

BEYOND TWO DECADES

*years*

*of the “Rights” Side of Life*

# Key findings from RSL

## Community Awareness of Human Rights

1. **Only 23% of respondents could name five human rights in 2024, compared to 37% in 2019 and 45% in 2011. 65.9% of the respondents were able to name at least 1 human right.**
2. **The proportion of respondents unable to name any rights remained significant (34.1%).**
3. Respondents with disabilities showed varied awareness levels, with 19.4% able to name five rights but 36.6% unable to name any.
4. Without showing the flash card, the most identified human rights included children’s rights (32.8%), access to health services (22%), women's rights to equality (19.8%), access to quality education (18.3%), and adequate housing (17%).
5. **Children's rights have consistently ranked highest since 2019, reflecting growing societal awareness of child welfare. Access to health services rose to second place in 2024, indicating heightened awareness post-pandemic.**
6. **The right to adequate housing has gained prominence in the fourth place, emerging at the top five for the first time. This change in acknowledgment highlights a rising awareness of housing as a vital factor in overall well-being and societal stability.**
7. After showing the flash cards, children’s rights remained at the top, followed by access to health, access to quality education. Women's rights to equality, which peaked in 2019, have dropped to fifth place in 2024, suggesting reduced societal focus on gender equality.
8. **The younger demographics demonstrate notable disparities on human rights compared to older age groups, reflecting significant generational shifts. These differences were more pronounced across various issues highlighting the urgent need for targeted outreach efforts to enhance their understanding of human rights, gender equality, democratic reforms, and civic participation**

## Awareness of the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives

1. Public awareness of HRCM increased from 40.8% in 2005 to a peak of 84.8% in 2019, but dropped to 79.8% in 2024, indicating a slight decline despite high overall awareness.
2. Among Maldivians, 87.1% were aware of the HRCM, awareness among migrant workers is significantly lower, at just 32.1%, with 67.3% unaware.
3. Awareness is highest among those aged 36-55 years at 84.7%, followed by 56-65 years at 82.6% and 65+ years at 80%. In contrast, the lowest awareness is observed in the 18-25 age group, with only 62.3% aware and 37.1% unfamiliar, emphasizing the need for targeted initiatives to engage younger populations.
4. Resort employees indicated the lowest awareness at 68.9%, with 31.1% unaware, underscoring a significant gap in engagement within the tourism sector.
5. Awareness among persons with disabilities matches the general population at 79.8%, reflecting inclusive outreach.
6. 23.7% of respondents rated HRCM's performance as either "excellent," or "good,", a decrease from 39% in 2011 and 39% in 2019. A shift towards more moderate approval was observed, with 19.2% rating the performance as "satisfactory," an increase from 13% in 2019.
7. Nearly half of the respondents (48.5%) recognized HRCM's primary role as protecting human rights, while 41.5% expressed uncertainty or found the question not applicable.
8. 9.5% of respondents reported participating in HRCM activities, with 90.5% not engaging in any initiatives.
9. **Only 4.9% of respondents correctly identified HRCM's toll-free number 1424.**

## Democratic Reforms

Public perception of democratic reforms varied, with more respondents viewing the reforms as not beneficial, a concerning reflection from the public 25 years after the new constitution came to effect. The public expressed a general dissatisfaction towards equality of resource allocation, participation in the governing process and access to information from the administration which is critical to be effectively established in an efficient democracy.

1. **27.6% viewed democratic reforms as beneficial, while 40.3% believe there were no benefits.**
2. A decline in the perception of benefits from democratic reform among men (from 38% in 2019 to 27.2% in 2024) was notable.
3. **Corruption (21.6%) was highlighted as the most significant barrier towards democratic success, remaining consistent since 2019.**
4. Younger respondents (18-25 years) showed less concern about democratic challenges compared to older age groups (36-55 years).
5. **50% of respondents were satisfied with the current level of freedom of expression, while 32.3% were dissatisfied.**
6. Satisfaction levels for freedom of expression were similar between genders and slightly higher in outer islands (53.3%) compared to urban areas (47.4%).
7. 70.9% of respondents did not believe political parties acted in the public interest.

