

The following presentation summarizes findings from an on-line consultation designed for forest stakeholders to provide advice to the USFS as it begins to plan the publication of the 2010 US Report on Sustainable Forests.

This represents a preliminary analysis of the results from 240 respondents. A final report will be available in April of 2007.

Preliminary Results: 2010 National Report Consultation

Roundtable for Sustainable Forests

Core Group Meeting

February 9, 2007

Consultation Team

Dennis Grossman

Paul Geissler

Susan Morre

Guy Robertson

Sarah Walen

Agenda for this Session

- Presentation: Summary of Questionnaire Responses
 - Brief Discussion
- Discussion regarding 2010 Report feedback:
 - Relative importance of different Criteria & Indicators
 - Report content and format
- Wrapping up our work

Response Information

- 2439 Invitations sent
- 280 Responses – 11.5% Response Rate
 - Meridian Database (239/2311)
 - National Woodland Owners Assn Database (17/94)
 - AF&PA Database (11/60)
 - SAF (2/7)
 - Consultation Team (5/5)
 - Review Group (6/9)

Response Statistics

State of Residence






- 43 States
- District of Columbia
- Ontario
- Brazil

State where they work




- All 50 States
- Ontario
- Brazil

Response Statistics

2.3 My organization`s work or my personal interests are focused at which of the following level(s):

111 (41% ± 6%) International Level	
198 (74% ± 5%) National Level	
178 (66% ± 6%) Regional Level (multi-state)	
176 (65% ± 6%) State Level	
134 (50% ± 6%) County/Local/Community Level	
269 Total	

If you work at the regional level, please check the regions.

60 (35% ± 7%) Northeast	
54 (32% ± 7%) Southeast	
38 (22% ± 6%) Midwest	
66 (39% ± 7%) Pacific West (including AK & HI)	
35 (21% ± 6%) Southwest (including TX)	
43 (25% ± 7%) Rocky Mountains	
170 Total	















Organizational Representation

2.4 My organization is best described as:

2 (1% ± 1%) County or Local Government	
30 (12% ± 4%) State Government	■
2 (1% ± 1%) Tribal Government	
69 (27% ± 5%) Federal Government	■
0 (0%) Private Development Organization	
14 (5% ± 3%) Forest Products or TIMO	■
16 (6% ± 3%) Private and/or Family Forest Landowner	■
37 (14% ± 4%) Non-Profit Environmental or Conservation Organization	■
2 (1% ± 1%) Foundation (private, public, or other)	
9 (4% ± 2%) Forest Management Consultant (either independent or with a consulting firm)	■
38 (15% ± 4%) College or University	■
8 (3% ± 2%) I am not representing an organization	■
30 (12% ± 4%) Other (please describe){text}	■
257 Total	

Stakeholder Category

3.1 Which category best describes your interest and relationship to forests?

52 (20% ± 5%) Family forest landowner	
57 (22% ± 5%) Forest product industry	
41 (15% ± 4%) Sustainable Forests Partnership	
41 (15% ± 4%) Environmental organization	
73 (28% ± 5%) Educator	
101 (38% ± 6%) Professional forester	
52 (20% ± 5%) Policy maker	
29 (11% ± 4%) Land use planner	
14 (5% ± 3%) Fish or wildlife biologist	
79 (30% ± 6%) Research scientist	
4 (2% ± 1%) Real estate investor	
73 (28% ± 5%) Informed and Interested Citizen	
85 (32% ± 6%) Active forest user	
34 (13% ± 4%) Other (please describe){text}	
265 Total	

4. Importance of Forests to People

Please describe the general or specific reasons that you think forests are important to people.




- They provide the **evolutionary context** for many of the species on earth, including people. As such they have biological and ecological importance, spiritual importance, economic importance and are critical to the provision of sustaining **ecological services** critical to the health of the planet.
- Forest provide important products as well as **recreation and spiritual values**. It is critical to maintain forest biodiversity as an essential component of our natural heritage
- essential to **addressing challenges with climate change**, aesthetics and recreation, worship, source of herbs, **medicines and other non timber wood products**, hunting and sustenance, timber, increased property value, maintaining **biodiversity**, source of clean water
- for their contributions to **clean air and water**, **wildlife habitat**, source of shelter, food, wood and nonwood products, recreation, spiritual renewal, beauty, open space, jobs, landscape stability (protection of soils), shading streams, nutrient cycling and other **ecosystem processes**, privacy, sense of place
- I think this question is somewhat misguided. The C&I itself is a measure of the various ways that forests are important to people. It seems to me that this would be better approached as a problem of developing a discreet measure of public awareness and concern for forests.
- clean and abundant water, habitat for plants and animals, rural community stability, energy self-sufficiency, and access for recreation and spiritual renewal.
- Increasingly I view the importance of forests from ecosystem services perspectives, but not just in terms of the value of services in the marketplace. Forests are critical to maintaining ecosystem resilience to a variety of stressors including climate change; and to the **social and economic future of communities**
- I do not feel comfortable describing why forests are important to people, but can tell you why they are personally important. Forests are peaceful, beautiful, and spiritual. They provide habitat for numerous plants, wildlife, and microscopic organisms. Forests also provide clean air and water. **Walking or driving through forests make my heart sing.**

Importance of Forests to People









- 20 pages of insightful comments that demonstrate a breadth of perceived values.
- Susan Morre is currently coding and summarizing these results
- This information will be shared with the Communications Outreach and the Indicator 44 Working Groups.
- Most importantly, we now have a good start for the development of Rich's new bestselling book!

Use of Indicators

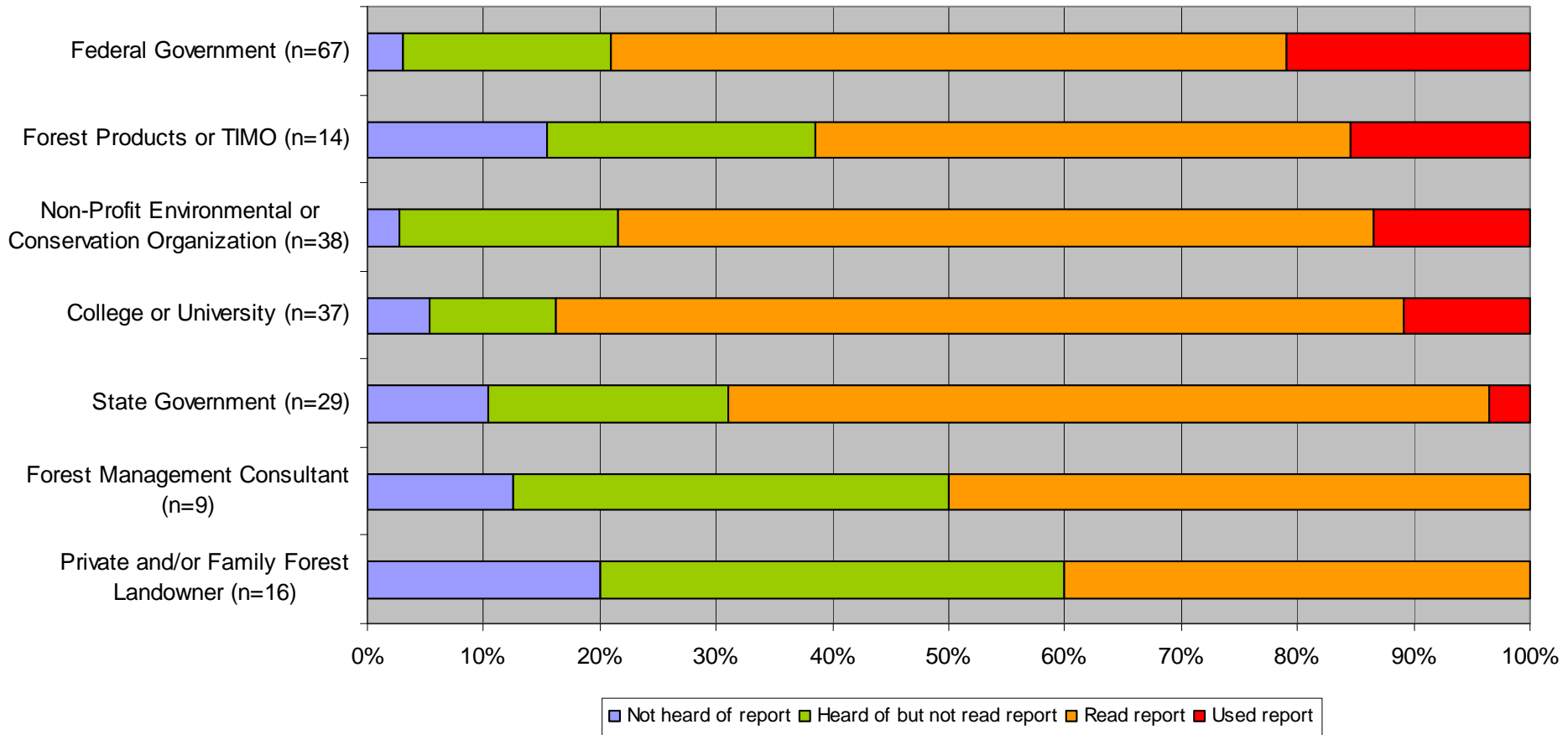
5.1 Have you used sustainability indicators in your work?

