

The World Trails Report & World Trails Survey 2022

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How the report took shape

- Can we think of trails as constituting a global network?
- If so, how big is it and what is its economic impact?
- Initial student-staffed efforts to find open-source data
- But WTN is especially well-positioned to gather and assess data on trails from around the world.

A twofold approach to studying trails:

1. Gather articles from researchers inside our network and beyond dealing with “big questions” in the world of trails
2. Distribute a survey that gathers data on how trails around the world are built, developed, maintained, managed, and used

Some articles featured in the World Trails Report:

Trail Sustainability Broadly Defined

Jeffrey L. Marion and Emily J. Wilkins

Trails as Strategies for Conserving Nature and Connecting People with Landscapes

Ernesto Viveiros de Castro

The Impact of Digitalization on Hiking

Dominik Huber, Simon Reuter, Julien Lux, Ralph Berchtenbreiter

Community-Trail Connections on Long-Distance Trails

Lee K. Cervený, Anna B. Miller, Monika M. Derrien

Friends of the Trail: Volunteer Contributions to Trail Management

Robert S. Bristow, Ian S. Jenkins

Pathways to Just and Sustainable Futures

Julie Judkins

The World Trails Survey

Not the first trail survey, but probably has widest geographic scope

Wide range of questions about trails, from walking surfaces to budgets

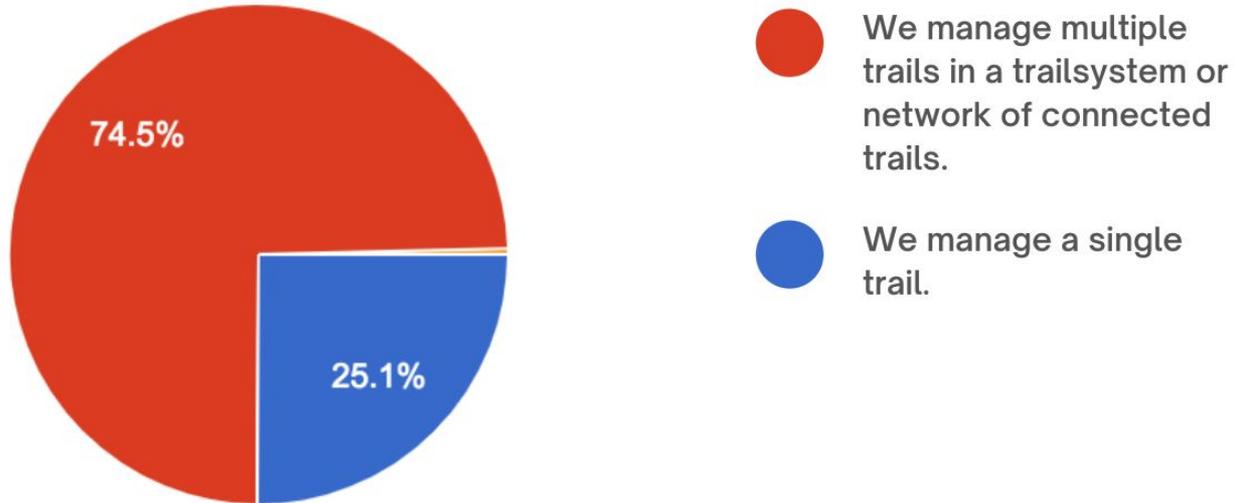
268 responses to the survey

Gives data points that supplement the research in the report

Offers snapshots of the current state of world trails, and insights about their future

