



Kingdom of the Netherlands



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News release

Ugandans want government action on environmental problems affecting their communities

A majority of Ugandans say pollution is a serious problem in their community, the most recent Afrobarometer survey shows

Citizens rate deforestation as the most important environmental issue, followed by trash disposal, and describe plastic bags as a major source of pollution.

Most citizens want more government action to limit pollution and protect the environment, even at the cost of jobs and incomes.

And when it comes to natural resource extraction, a majority of Ugandans say that its costs outweigh its benefits and that tighter regulation of the industry is needed to protect the environment.

Key findings

- Almost six in 10 Ugandans (58%) say pollution is a “somewhat serious” or “very serious” problem in their community (Figure 1).
- Citizens cite deforestation (48%), trash and plastic disposal (22%), pollution of water sources (11%), and human waste management (10%) as the most important environmental issues in their community (Figure 2).
- More than eight in 10 respondents (83%) say plastic bags are a major source of pollution in Uganda (Figure 3).
- If environmental-protection policies threaten jobs and incomes, two-thirds (67%) of Ugandans would still want the government to prioritise the environment rather than jobs (Figure 4).
- Only four in 10 Ugandans (41%) say the benefits of natural resource extraction outweigh negative impacts such as pollution, while half (51%) see the costs as being higher than the gains (Figure 5).
- More than eight in 10 (83%) say the government should regulate the natural resource extraction industry more tightly regulated in order to reduce its negative impacts on the environment.

Afrobarometer surveys

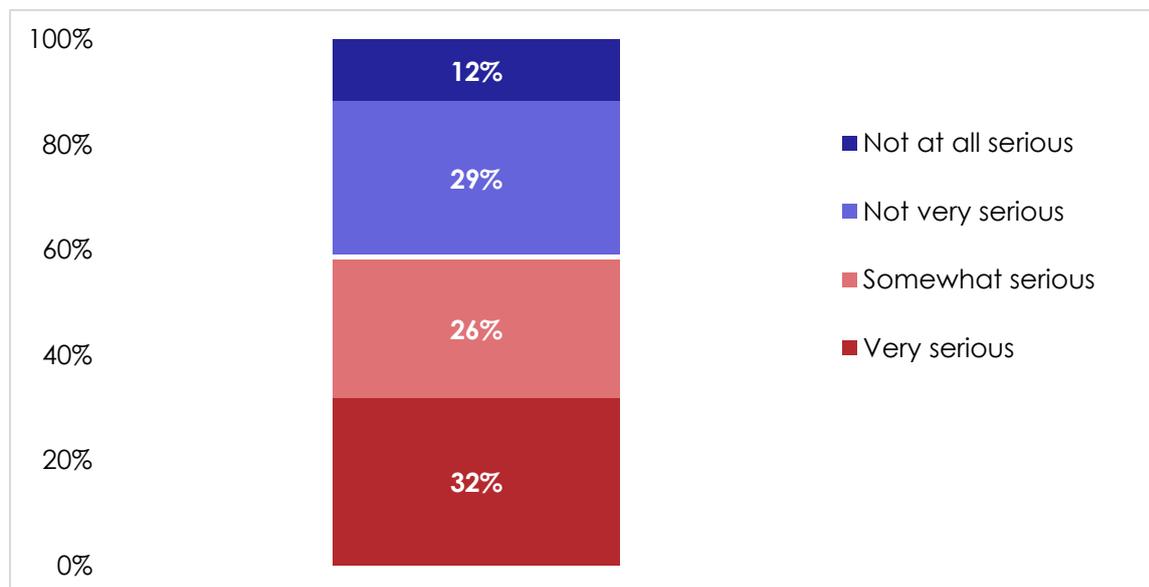
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight rounds of surveys have been completed in up to 39 countries since 1999. Round 9

surveys (2021/2023) are currently underway. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Uganda, led by Hatchile Consult Ltd., interviewed 2,400 adult Ugandans between 7 and 25 January 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. This was the 12th Afrobarometer survey in Uganda since 1999.

