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## Supplementary Material



## Consumers' Perceptions on Plastic Bags Tax Levy in Peri-urban Areas of Eswatini: A Case of Kwaluseni and Logoba Chiefdoms

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### Abstract:

#### Introduction:

This study focused on assessing the perceptions of consumers on plastic bags tax levy in peri-urban areas of Eswatini, using Kwaluseni and Logoba chiefdoms as case studies.

#### Methods:

The areas of key focus include knowledge of and attitudes of consumers towards plastic bags pollution, strategies employed by consumers to manage plastic bags, consumers' willingness to pay for plastic bags and what Eswatini Environment Authority has done so far in controlling plastic bags pollution.

#### Results:

A total of 165 households, (99 from Kwaluseni and 66 from Logoba) were conveniently sampled and interviewed with the aid of a questionnaire. Community leaders and an environmental inspector from Eswatini Environment Authority were also interviewed. The findings show that the use of plastic bags is increasing in both chiefdoms (92.93% at Kwaluseni and 92.42% at Logoba). Concerning what respondents do with the plastics bags after ferrying their goods home, 25% at Kwaluseni and 19% at Logoba of the respondents claimed to reuse some bags and throw away the rest.

#### Conclusion:

With regard to willingness to pay, the findings indicate that 49.70% of the respondents are willing to buy plastic bags.

**Keywords:** Consumers' perceptions, Eswatini, Kwaluseni, Logoba, Peri-urban areas, Plastic bags, Tax levy.

### Article History

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## APPENDIX

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHICS	
Date of interview: .....	Time of interview: .....
Name of head of household: .....	
GPS Coordinate: .....	
Location: Kwaluseni [ ] <sup>1</sup>	
Logoba [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
1. Gender:	
Male [ ] <sup>1</sup>	
Female [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
2. Age: .....	
3. Region of Birth:	
Manzini [ ] <sup>1</sup> Lubombo [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
Hhohho [ ] <sup>3</sup> Shiselweni [ ] <sup>4</sup>	
Other (Specify): .....	
4. What is your current marital status?	
Single [ ] <sup>1</sup> Married [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
Divorced [ ] <sup>3</sup> Widowed [ ] <sup>4</sup>	
5. Highest level of education attained	
Primary education [ ] <sup>1</sup> Secondary education [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
Tertiary Education [ ] <sup>3</sup> Not educated [ ] <sup>4</sup>	
Other: (specify): .....	
6. Occupation: Unemployed [ ] <sup>1</sup> Self-employed [ ] <sup>2</sup> Employed [ ] <sup>3</sup>	
SECTION B - KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES	

(Crrgpfk) contd.....

7. How often do you go for shopping	
Daily [ ] <sup>1</sup>	
Weekly [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
Monthly [ ] <sup>3</sup>	
Other (specify) .....	
8. Do you use plastic bags when shopping?	
Yes [ ] No [ ]	
9. If yes, how often?	
Always [ ] <sup>1</sup>	
Often [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
Sometimes [ ] <sup>3</sup>	
10. How many plastic bags do you use per week?	
None [ ] <sup>1</sup>	
<5 [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
5-10 [ ] <sup>3</sup>	
10+ [ ] <sup>4</sup>	
11. Do you view single-use plastic shopping bags as a necessary or unnecessary part of your shopping experience?	
Necessary [ ] <sup>1</sup> Unnecessary [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
12. Is the utilization of plastic bags increasing or decreasing?	
Increasing [ ] <sup>1</sup> Decreasing [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
13. If increasing, what are the reasons?	
They are cheap [ ] <sup>1</sup>	
They are light in weight [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
They are easily available [ ] <sup>3</sup>	
Lack of alternatives [ ] <sup>4</sup>	
Other (specify) .....	
14. According to your opinion, should the utilization of plastic bags be continued or discontinued?	
Should be continued [ ] <sup>1</sup> Should be discontinued [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
15. Why should it be continued or discontinued?	
16. If your answer in question number 14 is "should be discontinued", who is responsible for discontinuing the use of plastic bags?	
Individuals [ ] <sup>1</sup>	
NGOs [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
Governments [ ] <sup>3</sup>	
Other (specify) .....	
17. Do you think that single-use plastics bags can harm the Environment?	
Yes [ ] <sup>1</sup> No [ ] <sup>2</sup> I don't know [ ] <sup>3</sup>	
18. If yes, what is your source of knowledge on Environmental issues?	
Own experience [ ] <sup>1</sup> Friends/ family [ ] <sup>2</sup> School/ tertiary [ ] <sup>3</sup> Media [ ] <sup>4</sup>	
Other (specify) .....	
19. How do plastic bags harm the environment?	
20. How important are these environmental problems to you? (On a scale 1-5)	
1. Not important [ ] <sup>1</sup>	
2. Slightly Important [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
3. Important [ ] <sup>3</sup>	
4. Fairly Important [ ] <sup>4</sup>	
5. Very important [ ] <sup>5</sup>	
21. Do you think plastic bags waste is currently a problem in your area?	
Yes [ ] <sup>1</sup> No [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
22. Which part of your area is seriously polluted by plastic bags?	
Open spaces [ ] <sup>1</sup>	
Market places [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
Roadsides [ ] <sup>3</sup>	
Residential back yards [ ] <sup>4</sup>	
Rivers [ ] <sup>5</sup>	
Other (specify) .....	
<b>SECTION C: PLASTIC BAGS WASTE REDUCTION STRATEGIES</b>	
23. Do you use reusable shopping bags when shopping?	
Yes [ ] <sup>1</sup> No [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
24. If yes, how often do you use reusable shopping bags?	
Always [ ] <sup>1</sup>	
Often [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
Sometimes [ ] <sup>3</sup>	
Never [ ] <sup>4</sup>	
25. What do you do with the plastic bags once you have used them for carrying your shopping home?	
a) I throw them away [ ] <sup>1</sup>	
b) I reuse some and throw some away [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
c) I reuse all of them [ ] <sup>3</sup>	
d) I sell them [ ] <sup>4</sup>	
e) Other (specify) .....	
26. Where is the household waste disposed?	
In the waste bin in the compound [ ] <sup>1</sup>	
In an empty space near the house [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
By the side of the road as there is no waste bin nearer [ ] <sup>3</sup>	
Other (specify) .....	
27. What are the problems you are facing for disposing your waste	
Waste bin is far [ ] <sup>1</sup>	
No waste bin in the area [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
Waste bin is not accessible [ ] <sup>3</sup>	
Other (specify) .....	
28. What do you use to dispose the waste?	
Plastic bags [ ] <sup>1</sup>	
Other (specify) .....	
29. Would you like to use less plastic in your life?	
Yes [ ] <sup>1</sup> No [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
30. Do you support efforts to reduce the use of plastic bags?	
Yes [ ] <sup>1</sup> No [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
31. What would be the most effective way to reduce the use of plastic bags?	
Supermarkets and stores should sell each plastic bag [ ] <sup>1</sup>	
Voluntary actions [ ] <sup>2</sup>	
Other (specify) .....	
<b>SECTION D: WILLINGNESS TO PAY</b>	

