STOCKHOLM+50

A global synthesis report of national consultations

‘A healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity’

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Acknowledgements

This Global Synthesis Report on the Stockholm+50 National Consultations is the result of close collaboration between the Government of Sweden, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Report presents the findings and recommendations of Stockholm+50 national consultations facilitated by UNDP across 56 developing countries to stimulate inclusive gender-responsive and whole-of-society and whole-of-government dialogues on the main themes of Stockholm+50 global meeting. The Report was written by Camille Bann. The report also benefited from the contributions of several UNDP colleagues who provided inputs and supported quality assurance: Catherine Diam-Valla, Christian Habib, Ciara Daniels, Freshia Wairimu, Jennifer Baumwoll, Josie Raine, Lisa Baumgartner, Martin Cadena, Natalia Olofinskaya, Rebecca Carman, Reina Otsuka, Romolo Tassone, Tim Scott, and Vineeth Kumar. Copy editing and proofreading support was provided by Nancee Levin and Vineeth Kumar. The visual content and layout were designed and produced by Vilmar Luiz.

This Global Synthesis Report is based on a review of Stockholm+50 national consultation reports prepared by UNDP Country Offices, which in turn include inputs from governments and stakeholders from Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Barbados, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federal States of Micronesia, Fiji, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, PAPP, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Viet Nam, Uganda, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe. Their inputs have played a central role in informing the content and structure of this Report.

10 Key Messages from the Stockholm+50 National Consultations

1. Countries expect Stockholm+50 to deliver on its recommendations and commitments through **bold transformative follow-up action and fair** and **effective multilateralism**.

2. Countries stress the need **for strong drivers of economic transformation** and a greener, healthier development paradigm. This includes economic reforms; shifting investment flows toward sustainable consumption and production and circularity; reducing the environmental footprint from high-impact sectors such as food, energy, extractives, tourism, transport, and infrastructure; and adjusting national targets and metrics. A global transition to a zero-carbon and sustainable economy is an opportunity to create many **green jobs** in renewable energy, buildings and construction, transport, industry, agriculture, tourism, and forestry, which serve as an engine for development in rural areas.

3. There is a need for **strengthened environmental governance** at all levels. The climate, nature and pollution crises can only be tackled successfully if they become a top policy priority supported by legislation, inclusive decision-making, monitoring, and enforcement.

4. Countries call for stronger **partnerships** that will bolster implementation during the Decade of Action through improved capacities, technology transfer, support to digital transformation, and North-South and South-South Triangular collaboration.

5. National stakeholders highlight the need for a **gender-equal, just, inclusive transition** towards greener and resilient development. This includes targeted support to workers across formal and informal sectors and their families, who might be negatively affected by the economic transformation, and a focus on women's rights and on groups disproportionally impacted by climate and environmental crises and instability. Women should be afforded full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic, and public life.

6. **Youth** are important change agents in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation. They need support through environmental and climate education, training, capacity building, and access to information, digital technologies, and finance.

7. There is an urgent call to significantly improve **financing** for the delivery of the environmental targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including targets funder Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). This requires unleashing and consolidating finance across all sources – domestic, international, public, private, and blended. Smarter management of environmental and climate finance is needed including repurposing of harmful subsidies.

8. **Private sector finance and engagement** are critical to meeting the significant financing gap and achieving climate and nature targets. Conducive regulatory and financial investment mechanisms are needed to unlock private sector finance to upscale and accelerate private sector roles in addressing sustainable development challenges.

9. Public **awareness** of the SDGs, climate change and other environmental challenges need to be built through improved access to **environmental education** and information for all. It is critical to raise collective awareness and responsibility for action.

10. **Digitalisation and green technologies** are key accelerators for inclusive sustainable development, and need to be developed, promoted, and made accessible to all.

Executive Summary

Background

'"Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity' was a high-level international meeting held from 2-3 June 2022 in Stockholm, co-hosted by Sweden and Kenya to commemorate the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and celebrate 50 years of global environmental action. Anchored in the **Decade of Action,** it was designed to accelerate delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and to encourage the adoption of green post COVID-19 recovery plans. Stockholm+50 focused on tackling the triple planetary crisis – climate, nature and pollution, with discussions centred around three Leadership Dialogues (LD):

- **Leadership Dialogue 1**: '*Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all*'.
- **Leadership Dialogue 2**: '*Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic*'.
- **Leadership Dialogue 3**: '*Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda in context of the Decade of Action'*.

As part of the participatory and inclusive Stockholm+50 process designed to reflect the richness and diversity of all voices and perspectives, the Government of Sweden provided financial support for national consultations across 56 developing countries. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) facilitated the national consultations through financial and technical support provided to governments and other national stakeholders.

The objective of the national consultations has been to stimulate an inclusive gender-responsive whole-of-society and whole-of-government dialogue on the main themes of Stockholm+50 and the Leadership Dialogues as they relate to each national context.

This Global Synthesis Report presents the findings and recommendations of the national consultation reports to inform post-Stockholm follow-up and to help consolidate national policy frameworks such as the Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and green recovery and sector strategies. This Global Synthesis Report is based solely on the national consultation reports. While synthesising the views expressed by many diverse stakeholders and reflecting a broad consensus on many issues across countries, the findings are not accompanied by scientific references and do not purport to be analytically comprehensive.

Scope of the Global Synthesis Report

Stockholm+50 national consultations were carried out in 56 countries and engaged over 50,000 people through the in-person, hybrid, and virtual events. This Global Synthesis Report compiles information from the 54 national consultation reports submitted by the countries, representing the voices of over 41,300 participants from various stakeholder groups.

Section 1 of the Global Synthesis Report presents the objectives and outcomes of the global Stockholm+50 meeting and the role of the national consultations in achieving Stockholm+50 goals. Section 2 presents an overview of the national consultation process (the participating

countries, tools, technical guidance, and facilitation provided by UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Sweden and other partners) and key statistics on the level of engagement in the national consultations. Section 3 focuses on the challenges and opportunities discussed in the national consultation reports. Section 4 presents the key findings of the national consultations in relation to Stockholm+50's three Leadership Dialogues. Section 5 presents key messages from the national consultations and an overview of recommendations included in the national consultation reports. A synthesis of challenges, needs and recommendations for key sectors is provided in the Report Annex.

Sections 3 and 4 of the Global Synthesis Report align with the structure of the national consultation reports, synthesising the responses to the core questions addressed through the national consultations. Throughout sections 3 and 4 the findings from national consultation reports are organised under eight core themes, which are commonly addressed by all countries across all the Leadership Dialogue themes. These include: *governance* (including policy; laws and regulations; monitoring and reporting, and decentralisation); *coordination and collaboration* (including partnerships and multilateralism); *equality and inclusivity*; *finance*; the role of the *private sector*; *capacity development*; *education and awareness* as well as *digital transformation, data, science and research*. Some repetition in responses to consultation questions within and across the national consultations reports is evident, lending weight to the points made. This duplication has been retained to provide a standalone synthesis of findings across the main sections of the national consultation reports and three LDs.

This Global Synthesis Report does not cite specific countries. Some statements in the Global Synthesis Report are context specific, but many can be taken as common to all or many countries. The Report serves largely as a qualitative baseline of findings, which can be explored and analysed in more detail through the national consultations dashboard[1], UNDP's SparkBlue platform, and through the national and regional reports themselves.

Challenges, opportunities, and solutions

Countries face many common challenges, opportunities, and integrated solutions to the triple planetary rises. High rates of population growth and (youth) unemployment, food price inflation, migration and growing economic inequality and poverty hinder the transition to inclusive sustainable development in many countries. The following challenges and needs were consistently highlighted across the three LDs. Countries are challenged by weak **environmental governance,** a lack of political will and weak policies, laws, implementation, and monitoring. Limited decentralisation, the lack of long-term visioning, and insufficient **coordination and communication** across stakeholders in the design and implementation of public policies are often cited as constraints. **Finance** is critical to achieving commitments on climate and nature; however, it is not in place at the scale required. High national debt levels coupled with pressures from external shocks limit the ability of many governments to finance development projects and invest in climate

1 The Stockholm+50 national consultations dashboard facilitates access to national report findings in a dynamic and interactive manner, enabling the identification of patterns or trends by thematic keywords.

resilience and nature. **Private sector** finance is crucial to addressing the financing gap and needs to be encouraged through regulations, incentives, and support for community finance, including grants and easy access to credit, especially for groups typically excluded such as women, youth, indigenous communities, and people with disabilities. **Capacity building** is needed at all levels – central and local government, the private sector, academia. Enhanced **data and research facilities, green technology and digitalisation or digital infrastructure** is also required. The need to enhance **environmental education and awareness** for all is a dominant theme across the national consultations including environmental education in school and university curricula and the strengthening of awareness-raising work of youth organisations through social media.

The economic difficulties due to COVID-19 are widely recognised as presenting an opportunity to build back better. Green, blue, and circular economy approaches are levers for development offering opportunities and jobs, including for young people.

Leadership Dialogue 1: Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all

Building a positive relationship with nature requires Governments to prioritise environmental protection and move away from business-as-usual development models to models that drive an energy transition, resource efficiency and circular economy approaches. Equally crucial is long-term planning that goes beyond the political term of governments and strengthened collaboration across stakeholders. Sustainable finance needs to be mobilised at scale to accelerate investments in restoration, avert land degradation, deforestation and air/water pollution, and synergise investments in climate and disaster risk management. The need to scale-up private sector engagement in delivering NDCs and NBSAPS is undisputed. Pathways for scaling up private sector engagement include government incentives and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). In turn, the private sector has a responsibility to internalise their ecological footprint, while the banking sector should play a greater role in supporting the transition to a healthy planet and prosperity for all. Education and awareness raising is identified as critical to restoring and regenerating a positive relationship with nature, modifying consumption habits and build societal support for sustainable and inclusive growth.

> *'...Action against climate change and environmental degradation is also action for fairness and equality...'*

Systemic and structural inequalities leave some groups more exposed to climate risks and environmental degradation than others, limiting their adaptive capacity and widening socio-economic inequalities. Human rights for a clean and healthy environment and other principles that provide protection and improved access need to be embedded in policies and regulations. The interests of disproportionally impacted groups must be mainstreamed into policies and initiatives from the local to global level. Engaging disproportionally impacted groups and communities in planning allows them to directly inform the identification and implementation of options best suited to their circumstances and needs while capturing the rich knowledge of local groups. Women's lead-

ership capacity and opportunities need to be facilitated to increase their participation in dialogues and decision making. The consultations highlighted the primacy of free, prior, and informed consent for any activities on indigenous land; the important role of social safety net programmes; and the creation of green jobs and income- generating activities that build resilience to crises and shocks. Specific credit and finance structures are needed to facilitate disproportionally impacted groups' access to finance such as subsidies and/or grants and benefit-sharing mechanisms, including Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes.

Existing metrics are considered limited or inadequate to track progress towards a healthier and more prosperous planet. For example, the SDG metrics are considered too complicated and broad, and need to be tailored to national contexts and harmonised with national indicators. there is a lack of up-to-date data and information on the state of the environment. Often, the collection of environmental data at the local level is intermittent and dependent on project-based financing. Digital technologies and new data sources are needed for evidence-based, inclusive decision making, as well as for better transparency and monitoring of environmental health and indicators, including for natural capital accounting.

Leadership Dialogue 2: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

'The transformation to a net zero and circular economy is necessary to achieve a sustainable and inclusive recovery from COVID-19 and is a key driver of green job creation and economic growth. Countries, companies and workers need to be ready for this transition.'

While a global transition to a low-carbon and sustainable economy can create a large number of green jobs and become an engine for development in rural areas, the required structural shifts in global, national and local economies will adversely impact jobs, income, and communities built around declining industries such as coal mining. This in turn requires that just transition principles are an integral part of the transformation process.

A key role of government is to develop a conducive regulatory environment for green investments and the creation of green jobs through clear and stable policies, legislation, and incentives. To create better performing industries and supply chains a coherent country-specific mix of macroeconomic, industrial, sectoral, and labour policies must be promoted, supported by regulations and incentives that encourage industries to green their production chains, invest in the transition to low-carbon production and source nearer from home to reduce dependency on imports. Governments should also make Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles mandatory for all businesses and financial institutions.

For businesses the transition will require agility, innovation, and creativity. They have a key role to play in promoting and integrating new decent green jobs into their operations and in developing new skills by investing in workforce training. It is crucial that companies comply with laws and regulations on environment and decent work, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) schemes, ESG reporting, internalising environmental impacts and targeting investments to accelerate the transition to sustainable production and consumption. Financial institutions should refrain from supporting projects that are detrimental to the environment, such as energy production from fossil fuels, and only support projects generating a positive impact on the environment. ESG issues need to be integrated into investment analysis and decision-making. Banks should make their products more accessible, especially for youth, women, and other groups whose access to credit and financial services is constrained.

Workers must be prepared for new practices and jobs through capacity building, skills transfer and training. Targeted support is especially needed for those at risk of being left behind, including workers in the informal economy, indigenous and tribal peoples, women, youth, and small-scale farmers. The application of local knowledge, valuing local products and identifying appropriate technology are all highlighted as important means of strengthening the capability and skills of local communities, particularly women and other hard-hit groups, to generate income from, for example, agriculture, forestry, and community-based tourism.

Technology and digitalisation are acknowledged as key accelerators for inclusive sustainable development. They present opportunities for greater resource efficiency, traceability, and green jobs and livelihoods. The shift towards digitalisation during the COVID-19 lockdown in areas of education, commerce, government services, food and medicine delivery marked a shift for many individuals and organisations**.** Low access to the internet and digitalisation opportunities, however, faced by disproportionately impacted groups adversely affect people's lives in multiple ways. Policies that advance digital equity and close the digital divide through accessible and affordable digital infrastructure and investment in digital literacy are required.

Leadership Dialogue 3: Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the Decade of Action

'Minor changes to the status quo will not provide the momentum needed to address the existential crisis faced. Global environmental action needs to be raised and accelerated, while ensuring that differences in national capacities and contexts are taken into account.'

The national consultations highlight the interlinked environmental, social, economic and health challenges impeding implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other environmental commitments. The complexity and difficulties of addressing these challenges are compounded by the urgent need for action and the fragility of the global economy. Progress is too slow and, in some instances moving in the wrong direction. The global economic crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine is resulting in increased poverty and food insecurity. As a result,

climate change and nature are seen as less of a priority despite their direct links.

Protection of the environment and promotion of sustainable development are common responsibilities of all countries and can only be achieved through multilateralism and international cooperation. This is especially critical on issues where the window to implement change to avert irreversible damage is fast closing, such as carbon, methane and HFCs reduction. The achievement of the SDGs requires strengthened cooperation and shared efforts between states (North-South and South-South), the international community including financing agencies, and stakeholder groups in each country, supported by international networks to exchange experiences and best practices and technology. The national consultations noted, however, a lack of solidarity and partnerships between developed and developing nations and weakening multilateralism due to the polarisation of powerful nations and proliferation of armed conflicts around the world. Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are considered too technical and high level and need to be translated and simplified so that communities, environmental organisations and individuals are able to understand and translate these commitments into actions tailored to the needs of their countries.

Developing countries require finance, technology transfer and capacity building to achieve their sustainable development goals. As expressed across the different sections of the national consultation reports, the international community should respect its financial commitments, for example, under the Paris Agreement on climate change and emerging post-2020 global biodiversity framework. They need to ensure a fair distribution of economic resources, concessional finance, and technologies so that countries with less responsibility for climate change can and environmental degradation make a sustainable transition and meet social needs. To align public, private and development finance with existing commitments and priorities and to improve the business climate for sustainable development the public and private sector must work together. Governments have a leading role in creating the enabling policy and regulatory environment for accelerating finance towards existing commitments and coordinating the mobilisation of resources from diverse funding sources and mechanisms.

The national consultations present a consistent narrative on what is needed to transform governance and legal systems to maintain long-term economic stability and ecological and social wellbeing for all. These key need include: political leadership and strengthened decentralised governance; participatory, gender-equal and inclusive decision making; ensuring that sustainable long-term visions and policies are honoured by politicians across election cycles; enacting and enforcing legislation (including incentives and sanctions) to ensure effective behavioural change; and enhancing monitoring, evaluation and accountability frameworks to promote transparency and support results-based management.

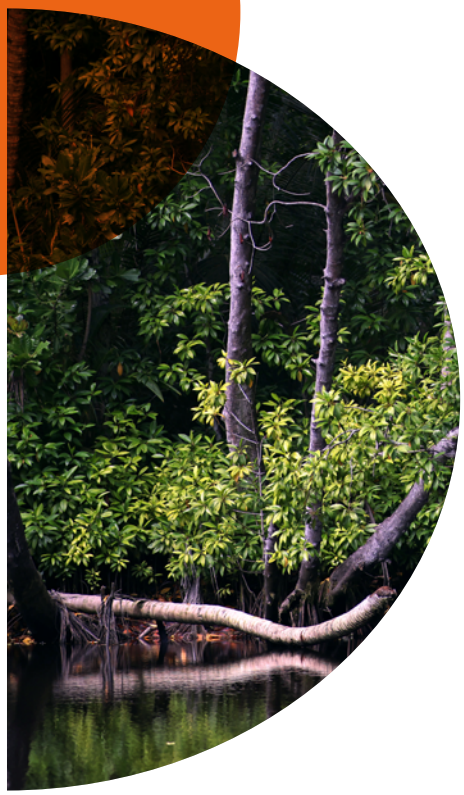
The support of the UN system is crucial for the transition to a green, inclusive economy. It was stressed that the UN needs to strengthen its relationship and interactions with local government, civil society, community-based organisations, universities, small and medium enterprises (SME) and the private sector in general. This will help to ensure that official development assistance is implemented more efficiently, effectively, and inclusively including through equitable access and benefit sharing from various green financing opportunities.

Ongoing Follow-up

Building on the initial national consultations and outcomes of the Stockholm+50 meeting, UNDP has continued to facilitate follow-up dialogues with countries and communities throughout the second half of 2022. This ongoing engagement is contributing to the design and implementation of socially inclusive and gender-responsive national and sectoral policies, such as NDCs, NBSAPs, SDG Strategies, Green/Blue Economy and Green Recovery Plans. The findings of the national consultations are also being used to inform countries' messaging on climate action, nature, green economy recovery and transition at other global events. These include UNFCCC COP27 in Egypt, CBD COP15 in Canada and G20 consultations in Indonesia. The national consultations are also informing UN and partner programming. A list of recommendations for both national and international actors is provided in Section 5.

1

Stockholm+50 and the Role of National Consultation



1.1 Stockholm+50

'Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity' was a high-level international meeting held on 2-3 June 2022 in Stockholm, co-hosted by Sweden and Kenya[2]. Stockholm+50 commemorated the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and celebrated 50 years of global environmental action[3]. The meeting presented a timely and significant opportunity to reflect, connect, accelerate and scale actions for a better future on a healthy planet with prosperity for all; it marks the moment for bold and urgent action and engagement.

Stockholm+50's aim was to create the momentum and alliances that will accelerate action at scale to deliver on existing commitments. Anchored in the **Decade of Action**, it was designed to accelerate delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the post-2020 global Biodiversity Framework, and encourage the adoption of green post COVID-19 recovery plans. It reiterates the importance of multilateralism in tackling the triple planetary crisis – climate, nature, and pollution. It has resulted in an action-oriented outcome, supported by three Leadership Dialogues (LD):

- **Leadership Dialogue 1**: '*Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all'*. This dialogue focused on the need to live in harmony with nature, gender equality, intra and intergenerational equity, and human wellbeing.
- **Leadership Dialogue 2**: '*Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic*'. This dialogue addressed the specific actions needed to build back from the pandemic and all its adverse impacts on people, the planet and prosperity and put the world back on track to achieve the SDGs.
- **Leadership Dialogue 3**: '*Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda in context of the Decade of Action'*. This dialogue stressed the urgent need to accelerate the pace of change and sought to set out the partnerships, finance and technology needed to shift from commitments to action.

Stockholm+50's three Leadership Dialogues served as guiding themes, aimed at engaging governments, indigenous peoples, business and the private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to overcome barriers to implementation, connect action and create the pathways that reach across generations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The LDs highlighted the urgent need for action to achieve a healthy planet, a sustainable and inclusive recovery from COVID-19.

Broad stakeholder engagement and consultation were integral to the Stockholm+50 pro-

2 The meeting's objectives and modalities are outlined in two UNGA Resolutions (undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/280, undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/326).

3 The **Stockholm Conference in 1972** brought environment to the global stage. It led to the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and catalysed a new era of multilateral environmental cooperation. The **1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development**, the "Earth Summit", held on the 20th anniversary of the Stockholm Conference, contributed to the negotiation and adoption of a new set of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) that tried to bridge the three pillars of sustainable development: the environment, social development, and economic development. Twenty years after the Earth Summit in 2012, the **UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)**, set in motion the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

cess.[4] The high-level meeting in June 2022 followed months of consultations and discussions with individuals, communities, organisations and governments around the world.

In the lead-up to Stockholm+50, a series of **regional multi-stakeholder consultations** were organised in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Asia to discuss regional specific topics, sectors and solutions. The five regional consultations were open to all major groups, the private sector, all government representatives, and other stakeholders. They were organised by UNEP with the support of the **Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs)** initiative and co-designed with major groups and stakeholders.

In parallel to the regional consultations, UNDP facilitated whole-of-society and whole-of-government Stockholm+50 **national consultations** in 56 countries across all regions with funding from Sweden. These national consultations are the focus of this report.

The purpose of the regional and national consultations were to: (i) give a voice to and facilitate engagement of as large a number of stakeholders as possible; (ii) ensure a bottom-up mapping of key elements and actions needed to safeguard the human environment in the 21st century in the context of country and regional needs, including policies in economic sectors most critical for sustainable development; and, (iii) assess how the human environment can be enhanced to help countries and regions attain the SDGs, with a focus on innovative and enhanced means of implementation and on enhancing human capacities.