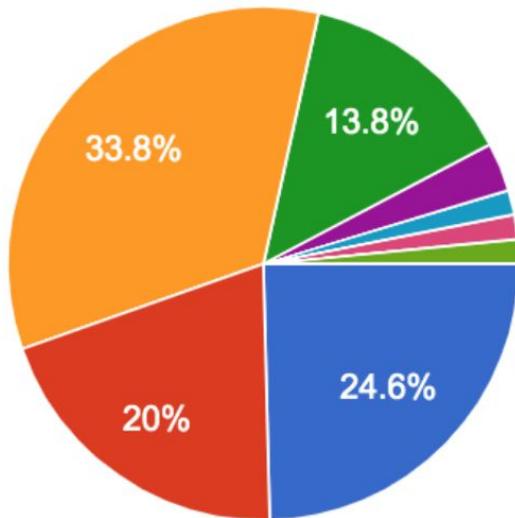
Some findings from the survey

Trail Organization Types



All

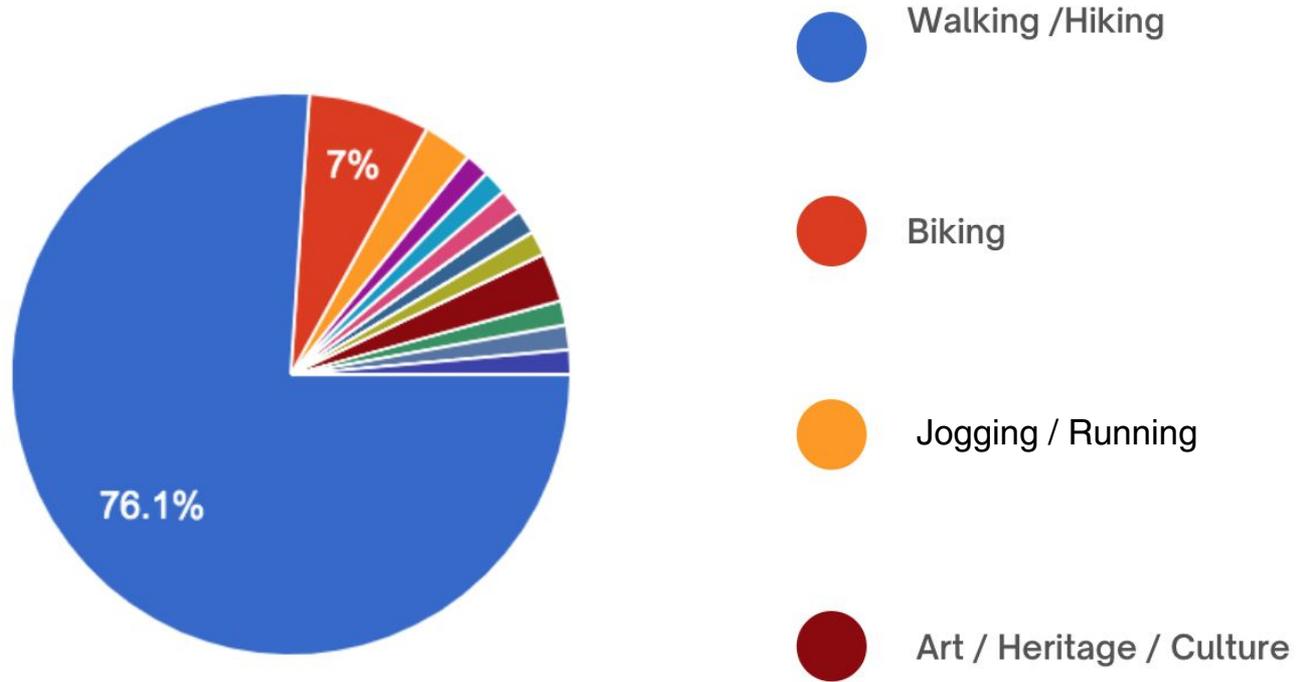
Trail Skills Needed



- Previous trail experience is advantageous. No special skills are necessary. A moderate level of fitness is required.
- No trail experience required, low to average fitness. Navigation without map is possible.
- Experienced trail users must be sure-footed, free of vertigo and in good physical condition. A high level of fitness is necessary.
- No trail experience required, average fitness is adequate.

