



# DECOLONISATION TEMPERATURE-CHECK SURVEY RESULTS



# Survey design

- Survey designed to ‘take the temperature’ of feelings about coloniality/decoloniality in ACRC and the wider development industry.
- 28 questions in four groups: ‘Colonial Attitudes’, ‘Knowledge and Power’, ‘Who Benefits?’ and ‘Looking forward’.
- 56 respondents
  - 39 Black African ethnicity (35 resident in Africa)
  - 13 Non-African ethnicity (all resident outside Africa)
- Most questions make a distinction between ‘Africans’ and ‘people from outside Africa’, defining the latter as: ‘people of non-African heritage, especially from the former colonial powers’.

# Overall findings

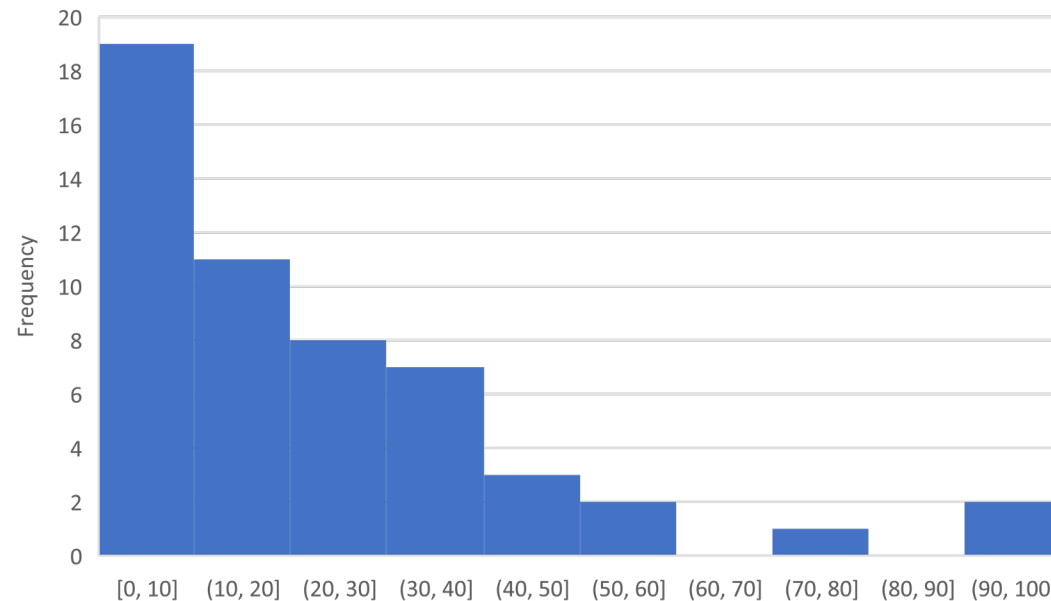
- Many of the claims made by decolonial theorists about the development industry resonate with many of our respondents.
- ACRC tends to do better than the development industry as a whole, though on several issues a significant minority still judges ACRC unfavourably.
- ACRC scores worst where it comes to imbalances of power over strategic decisions.
- With notable exceptions, Black African respondents tend to have less favourable views of the development industry *and* ACRC than non-Africans.
- ACRC can take some heart from the responses on 'dignity and respect', 'partnership' and 'authority being justified by skills and knowledge', where a more or less clear majority of respondents of all ethnicities judge it favourably. Even so, it is concerning that anyone judges it unfavourably.
- There is a clear majority for reform in the next phase.

# **COLONIAL ATTITUDES**

# Knowledge assumptions?

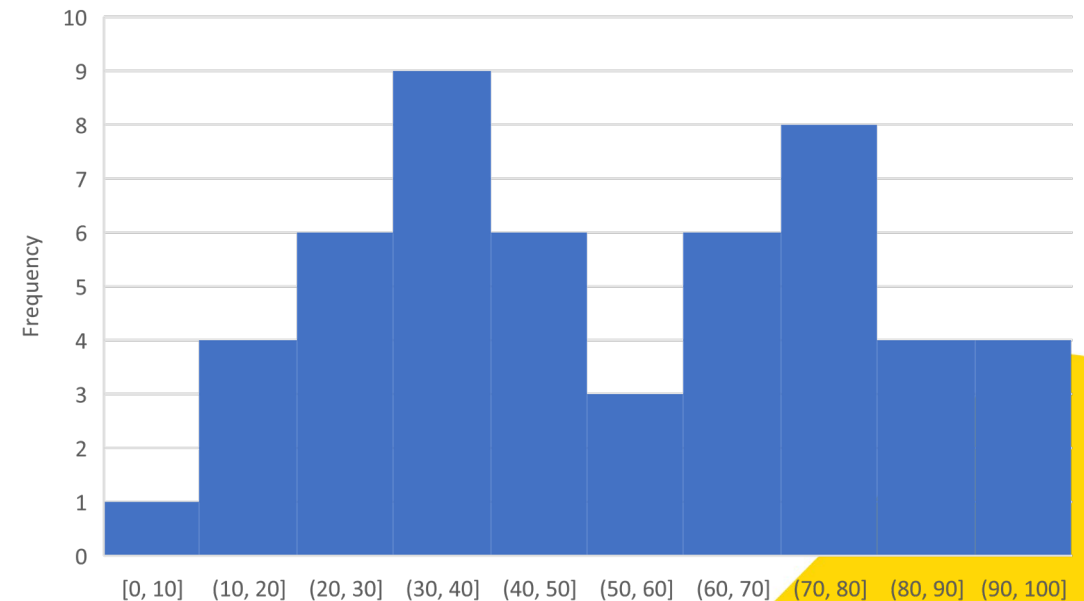
## Whole industry

A large majority of people in the development industry from outside Africa assume they are more knowledgeable and skilled than Africans (0) to (100) - do not assume



## ACRC

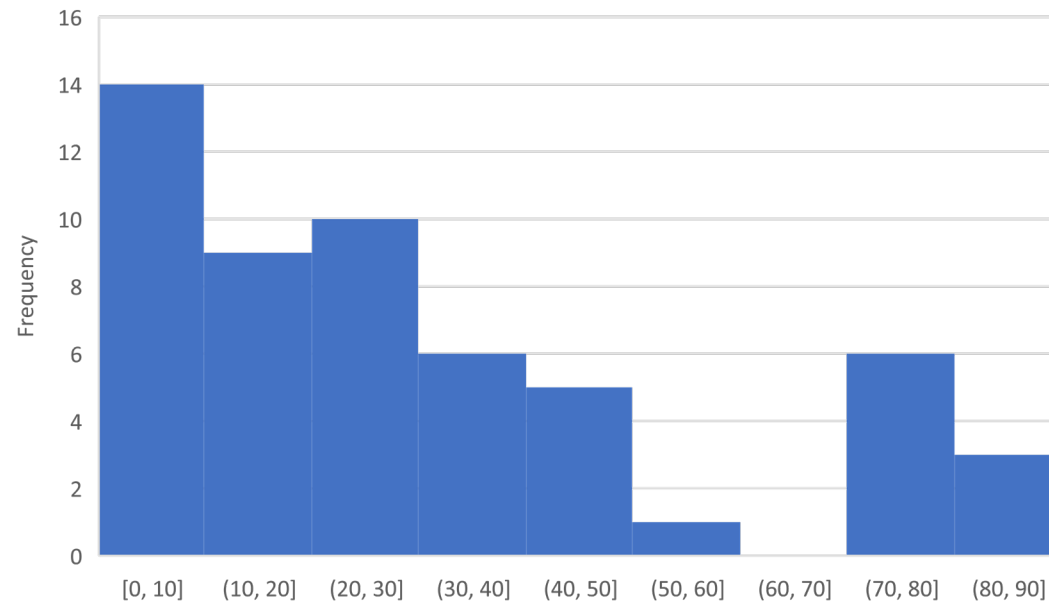
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# Mission to save?

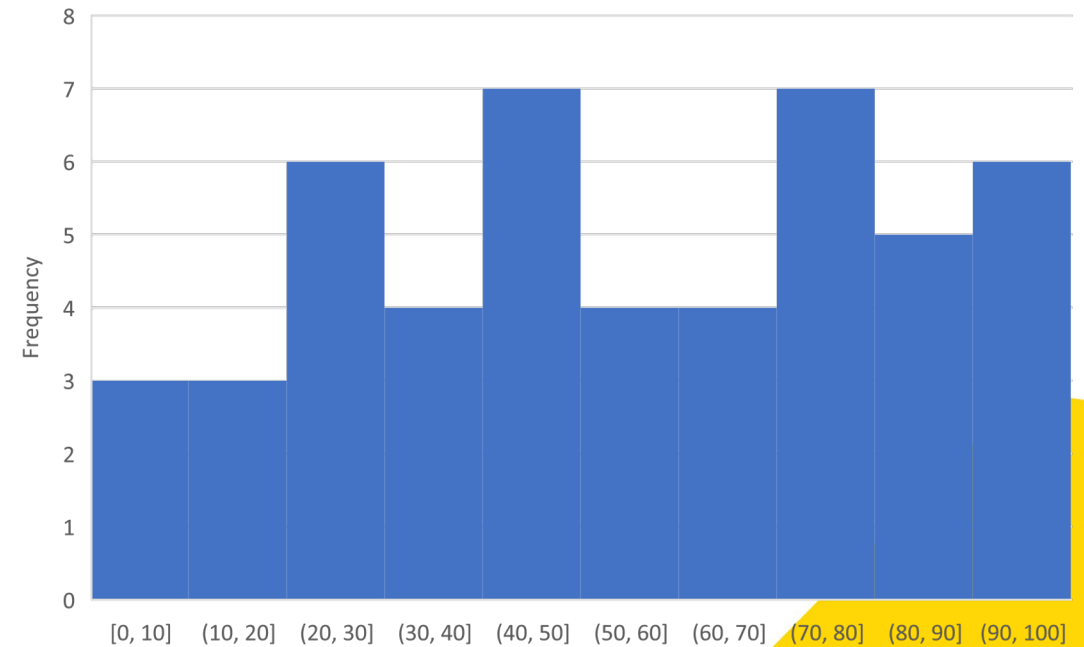
## Whole industry

A large majority of people in the development industry from outside Africa feel they are on a mission to "save" Africans (0 to (100) - not on mission



## ACRC

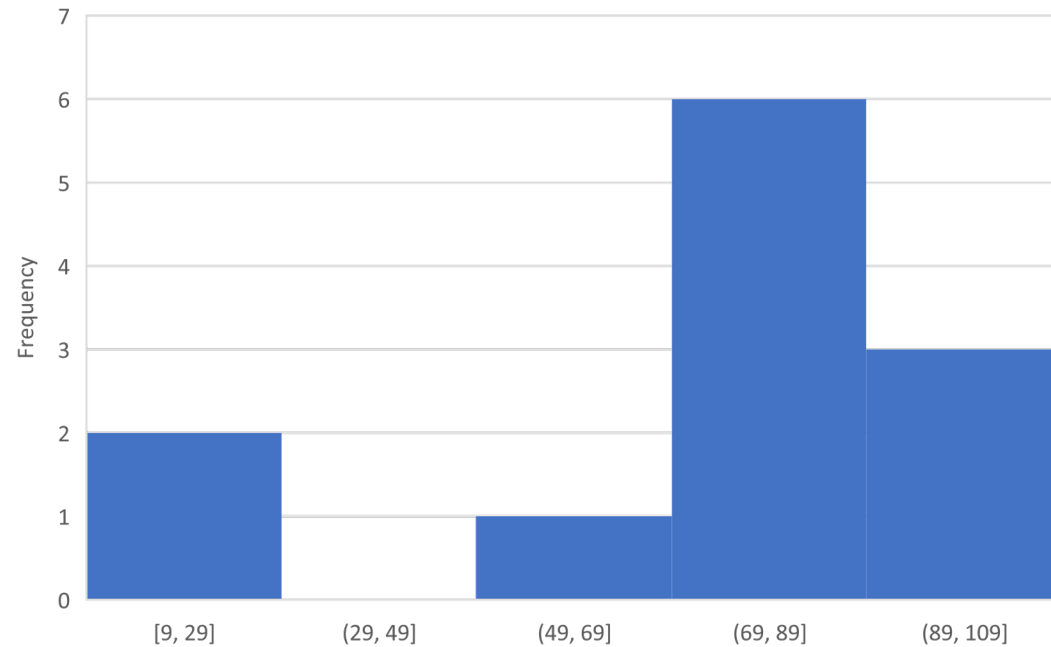
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# Mission to save disaggregated for ACRC