## The Right to Security of the Person/Crime

1. 21.9% of respondents knew someone who was a victim of a crime in the past 12 months, consistent with previous survey results (20.7% in 2011, 21.7% in 2019).
2. Over half of respondents (52.9%) believed crime had increased over the past year, with 33.1% citing a significant rise.
3. Drug abuse (69%), theft (37.1%), and violence (21.1%) were perceived as the most prevalent crimes.
4. Drug abuse was identified as the primary driver (40.3%), increasing significantly from prior surveys (19.2% in 2019, 28.7% in 2011). The release of criminals (25.8%) and parental neglect (22.7%) were also cited as major factors.
5. **Respondents emphasized a collective approach, with 46.3% assigning responsibility of reducing crime to society, followed by the government (45.8%) and the police (38.1%).**

## Human Rights and Religion

1. **More respondents believed human rights conflicted with religion (43%), from which 13% of respondents believed only some rights were in conflict with Islam.**
2. **Significantly more women (47%) perceived human rights to be in conflict in human rights than men (37%).**
3. Respondents who perceived conflict increased with age, with 50% of the youngest demographic in between 18 to 25 years believing there was no conflict between religion and human rights.
4. **From the respondents who perceived religion to conflict with human rights, 28.8% of respondents believed human rights conflicted with the Islamic principles and a further 26.6% believing death penalty as the conflicting factor. 15.2% stated religious freedom, followed by punishments stated in religion (14%) and gender equality (13.2%) as conflicting reasons.**
5. More men leaned on towards the conflict with religious principles (34.3%) as the main conflicting factor where more women believed death penalty as the main conflicting factor (33.7%).
6. 67.7% of migrant workers believed they should be able to practice their religion in Maldives while 48% Maldivians supported the statement.
7. **There has been an encouraging trend towards greater acceptance of migrant workers practicing their religion compared to 2011**
8. Although more men (54%) supported migrant workers practicing their religion than women (47%), the percentage of women who disagreed had decreased from 2011 (69.4%).
9. Significant majority (83%) were unaware of the repatriation process for Maldivians coming from conflict zones.
10. From the respondents who were aware, 37.1% of respondents were satisfied with the repatriation process.

## Attitudes to Women’s Rights

The importance of women's right to equality shifted from second to fifth place, with fewer men recognizing this right as a priority compared to women. However, there have been improvements in perceptions regarding gender equality in specific contexts such as home, workplace, courts, and public spaces. Moreover, the data also demonstrated a more nuanced understanding of inequalities present in marital relationships, domestic settings and the public sphere. A significant number of women believed that it was a wife's obligation to engage in sexual relations with her husband irrespective of her consent, raising concerns about women's bodily autonomy. Furthermore, a significant number of respondents indicated that men should hold authoritative roles within the household, with more respondents justifying physical violence against wives compared to husbands in similar circumstances. These complex gender disparities contribute to wider societal problems that necessitate urgent action.

1. 78.1% of respondents supported gender equality in family responsibilities while support for women's equality in legal procedures has grown over the years, with 82.7% of 2024 respondents agreeing, an increase from 74.6% in 2011.
2. Improved support for equal property rights (69.6%), with women demonstrating slightly higher agreement than men.
3. Support for equal child custody rights recovered from a decline in 2011, reaching 78.2% in 2024. Agreement was slightly higher among women than men.
4. 78.5% supported equal divorce rights, a significant increase from 38.2% in 2005.
5. Public opinion on workplace equality reflects consistent progress, with 83.3% support. Women showed stronger advocacy (86.1%) compared to men (79.8%).
6. Support for women's political rights has fluctuated but remained high at 73.3% in 2024.
7. Family planning enjoys strong support (87.3%) across genders, though women (89.3%) were slightly more supportive than men (84.7%).
8. Abortion remained a contentious issue. While 88.3% supported abortion when the mother's life is at risk, only 13% endorsed abortion based on personal choice.
9. The data identified systemic factors, such as lack of candidates (16.7%) and societal support (10.2%), as barriers to women's political participation. Gendered biases persisted, with men more likely to view women as less qualified.

