



Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
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News release

Tanzanians want government action on environmental problems affecting their communities

Most Tanzanians see pollution as a serious problem in their communities, a new Afrobarometer survey shows.

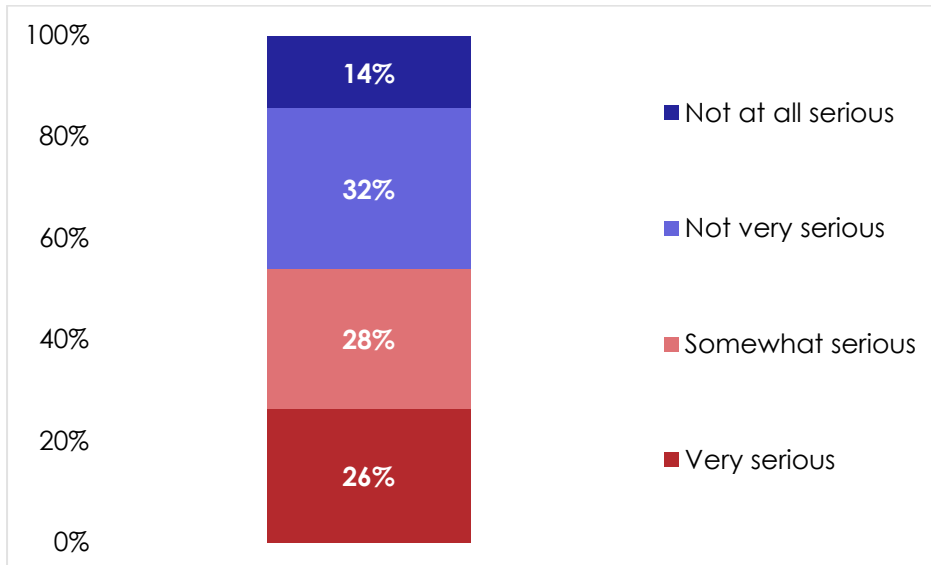
Citizens rank trash disposal and deforestation as the most important environmental issues in their communities and consider plastic bags a major source of pollution in their country.

If environmental-protection policies threaten jobs and incomes, a majority of Tanzanians would prioritise the environment. A majority also favour tighter regulation of natural resource extraction to reduce its impact on the environment.

Key findings

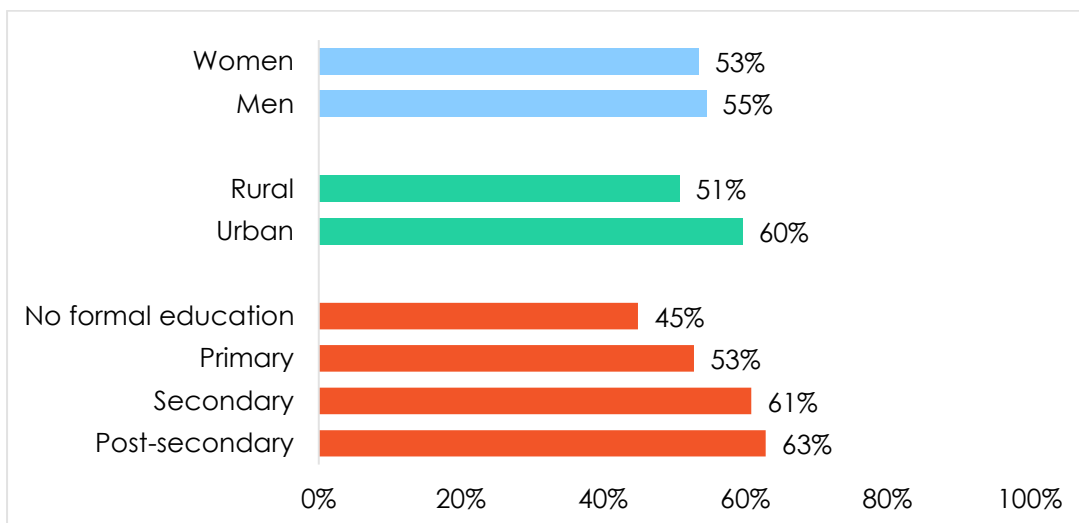
- More than half (54%) of Tanzanians consider pollution a serious problem in their communities (Figure 1).
 - Urban residents are more concerned about pollution than their rural counterparts (60% vs. 51%) (Figure 2).
 - Concerns about pollution increase with respondents' education level, ranging from 45% among those with no formal education to 63% among those with post-secondary qualifications (Figure 2).
- More than eight in 10 respondents (81%) say plastic bags are a major source of pollution in Tanzania (Figure 3).
- Citizens cite deforestation (33%), trash and plastic disposal (33%), pollution of water sources (13%), and human waste management (9%) as the most important environmental issues in their community (Figure 4).
- If environmental-protection policies threaten jobs and incomes, two-thirds (68%) of Tanzanians would still want the government to prioritise the environment rather than jobs (Figure 5).
- Tanzanians assign the primary responsibility for reducing pollution and keeping communities clean to ordinary citizens (46%) and their local and national governments (35% and 13%, respectively). Far fewer look to business and industry (4%) and traditional leaders (1%) (Figure 6).
- More than three-fourths (78%) of citizens say the government should regulate the natural resource extraction industry more tightly in order to reduce its negative impacts on the environment (Figure 7).