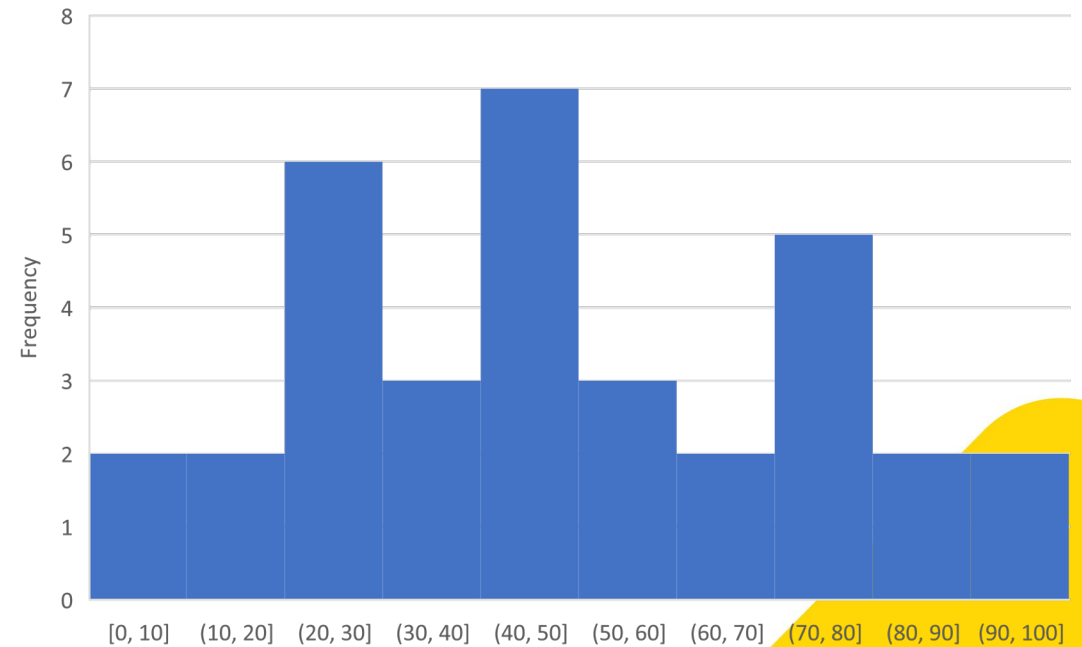
## Non-Africans

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## Black Africans

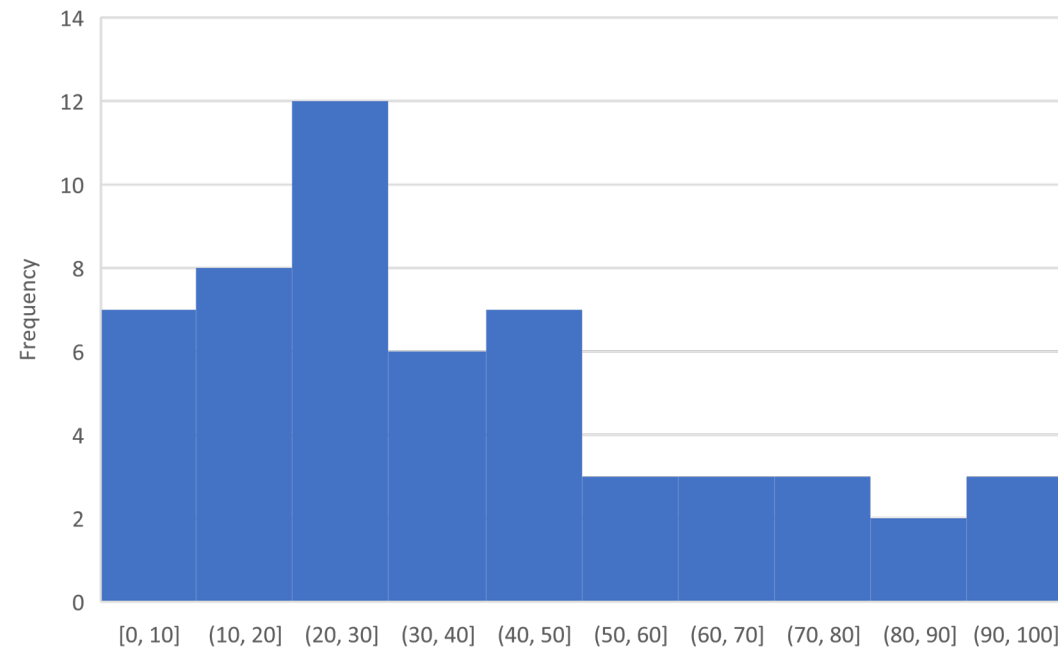
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# External solutions superior?

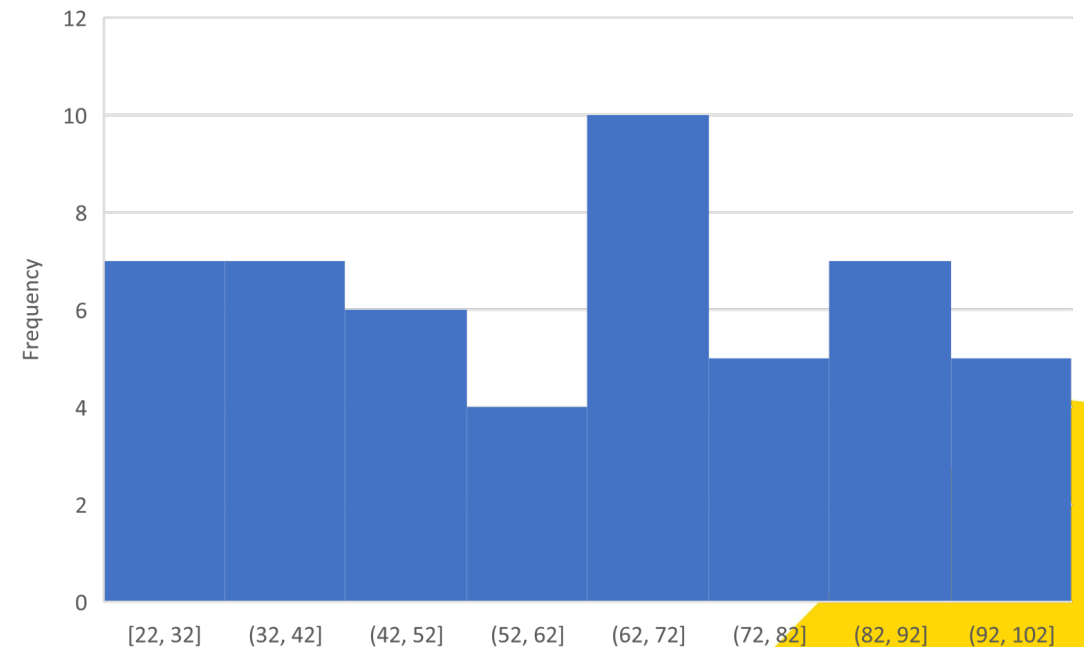
## Whole industry

Dev assume external development solutions are superior to African development solutions (0) to (100) do not assume



## ACRC

ACRC assume external development solutions are superior to African development solutions (0) to (100) do not assume

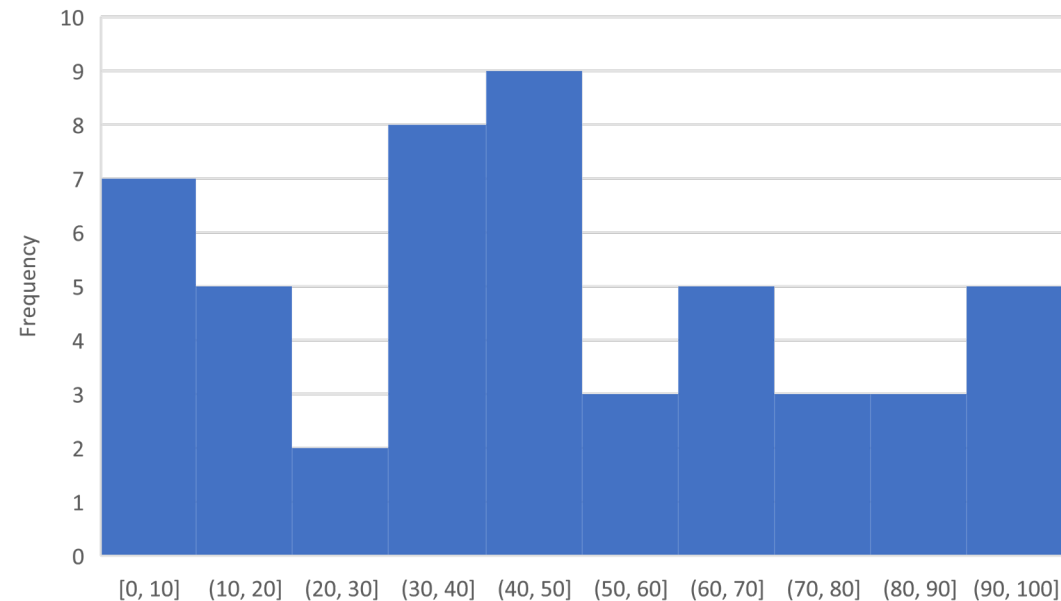




# Dignity and respect?

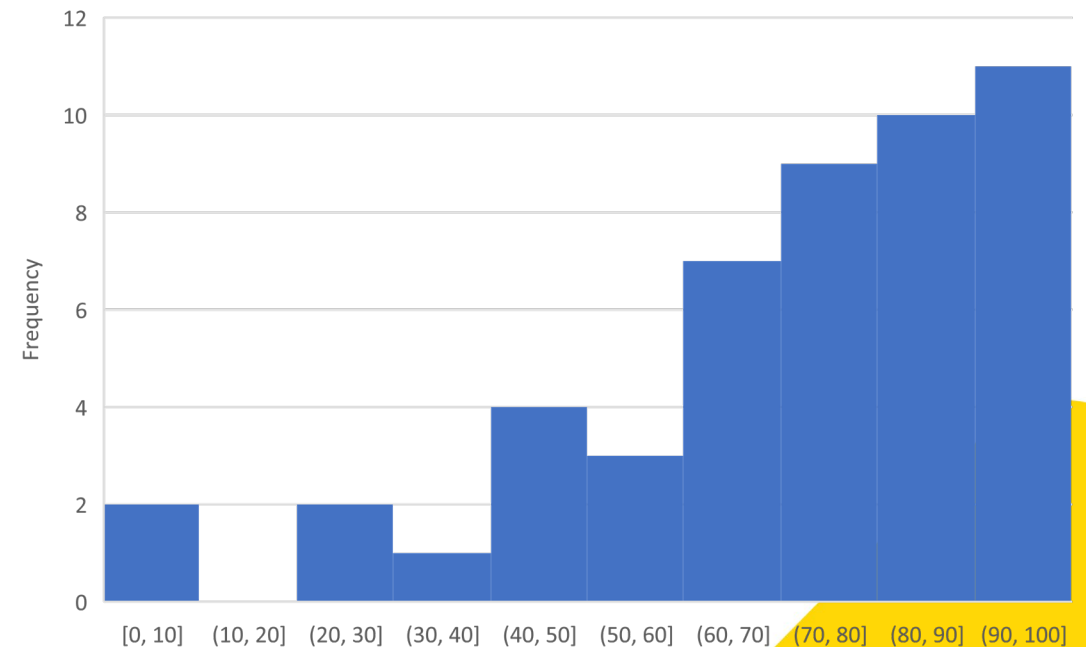
## Whole industry

A large majority of people in the development industry from outside Africa fail to treat Africans with dignity and respect (0) to (100) not fail.



