

EEASA MEMBERS OPINION SURVEY

OOGSA LEDE MENINGSOPNAME

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The following are the results of an anonymous opinion survey included in the Southern African Journal of Environmental Education No.7.

Of 297 questionnaires posted out, 44 (14,8%) were returned. In comparison with similar surveys in Southern Africa this constitutes a reasonably good sample although one would have hoped that in the case of a semi professional association such as EEASA the response would have been greater. The results obtained may however be interpreted as a reasonably valid reflection of members' views.

Antwoorde op Vraag 1: In watter van die volgende gebiede woon u?/In which of the following areas to you live?

	n	% van N
Bophuthatswana/Noord Kaap	4	9
Ciskei/Transkei/Ooskaap	1	2
Natal/KwaZulu	10	23
Oranje Vrystaat	1	2
Transvaal	17	39
Venda	1	2
Suidweskaap	6	14
Botswana	0	0
Lesotho	0	0
Swaziland	1	2
SWA/Namibia	1	2
Zimbabwe	1	2
Ander (Brittanje)	1	2
	<u>N = 44</u>	

Response to Question 2: What is your occupation?/Wat is u beroep?

43 responses were received allowing data to be grouped into the following categories:

Environmental Educators/Information Officers (Government and non-government)	8+
Teachers (primary and secondary)	9++
Academics (teachers in tertiary education)	8
Research workers/scientists	4
Professional conservationists	4
Other	10

(1 each of: Vakadviseur Jeugleiding, Accountant/Manager, Community Obstetrician, Safety/Environment/Health Advisor, Student, Writer, Agricultural Extension Officer, Tour and Camp Operator, Journalist/PRO, Veearts)

Figure 1 illustrates this data in graphic form.

- + Includes directors of programmes and centres.
- ++ 5 teachers also listed secondary functions such as Wildlife Clubs Organiser and Youth Worker.

Vraag 3: Lees u gewoonlik/Do you generally read:

	n	% van N
Die hele Tydskrif/ The whole Journal	8	18
Meeste daarvan/Most of it	29	66
Net artikels wat u intereseer/ Only articles which interest you	7	16
Baie min daarvan/ Very little of it	0	0
	<u>N = 44</u>	

Met betrekking tot redes wat verskaf is:

- 'Die hele Tydskrif' antwoorde: 7 redes is deur 6 respondente aangebied:

Learn a lot, benefit from reading	3
All within field of interest	2
Forum for ideas	2
Geen redes	2
- 'Meeste daarvan' antwoorde: 32 redes is deur 24 respondente verskaf.

Nie genoeg tyd nie (tyd verwante faktore)	10
Not all articles interesting/ Lees net die mees interessante artikels	10
Keeps me informed	7
Do not understand Afrikaans	3
Stimulating	1
Some articles difficult to read	1
Geen redes	5
- 'Net artikels wat u intereseer' antwoorde: 8 redes is deur 7 respondente aangebied.

Tyd!!!	5
Not within field of interest	1
Too much jargon	1
Not involved in education	1

Question 4: Please list the three articles which you have found most interesting/informative in the past seven Journals/Maak asb. 'n lys van die drie artikels uit die afgelope sewe Tydskrifte wat u die meeste geïntereseer het of wat u as mees inligtinggewend beskou het.

There were 28 responses to this question. 16 either gave no answer or general responses such as 'all articles' or 'most'. Of 60 major articles published up to the time of the survey 35 were mentioned. The contributor most frequently mentioned was R. O'Donoghue (14 times). Environmental Education Centres were mentioned 7 times and resource reviews 6 times.

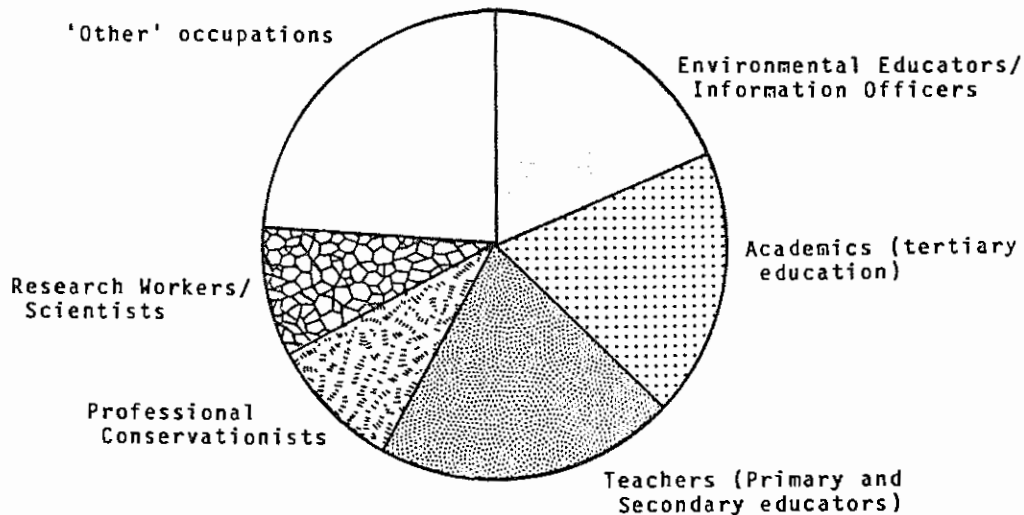


FIGURE 1 Responses to the question: 'What is your occupation?'