1.2 Role of National Consultations in Stockholm+50 Process

The national consultations were facilitated by UNDP drawing on financial and technical support from the Government of Sweden. They leveraged in-country programming and partnerships, including support to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) (e.g., UNDP's Climate Promise[5]) and broader work on nature, climate, energy, and integrated SDG themes.

The objectives of the national consultations were to:

- Stimulate an inclusive whole-of-society and whole-of-government dialogue on the main themes of Stockholm+50 as they relate to each national context;
- Build a shared global vision on how to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all while accelerating progress on the SDGs and MEAs through an inclusive green recovery;
- Offer recommendations for governments, civil society and private sector on priorities that can advance national and sectoral policies on climate change and nature-based solutions;
- Amplify the voices of the poor, youth, women, indigenous groups, local communities, and other disproportionally impacted groups; and
- Influence national and global debates that consider the views of all stakeholders.

4 UNGA Resolution 75/326 'Modalities Resolution' states: 'all relevant stakeholders, including women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, to contribute to the discussions of the international meeting and their preparation and build momentum for a healthy planet for the prosperity of all'".

5 https://climatepromise.undp.org/

The national consultations were conducted in February-May 2022. They supported the Stockholm+50 process in part by allowing governments and stakeholders to prepare for their delegations' participation in the global meeting and side events, and by feeding into the development of its outcomes. Key findings and recommendations from the national consultations were presented at the global meeting in Stockholm through the Stockholm+50 Plenary Session, as well as at various side events and through statements by member states.

The national consultations have also served as a springboard for deepening country engagement on complementary issues, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), green economy/green recovery and linked national and sectoral development priorities[6] and SDG frameworks. They have also contributed to countries' engagement in the CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC COPs in 2022.

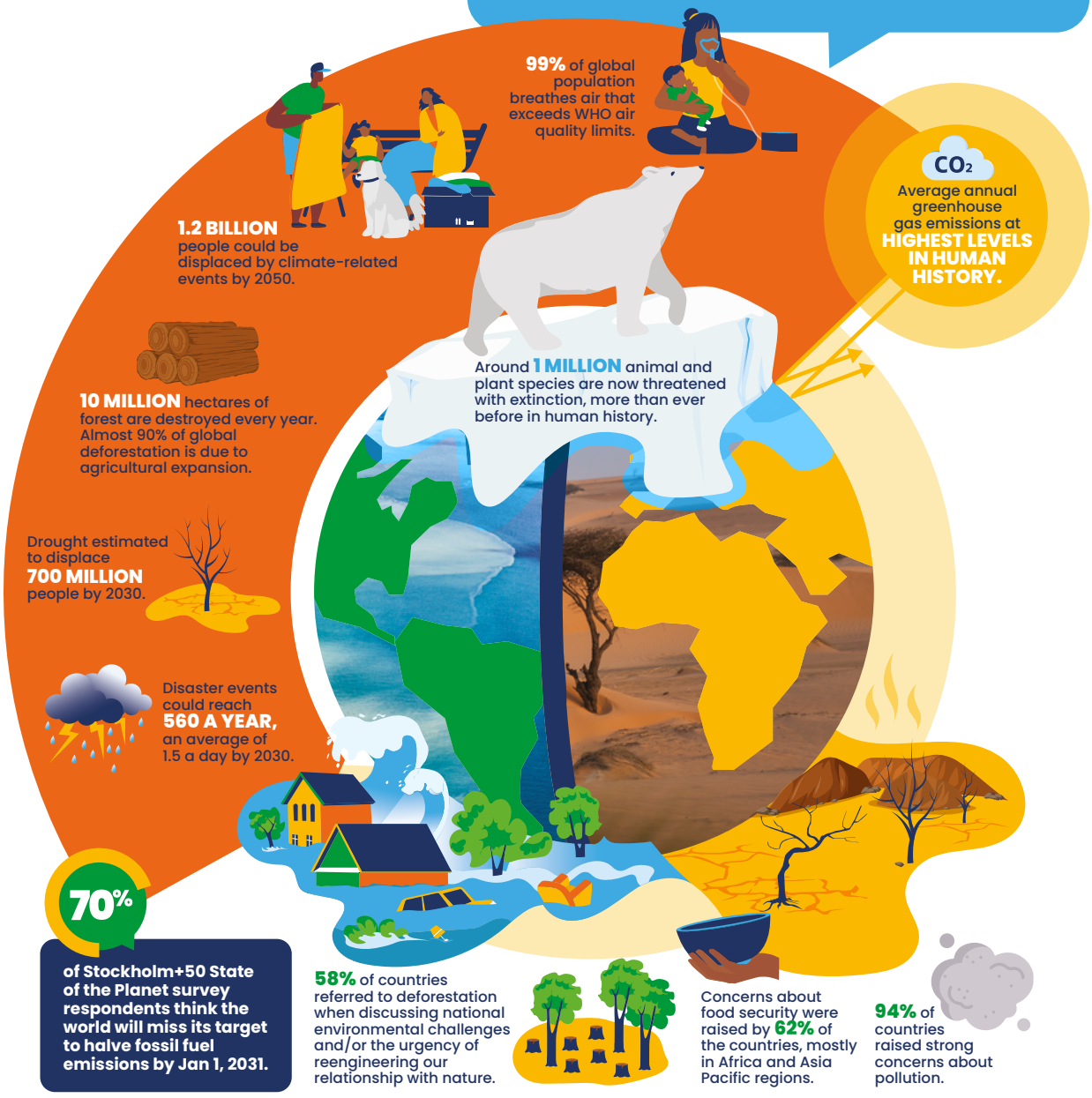
6 For example, urbanisation, food and nutrition security; youth empowerment, poverty eradication, gender equality, employment, debt reduction and inclusive growth

Triple Planetary Crisis

KEY MESSAGE

There is a need for strengthened environmental governance at all levels. The climate, nature and pollution crises can only be tackled successfully if they become a top policy priority supported by legislation, inclusive decision-making, monitoring, and enforcement.

> **Humanity has been facing multiple interlinked environmental, social, economic and health challenges – the climate change crisis, pollution, biodiversity loss and the extinction of species, deforestation, land degradation, increased incidents of environmental disasters, widening gaps between rich and poor, backlash to women's rights, lack of decent jobs and new emerging zoonotic diseases. The complexity and difficulties of addressing these challenges are compounded by the urgent need for action and the current fragility of the global economy."**
>
> **Stockholm+50 national consultations global synthesis report.**



Sources: IPCC: Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change; UN: The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre: Global Report on Internal Displacement 2022; World Economic Forum: Climate Refugees – The World's Forgotten Victims, 2021; WHO: Air Quality Database, 2022; Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Global Assessment Report, 2019.

2

National Consultations – Process and Engagement

2.1 Participating Countries

In total 56 countries received support to complete their national consultations across all regions – Africa (18), Arab States (7), Asia and the Pacific (13), Europe and Central Asia (6) and Latin America and the Caribbean (12)[7].

A number of factors were considered in selecting countries to receive this support. These included country demand/ownership, and ensuring representation across several dimensions such as region, country typology, and different types of development challenges and opportunities. Some countries with a leading role in hosting multilateral processes in 2022 were also considered. These included hosts for COPs, the G20 presidency, and countries with special roles in Stockholm+50 such as co-hosting Informal Working Groups (IWGs). The selection also considered countries who had endorsed the two UN Resolutions on Stockholm+50 and already had in place a broad-based consultation infrastructure through the Climate Promise[8] or similar initiatives.

2.2 Tools, Technical Guidance and Facilitation

National consultation guidelines[9] were prepared by UNDP to assist, streamline, and maximise the impact of the country-led consultations, and to help countries identify context-appropriate, gender responsive and inclusive consultation processes. These guidelines were informed by other national consultations process such as preparations for the 2030 Agenda and the global Food Summit. The national consultation guidelines were adapted and shared through the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP) and elsewhere so that all countries and stakeholder groups could take advantage of them. The guidelines were made available in an e-format in English and French languages.

UNDP's collaboration hub, called **SparkBlue**,[10,11] is hosting a Stockholm+50 portal for the national consultations. This SparkBlue virtual platform was established to encourage participation. SparkBlue pages were created for each participating country as a one-stop-shop for the national consultations. The country pages include: background information on Stockholm+50; country-specific policy data and information; national consultation concept notes, agendas, speakers/facilitators; livestreamed and recorded plenary consultations; and post-consultation question and discussion fora. SparkBlue offers a space for materials and engagement activity and notifies stakeholders when new content has been added.

In addition, UNDP Country Offices – and in turn national partners and stakeholders – were provided with wide-ranging support throughout the national consultation process to ensure

7 **Africa**: Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zimbabwe, CAR, and Guinea.
Arab States: Algeria, PAPP, Sudan, Morocco, Jordan, Somalia, and Iraq.
Eastern Europe and CIS: Kazakhstan, Turkey, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Georgia.
Latin America and Caribbean: Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Peru, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Chile, and Ecuador.
Asia-Pacific: Bhutan, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Maldives, FSM, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Viet Nam.

8 UNDP's Climate Promise initiative supports 120 countries to enhance and implement their NDCs alongside over 35 partners.

9 https://www.sparkblue.org/system/files/2022-02/Stockholm%2B50%20National%20Consutlations_Guidelines_%2020_01_22.pdf

10 https://www.sparkblue.org/stockholm50

11 SparkBlue is a digital platform designed for online engagement and collaboration with all stakeholder groups and at all levels across the international development landscape. It is a space for policy makers, development practitioners and advocates from the public, private, and civil society sectors to think out loud, learn from each other, connect, collaborate, and co-create.

whole-of-society and whole-of governance approach adapted to the priorities of each country, as summarised below. UNEP, Sweden, and Kenya all supported preparations for the national consultations through, for example, reviewing national consultation guidelines, communications and technical inputs.

Thematic and Planning Support

- Capacity building, including bi-weekly orientation webinars for the country teams involving thematic briefings provided by UNDP, UNEP and other partners.
- Stakeholder mapping for gender responsive and socially inclusive consultations.
- Initial planning and coordination to define the consultation structure (i.e., number of in-person/online live consultations), and to identify speakers/facilitators, participants, and prepare the consultation agenda, data and communications strategy.

Promotion and Stakeholder Engagement Support

- Launch of national consultation including save-the-date invitations, sharing of background information including on NDCs and other relevant policy frameworks, and population of SparkBlue virtual consultation space.
- Support to in-person/live-streamed consultations from February-May 2022.
- Guidance on communication and outreach.

Analysis and Reporting

- Data mapping, inventory, analysis and visualisation.
- Documentation and reporting back on results of consultations.

Post-Stockholm+50 Follow-up

- Ongoing post-consultation discussions on SparkBlue virtual platform and live events;
- Ongoing communications and awareness sessions on Stockholm+50 outcomes;
- Post-Stockholm+50 follow-up.

In order to facilitate detailed analysis of the findings from all national consultations in addition to this global synthesis report, an interactive **Stockholm+50 national consultations dashboard** was created, which consolidates country-level responses shared by countries through their national consultation reports. The database allows quantitative and qualitative analysis of consultations data, as well as thematic analysis across the reports using a system of keywords. The database and keyword extraction results power a business intelligence report that allows for a quick comparison of consultation results by topic across participating countries to identify recurring patterns and important highlights faster and better.

An **interactive website** which hosts this Global Synthesis Report allows visitors to not only download the full document, but browse key messages, infographics and visualisations of the data.

2.3 Overview of National Consultation Process and Participation

2.3.1 Consultation Process

The national consultations were conducted through a combination of in-person, hybrid and virtual events, as well as through national and local surveys, interviews, and focal group discussions. This diverse consultation process was supported through online discussion rooms on UNDP's SparkBlue platform, which also served as a one-stop-shop for all consultation materials and events.

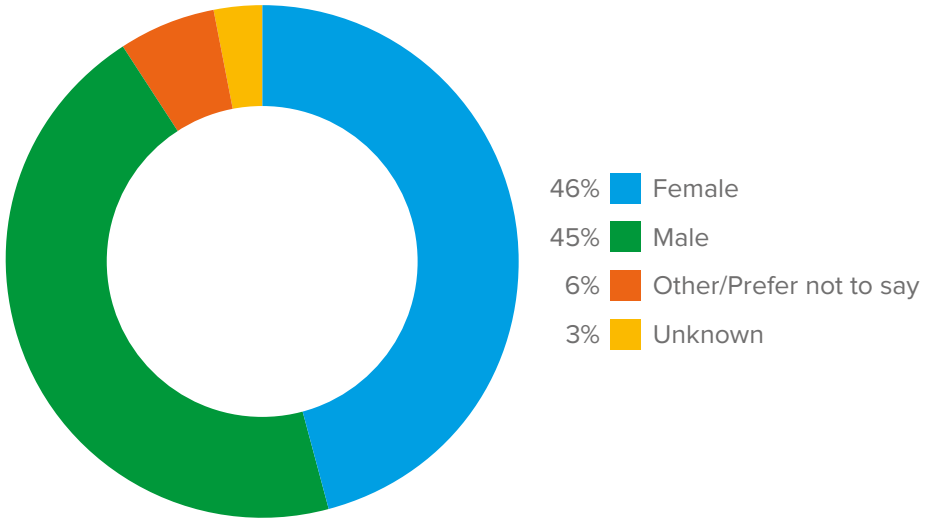
The consultations were run between February and May 2022 with the majority of countries conducting their consultations in April-May 2022. The consultations followed several months of preparatory work, inception and engagement as outlined above. Countries appointed national coordinators and focal points responsible above all for the stakeholder mapping and engagement following UNDP's guidance on the inclusive and participatory consultation process. Over 250 Stockholm+50 national events took place up to May 2022 across 56 countries with over 50,000 people engaging in-person or virtually.

2.3.2 Participation in the National Consultations

The analysis in the Global Synthesis report is based on 54 countries which presented their national consultation reports. Across these 54 countries over 41,300 participants representing various stakeholder groups took part in the national consultation events. Even more people engaged through the SparkBlue on-line platform and social media.

Globally, there was a parity in the number of men and women participating with 18,926 (46%) female participants, 18,640 (45%) male participants, and 3,778 (9%) of people preferring not to identify their gender (Figure 1). **On average, there were around 550 participants per country**.

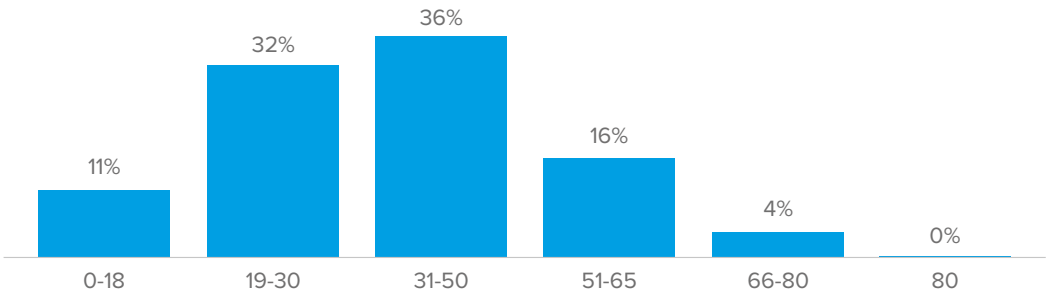
Figure 1: Participation by Gender



Young people provided a significant contribution to the consultations across all countries with 43% of all consultation participants between 18 and 30 years of age (Figure 2).

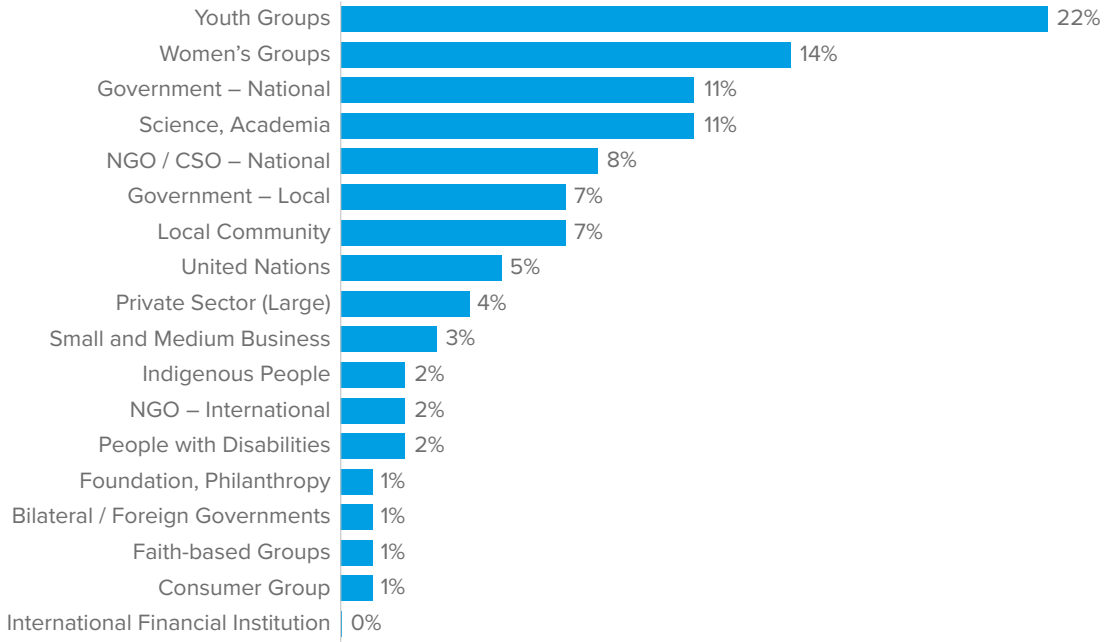
The second largest age group category is 31-50 years of age, representing 36% of total participants.

Figure 2: Participation by Age Groups[12]



The inclusive engagement of all stakeholder groups was a key objective of the national consultations. A wide range of stakeholders joined the consultations representing national and local government entities; youth and women groups; civil society; local and indigenous communities; people with disabilities; small and large businesses; financial sector and philanthropies; academia; faith-based groups; international organisations. Approximately 40% of participants represented disproportionally impacted groups, including youth and women groups, indigenous communities, people with disabilities (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Participation by Stakeholder Groups[13]

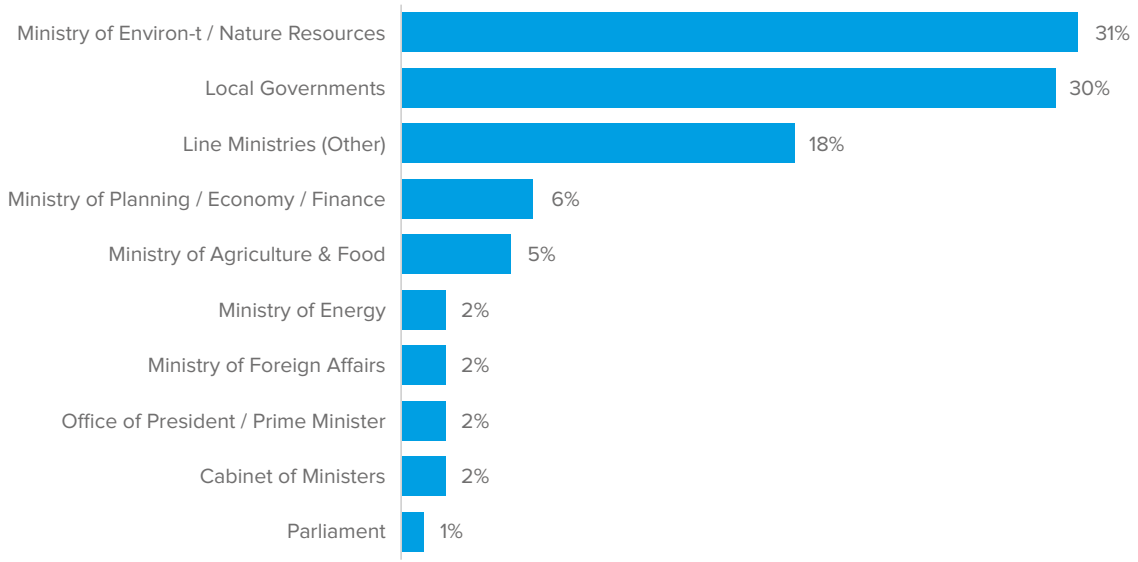


12 Based on a sample of participants who identified their age.
13 Based on a sample of participants who identified their stakeholder group

Figure 4: Participation by Sectors

The national consultations engaged stakeholders from at least 20 sectors, including: agriculture and food, cities, education, environment, extractive industries, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, finance and investment, health, ICT, industry, infrastructure, green and traditional energy, media, trade and commerce, transport, tourism, and utilities. The education sector is strongly represented due to the high numbers of youth participants and engagement with universities during the consultation process (Figure 4). Beyond stakeholders working on environment management, the well represented sectors included agriculture and food, forestry, energy, as well as investment and finance, and media.

