Expert Forecast Survey

Start of Block: **Consent**

Q1

Welcome!

Background:
The survey is part of a research project on what motivates costly effort for biodiversity conservation. The project is funded by the Swedish Research Council.

Compensation for your participation:
We will randomly select one winner per 100 participants to receive a cash payment, up to 300 Euros based on survey responses. Only completed surveys with an included email address are eligible for payment, which can be made via bank transfer or voucher upon preference.

Data and confidentiality:
We will use your data solely for scientific purposes in anonymous form. Your email address will be collected solely for payment purposes, after which it will be deleted. Survey results will be analyzed and published in an open-access scientific journal.

Duration:
The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete, and participation is limited to once per person.

Risks:
Participation poses no known risks.

Contact information:
Project leader: Assistant Professor Anna Nordén (anna.norden@ju.se).
Send an email to biodiversity.study@ju.se if you have any questions.

Consent to participate:
I herewith confirm that I have read and understood the above information. I am at least 18 years old and give my consent to participate in this research. I am aware that I can only be randomly selected for a payment if I provide a valid email address at the end of the survey.

- ○ I have read and understood the consent form and agree to participate in this study.
- ○ Cancel

End of Block: Consent

Start of Block: **Instructions and practice round**

Q2

Thank you so much for participating in this survey – it truly means a lot to us!

Your task:

In this survey, **we ask you to predict** how people will behave in a real-effort experiment involving a trade-off between personal payoff and biodiversity conservation under different incentives.

Note, a real-effort experiment in economics has participants perform tasks, like adjusting a slider, under different incentive schemes. Researchers then compare the results to see which incentives best motivate effort.

The real-effort experiment that we want you to predict the outcomes for runs parallel to the survey. The more accurately you predict participants' behavior in the experiment, the higher your potential earnings will be if you are selected for payment (more about the payment below).

Now we will provide some information about the real-effort experiment. If economic experiments are new to you, please don't worry – your predictions are important to us, so we encourage you to keep going!

Experiment sample:

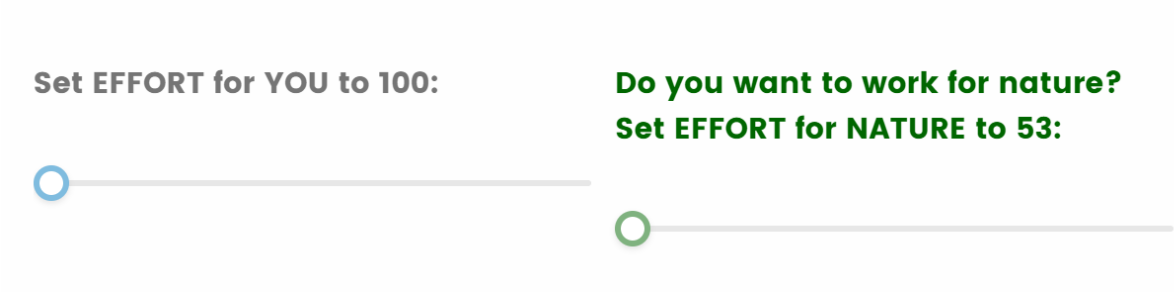
The target population for the real-effort experiment is working-age Germans. The sample, supplied by a market research company, comprises a representative online panel of this population, with at least 6400 participants overall and a minimum of 800 participants per treatment condition.

Experiment structure:

The online experiment involves a real-effort task with sliders. Participants complete three rounds, with one randomly selected for payment.

In each round, participants can complete as many sliders as possible within 2 minutes. Participants choose between putting effort into positioning "YOU" sliders (earning money for themselves) and "**NATURE**"; sliders (donating money to biodiversity conservation).

Example of the sliders:



Example of complete sliders:

Q3

Monetary incentive in baseline:
The participants receive 10 points (3 cents) per complete "**YOU**" slider (10 points = 3 cents). *In the example above, the "YOU" slider is complete if positioned at 100*.