43 (16% ± 4%) No	
200 (75% ± 5%) Yes	
22 (8% ± 3%) Not Sure	
265 Total	

5.2 How would you want to use Indicator information on forest sustainability in the future?

148 (56% ± 6%) Make forest management decisions	
134 (51% ± 6%) Decide on forest policy	
138 (52% ± 6%) Advocate for forest policy	
130 (49% ± 6%) Guide research	
158 (60% ± 6%) Education	
134 (51% ± 6%) Background information	
5 (2% ± 2%) I would not use this information	
23 (9% ± 3%) Other (please describe) {text}	
264 Total	





Level of Familiarity



Most groups have heard of 2003 Report, many had read it, and some had used it. It was not used at the local forest mgmt level.

Familiarity with 2003 Report

6.1 What is your level of familiarity with the 2003 U.S. National Report on Sustainable Forests?

18 (7% ± 3%) I have not heard of the report or the Montreal Process C & I. (Click here to skip this section.)	
57 (22% ± 5%) I have heard of the report but have not read it.	
150 (57% ± 6%) I have read some or all of the U.S. report.	
39 (15% ± 4%) I have used the U.S. Report	
264 Total	

- 75% of respondents said they used indicators for their work
- Only 2% said they would not use indicator information
- 57% have read some or all of the 2003 Report
- Only 15% used the 2003 Report

THE AUDIENCE FOR INDICATOR INFORMATION IS OUT THERE – WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THE 2010 REPORT MEETS THEIR NEEDS!!

What did you find most useful in the 2003 Report?

- “It is a first, but primitive attempt to assess sustainability”.
- Indicator summaries
- Data gaps and future needs
- Framework for thinking about sustainable forest mgmt
- The facts and data
- Tables, charts, maps
- Summaries of large scale trends

We received 5 pages of comments from this question

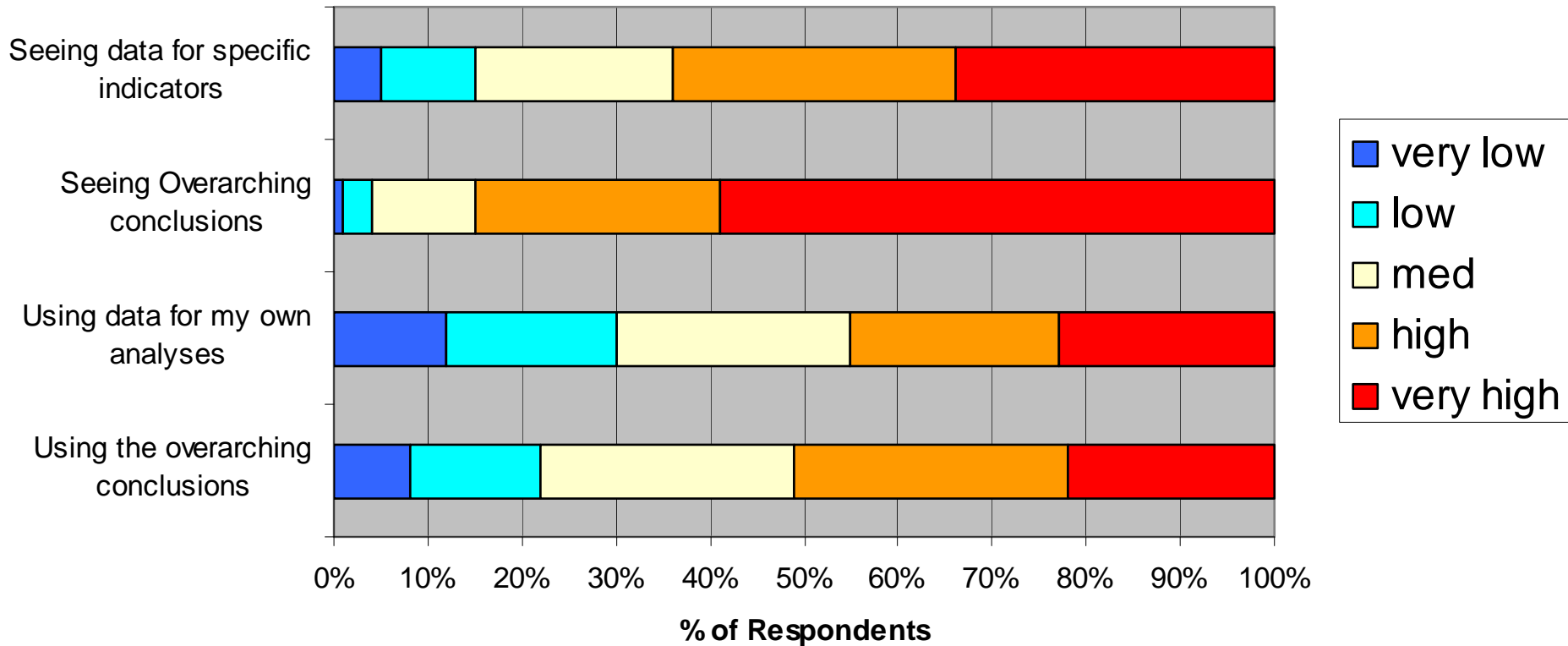
What would make the 2003 Report more Useful?

- Better integration of indicators
- Access to the actual underlying data
- Periodic updates
- Too complicated to be easily understood and used
- Too much text, just highlight the main points
- Not sufficiently useful to forest manager
- Greater utility for work at regional and state scales

We received 9 pages of comments from this question

Questions regarding 2010 Report

Importance of Report Information






For the 2010 Report, most respondents want to see:

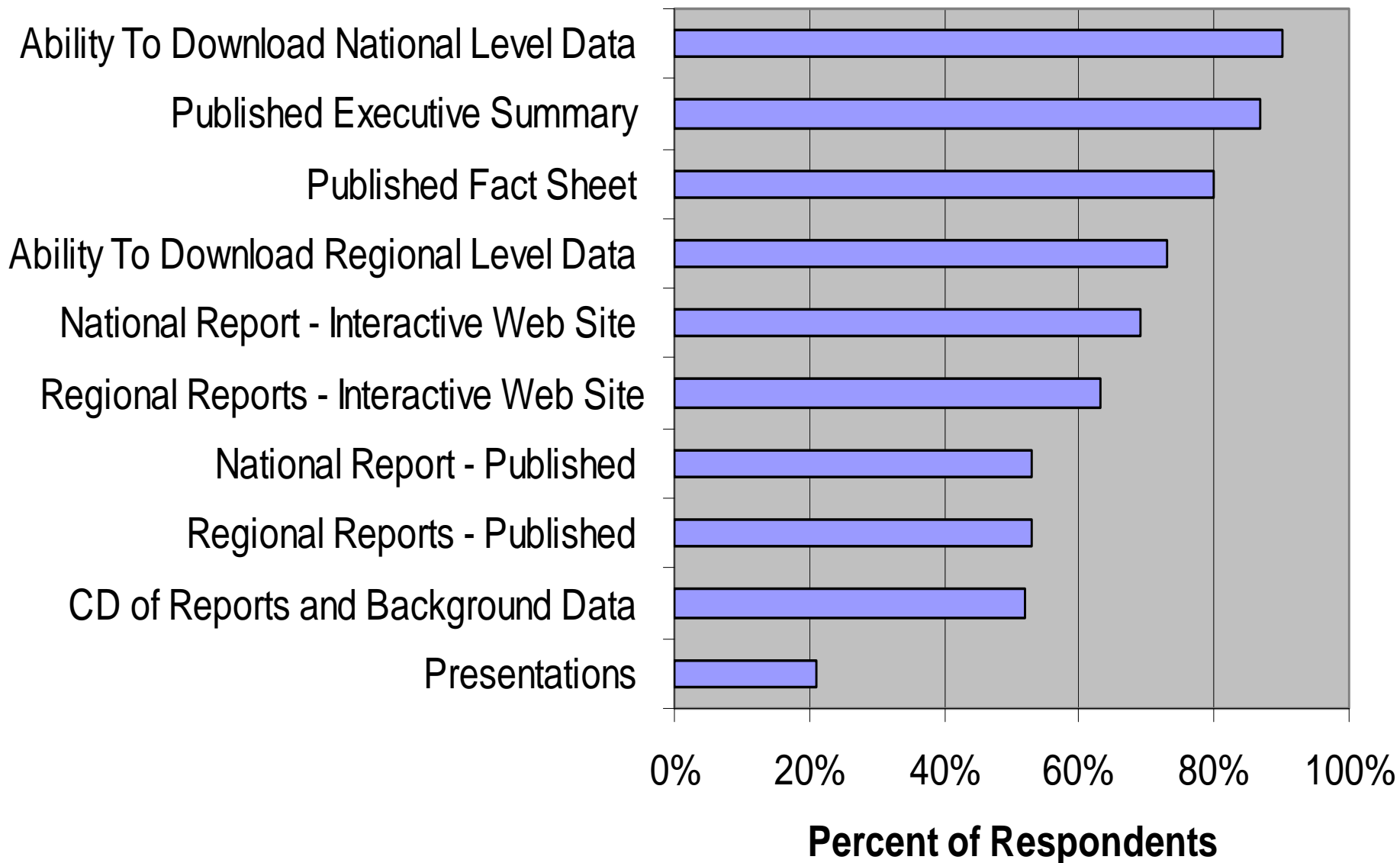
- a clear high-level summary of conclusions, and
- data for specific indicators of interest to them

Do you want to see non-quantitative results if data was not available

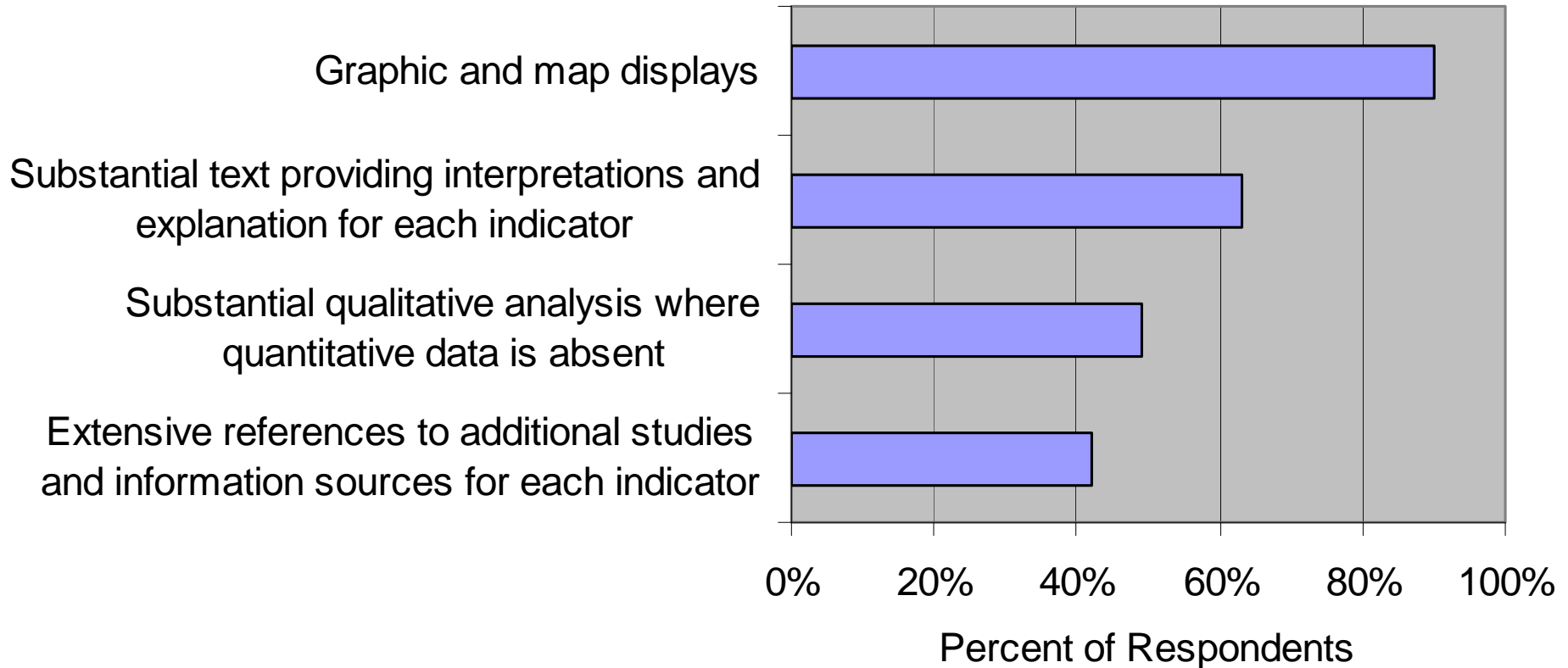
9.1 For certain Indicators, consistent quantified data reported at the national level may not be available. Are less comprehensive analyses using partial or anecdotal information still valuable for your purposes?