Figure 5: Participation by Government Stakeholders

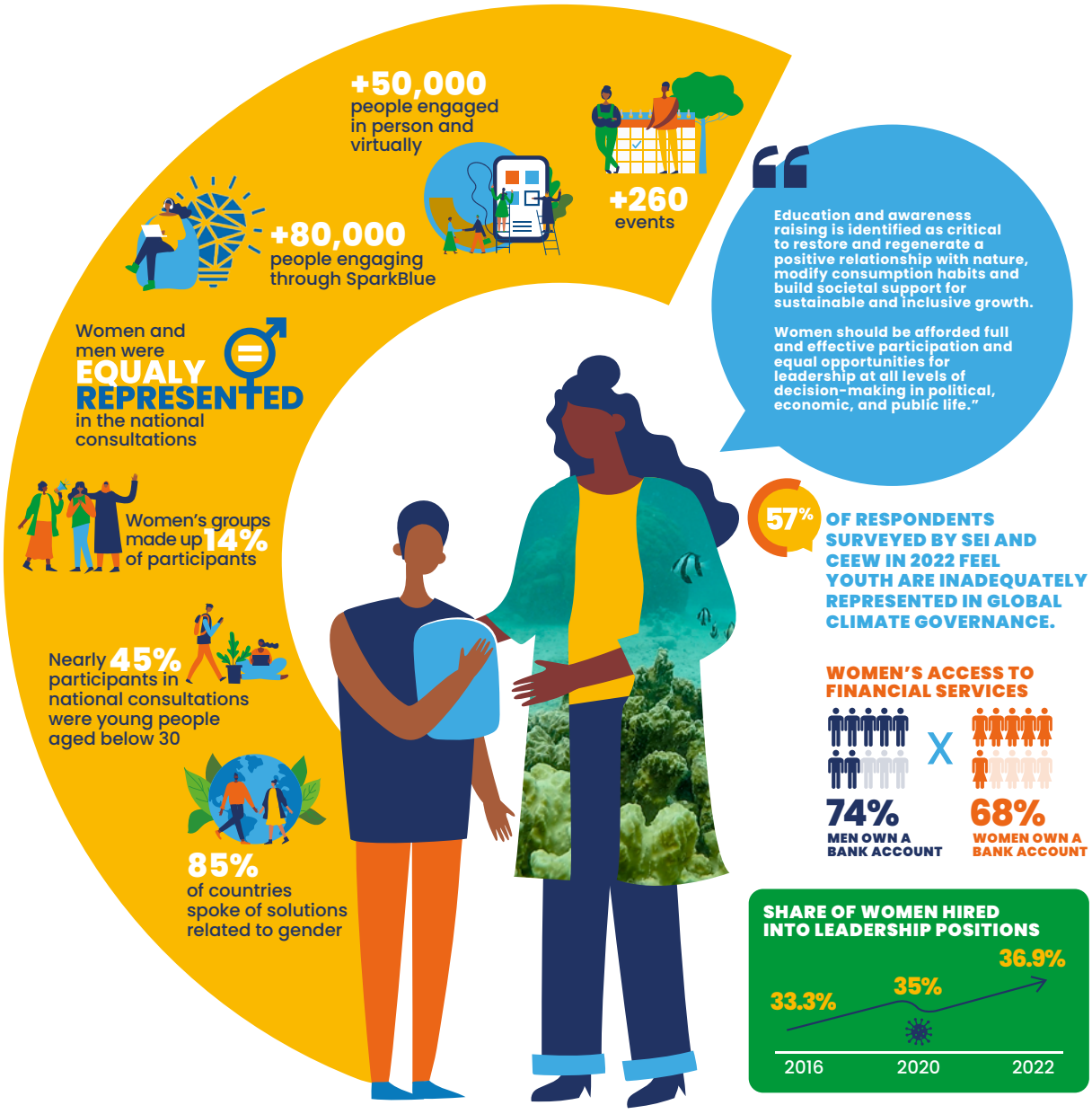


The national ministries of environment and natural resources represented a large group of government participants (Figure 5). The second largest group of government stakeholders came from local governments, demonstrating that the consultation process involved a lot of grass-root dialogues in support of decentralisation processes. There was strong participation of the national ministries of finance, economy and planning, as well as line ministries, including agriculture and energy agencies. In the majority of countries, the national consultation process engaged the leadership, including President and Prime Minister Offices, Cabinets of Ministers and/or parliaments.

Equality and Inclusivity

KEY MESSAGES

1. National stakeholders highlight the need for a **gender-equal, just, inclusive transition** towards greener and resilient development. Women should be afforded full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.
2. **Youth** are important change agents in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation. They need support through environmental and climate education, training, capacity building, and access to information, digital technologies, and finance.
3. **Public awareness** of the SDGs, climate change and other environmental challenges need to be built through improved access to **environmental education** and information for all. It is critical to raise collective awareness and responsibility for action.



Sources: Stockholm Environmental Institute & Council on Energy, Environment and Water: Charting a Youth Vision for a just and sustainable future, 2022; World Economic Forum: Global Gender Gap Report, 2022; World Bank: Global Findex Database, 2021.

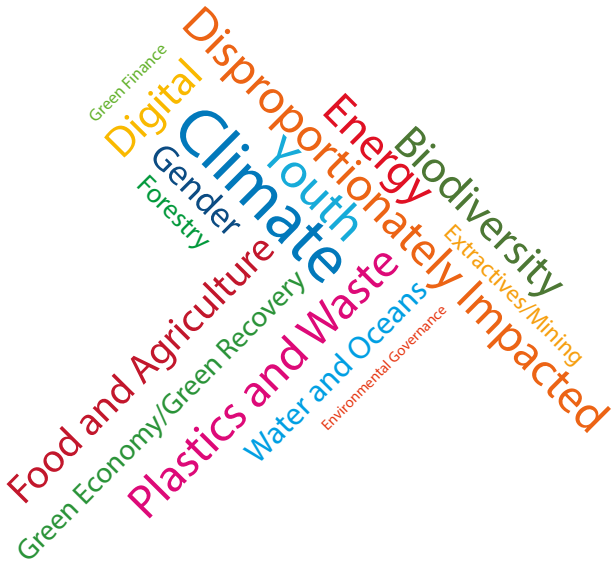
3

Country Priorities, Challenges and Opportunities

3.1 Key Themes and Sectors

The national consultations focused on a range of national priority themes, often aligned to Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) and national development plans and strategies. These included: climate challenges, pollution reduction, nature protection and uptake of nature-based solutions; **environmental education, awareness and capacity building;** inequality, indigenous populations and community land rights; how to better integrate and prioritise the environmental agenda; how to promote the participation of different stakeholders to influence the public debate and agenda; legal reforms, sustainable finance mechanisms; environmental fiscal reforms; the role of local self-government and the business sector in sustainable development and green transition, and improving preparation and implementation of NDCs.

The national consultations covered a diverse range of sectors including: agriculture, buildings and infrastructure, energy, health, industry, mining, natural resources/environment (including nature protection and biodiversity, forestry, marine and coastal, wetlands), tourism, transport, urban development, waste and water.



3.2 Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions

Countries face many challenges in meeting their aspirations around embedding sustainable production and consumption patterns, achieving net zero emissions, adapting and building resilience to climate change and other external shocks (such as COVID-19), creating equal opportunities for all and restoring and regenerating a positive relationship with nature. Many countries are facing high rates of population growth, high rates of (youth) unemployment, food price inflation, migration, and growing economic inequality and poverty. Peace and security are issues in some countries.

Stakeholders hope that the national consultation process will serve to put pressure on the decision makers to implement concrete actions to achieve their country's environmental goals. Critically, members of disproportionally impacted groups regard the national consultations as an opportunity for their voices to be

heard and considered at the Stockholm+50 conference and other high-level events. The national consultations have provided an enabling, rights-based, inclusive environment to discuss solutions to inequalities, women's rights, supporting equal opportunities, and reducing poverty. They were an opportunity for the groups most disproportionally impacted by the planetary crises to be recognised as agents of change in their societies.

In general, the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the multiple acute challenges it brought, is recognised as presenting an opportunity to build back better. Critically, the green, blue, and circular economy are recognised levers for development offering positive impacts across sectors of the economy and supporting livelihoods. They can create opportunities and jobs, especially for young people, in many areas (e.g., renewable energy, waste management, ecotourism, eco-design). Improvements in environmental quality are needed to ensure the basis for a healthy and flourishing society. The transition to an inclusive green economy requires action on low emission and climate resilient development pathways and the promotion of decent employment through skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling initiatives.

The key types of challenges related to the core themes of this report, along with the key opportunities and solutions cited in the national consultations, are summarised below:

Governance

Countries are challenged by weak environmental governance, lack of political will for a bold climate and environmental action, inadequate policies, and weak policy enforcement and monitoring. Policies and regulations to protect the environment are lacking or weak in some instances. In other cases, good policies and laws exist but they are not translated into business models and programmes that are easily implemented on the ground. There are limited decentralisation and delegated responsibilities to local level authorities, who can effectively manage natural resources and stimulate green local social and economic opportunities. Implementation is challenged by capacity issues, along with a lack of political will and fragile institutions due to corruption in some countries. The lack of long-term visioning and gender mainstreaming were highlighted as challenges by many countries.

To overcome these challenges climate and environmental action needs to become a priority for governments and institutions and the institutional framework for sustainable development needs to be strengthened. In some cases, good governance and equitable practices depend on the elimination of corruption; improving transparency and combatting corruption rebuild trust in the political system.

The legislative framework needs to be strengthened with laws and regulations updated where required – for example, where they are out of date, overlapping and/or contradictory. Policies and regulations should promote climate and environmental justice and equitable distribution of wealth. To strengthen monitoring and compliance there is a need to establish integrated centralised monitoring frameworks, based on measurable, verifiable and enforceable performance indicators. Metrics need to be developed to track intergenerational equity and the participation of communities in environment action. Monitoring can also be improved by strengthening the capacities of stakeholders to collect and analyse data and report on results.

Many countries emphasised the need to strengthen planning, and to define and implement sustainable long-term plans, which stretch, and are upheld, beyond political terms.

Participants of the national consultations stressed the need to accelerate the **decentralisation** process through capacity development of local authorities, alignment of international goals with the national and local planning processes, and support for organisations at the sub-national level to articulate project opportunities to investors.

Countries cited the alignment of national priorities with MEAs and other international UN conventions that have been ratified, as an opportunity to facilitate financial and technical support from the international community.

Coordination and Collaboration

> *'...The transition to an inclusive green economy requires commitment at the international level to redesign economies and to ensure people and planet thrive with a "fit for purpose" development paradigm of the 21st century...'*

Insufficient coordination and communication between stakeholders involved in the design of public policies present challenges. Siloed decision-making processes prevail in many countries and prevent the collaboration and coordination needed between sectors to develop coherent and integrated public policies. The lack of dialogue among different sectors (in particular the environment and economic sectors), as well as among stakeholders (e.g., government, the private sector, academia, civil society and communities) hinders a common understanding on how a country should develop and the implementation of balanced and inclusive public policies.

There is a need to develop and expand intersectoral collaboration and coordination between governmental agencies at national and sub-national level (vertical and lateral), collaboration with communities in policy formulation to improve inclusivity and relationships and dialogue between government and the private sector. The need for collaboration between development partners, CSOs, private sector and other stakeholders in project formulation and implementation was also noted.

Co-ordination and collaboration could be facilitated by, for example, the creation of national platforms for the collation and sharing of good practices related to environmental protection, sustainable management of natural resources and green transition and/or permanent collaborative spaces to facilitate exchanges between stakeholders**.**

It is noted that some good public, private and community-based partnerships working on environment, development and humanitarian issues at local and international levels already exist, which can be built on to meet climate (mitigation and adaptation) and nature targets. Through the national consultations many environmental and social organisations and associations engaged with each other for the first time, fostering potential synergies. In some countries religious organisations could be used to educate the public on the relationship between spirituality and sustainability, and foster a greater level of community buy-in. There is the opportunity to strengthen links/partnerships between universities, the private sector and the public sector, in support of innovated research and development. South–South cooperation and collaboration and partnerships

with UN agencies and development partners should be explored to facilitate the transfer of experiences, technologies and know-how, and develop joint projects.

To empower local communities and to accelerate local action there is the need for stronger NGO/CSO alliances and the creation of spaces to engage these actors in policy development and decision making.

The transition to an inclusive green economy requires commitment at the international level to redesign economies and to ensure people and planet thrive with a 'fit for purpose' development paradigm of the 21st century. Enhanced diplomacy and multilateralism are needed to engage the international community and achieve the objectives of the multilateral environmental agreements.

Equality and Inclusivity

Inclusivity is a challenge; the participation of all stakeholders (youth, women) and sectors is often lacking due to systemic and structural inequalities. There is a need to improve public participation and involvement in policy-making processes and empower indigenous communities, young people, women and disproportionally impacted groups in general. This is central to improved diagnosis of existing gaps and barriers, the design of instruments that support the hardest hit by climate change and environmental impacts and generally ensuring that the decision-making process is inclusive and tailored to priority needs.

There is the opportunity for groups at risk of being excluded to participate more in national efforts to transition to inclusive green growth. For example, women should be afforded full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic, and public life. It is also important to fully engage indigenous groups in decisions and recognise the value of indigenous (ancestral) knowledge in the design of policies, to decrease negative environmental impacts on these groups and support the preservation and sustainable use of ecosystems. Investments in citizen science and data governance have the potential to empower communities to generate knowledge from their indigenous knowledge system.

Youth are important change agents in the fight against climate change and nature degradation that institutions, including the education sector, should capitalise on. Youth activism is gaining momentum as they become increasingly aware of environment and climate issues. Young people are often engaged in environmental activities and projects at the community and rural level, such as beach cleaning and reforestation, and offer opportunities for increasing environmental awareness countrywide. **Young people are also increasingly engaged in developing environmental policies, communicating with the United Nations and participating in environmental organisations through online platforms and social networks.** They often possess creativity and adapt easily to digital innovations and can help to drive the digital economy.

Finance

Finance is critical to achieving commitments on climate and nature, but is not in place at the scale required. Funding for sustainable development is cited as a common challenge. High national debt levels coupled with pressures from external shocks, limit the ability of many governments to finance development projects and invest in climate resilience and nature. It was also noted that for countries at their debt ceilings, environmental commit-

ments need to be achieved through public spending not based on loans. **Mechanisms for accessing international climate finance are seen as slow, complex, resource intensive, uncertain and project based.** For some countries it is challenging to access funds in general as the funding modalities of donors, banks and credit agencies are too complex and cumbersome. They require a high level of financial literacy which discourages or excludes many organisations and groups (especially CSOs and groups disproportionally impacted such as women's cooperatives) from applying. Funding is especially limited at the local level and in remote areas with limited concessional and grant financing for local and grassroots organisations for sustainability focused projects.

Other challenges cited related to finance, include: (i) fiscal and monetary policy responses to COVID-19 pandemic reinforcing the business-as-usual approach; (ii) low levels of financial and logistical support from government for key sectors such as agriculture and environment; and, (iii) the lack of funds to upscale successful initiatives.

There is an urgent need to fast-track and scale-up investments into sustainable and inclusive economic development.

In general, countries need to develop a diversified and innovative financing strategies to mobilise finance that aligns with national development aspirations. These strategies should synergise investments for climate and disaster risk financing from the public and private sector to support green and social projects, and support a balanced approach between adaptation and mitigation. In this context, NDCs can offer a unique prospectus for immediate climate action, given that they are politically backed tools for advancing sustainable development pathways and priorities. Fiscal measures (subsidies and taxes) and financial products need to be reformulated and used to redirect funds and investment towards more inclusive and sustainable action (e.g., incentives to support the transition to low-carbon production and consumption patterns), and made accessible to a broader range of actors. The development and implementation of innovative green financing mechanisms is seen as an opportunity. For example, participation in carbon markets is seen as an opportunity to secure much-needed financial resources and support community forestry, rural livelihoods, and national economic development.

To address the climate change burden on developing countries, developed countries have to contribute more resources. Furthermore, donors and partners need to allocate funding to projects and initiatives that address national and local priorities. Processes and procedures for accessing funds should be simplified and technical assistance for the formulation of concept notes and proposals provided for youths, NGOs, CSOs and marginalised communities.

Funding needs to be made accessible for businesses and civil society to adopt and shift to greener jobs and initiatives, and to catalyse investments in green energy solutions and energy efficiency (wind, biogas, solar, tidal power, waste), sustainable transport, green cities, nature-based solutions and sustainable livelihood systems. Government should establish and fund macro programmes and projects that conserve the environment and ensure an inclusive distribution of funding sources, for example, through encouraging and funding community-led and rural projects and support. Blended finance is considered to have a key role to play in de-risking climate and nature smart investments and catalysing needed private sector investment.

Furthermore, the development of pilot concepts, projects and initiatives, with a view to replication on a larger scale should be supported.

Private Sector

Private sector is not sufficiently engaged in the development and implementation of innovative projects at the national and local scale. Regulations to promote alliances between the private and public sectors are needed and there are limited opportunities for **Public Private Partnerships** in environmental management (e.g., renewable energy, waste management, food security) despite the significant financing gap which can only be addressed through private sector engagement. There are multiple constraints to entrepreneurship, which is a key mechanism for promoting equitable development.

However, the private sector is willing to collaborate with governments to accelerate investments supporting the delivery of SDGs and NDC targets. There is the opportunity to improve and broaden SMEs engagement in environmental related projects and enhance Public Private Partnerships in key sectors of the economy. Private sector finance can support community-driven projects, encouraging communities to become stewards of their own resources.

The introduction of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives is part of the solution to catalyse private sector engagement. There is also a need to facilitate access to finance for private companies and support and empower triple-impact entrepreneurs, small local producers and innovative proposals and start-ups (public and private) to achieve sustainability goals and meet local challenges. This may require a review of the legal impediments to private financing.

Capacity

There is insufficient capacity at all levels – central and local government, the private sector, academia, and hence capacity building and training are needed across stakeholders and sectors to transition to a green economy. For example, government capacity to enforce existing legal frameworks needs to be strengthened, and there is a lack of knowledge of new technologies, the benefits of their application and the capacity to carry out technical assessments. These shortcomings are attributed to human resource attrition due to transfers and retirements, and inconsistent, ad-hoc programming of capacity-building programmes. Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are important instruments to ensure sustainability; however, the capacity to verify the findings of EIAs and ensure compliance need to be developed. High-tech skills development is needed to support the technology sector and the private sector (including MSMEs) to embed sustainability in their business operations and value chains. There is also a need for more evidence-based research and knowledge transfer to support national and local researches and academia.

Education and Awareness

The need to enhance environmental education and awareness is a dominant theme across the national consultation reports. A collective consciousness of the importance of the environment and a sense of collective responsibility are necessary to accelerate change, but there is limited public awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate change and environmental challenges in general. A key challenge is en-

suring access to environmental education and information for all through a broader base of formal and informal education programmes tailored to target groups.

Environmental education and awareness building are critical to develop understanding and broaden consensus and buy-in around environmental and sustainable development issues, to change behaviour and mindsets for living in harmony with nature, and to achieve a whole-of-society transformation towards more sustainable production and consumption. Inclusive, targeted and accessible environmental education programmes should therefore be introduced at multiple levels and for all sectors of the population. Specific opportunities commonly cited in the national consultations include the development and mainstreaming of environmental education in school and university curricula and strengthening the awareness-raising work of youth organisations through social media.

Digital Transformation, Data, Science and Research

There is a lack of data, research facilities, technology and digital infrastructure to boost transition to green economy**.** Many countries don't have access to state-of-the-art technologies and are also limited in their ability to develop and promote domestic technology due to insufficient R&D infrastructure, human resource capacity and financial resources. Constraints to adopting information and communication technologies (ICT) include inadequate infrastructure, skills (IT literacy) and affordability. For example, in some countries pollution and emissions cannot be adequately monitored due to the lack of monitoring infrastructure and laboratories.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of ICT and access to environmentally friendly technologies for green recovery and accelerating the transition to green economy. For example, digital technology enables the design of business models that improve the management of energy, resources and transport and can provide timely and disaggregated data for analysis, evidence-based decision making and monitoring, and evaluation. It is therefore important to pursue policies that advance digital equity by supporting a whole-of-society digital transformation toward green economy and promote digital green businesses to unleash the potential of the digital economy.

To expand the deployment of environmentally sound and clean technologies and digital transformation, there is a need to: (i) support R&D and innovation activities to identify and deploy more sustainable solutions; (ii) develop appropriate standards for the assessment and certification of technologies and practices; (iii) support and strengthen local digital ecosystems, national Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) systems and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education to prepare and adapt to the fast-changing economy and the demands of development; and, (iv) systematically collect and document green practices and technologies and establish an online central knowledge repository of best practices or Green Hub centre to share and disseminate data and information to support the transition to a green economy.

4

National Perspectives on Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogues

4.1 Leadership Dialogue 1. Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all

Under LD1 the national consultations discussed how a positive relationship with nature could be restored and regenerated: What are the good practices and pathways that could be scaled up to enable a move to a healthy planet, and what policies and structures need to be in place for countries to take action.

Building a positive relationship with nature requires that governments prioritise environmental protection and urgently move away from business-as-usual development models to models that will drive an energy transition, resource efficiency and a circular economy. Other aspects that are crucial for a healthy planet are long-term planning that goes beyond the political term of specific governments, collaboration across all stakeholders and in particular a stronger role for local communities in restoring and conserving the natural landscape which acknowledges the value indigenous ancestral practices and cultures. Sustainable finance needs to be mobilised that accelerates investments in restoration and averts land degradation, deforestation and air/water pollution, and synergises investments for climate change/disaster risk. Education and awareness raising is identified as critical to restore and regenerate a positive relationship with nature, modify consumption habits and build societal support for sustainable and inclusive growth.

Governance

Environmental protection must be seen as a national priority. Governance measures needed to restore and regenerate a positive relationship with nature include the design and implementation of policies and strategies to preserve and restore ecosystems; reduction and regulation of pollutants; a move toward carbon neutrality, and the adoption and enforcement of environmental protection laws and commitments. Many countries articulated the need to adopt a new economic development model that drives an energy transition, resource efficiency and is based on a circular economy approach and moves beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a measure of progress. The need to define and implement **long-term public policies and projects** on sustainable development, aligned with the SDGs, that go beyond the political term of specific governments is noted by many countries.