They get no points (0 cents) for themselves if they complete a "**NATURE**" slider but instead they donate 10 points (3 cents) per complete to a well-known German nature conservation NGO. *In the example, the "**NATURE**" slider is complete if positioned at 53.*

In short: The experiment involves participants making a trade-off between spending their 2 minutes of effort to earn money for themselves by completing "YOU" sliders or contributing to nature conservation by completing "NATURE" sliders.

Randomization into treatment conditions:
There are eight treatment conditions, including the baseline. In the second round, each participant is assigned to one of the treatment conditions in the experiment. The first and third rounds are identical for all participants, using the baseline condition.

YOUR Prediction:
You will make predictions based on the second round where each participant is assigned to one out of eight treatment conditions including the baseline.

Your task is to predict the average number of "**YOU**" and "**NATURE**" sliders participants complete, ranging from 0 to 80 complete sliders.

You will make predictions for all treatment conditions, with the baseline condition always provided as a reference. In total, you will predict the number of complete sliders for 7 treatment conditions.

Q4

Thank you so much for taking the time to read through all this information! We really appreciate it. Please go ahead – your participation means a lot to us!

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Below you can read the original instructions given to participants for the <u>baseline condition.</u>

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Your task is to **position as many sliders as possible within 2 minutes.**

Two sliders are shown side by side:

EFFORT for YOU and **EFFORT for NATURE**

- **EFFORT for YOU** is completed when positioned at **100.**
- **EFFORT for NATURE** is completed when positioned at **a specified number.**

If you position the "**EFFORT for YOU**" slider at 100, **you earn 10 points**.

If you position the "**EFFORT for NATURE**" slider at the specified number, **you earn 0 points**, but instead **you donate 10 points** to a biodiversity conservation initiative, the German Federation for the Environment and Nature Conservation (BUND).

For every 10 points earned, you receive panel points worth 3 cents.

Please note:

- This task is voluntary, and you can stop at any time by clicking on the *Blue Arrow* at the bottom of the page. (i.e., you need to scroll down for this).
- Two sliders will always be displayed side by side, and you are free to position as many sliders for yourself, for nature, or a combination of both as you like.
- You can also choose to forgo it altogether.
- Each slider you position affects either your own points or points for nature.

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Page Break

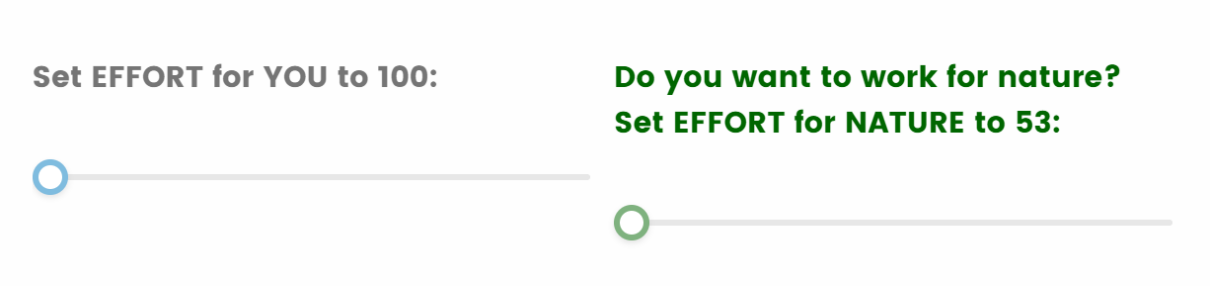
Q5

Before making your predictions, you can try the real-effort slider task, where participants had 2 minutes to complete as many of these sliders as possible.