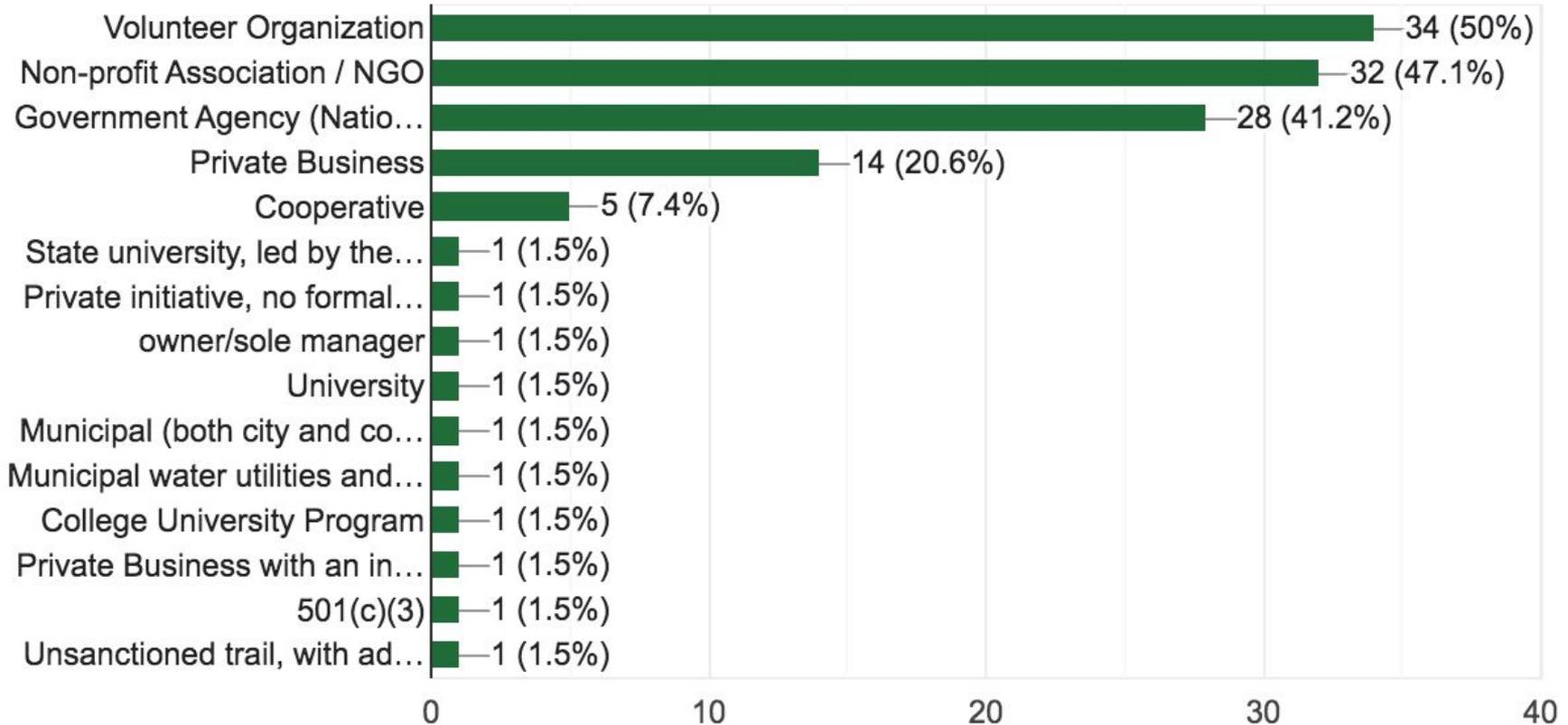
All

Primary Trail Activity

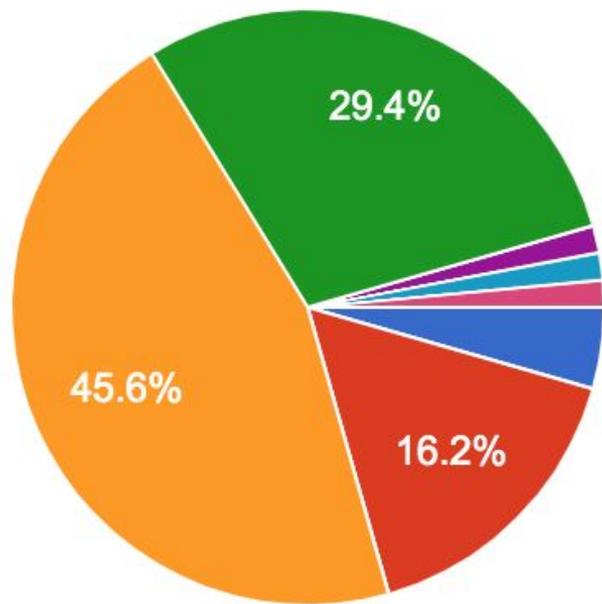


All

What management structure exists for your trail?



Maintained Condition of Trails



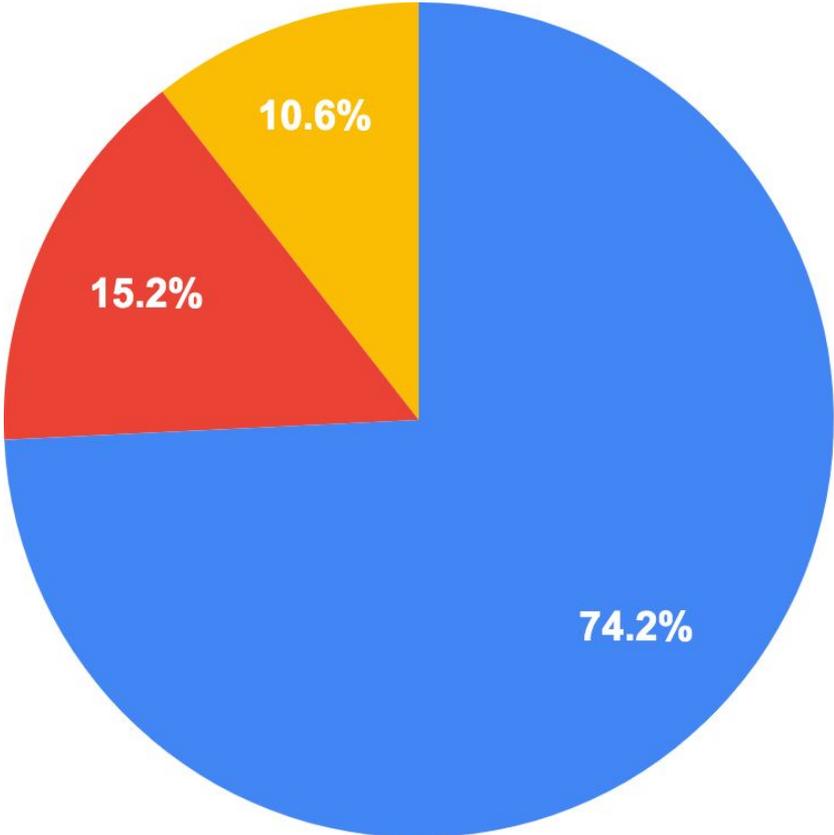
- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Excellent
- Not applicable as still in progress
- sections range from excellent to poor
- This trail is new and being developed. There are parts that are in really good condition and parts that are in poor condition

Management structure

Vast majority of respondents identify their organizations as:

- Government agencies
- Non-profit organizations
- Volunteer organizations

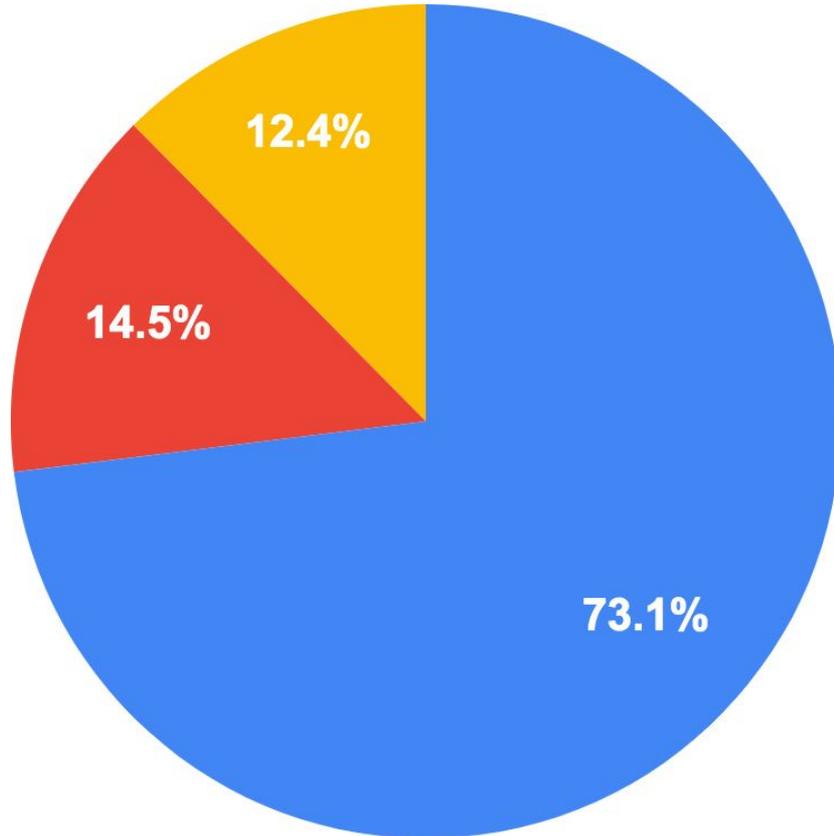
Completed Economic Studies



- No economic studies have been completed
- Yes - and please contact us for a copy of our study report
- Yes - and we do not have a report we can share

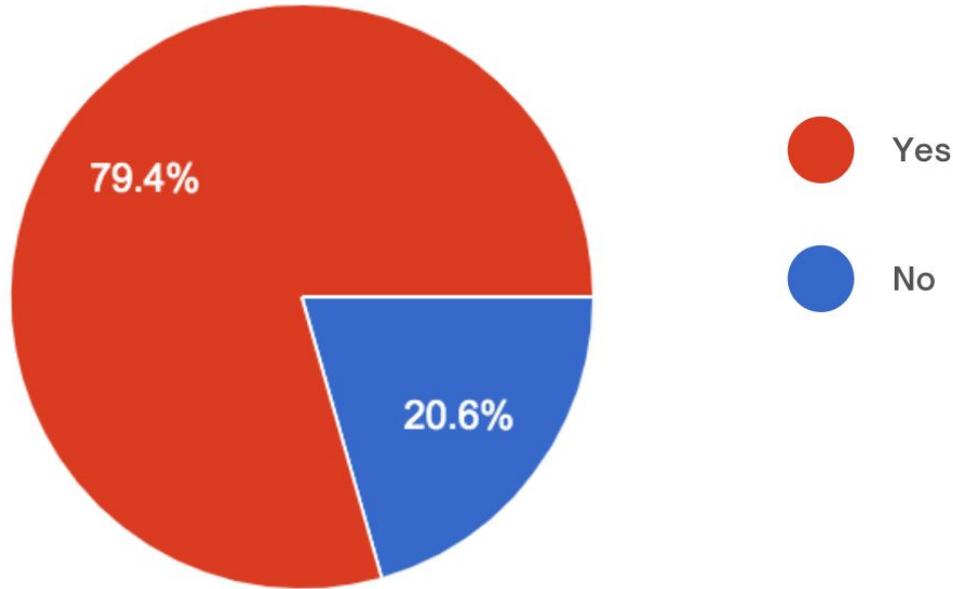
Single

Completed Economic Studies



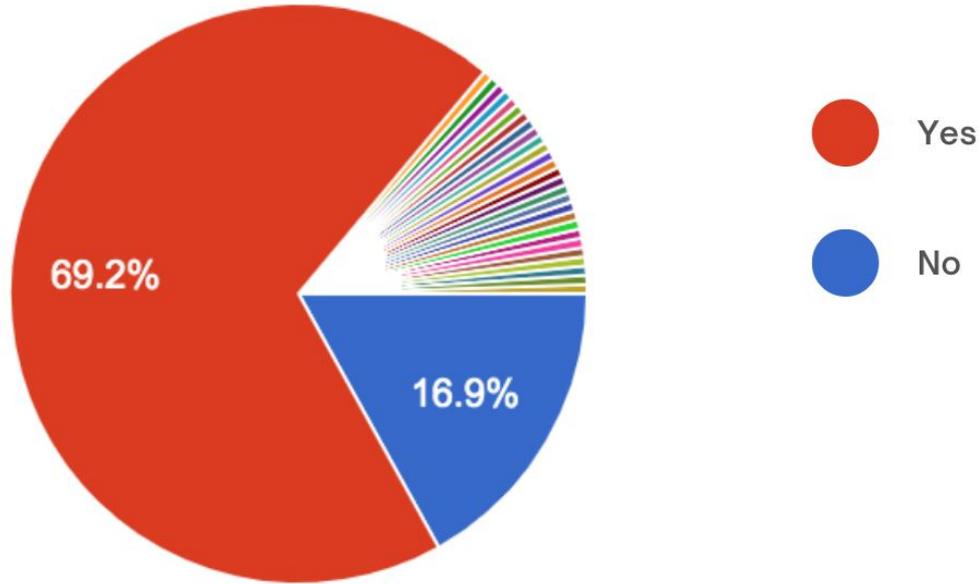
- No economic studies have been completed
- Yes - and we do not have a report we can share
- Yes - and please contact us for a copy of our study report

Revenue - does your trail collect entry fees, permits?