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



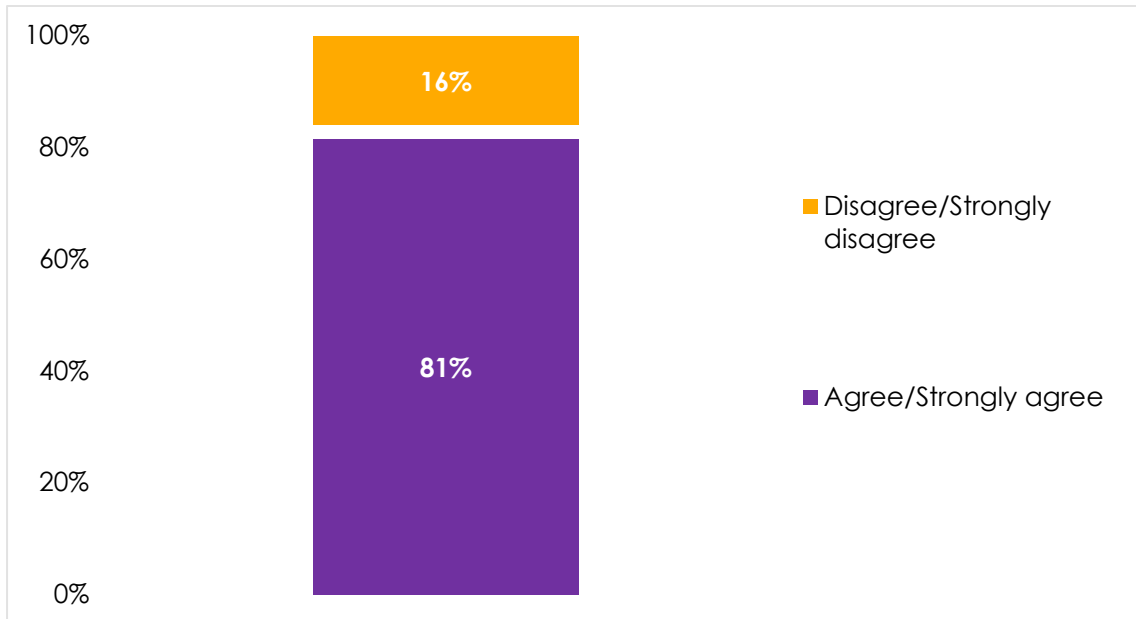
Respondents were asked: How serious a problem is pollution, such as the accumulation of trash or garbage, or damage to the quality of the air, the water, or the land in your community?

Figure 2 : Pollution a serious problem | by demographic group | Tanzania | 2022



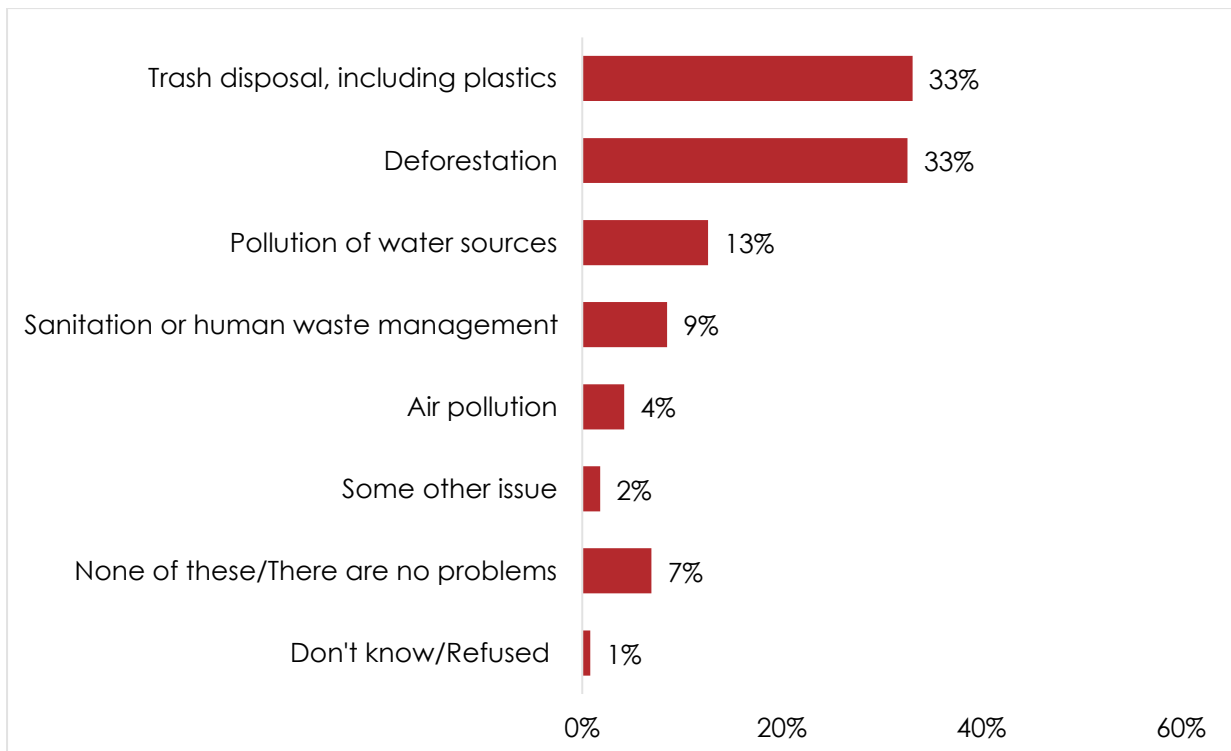
Respondents were asked: How serious a problem is pollution, such as the accumulation of trash or garbage, or damage to the quality of the air, the water, or the land in your community? (% who say "somewhat serious" or "very serious")