## Attitudes to Family and Ideas about acceptable behavior in the home

1. 75.1% of respondents agreed that "a good wife should always obey her husband," with 33.5% strongly agreeing. Women showed marginally higher agreement (44.2%) compared to men (38.6%). Younger respondents (18-25) showed less agreement (59.6%) compared to older age groups, with the highest agreement in the respondents aged 65+ (90.7%).
2. 74.5% of respondents prioritized keeping family matters private, with 29.1% strongly agreeing.
3. 41.6% of respondents agreed with the statement, "It is important for a man to show his wife who is the boss," where male respondents showed higher agreement (16.4% strongly agreed) than female respondents (11.8%).
4. 85.8% of respondents disagreed with the notion that a wife should obey her husband if asked to act against Islamic law. Women (91.4%) were more likely than men (85.5%) to reject this idea.
5. 66.1% of respondents opposed the idea that a wife could choose her friends without her husband's approval.
6. 48.4% of female respondents agreed that a wife is obligated to engage in sexual relations with her husband even if unwilling compared to 31.3% of male respondents. However, there was a consistent decline in women strongly endorsing such obligations, dropping from 33.3% in 2011 to 13.5% in the latest survey.
7. 24.1% believed a husband can hit his wife for violating Islamic principles, with higher agreement among women (27.2%) than men (20.3%).
8. 8.0% of men and 9.8% of women justified violence in cases of disobedience.
9. 5.3% of men and 5.0% of women justified violence on suspicion of infidelity.
10. 8.7% of men and 8.4% of women agreed violence is justified upon discovering infidelity.
11. A majority (57.6%) agreed that external intervention is warranted when a man mistreats his wife. However, more women (37.8%) than men (30.8%) opposed this, reflecting traditional notions of family privacy.
12. 76.4% agreed that a woman should never hit her husband.
13. 16.5% agreed a wife can hit her husband for violating religious norms.
14. 60.8% agreed women can refuse sex with their husband if they don’t want to, a notable improvement from 2019 (42.3%).
15. Higher agreement was noted for refusal of sexual relations for specific circumstances like illness (83.4%), husband having an STD (84.5%), intoxication (81.9%), or mistreatment (79.4%).
16. 70.6% agreed men can refuse sex if they don’t want to, slightly higher than for women.

## Domestic Violence

1. 36.5% of respondents viewed substance abuse as a leading cause of domestic violence, with women attributing 40.6% compared to 31.3% of men. Lack of awareness ranked second at 32.8%, indicating the growing recognition of education gaps in addressing domestic violence. 24.2% felt perpetrators avoid consequences, reflecting an increased demand for systemic reforms.
2. Financial difficulties (20.8%) and housing issues (22.7%) continued to be key contributors, emphasizing the role of economic stress in fostering violence.
3. 11.1% reported being victims of domestic violence, with a gender divide (14.5% women vs. 6.8% men). Most incidents occurred over a decade ago (45.7%), though 10% were recent (within the past year).
4. Spouses were the primary perpetrators (33.1%), with gender-specific trends in abusers (e.g., men reported abuse by fathers at higher rates).

## Sexual Abuse and other rights of children

1. The majority of the respondents believed that sexual abuse of boys (95.3%) and sexual abuse of girls (96.1%) as a serious problem
2. **Half of the survey respondents (50%) expressed dissatisfaction with the protection of child rights in the country. Among all respondents, women expressed greater dissatisfaction with the protection of children’s rights, with 57.8% women indicating dissatisfaction compared to 41.6% of men.**
3. **The dissatisfaction regarding the provision and protection of child rights has been consistent throughout the years. (53.4% in 2011, 48.2% in 2019 & 50.6% in 2024).**
4. **The majority of respondents, 43.8%, noted that a safe home environment should be prioritized to improve child rights followed by 31.4% emphasizing the importance of better access to education. Violence against children was noted by 26.4%, reflecting concerns about the safety and protection of children.**
5. **Even though the Child Rights Act states that children under 18 years of age should not be allowed to get married, a significant number of respondents (33.1%) stated that marriage of “mature” adolescents should be permitted.**
6. The respondents who believed adolescents should be allowed to marry increased with age where 38.9% of the respondents between 56-65 years believing the statement. The youngest demographic aged 18 to 25 years (23.8%), demonstrating the lowest level of support.
7. **The majority of respondents (70%) expressed the belief that “mature” adolescents should be permitted to marry on the grounds of it being stated in the religion. Additionally, 36.3% supported such marriages as a means to reduce out-of-wedlock births, while 24.2% believed it could serve as a protective measure for girls.**
8. Among respondents who supported allowing marriage of “mature” adolescents, 80.5% of men and 60.3% of women said their belief was based on religious reasons. More women (31.7%) believed it should be allowed to decrease of out wedlock childbearing than men (21.5%).
9. **The most common reason which justified hitting a child was theft (28.5%), followed by disobedience at 12.8% and disrespecting elders at 10.2%.**