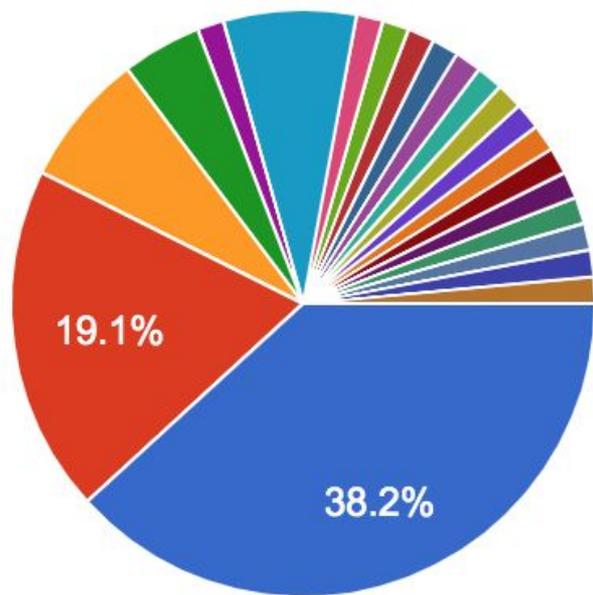
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Revenue - does your trail collect entry fees, permits?



Network

Primary Funding Sources

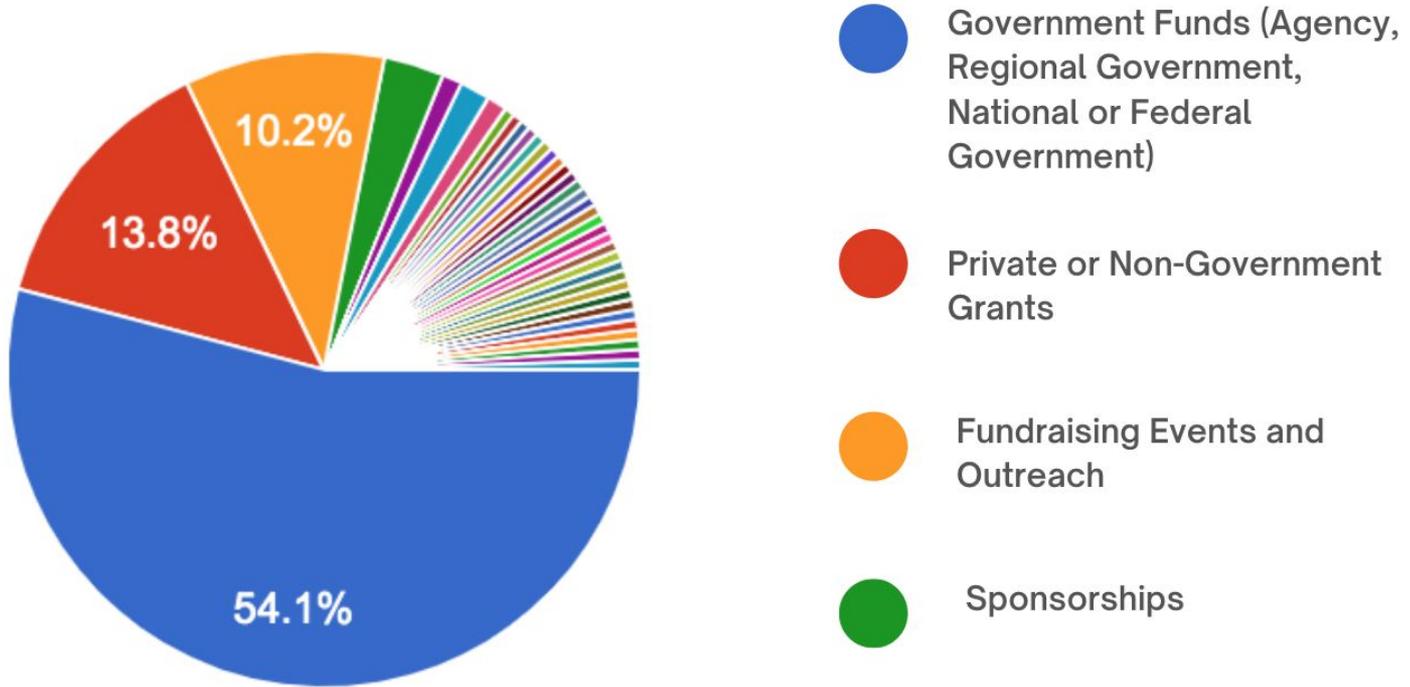


- Government Funds (Agency, Regional...)
- Private or Non-Government Grants
- Fundraising Events and Outreach
- Sponsorships
- Bequests
- Permits
- Yes
- Some private donations