Vraag 5: Vind u die formaat (uitleg, drukkersgrootte en verhouding tussen figure en teks-gedeeltes) bevredigend? Verduidelik asb. u keuse./Do you find the format (layout, print size and relationship of text to figures) satisfactory? Please explain your answer.

Daar was 44 antwoorde op hierdie vraag:

	n	% van N
Ja	38	86
Nee	3	7
Nie seker nie	3	7
	<u>N = 44</u>	

Met betrekking tot redes:

- Van die 38 'ja' antwoorde het 29 geen verdere verduidelikings aangebied. 8 het in die kategorie 'maklik om te lees, pleases the eye, very happy, geen fout, easy to refer to' geval. 1 respondent het opgemerk dat die druk te klein is.
- Die 3 'nee' antwoorde is soos volg: Opsommings te klein
Gives impression of home brew, cutting corners, figures poor!
Journal too large. Cover marks easily.
- Die 3 'nie seker nie' antwoorde is: Should be A5 size (1/2 A4). Print too small.
Text valuable but needs more pictures, drawings and diagrams.
Typewritten format looks skimpy.

Question 6: Do you feel you would like to contribute an article to the Journal sharing your ideas and experience - even if you have not yet done so? Please give reasons for your answer./Sal u 'n artikel tot die Tydskrif kan bydra waarin u, u ondervindings en idees met ons kan deel, al het u dit nog nooit gedoen nie? Gee redes vir u antwoord.

There were 44 responses to this question.

	n	% of N
Yes	38	86
No	3	7
Not sure	3	7
	<u>N = 44</u>	

With respect to reasons given:

Of the 31 'yes' responses 16 did not elaborate. The remaining 15 respondents offered 20 reasons:

Have contributed	3
Have valuable ideas and relevant material to share	4
Wye spektrum vir idees en menings/ Good forum for sharing ideas	8
We need a less 'academic' journal	1
We need a more academic journal	1
Today's young people do not care about wildlife, the future	1
Time is my problem	1
Gives a select target audience	1

Of the 5 'no' responses 4 did not give a reason. 1 stated 'te gesofistikeerd'.

Of the 8 'not sure' response 6 gave no further reason. 1 respondent stated that 'as the Journal is non-refereed it does not (unfortunately) attract university recognition' while the other respondent stated that he/she was 'unsure of what environmental education is about and the relevance of it'.

Vraag 7: Watter tipe artikels sou u meer wou sien in toekomstige Tydskrifte?/What type of articles would you like to see more of in future Journals?

62 voorstelle is deur 38 respondente aangebied. 'n Wye reaksie is uitgelok. 5 respondente het verklaar dat hulle 'heeltemal tevrede/gelukkig' is met die huidige balans van artikels. Ander antwoorde kan soos volg gegroepeer word:

- More about wildlife/ecology/wilderness 4
- More about conservation organisations 2
- Meer oor omgewingsopvoeding en die stedelike omgewing 2
- Meer oor omgewingsopvoeding en kultuur-bewaring 1
- Articles giving materials and methods for teacher use and guidance 5
- Articles adapting environmental education to school syllabuses 2
- More contributions from young people themselves 1
- More ideas for children to do 1
- More reports on school EE projects 1
- More on problem-solving activities/practical work 2
- More on resource materials and their availability 3
- Omgewingsopvoeding vir die man op straat 2
- Meer praktiese en uitvoerbare idees 2
- More on the methods of EE 1
- More research articles and more theory 2
- More on authoritative views on aspects of environmental education 1
- More on evaluation 3
- Articles pushing forward the frontiers of environmental education 1
- * A need for a separate refereed journal v. bulletin 4
- More articles on psychology and attitudes 3
- More articles on what is happening elsewhere in the world 1
- Reports on successes and failures of EE in Southern Africa 3
- More on EE Centres 2
- More on what people are doing 2
- More about people involved with EE 1
- More on Black education 1
- More sharing of ideas/discussions/debate/response 2
- More critical and controversial articles 1
- Meer Afrikaanse artikels 1

Question 8: Are there any features you would like to see added to the Journal? Please explain./Is daar enige soort artikel wat u in die Tydskrif sou wou byvoeg? Verduidelik asb.

Die vraag is deur 39 mense beantwoord. Tot 'n groot mate word die antwoorde in Vraag 7 weerkaats.

	n	% van N
Ja	23	59
Nee	15	38
Nie seker nie	1	3
	<u>N = 39</u>	

* For the information of readers a 'refereed' journal/publication is one in which articles are carefully scrutinized and commented upon (in terms of standard) by a panel of 'experts', usually in the field concerned, before being published. Refereed publications attract substantial financial subsidies from the Department of National Education and benefit the institutions which employ the authors. University academics, for example, are under considerable pressure to publish in refereed journals as the resulting subsidies are part of the formula for financing universities.