There is a need to develop and/or elaborate effective public policies that embed a climate and sustainability approach and can guide investment towards actions and projects with a high commitment to environmental and social responsibility and that fully support a transformation to sustainable production. Policies must be inclusive and transparent and empower disproportionally impacted groups. A holistic approach should be promoted, focusing on ecosystems as a whole and the interlinkages between them and based on an **integrated vision** built through discussions with all actors and stakeholders – public administration executives, civil society, academia and the private sector. National polices also need to be better aligned with multinational agreements.

Existing laws on the protection of the environment and climate change need to be updated where appropriate. Stricter sanctions for environmental violations are called for, which need to be enforced. Law enforcement must be a part of an inclusive and cross-sectoral plan at the national level, through which governmental and non-governmental organisations work together to protect nature.

Implementation needs to be strengthened and support from partners is needed to assist in the implementation of policies and to enhance capacity and resourcing of public institutions. Establishment of a standardised monitoring framework to encourage investment in projects that promote the transition to a green economy is called for.

In a number of countries communities often feel that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are inadequate and lack full consideration of the residual and cumulative social and environmental impacts. As a result, in many areas environmental and social conditions worsen during and after development projects. For example, harbour constructions disrupt natural tidal flows and result in more coastal erosion; road and other infrastructure projects result in the cutting down of large trees, and mining, road and rail infrastructure and fossil fuel projects have induced forced resettlement, disruption of socioeconomic activities and networks and harmed the environment.

Co-ordination and Collaboration

Collaboration across all stakeholders – government, business, academia, NGOs and civil society is crucial for a healthier planet**.** There is a need to strengthen: (i) interministerial collaboration and coordination to ensure mainstreaming of environmental requirements across the policy landscape; (ii) coordination between national and local government, to enhance the design and implementation of regulations, policies and projects at the local level; (iii) linkages between government, the private sector and academia; (iv) coordination and exchanges between industry, international institutions and research, in particular on non-CO_2 GHGs; (v) international experience sharing and dialogue on protection and restoration measures, principles and standards, nature-based solutions and international best practices; and, (vi) the role of NGOs who can serve as bridges between governments and enterprises in support of nature and livelihood protection. NGOs often have good knowledge of local contexts and needs, and are generally well-positioned to engage different stakeholders.

This can be supported by: (i) the promotion of science to policy interface forums for evidence-based decision making; (ii) establishing multi-stakeholder frameworks for coordination, monitoring and evaluation; and, (iii) creating platforms to share experiences on good practices for a healthy planet, at the national, regional and international level.

Equality and Inclusivity

Stronger and more inclusive involvement of local communities in restoring and conserving the natural landscape is essential to achieve a positive relationship with nature. The need to recognise and value indigenous ancestral practices and cultures in terms of the use and conservation of natural resources as a means of moving towards a healthy planet was emphasised**.** The generation of income for the local population through increasing employment opportunities is also critical. Pathways to scale up community participation include: (i) investing in and promoting community ownership of environmental programmes such as community-based reforestation, protection of wetlands and restoration and sustainable land management actions; (ii) reviving traditional wisdom/ancestral practices (e.g., supporting traditional sustainable practices in agriculture and fishing); (iii) supporting community/local initiatives (e.g., gardening, clean ups, tree planting/fire prevention, traditional fishing management); (iv) creating community groups and committees to take care of the environment (e.g., preventing the burning and cutting down of trees and the killing of animals and indiscriminate hunting, and

the conservation and protection of valuable plantations such as sandalwood, coffee and palms).

The participation of women, people with disabilities and youth-led organisations needs to be increased. **Women play an important role in the conservation of biodiversity and their knowledge and opinions must be included in environmental agendas from the local to the global level.** Women's leadership capacity needs to be developed to facilitate their participation in dialogues and decision making.

To bolster inclusivity, public environmental information must be made available and accessible to all. Stakeholders should be informed about the mechanisms for consultation and have access to information.

Finance

Establishing sustainable financing is a key precondition for improving the health of the planet. **Financial systems need to be better structured to scale-up the funding needed to conserve, restore and protect natural resource.** Sustainable finance needs to be mobilised that accelerates investments in restoration and averts land degradation, deforestation, and air/water pollution and synergises investments for climate change/disaster risk financing from the public and private sector to support green and social projects. Access to finance for civil society actors needs to be facilitated, so that they can support government action to achieve the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

Specific mechanisms that could be considered and/or scaled include: (i) Environmental Fiscal Reform (EFR) that incentivises sustainable consumption and production, for example, a carbon tax, the proceeds of which are reinvested in climate and sustainable management; (ii) penalties and charges based on the polluter-pays principle that are used to remediate damage to nature; (iii) payments for ecosystem services to incentivise conservation of watersheds, landscapes and important habitats; (iv) (Sovereign) Green Bonds to fast-track carbon reduction pledges enshrined in the NDCs and nature commitments; (v) Protected Area Trust funds to ensure Protected Area viability and/or National Green Funds; and, (vi) Debt for climate and nature swaps, which exchange external debt for the provision of ecosystem services of global importance.

Private Sector

The need to scale-up private sector engagement is undisputed and it is noted that business should be more involved in financing NDCs, given that NDCs represent politically-backed tools for reducing GHG emissions and adapting to climate impacts, while also ensuring a green and just transition. Pathways for scaling up private sector engagement, as consistently discussed throughout the national consultation reports, include: (i) **incentives** for private sector participation in government's green initiatives through market-based environmental policies and regulations, and green finance initiatives to attract private investments in environmental protection; (ii) establishing and strengthening **partnerships** between government, communities and the private sector, particularly with micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in support of a healthier planet; (iii) improving the **capacity** of MSMEs to engage in the value chains of large projects; and, (iv) increasing **awareness** among the private sector vis-à-vis their social responsibility.

In particular greater support is needed for SMEs, who are key to ensuring GHG reductions but have a comparatively weak position relative to large companies. Therefore, specific

platforms should be created that support these enterprises with participation and financial support from international organisations. Other mechanisms for supporting SMEs include access to finance through VSLA (Village Saving and Loan Associations) and investing in small business for at-risk youths.

It was noted that the private sector has a responsibility to internalise their ecological footprint in their business models and that the banking sector should play a greater role in supporting the transition to sustainable production and consumption patterns.

Capacity Building

Needs and actions identified under LD1 include:

- Training for government officials to develop their technical skills and facilitate the creation of better environmental public policies.
- Strengthening capacities of government and leaders at local and national levels through the exchange of good practices, tools and successful national and international initiatives related to, for example, land planning and risk management, especially for areas highly vulnerable to climate risks.
- Strengthening the capacities of local communities related to environmentally friendly practices and building livelihoods through the promotion of green jobs.
- Supporting farmers' organisations and NGOs.

Education and Awareness Raising

Education and awareness raising are identified as critical to restore and regenerate a positive relationship with nature, modify consumption habits and build societal support for sustainable and inclusive growth. Women are recognised to play a key role in changing the mindset and attitudes at the community level, through leading by example and demonstrating what can work.

Investing in education on sustainability and the SDGs is a key action, countries should take in order to contribute to positive changes towards a healthy planet. It was noted that schools have the opportunity to influence not only their students, but also students' families. Comprehensive and cross-cutting environmental education require the development (or revision) of environmental education curricula and training modules, adapted to the context of a country. Specific educational initiatives include promoting activities such as tree planting, home gardening, community awareness, traditional practices and community watch in schools, and on-site educational events in protected areas. A potential policy is quotas for women at university in order to build gender-balanced participation and representation in ecological decision making.

Awareness building is needed to catalyse behavioural change. Specific initiatives include: (i) the use of campaigns on public transport, television, social media and documentaries to raise people's awareness regarding environmental issues and the importance of protecting nature, implemented in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organisations, schools, universities and community-based organisations; (ii) **promoting the role of digital media (in particular social media) in disseminating and promoting nature conservation and climate change concepts and campaigns, to facilitate effective and quick access to the population;** (iii) improved sensitisation of actions that need to be adopted at the individual level compatible with an eco-friendly lifestyle, e.g., use of refill products, home gardening and avoidance of food wastage and micro-plastics; (iv) the creation of 'communication bridges' between different hard

hit groups; and, (v) competitions between neighbourhoods, schools, universities, towns with the provision of awards and grants to create awareness, collaboration and build a healthier and cleaner environment.

Data, Research and Technology

There is a need to enhance data and analysis of the state and management of natural resources to inform decision making. Decisions need to be driven by scientific analyses and evidence, while the results of scientific research should be more transparent and available for all interested parties.

Suggested actions include: (i) development of a centralised digital system for monitoring purposes to enable coordination across various ministries and agencies and the provision of timely information for decision making; (ii) publishing the results of environmental and climate change projects in a single e-portal to ensure institutional memory; (iii) quantifying and valuing environmental damage, to support application of sanctions and/or tariffs related to the consumption or misuse of natural resources; (iv) development of integrated spatial planning incorporating nature conservation and carbon sinks (e.g., integrated land use plans, urban planning master plans and integrated water resource management (IWRM) plans); (v) strengthening land cadastre to generate data to aid decision makers; and, (vi) increased investment in research institutes to support knowledge-based policies.

Under LD1, stakeholders were also consulted on how disproportionally impacted groups could benefit from policies and initiatives designed to restore a more sustainable and resilient relationship with nature.

Disproportionally impacted groups are especially hard hit by the negative impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. They are typically more exposed to climate risks and nature degradation that other members of the population, and have limited adaptive options while also facing widening economic inequalities. Action against climate change and nature degradation is therefore also action for fairness and equality. However, it was noted that while indigenous communities can be considered vulnerable, their positive relationship with nature can be a source of wealth and well-being for them and their traditional knowledge contributes to the protection of nature.

Governance

Good governance is the fundamental means by which disproportionally impacted groups can benefit from environmental policies and initiatives. The interests of the hardest hit groups, including environmental human rights and other principles that provide protection and improved access, must be mainstreamed into policies and initiatives both at the design and implementation levels (Box 4.1). For example, policies on environmental protection, alternative and renewable energy, and development infrastructure should give due consideration to the needs of the most disproportionally impacted. To achieve this there is a need in many countries for policies, regulations and plans (including NDCs) to better articulate and reflect the needs of disproportionally impacted groups, including women, and for their impact to be monitored through tailored indicators. In general, policies, regulations, plans and development projects should be reviewed to ensure that the specific needs of disproportionally impacted groups are accounted for and inclusive, gender equal and participatory decision-making processes adopted. National policies and initiatives can promote inclusivity by deliberately targeting the hardest hit.

Box 4.1: Safeguarding the rights of people and nature

The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, is enshrined in resolution 48/13 of the United Nations Human Rights Council. To safeguard the rights of people, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and future generations, public policy and agencies must incorporate a rights-based approach in ecological and climate management. The resolution notes that 'environmental degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and un-sustainable development constitute some of the most pressing and serious threats to the ability of present and future generations to effectively enjoy all human rights'. As set out in the Resolution it is recognised that 'while the human rights implications of environmental damage are felt by individuals and communities around the world, the consequences are felt most acutely by women and girls and those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations, including indigenous peoples, children, older persons and persons with disabilities'

The national consultations highlight that environmental degradation, hunger, climate change and other crises that the planet is experiencing affect populations such as ethnic peoples, women, youth, as well as ecosystems and species in a differentiated manner, requiring tailored political approaches that effectively respond to specific contexts, needs and challenges. It is important to implement and enforce regulations and laws conferring rights of indigenous people and communities, that guarantee their territorial rights, recognise their role in the care of ecosystems and the planet, and strengthen their autonomy and self-government.

While women's rights are recognised by the international community, their implementation is hindered by, for example, socioeconomic constraints, legal barriers, gender-based violence and patriarchal norms and systems. Mechanisms to help secure women's rights and close gender gaps in the access to and control of resources include: (i) gender quotas to ensure women have a role in decision making; (ii) equitable land rights for women; (iii) support for women's collective action and platforms, especially for those living in rural areas, to exchange information and ideas, build partnerships and promote access to credit and land resources; and, (iv) increased women's involvement in reconciliation processes and crisis resolution.

Young people are an important part of society and key actors in the development process. It is therefore necessary to provide them with: (i) an appropriate framework for expression to enable them to better refine their contribution to development; (ii) coaching to prepare them for positions of responsibility; (iii) an education and training system that allows them to access the labour and self-employment markets; and, (iv) intergenerational bridges to enable young people to become familiar with their future responsibilities.

The rights of future generations should not be compromised by current generations.

Specific policies and initiatives noted through the national consultations include:

- In the establishment and management of Protected Areas (PAs) it is critical to work with indigenous peoples and guarantee that laws do not affect the rights of the populations involved. Indigenous people must have the right to free, prior, and informed consent for any activities on indigenous land, and be equipped with the tools to oppose anything they disagree with.
- Social safety net programmes for people with disabilities, women, youth, widows, the elderly, refugees, internally displaced persons and other disproportionally impacted groups can ensure that no one is left behind and strengthen resilience to crises and shocks. Social protection measures can help people and communities absorb economic pressures and environmental shocks (such as harvest failures, soaring food prices, increased exposure to disease or loss of assets caused by floods and storms). It is noted that farmers and fishers require better livelihood protection guarantees in the form of insurance and other mechanisms from the impact of losses due to natural disasters such as flooding, tidal waves and climate-related productivity losses.
- Targeting of disproportionally impacted groups in development projects and upscaling of investments in communities that are particularly hard hit or at risk of being left behind.
- The availability of green spaces in urban areas and the importance of 'universal design' responding to the needs of all people at all stages of life are seen as important for the quality of life of all, especially disproportionally impacted groups.

Box 4.2: Promoting green jobs, sustainable livelihoods and benefit sharing

A critical challenge is the creation of green jobs and sustainable income-generating activities for disproportionally impacted groups to increase their resilience to shocks and raise the ecological stability of future generations.

Participants of the national consultations have shared the following suggestions to address the needs of disproportionally impacted groups when promoting green jobs:

i. Alternative livelihood activities *deliberately targeted* at hardest hit groups need to be promoted and supported with incentives and finance, land, housing and basic social services.

ii. Design and establishment of protected areas (PAs) must take into consideration the historic economic reliance and relationship that are held by local communities. There are instances where individuals and communities rely solely on ecosystem products for their livelihoods. In such cases, alternative livelihood opportunities must be made available to these communities in order for them to transition from potentially environmentally destructive practices into those that are more sustainable. People who live in ecologically sensitive areas or newly declared areas for conservation should be provided with alternative lands and/or alternative livelihoods.

iii. Disproportionally impacted groups may not have similar levels of skills, and community initiatives may suffer from elite capture by influential members. Hence, some activities that specifically benefit the disproportionally impacted, like village or youth savings and loan associations, and women- and youthled green enterprises should be considered.

iv. Ensuring food security for the poorest was emphasised.

v. Disproportionally impacted communities need to be empowered through capacity building and training, e.g., special training for women in rural areas and youth.

Equality and Inclusivity

As noted through the national consultations, the active involvement of disproportionally impacted groups in decision making is essential; there must be a participatory, gender responsive and inclusive co-design of policies, plans and projects. A bottom-up approach should be promoted that captures ancestral knowledge, cultural factors and traditional governance systems and empowers communities and groups, including youth, women, people with disabilities, refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDP). LGBTQI+ persons require greater inclusion of these groups in decision making and recognition of their experiences in society.

Experience has shown that engaging disproportionally impacted groups and communities in planning allows them to directly inform the identification and implementation of options that will be best suited to their particular circumstances and needs. The importance of integrating the knowledge and experience of the hardest hit groups and communities in adaptation planning and implementation and mitigation plans was highlighted. **Local communities possess rich knowledge of the local environment and have extensive experience**

and expertise in dealing with environmental change that provide an important basis for effective climate change adaptation actions. Integrating the knowledge of the indigenous peoples and local communities also helps acknowledge their role as knowledge holders and their rights.

Specific actions to promote the engagement of disproportionally impacted groups have been suggested, including: (i) the creation of national, regional and/or community multi-stakeholder platforms for the protection and preservation of the environment; (ii) joint projects with university research departments to ensure that projects respond to their needs; (iii) the translation of policy documents and strategies into local languages to ensure they are accessible to all; and, (iv) the development of communication strategies considering all disproportionally impacted people.

Box 4.3: Supporting people with disabilities

People with disabilities can be disproportionally impacted by climate change and natural disasters. Environmental degradation and pollution can more severely affect their health. Specific initiatives to support people with disabilities include: (i) climate and environmental information should be specifically tailored for particular groups of disabled people (e.g., information in braille for people with poor vision); (ii) sustainable housing needs to be tailored for people with disabilities. This could include the installation of self-sustained energy systems (i.e., solar panels) and energy efficient infrastructure (i.e., insulation); and, (iii) early warning systems should consider the needs of people with disabilities.

Finance

Some of the most disproportionally impacted groups rely on agriculture including livestock, fisheries, and natural resources for their livelihoods. However, these socioeconomic activities are considered high risk by the banking sector and access to credit and finance is challenging. Specific finance policies and structures are needed for disproportionally impacted groups.

Specific suggestions include: (i) access to credit and finance for disproportionally impacted groups need to be supported through dedicated and targeted funding and credit mechanisms. For example, providing subsidies and/or grants to enable them to engage in renewable energy generation, such as solar power; (ii) making disproportionally impacted groups partners in restoration and sustainable ecosystem management initiatives with appropriate benefit-sharing mechanisms, including through PES schemes; (iii) providing a marketplace for excess home-grown products through appropriate partnerships that benefit disproportionally impacted groups; and, (iv) empowering the most disproportionally impacted to have increased access to climate and biodiversity finance and other global and national finance mechanisms for environment-friendly entrepreneurship.

Digital Transformation, Data, Science and Research

In some countries there is insufficient information on the geographical location or pockets of disproportionally impacted groups, how they are impacted by ecosystem degradation and how they participate and benefit from ecosys-

tem restoration. To address these challenges the following ideas have been shared:

- Comprehensive identification and impact mapping of disproportionally impacted groups. The hardest hit groups often live in regions exposed to climate change impacts such as flooding and sea-level rise. Geographical mapping will help to identify priority regions for urgent adaptation infrastructure and target measures that will help to avoid damages from extreme events.
- More sex disaggregated and gender responsive data on the consequences of climate change and nature degradation on men and women and other intersecting forms of identity.
- A systematic methodology for capturing and reporting data related to CSO activities to inform programmes and policies and ensure disproportionally impacted groups have access and opportunities to participate in and benefit from sustainability initiatives.
- Support for academic institutions to undertake research on, for example, how climate change affects children and future generations, how to promote the contribution of women to environmental protection, crop vulnerability and how nature-based solutions can support disproportionally impacted groups.

The consultations also covered the need for new and prioritised metrics and indicators to track progress towards a healthier and more prosperous planet.

The limitations of GDP as the headline metric of a country's level of development and progress were noted in the national consultation. There is a need to change what we measure to reflect human and social objectives more accurately, for instance moving from GDP to metrics that explain overall well-being such as happiness, healthcare, education quality and social welfare (such as Gross National Happiness (GNH)). It is necessary to include filters of social equity and socioecological resilience in economic and well-being analyses, to evaluate the trade-offs and opportunity costs of the solutions that are designed.

There is a number of international and national programmes with defined metrics to track progress towards a healthier and more prosperous planet, such as the SDGs and Agenda 2030. However, tracking their progress faces a range of challenges and limitations. The SDGs include a broad set of indicators which governments should internalise in national policy frameworks for a healthier and prosperous planet. However, the SDGs are considered too complicated for most people to understand or remember and simpler metrics are needed. Furthermore, SDGs metrics and indicators are viewed as too broad and not necessarily offering the best reflection of progress on sustainable development at national or local levels. They need to be adapted/tailored to national contexts (which has occurred in some countries) and harmonised with national indicators. It is noted that indicators need institutional recognition and validation in order to have a real policy impact.

Data availability and the difficulty of collecting data are key challenges. There is a lack of up-to-date data and technical information on the environment, which prevents a clear picture on the state of the environment. Often the collection of environmental data at the local level is only undertaken on an intermittent basis, usually supported by project specific financing. Unlike economic and social data environmental data is not standardised, and

requires a greater level of systematic organisation and standardisation in terms of collection and processing.

In addition to refining GDP as a measure of progress and ensuring that adequate budget be made available for monitoring, the national consultations suggest a number of areas of improvement, including:

- Supporting a number of practices/tools, such as: (i) **natural capital accounting,** to set out environment-economy linkages and changes in stocks of natural capital overtime; (ii) **Climate Budget Tagging** and a broader **SDG Budget Tagging** by public and private sectors to track the needs, allocation and the gaps of climate and sustainable development spending; and, (iii) Well-Being Index and Genuine Progress Index (GPI) as new metrics for measuring the prosperity of people and planet.
- Setting up a transparent national/public accounting systems and databases to facilitate the prioritisation of actions and funding allocations, supported by a range of institutions and organisations, including taking advantage of Measurement Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems established to report progress on national climate pledges.
- Creating a government body, including academics, whose mission would be to collect the data necessary to analyse the actions needed to achieve sustainable development.
- Building the capacity of the stakeholders to measure and monitor indicators. Communities and disproportionally impacted groups should be involved in the development and monitoring indicators. Investments in citizen science can help address data issues and empower communities to generate knowledge from their indigenous knowledge systems.
- Stricter and mandatory reporting by the private sector on their environmental impacts and sustainability reporting.
- Local governments play an important role in the implementation of the SDGs and progress towards a healthier planet and there is a need to strengthen vertical cooperation (between municipalities and national authorities) and support monitoring the progress achieved at the local level.
- Financial and technical support is needed to build the capacity and ICT infrastructure of statistical offices and other data collection agencies along with strengthened partnerships with ICT service providers and automated data generation to improve efficiency and coverage. Capacity should include proactive use of novel data sources such as satellite imagery and other big data, as well as advanced data analytics including the use of Artificial Intelligence and machine learning.

