

COVID survey Oceania

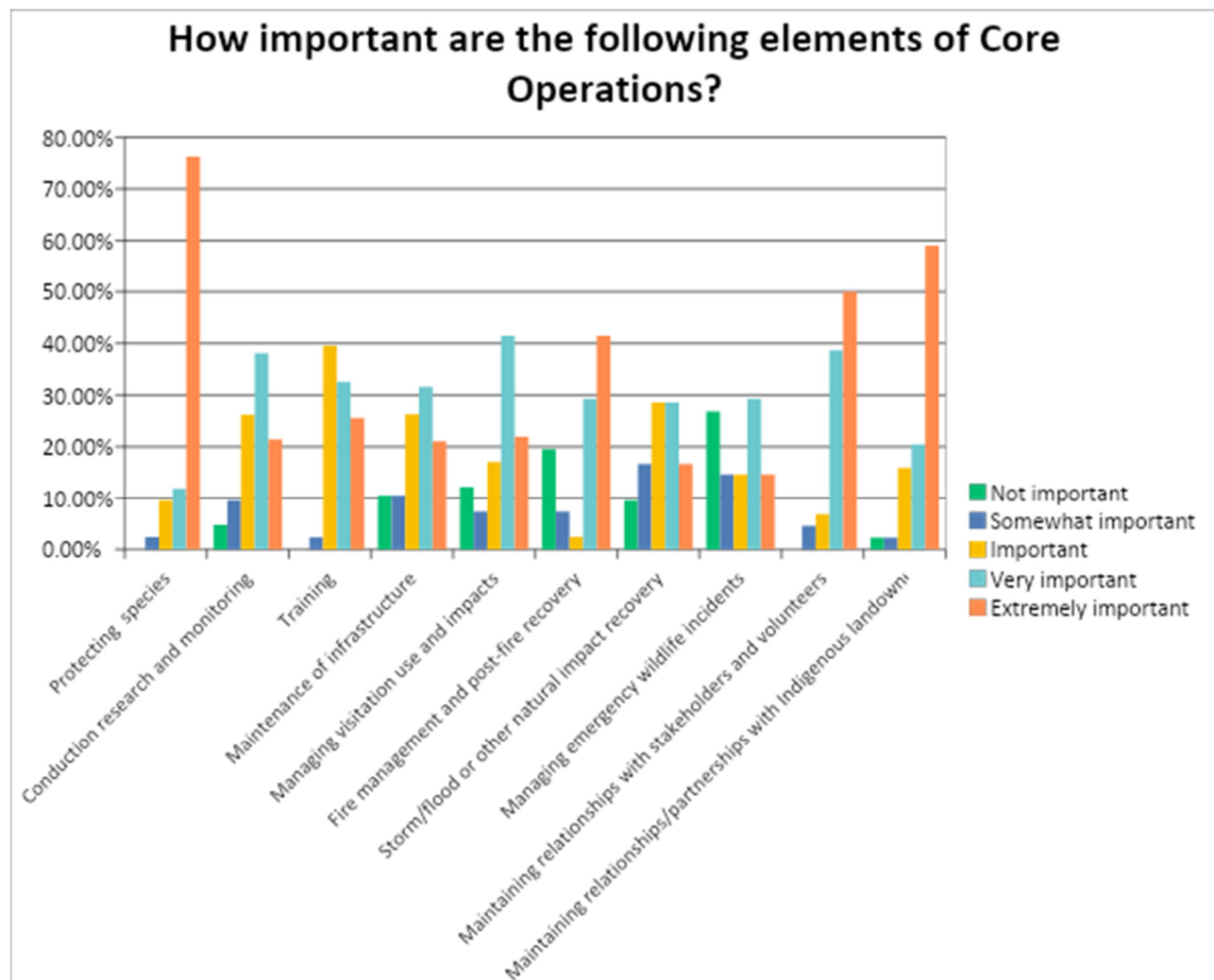
Sample – 44 responses

60% from government, 20% from national and international NGOs, 71% from Australia. Other responses from New Zealand, Palau, Samoa, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Fiji. Responses covered individual protected areas, systems of protected areas, marine and terrestrial sites, private protected areas and private lands managed for conservation and Indigenous protected areas.