150 (64% \pm 6%) Yes	
23 (10% \pm 4%) No	
62 (26% \pm 6%) Not Sure	
235 Total	

Utility of Different Format for 2010 Report



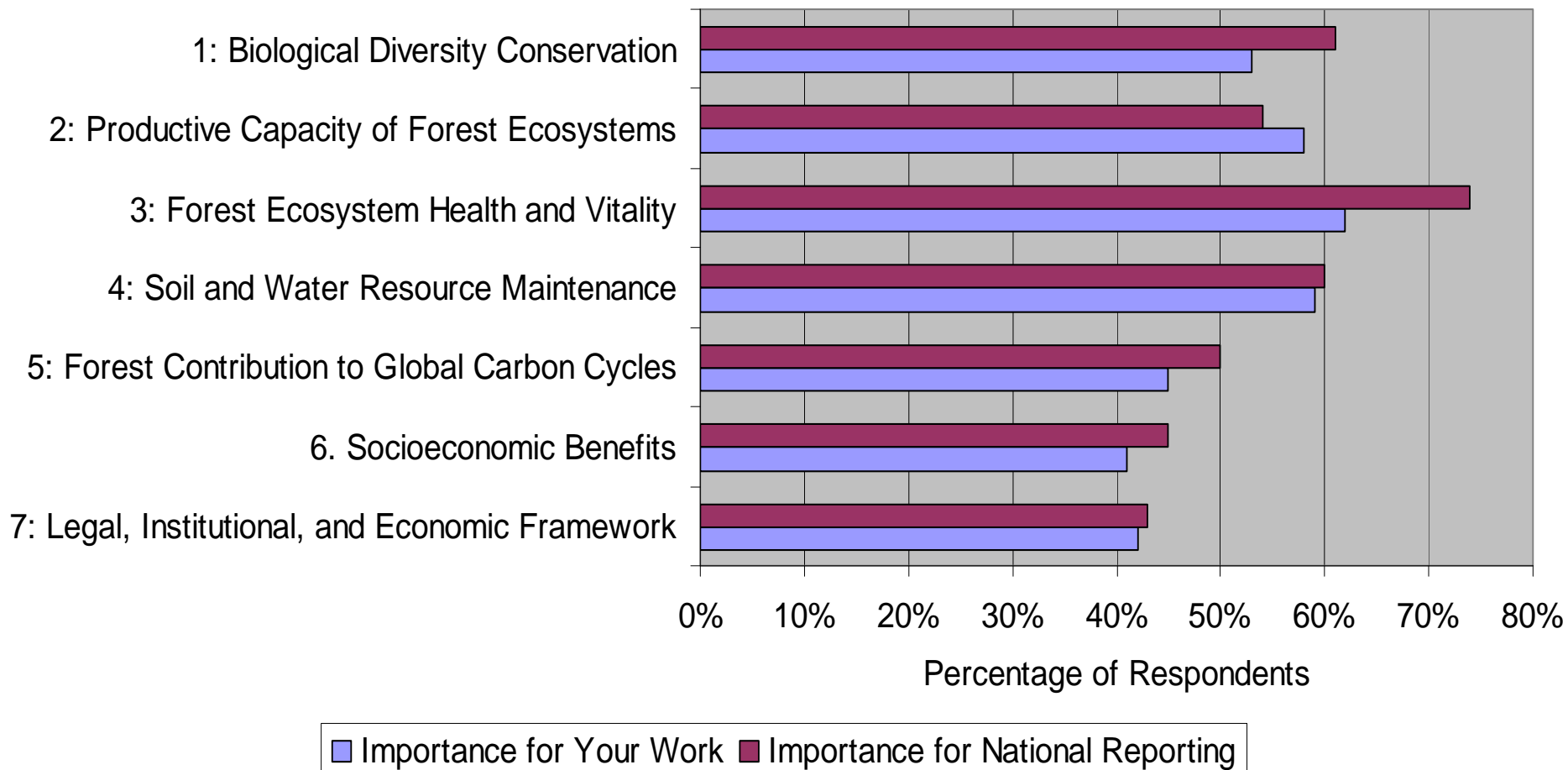
Utility of Different Content for 2010 Report



Prioritization Response for each Criteria and Indicator

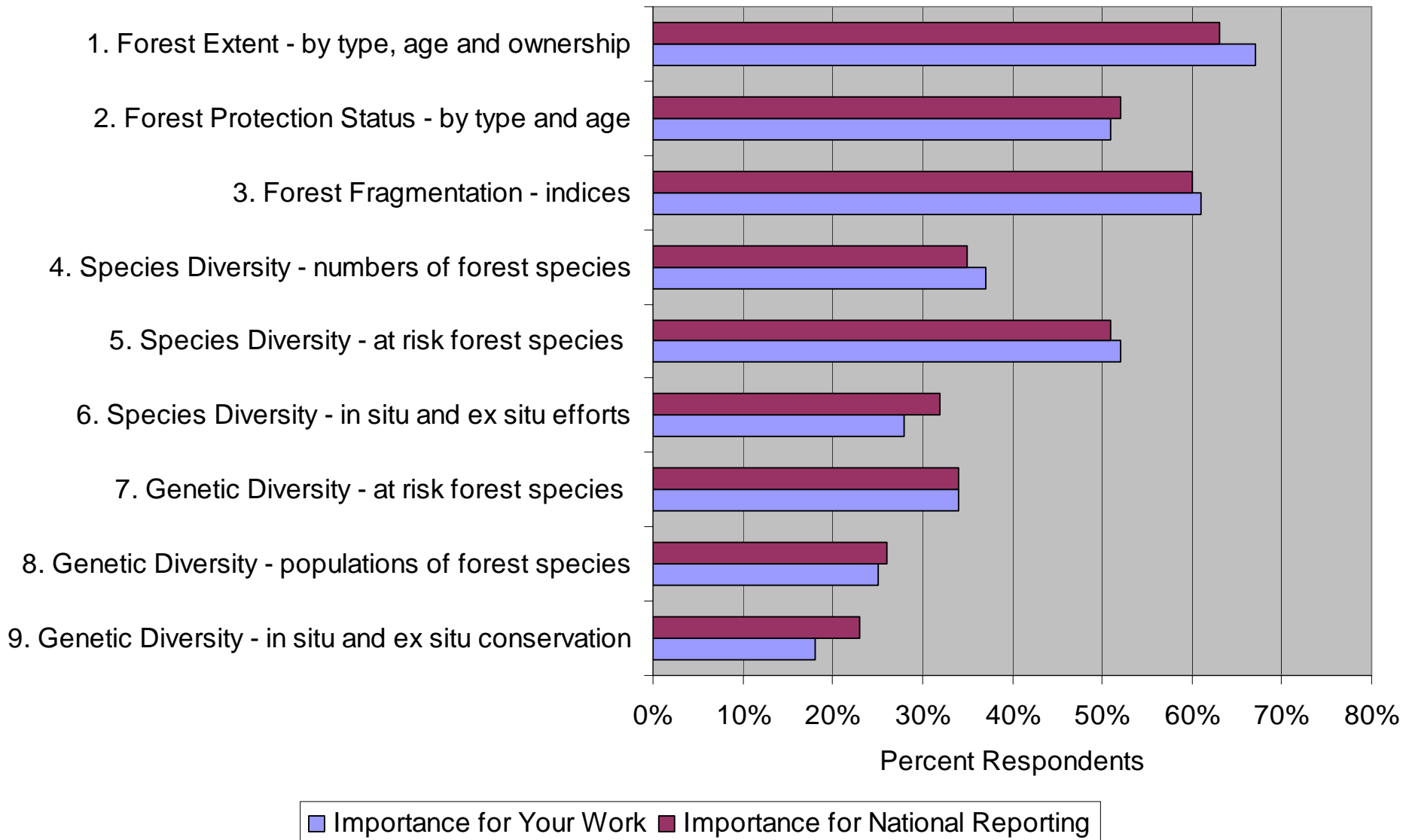
- The following bar charts represent numbers in the top two (2) response categories (out of 5 possible choices)
- There were 2 questions for each C and I:
 - Importance of this C/I for your work
 - Importance of this C/I for National reporting
- These responses are not graphed on a 0% - 100% scale

