

# KULLABERG NATURE RESERVE

EXPLORING PEOPLE'S VIEWS AND SOCIAL OUTCOMES OF THE NATURE RESERVE

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2022

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UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE  
Department of Land Economy



# FULL REPORT

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# INTRODUCTION



Kullaberg Nature Reserve (Kullaberg) is located in the north-west corner of Scania province in Sweden has the status of protected area under the category V of the IUCN. The peninsula is surrounded by the mixed salt waters from Skagerrak and brackish waters of the Baltic Sea, which enables favorable conditions for the habitat of a unique marine and terrestrial flora and fauna. The protected area is funded by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket). The County Administrative Board of Scania (County Board) is in charge of the administration of the human and economic resources. The western part of Kullaberg is owned by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, while the County Board is in charge of administration and management. The eastern part of the reserve is owned by the Krapperup Foundation, since the year 2017 the County Board bought the right to administrate the forest in this part.

The Reserve has the protection of Habitats Directives (habitat and species protection) and Birds Directive (for the protection of birds) leading to the declaration in 1996 of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) automatically becoming part of Natura 2000. Located in Continental biogeographic region, it protects 12 species of the Natura 2000 Directives and 19 habitat types of the Habitats Directive. In 1997 it was proposed as Site of Community Importance (SCI), based on the importance of habitats and its fauna; in 2004 the proposal was approved. In 2011 Kullaberg Nature Reserve was declared to be a Special Area of Conservation (SACs).

The Management Plan for Kullaberg includes regulations applied to both Eastern and Western parts of the Reserve. A new updated version of this plan is currently being prepared. There is also a Conservation Plan for Natura 2000, it is a specific plan for the protection and restoration of habitats and species of community interest at a favourable status.

Since 2017 the Reserve has been declared a sustainable tourism destination under European Charter of Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas (ECST) administered by EUROPARC Federation. Certification scheme includes a 5-year action plan with 10 strategic actions focused on nature protection and sustainable tourism management. In 2022 the Certification has been renewed for the next 5 years.

# METHODS



In order to explore people's views on Kullaberg Nature Reserve, we used the Social Impact Assessment Tool for Protected Areas (SOCIAT) which has been developed by researchers at the University of Warwick and the University of Cambridge in collaboration with several park authorities across Europe. This consists of a structured questionnaire including 19 questions covering a variety of topics. Further information on SOCIAT can be found here: [www.warwick.ac.uk/sociat](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/sociat).

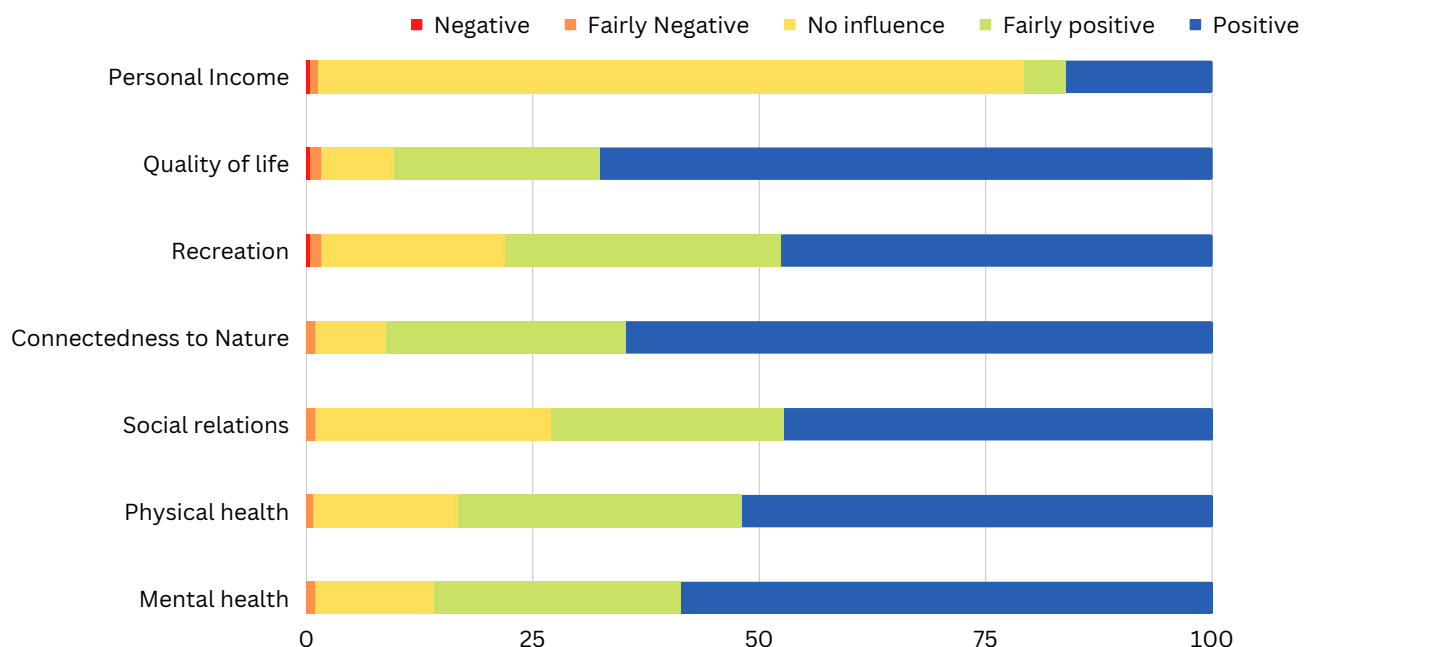
The questionnaire was distributed during Autumn 2022 to local communities living near the nature reserve. A postcard was sent to all households included in the mailing list of Post Nord which live in the wider area of Hoganas. The postcard explained the main aims of the survey and invited people to access the survey via a link which directed them to a Qualtrics page.