Impacts of COVID-19 on core operations

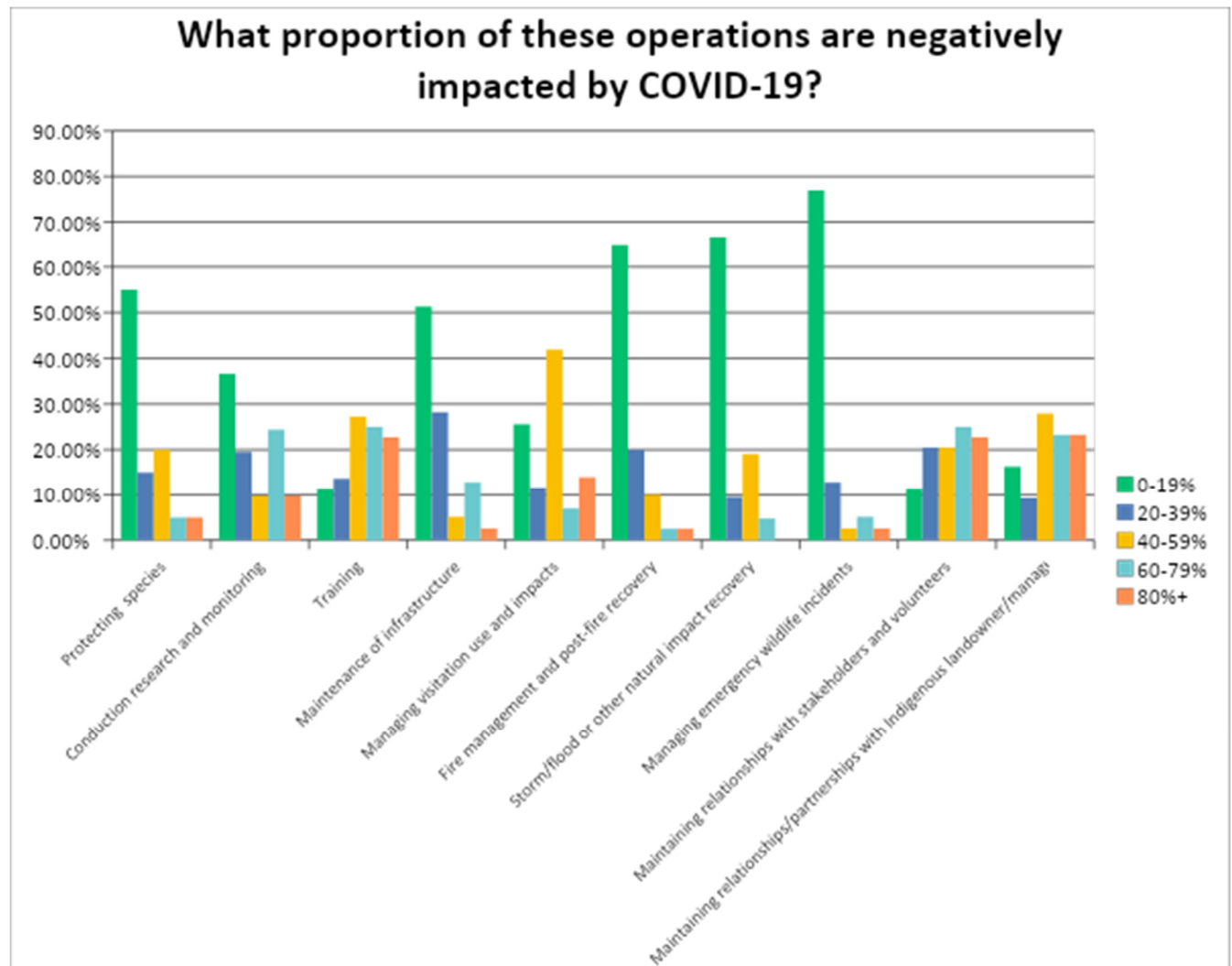
The most common (>50% of respondents) very/extremely important core operations are:

1. Protecting species
2. Maintaining relationships with stakeholders and volunteers
3. Maintaining relationships with Indigenous landowners/managers
4. Conducting research and monitoring
5. Fire management
6. Training
7. Managing visitor use and impacts



Of these the most significantly affected core operations (>60% of operations negatively affected) were Maintaining relationships with stakeholders and volunteers, Training, Maintaining relationships with Indigenous landholders/managers and Research and monitoring. Core resource management activities (Protecting species,

Fire management and natural impact recovery operations) were much less impacted. About 20% of respondents had more than 60% of visitor management activities negatively impacted.