## ACRC

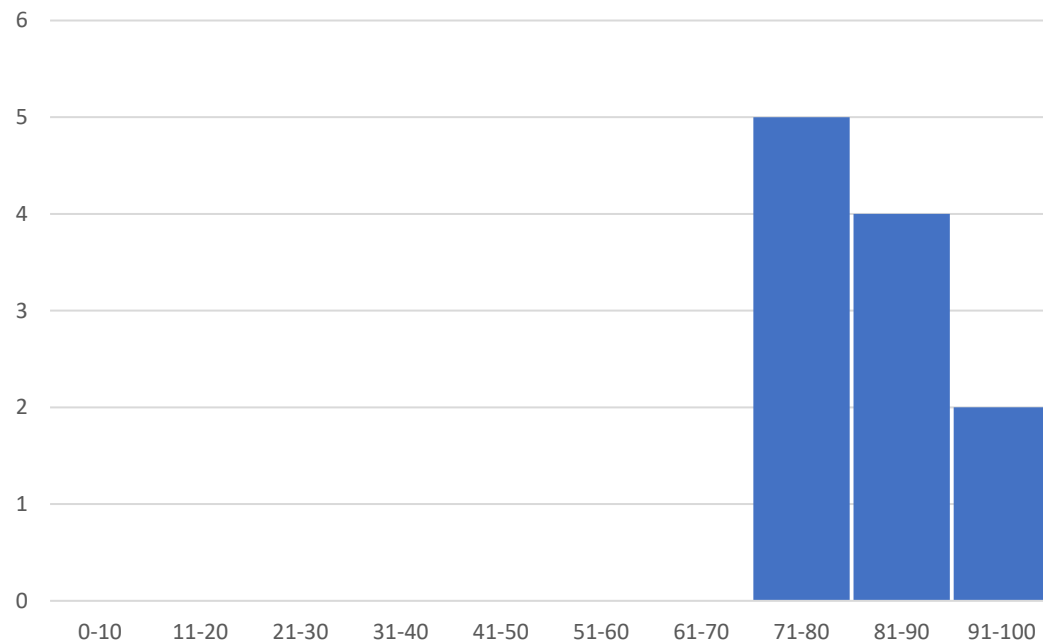
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# Dignity and respect disaggregated for ACRC

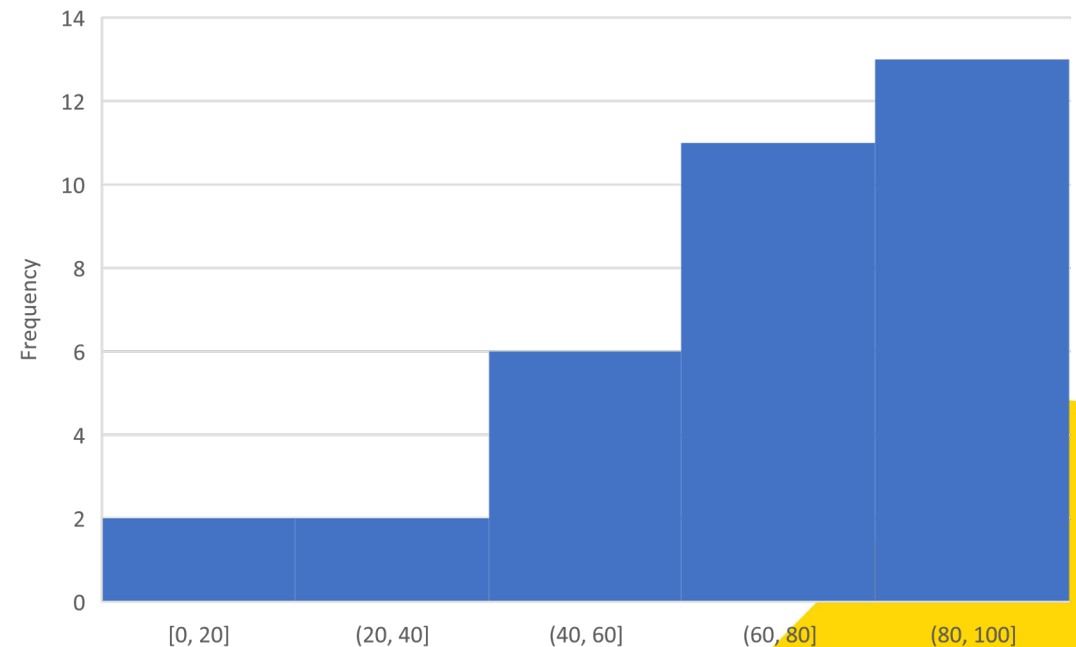
## Non-Africans

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## Black Africans

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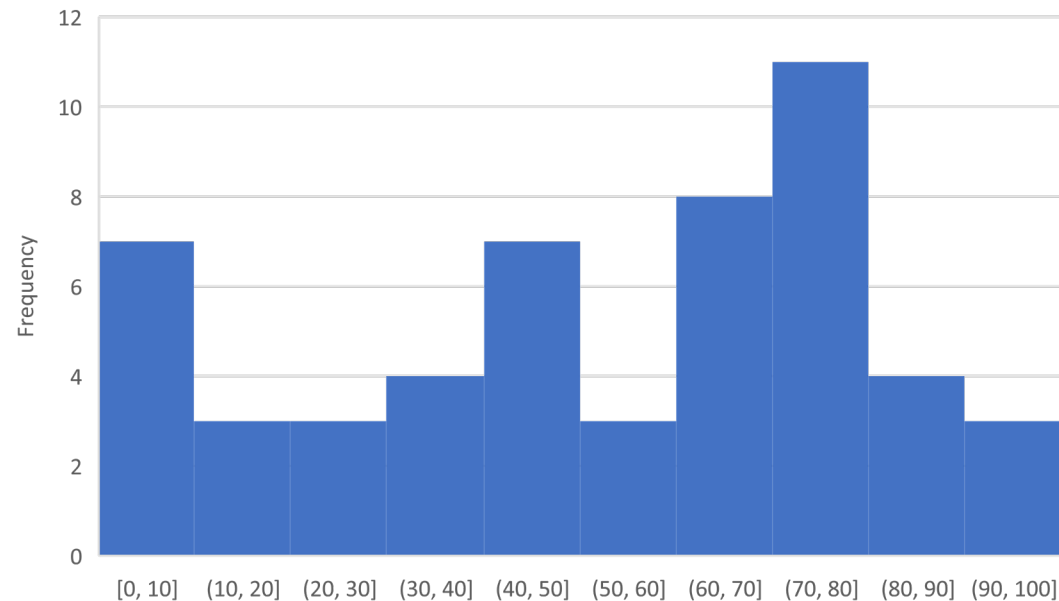


**KNOWLEDGE AND POWER**

# Knowledge and skills?

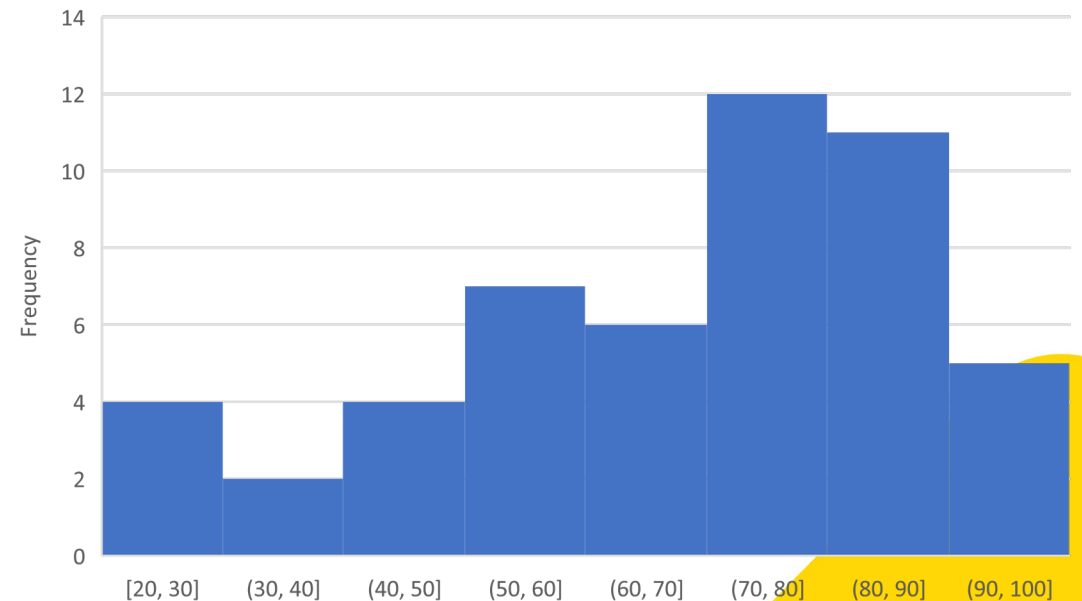
## Whole industry

A large majority of people working in Dev Industry lack the knowledge and skills to contribute to Africa's development (0) to (100) don't lack



## ACRC

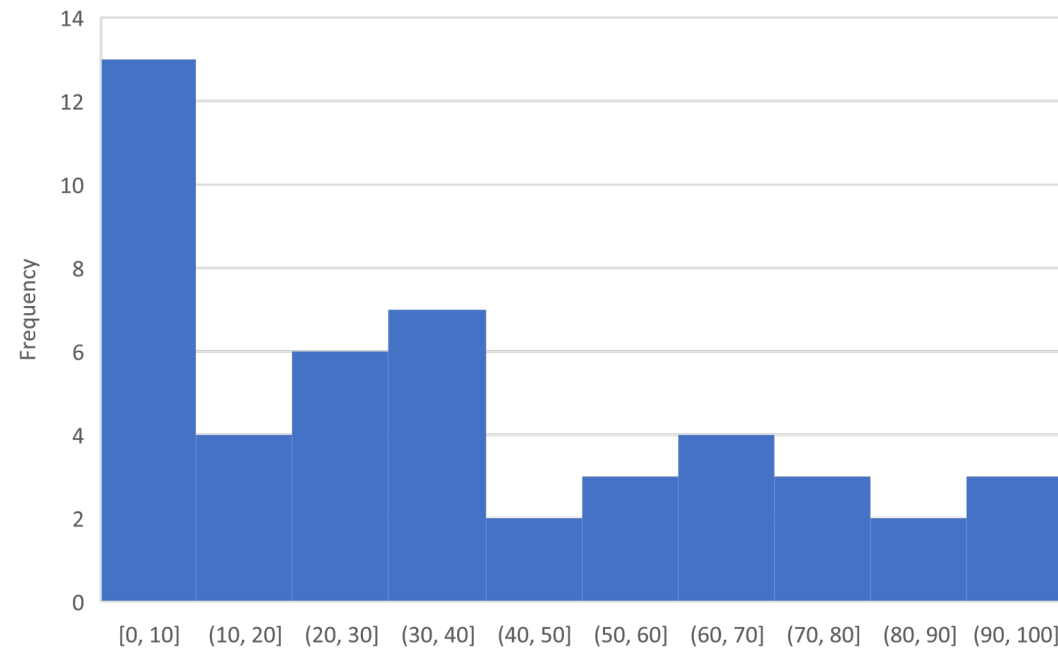
A large majority of people working in ACRC from outside Africa lack the knowledge and skills to contribute to Africa's development (0) to (100) don't lack



# Compulsion

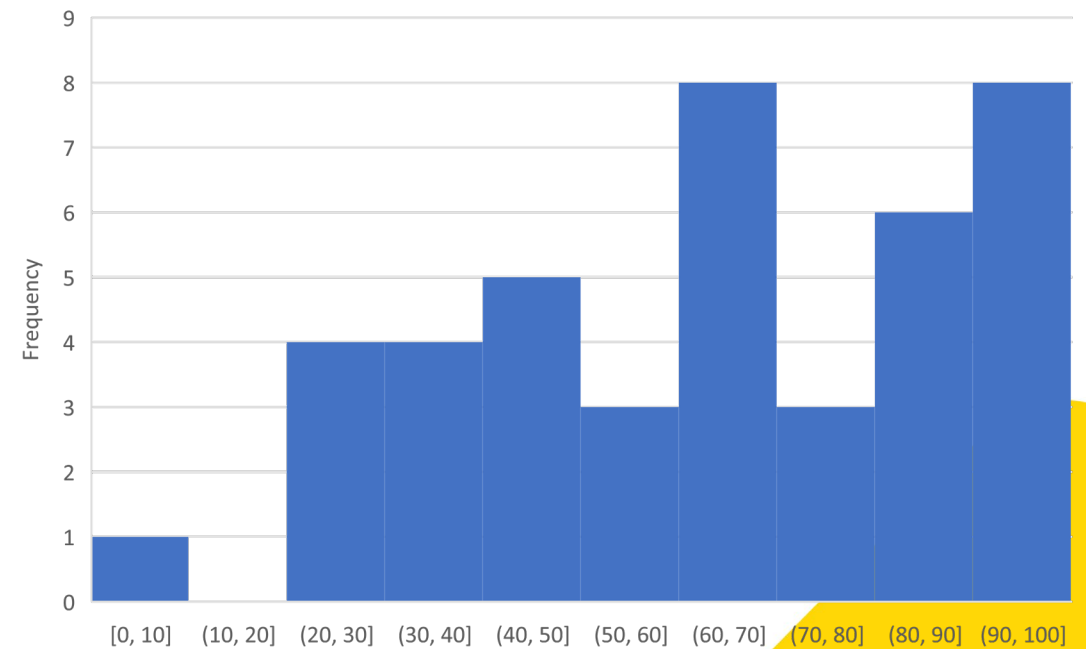
## Whole industry

A large majority of development programmes compel Africans to do things they would not otherwise do (0 to (100) don't.