(Crrgpfk) contd....

32. Are you for the motion of buying a plastic bag in a shop?
Yes [ ] <sup>1</sup> No [ ] <sup>2</sup>
33. If government introduces tax to single-use plastic bags, how would you feel?
Support [ ] <sup>1</sup>
Oppose [ ] <sup>2</sup>
Unsure [ ] <sup>3</sup>
34. Do you think plastic bag charge will help reduce plastic pollution?
Yes [ ] <sup>1</sup> No [ ] <sup>2</sup>
35. If no, what do you think will reduce plastic pollution?
36. If yes, how much are you willing to pay for a plastic bag?
E0.50 [ ] <sup>1</sup>
E0.70 [ ] <sup>2</sup>
E1.00 [ ] <sup>3</sup>
E1.50 [ ] <sup>4</sup>
Other (specify): .....
37. What impacts do you think selling plastic bags will have?

Positive	Negative
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38. Do you have any other suggestions?
APPENDIX B
INSTRUMENT 2: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR ESWATINI ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY
Position/rank of respondent: .....
Date of interview: .....
Time of interview: .....
1. How does the authority view the issue of solid waste in the country?
2. What mainly constitute of the waste?
3. How does the authority perceive plastic bag usage? Increasing [ ] Decreasing [ ]
4. If increasing, what contributes the increase in usage?
5. Are there problems uncounted by the use of plastic bags? YES [ ] NO [ ]
6. If yes, what are the problems?
7. The authority once introduced the control of plastic bag regulation, what was the motive behind it?
8. How did the regulation perform when it was launched?
9. Were the consumers well informed about the regulation? YES [ ] NO [ ]
10. If Yes, how?
11. What was the overall reception of the regulation by the consumers (public)?
12. What are the anticipated impacts of the regulation?

Positive	Negative
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13. Are there any strategies for mitigating the negative impacts? YES [ ] NO [ ]
14. If yes, what are the strategies?
15. Were there any challenges encountered? YES [ ] NO [ ]
16. If yes, what are the challenges?
17. What is the current status of the regulation?
18. Any other regulations for controlling plastic bags YES [ ] NO [ ]
19. If yes, what are they?
20. How is the level of awareness to the public with regards to plastic bag pollution?
21. What strategies the authority is doing to strengthen the awareness level?
22. Any future plans regarding plastic bag control regulation?
APPENDIX C
INSTRUMENT 3: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY AUTHORITIES
Position/rank of respondent: .....
Date of interview: .....
Time of interview: .....
Location: Kwaluseni [ ] Logoba [ ]
1. How is the usage of plastic bags in your community? Increasing [ ] Decreasing [ ]
2. If increasing, what may be causing the increase?
3. In your view, how are plastic bags managed in your area?
4. Do you think plastic bag waste management is currently a problem in your area? Yes [ ] No [ ]
5. If yes, what causes the problems?
6. What strategies are being done by the community leaders to mitigate these problems of plastic bags waste management?
7. Are you and your community aware of plastic bag pollution problems? Yes [ ] No [ ]
8. If yes, what are the problems know to you?
9. Are you aware of the once introduced plastic bag tax levy (Control of Plastic Bags Regulation of 2015)? Yes [ ] No [ ]
10. If yes, were you happy about it? Yes [ ] No [ ]
11. How was the reception of the regulation?
12. Does your community view the regulation as a good move? (Explain)

*(Crrgpfk) contd....*

.....
13. What are the foreseeable impacts of the regulation to your community?
14. Any other suggestions towards the implementation of plastic bag tax levy?
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