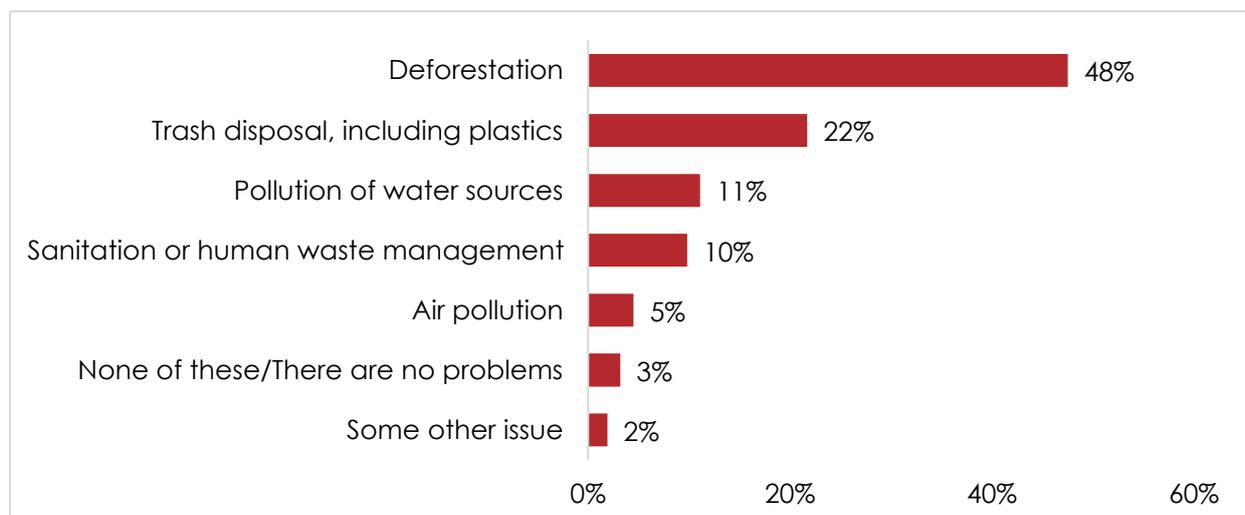
Charts

Figure 1: Is pollution a serious problem in the community ? | Uganda | 2022



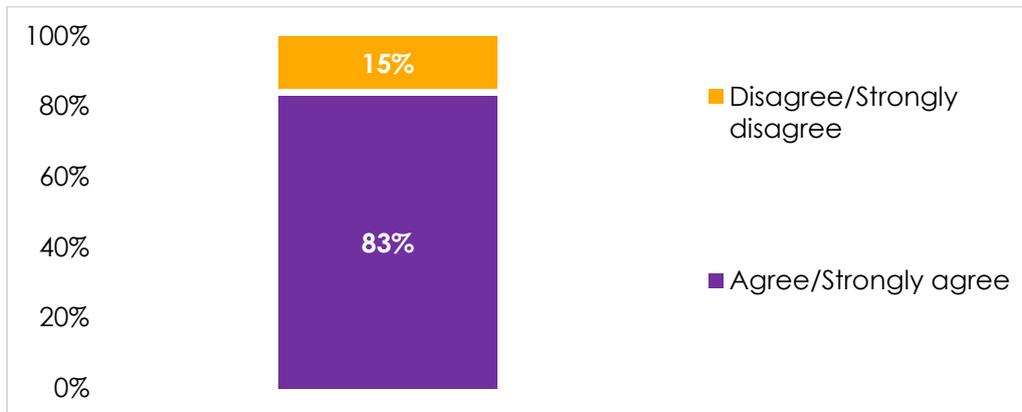
Respondents were asked: How serious a problem is pollution, such as the accumulation of trash or garbage, or damage to the quality of the air, the water, or the land in your community?

Figure 2: Most important environmental issue in the community | Uganda | 2022



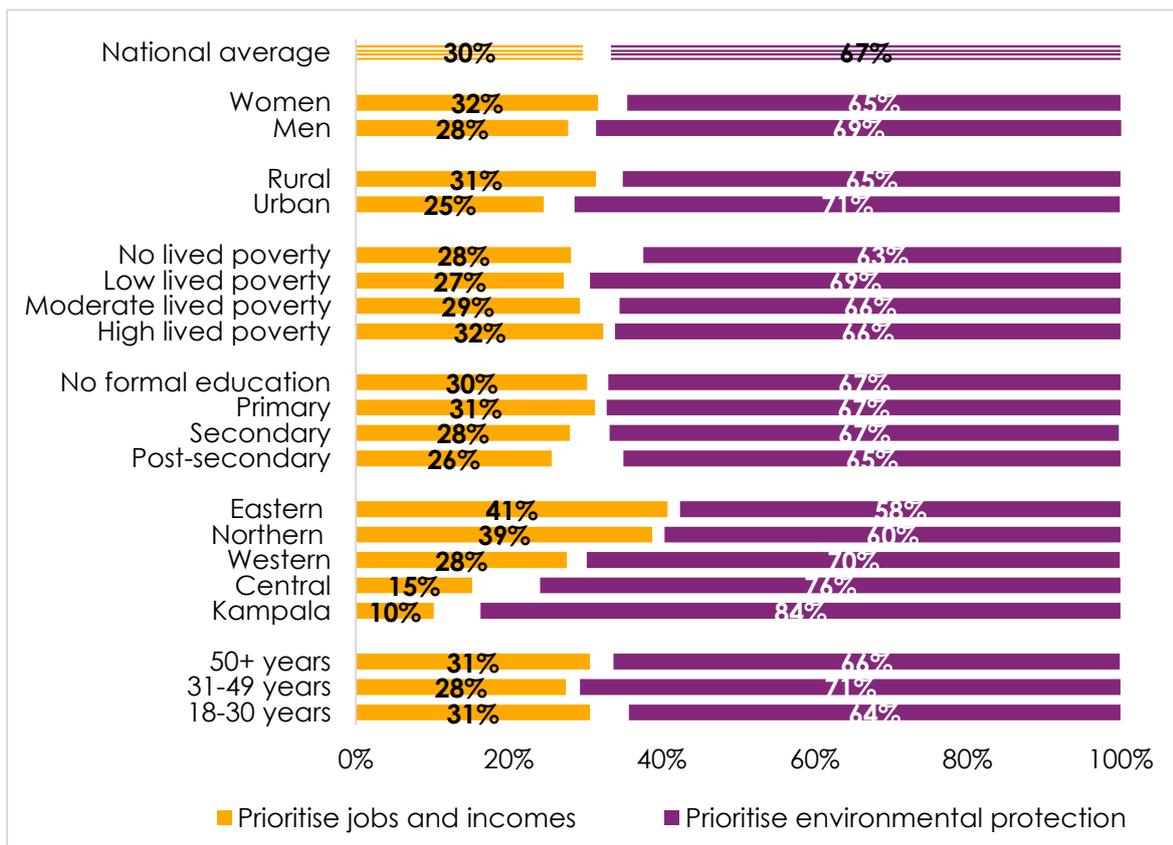
Respondents were asked: Which of the following is the most important environmental issue in your community today?