## ACRC

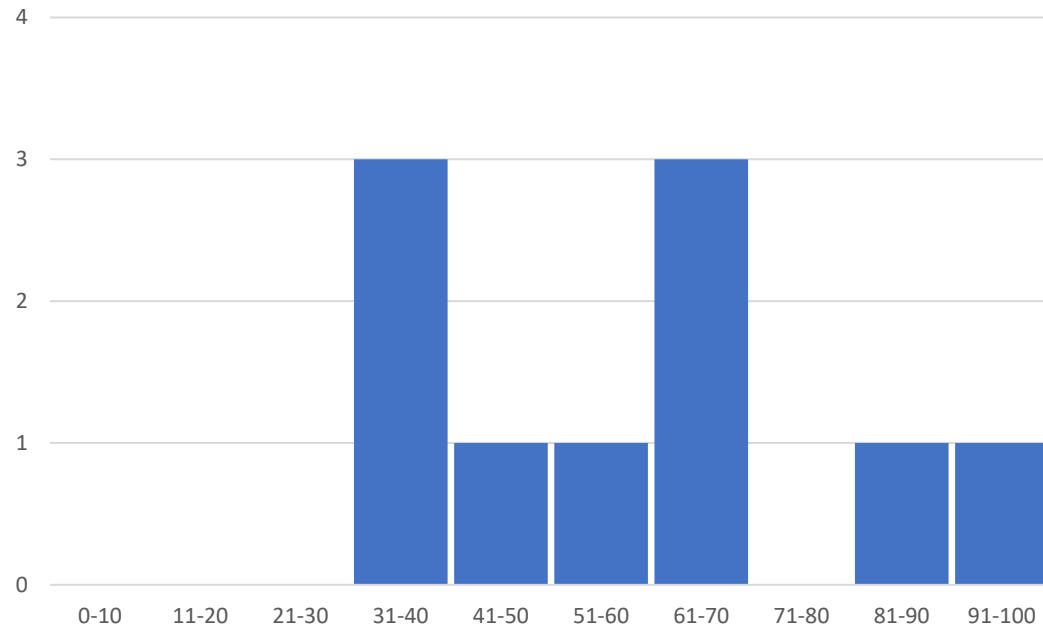
ACRC compels Africans to do things they would not otherwise do(0 to (100) don't.



# Compulsion disaggregated for ACRC

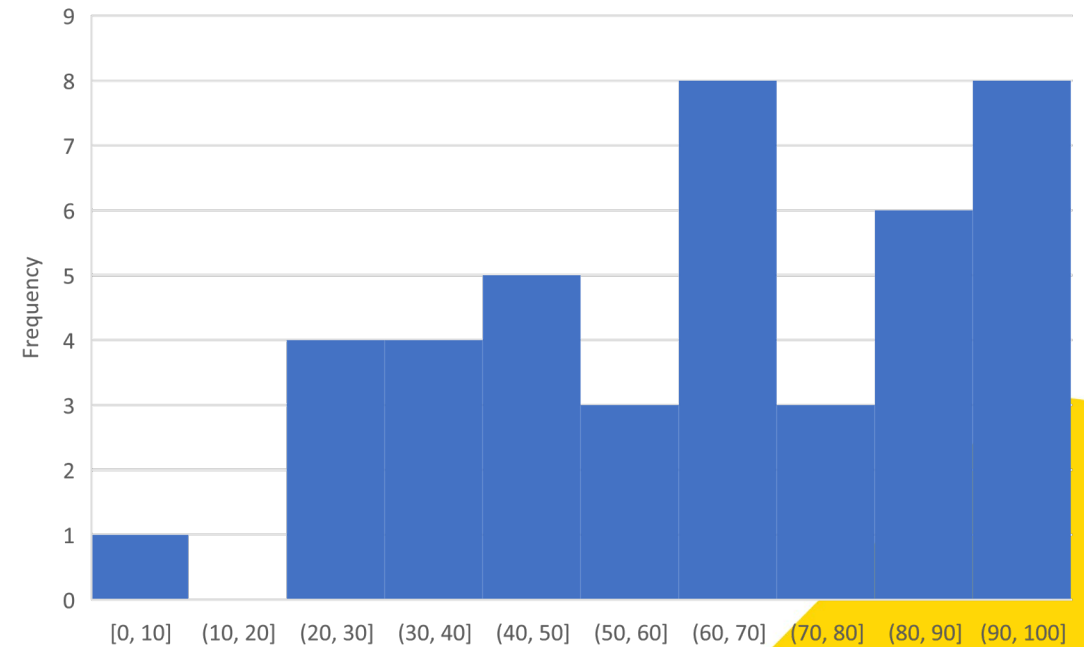
## Non-Africans

ACRC compels Africans to do things they would not otherwise do(0) to (100) don't



## Africans

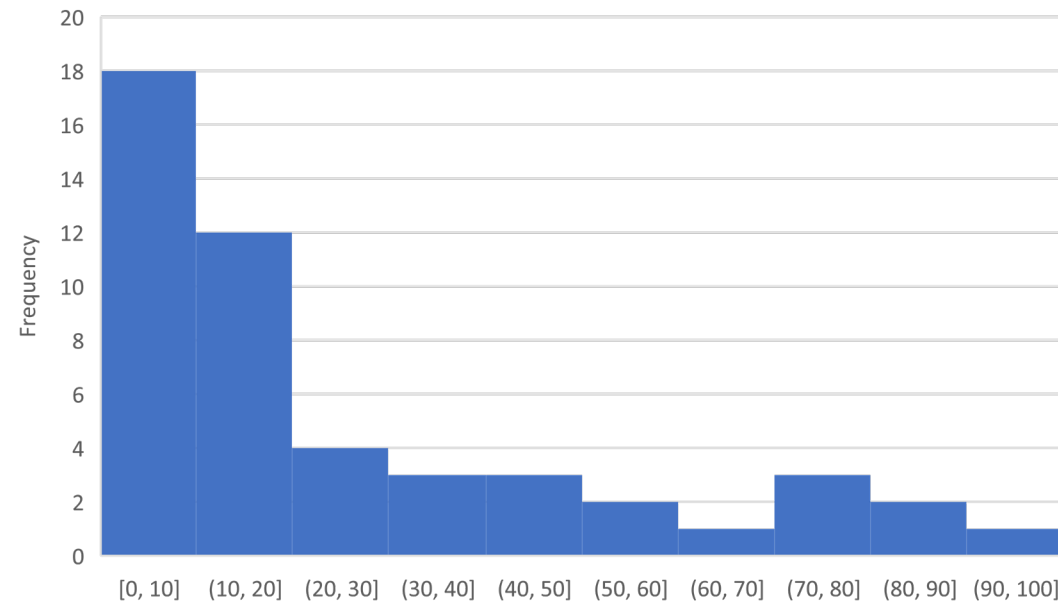
ACRC compels Africans to do things they would not otherwise do(0) to (100) don't.



# Power imbalance?

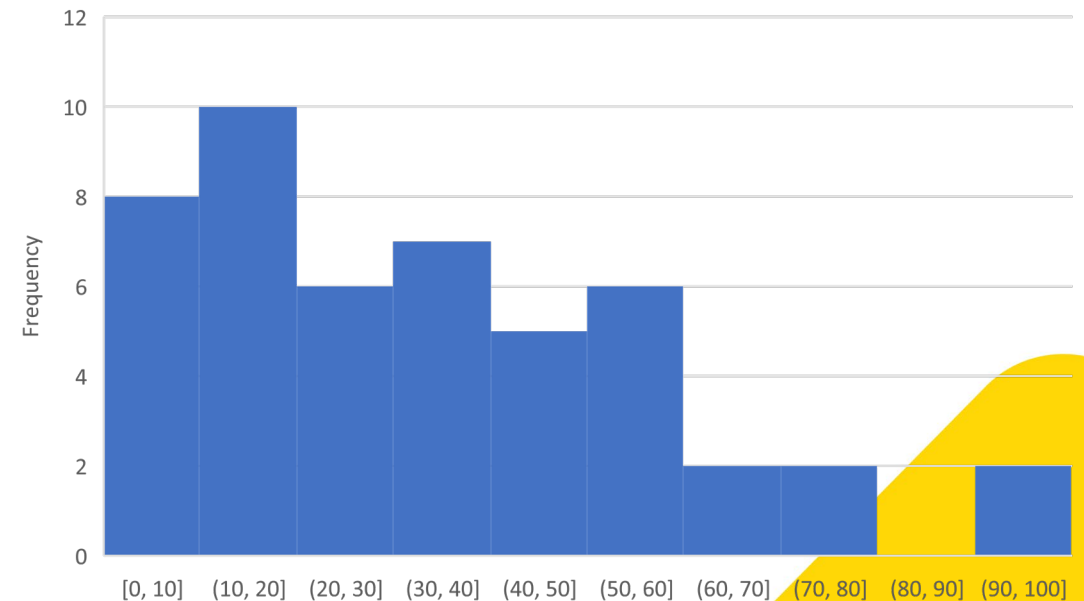
## Whole industry

In general, people from outside Africa have more power over key strategic decisions in the industry than Africans (0) to (100)  
less power



## ACRC

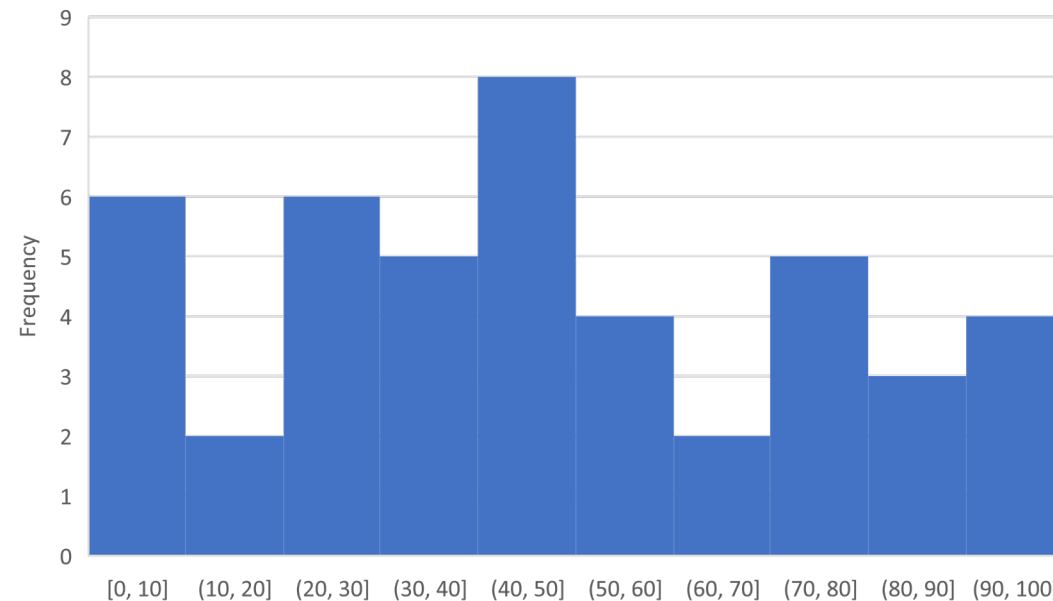
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# Authority justified?

