

Voices. Priorities.

A path to action.

POLICY BRIEF

THE AGENDA: RESILIENCE, LIVELIHOODS AND INFLUENCE

Prior to the Regional Consultative Meeting (RCM), this brief brings priorities from **192 consultation registrations** to our English and French consultations: adapting to climate impacts, sustaining livelihoods, reducing pollution and having a meaningful say in decisions. Climate resilience, adaptation and finance lead, alongside rights and participation, green economic transformation and pollution.

These priorities should be read together. Resilience depends on how resources reach communities; economic transition depends on who gains access to opportunities; and environmental governance depends on whether women and youth can influence decisions and track delivery.

192

Registered to the consultations

74.0%

Choose climate, green economy or pollution priorities

70.8%

Rate participation at 3 or below out of 5

SIX PRIORITIES, ONE CONNECTED POLICY AGENDA

01 / Make resilience possible

Climate resilience, adaptation and finance is the leading priority, selected by nearly two in five registrants. Responses on future risks describe drought, floods, heat and water stress. The policy task is to connect adaptation finance with practical protection of livelihoods, food and water systems.

03 / Link transition to livelihoods

Green jobs, resilient trade and economic transformation were selected by 17.7% as a policy priority. Renewable energy, green skills, bioeconomy and critical minerals appear among future opportunities. The opportunity is to build livelihoods and local value while addressing unequal access to benefits and environmental risks.

05 / Protect the systems that sustain life

Biodiversity and nature-positive development account for 5.7% of the respondents. Responses connect ecosystem degradation with land, water and agriculture, and identify restoration and regenerative agriculture as opportunities. Nature protection should be linked to livelihoods, community rights and fair benefit-sharing.

02 / Turn representation into influence

Environmental rights, intergenerational equity and participation account for 18.2% of selections. Respondents also raise exclusion, fair benefit-sharing and land rights. Participation needs a defined role in shaping priorities, allocating resources and holding institutions accountable.

04 / Put pollution prevention into delivery

Pollution, chemicals, waste and circular economy account for 16.7%. Open responses flag plastic, chemical and electronic waste, alongside air and water pollution. Prevention, reuse and safer waste management can connect environmental protection with enterprise and employment opportunities.

06 / Keep oceans in the agenda

Ocean resilience and inclusive governance account for 2.1%. This lower selection rate is not a measure of ecological importance. Marine and coastal priorities need deliberate attention in follow-up so the agenda reflects their specific risks and governance needs.

THE NEXT DECADE: RISKS TO ANTICIPATE, OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD

The consultation thematic analysis supplied by the organiser identifies **107 substantive responses** on emerging risks and opportunities. Climate pressures dominate, but the responses also point to choices about economic transition, technology, rights and financing. The policy question is how to pursue the opportunities without reproducing the vulnerabilities respondents describe.

01 Climate shocks are also livelihood and security concerns

RISK SIGNALS

Respondents flag floods, droughts, heatwaves and desertification alongside water scarcity, food insecurity, land degradation and displacement. Climate, peace and security also appears in the responses. These concerns call for an agenda that reaches beyond environmental institutions alone.

POLICY OPPORTUNITY

Connect locally led adaptation with early warning, water management, climate-smart and regenerative agriculture, and ecosystem restoration. Coordinate with livelihood and mobility planning so responses address the connected pressures raised by registrants.

02 The green transition needs fair access and safeguards

RISK SIGNALS

Critical minerals and nature markets are raised as opportunities, but respondents also warn about unmanaged mining, pollution, water stress, land rights and inequitable benefit-sharing. Funding uncertainty and barriers to youth-led initiatives may limit who can take part.

POLICY OPPORTUNITY

Link renewable energy, community-owned energy systems, green skills and bioeconomy opportunities to enterprise support and accessible finance. Build transparency, land-rights protections and fair benefit-sharing into investment design from the outset.

03 Pollution and ecosystem decline require joined-up responses

RISK SIGNALS

Plastic, chemical and electronic waste, deteriorating water quality, biodiversity loss and invasive species feature in the responses. Taken together, these signals suggest that separate sector projects may miss connections between waste, land, water and livelihoods.

POLICY OPPORTUNITY

Bring circular economy initiatives together with pollution prevention and ecosystem restoration. Support reuse, safer collection and management of waste, and locally relevant restoration. Assess environmental results alongside livelihood benefits and community priorities.

04 Technology can support action; governance must keep pace

RISK SIGNALS

Responses identify artificial intelligence, digital technologies, climate intervention technologies and early-warning systems. They also raise exclusion from decision-making and transparency in finance. These are foresight signals, not evidence that every technology is ready or suitable for deployment.

POLICY OPPORTUNITY

Prioritise practical uses such as accessible early warning and information for local decisions. Create space to assess emerging technologies, who benefits, what safeguards are needed and how communities can influence choices. Pair innovation with accountability and participation.

The thread connecting the agenda: accessible finance, meaningful participation and clear responsibility for implementation. These conditions can help turn the priorities and emerging opportunities into a programme that women and youth can shape and monitor.

FROM VOICES TO ACTION: SIX SHIFTS THAT MATTER

A public agenda for follow-through after the Regional Consultative Meeting

- 1 Make locally led adaptation finance accessible.** Environment and finance ministries, climate funds and partners should offer simpler application routes, small grants and technical support for women- and youth-led initiatives. Publish funding decisions and track who receives support, where and for what results.
- 2 Give participation a defined role in decisions.** National and local authorities should establish recurring women and youth participation mechanisms linked to policy design, budgets and monitoring. Fund practical access, including language, connectivity and travel support, and publish how inputs influenced final decisions.
- 3 Connect green jobs to fair economic opportunity.** Labour, trade and education institutions should link green-skills training to placements, enterprise support and procurement opportunities in clean energy, circular economy and sustainable agriculture. Apply land-rights and benefit-sharing safeguards to minerals and nature-based investments.
- 4 Make pollution prevention a local delivery priority.** Municipalities and environmental authorities should support waste prevention, reuse, safer chemicals management and e-waste collection, with opportunities for women and youth enterprises. Set local delivery targets and report implementation alongside community feedback.
- 5 Protect ecosystems and include overlooked settings.** Environment, agriculture and water authorities should support restoration, regenerative agriculture and responses to land degradation and invasive species. Include rural, pastoralist and coastal constituencies in follow-up; low selection of an issue does not establish low ecological importance.

CALL TO ACTION

- *Strengthen climate resilience and adaptation finance.*
- *Protect environmental rights and intergenerational equity.*
- *Reform governance to ensure meaningful participation.*
- *Adopt an intersectional, whole-of-society approach.*
- *Recognise and respond to climate anxiety.*
- *Address the links between climate impacts, mobility and insecurity.*