Criteria Prioritization for 2010 Report



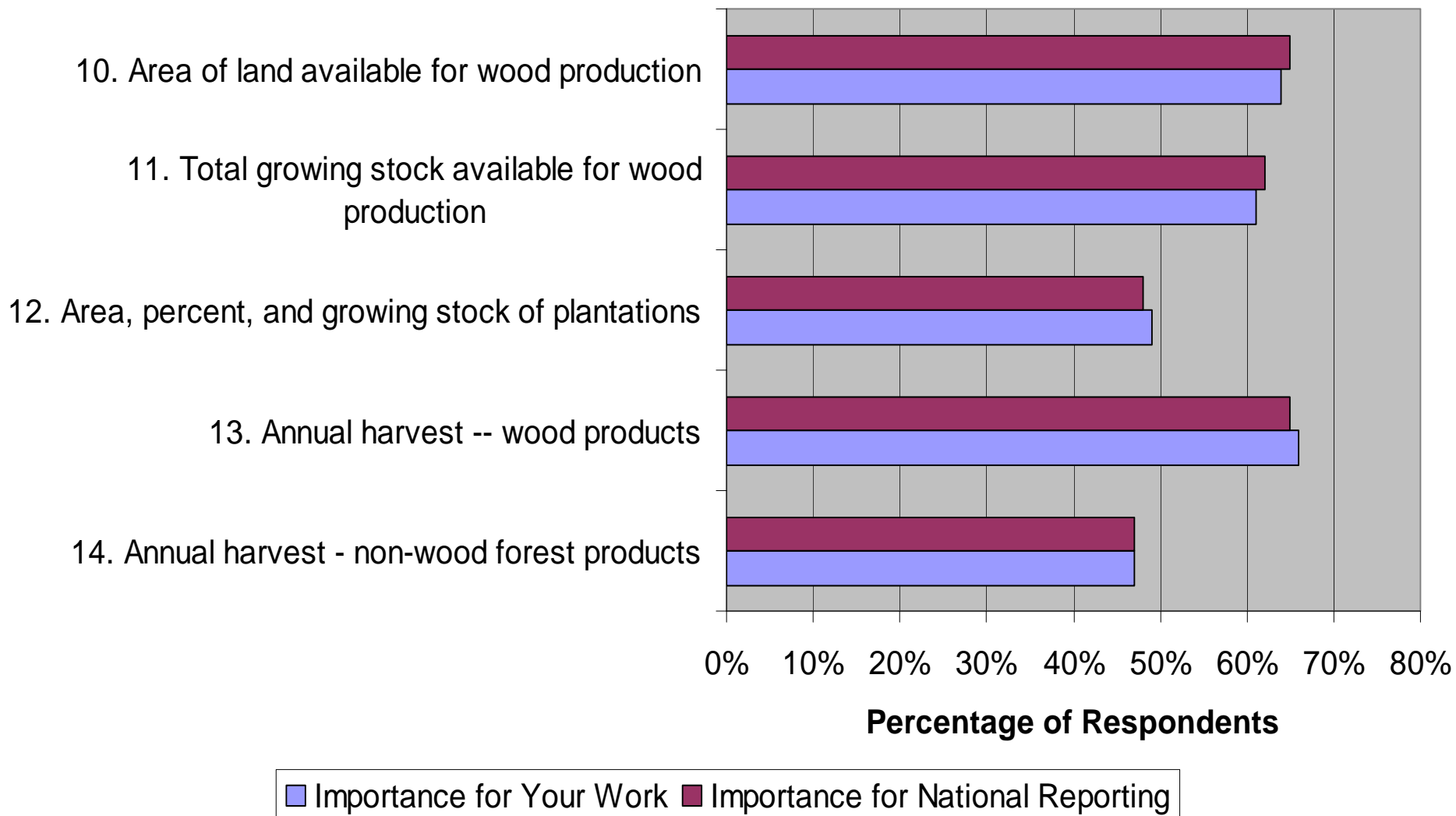
Indicator Prioritization for 2010 Report

Biodiversity



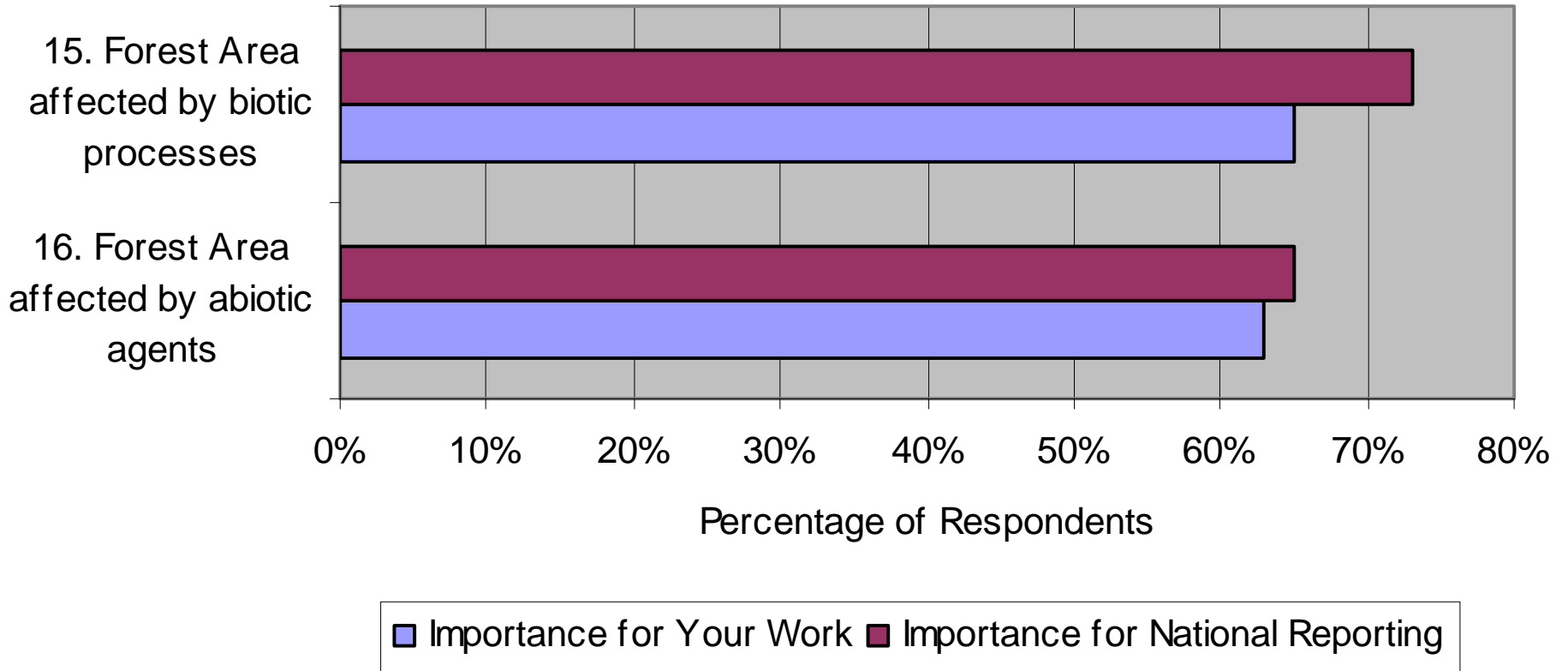
Indicator Prioritization for 2010 Report

Productive Capacity



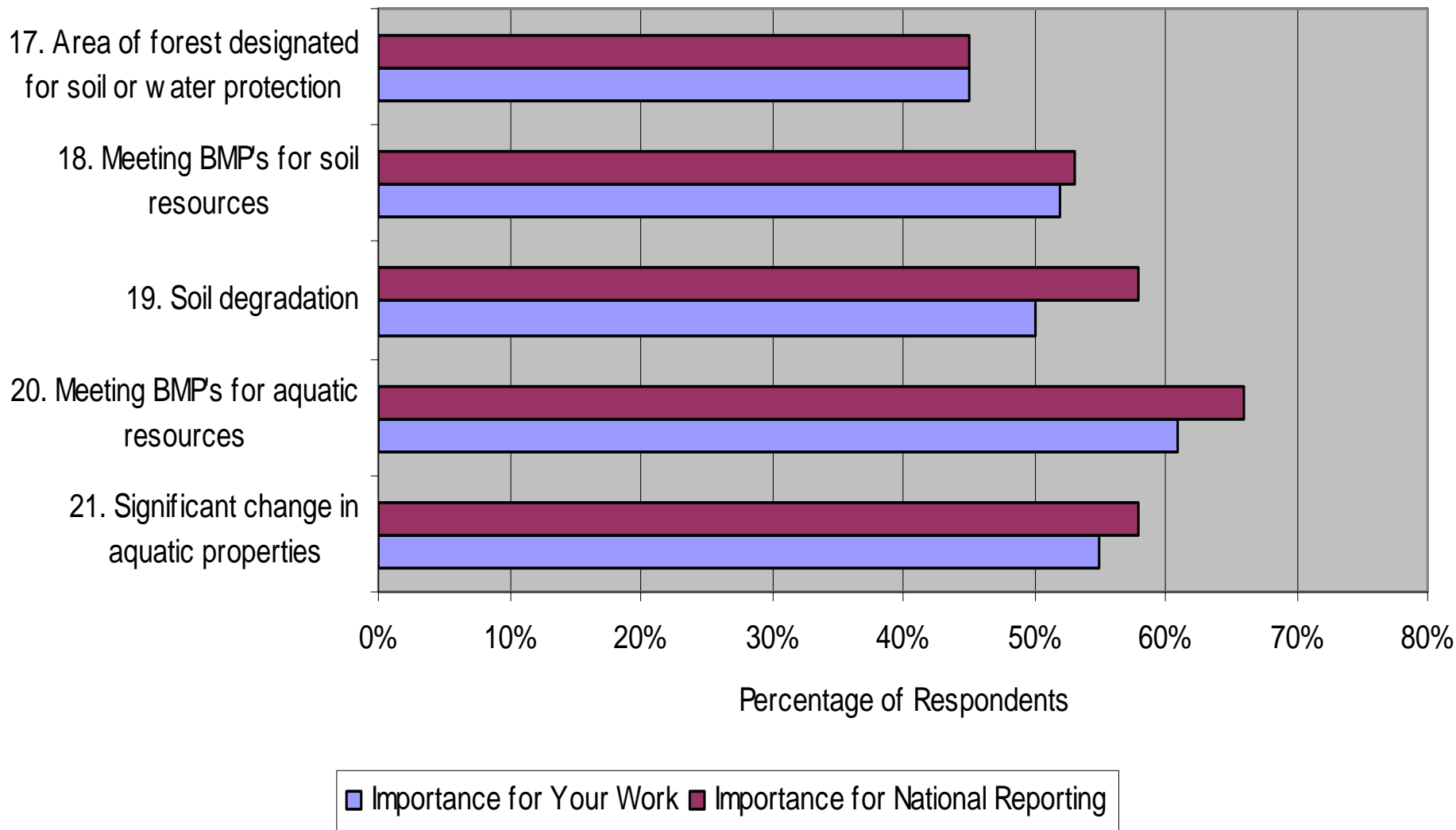
Indicator Prioritization for 2010 Report

