

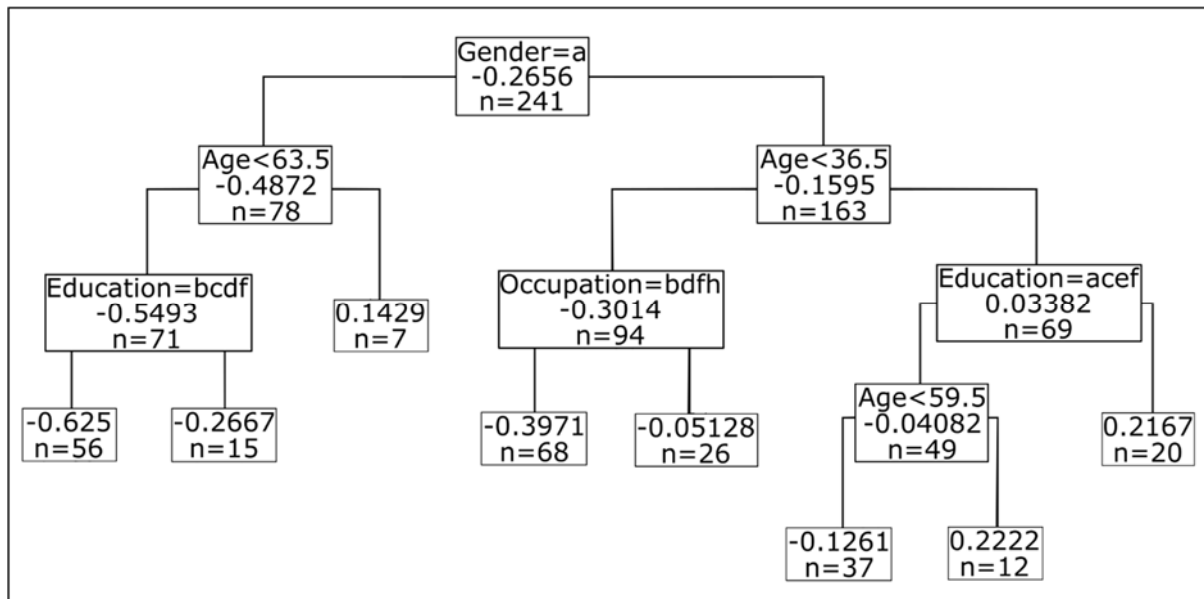
Vulnerable sloth bears are attracted to human food waste: a novel situation in Mount Abu town, India

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL 1 Questionnaire used to survey residents of Mount Abu, Rajasthan, India to measure their attitudes and perceptions regarding sloth bears *Melursus ursinus* inside the town.

Date					
Time					
Grid cell ID					
Gender					
Age					
Education					
Primary occupation					
Are you aware of sloth bear presence in your area?	Yes/No				
If yes, then sign of presence is:	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct sighting	<input type="checkbox"/> Scat	<input type="checkbox"/> Sound	<input type="checkbox"/> Pugmarks	<input type="checkbox"/> Social network
Frequency of sloth bear presence and human–bear interactions					
Have you personally encountered bears within the last 2 years?	Yes/No				
If yes, group size of bears during encounter were:	<input type="checkbox"/> one	<input type="checkbox"/> two	<input type="checkbox"/> three	<input type="checkbox"/> more than three	<input type="checkbox"/> with cubs
Date of last encounter					
Time of last encounter					
Place of last encounter					
Would you say bear encounters have increased, and if so in what time period?					
Would you say bear attacks have increased, and if so in what time period?					
Why do bears attack humans?					
Area utilization by sloth bear in human-dominated landscape					
Is the sloth bear commonly sighted in your area?	Yes/No				
If yes, your reason for bears visiting the area?					
Factors responsible for sloth bear attraction in human-dominated landscape					
Why are sloth bears attracted to the town?					
Are bears feeding on rubbish?	Yes/No				
If yes, what do they eat in rubbish?					