Figure 3: Are plastic bags a major source of pollution? | Uganda | 2022



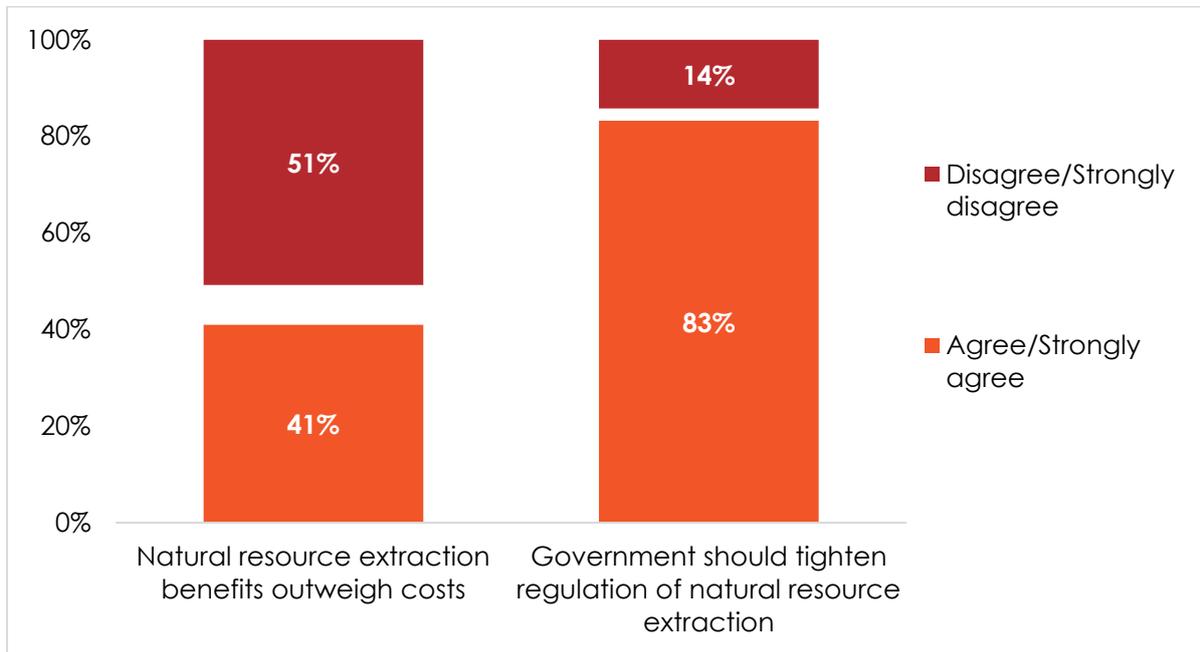
Respondents were asked: Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Plastic bags are a major source of pollution in this country.

Figure 4: Should government prioritise jobs or the environment? | by demographic group | Uganda | 2022



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: The government should focus on creating jobs and increasing incomes, even if that means increasing pollution or other environmental damage.
 Statement 2: The government should focus more on preventing pollution and protecting the environment, even if this means there will be fewer jobs or there will be other disruptions to our daily lives.
 (% who “agree” or “strongly agree” with each statement)

Figure 5: Natural resource extraction: Costs vs. benefits | Uganda | 2022



Respondents were asked: Natural resource extraction such as mining, oil drilling, or wood harvesting can have benefits, such as jobs and revenue. But it can also pose problems for nearby communities, such as pollution or deforestation. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

In general, the benefits of resource extraction activities to local communities, such as jobs and revenue, outweigh the costs, such as pollution.

In this country, natural resource extraction should be more tightly regulated by government to reduce the negative impacts on the environment.

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