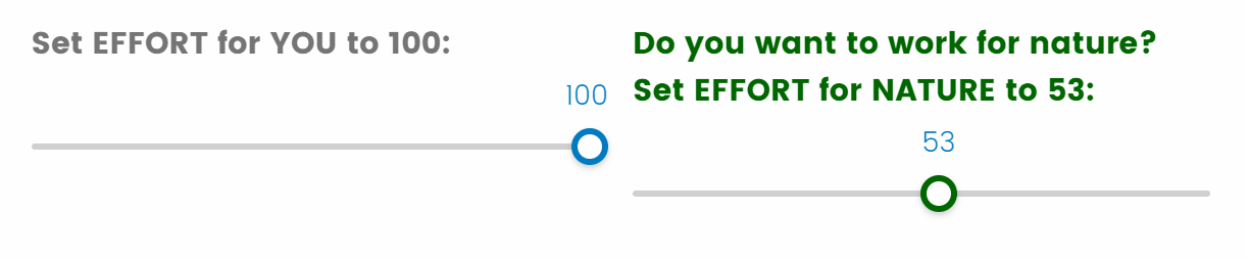
Adjust the slider to the specified numbers.

Q6

[This is what they see when they enter the survey]



[This is what a correct slider looks like]



End of Block: Instructions and practice round

Start of Block: **Control questions**

Q7

Control questions:
Before starting your prediction, please answer these control questions to demonstrate your understanding of the incentives in the experiment:

Q8
How many points do the participants in the real-effort experiment earn in the following three scenarios?

	0 points	5 points	10 points
If they set the **EFFORT for YOU** slider on 100, how many points do they earn for themself?	○	○	○
If they set the **EFFORT for NATURE** slider on the specified number, how many points do they donate to biodiversity conservation?	○	○	○
If they set the **EFFORT for NATURE** slider on the specified number, how many points do they earn for themself?	○	○	○

End of Block: Control questions

Start of Block: **Payment**

Q9
Hopefully, you now have a good understanding of the real-effort experiment. Please continue – your predictions are very important to us!

Your Payment:
For every 100 participants who complete this prediction survey and provide their email address,

one will be randomly chosen for payment. For instance, among the first 500 participants, five will be randomly selected for payment.

This payment will be based on the accuracy of your prediction. We will randomly select one predicted treatment (i.e. you will make predictions for 7 treatments). Your payment is based on how closely your prediction matches the actual outcome in sliders. You'll receive 300 Euros minus five times the deviation of your prediction.

For example, if you predict accurately, you get 300 Euros. If your prediction deviates by 5 sliders, you receive 275 Euros (300 - 5 x 5). If it deviates by 20 sliders, you get 200 Euros (300 - 5 x 20).

You cannot lose any money. We will contact you for the payment by email no later than 30 November 2024.

End of Block: Payment

Start of Block: **Prediction**

Q10

Guidance for Your Predictions:
Here are the results from the baseline condition.

On the left, you'll find a brief description of the treatment conditions. The complete wording given to the participants is available for reference here.

On the right, you see three boxes:

1. The first box indicates the average number of correct sliders for **YOU** (i.e., payoff for self).

2. The second box shows the average number of correct sliders for **NATURE** (i.e., contribution to biodiversity conservation).

3. The third box indicates the confidence level of the prediction, where 100% means completely certain and 0% means no clue.

	Correct **YOU** sliders [0-80 sliders]	Correct **NATURE** sliders [0-80 sliders]	**How confident** are you in your prediction? [0-100%]
Baseline: "Position YOU at 100, you earn 10 points. Position NATURE at specified number, you earn 0 points and donate 10 points."	23	9	100

Q11

Your Predictions:

- Please predict the average number of correct sliders between 0-80 for both **YOU** and **NATURE**, and your confidence level between 0-100 for all treatment conditions (except for the baseline).
- For each treatment condition, changes in wording from the baseline are highlighted in bold.
- The treatment conditions in the experiment vary as follows:
    - Monetary incentive: Compared to the baseline, participants also earn a personal payoff for completing the **NATURE** sliders.
    - Easy nature: **NATURE** sliders are easier to complete than in the baseline, needing to be positioned at 100 rather than a specific number.
    - Social norm: Participants are presented with a social norm message compared to the baseline.
    - Combinations: The remaining conditions are various combinations of the aforementioned incentives.

