

Appendix 1. Questionnaire used in the quantitative study (telephone interviews).

Perception of river restoration

Telephone Survey CATI

Questionnaire: Closed Questions Duration: 5 to 8 minutes

Watercourse: N.N.

Good day,

We are currently conducting a telephone survey on behalf of the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt. The topic is the restoration of streams and rivers. We are especially interested in your opinion on a restoration project at the Nidda.

The interview takes about 5 to 8 minutes.

0. Screening Questions

- a. Do you sometimes go to the Nidda in Dortelweil in your leisure time for example to cycle or go for a walk?
 - Yes (→ follow with b) / no (end the interview)

- b. The interview is specifically about the ...river section This section of the ... has been restored approximately 13 years ago. That means, as far as possible, the original unencumbered state of the ... has been restored.

Do you know this part of the river?

- yes (→ follow with Question 1) / No (end interview)

1. Did you know this part of the ... already before the restoration in the year 2000?

- Yes / No

2. How often do you pass this part of the river?

- A couple of times a week
- Once a week
- One to three times a month
- A couple of times a year
- Once a year or less

3. Since how many years do you pass this part of the river?

- Since less than a year
- Since one to less than 5 years
- Since 5 to less than 10 years
- Since 10 to 20 years
- More than 20 years

4. When you pass this river section, what are you doing there?

→ *Multiple answers are possible, just answer with yes or no*

- Go for a Walk
- Jogging/Nordic Walking
- Cycle
- Walk the dog
- Fishing
- Splash or bathe in the water
- Play with kids
- Observe the nature
- Enjoy the landscape
- Rest and Relax
- Meet up for picnic

5. Did you know beforehand that the ... close to xy village is a restored section of the river?

- a) I knew that → 6 and 7a
- b) I did not know that → 6 and 7b

6. How would you describe this restored part of river?

I will read you a few adjectives. Please answer with a scale from 1 to 5. 1 means "applies exactly" and 5 means "does not apply at all". With the numbers in between you can grade your opinion.

→ *Rotate*

- Nice, beautiful
- Boring
- Interesting
- Diverse
- Monotonous
- Lively
- Near-natural
- Idyllic
- Wild

7. a. → to everyone from 5a: Please remember how it looked before the restoration. **What has changed in your perception through this restoration?** I will read you a few statements.

7. b. → to everyone from 5b: **What is different about this section compared to a not restored river section?** I will read you a few statements.

Please answer again by means of the scale from 1 to 5. 1 means "applies exactly" and 5 means "does not apply at all". With the numbers in between you can grade your opinion. If you can not judge it, say "I don't know".

→ *Rotate!*

- The river has more windings and bends
- There are more islands in the river
- The shoreline is more diverse due to sandbanks, stones or driftwood
- The landscape has been embellished
- The water surface has been enlarged

- There are more animals (→ *yes also question 7c*)
- You can observe more birds (→ *yes also question 7c*)
- There are more plants and trees
- The biodiversity of animals and plants has grown
- The flood protection has improved
- The flow velocity of the river has decelerated
- It has become more attractive as a recreation area
- You can bathe or splash better in the water
- It is more fun to stay there
- You can experience the nature better
- The connection between recreation and ecology is successful
- You can find calmness and reflection here

7c) Which of the following animals have you seen there?

- Birds
 → Open question: which ones?
- Fish
- Amphibians, e.g. frogs
- Insects, e.g. dragonflies
- Beaver
- Muskrat
- Others, which ones?

8. To everyone: Do you see any negative aspects of this restoration? To what extent do you agree with the following statements? Please answer again by means of the scale from 1 to 5. 1 means "applies exactly" and 5 means "does not apply at all". With the numbers in between you can grade your opinion. If you can not judge it, say "I don't know".

→ *Rotate!*

- The cost of restoration is too high
- Restoration is unnecessary
- I do not know what the restoration could be good for
- The river section was just as beautiful before
- The restored river section seems artificial and human made
- You can no longer get to the river

9. Who do you think profits from this restoration?

→ Yes/No/ I don't know

→ *Rotate!*

- The people who are spending time there
- The nature/the ecosystem as a whole
- The animals
- The plants
- The tourism
- The adjacent agriculture
- Others, which ones?

10. All in all, how useful do you consider this restoration?

Please reply with the scale from 1 to 5. 1 means "very useful" and 5 means "not useful at all". With the numbers in between you can graduate your answer. If you can not judge it, say "I don't know".

11. The restoration costs for this 450 m long section at the ... are about xy Euros. How justified do you consider these costs?

Please answer again with the help of the scale from 1 to 5. 1 means "justified" and 5 means "not justified at all ". With the numbers in between you can graduate your answer. If you can not judge it, say "I don't know ".

12. Humans and nature are supposed to benefit from restoration measures in water bodies. But they also cause costs, on average about 200,000 Euros per 500 m. Against this background we would like to know how useful you think would further restorations in other waters in Germany be?

Please reply again with the scale from 1 to 5. 1 means "very meaningful" and 5 means "not at all useful". With the numbers in between you can graduate your answer. If you can not judge it, say "I don't know".

13. Sex: Male/Female

14. May I ask how old you are? _____ Years old

15. How many people live in your household?

16. How many of these are children under the age of 14?

17. Which is your highest school graduation?

- Lower secondary education without graduation
- Lower secondary education with graduation
- Secondary School/O-Level
- High School Diploma/A-level
- University

Give thanks and end the interview