4.2 Leadership Dialogue 2. Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

Under LD2, stakeholders discussed the most promising sustainable and inclusive recovery practices currently being applied by public, private and civil society groups at individual, community, city, regional and country level; also how they could be scaled up and what practices needed to change to ensure an inclusive and sustainable recovery.

The transformation to a climate-neutral and circular economy is seen as a key driver of job creation and economic growth. The most promising practices for a sustainable and inclusive recovery include: the move to sustainable energy practices (including ending the construction of fossil fuel power plants), resource efficiency initiatives, creation of innovative green jobs, accelerating the implementation of sustainable consumption and production (SCP)/circular economy, reduction in the consumption of plastics, incorporating and institutionalising best practices for sustainable urban development, improving value chain performance and revenues, mobilisation of financial resources for the research and development of value-added products, organic agriculture, green (public) procurement, energy labelling and eco-design frameworks, the provision of incentives (for local communities) to promote the conservation of natural resources and the fostering sustainable livelihood and economic opportunities from natural capital (e.g., from agroforestry, fish- and marine-based industries, ecotourism), the conservation of natural capital and promotion of nature-based solutions, increased transparency, fair competition and social responsibility. Key factors and initiatives that support implementation and scale-up of these practices are discussed below under the core themes of the national consultations.

Governance

There is a need for governments and NGOs to develop pre-emptive plans and strategies to deal with future crises. This should include just transition plans that identify key social and physical risks from climate change and the loss of nature and the actions required to build resilience to these risks, ensuring that the economy is flexible, adaptable and responsive to the changes. When designing recovery programmes and support activities, it is essential to focus on people and create opportunities for them to be resilient in the face of any future shocks. It is noted that Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) (5-year plans) and Long-Term Strategies (LTS) (20-30 years plans) can serve as building blocks to integrate ambitious climate action and COVID-19 recovery to build back better. NDCs that are aligned to governments' national development plans and the Sustainable Development Goals can stimulate economic growth, technology transformation, just transition, job creation and address gender and social inequalities that are critical for recovery. Strategies that encourage the production and consumption of local products to reduce reliance on imports, and embody decent prices for entrepreneurs and consumers, are needed. Furthermore, governments should establish a system to compensate the negatively affected and hardest hit employees of future crisis.

Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) should be made mandatory for all businesses and financial institutions. At the same time, a clear regulatory environment for business is needed to encourage sustainable investments. In many countries there is a need to enhance the policies and procedures to make it easier for companies to do business and reduce transaction costs. The private sector and CSOs often find government processes too cumbersome, and in some cases difficult to comply with given the many overlapping regulations and requirements. In some countries, regulatory changes and improvements in energy grid capacity and stability are required in order to promote energy efficiency and wider application of renewable energy at municipal and industry levels. Governments should lead by example, for instance by

instituting green procurement across the public sector. As discussed throughout the national consultation reports, improved monitoring and enforcement mechanisms are needed in order to improve compliance with national environmental regulations.

Fiscal and monetary tools should be used to incentivise green businesses and penalise unsustainable practices (e.g., subsidies or the facilitation of credits, carbon taxes, adoption of social cost pricing and the polluter pays principle) and promote equality. To minimise risks for the private sector and encourage up-scaling and replication governments can support promising start-ups, pilot projects and Public Private Partnerships (PPP).

Employment is key to improving the well-being of the population, including the most disproportionally impacted groups. The recovery of economic activity after the pandemic, provides the opportunity to focus on expanding and creating green jobs in sectors such as agriculture, energy, tourism, transport, construction, IT, the creative economy, manufacturing and waste recycling. There is a need to identify and support alternative sustainable modes of income generation, especially for occupations that have a high impact on natural resources.

National governments have a role to play in generating and **disseminating information** on, for example: (i) analytical studies that sensitise the private sector and citizens about the environmental impacts of investments and projects on natural resources and the environment; (ii) a country's progress towards the achievement of the SDGs and national development priorities to make visible opportunities for the private sector; and, (iii) sharing success stories and evidence (in collaboration with the private sector) to show the benefits of green business.

Equality and Inclusivity

The need for ongoing actions supporting inclusivity was mentioned by most countries – many of these actions are discussed under LD1 above. It was noted that women's groups adopted new types of livelihoods during the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, related to tourism, seed and food trade, traditional medicine and the manufacture of sanitary kits (e.g., hydroalcoholic gels, masks and soaps). Furthermore, there are examples of local youth groups using the COVID-19 lockdown to increase agricultural production and expand ecosystem and biodiversity conservation. Such initiatives can be scaled up with the support of the government and relevant development partners.

To ensure an inclusive recovery the following needs were identified:

- Inclusion of all stakeholders in decision-making processes, bearing in mind that some groups are affected differently and disproportionally by the pandemic.
- Mechanisms to mitigate the adverse effects of the economic crisis on the livelihoods of the hardest hit by economic inequality. For example, adaptation of wage assistance schemes and welfare benefits for better equity and inclusiveness.
- Closer collaboration with communities and support to community-led initiatives through funding opportunities (e.g., loans for disproportionally impacted groups to support their investment in the agricultural sector and ensure a sustainable income), capacity building and creating an enabling environment through specific legal frameworks.
- Special consideration to MSMEs, especially those led by youth and women, through fi-

nancial and technological support (including incentives).

- Equal access to internet, digital technologies, digital banking.
- An increase in the number of green spaces and their accessibility, especially for senior members of communities and people with disabilities.

Finance

Governments to varying degrees rolled out fiscal stimulus measures to support disproportionally impacted groups and assist the recovery of economic activities during the pandemic. These included cash transfers, extended social security unemployment benefits, loans and deferred tax payments for businesses, travel subsidies and funding for medical services**.** Financing from international institutions, such as the World Bank, also supported recovery efforts. Going forward it is key to increase investments supporting a green transition, strengthen the role of private sector, and create more jobs. Protecting nature and scaling-up nature-based solutions to build resilience and reduce climate risks will require catalytic investments in sectors with high green growth multiplier effects such as agriculture, energy, industry, transport and green cities.

It is recognised that national budgets are limited and innovative sustainable financing mechanisms need to be explored such as carbon tax, payments for ecosystem services, green bonds, and climate and nature funds.

Private Sector

Transition to a zero-carbon, sustainable circular economy requires effective private sector engagement across value chains, and massive investment in clean technologies and innovation, to serve as a strong driver of job creation, job upgrading, social justice and poverty eradication through climate-resilient economic growth.

Promising initiatives include: (i) promoting 'zero waste' small and medium-sized businesses, including in the service sector; (ii) partnerships with the banking sector to boost investment in sustainable and inclusive economy; and, (iii) incorporation of ESG principles into business models.

Capacity

A sustainable and inclusive recovery requires institutionalising and promoting best practices via awareness, education and capacity building. Specific needs identified include: (i) enhancing capacity of governments to address the multidimensional risks by integrating climate and disaster risk reduction considerations into project appraisal and public investment; (ii) technical support and training programmes on the use of innovative technologies; (iii) increasing the capacity of institutions to comply with multilateral environmental treaties; and, (iv) inclusive vocational education aimed at building a workforce committed to achieving sustainable development.

Digital Transformation, Data, Science and Research

Investments in digital infrastructure, access to new digital technology and digital literacy.

The emergence of a 'digital lifestyle' during COVID-19 lockdown in the areas of education, commerce, government services, and food and medicine delivery marked a shift for many individuals and organisations. Teleworking ensured continuity for private, public and government institutions during the pandemic,

while substantially reducing greenhouse gas emissions related to transport, and is seen as a sustainable recovery practice that should be continued where possible. However, it is apparent that given that vulnerable people tend to lack digital connectivity, access to technology or digital literacy, the digital divide reinforces the vulnerability of those people. For example, during COVID-19 it prevented many students from pursuing their education when schools adapted to offering online lessons, and many patients from receiving their treatment.

There are many benefits to digitisation. Ongoing efforts toward digital connectivity and digitising essential services offered by the government, local authorities and other ICT innovations, are seen as a means of increasing productivity, addressing the challenges brought on by the pandemic and fast-tracking economic recovery. Digital transformation across the value chain of sectors such as agriculture/agribusiness, clean energy, waste management, manufacturing and transport is considered a key driver of income generation, green job creation and transition to a green, inclusive economy. Digital technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), drones and supply chain traceability systems contribute to analytics and automation for resource efficiency. Digital tools are also important for broader communication reach and inclusivity. Digital inclusion, combined with financial inclusion (cash transfer, access to finance), can increase job or livelihood opportunities, and facilitate access to market or local market creation. This is especially relevant in SIDS and countries where a large population lives disbursed in rural areas or remote islands.

The following needs related to digitisation for an inclusive recovery were identified:

- While digital transformation of the government and green sectors pose a promising opportunity, this must be underpinned with a whole-of-society approach, ensuring no one is left behind while anticipating and mitigating unintended negative impacts of new technologies. Governments should promote digitalisation and internet access for all, especially in rural areas. General use of computer equipment, (i.e., laptops) can be enabled by incentives to ensure access to all, including for early warning systems. However, it is noted that generalising ICTs in all areas will be difficult in countries with low literacy rates.
- Government in partnership with the different organisations should invest in digital capacity coupled with infrastructure (connectivity, high computing infrastructure, devices). Governments and educational institutions need to invest more in online teaching mechanisms to be used in future crises and digital training for employees, students and teachers are needed to help them fulfil their tasks remotely. Digital capacity needs span from basic ICT, coding, AI/ML, remote sensing, modelling and simulation to e-commerce, which may need infrastructure investment. For example, the need for supercomputers to model the impacts of various environmental crises (climate change, loss of biological diversity, desertification, water stress, land degradation, etc.) was noted.
- Government should hardwire sustainability into digital platforms and algorithms through policies, regulations or technology governance to create more opportunities for green jobs and sustainable economy.
- Enhanced digital cooperation – sharing of data, digital technology transfer, skill and knowledge – is also crucial.

Under LD2 stakeholders discussed how to ensure that all countries and communities benefit from opportunities stemming from a sustainable and just transition.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change have highlighted the urgent necessity for a transition to a zero-carbon and circular economy, while eradicating poverty and guaranteeing sustainable socioeconomic development worldwide. This transition requires structural shifts in global, national and local economies, transforming different sectors such as energy production and consumption, agriculture, manufacturing industries, and mining. These structural changes cause direct and indirect impacts throughout national and global value chains, affecting workers, income, and communities, particularly those built around declining industries such as coal mining.

In line with previous discussions the following requirements were highlighted to ensure countries and communities benefit from opportunities stemming from a sustainable and just transition: (i) stronger governance systems at national and sub-national levels that ensure all policies, regulations actions are aligned with reducing gender and other social inequalities. The need to mainstream climate justice was noted; (ii) inclusive transition processes and participatory decision making; (iii) support for community finance such as grants and easy access to credit, especially for disproportionally impacted groups; (iv) capacity building and tailored training and education for all; and, (v) promotion of digital platforms and media to eliminate communication barriers and data coordination. Further specific points raised in the national consultations are provided below.

The role of the international community and access to donor finance was emphasised. Transition to a green, gender equal, inclusive and sustainable economy is a global issue. There is a need for an increase in the ambition of global environmental action, while ensuring that differences in national capacities and contexts are taken into account. International organisations play a crucial role in international cooperation. The current mechanisms, such as the Paris Agreement, should be leveraged to provide a framework for promoting financial and technical support among countries and a fair and transparent trade system. It is necessary to make a fair distribution of economic resources, concessional finance and technologies so that the countries least responsible for climate change can make a sustainable transition and meet social needs. Internationally, more financial and technology support is required from the haves for the have-nots. Stakeholders stressed the need to strengthen the negotiation capacities of developing country delegations to better understand and participate in the international fora dealing with environmental issues and advocate for their visions.

The need for easier and transparent access to international funding mechanisms, such as the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, was raised. Global funds should be well coordinated to ensure a fair distribution of global climate and development finance with no countries left behind. One policy does not fit all, so budgets and projects should take into consideration the cultural aspects of each country.

Technology development, transfer and knowledge sharing were also highlighted. Green technology development and transfer are necessary for developing countries to succeed in

their transition to low-carbon production and consumption. Enhanced international cooperation (North-South and South-South), partnerships and collaboration between countries are needed to share knowledge, experience and technology, and set up platforms to encourage sharing of experiences, uptake and replication of good sustainable recovery practices. The transfer of know-how should also include monitoring, reporting and verification systems needed to measure the degree of compliance with multilateral environmental agreements. Special efforts are required to ensure access to COVID-19 medication for all worldwide, at reduced cost.

Green job creation and capacity building. Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 8 implies that over 600 million new jobs need to be created by 2030 just to keep pace with the growth of the global working age population, which is about 40 million jobs per year.[14] The transition will bring new practices and jobs for which workers must be prepared, especially workers in the informal economy, indigenous and tribal peoples, women, youth, and small-scale farmers. Therefore, it is important that training, education and skills development programmes are developed for all people during the transition process. At the country level, conditions must be created to enable the generation of quality employment, accessible to all.

Jobs in farming, fishing, forestry and tourism, which provide employment for the majority of the population in developing countries, rely directly on the effective management and sustainability of a healthy environment. At the same time, retooling and reskilling of the labour force are urgent needs to support emerging green economic activities. For example, as countries move towards the increased adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and renewable energy generation, local mechanics and technicians need to be trained in, for example, how to repair and maintain EVs and install solar panels. The creation of green jobs in different sectors of the economy should be promoted through Public Private Partnerships, training and communication campaigns. Training should be targeted at groups most affected by the pandemic and young people to encourage their participation and allow them to benefit from the new green jobs.

LD2 discussed how to create better performing industries and supply chains for a just transition to more sustainable economies, and which sectors are the most critical. A range of sectors were identified as critical including agriculture, industry[15], health, energy, tourism, transport, mining, forestry, aquaculture, finance, education, waste and water.

Governance

A coherent country-specific mix of macroeconomic, industrial, sectoral and labour policies need to be promoted in order to create better performing industries and supply chains for a just transition to more sustainable economies. Legislative gaps were highlighted by some countries, for example, the need to: (i) promulgate a legal framework that gives the banking sector an important role in supporting the transition; (ii) legislation on environmental liabilities, mine closures or the responsible consumption of minerals; and, (iii) privacy and data governance laws conducive to digital

14 https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/sdg-2030/goal-8/lang--en/index.htm

15 Especially industries that use a lot of energy and water - steel and aluminium production, pipes and metal finishing industries, paper and pulp processing, fertilisers, paints, batteries, garment and textiles; detergents and pharmaceutical industries; food processing.

transformation. Incentives are also needed to encourage industries to green their production chains, invest in the transition to low-carbon production and source nearer from home to reduce dependency on imports. In terms of energy transition, participants stressed the need for an effective application of feed-in tariffs. The role of certification schemes that foster the development of cleaner industries (organic standards, ESR, sustainable fishing, among others) was also noted.

Private Sector

Industry can step up its economic, environmental and social responsibility by introducing sustainable practices, technologies and knowledge into its performance and supply chains. For example, by measuring their carbon and ecological footprint across their product's life-cycle, energy audits, the establishment of renewable energy production facilities; accommodating the costs of their externalities; adoption of strict environmental standards, and introducing enhanced traceability. They should also ensure a decent and safe work environment.

Education and Awareness

Ongoing efforts are needed to raise awareness among national economic actors about national and international regulatory frameworks and standards. Successful green business cases and benefits of investing in green businesses should be promoted based on proof of concept. At the same time, consumers need to be sensitised to the value and benefits of local green products.

Digital Transformation, Data, Science and Research

Technological innovation is key to a sustainable and just transition. Technology aligned with a circular economy has the potential to significantly increase production efficiency, minimise natural resource use and reduce emissions.

Digital technology can play a decisive role in creating business and supply chains that are more sustainable and efficient. It can be 'hardwired' towards sustainability outcomes via platforms and algorithms. This can help drive the systemic and digital innovations and transformations needed to achieve environmental sustainability. It was noted that digital technology should be deployed to manage carbon emissions across the supply chain, for example, companies should establish a carbon management system to track and calculate carbon emissions.

Box 4.4: Towards sustainable supply chains

Visible and traceable supply chains for goods and services from supplier to manufacturer to consumer, with the right data and control systems, make it easy to embed sustainability into the overall value chain. It also enables companies to undertake real time analysis and predictive problem solving amidst unexpected and unpredictable disruptions in the economy.

Better performing supply chains could be created through: (i) adopting ICT-based supply chains with information sharing systems and online platforms for networking, (ii) decentralising supply chain and ensuring fair trade terms for local producers; and, (iii) integrating with global/regional supply chains by removing regulatory and trade barriers.

In relation to **food systems**, an increased consumption of local products encourages the local economy and reduces environmental impacts. In some countries achieving food self-sufficiency requires improvements in supply chains including the availability of cold storage facilities, food processing for better shelf life and improved road networks to reduce incidents of perishable items being spoilt before reaching market due to weather conditions. Real-time data across the value chain is important to predict disruptions

Managing inventories to reduce waste is important, as well as generating efficient supply and marketing routes that reduce carbon footprints.

LD2 discussed the commitments and 'responsible' principles that need to be made by key industry sectors and by finance and investment institutions to achieve a sustainable and inclusive recovery. The guiding principles highlighted during the national consultations include: solidarity with future generations; safe, dignified and inclusive jobs; opportunities for community development; environmental responsibility; institutional transparency; circular economy, polluter pays principle, and the integration of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) policies.

While the specific role of governments (discussed above), industry and the financial sector were set out in the national consultations the need for collaboration across these groups is stressed. Governments, industry, and finance and investment institutions need to work together to promote ESG, corporate climate governance (CCG), improve environmental information disclosure and strengthen alignment with international best practices and methodologies. Investors need to adjust their investment strategies to accommodate longer-term lifecycles of (some) green investments. The role of key industry sectors, finance and investment institutions is elaborated on below.

For key industrial sectors, while there is a general shift towards responsible businesses guided by the 3Ps (Planet, People, Profit), a number of challenges remain, including: (i) the low awareness of companies vis-à-vis environmental challenges that hinders the introduction of 'responsible' principles by businesses and finance/investment institutions; (ii) limited dialogue among businesses and environmental professionals; and, (iii) in some instances a business culture of hiding/ignoring problems and talking only about success and not failures hinders the development of responsible companies.

Actions for industry include:

- Comply with laws and regulations on the social and environmental responsibility and proactively accept different voluntary agreements and international standards that support sustainable development, resource efficiency and transition to circular business models.
- Establish Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), HSE standards and ESG reporting.
- Internalise environmental impacts and commit to care for the environment. Circular economy and sustainability principles should be integrated into all business models, production processes and projects, including: reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions and environmental footprint, improving waste management (including waste separation, reuse and recycling) and eco-design. Businesses should adopt social cost-benefit analyses frameworks that incorporate their impacts on environment and society to guide business development and investments.
- Invest in areas that can accelerate the transition to sustainable production and consumption.
- Support communities located in areas of their business activity and promote inclusivity through CSR programmes and other means, with special attention to gender equality issues, young people and minority and disproportionally impacted groups.

Businesses need to give back through incentive programmes that link to community development initiatives. Industries, such as tourism, fisheries, extractives and energy need to co-operate more closely with local communities to increase economic opportunities and improve their lives while conserving the environment. **This can be achieved through: (i) corporate social responsibility initiatives; (ii) boosting local employment and green jobs through vocational training and capacity, particularly for youth and women; (iii) investing in the transformation of local businesses and supporting improvement of local economies; (iv) enabling MSMEs to join the value chains of large industries; (v) stimulating consumption of local produce; and, (vi) investing in ecosystems restoration and mitigation of negative social and environmental impacts.** There is a widespread support for industry to play a stronger role in youth access and participation through funding commitments, graduate trainee programmes, scholarships/short courses and conferences.

Financial Institutions should only support projects which generate a positive impact on the environment; they should restrain from supporting projects that are detrimental to the environment, e.g., energy production from fossil fuels. This requires the incorporation of ESG issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes[16]. It is noted that financial institutions can increase their competitiveness and access to international partners through the adoption of environment and social indicators (in addition to financial indicators). There is a need to build 'green' capacity in financial institutions to better support projects and initiatives that are part of the transition to sustainable production and consumption.

16 Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria are a set of standards for a company's behaviour used by socially conscious investors to screen potential investments. They include corporate policies addressing climate change, as well as relationships with employees, suppliers, customers, and the communities. ESG also deals with a company's leadership, executive pay, audits, internal, control and shareholder rights.

Financial support needs to be more inclusive, to ensure that finance is available to those who need it most, especially disproportionally impacted groups, to increase prosperity at all levels. Banks should make their products more accessible and facilitate investment in projects presented by youth, women, and other groups, which typically face constraints in accessing credit or financial services. Finance and investment institutions are urged to support 'green' actions by small and medium-sized enterprises.

Lending practices should consider longer periods of returns and preferential interest rates to allow for scaling up green enterprises and investments. Financial institutions should also promote and support innovative green financing initiatives such as green and blue bonds, with the support of multilateral development banks.

Finally, institutional investors, such as pension and insurance funds, need to step-up and play a bigger role in the provision of medium-term and long-term capital for green financial solutions, and include stronger environmental and social requirements.

The national consultations identified **the decent green jobs of the future, the new skills needed to benefit from these jobs, and what is needed from business, governments and academia to accelerate the uptake of these jobs.**

The International Labor Organisation (ILO) defines green jobs as 'decent jobs in any economic sector, contributing to the preservation, restoration and improvement of the quality of the environment. They reduce the impact of businesses and economic sectors on the environment, by promoting the efficient use of energy, raw materials and water, decarbonising the economy, limiting greenhouse gas emissions, minimising or avoiding all forms of waste and pollution, protecting or restoring ecosystems and biodiversity, and enabling adaptation to the effects of climate change.'