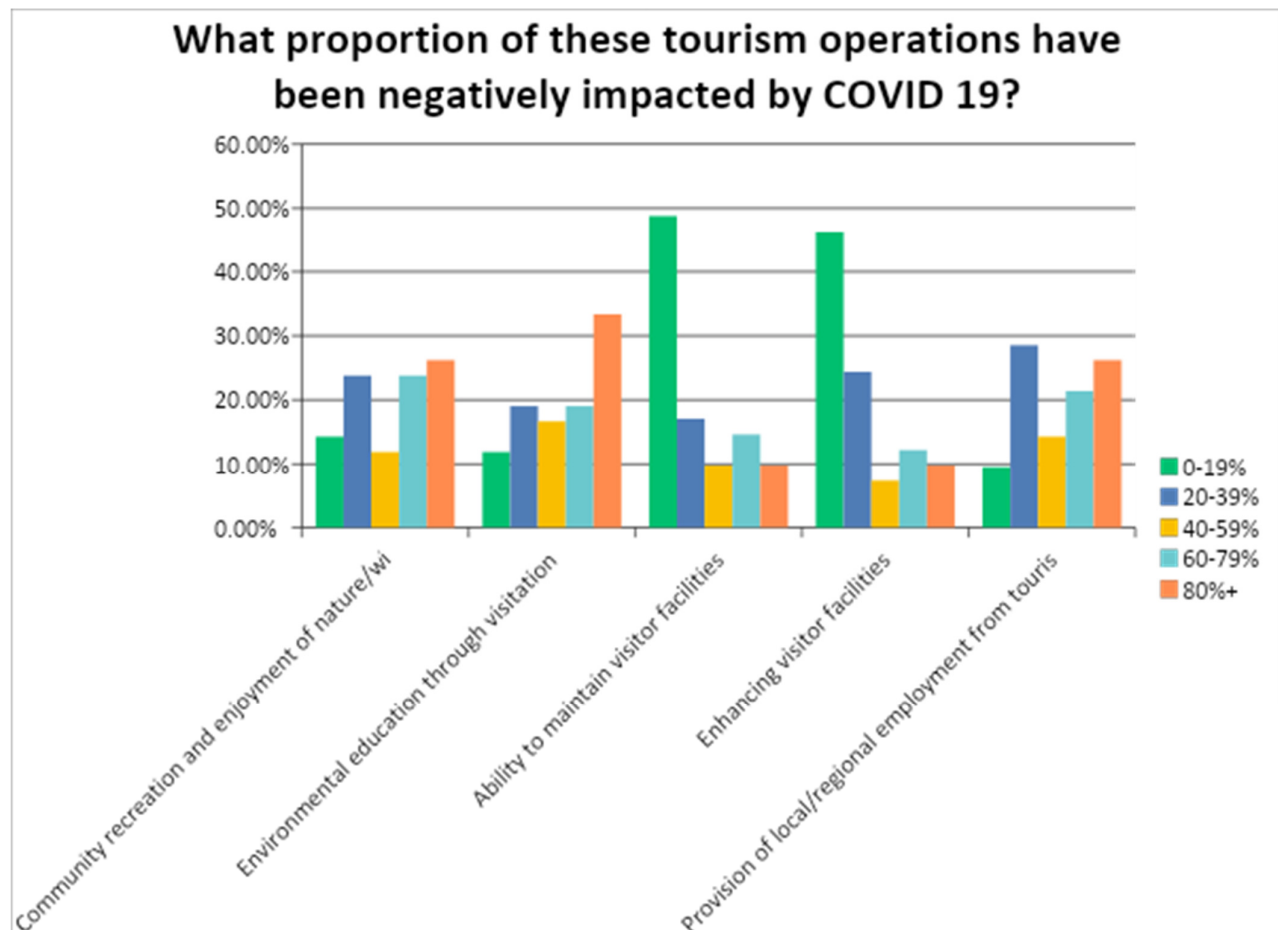


Impact of COVID-19 on illegal activities

More than 60% of respondents reported that COVID-19 had only a minor impact (0-19% reduction) in their law enforcement work in relation to all types of illegal activity.