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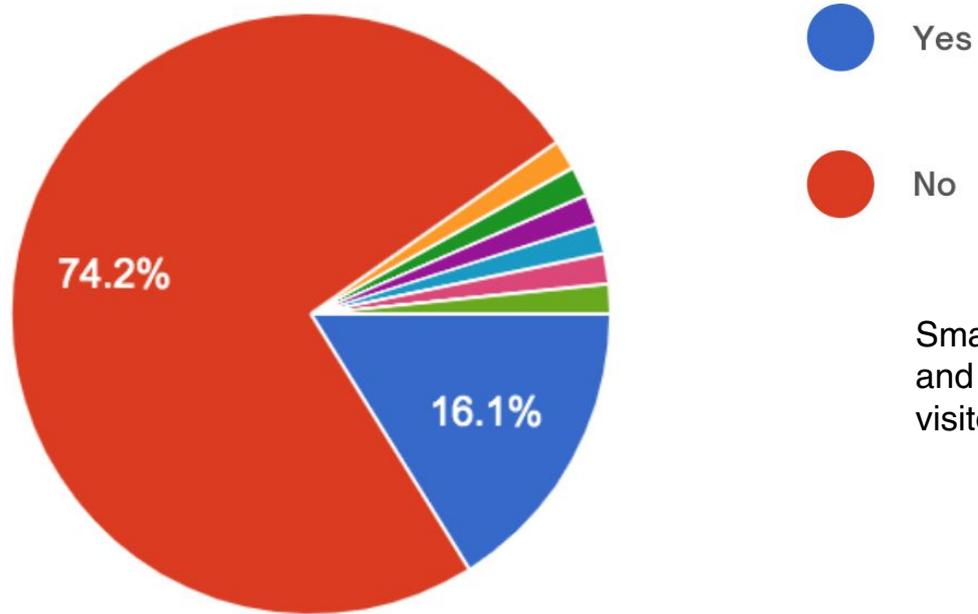
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Primary Funding Sources



Network

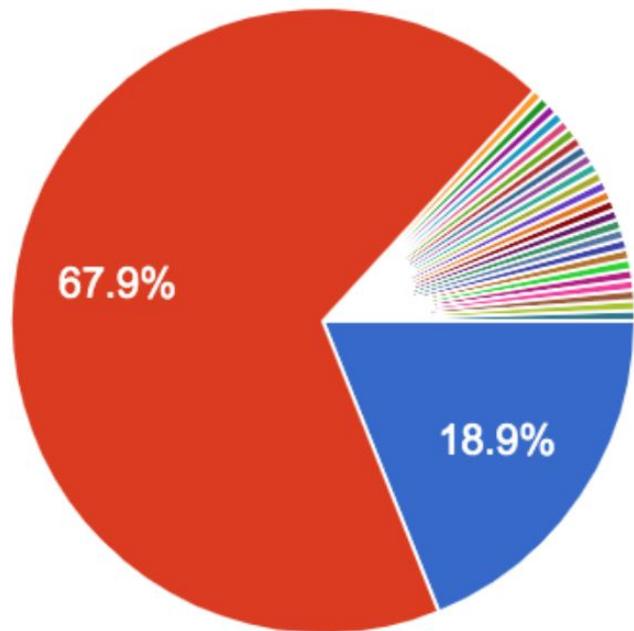
Do you have a defined Visitor Management Plan?



Smaller slices refer to plans in progress and or exploring the need for such a visitor plan.

Single

Do you have a defined Visitor Management Plan?



Yes

No

Smaller slices refer to plans in progress and or exploring the need for such a visitor plan.

Network

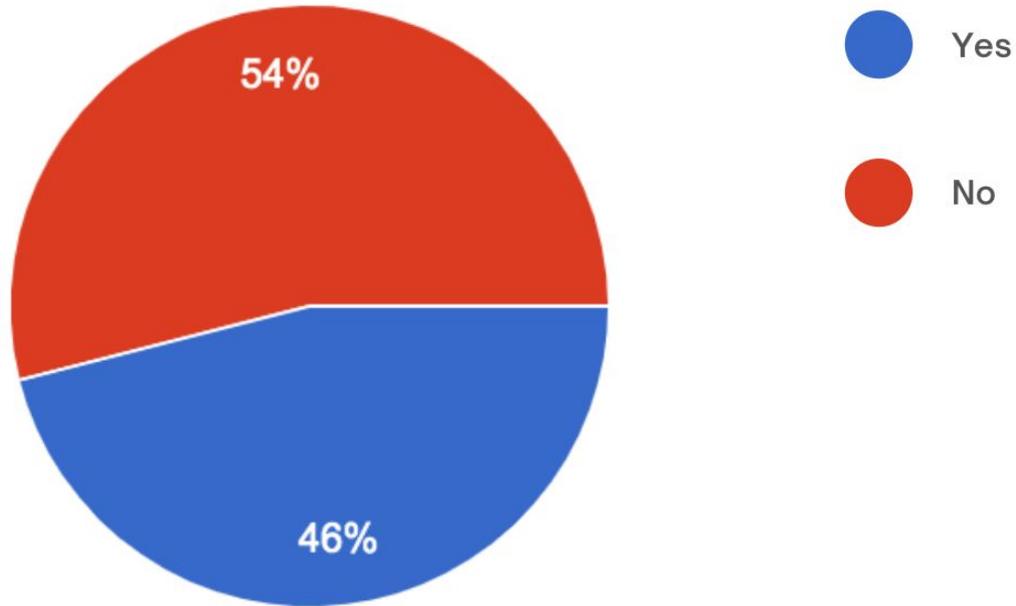
Trail system challenges and opportunities