People's attitude towards sloth bears in their area			
	Disagree	Neutral/ unsure	Agree
I like bears in my area			
Bears are dangerous			
Bears damage property in my area			
Bears harm people in my area			
I would be happy if the bear population was increasing in my area			
Bears have the right to live in my area			



SUPPLEMENTARY FIG. 1 Full regression tree showing relationships of all the variables to measured attitudes of 241 residents of Mount Abu, Rajasthan, India towards sloth bears *Melursus ursinus*.

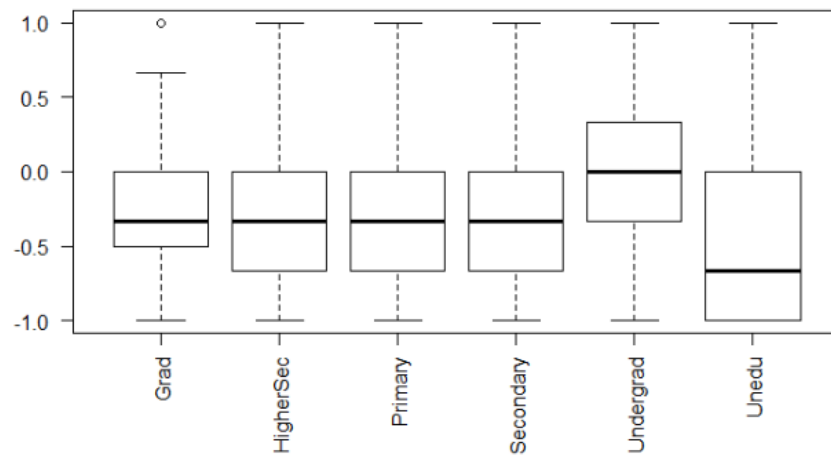
Codes are:

Gender: a – female, b – male;

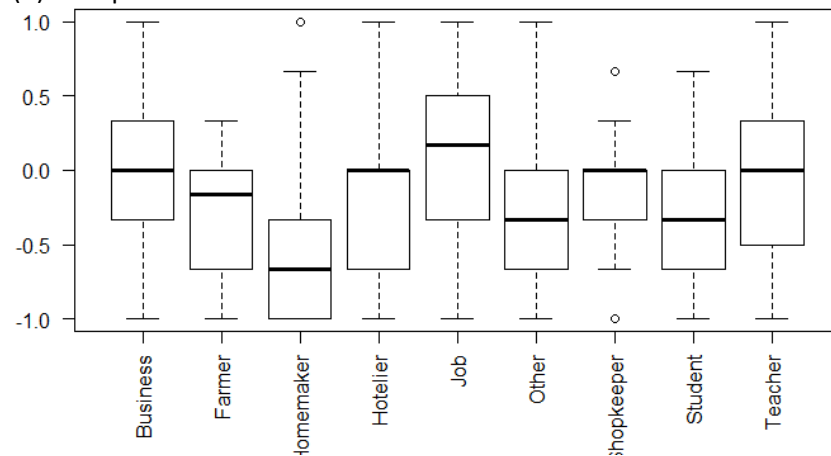
Education: a – higher secondary, b – primary; c – lower secondary, d – uneducated, e – graduate;

Occupation: a – farmer, b – hotelier, c – other, d – student, e – businessman, f – job in business or industry, g – shopkeeper, h – teacher. Residents with the additional occupation home-maker were exclusively female.