In total, 343 responses were received. 95.2% of respondents were permanent residents and 2.7% owned a second home or rented a property in the area and visited regularly. 82% of respondents live in the area for more than 10 years. 46% of respondents were female and 52% male. 3% had completed primary education, 28% had finished secondary school and 70% had finished college or higher education. The age groups breakdown (1 d.p.) is: 5% (18-35), 10% (36-45), 23% (46-55), 24% (56 - 65) and 39% (66+) and the income breakdown is as follows: 2% have a low income, 37% have a medium income and 61% have a high income. We would like to note that the sample is over-represented by people of higher income, of higher education and those who belong in older age categories.

# RESULTS

## SOCIAL OUTCOMES

Connectedness to nature and impact on quality of life were the most beneficial outcomes from the existence of Kullaberg Nature Reserve with over 90% of participants stating that the nature reserve had a positive or fairly positive outcome for them. The positive outcomes of the nature reserve were also evident in a number of other aspects such as recreation, mental and physical health and social relations. The impact of the nature reserve on personal income of respondents was more neutral with 78% of participants stating that it had no influence.

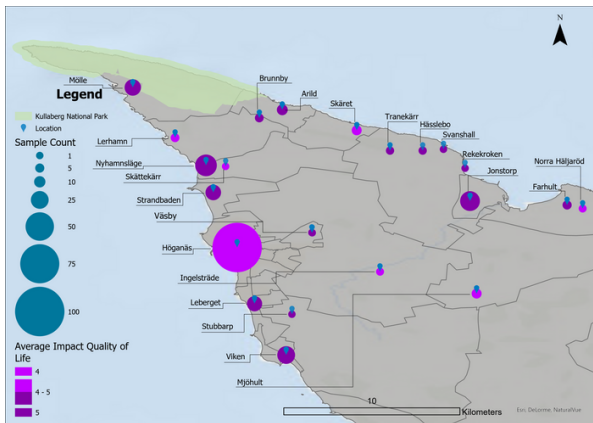


**85.27% of the respondents consider that the benefits of the nature reserve are equally distributed among locals**

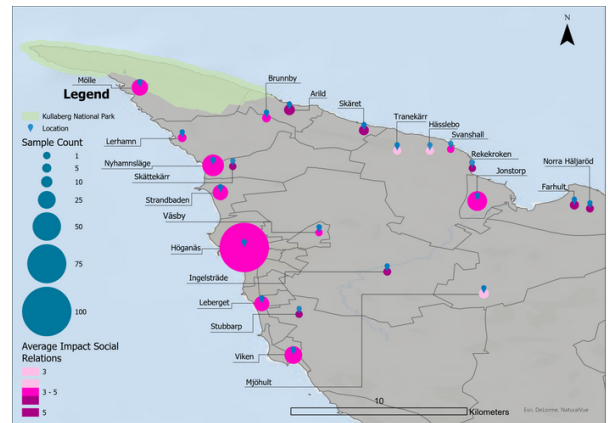
Respondents mentioned a number of issues which may lead to an uneven distribution of impacts in the local communities. The most important ones were the difficulty of accessing the nature reserve with public transport, difficult to access Kullaberg for people with mobility issues and elderly and the large number of visitors during the summer months linked with increased traffic and noise and also increased incidents of irresponsible behaviour (eg. littering).