A global transition to a low-carbon and sustainable economy can create large numbers of green jobs across key economic sectors (e.g., renewable energy, buildings and construction, transportation, industry, agriculture, tourism, and forestry) and become an engine for development in rural areas. Box 4.5 provides an overview of green jobs cited in the national consultations. Countries and companies should be active partners in this transition or risk being left behind.

The transition to green jobs will require agility, innovation and creativity. Ongoing capacity building, skills transfer, training, study tours and exchanges are needed to develop and upscale expertise in core areas. Unless this transition is carefully and responsibly managed, there is a real potential for stranded assets, communities, and workers, as well as the risk of exacerbating the social exclusion of the poorest and most disproportionally impacted. This transition is not only about phasing out polluting and unsustainable activities in various sectors, but also about diversifying local economies, generating new jobs, industries, services and skills, all of which require new types of investment and accompanying policies.

The application of local knowledge, valuing local products and identifying appropriate technology are all highlighted as important means of strengthening the capability and skills of local communities, particularly women and disproportionally impacted groups, to generate income from, for example, agriculture, forestry and community-based tourism.

The **key role of governments** is to develop a conducive environment for the creation of green jobs through, for example:

- Provision of **policies** supporting labour inclusion, job security, adequate compensation and dignity of labour. Green jobs should be integrated into national employment plans and recognised as priorities within strategic policy documents such as NDCs and LTSs.
- Development of appropriate **regulatory frameworks and guidelines** to support the just transition to green practices. For example, in the construction sector, regulations and guidelines are needed to comply with the green building rating system. Policies and regulation should ensure jobs comply with the labour and human rights of all social groups.
- Ending subsidies that harm nature and people, and creation of incentives for investments in new green technologies and sustainable production methods and enterprises.
- Creation of Public Private Partnerships to provide economic incentives and green jobs opportunities.
- Setting precedents, for example, through the green public procurement systems.
- Supporting training in green jobs. For sectors without established domestic industries, the government could seek support from bilateral and multilateral development partners and arrange apprenticeship programmes with reputed firms outside the country. On return from these apprenticeship programmes, the youth could be provided with low interest start-up funds to begin their own enterprises.
- Equipping primary, secondary and higher education institutions with curricula, tools, laboratories and workshops adapted to 'green' professions.
- Funding research on innovative approaches and solutions to protect the environment mitigate impacts of climate change and manage climate risks.
- Promoting green jobs and defining the concepts of 'green and blue economies' in order to catalyse action. A social dialogue on green jobs needs to be encouraged. For example, governments and private sector need to inform the population on what green jobs are, how to get engaged in green jobs, and what are the avenues to transition out of careers that are not aligned with sustainable growth. Best practices and profitable green business models need to be shared between countries and public and private sectors, and with civil society.
- Developing national coordination bodies involving, for example, Ministries of Labor, NGOs, private companies and educational institutions, to collaborate on identifying skill gaps, affordable technology that can be sustained by communities, individuals and businesses, and the development of curricula and upskilling programmes.

Role of Academia. To ensure that young people coming out of education are well prepared for the green jobs of the future, a significant overhaul of the education system is required at all levels to develop the skills and expertise required, tailored to national contexts. Sustainability should be an integral part of education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

Universities should adapt curricula to align with new green jobs and strengthen the capacity of trainers and supervisors delivering related courses. New training courses will be needed to develop green professionals and entrepreneurs. Upskilling should also be made accessible through technical and vocational education and trainings, so that electricians, engineers, environmentalists and many other specialists are able to build their knowledge and capacity, for example, on renewable energy technology and waste management initiatives. Creation of green job vocational schools and focused scholarships on, for example, coral monitoring, tree planting, aquaculture and sustainable agriculture can also support the development of new skill sets.

Promotion of scientific and academic research is also essential for the development of innovative solutions for sustainability, as well as for access to new green jobs. Academia can increase research on, for example, alternative income generating opportunities for fishermen and farmers, developing eco-friendly packaging for the export of agriculture products and identifying native plants that can be consumed as an alternative to consumption of imported vegetables. Coordination across academic institutions should be strengthened to ensure participation of all institutions, avoid duplication and promote synergies across different projects/programmes.

Businesses have a key role in promoting and integrating new green jobs into their operations and in developing expertise. Business should support upskilling by investing in workforce training, learning courses, and local programmes. Green jobs can be promoted through support to innovative eco-friendly alternatives, e.g., in the fashion and design industry, plastic packaging, organic farming, composting, and implement sustainable projects and processes, to name a few.

Box 4.5: A non-exhaustive illustration of potential green jobs highlighted during the national consultations

Agriculture: manufacture of organic fertilisers, drip systems, solar panels, improved seeds; urban or vertical farming using a combination of innovative architecture and agricultural technology to grow crops in cities; organic and climate-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral activities; regenerative agriculture, beekeeping, agroecological gardens, food processing.

Blue economy: marine energy-based renewables, marine conservation, marine ecotourism, fisheries, aquaculture, fish processing.

Building sector/infrastructure: eco-builder, energy-efficient renovation of buildings; resilient infrastructure development and installation.

Creative industries: sustainable fashion designer, artist (e.g., using plastic waste).

Forestry: nursery agent for reforestation, forest and agroforestry managers/technicians, sustainable land management, agroforestry, agroecology, pharmacopoeia, valorisation of non-wood forest products, production of seedlings.

Health: care providers; environmental health and safety.

IT: professionals of information system management and technologies, e-commerce, online education, remote sensing, drone engineers, early warning systems.

Professional services/general: sustainability expert, low carbon expert, environmental scientist, nature monitor, green engineering, environmental auditor, eco-architects, environmental lawyers, environmental economists, micro-enterprises in nature-based solutions; sustainable/carbon finance experts, environmental and social assessment experts, experts in adaptation and mitigation techniques in various sectors, corporate social and sustainability responsibilities, ESG monitoring and reporting, data analysis, climate change research, communications experts.

Renewable energy: jobs related to the design, manufacture (engineers), maintenance, distribution and installation of renewables (solar, wind, hydro, biogas and biofuels), energy auditors.

Transport and sustainable cities: electric vehicle engineer, experts in sustainable cities and transportation, sustainable urban planners, experts in rainwater systems, sustainable sanitation, waste management.

Tourism: ecotourism related jobs.

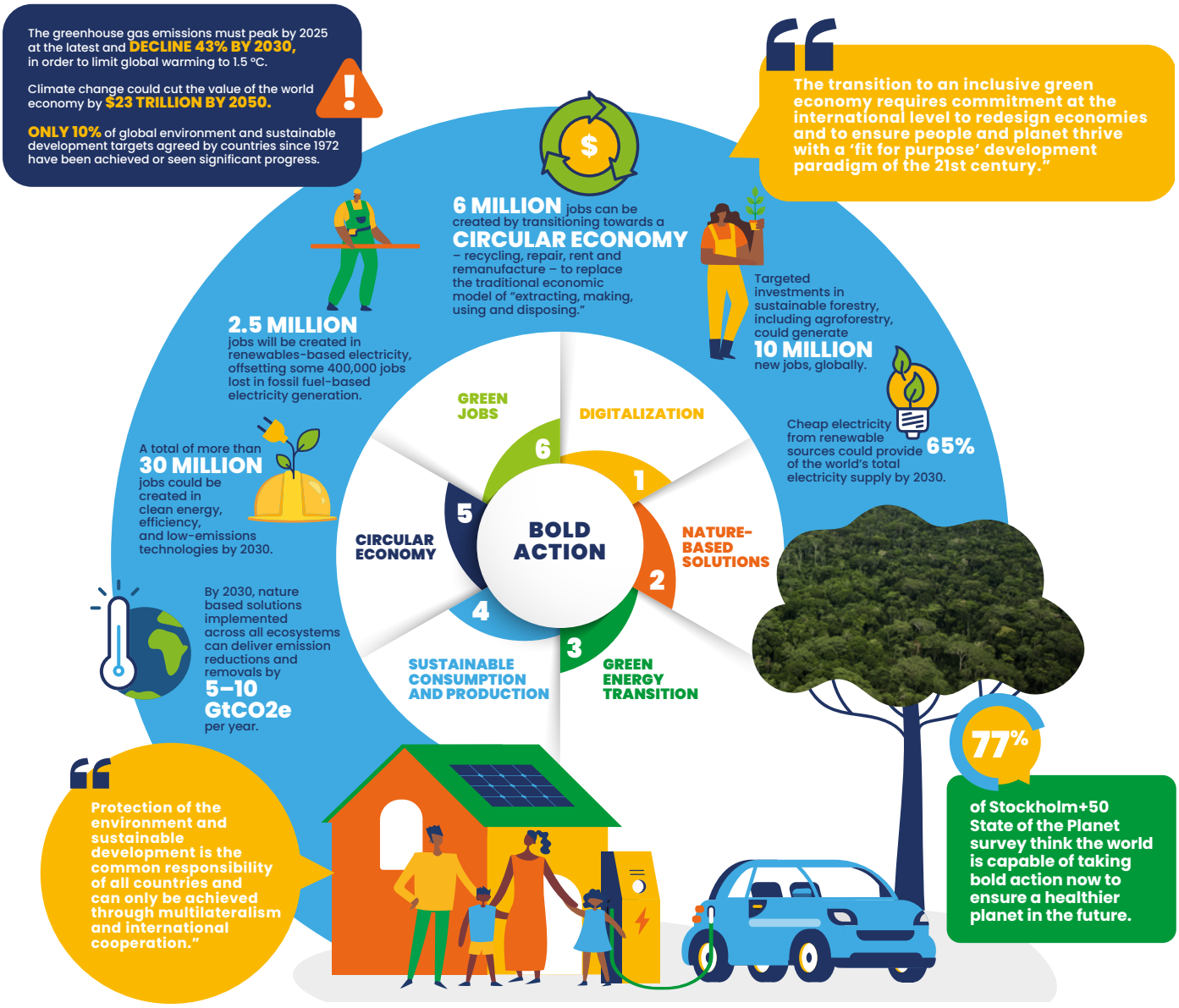
Waste: recycler, recycling plant technician; waste and recycling manager; waste valorisation experts, manufacture of biodegradable packaging.

Water: jobs in integrated water resources management, river management.

Urgency of Bold Action on Climate and Nature

KEY MESSAGES

1. Countries expect Stockholm+50 to deliver on its recommendations and commitments through **bold transformative follow-up action** and **fair and effective multilateralism.**
2. Countries stress the need for **strong drivers of economic transformation** and a greener, healthier development paradigm. This includes economic reforms; shifting investment flows toward sustainable consumption and production and circularity; reducing the environmental footprint from high-impact sectors such as food, energy, extractives, tourism, transport, and infrastructure; and adjusting national targets and metrics. A global transition to a zero-carbon and sustainable economy is an opportunity to create many **green jobs** in renewable energy, buildings and construction, transport, industry, agriculture, tourism, and forestry, which serve as an engine for development in rural areas.
3. **Digitalisation and green technologies** are key accelerators for inclusive sustainable development, and need to be developed, promoted, and made accessible to all.



Sources: UNDP State of the Planet Survey (2022); SEI & CEEW Unlocking a better future (2022); United Nations Environment Programme and International Union for Conservation of Nature (2021); Swiss Re Group: Mitigating Climate Risks (2021); ITU: Measuring digital development Facts and Figures (2021); IEA: Net Zero by 2050: A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector (2021); UNECE and FAO: Green Jobs in the Forest Sector (2018); ILO: World Employment and Social Outlook (2018); International Renewable Energy Agency: World Energy Transitions Outlook: 1.5°C Pathway, (2022).

4.3 Leadership Dialogue 3. Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the Decade of Action

Under Leadership Dialogue 3 the national consultations highlighted the biggest challenges facing the implementation of the commitments to the 2030 Agenda and other commitments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and how an enabling environment for delivery on the ground could be created. The national consultations identified good practices and pathways that could be scaled up to accelerate the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the Decade of Action.

Humanity has been facing multiple interlinked environmental, social, economic and health challenges – the climate change crisis, pollution, biodiversity loss and the extinction of species, deforestation, land degradation, increased incidents of environmental disasters, widening gaps between rich and poor, backlash to women's rights, lack of decent jobs and new emerging zoonotic diseases. The complexity and difficulties of addressing these challenges are compounded by the urgent need for action and the current fragility of the global economy. As outlined in the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, there is very little time to implement measures to mitigate climate change. There is a high dependence on hydro-carbons, and short-term challenges around phasing-out coa, e.g., stranded assets, interlinkages across different industries, and disruptions in the socioeconomic structure of already vulnerable areas. The limited time left to avert the worst impacts of global warming means that the timeline for developing and mainstreaming mitigation technology is also very tight and further complicated by weak technology transfer mechanisms. Progress to date is too slow and, in some instances, moving in the wrong direction.

The current global economic crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine is resulting in increased poverty and food insecurity and hence a focus on survival issues with climate change and nature being seen as less of a priority. This calls into doubt the ability of countries to meet SDG 2 to end hunger in all its forms by 2030 and to achieve food security. It is also harder to pivot from short-term thinking to long-term planning when people have immediate urgent basic needs and the recurring climate, disaster, and financial shocks are leading countries to focus on emergencies as opposed to long-term development plans. Accelerating sustainable development will require asking difficult questions and revolutionising many aspects of society, including political systems, the economy and educational reform. Minor changes to the status quo will not provide the momentum needed to address the existential crisis faced by humanity.

Specific challenges by core area noted in the national consultations and examples of good practices and pathways to create an enabling environment to deliver on the ground are summarised below; they align with points raised under the other sections of the national consultations.

Governance

Governance challenges include a lack of political will (ownership), corruption, the insurgence of armed conflicts, violent extremism and intercommunity conflicts in some countries. Weak domestic laws and regulations that do not align with international treaties

and insufficient alignment of public policies and practices with the commitments made to multilateral environmental treaties were noted. MEAs are considered to be too technical and high level and need to be translated and simplified so that communities, environmental organisations and individuals are able to understand and translate these commitments into actions. There is also a need to better align MEAs, including the Paris Agreement, the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to national frameworks so that they respond to the needs of countries. The SDGs and NDC targets are not yet sufficiently embedded in public and private strategies and planning and the voluntary nature of the global targets such as the SDGs hampers their implementation. Insufficient attention is being paid to the environment sector, with a lack of policies in key areas (e.g., related to desertification or the preservation of wetlands) and the process to approve policies is too long. Inconsistencies between long-term strategies and the government cycles result in recurring changes in priorities. There is a weak operationalisation at the national, regional, local and community levels and a lack of a shared vision on sustainable development. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are often ineffective and insufficient statistical data for monitoring the commitments of the 2030 Agenda and other environmental programmes also hinder progress.

To address these challenges there is a need to:

- Strengthen legal frameworks, for example; (i) strengthening sanctions and enforcement measures for environmental infractions and offenses; (ii) establishing a legal environment conducive to national and international investments; (iii) ensuring full engagement of local environmental legislative bodies and instruments, and the establishment of environmental courts.
- Develop policy through: (i) creation of a shared vision of a country's sustainable development, which is inclusive and reflects the concepts of a circular and zero-carbon economy; (ii) the establishment of a long-term overarching national framework for policy and planning to address current inconsistent, incoherent and politically inclined short-term policies; (iii) prioritising environment protection; and, (iv) reviewing and contextualising the SDGs and NDCs, through greater citizen participation.
- Restructure governance processes by decentralising power and providing bottom-up support to allow society to own the process and in order to better contextualise global goals.
- Strengthen and harmonise monitoring, evaluation and data management by: (i) supporting the national statistic systems to produce data for monitoring the commitments of the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement, and other environmental programmes; (ii) developing action plans with specific targets, in all sectors, with proper monitoring and evaluation to achieve timely delivery; (iii) building a broader knowledge base through policy research and knowledge networks; and, (iv) consolidating data and making it easily accessible.

Good practice pathways highlighted include: (i) enhanced regulatory frameworks to accelerate the transition to low-carbon production and consumption, reduce plastic pollution, and conserve natural resources; (ii) the development of strategic plans for reducing non-CO2 GHGs, and promotion of technologies to address HFCs and methane; and, (iii) creation of national SDG reporting platforms to facilitate monitoring of SDGs.

Equality and Inclusivity

In line with discussion in others sections of the national consultations, to promote inclusivity there is a need to: (i) collaboratively design actions and activities with communities, ensuring participation by women, and support and scale-up local initiatives in cities and rural areas (e.g., projects aimed at greening cities, preserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable practices and behaviours such as waste sorting and recycling); (ii) create sustainable livelihoods compatible with a green economy; (iii) promote local and traditional and indigenous know-how; (iv) ensure that people with disabilities are fully considered in policies and actions; (v) undertake community outreach to increase awareness on environmental issues and policies, build trust and empower communities; (vi) develop and adopt appropriate and inclusive technologies for people living in poverty and disproportionally impacted groups; (vii) practise participatory design, implementation and evaluation of public policies that promote sustainable development; and, (viii) provide evidence-based policy advice to assess the impact of economic and environmental policies and practices on local development sectors and communities, including on particular groups such as rural women, indigenous peoples, youth and people with disabilities.

Coordination and collaboration

A coherent, coordinated and comprehensive multilateral system and improved cooperation among countries and development partners are crucial if the current unsustainable global trajectory is to be averted. However, the national consultations noted a lack of solidarity and partnership between developed and developing nations, and weakening multilateralism due to the polarisation of powerful nations and proliferation of armed conflicts around the world. The leveraging of global, South-South, and triangular cooperation is essential to facilitate the implementation of environmental commitments, including the SDGs and support a level playing field for all countries. Developing countries require financing, technology transfer and capacity building to achieve sustainable development. A cross-sector and collaborative approach from public and private sector are also needed to scale up and accelerate progress towards the SDGs,

Finance

The **lack of finance** to implement commitments is a critical constraint. Actions and activities identified under MEAs are costly, and external finance and technical resources are required to implement them in most countries. However, there are insufficient flows of finance from developed countries. A common view is that developed countries polluting the most should provide sufficient and unconditional funding for adaptation to vulnerable countries contributing the least GHG emissions. The international community should respect its financial commitments, for example, under the Paris Agreement on climate change; if these commitments are not fulfilled it will be difficult for developing countries to take meaningful action and scale-up sustainable practices. While funding commitments are made internationally, there is no assurance on the success of individual countries availing these funds and, as a consequence, programmes and projects are often implemented in an ad hoc manner as and when funds become available instead of being planned and implemented holistically. Furthermore, the cumbersome and often com-

plex processes required to access committed international funds act as a deterrent for countries and more flexible terms are therefore needed.

Other **challenges include: (i) high levels of external debt and limited fiscal space to invest in transformational development programmes; (ii) resources for environmental protection / sustainable development are mainly from the public sector and mobilising private capital at scale remains a challenge. It is critical to find ways of unlocking private sector finance to support the transition to an inclusive sustainable economy; (iii) it is difficult to design climate bankable projects/ programmes; and, (iv) weak human, technical and technological resource capacity in the design and mobilisation of financial resources.**

To create an enabling environment on the ground, there is a need to develop financing mechanisms and mobilise external and internal financial resources to support the transition to low-carbon production and consumption. Actions and needs identified include:

- Review and revise budget allocations to support sustainable development. National budgets should be inclusive of all sectors and take into account priority groups such as women, youth and persons with disabilities.
- Refine and upscale incentives for households and the private sector to motivate further investment in energy efficient, nature-based solutions and management of ecosystems, waste and water management, in line with the NDC targets and SDGs.
- Promote responsible businesses and the development of micro-enterprises and start-ups to encourage the transition towards sustainable production and consumption;
- Consider debt cancellation mechanisms, that allow developing countries to overcome the adversities brought about by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine, and free up funds for investments in climate and nature.

Good practice pathways include:

- A diversified sustainable finance approach, anchored in nationally-backed strategies such as NDCs, that combines public sector finance, private sector investments, PPP, innovative financing, market mechanisms and grants. Innovative finance mechanism include: (i) payment for ecosystem services; (ii) carbon pricing and carbon markets; (iii) emission trading systems (ETS); and, (iv) green bonds.
- Accreditation and certification of companies and sectors.
- The greening of companies to enable responsible production. For example, recruitment or conversion of staff into eco-entrepreneurs able to green their respective businesses or create eco-enterprises, supported through incentives for the first 2 to 5 years.
- Incentives for communities to encourage voluntary stewardship through bioprospecting and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) initiatives.

Education and awareness

There is a lack of awareness and limited education on environmental issues such as circular economy, the SDGs and the global environmental commitments. This is compounded in some countries by a culture that does not take into con-

sideration the preservation of the environment and a lack of civic responsibilities. Knowledge, skills, and attitudes are particularly low at the sub-national levels, with language barriers presenting a further challenge in some countries.

Needs and actions identified include:

- Communication of environmental information tailored to the target audience, including non-formal and informal education and awareness building using local languages.
- Education and training beyond traditional education systems such as through the arts and using indigenous knowledge and methods to facilitate knowledge transfer and capacity building. There is a need to build awareness of how individuals can contribute by providing information in a relatable manner.
- Development of environmental awareness through sustained campaigns on the SDGs for all citizens.

Good practice pathways mentioned include:

- Promotion of environmental citizenship. For example, through STOP-THINK-ACT campaigns at all levels (from individuals/households to corporations).
- Higher education centres that educate and raise awareness among different target populations on issues such as sustainable urban planning, clean energy, environmental management and social inclusion.
- Training young people and children on the importance of caring for the environment.
- Dissemination of information on how environmental issues and the economy and welfare are linked.
- The identification and use of influencers/opinion leaders (artists, athletes) to promote environmental values. For example, awareness and educational practices can be scaled up by using theatre and the visual arts to generate momentum and public interest.