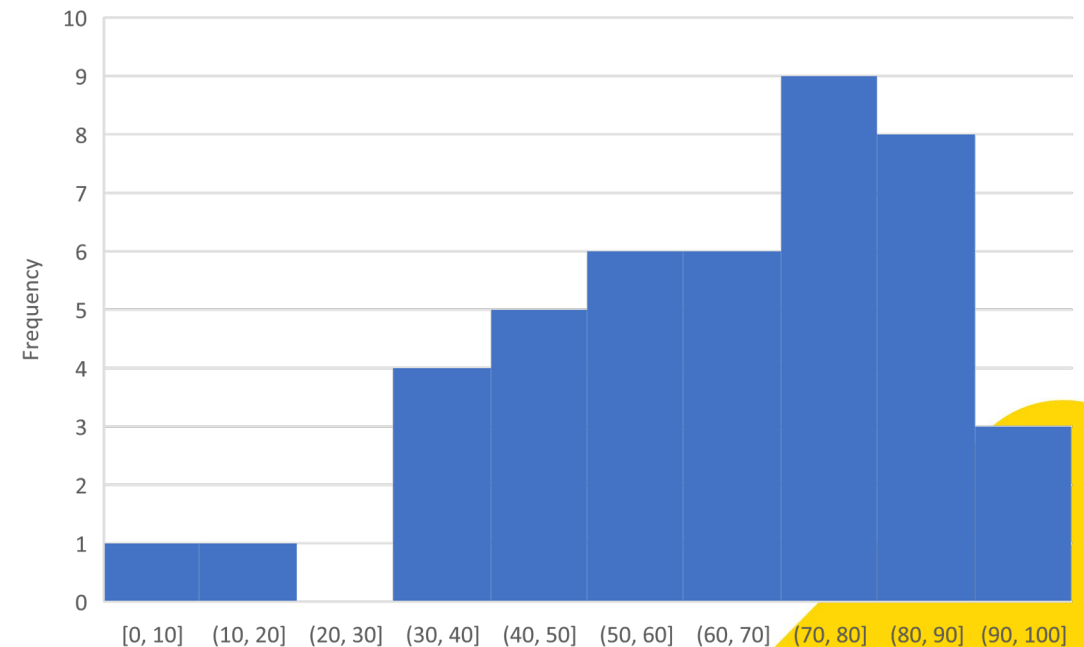
## Whole industry

In general, the authority people from outside Africa have in the development industry is not justified by their knowledge and skills (0) to (100) justified



## ACRC

In general, the authority people have in ACRC is not justified by their knowledge and skills (0) to (100) justified

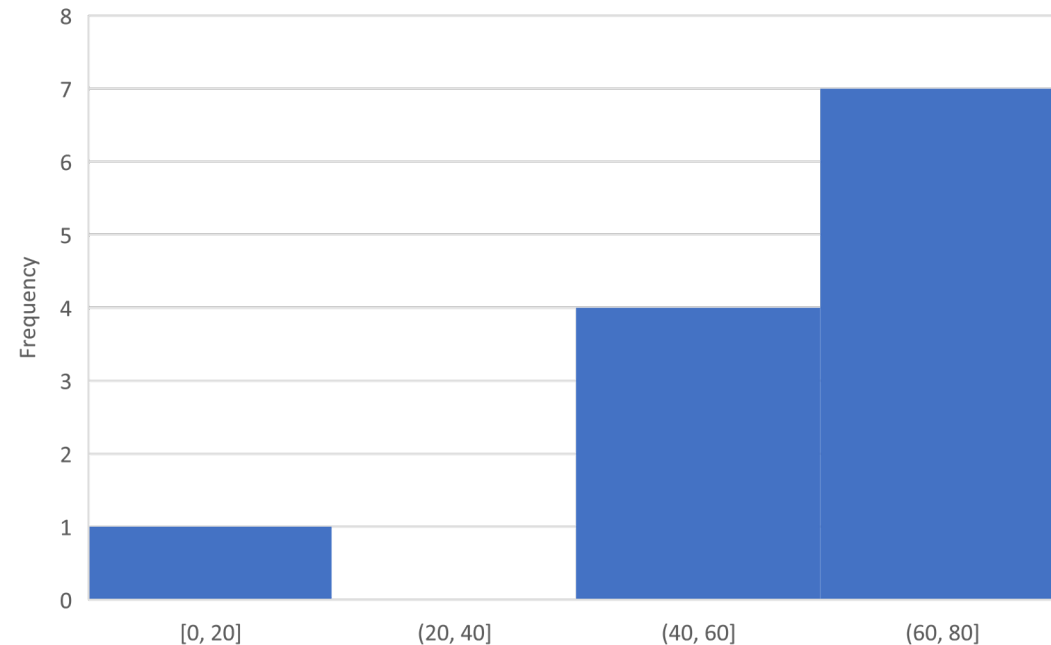




# Authority justified disaggregated for ACRC

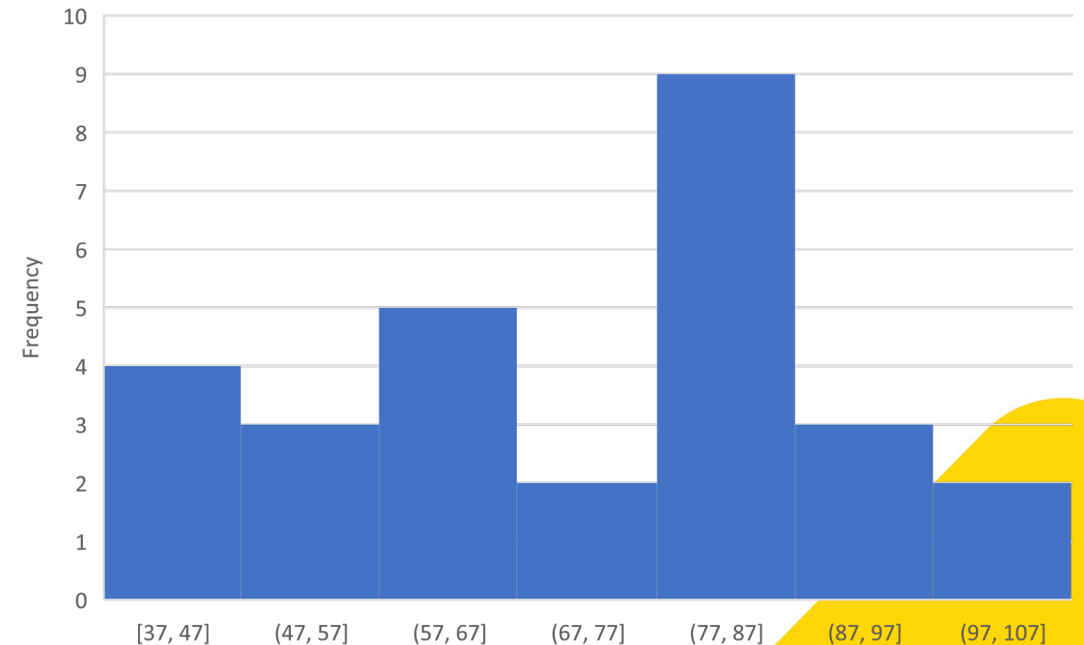
## Non-African ethnicity

In general, the authority people have in ACRC is not justified by their knowledge and skills (0) to (100) justified



## Black African ethnicity

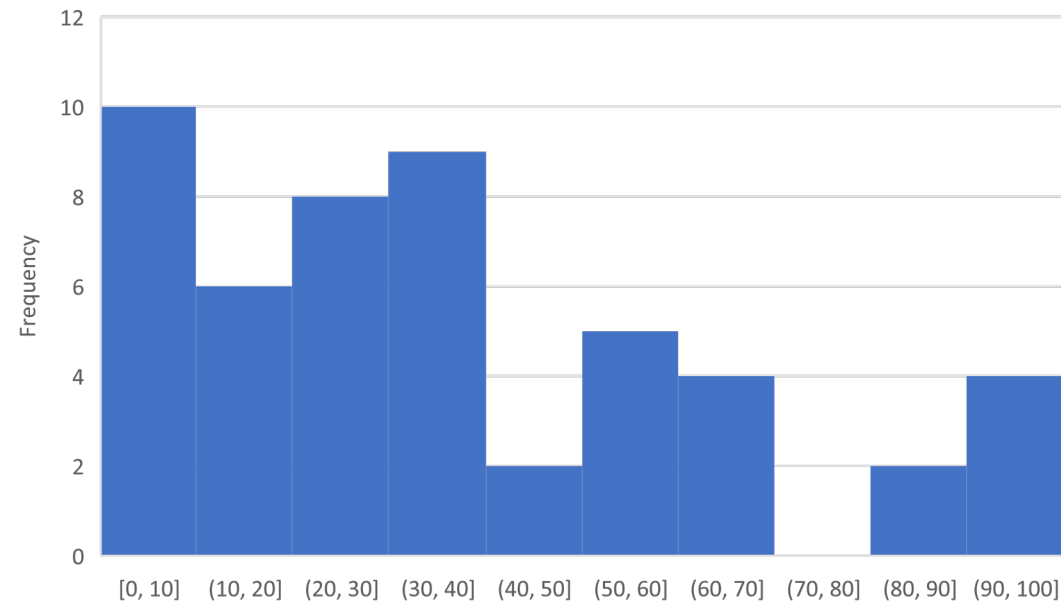
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# Genuine partnerships

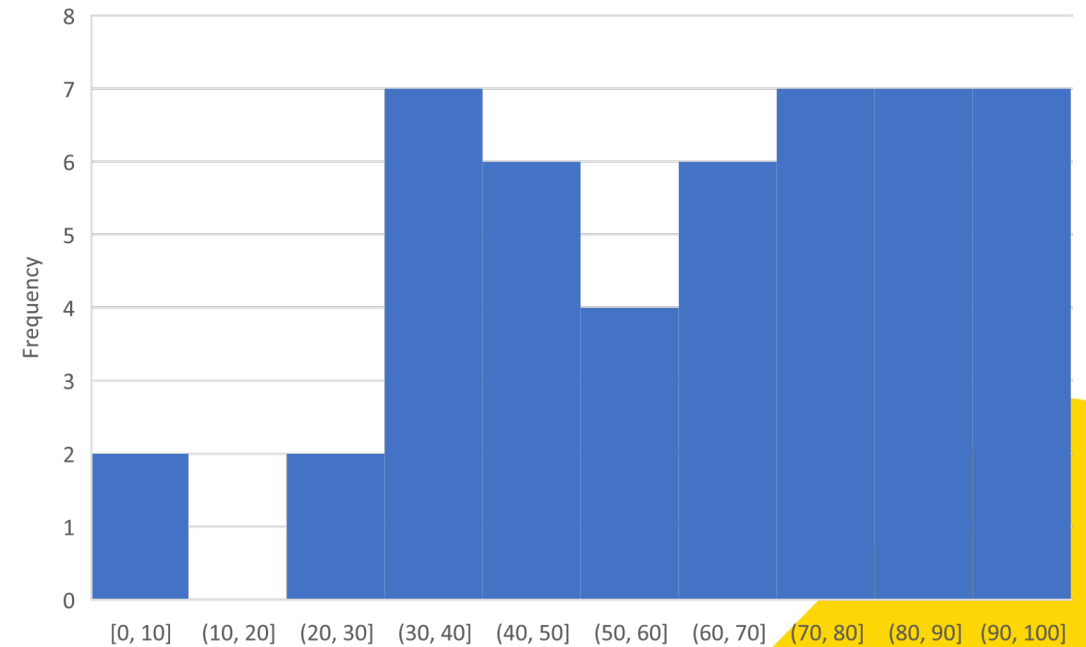
## Whole industry

A large majority of people working in development from outside Africa fail to work in genuine partnerships (0) to (100) do work in partnerships



## ACRC

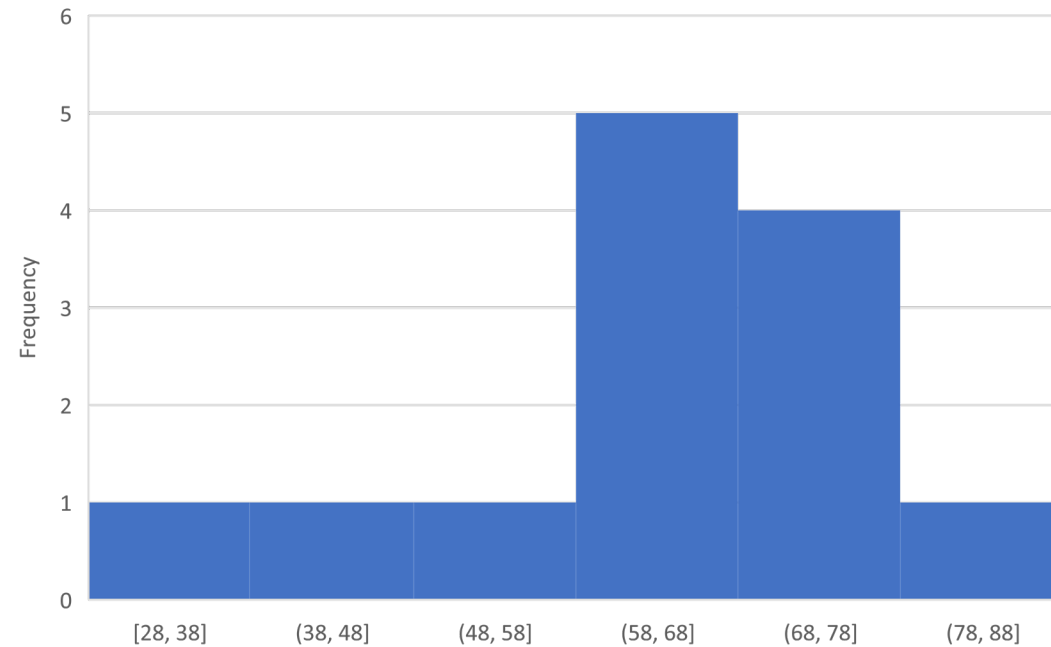
A large majority of people working in ACRC fail to work in genuine partnerships (0) to (100) do work in partnerships