## Rights of Older people

1. **41% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the services and protections provided to the elderly in the Maldives, compared to 38% expressing satisfaction.**
2. **Satisfaction has declined significantly from 48.1% in 2019 to 38% in 2024, while dissatisfaction rose from 33.3% in 2019 to 41% in 2024.**
3. Women expressed higher dissatisfaction (43%) compared to men (38%) while satisfaction remained same at 38% for both genders.
4. The highest levels of satisfaction were noted among respondents above the age of 65 meanwhile the highest levels of dissatisfaction were noted among the age group of 56-65 years of age.
5. More respondents in urban areas (43%) expressed dissatisfaction, compared to respondents from outer islands (38%)
6. **Neglect (16.1%), lack of healthcare for the elderly (12%), and unconsented use of pension money by family members (7.7%) were the top three areas that respondents believed needed the most improvements.**

## Rights of Persons with Disabilities

1. **42% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the services and protections available for persons with disabilities, compared to 33% satisfaction, indicating significant concerns about inadequate support.**
2. Satisfaction declined from 39% in 2019 to 33% in 2024, while dissatisfaction increased slightly from 40% in 2019 to 42% in 2024.
3. Among respondents with disabilities, 55.3% expressed dissatisfaction highlighting substantial gaps in addressing their needs.
4. **Respondents with disabilities highlighted lack of facilities in existing schools for children with special needs (26%) and inadequate healthcare, including mental health services (26%) as two key areas of concern.**
5. 46% of female respondents reported dissatisfaction, compared to 37% of male respondents, reflecting greater discontent among women.
6. The highest satisfaction level was observed among respondents aged 56–65, at 37%, while the greatest dissatisfaction was reported by respondents aged 65 and above, at 48%.
7. 45% of the respondents from outer islands expressed dissatisfaction whereas, 37% expressed dissatisfaction in urban areas.
8. **Among the respondents, inadequate healthcare, including mental health services, was the most frequently mentioned concern (11.5%) followed by lack of access to education (10.1%) and insufficient facilities in schools for children with special needs (9.7%).**

## Right to Equality of Access to Services

A strong dissatisfaction was observed across services provided by the State and the State institutions. Corruption was identified as a significant barrier to the democratic success with the public raising concerns regarding corruption in the judiciary, police services the prison system as well. The significant increase in concern over corruption is a key area that requires immediate and serious interventions.

Moreover, there was widespread dissatisfaction regarding the fulfillment of the most emphasized human rights, indicating that substantial efforts are required to ensure these rights are guaranteed equitably and without discrimination

