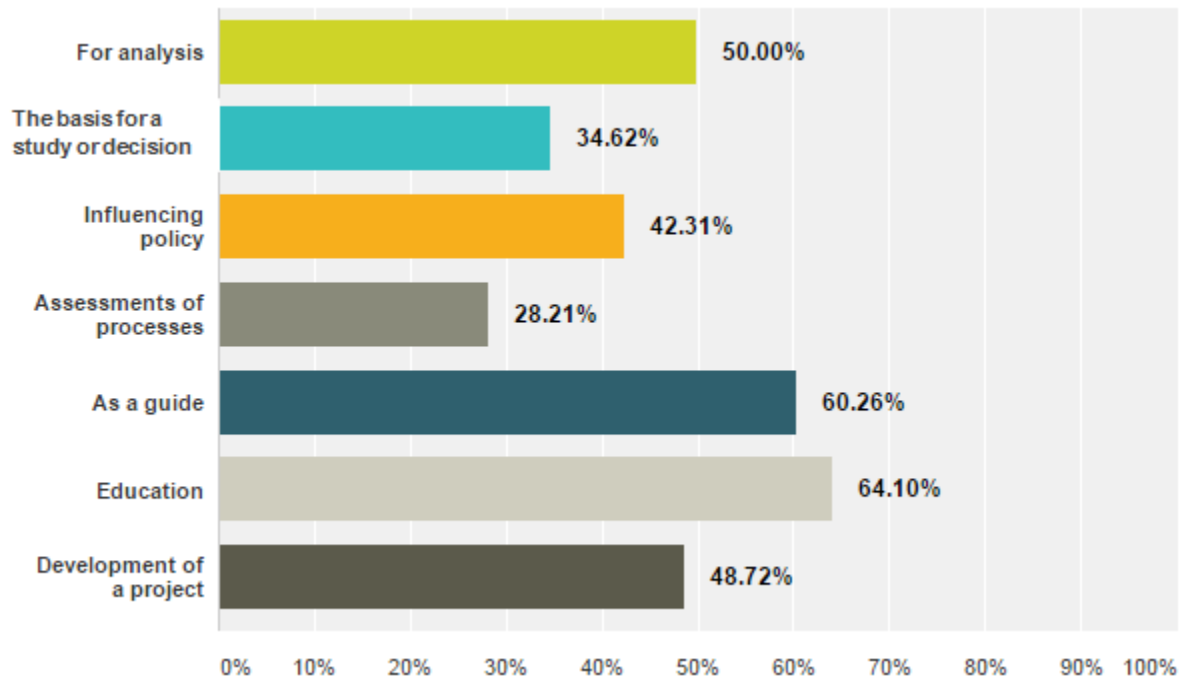
Any comments / specific examples: (10 responses)

- Social media,
- Emails from the UNEP Civil Society Team,
- Accessing the UNEP website, although one comment described the website as being “too difficult to navigate”,
- Personal contact with UNEP officials, and
- Through other UN agencies.

6. a) To what extent have you or your organization made use of environmental information generated by UNEP?



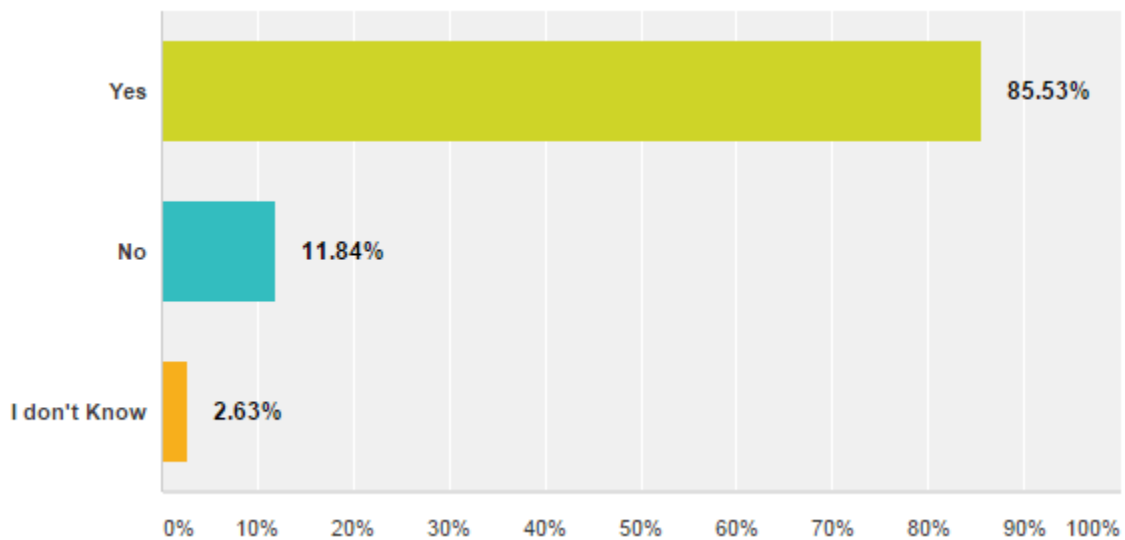
b) How did you or your organization make use of environmental information generated by UNEP?