# Genuine partnerships disaggregated for ACRC

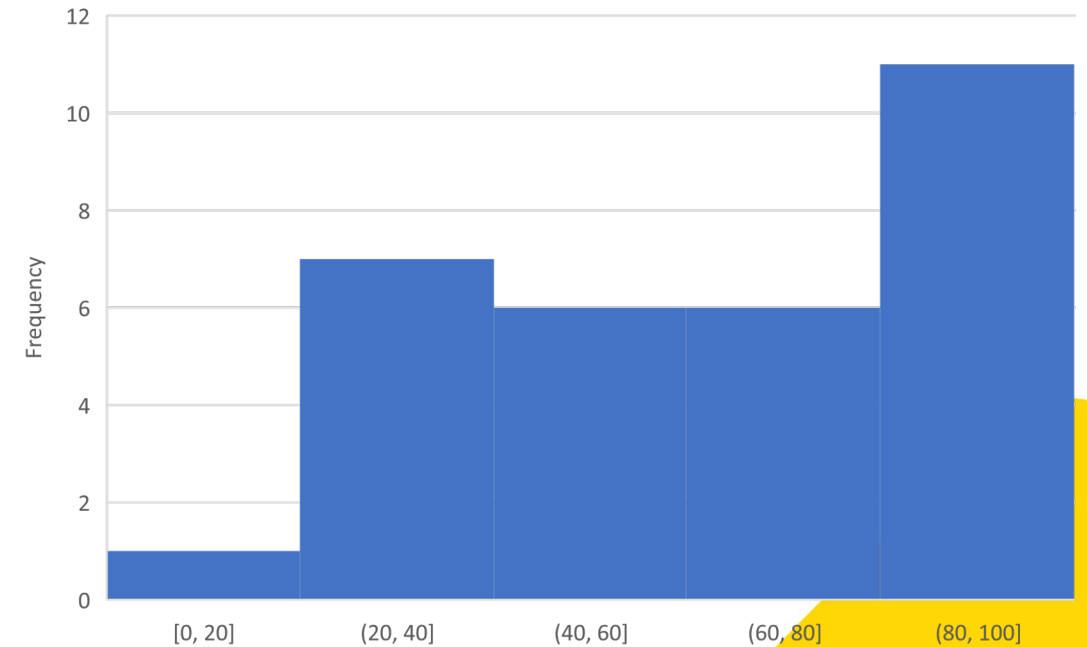
## Non-Africans

A large majority of people working in ACRC fail to work in genuine partnerships (0) to (100) do work in partnerships



## Africans

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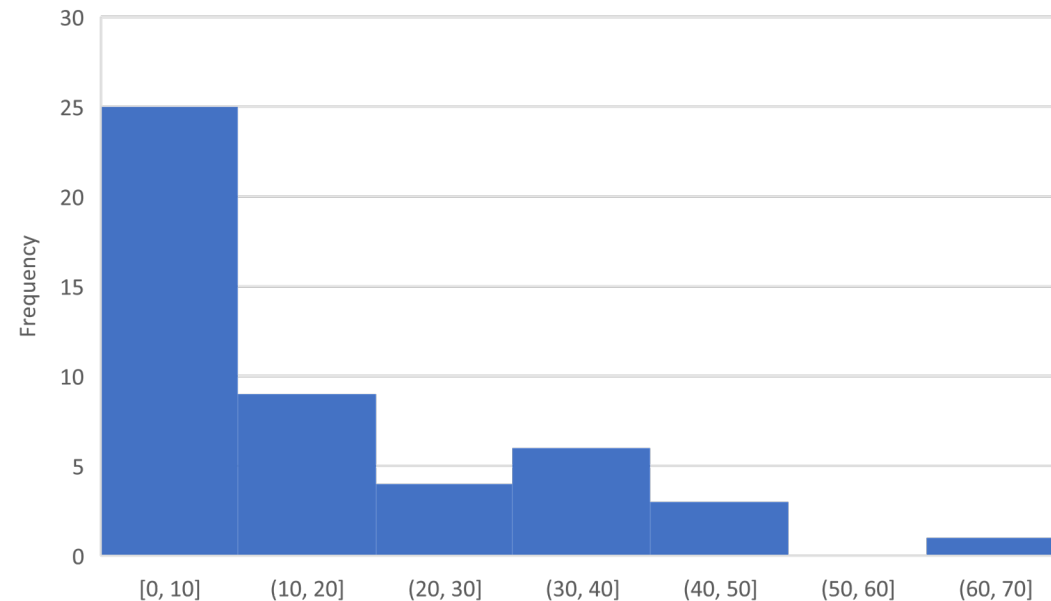


**WHO BENEFITS?**

# Equal pay?

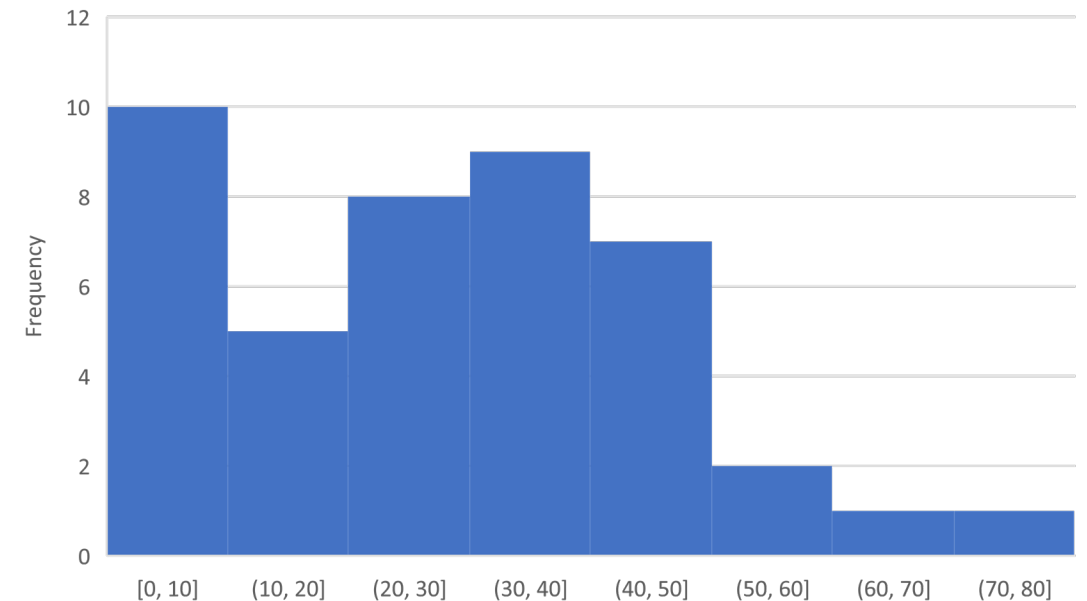
## Whole industry

In general, people working in development from outside Africa get paid more per hour of work they contribute than Africans (0) to (100) Africans paid more



## ACRC

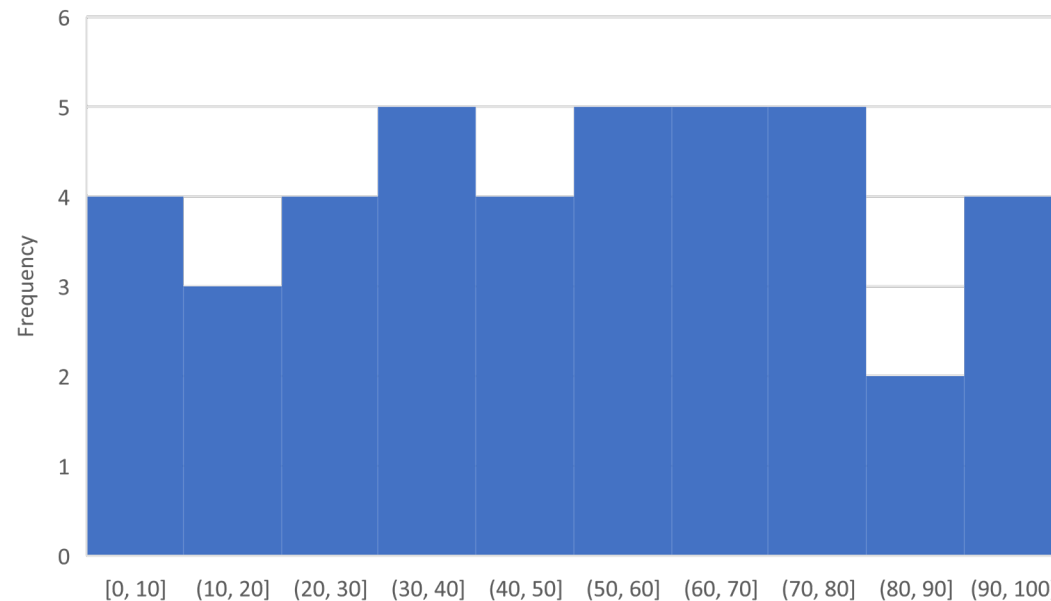
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# Benefit distribution (individual)

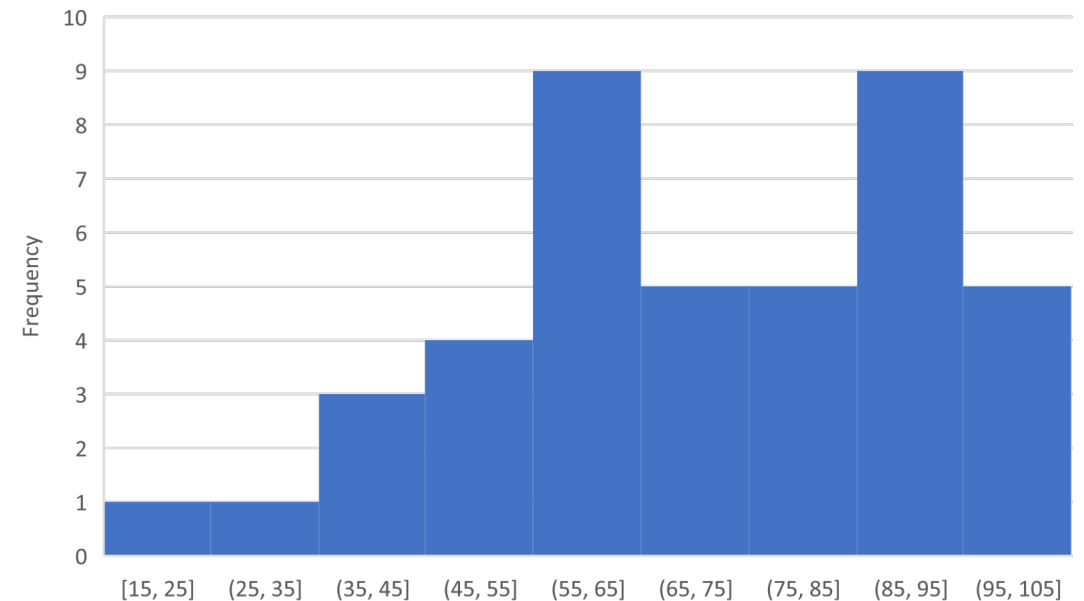
## Whole industry

In general, people working in development from outside Africa impose development policies that benefit themselves to the detriment of Africans (0) to (100) don't impose



## ACRC

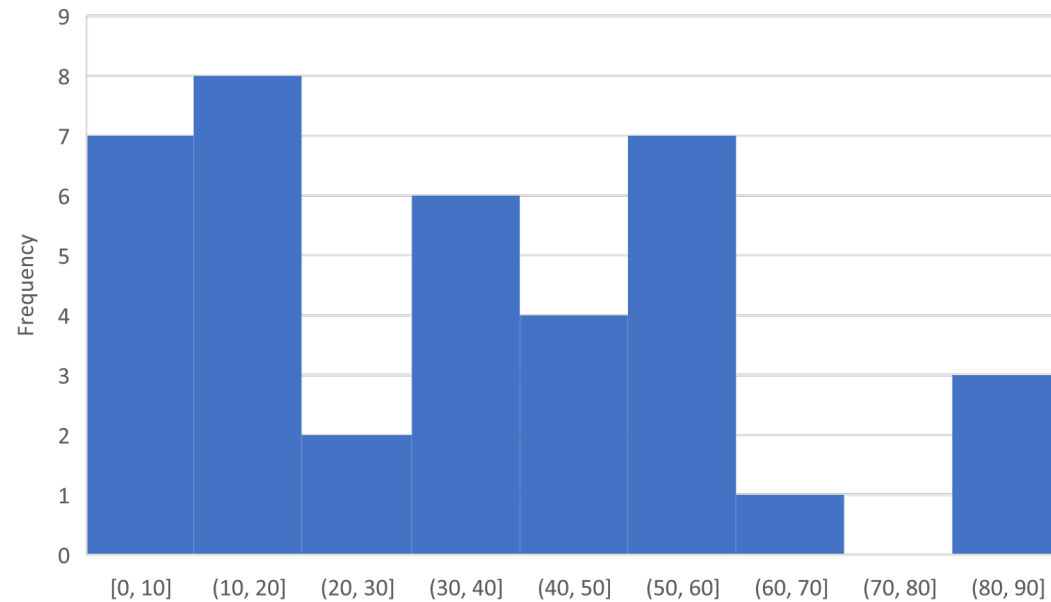
In general, people working in ACRC impose development policies that benefit themselves to the detriment of Africans (0) to (100) don't impose