Digital Transformation, Data, Science and Research

The benefits of ICT in reducing inequality, improving governance, accelerating national development and in ensuring business continuity were clearly demonstrated during the COVID-19 lockdowns. To tackle the digital divide and unleash the potential of the digital economy there is a need for supportive policies for accessible and affordable digital infrastructure and communication technologies and investment in digital infrastructure and digital literacy. There is also a need for more investment in innovation and green technology development to enable the shift to more sustainable measures and practices including resource-efficient production technologies, and real-time environmental monitoring. Data analytics capacity and digital MRV systems to ensure credible reporting are needed by government and communities.

The implementation of pilot initiatives is seen as a very effective tool for promoting the transfer of know-how and motivating other players to replicate activities.

The national consultations present a consistent narrative on what is needed to transform governance and legal systems to maintain long-term economic stability and ecological and social wellbeing for all. These needs and actions have already been elaborated on in previous sections of this report, and are summarised below.

Governance

Key needs are political leadership and strengthened decentralised governance. Decentralised local decision making and implementation of development projects can help put the community first, and ensure that such activities are carried out in the most cost-effective and beneficial manner. The need to address long-term as well as short and medium-term climate and nature risks and intergenerational development needs is also stressed; this requires long-term visions and policies that they are not hijacked by politicians.

The right to a healthy environment should have constitutional recognition and the environment should be a top policy priority; appropriate legislation ought to be developed including incentives and sanctions to ensure effective behavioural change. Constitutional reforms may be appropriate in some cases to ensure a strict separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, and a free and fair legal system. Other actions identified include: establishing, updating and enforcing legal and regulatory frameworks through participatory process tailored to fit the local context; aligning national standards with international standards; ensuring easy public access to tribunals and platforms to submit concerns and appeals; training judges to defend nature; and, making the countries' commitments to international conventions binding.

Enhanced monitoring, evaluation, and accountability frameworks are needed to promote transparency and support results-based management. Suggestions include the establishment of a centralised monitoring and evaluation framework based on measurable monitoring indicators, building capacities for environmental monitoring and reporting, and building/strengthening environment and climate information management systems.

Equality and Inclusivity

The need for ongoing, participatory, gender equal and fully inclusive processes to identify and agree on economic, climate and environmental priorities is consistently stated across the national consultations. This should be supported by enhanced education on social and environmental issues and access to information (including scientific studies) to facilitate participation in decision making at all levels (government, civil society, private sector). It is also noted that local communities in some countries have not been adequately benefitting from natural resources (forests and minerals) due to large private sector interests protected by the central government. Local communities need a level of control of such resources, so that their benefits are maximised.

Under LD3 stakeholders also discussed the measures needed to align public, private and development finance with existing commitments and priorities. The national consultations put forward numerous proposals to align public, private and development finance with existing commitments and priorities and improve the business climate to enable the drive towards sustainable development. The public and private sector must work together, to address climate change and protect ecosystems. The roles of governments and the private sector are discussed below.

Governments have a leading role in creating the enabling policy and regulatory environment for accelerating finance towards existing commitment and priorities. Key actions highlighted through the consultations include: (i) all public policies, projects and

funding (public, private and donor finance) should be aligned with the achievement of development commitments and priorities; (ii) enhancement of financial regulations in terms of green finance standardisation, mandatory environmental information disclosure, monetary incentives and dis-incentives and guidelines for innovative financial instruments; (iii) reduction of investment risks, for example, through laws on 'feed-in tariffs', to support investments in renewable energy; (iv) development of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) frameworks was emphasised. In some countries this requires the establishment of a legal framework to facilitate and promote PPPs (e.g., policies, regulations, and guidelines), and, (v) the development and promotion of innovative stakeholder engagement platforms to facilitate the identification of opportunities for partnerships.

Governments, led by ministries of finance and economy, need to strengthen financial governance systems to increase trust and facilitate access to green and climate finance. This includes establishment and strengthening of transparency mechanisms on public spending, for example, through tracking expenditure, closer monitoring of key performance indicators, results-based financing, social cost benefit analysis and more integrated fiscal planning and budgeting processes. The establishment of monitoring and evaluation committees are suggested as a means of ensuring the efficient use of funding against commitments and priorities.

Governments need to coordinate the mobilisation of resources for the implementation of commitments and priorities from diverse funding sources and mechanisms. Elements of a diversified funding portfolio are provided in Box 4.6.

Box 4.6: Building a diversified funding portfolio

Budget allocations. All ministries should allocate a percentage of their budget to address environmental concerns and the environmental effects of their policies. To increase the allocation of budgets to climate, nature and SDG delivery there is a need to: (i) strengthen planning of the state budget and the allocation of finances for sustainable development; (ii) encourage sectoral ministries to introduce a specific budget line dedicated to climate change; (iii) introduce Climate Public Expenditure Reviews (CPER) and Climate Budget Tagging; and (iv) ensure that climate, nature and SDG priorities are mainstreamed into national, sectoral, and sub-national plans.

Fiscal instruments. The use of fiscal incentives (e.g., tax breaks) was emphasised, to attract private investment, foster the development of start-ups and engagement of SMEs, and encourage the general population to uptake practices supporting the transition to low-carbon production and consumption patterns. At the same time subsidies that negatively affect the environment should be identified and repurposed to generate social and environmental benefits. Fiscal and regulatory instruments should be targeted at internalising environmental costs across sectors.

Promotion of innovative finance mechanism include (context specific):

- Establishment of carbon pricing and markets, which can effectively generate price signals, and reflect costs and benefits of carbon reduction.
- Emission trading systems.
- Payments for ecosystem services (PES) schemes as potential sources of sustainable financing for conservation.
- The introduction of Green and Blue bonds to finance climate and nature initiatives.
- Creation of specific national funds for the environment and climate.

Donor funding, including the mobilisation of finance through global environmental funds. It was noted that some projects suit donors' agendas better than the needs of local communities, negatively affecting the sustainability of projects. Donor finance can potentially be made more effective by: (i) local community participation in projects, through cash contributions or in-kind contribution, to increase ownership; (ii) channelling development finance through the private sector in developing countries to facilitate faster uptake of green approaches and help bring the private sector to the forefront of a green transition; and, (iii) the engagement of local banks with international financing organisation to encourage their engagement in climate financing.

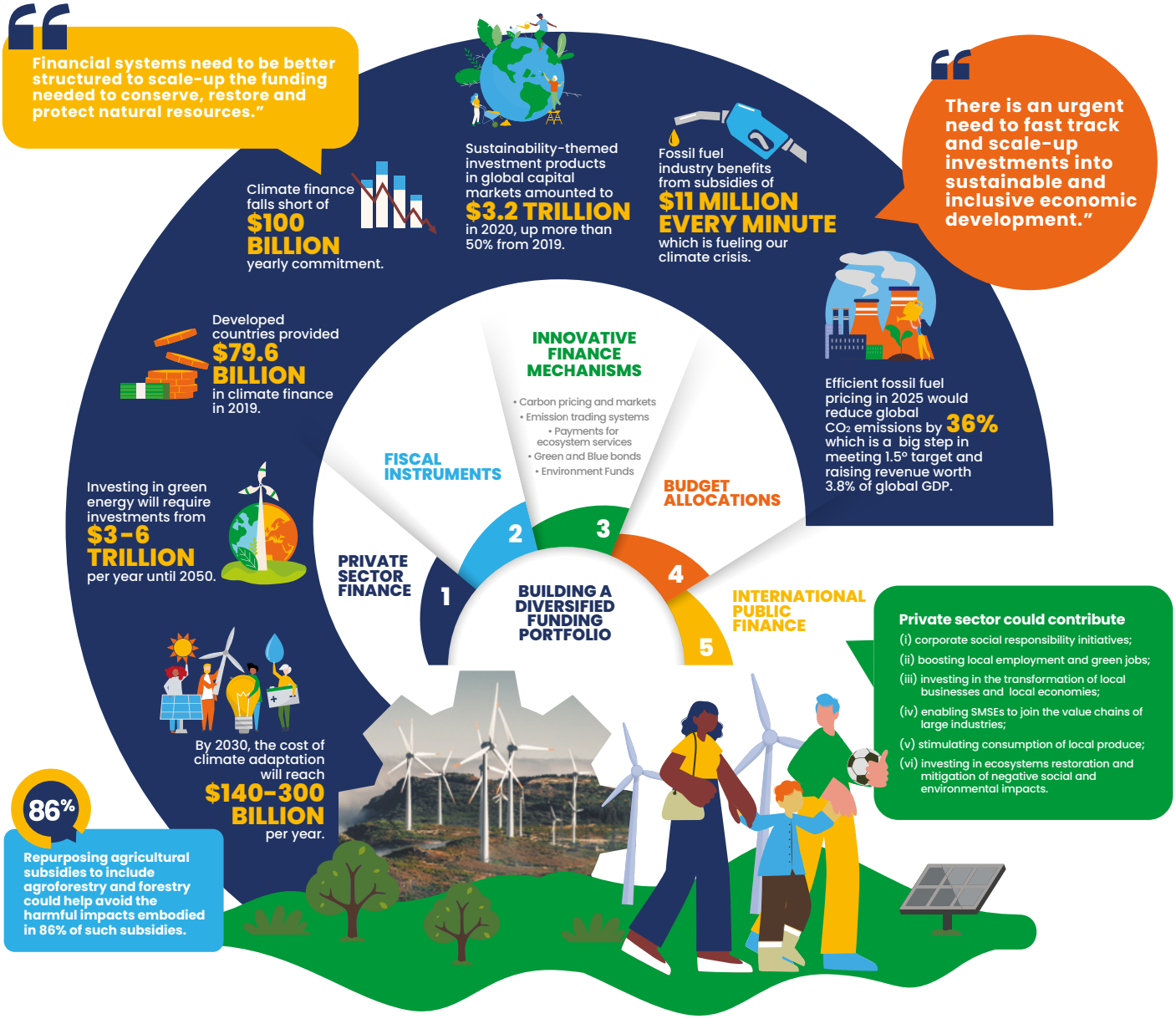
Private sector finance is essential given the limited public sector revenue and the debt burden of many governments following COVID-19. The private sector must be part of the development of long-term strategic plans and governments must ensure that the private sector is provided with incentives to foster long-term investments supporting the delivery of the SDGs.

STOCKHOLM+50 NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

Boosting Finance and Private Sector Engagement

KEY MESSAGES

1. Countries call for stronger **partnerships** that will bolster implementation during the Decade of Action through improved capacities, technology transfer, support to digital transformation, and North-South and South-South triangular collaboration.
2. There is an urgent call to significantly improve **financing** for the delivery of the environmental targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including targets under Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Pans (NBSAPs). This requires unleashing and consolidating finance across all sources – domestic, international, public, private, and blended. Smarter management of environmental and climate finance is needed including repurposing of harmful subsidies.
3. **Private sector finance and engagement** are critical to meeting the significant financing gap and achieving climate and nature targets. Conducive regulatory and financial investment mechanisms are needed to unlock private sector finance to upscale and accelerate private sector roles in addressing sustainable development challenges.



Sources: UN: The Sustainable Development Goals Report (2022); The World Bank Group and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery: Enabling Private Investment in Climate Adaptation and Resilience (2021); Climate Policy Initiative: Global Landscape of Climate Finance (2021); UNCTAD: World Investment Report: Investing in Sustainable Recovery, (2021); Business for Nature and B Team: Financing Our Survival: Building a Nature Positive Economy through Subsidy Reform (2022); FAO: The State of the World's Forest (2022); International Monetary Fund: Still Not Getting Energy Prices Right: A Global and Country Update of Fossil Fuel Subsidies (2021); UNDP: A Guide to Carbon Pricing and Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform: A Summary for Policymakers (2021).

The national consultations highlighted the following priority actions:

- In order to achieve the commitments, set out in the SDGs and MEAs, finance from government, the private sector and other sources needs to be better aligned to enhance the development impact.
- **Improve access to finance.** The creation of green economy businesses can be accelerated by ensuring access to financing mechanisms, especially for young social entrepreneurs and SMEs. For example, the encouragement of alternative financing processes such as sponsorship and participatory financing in the development of the renewable energy sector.
- **Support to communities**. The need for government support and legal/funding frameworks to support community-driven projects/initiatives and priorities is highlighted.
- **Establish an information and communication strategy regarding commitments and national priorities.** Government platforms can be used to publish national strategy documents and plans related to sustainable development, climate and nature to enable a common understanding across stakeholders on development needs, and facilitate proposals and investments aligned with commitment and national priorities. The need for effective communication to portray sustainable development as an opportunity rather than an obligation or constraint was also noted.
- Strengthen the links and alliances with international cooperation agencies and institutions.
- **Support investment at the sub-national level.** This requires strengthening linkages between national and sub-national governments and the framework for collaboration with local communities, NGOs, academia, and private entities at sub-national level.
- National banks have a role to play in setting some requirements and criteria for commercial banks.

Financial institutions and their clients need to increase their capacity to manage climate and environmental risks through systematic stress testing and enhanced information disclosure. With well-equipped measures to tackle Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) issues, particularly climate change, the financial sector can encourage the private sector to further advance their fundraising activities and investment in sustainability. The private equity and venture capital play a crucial role in incubating cutting-edge green technologies.

While commercial banks issue green loans, interest rates are still high; the lack of affordable loans limits the capacity of the private sector to uptake (clean) technologies in production processes. Financial and other types of support for the business sector is needed for a green transition (e.g., preferential loans for energy efficiency or renewable energy measures). A key challenge is mobilising early-stage capital to support high-impact projects which do not present an immediate strong business case for investors. Even where there is a business case, many communities struggle to attract financing for critical projects because they lack the skills to analyse and present the business case. Unlocking the first tranche of capital to explore possibilities (i.e., pre-feasibility studies) is essential.

Many micro-entrepreneurs and small non-profit organisations lack the skills to prepare well-written project proposals to access funds

(including from the GEF/GCF). It is vital to build the capacity in project formulation and development to better meet the requirements of donors and attract climate financing (potentially through the creation of a national organisation specialising in the development of bankable projects).

The national consultations identified the types of partnerships needed from the UN and beyond to accelerate a green and sustainable economic transformation that leaves no one behind.

Protection of the environment and promotion of sustainable development is the common responsibility of all countries and can only be achieved through multilateralism and international cooperation. It was noted that this is especially critical on issues where the window to implement changes to avert irreversible damage is fast closing, such as carbon emissions, methane and HFCs reduction. The achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs requires strengthened cooperation and shared efforts between States, the international community (including financing agencies), and the social actors of each country. International networks need to exchange experiences and best practices, as well as to strengthen, promote, facilitate and coordinate support networks among environmental leaders.

Successful and long-lasting partnerships are based on mutual trust, transparency and a clear understanding of what is expected of all parties, and the maintenance of smooth communication channels. Partnerships need to be reviewed often to check they are working effectively, who is missing, and whether they need to adapt to changes in circumstances. Partnerships also need to fit into an overarching framework or strategy to achieve the SDGs.

Extra effort is needed to ensure that partnerships are truly inclusive. Inclusive partnerships are needed to facilitate the integration of national, regional and local level sustainable development plans, avoiding duplication and contradictions. Governments have a key role to play in brokering and facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs). This requires taking an all of society approach, where government, private sector, civil society, academia, NGOs, development partners and others regularly meet to share information, make decisions and ensure compliance. This can be done through creating joint councils at different levels and/or establishing multi-stakeholder coordination forums to discuss environmental and climate change challenges, identify solutions and define responsibilities. The participation of young people can be promoted through their engagement in high-level conferences to empower them at the national and at the community levels.

Technical partnerships for technology transfer, technical support, capacity building and implementation of pilot projects need to be strengthened. Greater cooperation is needed to reduce costs and share risks around digital intelligence and the transition to low- and zero-carbon technologies (e.g., phasing-out the use of coal, oil and gas, scaling-up renewable energy, methane and HFCs reduction, Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), next-generation nuclear energy). It is emphasised that partnerships with the private sector are critical given their role in technology development, employment creation and finance. It is necessary to encourage PPPs to close the financial gap in the environment sector. Alliances should be promoted between

small businesses that together can improve the social, environmental and economic conditions of communities. While pilot projects are helpful, the resources to scale up successful pilots is often lacking. Partnerships are needed to upscale successful pilot projects and to support research activities through capacity building and links with international research institutions.

The importance of regional partnerships is recognised. The need for partnerships and cooperation across countries of the same region was highlighted to learn from success stories and promote cooperation on transboundary resources management issues. Regional programmes can be created to strengthen partnerships and learning.

The national consultations call for a concrete sustainable development cooperation framework that is better adapted to countries' needs. This framework should be based on measurable performance indicators and be in line with the ambition of post-pandemic recovery. It must also ensure the development and transfer of technology and know-how. Extensive and pragmatic cooperation should be promoted based on mutual learning, complementing each other's strengths and weaknesses. Potential areas of collaboration related to climate include: low-carbon policy tools and models, data information sharing platforms, scientific evaluations, exchanges around the efficacy of emissions trading systems (ETS), carbon taxes and carbon pricing mechanisms.

Partnerships with the UN

The national consultations acknowledge that expertise and financial support from UN agencies have helped countries adopt and implement more sustainable development projects. This has helped countries improve their resilience to climate change, meet the SDGs, NDCs and other MEA commitments, achieve faster digitalisation for transformational changes and increase resource efficiency.

The support of UN agencies is crucial for the transition to a green, inclusive and sustainable economy. To accelerate a green and sustainable economic transformation, the UN and its agencies must continue to leverage its network of expertise supporting intergovernmental coordination, policy development, decision making, technical capacity, technological and scientific advancements, the empowerment of government and civil society, the mobilisation and coordination of finance and the implementation of programmes on the ground. The United Nations can promote conversations and alliances across different stakeholders, and act as an impartial mediator, especially in conflict-affected countries and nations facing a crisis of democratic legitimacy.

It was stressed that the UN needs to strengthen its relationship and interactions with local government, local organisations (NGOs, community-based organisations, universities), small and medium enterprises (SME) and the private sector in general to ensure that actions are implemented quickly and strengthen the inclusiveness and effectiveness of official development assistance. It was highlighted that local small businesses are more accountable to their local communities and often donate more money to non-profits and have a smaller carbon footprint than larger companies. More work is needed by UN organisations to advance green industries and innovation channels at local levels, ensuring engagement of youth, people with disabilities and women. Ensuring projects are sustainable beyond the project

period requires building local capacity, providing the right kind of incentives for people to adopt sustainable practices, and making sure that the local economy and price levels are not distorted due to development projects. Creating more local ownership of projects must also be given priority if they are to be accepted by the community. It is also essential that programme/project details are disseminated in local languages and the use of sign language and braille supported, so that everyone can access information.

Enhanced sharing of successful green approaches, best practices and techniques that have been implemented in other countries is needed. Information must be shared at multiple levels, from the country's leaders and institutions to communities.

Other ways the UN could enhance its support include: (i) more flexible funding to facilitate the allocation of direct financial support to where it is most needed; (ii) greater focus on implementing investment projects and supporting pilot (demonstration) activities to spearhead buy-in and replication, and lead to more tangible results; (iii) supporting monitoring mechanisms and simpler reporting formats; (iv) creating mechanisms to block unfair lobbying processes and ensuring participatory planning and decision-making processes; (v) strengthening its partnerships with international banking and business associations and multilateral development banks to generate commitments to redirect capital towards the SDGs; (vi) promoting a blue economy; and, (vii) ensuring its support is contextualised to a country's situation.

Good coordination and harmonisation is required among UN agencies at global, regional and national levels to avoid duplication. Mechanisms or platforms need to be put in place to coordinate across donors to ensure coherence among projects being implemented.

The final theme discussed through the national consultations under Leadership Dialogue 3 was the capacities and technologies needed to improve human wellbeing in harmony with nature, with a focus on digital technologies.

Technology and digital tools are acknowledged as key accelerators for the achievement of inclusive sustainable development. The role and importance of digital transformation was underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic. Green technologies are needed that contribute to a lower environmental impact and greater efficiency in the use of resources, reduce GHG emissions, and transform waste management in line with a circular economy. Innovations are needed to make carbon capture a reality, and to boost decarbonisation technologies. International cooperation is essential for technology and capacity transfer to developing countries.

Digital platforms support governance in a variety of ways, for example, through information management and distribution, climate observation and meteorological systems, satellite imagery and monitoring of ecosystems, early warning systems, and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems. Modern technologies, such as drones, data processing computers, water quality testing kits and communication equipment support government policy development and monitoring.

The need for a balanced approach to the application of new technologies that is based on a holistic understanding of the possible trade-offs and respect and appreciation of ancestral practices was noted.

The rapid growth in Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, big data analytics presents growing opportunities to support inclusive green growth, but needs to be made accessible to all and tailored to country, sector and stakeholder contexts.

Equality and Inclusivity

Access to digital tools and technology and equity was a key discussion point. Countries have varied levels of internet access and connectivity: in some countries access to the internet is low and basic connectivity issues need to be addressed, while in others connectivity is reasonable and they are ready and keen to implement more complex technologies to support their sustainable development aspirations. Low access to the internet and digitalisation adversely affects people's lives in multiple ways. For example, many students did not have access to formal education during the COVID-19 lockdown due to the lack of connectivity and capacity to use digital tools, while the lack of a digitally skilled workforce limits the potential for professional and economic growth and leaves job vacancies unfilled in some countries. Access to digital information, especially by women and people in rural areas needs to be improved. Internet access in developing countries can specifically benefit women, as educating girls and women has a great impact on poverty eradication and overall development.