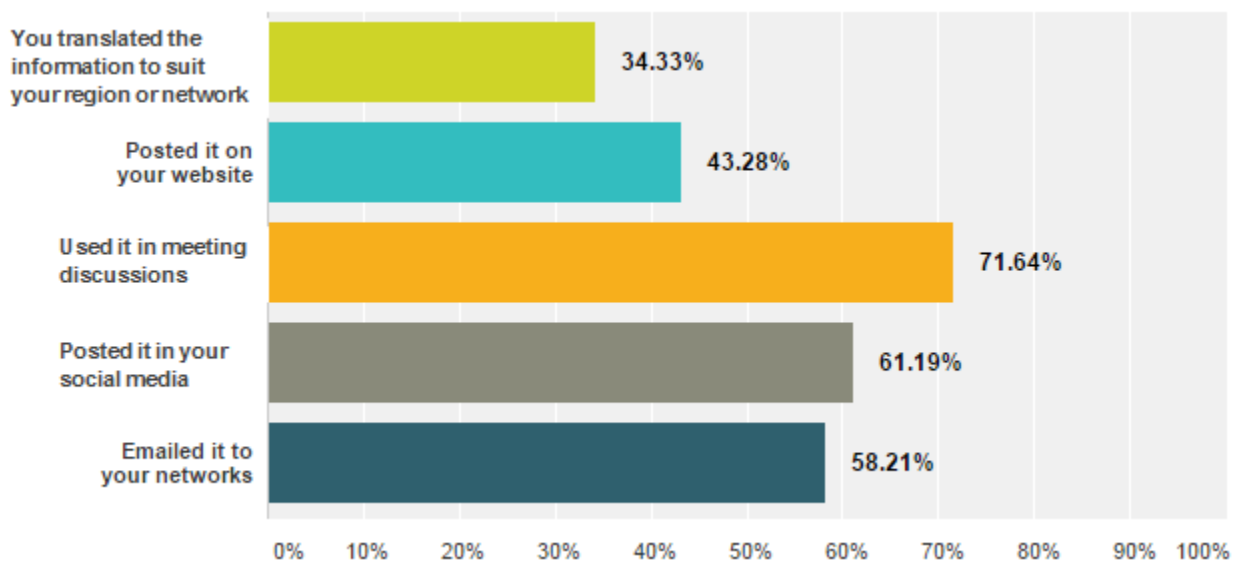
Any comments / specific examples: (14 responses)

- Research,
- Advocacy,
- Raising awareness and educational purposes,
- Forwarding UNEP information to their own subscribers, and
- In appeals to authorities.

7. a) Have you or your organization contributed to the further dissemination and/or communication of environmental information generated by UNEP?