	Correct **YOU** sliders [0-80 sliders]	Correct **NATURE** sliders [0-80 sliders]	**How confident** are you in your prediction? [0-100%]
Baseline: "Position YOU at 100, you earn 10 points. Position NATURE at specified number, you earn 0 points and donate 10 points."	23	9	100
Monetary treatment: "Position YOU at 100, you earn 10 points. Position NATURE at specified number, **you earn 5 points** and donate 10 points."			
Easy nature treatment: "Position YOU at 100, you earn 10 points. Position **NATURE at 100**, you earn 0 points and donate 10 points."			
Monetary and Easy nature treatment: "Position YOU at 100, you earn 10 points. Position **NATURE at 100, you earn 5 points** and donate 10 points."			

Social norm treatment: "Position YOU at 100, you earn 10 points. Position NATURE at specified number, you earn 0 points and donate 10 points." **"66% of Germans think that people in Germany should contribute to biodiversity conservation"**			
Monetary and Social norm treatment: "Position YOU at 100, you earn 10 points. Position NATURE at specified number, **you earn 5 points** and donate 10 points." **"66% of Germans think that people in Germany should contribute to biodiversity conservation"**			
Easy nature and Social norm treatment: "Position YOU at 100, you earn 10 points. Position **NATURE at 100**, you earn 0 points and donate 10 points." **"66% of Germans think that people in Germany should contribute to biodiversity conservation"**			
Monetary, Easy nature and Social norm treatment: "Position YOU at 100, you earn 10 points. Position **NATURE at 100, you earn 5 points** and donate 10 points." **"66% of Germans think that people in Germany should contribute to biodiversity conservation"**			

End of Block: Predictions

Start of Block: **Demographic questions**

Q12 Are you...

- ○ Male
- ○ Female
- ○ Divers
- ○ Prefer not to say

Q13 When were you born?

▼ before 1954 ... After 2006

Q14 Which country did you live most of the time over the past five years?

▼ Afghanistan ... Zimbabwe

Q15 What is your highest level of completed education?

- ○ No degree
- ○ University/vocational training - ongoing
- ○ Vocational training
- ○ University - bachelors degree
- ○ University - masters degree
- ○ University - PhD degree

Q16 Which option best describes your education/degree?

- ○ Social Sciences other than Economics and Business Studies
- ○ Economics or Business Studies
- ○ Natural and Environmental Sciences
- ○ Humanities
- ○ Engineering
- ○ Administration
- ○ Other/prefer not to say

Q17 Which institution best describes your professional environment?

- ○ University
- ○ Research center
- ○ Non-governmental organization (NGO)
- ○ International organization (e.g., UN, EU, etc.)
- ○ Governmental organization (local, regional, national)
- ○ Private sector (consulting firms, corporations, etc.)
- ○ Others

Display This Question:

If Which institution best describes your professional environment? = University

Or Which institution best describes your professional environment? = Research center

Q18 What is your current academic position?

- ○ Full professor
- ○ Associate professor
- ○ Assistant professor
- ○ Post Doc.
- ○ PhD Candidate
- ○ Other

Q19 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree
I have good knowledge of human behavior.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
I have good knowledge of biodiversity conservation.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
I have good knowledge about economics.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
I have good knowledge about policy making.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Q20 Have you conducted research on the effectiveness of incentives for biodiversity conservation?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Q21 Have you conducted research using representative population online panels?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

End of Block: Demographic questions

Start of Block: **Email**

Q22 To qualify for the payment, please provide your email address. If selected randomly, we will notify you by email regarding payment details by November 30, 2024, at the latest.

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Q23 If you are interested in an email with a summary of the results, please choose the respective option!

- ○ Yes, please send me a summary of the research results. I agree that you use my email address for this purpose
- ○ No, I am not interested in a summary.

Page Break

Q24 Please share any comments below. We value your feedback!

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End of Block: Email