# DISTRIBUTION OF SOCIAL OUTCOMES

*Different colours represent different average score per area of perceived social impacts measured on a 5 point scale*

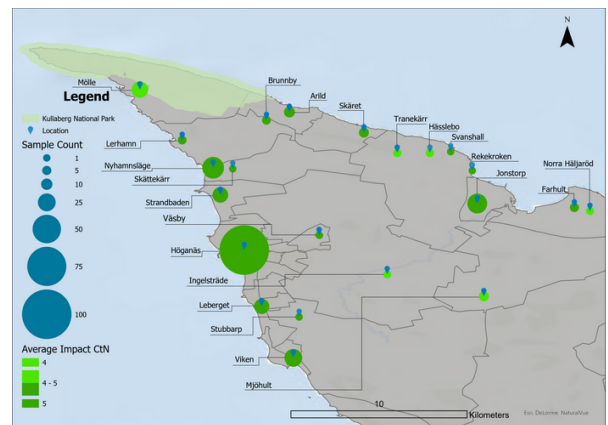


Spatial distribution of impact on quality of life

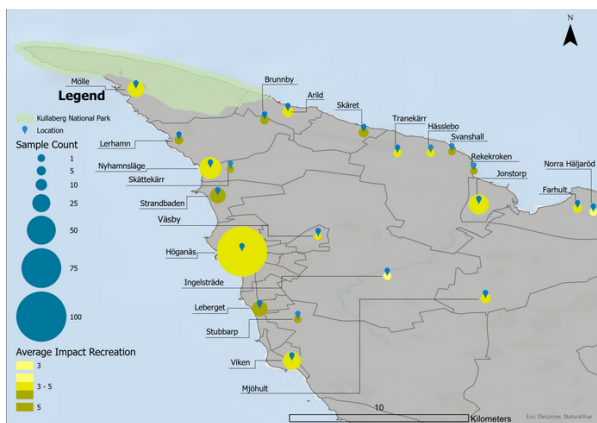


Spatial distribution of impact on social relations

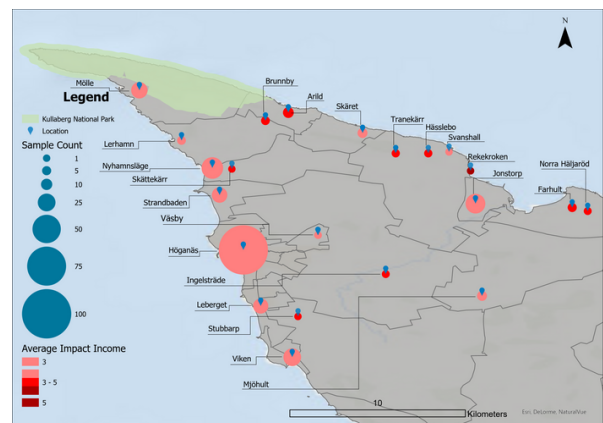
**Differences exist on perceived impacts regarding recreation and income between local communities**