Tourism management

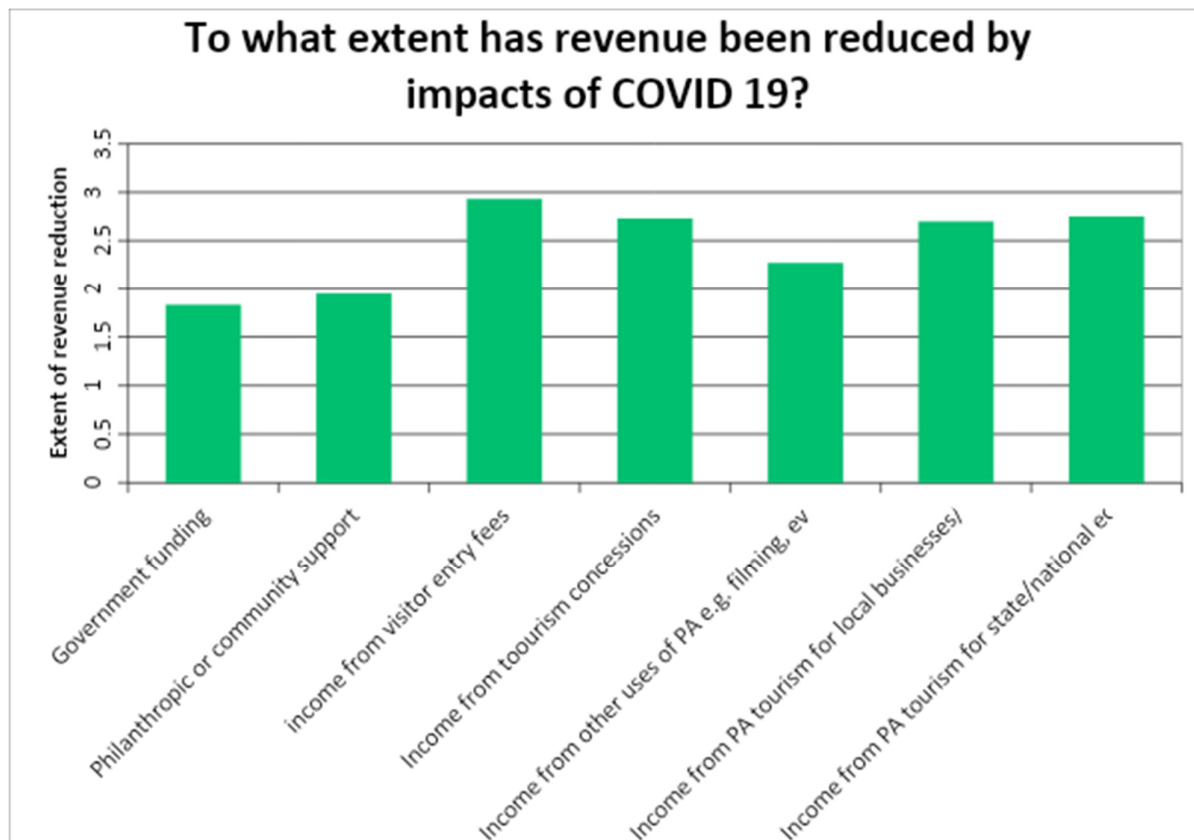
Half of the respondents have seen a major (>60% reduction) in community recreation and environmental education in the protected and conserved areas together with a similarly large reduction in local employment from tourism. However, most respondents indicated that their ability to maintain or enhance visitor facilities had been impacted to a much lesser extent.



Impact on revenue

Government funding is the most important source of revenue for the majority of respondents, but philanthropic/community support and income from tourism entry fees and tourism concessions are also significant sources of income for most. More than 60% of respondents indicated that Tourism derived revenue was very or extremely important to local businesses, the local economy and to the State/National economy.

Government funding has been little impacted for most respondents, although nearly 20% indicated that they had lost more than 80% of the government derived revenue. As would be expected, revenue from entrance fees and tourism concessions and tourism-derived income for local communities/businesses and regional and national economies has been more significantly affected.



Ability to maintain operations if current COVID-19 restrictions persist

Almost two-thirds of the non-government respondents indicated that they would not be able to maintain current operations for more than a year if current COVID-19 restrictions persisted. The other third indicated that their ability to maintain normal operations was not at risk.

Working with partners and stakeholders

The partnership activities most affected by COVID-19 are conservation education, outreach and working with communities on issues such as invasive species management. Working with NGO partners, other government bodies and researchers were relatively little affected.

To what extent have these elements been negatively impacted by COVID-19?