1. **More respondents were dissatisfied (44.2%) than satisfied (40.2%) with the current education system with more respondents from the atolls (46.4%) being dissatisfied than the respondents from Male (42%).**
2. The youngest demographic, aged between 18 to 25 was observed to be the most dissatisfied age group regarding the education system.
3. **With 36.5% of the respondents, better qualified teachers rank highest amongst the factors that need improvement within the education system followed by higher education in the islands (26.9%) and better budget allocation (18.2%).**
4. **The level of dissatisfaction over access to medical services remained unchanged with a minor decline from 63.6% to 62.8%.**
5. **Both Male’ and atolls depicted a parallel view with people residing in atolls depicting a slightly higher level of dissatisfaction towards access to medical services. (62.6% vs 64.4%).**
6. **60% respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the access to medicine, which is a slight increase from the year 2019 (57.4%).**
7. 62% of the respondents in atolls were not happy with the access to medicine with 70% of the respondents residing in the non-capital islands stating to be dissatisfied, indicating a discrepancy in the delivery of medicine to the islands.
8. 43.9% of the respondents, (47.9% of respondents from atolls), believed that an increase in specialist doctors would improve the healthcare system. Improvement in access to medicine was identified by 36.5% of the respondents followed by the importance of qualified health workers as the factors that could improve the health system.
9. **61.4% of the respondents did not believe mental health services were accessible.**
10. **The percentage of respondents from the atolls who believed that mental health services were available was only 22.9%, while the percentage in Male’ was doubled to 43.8 percent, indicating a disparity in access to mental health services between Male’ and the atolls.**
11. Almost half of the respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the employment and work opportunities. Similar to RSL 3, more respondents residing in the Greater Male’ region (52.1%) were more dissatisfied compared to the atolls (48.5%) regarding employment.
12. Close to 50% of the respondents were unhappy with the access to markets to sell products such as handicrafts, produce etc.
13. **Half of the respondents had stated to be dissatisfied with the judicial system with only 26.1% of the respondents being satisfied with the judicial system**
14. **Corruption was cited as the primary cause of dissatisfaction by a significant majority of respondents (56.5%) followed by unjust and unfair decisions (43.1%).**
15. **More respondents (44.4%) were happy with the services provided by police and the security forces with migrant workers being significantly satisfied (60%)**
16. Among the respondents who were dissatisfied, 42.3% of the respondent's stated corruption, 33.8% expressed concerns with not being able to get their service when needed and 28% of respondents believed there was lack of fairness when providing their services.
17. Two-third of the respondents were unhappy regarding the prison system, with 31.3% non-response, reflecting a lack of firsthand experiences with the prison system.
18. **Reasons for dissatisfaction regarding the prison system were cited as corruption (39%), lack of supervision (20.6%), rehabilitation and reintegration (19.8%) and abuse of prisoners (19.2%).**
19. **Corruption was cited as the main concern regarding the judicial system, security forces and the prison system, raising major concerns about the functioning of these systems.**
20. Although more respondents believed that the social security had increased (24.2%) in the past year, number of respondents who believed social security had gotten worse in the previous year increased in comparison to the previous RSL (12.7% vs 23.7%)
21. **Among persons with disabilities, more respondents believed the social protection has gotten worse (28.7%) than it had improved (26.6%)**
22. A significant population believed that the state made considerable efforts to provide education up to grade 10, improve access to safe drinking water, electricity, sewerage facilities, and build waste disposal systems
23. The public did not believe the state made appropriate efforts to improve health services (53.6%) and to improve housing (53.7%).
24. **48.6% of the respondents believed improving health services should be the number one priority of the state where improving housing ranked the second most mentioned priority factor (24.4%).**
25. More respondents expressed unhappiness (44.1%) with the accessibility of information from central and local administrations compared to the respondents who were satisfied (34.2%)
26. There was a non-response rate of 17.3% when asked if the Right to Information Act had been beneficial, suggesting an information gap.
27. Approximately half of the respondents did not believe they were able to use or get any benefits from the Act.

## People’s right to participate in government and to take part in decision-making concerning them

1. **84.9% of the respondents expressed dissatisfaction over the fair distribution of resources between Male’ and the atoll, with over half of the respondents expressing a strong sentiment concerning the unequal distribution.**
2. The respondents from the Greater Male’ area (56.3%) strongly believed there was a disparity in the distribution of resources.
3. 60.3% of the respondents were dissatisfied with the current level of participation in state affairs, with Southern and Central regions having greater dissatisfaction levels compared to other regions.
4. From the persons with disabilities, 50% of the respondents were dissatisfied with their participation in decision-making.

## Sexual Harassment

1. The most prevalent forms of harassment reported by women include men making obscene or offensive sexual remarks (16.1%), men engaging in inappropriate physical contact, such as rubbing against them or touching their breasts or buttocks in public spaces like streets or night markets (11.7%), and instances of having their hands grabbed in public (10.5%).
2. The most frequently reported forms of harassment experienced by men include women grabbing their hands in public (6.2%) and receiving obscene or offensive sexual comments from women (5.2%).
3. Harassment rates for women were higher in all categories compared to men, indicating that women were disproportionately affected by sexual harassment.
4. Reports of workplace harassment across all listed categories have shown a decline over the past 20 years.
5. While 59.6% of respondents indicated that their workplace has a complaints mechanism, 23.9% reported the absence of such systems. Among workplaces lacking these mechanisms, 61.5% were located in outer islands, underscoring regional disparities in institutional support.
6. No respondents reported workplace harassment to external authorities or formal mechanisms, such as the Gender Ministry or the Employment Tribunal.
7. Among respondents who took action against harassment, 20% reported an improvement in the situation, while 8.9% observed no change, and 1.7% stated their actions worsened the circumstances.