Spatial distribution of impact on Connectedness to Nature



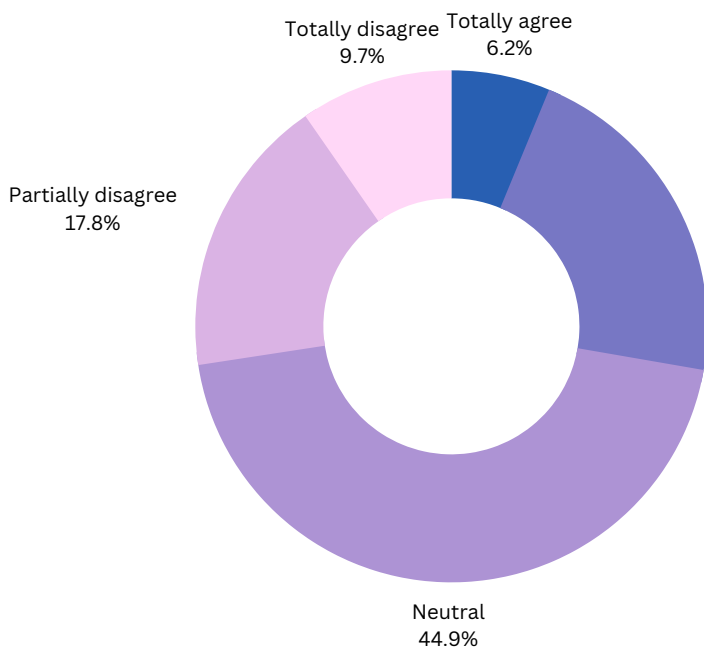
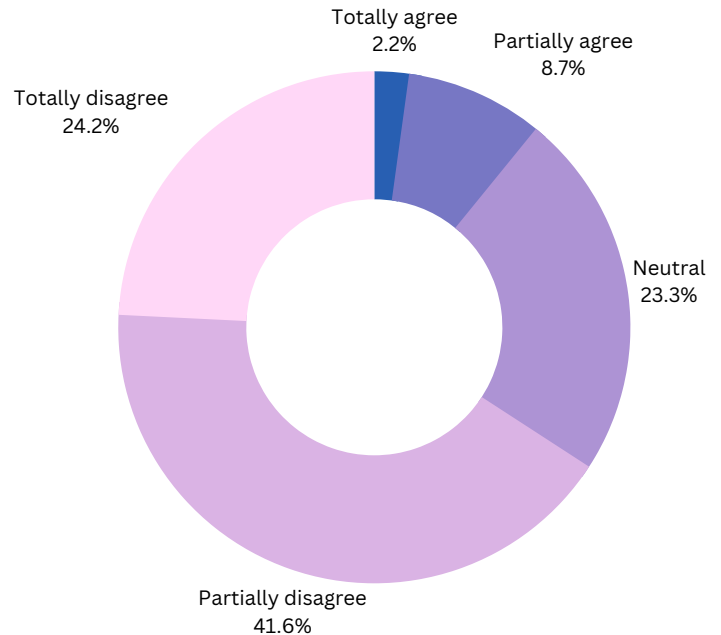
Spatial distribution of impact on recreation



Spatial distribution of impact on income

# DISTRIBUTION OF SOCIAL OUTCOMES BETWEEN VISITORS AND LOCALS

65.83% of respondents agree or totally agree that benefits are distributed equally between local people and visitors



Only 30% of respondents agree or totally agree that disadvantages of the nature reserve are distributed equally between local people and visitors

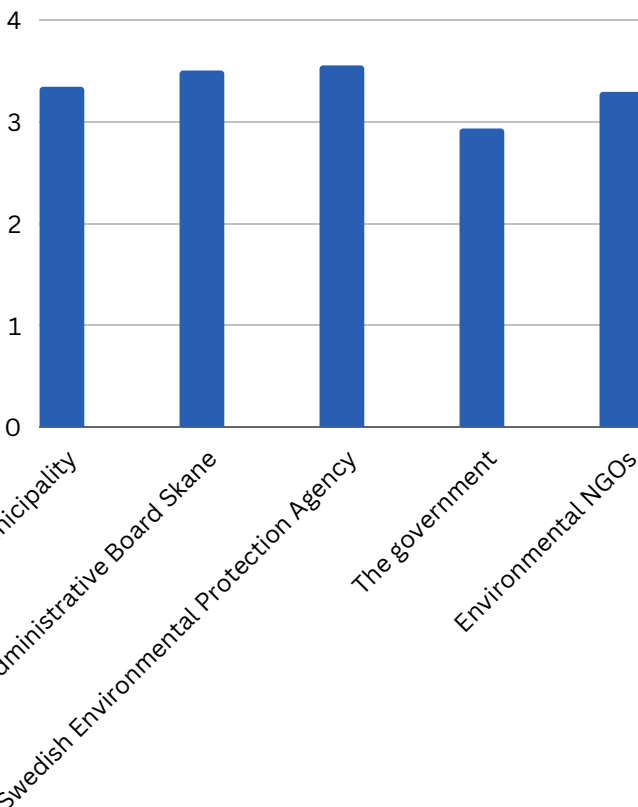
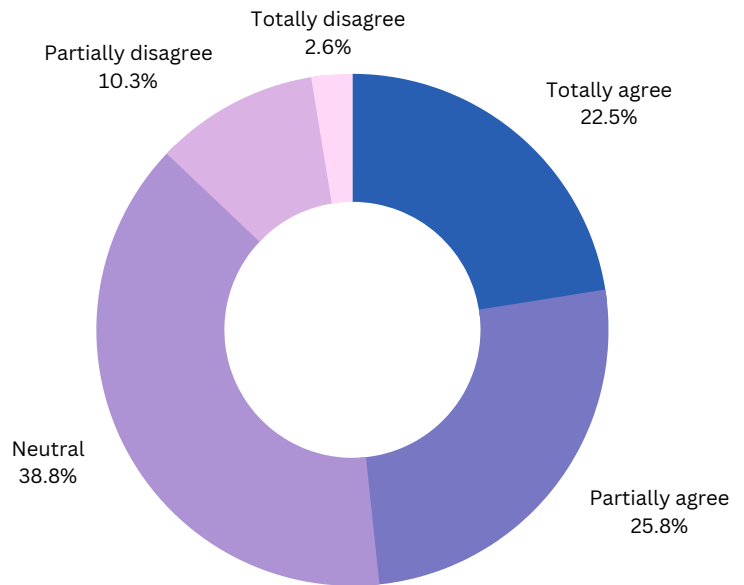