Forest Health



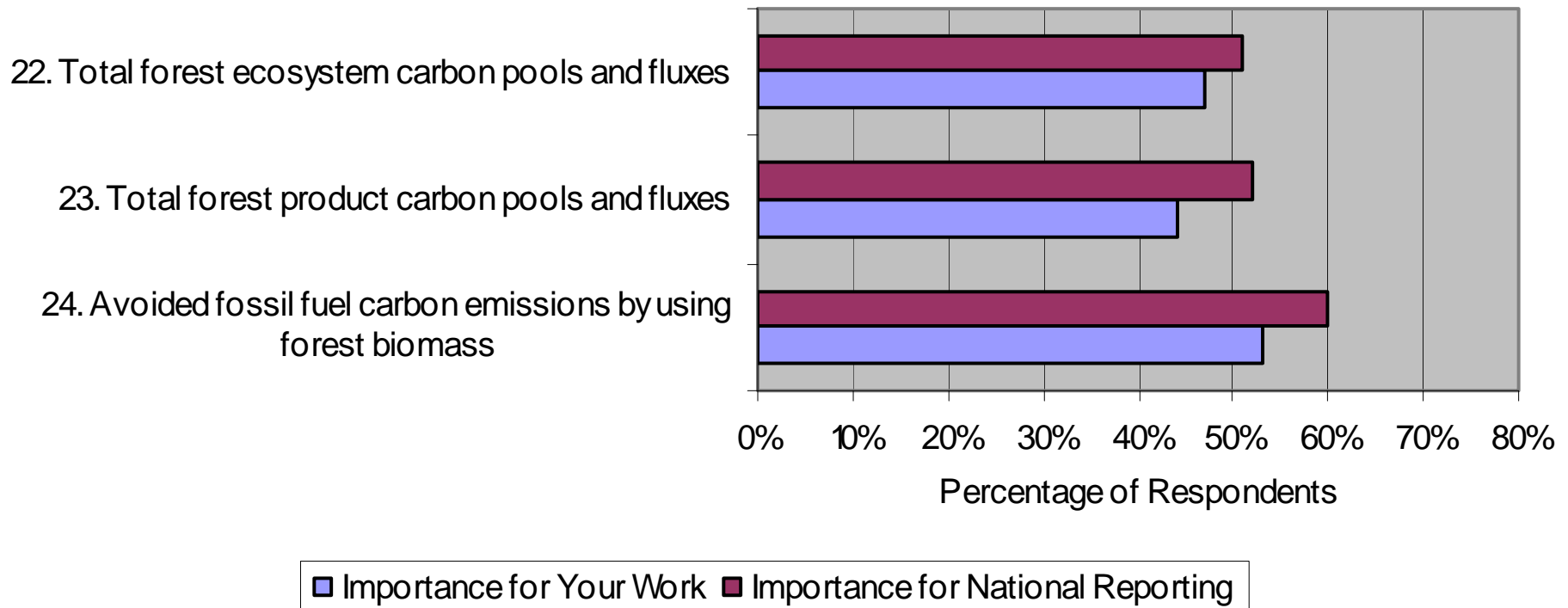
Indicator Prioritization for 2010 Report

Soil and Water



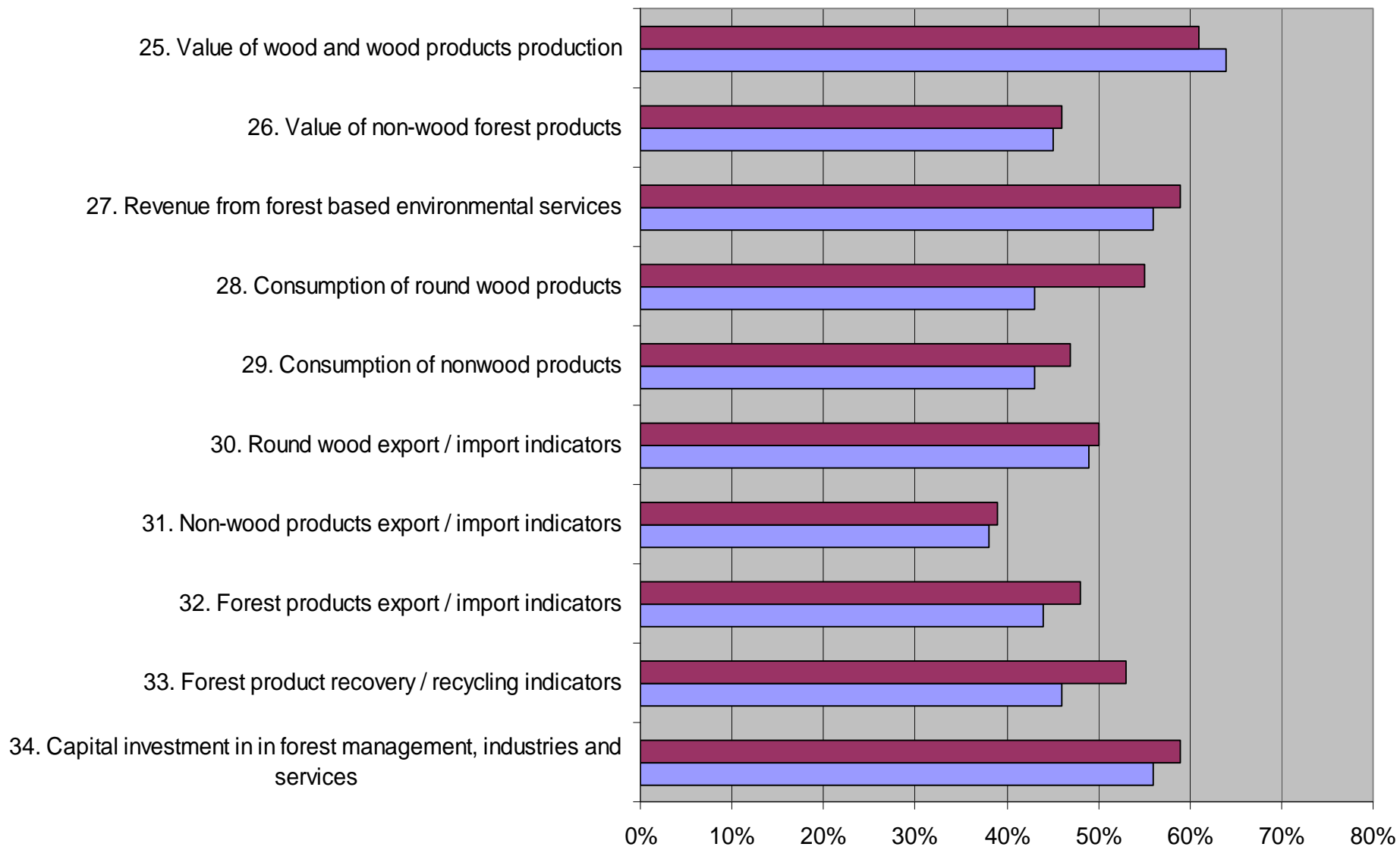
Indicator Prioritization for 2010 Report