# Benefit distribution (geopolitical)

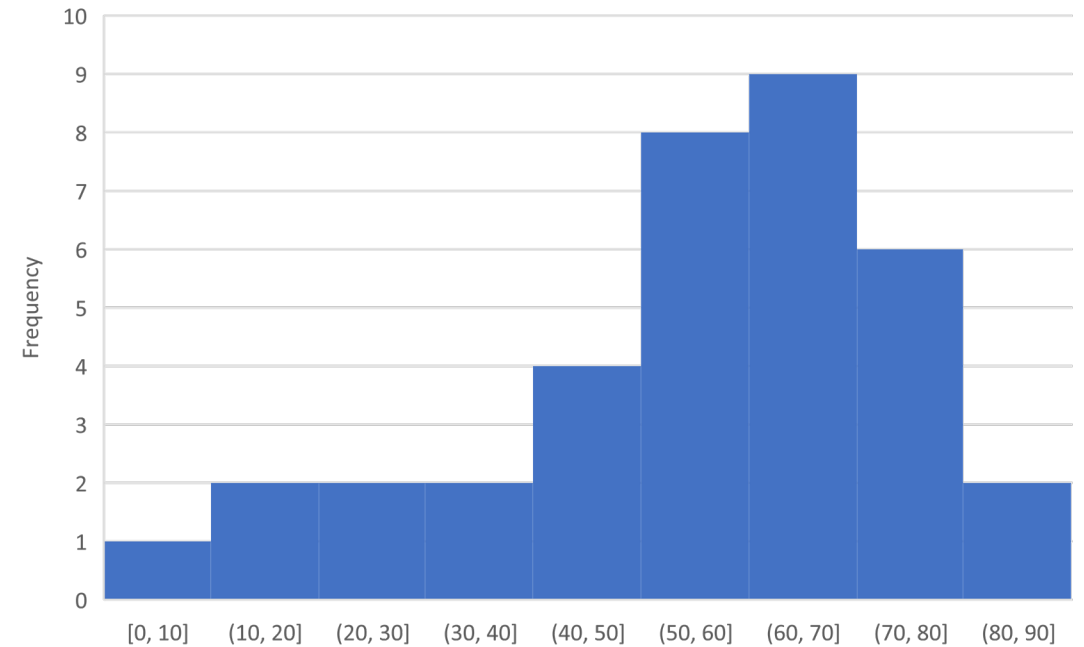
## Whole industry

On the whole, the development industry benefits the former colonial powers at the expense of Africa (0 to (100) benefits Africa



## ACRC

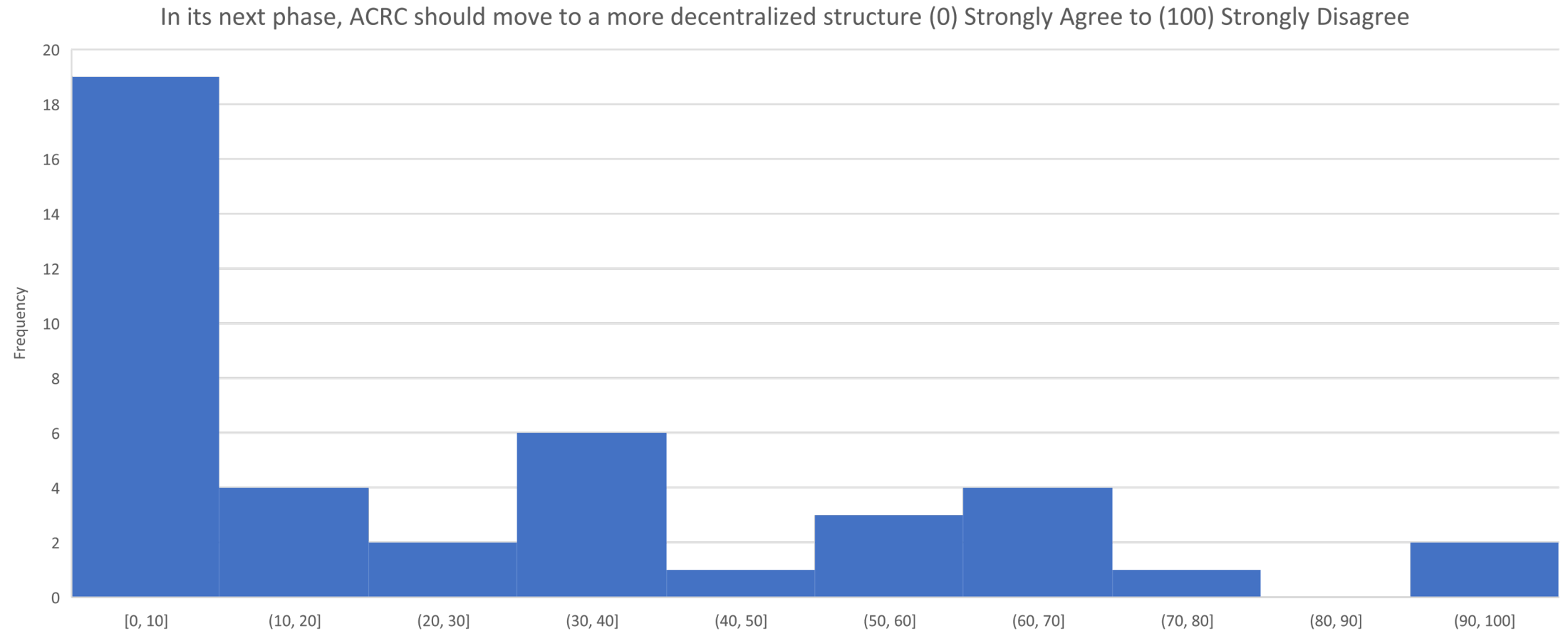
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**LOOKING FORWARD**



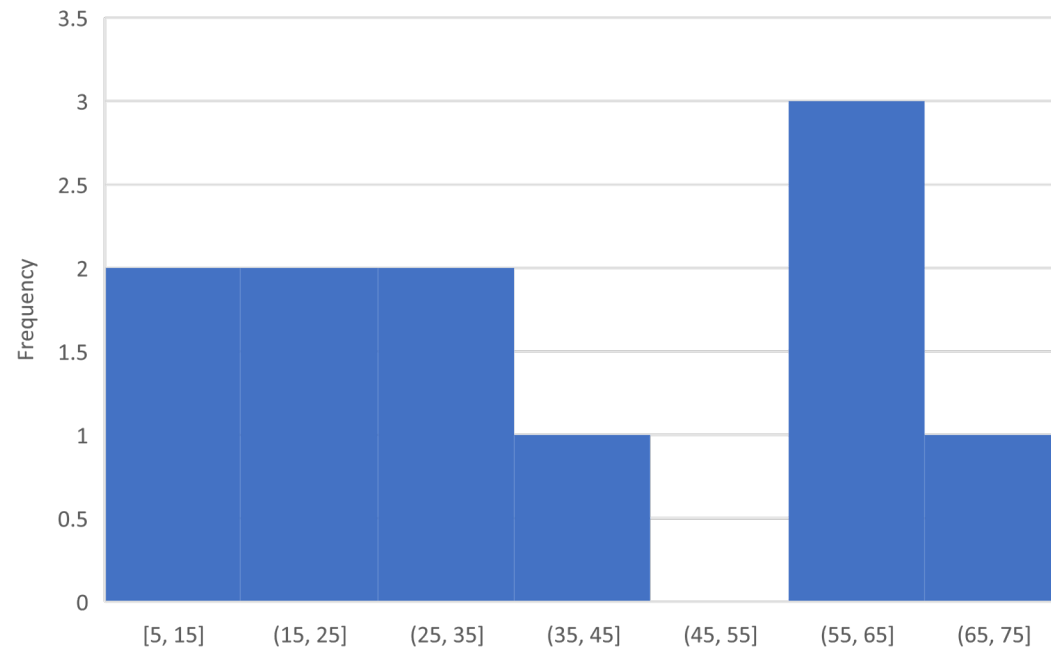
# More decentralized structure?



# More decentralized structure disaggregated

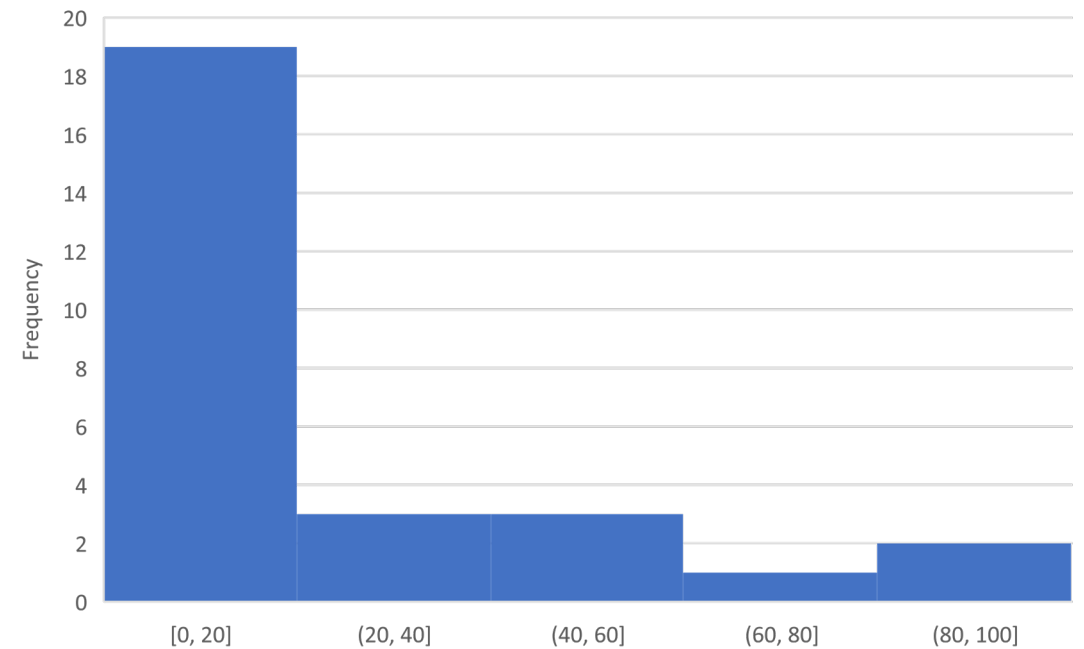
## Non-Africans

In its next phase, ACRC should move to a more decentralized structure (0) Strongly Agree to (100) Strongly Disagree