# GOVERNANCE & TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

Approximately 13.5% of participants said that they have volunteered in an activity that helps protect Kullaberg Nature Reserve in the past 5 years such as litter picking and helping with local NGOs. Respondents were asked whether they feel they have enough time, money and opportunities to engage with such activities supporting the park. 2.57% disagreed with this statement and 10.29% partially disagreed. 38% of respondents would be interested to volunteer in Kullaberg Nature Reserve in the future.

13% of respondents felt that they don't have enough time, money and opportunities to support the park.

Level of agreement: I have enough time, money and opportunities to support the nature reserve



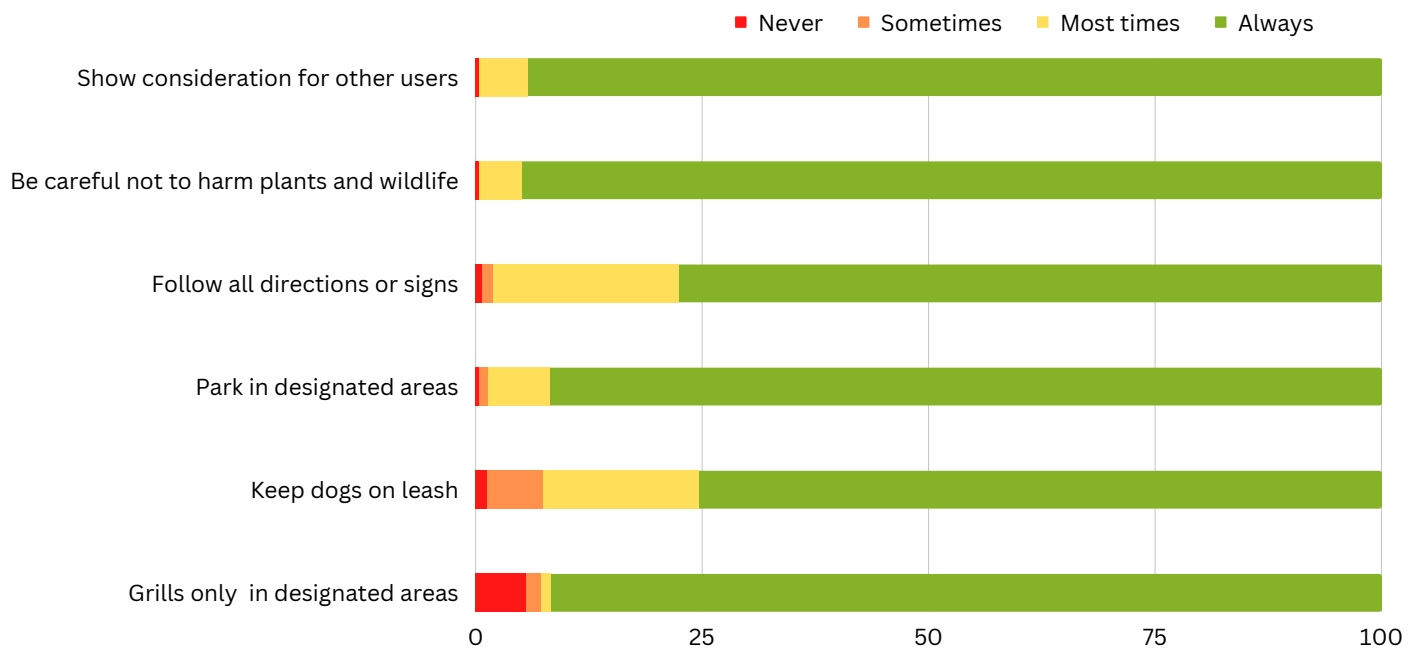
75% of participants believe that that Skane County Board does a good job protecting the nature reserve