4. Natural disasters
3. Climate change
2. Trail degradation

Trail system challenges and opportunities

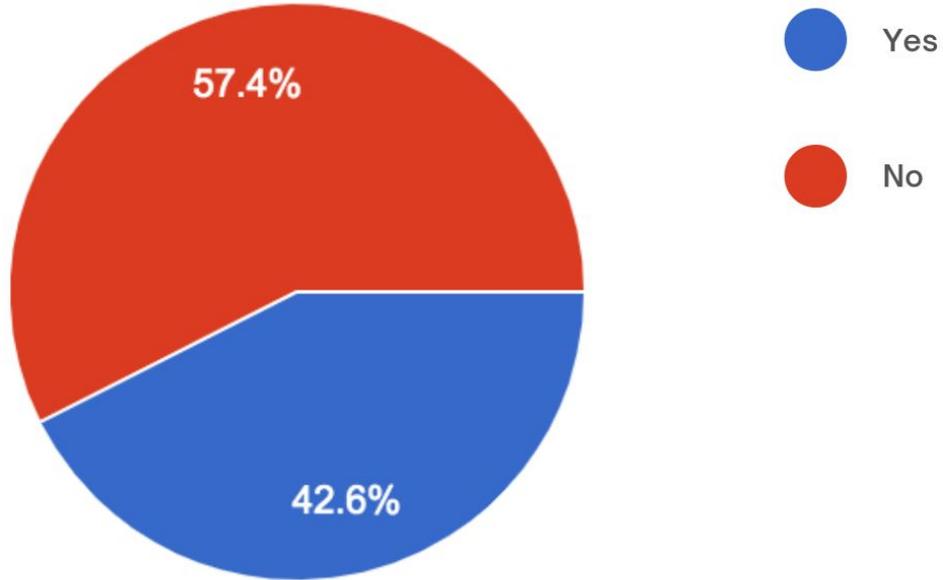
4. Natural disasters
3. Climate change
2. Trail degradation
1. **Funding constraints**

Capacity to meet trail construction and maintenance needs



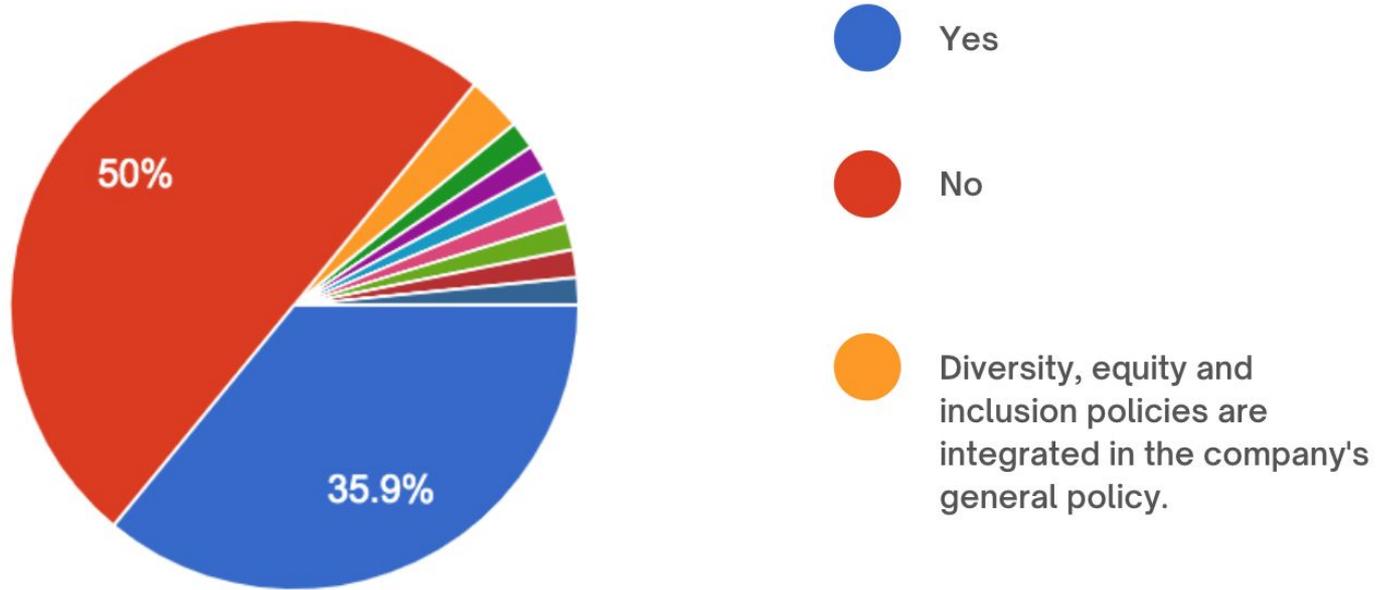
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Capacity to meet trail construction and maintenance needs