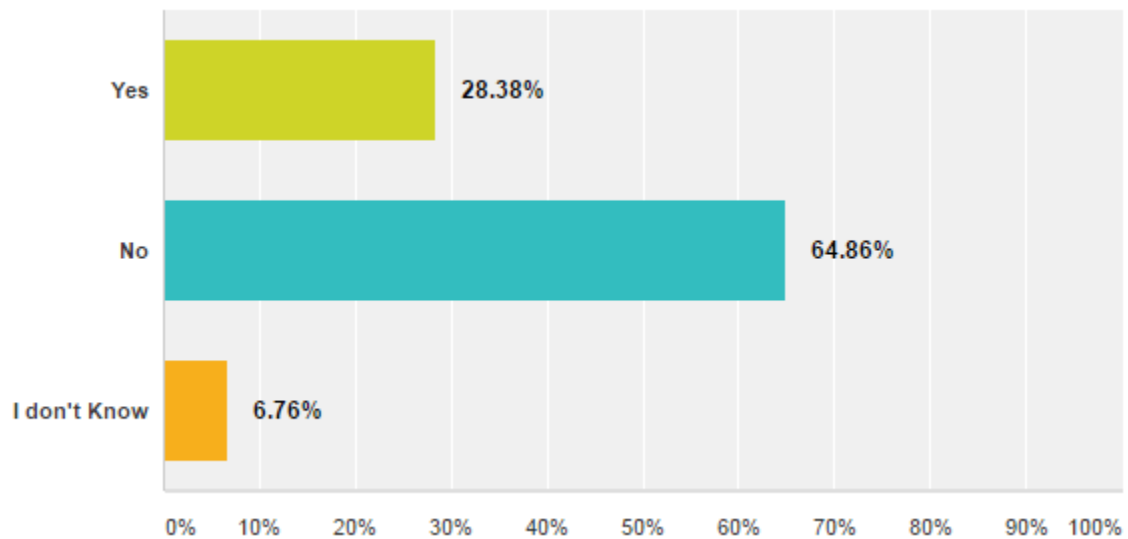
- b) If yes how did you or your organization further disseminate the environmental information generated by UNEP?



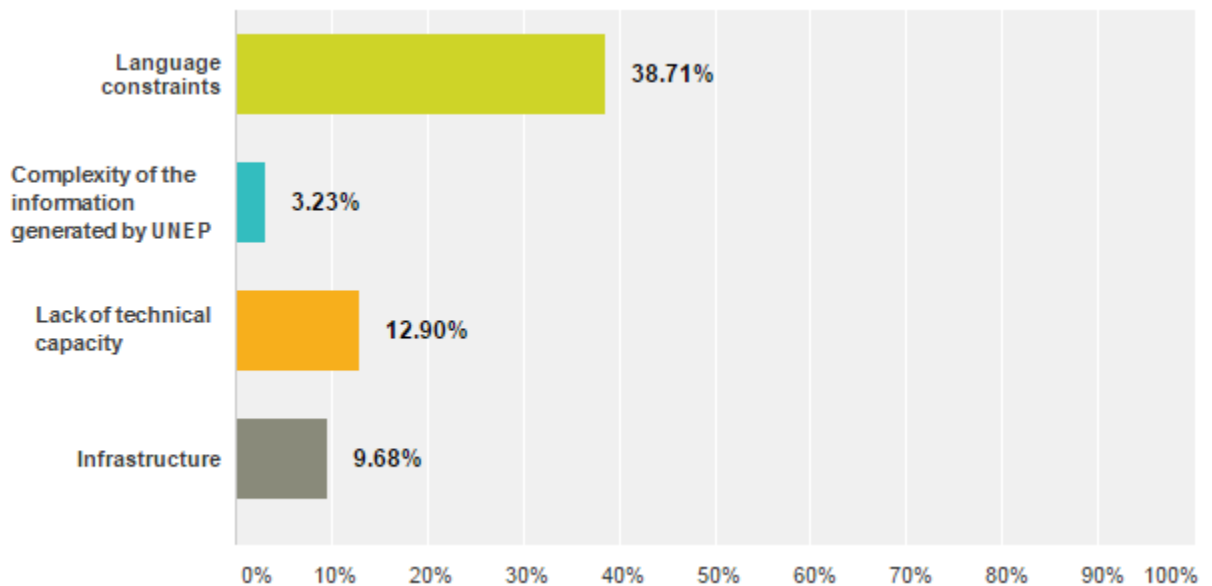
Type comments / specific examples: (13 responses)

- Public meetings and events,
- Sharing with their networks and commenting on social media

8. a) Did you or your organization experience any difficulties or challenges in contributing, accessing, using or disseminating environmental information generated by UNEP?



- b) If yes what is the nature of the difficulties/challenges experienced?