Contribution to Carbon Cycle



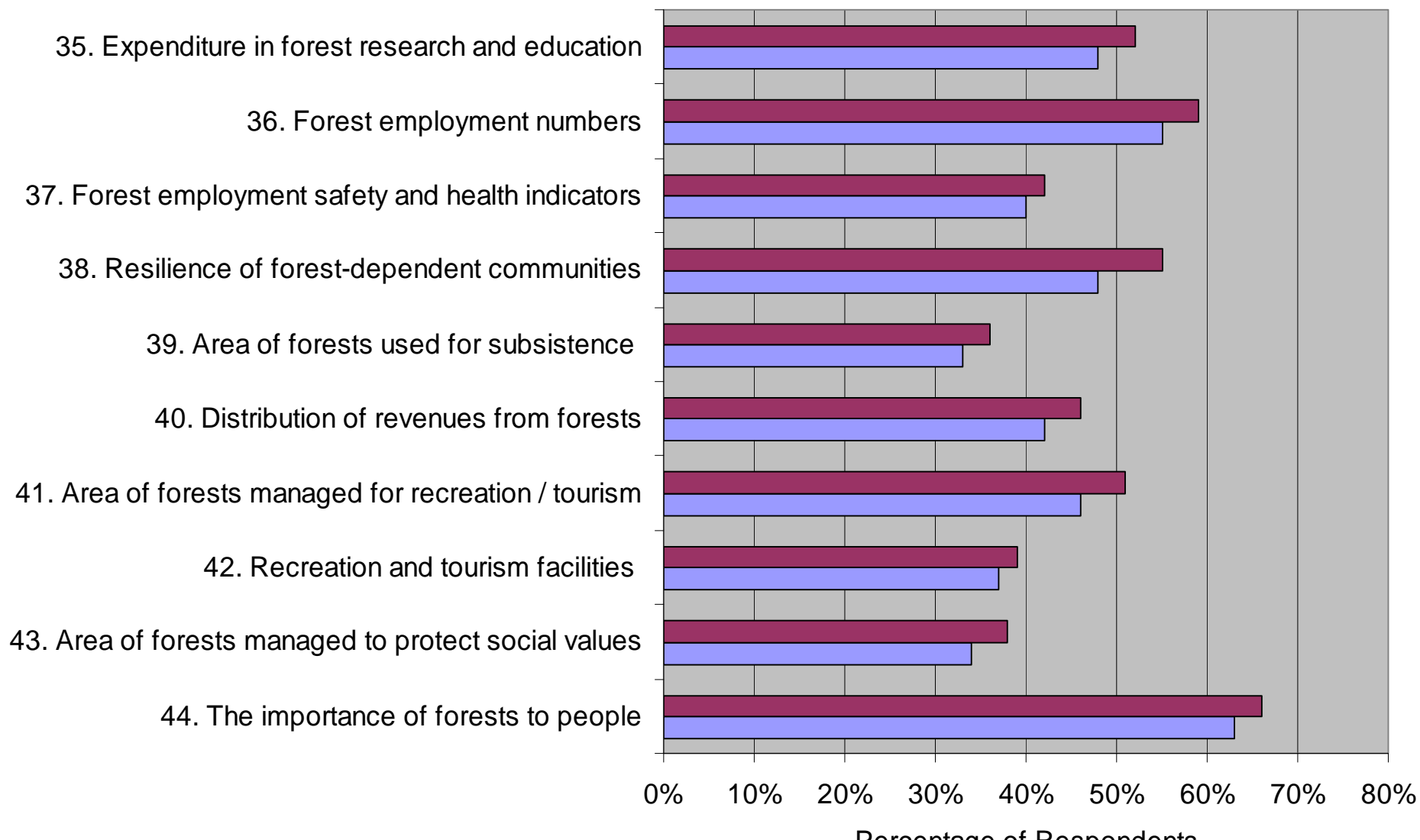
Indicator Prioritization for 2010 Report

Sustained Socioeconomic Benefits



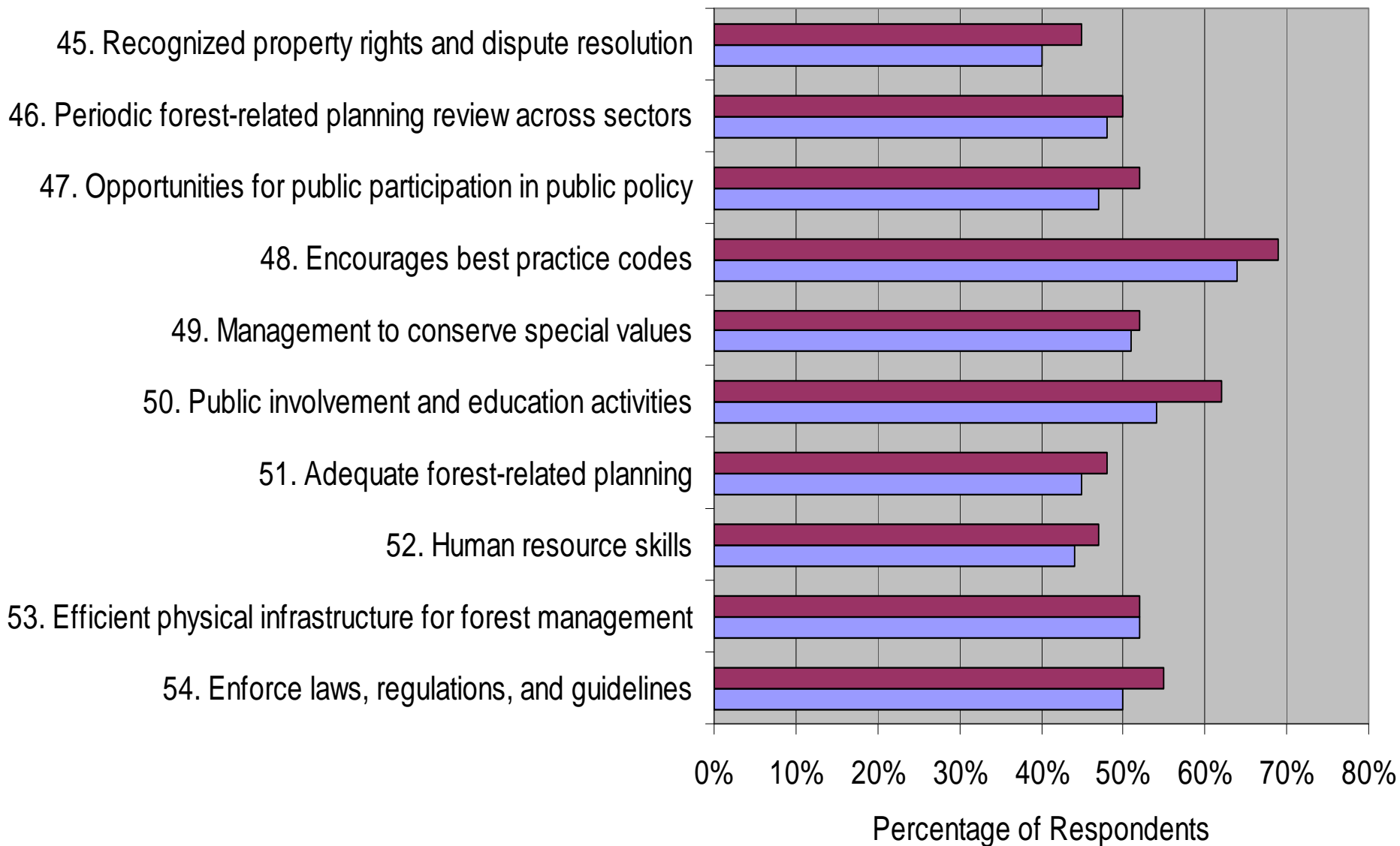
Indicator Prioritization for 2010 Report