Respondents were also asked how much they trust five institutions involved directly or indirectly in the management of the nature reserve. This was measured on a 5-point Likert scale with 1 representing the lowest and 5 the highest level of trust. All institutions were trusted with lower score stated for the national government. Most trusted institutions were the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the County administrative board

# ENVIRONMENTAL BEHAVIOUR

Respondents were also asked whether they find it easy to use the park in a responsible way. 87.5% totally agreed with this statement. Also, over 95% of the sample stated that they expect other users of the nature reserve to behave in a responsible way.

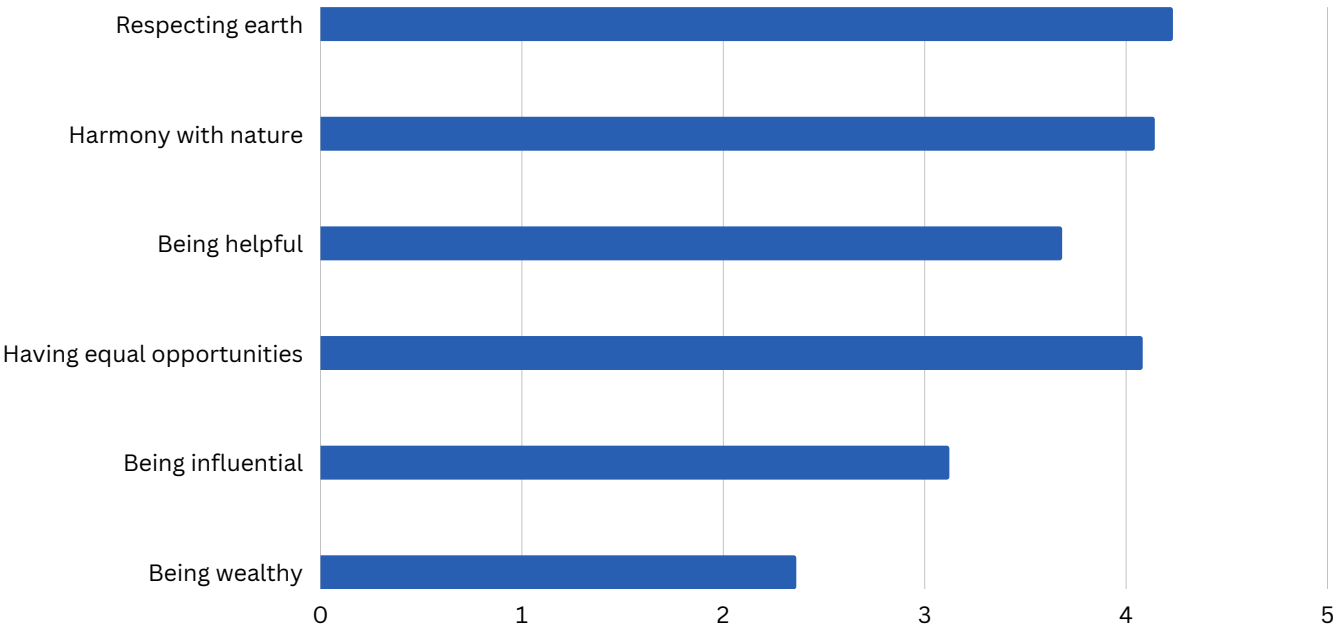
Overall participants in our survey are very responsible behaviour when they use Kullaberg Nature Reserve. Over 90% of the sample stated that they always consider other users, take care not to harm plants and wildlife, park only in designated areas and have BBQs only in areas where it is permitted. Visits in the nature reserve were increased for over 90% of respondents during the pandemic and almost 50% of the sample stated that living near Kullaberg nature reserve was important in how they copied with the pandemic.



# SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL & PLACE VALUES

*98% of respondents have a strong place attachment with the area of Kullaberg Nature Reserve*

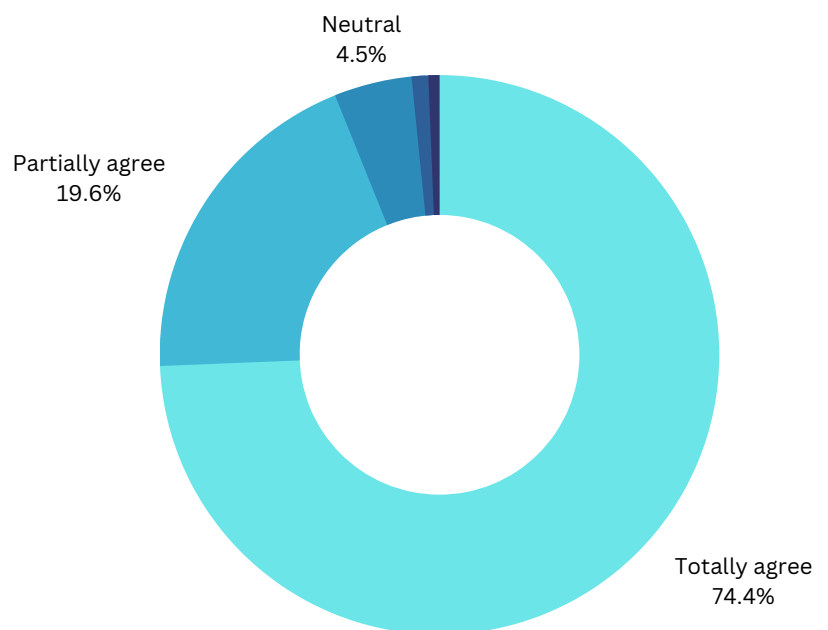
A set of questions explored social, environmental and place values of local communities in Kullaberg Nature Reserve. These questions were measured on a 5 point Likert Scale with 5 representing highest agreement. Strong environmental values were recorded with the mean score for the importance of respecting earth being 4.23. Egoistic values, such as being influential and being wealthy were considered as less important by respondents.



# PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE NATURE RESERVE

Respondents were asked how much they agree with the existence of the nature reserve. A relatively high percentage (74.4%) totally agreed with the existence of Kullaberg nature reserve with 19.6% stating that they agree. Only, 1.5% of respondents stated that they disagree or partially disagree with the existence of the Nature Reserve. Furthermore, a very high percentage (93.5%) stated that the Nature Reserve should be cared for and protected.

**approximately 95% of participants support the existence of the nature reserve**



## Which groups are more supportive of the nature reserve?

- Those who consider that the nature reserve has a positive impact on their quality of life
- Those who said that they have enough time, money and opportunities to participate in activities supporting the nature reserve
- Those with strong values regarding their respect to Earth
- Those who trust more the institutions involved with the management of the nature reserve
- Those who consider that other people expect them to behave responsibly towards nature

# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

01

## **Assess further the potential benefits of Kullaberg**

The nature reserve has significant benefits on a number of aspects especially considering the general quality of life and connectedness to nature. Kullaberg also has a very crucial role for a large part of the community on how they coped during the pandemic. Future work could explore the potential economic value of the nature reserve for local communities through an increase of sustainable economic activities, such as ecotourism.

02

## **Increase volunteering opportunities**

Volunteerism opportunities that support directly the management of the park could be increased in the future. It is very positive that a large proportion of locals would be keen to support Kullaberg through such activities. Management authorities could increase opportunities for the public to engage in a number of activities and also explore ways to include locals in decision-making processes.

03

## **Further evaluate the potential negative impact of overtourism**

A significant concern raised by several respondents was that the high number of tourists during the Summer months causes issues for locals living near the Nature Reserve. Most notable ones being traffic, noise and littering. Management authorities could explore options of managing overcrowding which results to significant negative impacts in the surrounding areas.

04

## **Improve public transport and accesibility**

Several respondents noted the difficulty of accessing Kullaberg nature reserve via public transport. This could also be linked with point no 3 above relating to increased traffic during the tourist season. An improvement in public transport links could assist in allowing people accessing the nature reserve while limiting the number of cars entering the wider area.

# KULLABERG NATURE RESERVE

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