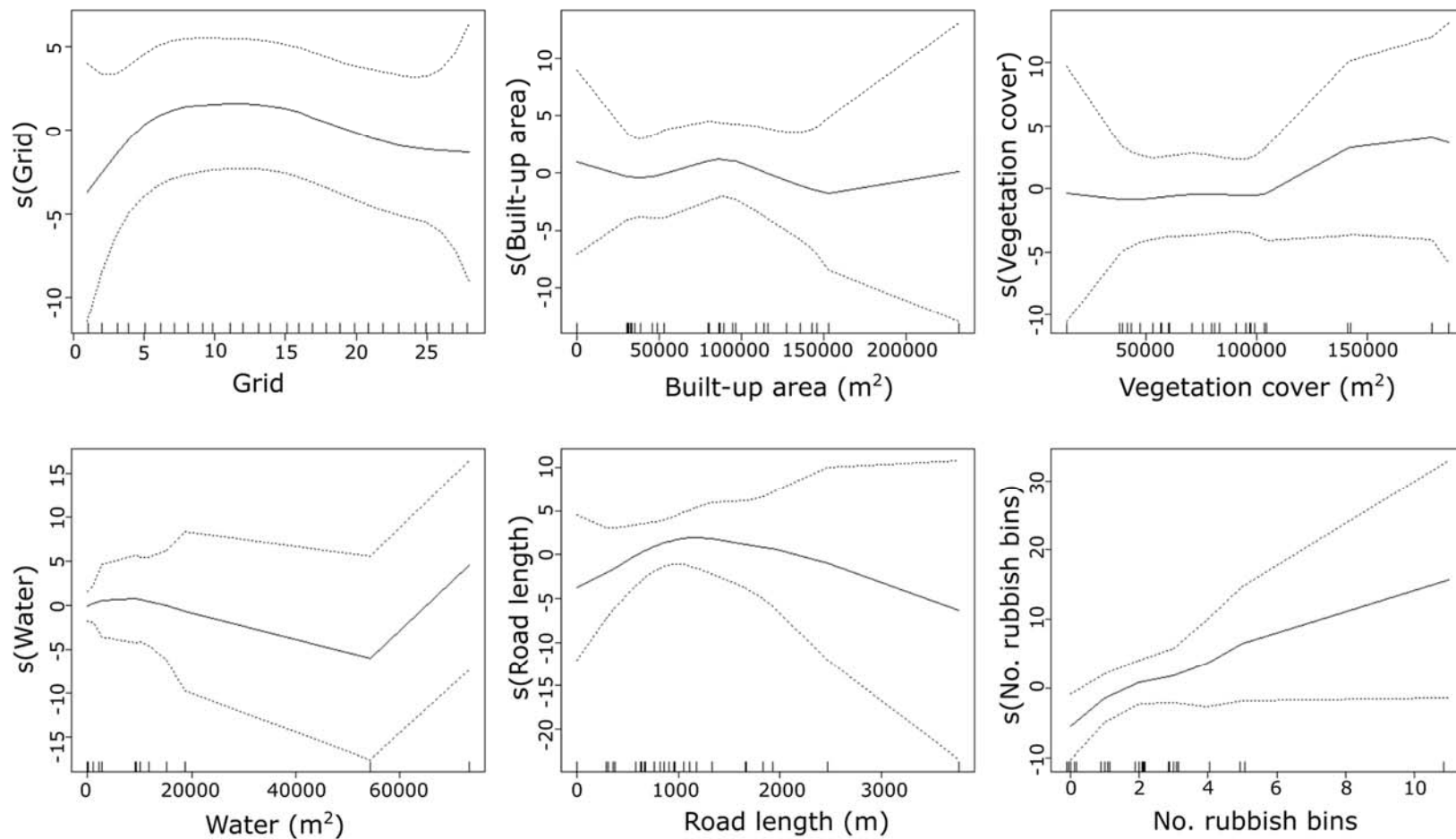
(a) Education levels



(b) Occupations



Supplementary Fig. 2 Boxplots showing attitudes of 241 residents of Mount Abu, Rajasthan, India regarding sloth bears measured across (a) education levels and (b) occupations. The order of increasing education levels in India is Primary, Secondary, Higher Secondary, Undergraduate and Graduate.



SUPPLEMENTARY FIG. 3 Generalized additive model fits for all variables modelled against the number of bear sightings inside Mount Abu, Rajasthan, India using the full model including the spatial variable, with dotted lines showing standard errors.