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



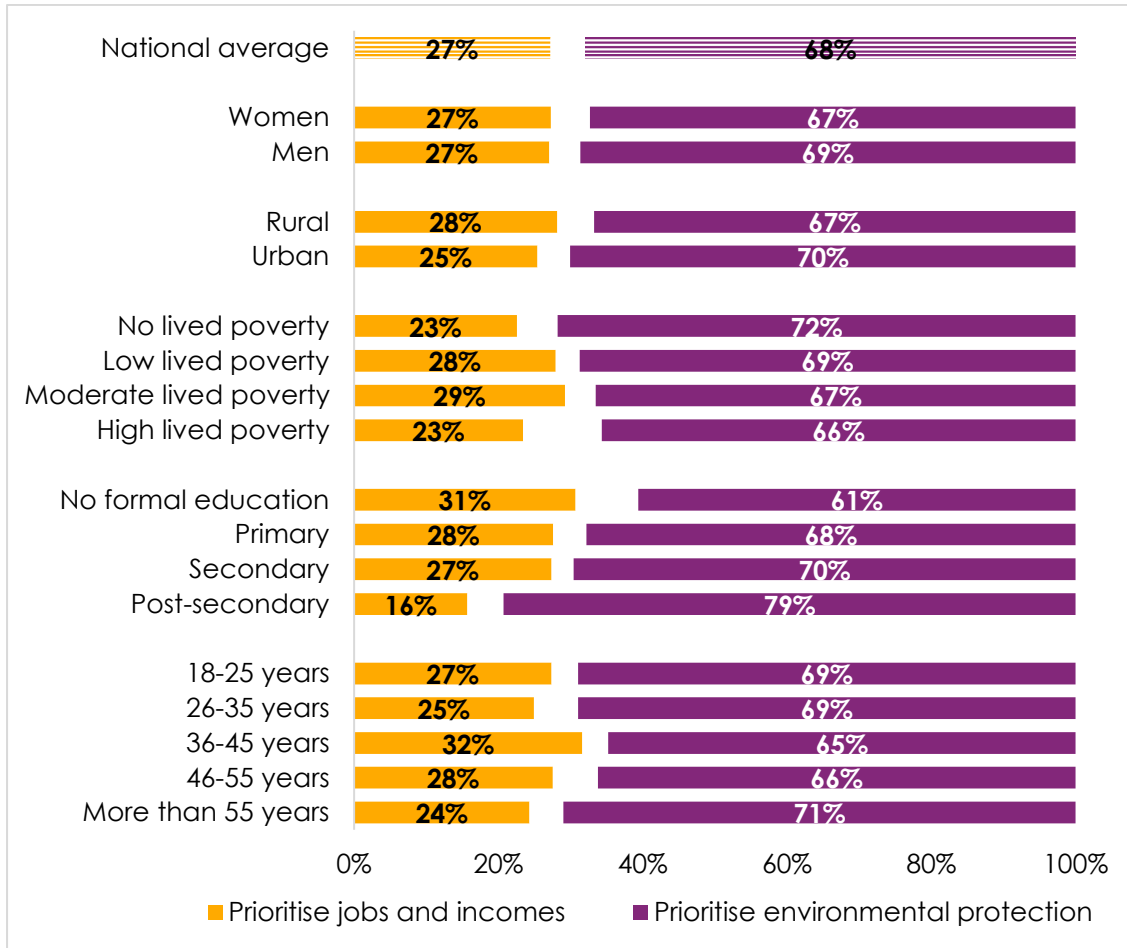
Respondents were asked: Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Plastic bags are a major source of pollution in this country.

