

## **Sustainability | Individual communication**

### **IC - (21064) - PERCEPTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN TWO SPANISH PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS**

Adrián Moll<sup>1</sup>; José Antonio Corraliza<sup>1</sup>; Silvia Collado<sup>2</sup>

1 - Universidad Autónoma de Madrid; 2 - Universidad de Zaragoza

#### **Background and objectives**

Climate change has been listed as the greatest risk to humanity by the World Economic Forum (2016). Both the assessment of the dimension of climate change and the most appropriate strategies to deal with the situation depend largely on the perception of the problem and the beliefs, attitudes and emotions related to it. The objective of this study is to identify the social perception (judgments and beliefs) about the causes, risks and scenarios associated with climate change, as well as the assessment of some of the measures required to implement adaptive strategies, in visitors and residents of two Spanish protected natural areas.

#### **Process and methods (for empirical research)**

The total sample was of 334 participants (M = 46.9 years old). A questionnaire was designed to assess concern and scepticism about climate change, as well as indicators on attachment and identity with the place. Additionally, a record was included on the estimation of impacts due to climate change, local measures that should be implemented and personal changes necessary to mitigate climate change.

#### **Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)**

Participants showed high levels of concern about climate change, high levels of attachment and identity with the place, as well as low degree of scepticism about the existence of climate change and its effects. The most notable records include the perception of increased risk of fires and more periods of drought, taking personal actions to increase consumption of local products and reduce water consumption as well as using renewable energies.

#### **Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution**

A high degree of concern about climate change and a remarkable ability to detect relevant threats that it poses for the maintenance of the evaluated areas was observed. This study shows the strategic value of protected areas for the analysis of perceptual patterns associated with climate change, as well as for the detection of its effects and consequences.

**Palavras-chave : climate change, protected natural areas, risk perception, concern, scepticism**