# Conclusion

1. The survey revealed a significant decline in respondents' knowledge of human rights with only half of the respondents able to identify five fundamental rights compared to 2011. This highlights a critical need for immediate and effective interventions to address the knowledge gap.
2. Child rights were perceived as the most important right, mirroring sentiments from previous years. However, over half of the respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the protection of child rights. Access to health and education ranked among the most important rights, while adequate housing has made its debut in the top five rights. This shift may reflect current public sentiments concerning accessibility to affordable housing. Moreover, the data indicated that a significant majority of respondents lack access to mental health services; a new area explored in RSL. There was widespread dissatisfaction regarding the fulfillment of the most emphasized human rights, indicating that substantial efforts are required to ensure these rights are guaranteed equitably and without discrimination.
3. The importance of women's right to equality shifted from second to fifth place, with fewer men recognizing this right as a priority. This shift indicates a decline in support for gender equality; however, there have been improvements in perceptions regarding gender equality in specific contexts such as home, workplace, courts, and public spaces. Notably, discrepancies remain between genders, with men generally less supportive than women, emphasizing the need for targeted advocacy efforts.
4. The data also demonstrated a more nuanced understanding of inequalities present in marital relationships, domestic settings and the public sphere. A significant number of women believed that it was a wife's obligation to engage in sexual relations with her husband irrespective of her consent, raising concerns about women's bodily autonomy. Furthermore, a significant number of respondents indicated that men should hold authoritative roles within the household, with more respondents justifying physical violence against wives compared to husbands in similar circumstances. Additionally, the findings of the survey highlighted the gap in public understanding of the underlying challenges hindering women’s participation in the public sphere. These complex gender disparities contribute to wider societal problems that necessitate urgent action.
5. The prevalence of sexual abuse against both girls and boys were perceived as a serious issue across all demographics, reinforcing the need for preventive measures to protect children's rights within their homes, often considered their safest environments.
6. The relationship between human rights and religion continues to be perceived as conflicting, particularly women were likely to perceive such conflicts. However, there has been an encouraging trend towards greater acceptance of migrant workers practicing their religion compared to 2011.
7. Other rights associated with religion included marriage of mature adolescents where approximately one-third of respondents believe that adolescents under 18 should be permitted to marry with majority of respondents belief being dictated by religion. This indicates an increasing influence of religious perspectives despite concerns regarding child vulnerability and existing legal frameworks.
8. Public perception of democratic reforms varied, with more respondents viewing the reforms as not beneficial, a concerning reflection from the public 25 years after the new constitution came to effect. The public expressed a general dissatisfaction towards equality of resource allocation, participation in the governing process and access to information from the administration which is critical to be effectively established in an efficient democracy.
9. A strong dissatisfaction was observed across services provided by the State and the State institutions. Corruption was identified as a significant barrier to the democratic success with the public raising concerns regarding corruption in the judiciary, police services the prison system as well. The significant increase in concern over corruption is a key area that requires immediate and serious interventions.
10. Dissatisfaction regarding the rights of older people had also increased, reflecting a decline from previous surveys. The non-consensual use of pension allowances has emerged as a newly identified concern warranting further exploration. More respondents, particularly persons with disabilities, expressed dissatisfaction with the protection of their rights. Persons with disabilities also highlighted dissatisfaction with the participation in decision-making process which is crucial to ensure the policies enacted by the government are inclusive and participatory.
11. Furthermore, the younger demographics demonstrate notable disparities on human rights compared to older age groups, reflecting significant generational shifts. These differences were more pronounced across various issues highlighting the urgent need for targeted outreach efforts to enhance their understanding of human rights, gender equality, democratic reforms, and civic participation.
12. The awareness of the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) among the general population remained relatively consistent in 2024. However, notable disparities in awareness levels were observed across various demographics. Specifically, women demonstrated a higher level of awareness compared to men, while awareness was significantly lower among migrant workers. Furthermore, there is significant support among the populace for the HRCM to intensify its initiatives in critical areas such as education on human rights and the protection of vulnerable populations.

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