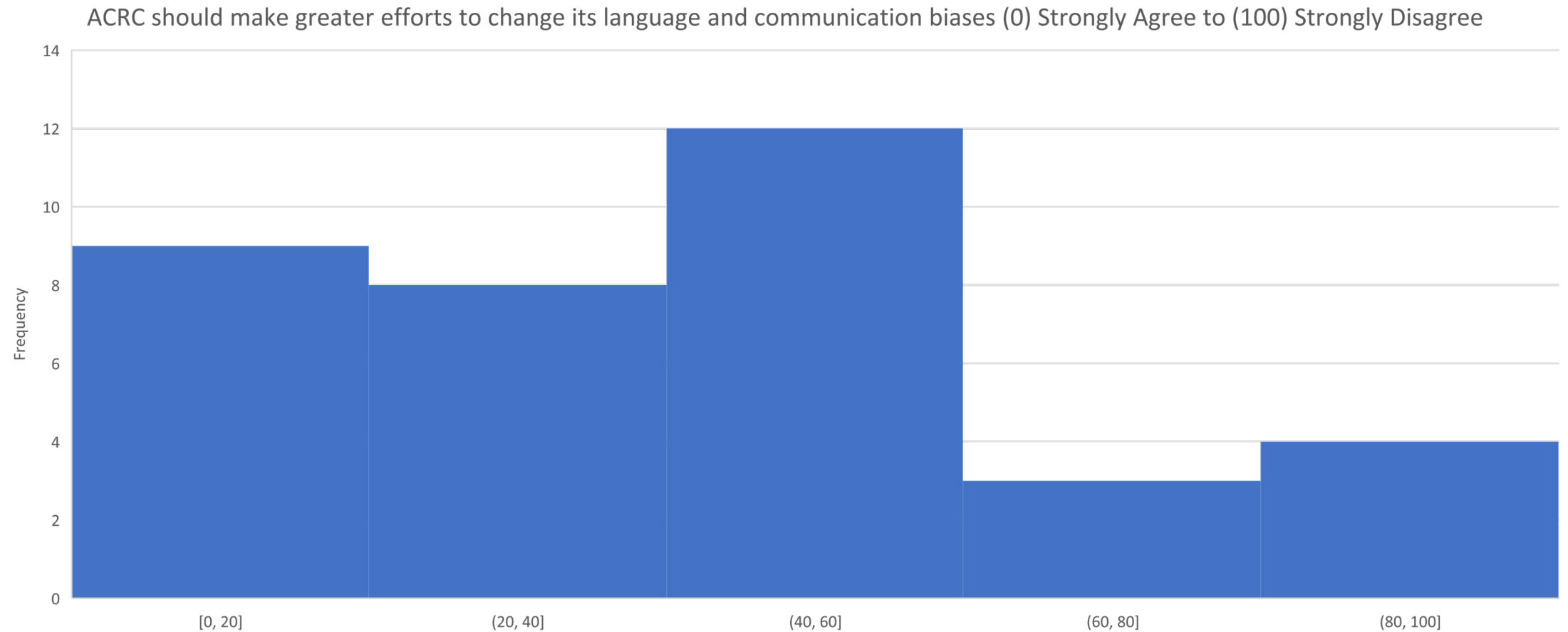


## Africans

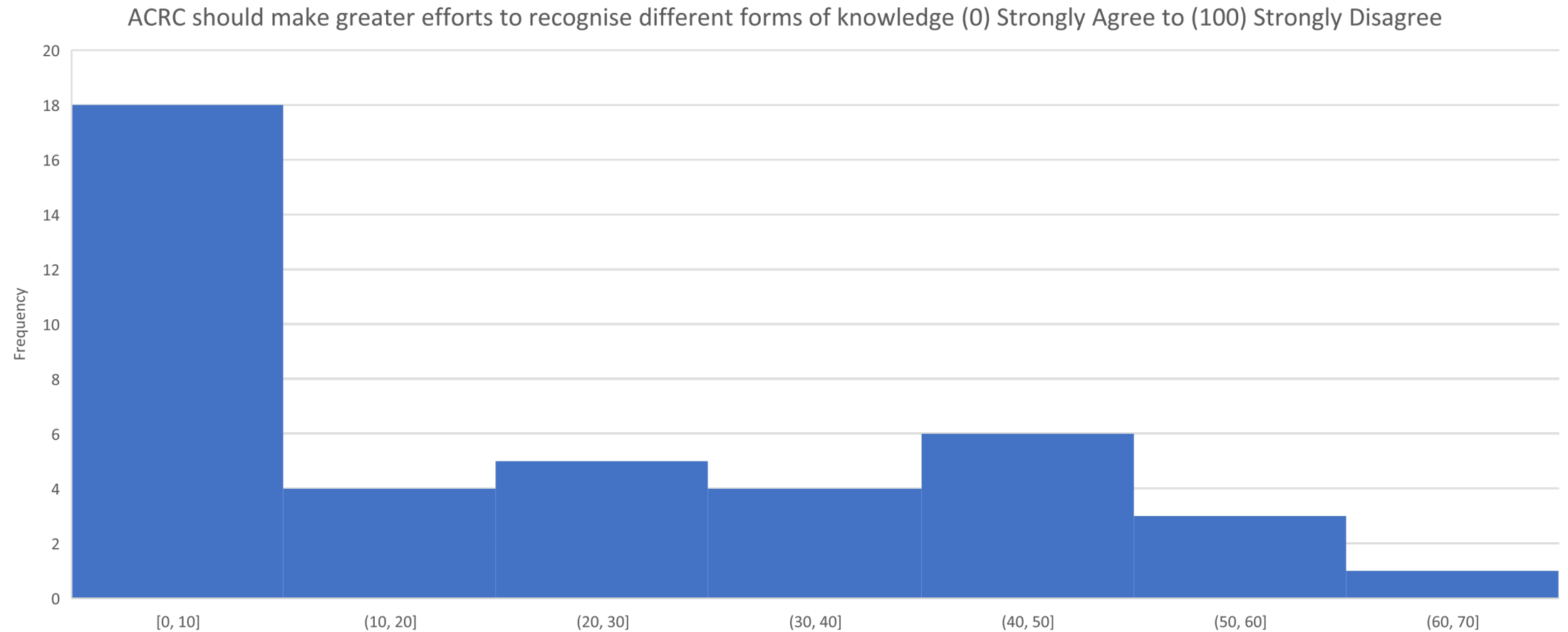
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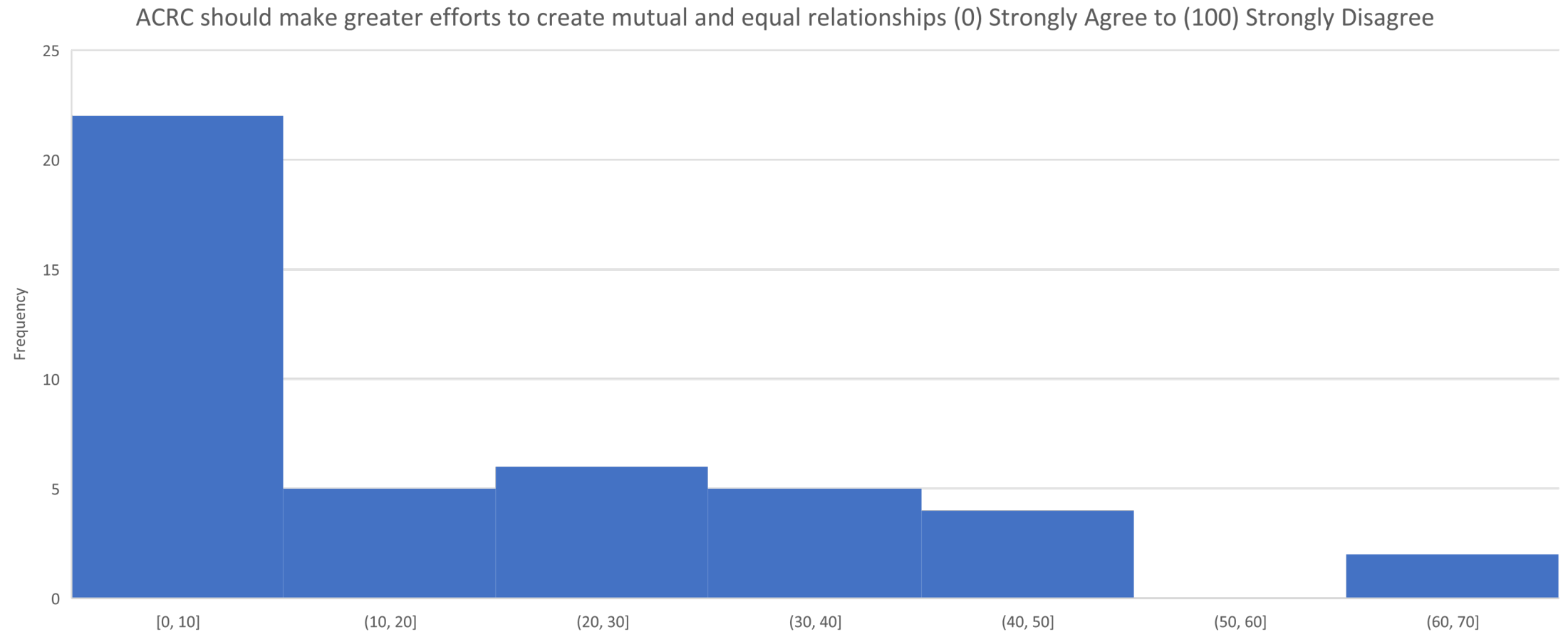
# Less biased communication?



# Different forms of knowledge?



# More mutual and equal relationships?



# **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

# View of ACRC Programme as a whole re: decolonisation agenda:

- Having understood the place of neutrality in ACRC in dealing with Africans and people of colour as equal. Engagement, patronage are to the best of my knowledge based on merit and competence and nothing else. Besides, the research products are largely to the best interest of Africa and Africans.
- Pockets of incidences of discrimination and likes may have been reported in the sporting fields particularly football but certainly not in the ACRC, if so many people having opportunities in ACRC may not have had it or the opportunity to participate in the survey
- Colleagues are in general courteous and respectful, however the systems are such that all significant decisions are made by non-African partners. Research skills however is a big factor in this - for examples our teams will differ to non-African partners because they have more publication experience.
- The role of black Africans in shaping the research agenda of ACRC needs to be reviewed as well as composition of key positions in the ACRC. For instance why is the ACRC team more black at the bottom than the top?
- ACRC project is good for the development of African cities. It should be replicated to reach more cities.
- ACRC is great initiative. I just hope that the implementation stage will get the same support

# ACRC Programme Model:

- Research procedures should encourage physical networking opportunities to crosscut and share experiences.
- ACRC consortium is doing quite well for now in terms of organizing and pulling efforts collectively to think deeper on challenging issues and possible solutions. the only challenge I find now is that there are too many templates and narratives on the research subjects from the ACRC secretariat which limits broader thinking and development of ideas
- Another concern is the assumption that civil society in global South is strong/powerful. Can it be powerful enough to speak back to coloniality when they rely on the establishment for financial survival? Then to whom is the civil society accountable to? Also, in a research project like ACRC, to whom are the local researchers accountable to - the donor/financier or the local community?
- In what ways can local Organisations or researchers be empowered to perform independently even when funded by donors?
- How does donor funded programs impact the possibility of locals to map their own path? For example, are foreign researchers /consultants more likely to influence policy/get audience than local ones? If it is yes, then can local knowledge stand a chance to influence/shape reforms? What ways can local knowledge be promoted in Development practice or ACRC?
- ACRC may have tried, but the design of the project and probably the RFP means it is already skewed to what the people outside of Africa and mainly the funders want to see. The saviour complex is evident.
- Areas of governance under political settlement on development in Africa are not well captured
- Decolonisation is a massively complex journey with different levels and different types of power imbalances, and the trade-offs for development policies and knowledge exchanges create tensions that can only be addressed through an open and non-defensive assessment of power (including, or especially, finance).



# Funding and researcher pay

- Budget should be adequate to the level of work required, the project so far has been completely undercosted, especially with additional requests added as it evolved that enrich the output put require resources to fulfill.
- The ACRC take time release funds for the project, hence the energy dies down in the process
- Although I don't know what those outside Africa were paid for the work in phase 1, it does feel like ACRC got a lot more than it paid for from the African consultants. The demands on time and reports were astronomical especially given the number of meetings held, different documents required etc.
- In terms of pay, we wouldn't know how much people at ACRC outside Africa are paid

# Survey feedback:

- You did not ask about who sets the agenda? For example, is it the donors/funders or the beneficiaries. In most cases its the donors/funders.
- You need to also ask about decision making in donor funded programs. Can those in global South object or say no?
- This questionnaire needed focus to get the scale right. I won't be surprised if someone (including me) puts the opposite of what they mean.
- I found the last set of questions unclear: I think ACRC should maintain its efforts to build equal partnerships etc therefore I answered 'disagree' that it should do more or change its efforts.
- The spectrum is difficult to use to answer the questions
- The ranking in the first set of questions is unclear
- Much of what has been presented in this survey is well known in terms of which side of the spectrum things are at present. The question is, will there be any radical changes over the lifetime of ACRC? I doubt!
- It is appropriate to retire the use of the term 'sub-saharan Africa'. It is geographically inaccurate and bears racist/colonial undertones. *(However, this term is not used anywhere in the survey)*

# **INTERPRETING THE RESULTS**

# Overall findings

- Many of the claims made by decolonial theorists about the development industry resonate with many of our respondents.
- ACRC tends to do better than the development industry as a whole, though on several issues a significant minority still judges ACRC unfavourably.
- ACRC scores worst where it comes to imbalances of power over strategic decisions.
- With notable exceptions, Black African respondents tend to have less favourable views of the development industry *and* ACRC than non-Africans.
- ACRC can take some heart from the responses on 'dignity and respect', 'partnership' and 'authority being justified by skills and knowledge', where a more or less clear majority of respondents of all ethnicities judge it favourably. Even so, it is concerning that anyone judges it unfavourably.
- There is a clear majority for reform in the next phase.

# THANK YOU

## Contact us

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