Figure 4: Most important environmental issue in the community | Tanzania | 2022



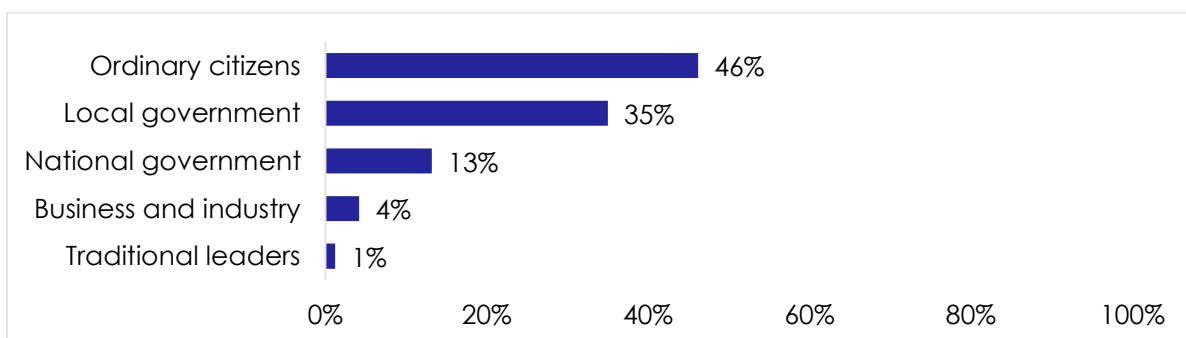
Respondents were asked: Which of the following is the most important environmental issue in your community today?

Figure 5: Should government prioritise jobs or the environment? | by demographic group | Tanzania | 2022



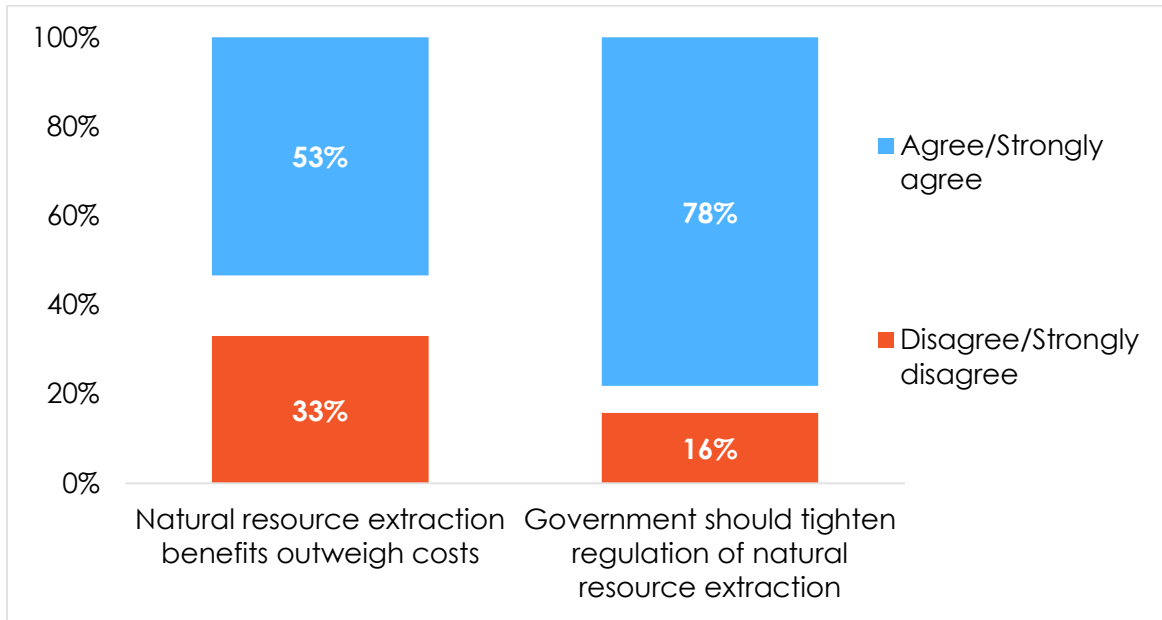
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: The government should focus on creating jobs and increasing incomes, even if that means increasing pollution or other environmental damage.
 Statement 2: The government should focus more on preventing pollution 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 6: Who should be responsible for reducing pollution? | Tanzania | 2022



Respondents were asked: Who do you think should have primary responsibility for reducing pollution and keeping your community clean?

Figure 7: Natural resource extraction: Costs vs. benefits | Tanzania | 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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