- Of the 23 'yes' responses, 22 elaborated:
- A diary of relevant events (national and international) 1
 - More on resources; current books, articles, etc. 2
 - A structured commentary section/forum 3
 - More letters 1
 - A more international flavour 2
 - Refereed articles 2
 - More on research and research possibilities 1
 - Oordrewe wetenskaplike artikels 1
 - More on high school field trips 1
 - Guides for mentors of children 1
 - More primary school material 1
 - More syllabus oriented material 1
 - More teaching tips 1
 - Christian content aimed at real problems such as greed 1
 - Club activities 1
 - EE facilities 1
 - Creative ideas 1
 - Personal experiences 1
 - EE personalities 1
 - Overpopulation 1
 - Curing environmental degradation 1
 - Meer landbou georiënteerde OO 1

There was no elaboration for 'no' and 'not sure' responses.

Vraag 9: Is daar enige dele wat, volgens u mening, in die toekoms uitgelaat behoort te word? Verduidelik asb./Are there any part(s) which you feel should be left out in future? Please explain.

Antwoorde was soos volg:

	n	% van N
Ja	8	18
Nee	29	66
Nie seker nie	7	16
	<u>N = 44</u>	

- All 8 of the 'yes' respondents offered reasons. Those given were:
- Concentrate on education not wildlife 1
 - Oordrewe wetenskaplike artikels 1
 - Articles which play with terminology - apparently the in thing with SA 'scientists' 1
 - Often a little too theoretical 1
 - Extracts from papers/students work 1
 - Separate interesting articles from scientific articles 1
 - Articles written in Afrikaans (sic!) 1
 - I feel that the naturalist section is irrelevant 1

Of the 'no' responses 1 out of 29 elaborated viz. 'need greater emphasis on refereed papers'.

None of the 'not sure' respondents offered any elaboration.

Vraag 10: Enige ander voorstelle en/of kommentaar oor die Tydskrif?/Any other suggestions and/or comments about the Journal? There were 31 responses to this question. These are reproduced in full and are as follows:

A very worthwhile journal. Thankyou editor. Will S.A. Bureau for Publications not take on the task of sub-editing and printing?

This journal achieves a pleasing balance or mix of informal and formalised papers. Any imbalance in either direction would either lower the standard or make it inaccessible to non-academics.

The format is very readable and well presented. Pictures, diagrams, tables and text are in good proportion.

Inserts along the lines of the 'Publications of the Dept. of Environmental Affairs' are extremely useful.

Nee, beslis nie.

I feel it is an excellent journal. To produce an occasional refereed copy would be a distinct improvement.

An excellent job of work - well done. Thank you for continuing to do it!

It maintains a high standard while not becoming too 'complicated' for the layman.

In general an excellent journal. The line drawings as 'fill-in' add distinctly to the journal.

I wish strongly to thank the editor and his typist for the splendid work they do to put together all these informations.

Tevrede.

Meer Afrikaanse artikels.

Baie dankie vir 'n puik tydskrif wat 'n baie belangrike gaping in die omgewingsopvoedinggemeenskap vul: ons sal baie armer wees sonder die tydskrif!

Die insluiting van inligtingspamflette by die tydskrif is 'n baie goeie idee.

Other than EEASA there is no all-South Africa, all-nature, open-to-all organisation.

Informative and useful for other peoples' opinions.

Good ideas to keep Std. 6 - 10 pupils interested and active in our Wildlife Club - especially those which don't require money and transport - my greatest hassles!

Satisfactory.

I admire your efforts to co-ordinate EE information - it's important that the journal grow, if possible, to an 'approved' journal for publication funding.

Thank you for the wonderful work being done! Thanks for your considerable effort!

Well done! Keep up the good work.

I feel it is very important that the Journal becomes refereed and is accepted for university subsidy purposes.

Article summary in a black language. Ongoing evaluation - include a small section at the end of each journal which can be sent back with rating of articles and suggested topics.

Better English in articles.

Julle diskrimineer teenoor die Afrikaanse leser en sal net so ongewild raak by die Afrikaner soos die Wildlife Society.

Die mense wat die werk regtig wil doen op grondvlak stel nie belang in julle oordrewe wetenskaplike artikels nie, die wat dit wel verstaan werk nie op grondvlak met die mense nie.

Please try and keep the present format - it's very practical.

I am generally very positive about it, but as mentioned, would like an academic edition once a year or some such arrangement.

Articles tend to concentrate on schools and teachers. EE revolves around much more in both the fields of natural science and social sciences. The journal should include articles that address awareness amongst groups like farmers, industrialists, administrators etc.

Advertisements about interesting environmental education places outside South Africa.

Articles on pollution.

Vervolg van bl. 11

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