Sustained Socioeconomic Benefits



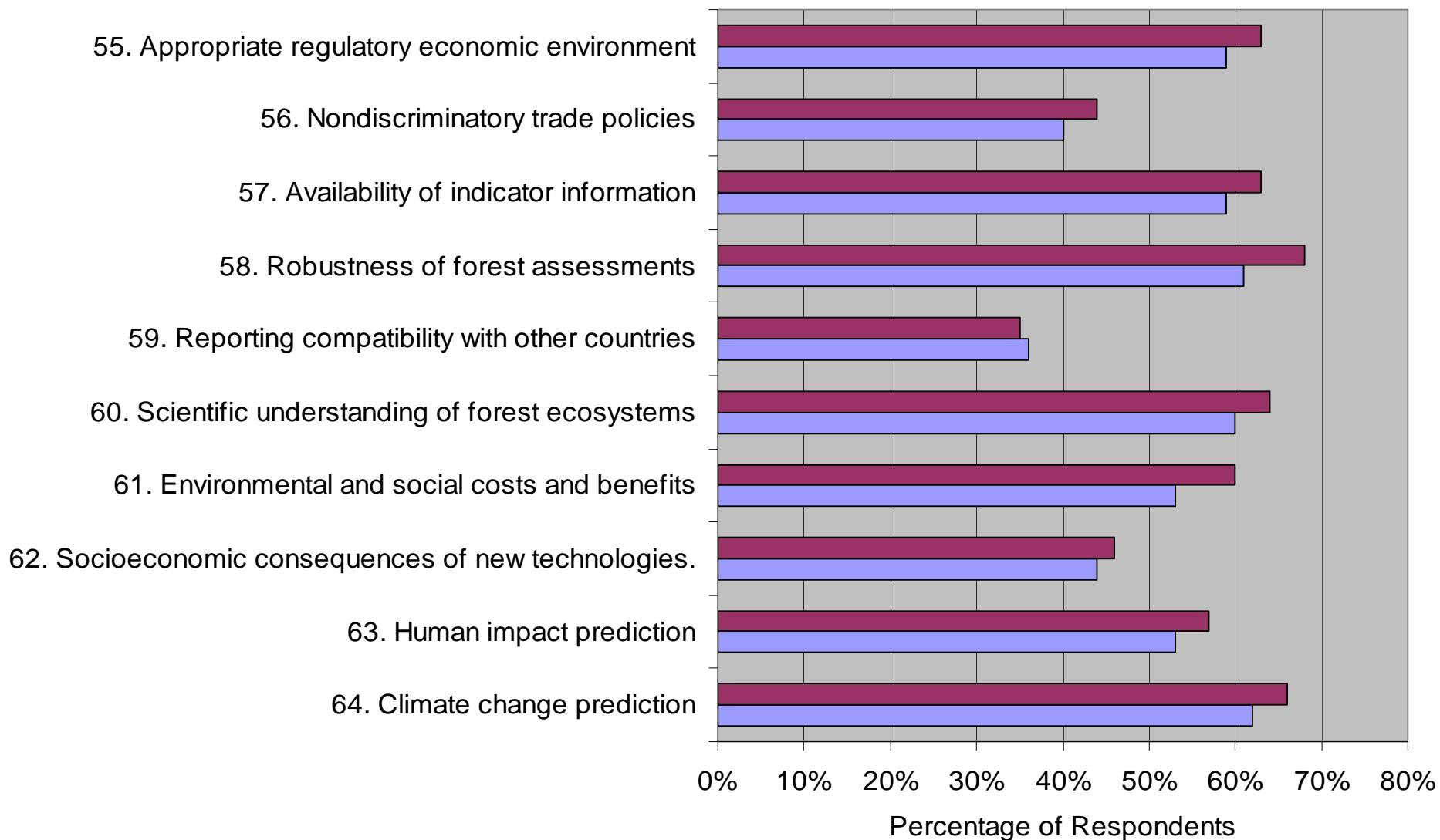
Indicator Prioritization for 2010 Report

Legal, Institutional and Economic Framework



Indicator Prioritization for 2010 Report

Legal, Institutional and Economic Framework



Importance for National Reporting

TOP TEN INDICATORS

15. Forest Area affected by biotic processes	73%
48. Encourages best practice codes	69%
58. Robustness of forest assessments	68%
44. The importance of forests to people	66%
64. Climate change prediction	66%
20. Meeting BMP's for aquatic resources	66%
13. Annual harvest -- wood products	65%
10. Area of land available for wood production	65%
16. Forest Area affected by abiotic agents	65%
60. Scientific understanding of forest ecosystems	64%

Importance for National Reporting

BOTTOM TEN INDICATORS

31. Non-wood products export / import indicators	39%
42. Recreation and tourism facilities	39%
43. Area of forests managed to protect social values	38%
39. Area of forests used for subsistence	36%
4. Species Diversity - numbers of forest species	35%
59. Reporting compatibility with other countries	35%
7. Genetic Diversity - at risk forest species	34%
6. Species Diversity - in situ and ex situ efforts	32%
8. Genetic Diversity - populations of forest species	26%
9. Genetic Diversity - in situ and ex situ conservation	23%

Importance for Your Work

TOP TEN (13) INDICATORS

1. Forest Extent - by type, age and ownership	67%
13. Annual harvest -- wood products	66%
15. Forest Area affected by biotic processes	65%
48. Encourages best practice codes	64%
10. Area of land available for wood production	64%
25. Value of wood and wood products production	64%
44. The importance of forests to people	63%
16. Forest Area affected by abiotic agents	63%
64. Climate change prediction	62%
58. Robustness of forest assessments	61%
20. Meeting BMP's for aquatic resources	61%
11. Total growing stock available for wood production	61%
3. Forest Fragmentation - indices	61%

Importance for Your Work

BOTTOM TEN INDICATORS

31. Non-wood products export / import indicators	38%
42. Recreation and tourism facilities	37%
4. Species Diversity - numbers of forest species	37%
59. Reporting compatibility with other countries	36%
43. Area of forests managed to protect social values	34%
7. Genetic Diversity - at risk forest species	34%
39. Area of forests used for subsistence	33%
6. Species Diversity - in situ and ex situ efforts	28%
8. Genetic Diversity - populations of forest species	25%
9. Genetic Diversity - in situ and ex situ conservation	18%

Questions / Comments / Thoughts
regarding the Consultation and
these Results

Discussion Topics

1. How should this indicator prioritization information be used to guide investment in and preparation for the 2010 Report?
2. How does this feedback help to frame the Contents and the Format for the 2010 Report?

Discussion Topic 1.

How should this indicator prioritization information be used to guide investment in and preparation for the 2010 Report?

Discussion Topic 2.

How will this feedback help frame content and format considerations for the 2010 Report?

What are the wrap-up steps for our team?

- Finalize presentation for the Roundtable and others.
- Complete summary report of findings.
- Make data available to other groups who may want to use it (e.g., COWG, Indicator 44 WG, etc.)
- Thanks respondents for taking the time to provide their thoughtful review.

Acknowledgements to a Great Team

- Paul Geissler, Consultation Designer extraordinaire
- Guy Robertson, High Level Compass and Implementation Voice of Reason
- Susan Morre, Sustainer of Basic Principles of the Montreal Process
- Sarah Walen, Logistical Coordinator and Facilitator extraordinaire