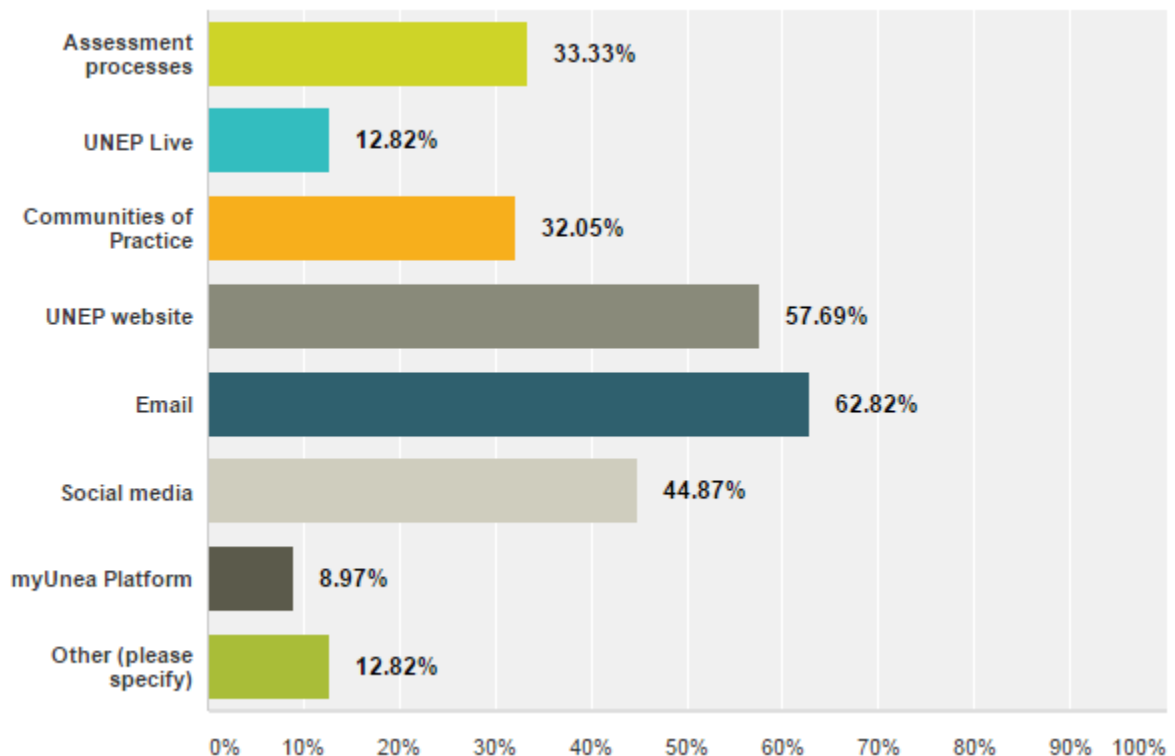


Type comments/ specific examples: (11 responses)

- Website is not user friendly,
- Questions/ comments posted on social media are generally not responded to,
- Publications often use technical terms that are difficult to explain to the general public,
- Difficulties with translation,
- With information sent by UNEP Civil Society it is difficult to know what is restricted to only accredited organizations and what information is available for further dissemination, this should be clearly indicated,

- Some reports are very long to read, reports with more diagrams and tables would facilitate public comprehension,
- Reports and information are often confused or inconsistent across UNEP platforms or programs, there should be a central provider of information,
- Downloading documents can pose issues as they are very large, and
- There is no-one to help with finding relevant documents.