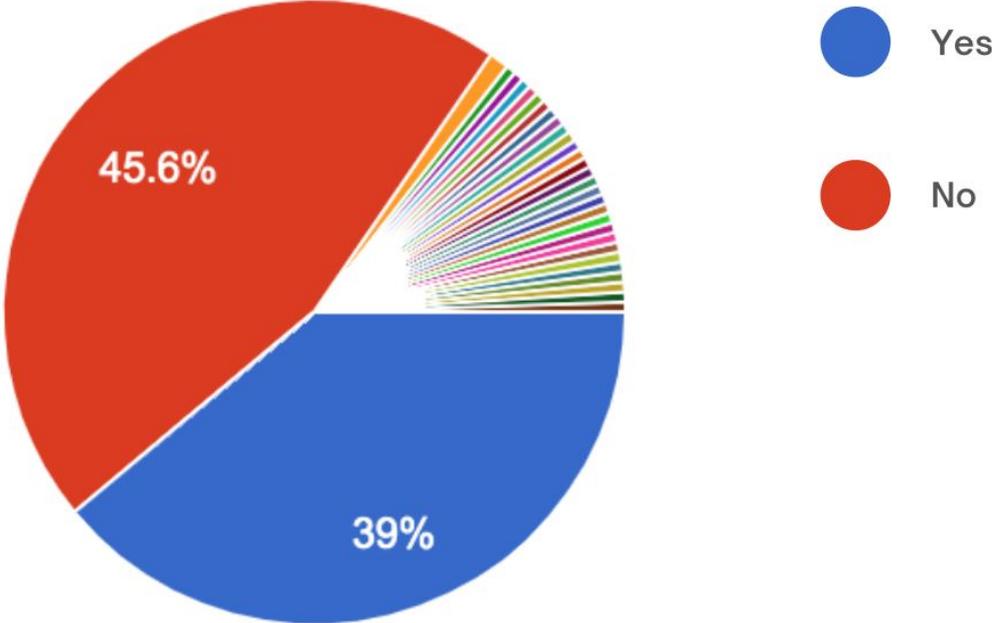
Network

Policy relating to diversity, equity and inclusion



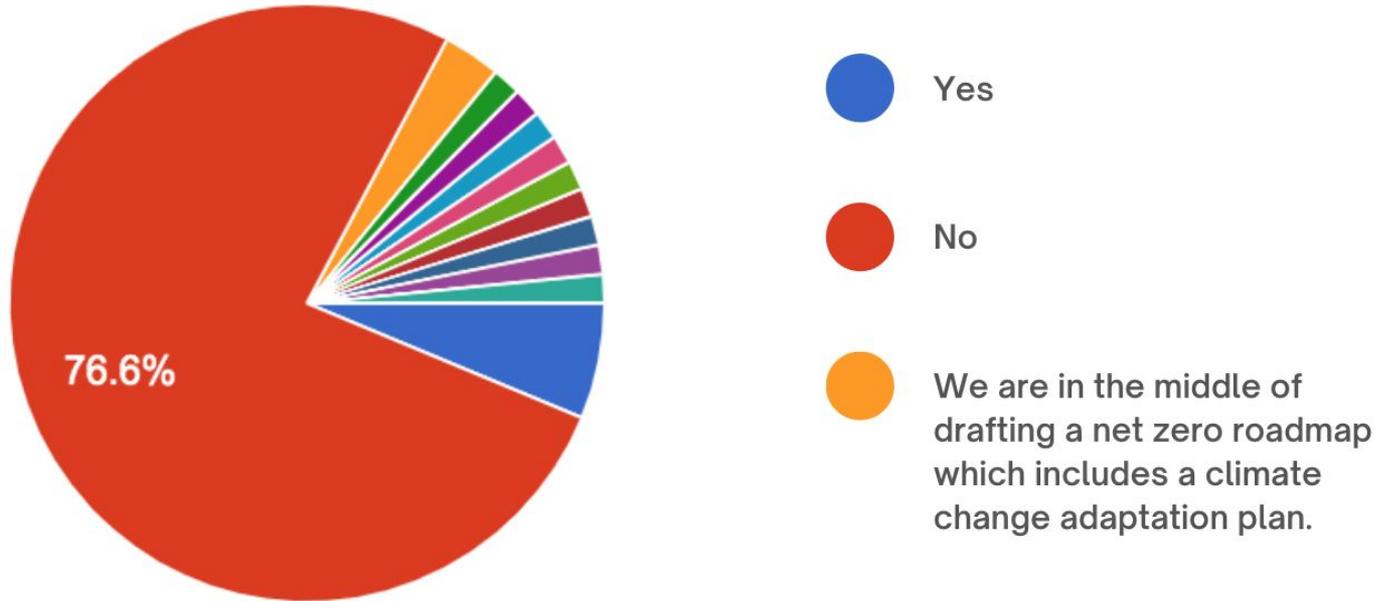
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Policy relating to diversity, equity and inclusion



Network

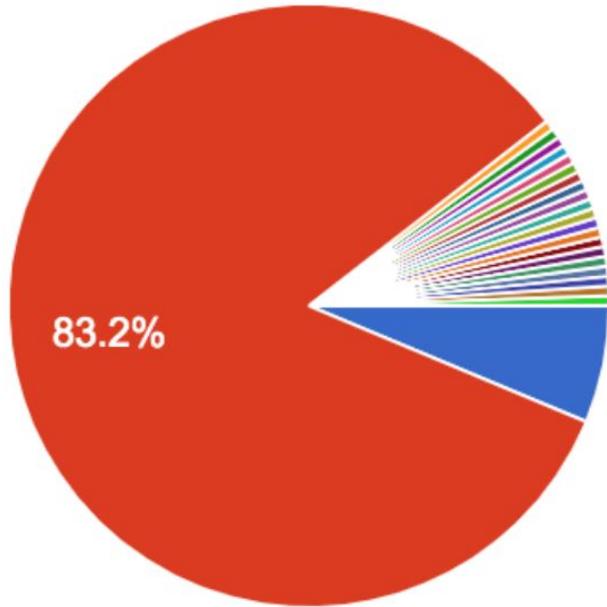
Climate change policy in place



Smaller slices refer to plans in progress to develop such a policy.

Single

Climate change policy in place



● Yes

● No

Smaller slices refer to plans in progress to develop such a policy.

Network

Known limitations of the report

Building toward the next World Trails Report: discussion questions

1. What questions would you like to see WTN explore in the future?
2. How can we work to answer these questions in a thorough and systematic way? Do you know people who can help?
3. Thinking bigger, what do you think the World Trails Report should look like? Are there sections you would like to see? What haven't we thought of yet?