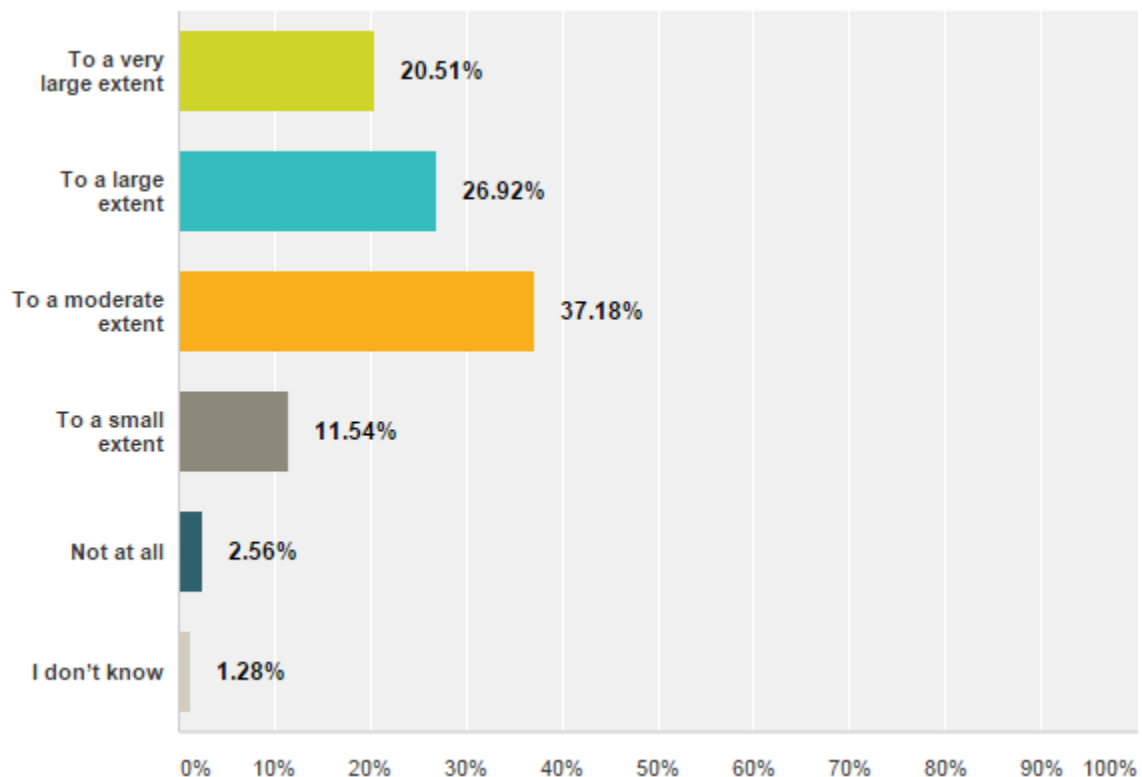
9. What is the most effective mode for you or your organization to be involved in the generation, access, receipt and dissemination of environmental information generated by UNEP?



Other (please specify): (10 responses)

- Brochures,
- Lectures/ forums/ webinars,
- Meetings organized by UNEP,
- Personal participation in UNEP activities,
- MyUNEA.org is a good platform but further training is needed, and
- Direct engagement with UNEP staff.

10. To what extent did you find or receive from UNEP the type of information that you needed?



11. Please give suggestions on how UNEP can improve on the involvement of Major Groups and Stakeholders in their contribution, access, use and further dissemination of environmental information generated by UNEP

Online presence:

- More **interaction from UNEP on social media**, particularly on Facebook and Twitter. In addition, UNEP should provide clarifications about what and when major groups should post on UNEP's social media platforms and should regularly remind accredited NGOs to post on these tools or to participate in other debates because sometimes they may forget that these tools and debates exist, and
- **UNEP live and Communities of Practice are not friendly to use** and should be improved. For example, UNEP could follow the platform used by UNDP: <https://www.unteamworks.org/>.

Outreach:

- Instigate **structured mechanisms of communication**,
- **Send short and communicative messages** about environmental issues so that people can easily understand the meaning of those messages,
- Translate information into **more languages** to facilitate understanding and dissemination,
- It would be helpful if **publications had open access / Creative Commons licenses** permitting reuse,

- Use **radio broadcasts** so that rural groups can benefit from UNEP information,
- **Involve stakeholders in your communication processes** in order to increase participation,
- **Increase outreach** to actors working on various issues to ensure participation in information generation, analysis and dissemination,
- Constant **communication of available tools** to access information **and training** on the use of relevant tools,
- **Information sharing should be timely** and to allow enough time for review and comments,
- **Provide clear structure of information available**, assistance to find information , have an open data portal that includes data sets, put more PDF of studies on line, have better search functions, seek specific assistance in generation of data with civil society, seek dissemination by theme or topic,
- Provide a **newsletter** with a compilation of topics covered, and
- **More support to attend international meetings** for organizations based outside developing countries but that work in developing countries. Priority should be based on the level of annual income that they have and not on the basis of geographical location.

New tools/ practices:

- Use **Google hangouts** streamed live on YouTube for conversations or presentations before, during and after formal conferences,
 - Develop **workshops** online with the main topics that you work on with civil society,
 - Establish **periodic seminars in sequence**: First level aimed at states inside a nation, second level at the national capital and the third level at an international forum,
 - Work more actively with **mass-media**, especially with TV. Unfortunately, UNTV is not available for many countries,
 - A **platform should be created for major groups** where reports done by UNEP, UNEPs partners, and major groups for each region are shared,
 - Engage different stakeholders of society, publish updates about their work and make it accessible and free,
 - **Printed copies** of important reports and documents should also be sent by post for keeping in resource centers for sharing with other stakeholders at local levels, and
 - **Ensure an independent process of information collection and sharing** that is not bound by political priorities of UNEP or their funders.
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