Finance

Finance is needed for: (i) a range of innovations, including modernising infrastructure favouring renewable energy sources, nature-based solutions, innovative and low carbon technologies; (ii) scientific research (e.g., to increase understanding of how to control plastic pollution); (iii) incentive schemes to support uptake of technologies; and, (iv) investments in entrepreneurship and technical skills to use digital platforms for e-commerce and access to international markets for local produce.

Capacity Building

Capacity and skills in green and digital technologies vary across countries, but remain low in many countries. In general governments, educational institutions and industry need to start implementing policies and programmes that increase the level of digital competence and the uptake of green technologies. Core to developing such policies and programmes is understanding the status of national skills, the demand and the gaps, in order to develop targeted and effective action. A few indicative areas highlighted through the consultations where capacity building and expertise are required include: emerging technologies (augmented reality, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics); renewable energy and energy efficiency, resource efficiency, green buildings, smart agriculture, and analytical capacities to track and manage data.

The national consultations noted the importance of developing national capacities for the management of big data and its use, guaranteeing the confidentiality of personal information, as well as the incorporation of tools that allow periodic monitoring of key issues for sustainable development such as changes in land use or the use of the marine environment for economic activities.

It is essential to work with all stakeholders, but especially the most at risk of being left behind, including women, youth, indigenous communities, and people with disabilities, to build their technical skills and basic knowledge of technologies that can support sustainable practic-

es. The role of state agencies, especially local authorities, was emphasised in this context. Capacity development and awareness raising campaigns should be more tailored to specific target groups in order to effectively address knowledge gaps. Moreover, it is necessary to encourage scientific research, citizen science, development and innovation through policies and allocation of financial resources. Local knowledge and capacity to install and maintain renewable energy facilities (such as solar PVE systems) can help communities manage such facilities more efficiently.

Digital/Data, Research and Technology

To ensure a high level of environmental, social and human health protection best-available techniques (BAT) have to be universally available and affordable to industry and governments. Industry, energy production and raw material extraction make a significant contribution to the economies of developing countries and affordable green technologies and techniques are needed to foster low-carbon development. Access to the latest technologies should be ensured through the sharing of best practices and open access mechanisms that benefit developing countries. Technologies used should be country specific based on a technology needs assessment and implemented in a phased approach through demonstration/pilot projects. As stressed throughout the national consultations, there is a significant local and community repository of environmentally-friendly practices (e.g., on water and land management), which along with traditional knowledge should inform and complement the development and implementation of state-of-the-art technology.

In many countries the lack of data hinders data-driven decision making, and information management system need to be developed (e.g., software for calculating greenhouse gas emissions, modelling tools, super calculators, systemic observation tools). More accredited laboratories for monitoring and testing both at the national and sub-national level are also needed in a number of countries.

5
Key Messages and Recommendations

5.1 Key messages

The 10 key messages from the Stockholm+50 national consultations are presented below.

Countries are looking for Stockholm+50 to deliver on result-oriented recommendations and commitments through bold transformative follow-up action and fair and effective multilateralism.

The national consultations called for assurance that the agreements reached during the Stockholm+50 meeting will not remain on paper. They must be translated into urgent concrete and financed actions for a just, inclusive transition to a sustainable global economy. There is an urgent need to raise the ambition if a resilient and decarbonised future is to be achieved. The national consultations also called for continued dialogue with all national stakeholders (public, private, civil society, academia, disproportionally impacted groups) to review and implement recommendations of the Stockholm+50 meeting.

Countries stress the need for strong drivers for economic transformation towards a greener and healthier development paradigm. This includes support to reform economic systems and investment flows towards sustainable consumption and production and circularity, to reduce the environmental footprint from high-impact sectors such as food, energy, extractives, tourism, transport and infrastructure and to adjust national targets and metrics. A global transition to a zero-carbon and sustainable economy is an opportunity to create large numbers of green jobs across key economic sectors (e.g., renewable energy, buildings and construction, transport, industry, agriculture, tourism, and forestry) and serve as an engine for development in rural areas.

Stockholm+50 must help place the world on a practical path to reverse the current trends of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. In order to accelerate the transition to inclusive and sustainable growth it is necessary to change the economic system in favour of development focused on clean energy, a circular economy, the protection and restoration of nature and ecosystems, climate change mitigation and adaptation, fair and just employment and green jobs. The new development paradigm should support innovation and inclusive partnerships, and fully engage and consider disproportionally impacted groups. In the context of multiple and interlinked planetary crises faced by the humanity, there is an understanding of the need for integrated resilient solutions that address complex and growing risks of food and energy insecurity, fragility and conflict, poverty, and gender inequality. The just transition to green jobs will require adaptability to change, innovation and creativity. Ongoing capacity building, skills transfer, training, study tours and exchanges are needed to develop and upscale expertise in core areas. This transition has the potential to diversify local economies, generate new jobs and new industries, new services and new skills, all of which require support through new types of investment and accompanying policies.

There is a fundamental need for strengthened environmental governance at all levels; the climate and nature crises can only be tackled successfully if environmental protection becomes a top public policy priority supported by legislation, inclusive decision making and monitoring, and enforcement.

There is a need to build legal frameworks for biodiversity conservation, climate change and civil rights, establish long-term sustainable development plans and policies in which climate

and nature targets are fully mainstreamed, and ensure effective enforcement of policies and regulations through improved monitoring and accountability mechanisms for environmental protection. Critically, a decentralised bottom-up approach to governance is needed to facilitate ownership of the sustainable development process by society and ensure inclusive and just development. Strengthened governance should be built upon enhanced public participation and access to environmental information, improved data, diagnostics, evidence-base and risk knowledge, rebuilt trust between governments and society, more women in leaderships roles, and an effective response to the needs of disproportionally impacted groups, including women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, people with disabilities, and others.

Countries call for stronger partnerships to bolster implementation during the Decade of Action through improved capacities, technology transfer, support to digital transformation, North-South and South-South cooperation.

Protection of the environment and sustainable development are the common responsibilities of all countries and can only be achieved through multilateralism and international cooperation. This is especially critical on issues where the window to avert irreversible damage is fast closing such as climate change. The achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals requires strengthen cooperation and shared efforts between States, the international community (including financing agencies), and the social actors of each country.

Partnerships with the private sector are critical given their role in technology development, employment creation and finance.

There is an urgent call to radically improve financing for the delivery of the environmental targets of SDGs by unleashing and consolidating environmental finance across all sources – domestic and international, public and private, and blended – by smarter and more effective management of environmental and climate finance, and repurposing of harmful subsidies.

Finance is critical to achieving commitments on climate and nature, but is a long way off being available at the scale required. High national debt levels coupled with pressures from external shocks, limit the ability of many governments to finance development projects and invest in climate resilience and nature. There is an urgent need to fast-track sustainable financing at scale to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic development. Countries need to develop diversified and innovative financing strategies to mobilise finance that aligns with national development aspirations. To address the climate change burden on poor countries, rich countries have to deliver on their commitments and contribute more resources.

Private sector finance and engagement are critical to close the significant financing gap and meet climate and nature targets. Conducive regulatory and financial investment mechanisms are needed to unlock private sector finance and upscale and accelerate the participation of the private sector in addressing the challenges of sustainable development.

Achieving a zero-carbon and circular economy requires the full mobilisation of the private sector across its value chains and the unlocking of private sector finance. This requires governments to create a stable and conducive environment for such private sector investments

through policies, regulations and incentives. There is the opportunity to improve and enhance Public Private Partnerships in key sectors of the economy and broaden SMEs engagement in environmental related projects. There is also a need to empower green and innovative SMEs and social enterprises to create green job opportunities, stimulate entrepreneurship (especially amongst youth, women and other disproportionally impacted groups), and promote innovative sustainable business solutions, clean technologies, and tools, through incentives, access to affordable finance, insurance, and guarantee mechanisms.

National stakeholders have highlighted the need for a gender equal, just and inclusive transition towards greener and resilient development, which should include targeted support to workers across formal and informal sectors and their families who might be negatively affected by the economic transformation, with a particular focus on women's rights and on disproportionally impacted groups.

Civil society and key groups including women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities, and people with disabilities must be ensured full participation in environmental decision making at all levels and in the design, implementation, monitoring of programmes and projects. Women should be afforded full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic, and public life. The knowledge and cultural practices of indigenous people in terms of natural resource management need to be recognised, preserved and built upon, and fair agreements that strengthen their wellbeing upheld. Disproportionally impacted groups need to be supported through the transition with financial support, training and capacity building and digital access. Social safety net and protection programmes are needed to help the hardest hit absorb economic and environmental shocks (such as harvest failures, soaring food prices, increased exposure to disease or loss of assets caused by floods and storms) and ensure that no-one is left behind.

Youth are important change agents in the fight against climate change and nature degradation that need support through environmental and climate education, training, capacity building, empowerment, and access to information and finance.

Youth activism is gaining momentum as the young people become increasingly aware of environment and climate issues. They often possess creativity and adapt easily to digitalisation and can help to drive the digital economy.

Public awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate change and environmental challenges needs to be built and access to environmental education and information for all ensured to develop the collective consciousness of the importance of the environment and the collective responsibility necessary to accelerate change.

Education and awareness raising are critical to restore and regenerate a positive relationship with nature, modify consumption habits and achieve support for a whole-of-society transformation towards more sustainable production and consumption patterns – changing behaviour and mindsets to live in harmony with nature. Women are recognised to play a key role in changing the mindset and attitudes at the community level, through leading by example and demonstrating what can work. In-

vesting in inclusive, targeted and accessible environmental education and awareness programmes on sustainability and the SDGs is a key action that countries should take in order to contribute to positive changes towards a healthy planet.

Digital tools and green technologies are acknowledged as key accelerators for the achievement of inclusive sustainable development, and need to be developed, promoted and made accessible to all.

The importance of digital tools and technology in development was underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ongoing efforts toward digitising essential services offered by the government, local authorities and other ICT innovations are seen as a means of increasing productivity, addressing the challenges brought on by the pandemic and fast-tracking economic recovery. The inability of some people to access digital technology makes them vulnerable and it is important to advance digital equity by supporting a whole-of-society digital transformation towards a green economy. Green technologies can contribute to a lower environmental impact, greater resource efficiency, reduced GHG emissions and the transformation of waste management in line with a circular economy. International cooperation is essential for technology transfer to developing countries.

5.2 Recommendations

This section presents a synthesis of key recommendations presented in the national consultation reports, which will more or less apply to countries depending on their context. The recommendations are organised under the core themes of Governance, Cooperation and Collaboration, Equality and Inclusivity, Finance, Private Sector, Digital Transformation, Data, Research and Technology, Capacity and Education and Awareness.

Governance

- Position the environmental dimension as a top public policy priority in order to meet the multiple challenges imposed by different environmental crises, such as climate change, loss of biological diversity, desertification and land degradation.
- Strengthen governance systems – establish long-term sustainable development plans and policies, and build legal frameworks for biodiversity conservation, climate change and civil rights.
- Ensure effective enforcement of policies and regulations through improved monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms for environmental protection.
- Adopt National Capital Accounting to better understand the stock and status of a country's ecosystems and natural resources, assess trade-offs, guide policy and decision making, and generate incentives for better natural capital management.
- Strengthen participatory decision making, planning and implementation for fair, equitable, and inclusive access to natural resources, focusing on disproportionally impacted groups.
- Better align national priorities with MEAs and other international UN conventions.
- Support decentralised decision making and implementation of environmental and development projects. A decentralised bottom-up approach to governance is needed

to facilitate ownership of the sustainable development process by society and ensure inclusive and just development.

Cooperation and Collaboration

- Promote intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration and coordination to develop and strengthen the design and implementation of integrated policies and plans and exploit potential synergies among development drivers and sectors to reduce costs and risks, and increase positive impacts. This includes encouraging and building partnerships and joint working across all development sectors and administrative levels and stakeholders (companies, communities, local authorities, research institutes and academic sectors) and consulting regularly with key stakeholder groups to inform public policy and decision making.
- Institutionalise mechanisms and platforms of multisectoral/multilevel participation in policy development, planning, implementation and monitoring to strengthen coordination, increase knowledge and address common gaps in understanding needed to transition to sustainable production and consumption patterns. Options suggested include to establish: (i) a national umbrella organisation responsible for all environmental affairs; (ii) a forum for sustainable development to enable joint and open discussion of challenges, solutions and progress being made in participation with all stakeholders including youth, women, people with disabilities and local communities; (iii) a coordination framework that all organisations (development partners, NGOs) and government ministries can link to so that no one is working in isolation; (iv) a Multi-stakeholder Commission for Sustainable Development; (v) a national major groups consortium (e.g., women, children and youth, non-governmental organisations, trade unions, business and industry, and academia)
- Support from the UN and other agencies to countries in terms of finance and technical support and expertise is critical for the implementation of SDGs and other international commitments. There is a need to:
  - Accelerate technology transfer and scaled-up financing for a clean energy transition in developing countries.
  - Support countries with guidelines summarising good practices globally on the post
  - COVID-19 recovery process.
  - Support benchmarking of successful sustainable practices globally that can be adapted by countries and propose specific parameters that would stimulate the creation of green jobs and the introduction of circular economy principles.
  - Enhance support at the sub-national level, in addition to national level, given that responsibility for many decisions that impact economies and environment lie at the provincial level and in to align with moves towards decentralisation.
  - Enhance collaboration with bilateral development partners, multilateral development banks and agencies to simplify access to finance, capacity building and technology transfer.
  - Respect differentiated responsibilities among countries. Rich countries should assume their responsibility and invest resources in a differentiated manner to

provide solutions, such that poor countries are not left unprotected

- Provide ongoing support for environmental governance in developing countries.

Equality and Inclusivity

- Ensure civil society and key groups including women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities, and people with disabilities fully participate in environmental decisions at all levels and in the design, implementation, monitoring of programmes and projects. This requires the promotion of participatory and inclusive approaches and dialogue platforms to ensure multi-stakeholder engagement.
- Prioritise climate and environment solutions that also promote gender equality and women's rights, for example: (i) gender quotas to support more women in the management of public affairs; (ii) equal land rights for women and men; (iii) support for women's collective action, especially for those who live in rural areas; and, (iv) equitable access and control of resources, including natural resources, technology and information.
- Support **youth** organisations who are raising awareness of more sustainable consumption habits and provide skills training to the youth to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods.
- Recognise the fundamental role of **indigenous communities** and small rural producers in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The knowledge and cultural practices of indigenous people need to be preserved and built upon and fair agreements that strengthen their wellbeing upheld.
- Support local communities (including women, youth, human rights defenders) to build resilience, through the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and initiatives to address local concerns related to the environment and development.
- Reinvigorate the **informal economy sector** through training, access to financing, and easing eligibility criteria for funds.
- Stimulate **small businesses** through government programmes, and empower and attract more women to the SMEs sector.
- Prioritise the development of human potential and social community infrastructure in all national strategies in order to strengthen human capital and improve access to social services, technology access, infrastructure development and investment.
- Guarantee Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and fair and equitable benefit sharing.
- Ensure equitable access to financial and technical support, internet and knowledge for disproportionally impacted groups.
- Enhance social protection for disproportionally impacted groups to help them absorb economic and environmental shocks and ensure that no-one is left behind.
- Implement education, awareness-raising and advocacy for environment action that encourages the participation of disproportionally impacted groups.

Finance

- Design sustainable financing policy and mobilisation plans to meet climate, environmental and sustainable development commitments. This should draw on diversified sources of finance including public, private and donor funds.

- Undertake environmental fiscal reforms where needed to ensure that the right incentives and dis-incentives are in place to accelerate climate resilience and the sustainable management of nature.
- Explore innovative green financing instruments to help address the funding gap, including carbon pricing and market, PES, green and blue bonds, and national level green/sustainable development funds.
- Design mechanisms that would facilitate access to finance for various target groups, (e.g., local communities, academia, women, people with disabilities) and introduce fair benefit-sharing mechanisms for forest management and mineral deposits.
- Intensify green/blue public and private investments. That is, investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, increase energy and resource efficiency, prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services (e.g., through nature-based solutions and innovative technologies) and enhance livelihoods.

Private Sector

- Prioritise the scale-up of private sector participation in addressing the challenges of sustainable development in order to close the significant funding gap and meet climate and nature targets.
- Governments should strengthen the investment environment, including policy, regulatory and incentive measures to accelerate private sector led green investments. Specific recommendations include: subsidies or tax breaks for sustainable energy; increased support and incentives for private sector engagement in nature-based solutions, PPPs and blended finance.
- Governments should facilitate innovative green/blue SMEs and social enterprises to create green/blue job opportunities, stimulate entrepreneurship (especially amongst youth, women and disproportionally impacted groups), and innovative sustainable business solutions, clean technologies, and tools, through fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, access to affordable finance, insurance, and guarantee mechanisms.
- Governments should leverage finance from international development agencies to pilot interventions and show proof-of-concept as a means of spurring private financing.
- Deliver capacity building to the private sector, especially MSMEs, on embedding sustainability in their business operations and value chains.
- Promote and enforce corporate social and environmental responsibility.
- Enhance the sharing of success stories on the sustainable management of natural resources, by the private sector both to disseminate knowledge on good practices and contribute to decision making at the country level.

Digital Transformation, Data, Research and Technology

- Enhance data collection and information management on climate and environment through the establishment of a centralised data hub/platform for monitoring and dissemination of data, research and key studies. Information systems should be interoperable and provide comprehensive, updated, reliable and easily accessible information at national and sub-national levels.

- Support scientific research and capacity building to inform evidence-based policy development and planning. This includes improving understanding of ecosystem-economic linkages, as well as increasing the availability of research-based data for decision making in environmental management. Areas where more research is needed include: resilience analytics, climate/disaster risk maps (e.g., forest fires, floods, heat waves, storms, cold air mass, drought), predicting intersectoral interactions and development of decision support systems.
- Promote whole-of-society digital transformation with key sectors including agribusiness, energy, transport, waste management and manufacturing and livelihood sectors (e.g., agriculture and tourism).
- Support local innovation, especially for MSMEs, entrepreneurs and communities to identify practical solutions.
- Support the development, integration and exchange between indigenous ancestral knowledge and western science.
- Introduce Best-Available Technologies (BAT) to minimise negative impacts on the environment and health.
- Leverage digital tools such as AI/ML, drones, IoT, etc., to support actions against climate change, biodiversity conservation and stimulate employment and entrepreneurship.

Capacity

- Build human capacities as a key prerequisite for the transition to a green economy and the implementation of principles of sustainable development.
- Enhance the capacity of statistical agencies and government staff on Natural Capital Accounting and modelling to mainstream results into policies, plans and actions.
- Work with key development partners to increase the capacity of government and non-government institutions to access green climate funds, for example, through coaching on the key criteria and mechanisms for accessing the GCF, GEF, Adaptation Fund and other internationally available funds. This includes increasing the capacity of community level organisations and individuals in relation to project and grant funding, to enable them to build livelihoods and protect their environment, which could also be facilitated through simplified project/grant application processes.
- Build the capacities of local stakeholders including disproportionally impacted groups in best practices green/blue initiatives and innovations, in conjunction with traditional knowledge, to facilitate the sustainable development and enhance livelihoods. This includes support for local business and skills development for green/blue business start-ups and sectoral interventions (e.g., in construction, waste, energy, tourism, forestry and agriculture).
- Increase training and capacity development support in entrepreneurship and project management.

Education and Awareness

- Review, revise and invest in the education curricula at all levels (from kindergarten to university) so that it is equipped to create a deeper understanding of nature, environ-

mental challenges and the role individuals can play in the transition to sustainable and equitable growth (e.g., through science enrichment curriculum, natural history field trips, community service projects).

- Improve environmental awareness and education for all stakeholders across all levels of society (including elected decision makers and judges); this is considered to be central to the successful implementation of national sustainable development programmes. This includes sensitisation campaigns for all on the challenges of climate change.
- Develop, with support from the international donor and government agencies, more training and information materials in local languages.
- Guarantee transparency and access to information for all sectors and stakeholders, to build trust in decision-making.

6
Annex: Sector Overviews

This Annex provides an overview of the key challenges, needs, opportunities and recommendations for key sectors presented across the national consultations, which may or not apply to countries depending on their circumstances.

6.1 Agriculture

Key challenges facing the agricultural sector are insufficient water resources, food security issues, the effects of climate change on agricultural production (e.g., through changes in rain patterns and the advent of new diseases and pests), land erosion and the conversion of agricultural land for industrial purposes or housing.

Needs/Actions

- There is a need to move away from conventional agricultural models towards sustainable, regenerative and climate-smart agricultural practices. For example,
    - **Replace chemical fertilisers and pesticides** with natural bioproducts to reduce pollution and support regenerative agriculture and the production of organic products.
    - **Promote agroecological farming in local communities** and plant salt-tolerant seeds to reduce the impact of climate change
    - Accelerate investments in **soil conscious conservation agriculture** employing no tillage methods, anti-erosive measures, afforestation, and reforestation to restore damaged soil and increase soil organic carbon.
    - Encourage composting, the use of biochar, hydroponics, organic farming, agroforestry, crop rotation and water recycling.
- Creation of efficient sustainable industries and supply chains. Promote inclusive business models that integrate smallholders into agricultural value chains through the promotion of linkages between smallholders and buyers of agricultural produce.
- Increase gender-targeted investment in livelihood and food security systems through climate smart agriculture technologies and access to resources such as land.
- Improve food security through:
    - Community gardens, urban agriculture, backyard gardens, vertical framing practices and food preservation;
    - Reduced dependence on agricultural inputs and products from other countries, through the promotion of local production that also improves food and nutrition security, and supports local communities.
- Policies/initiatives are needed to support, for example: (i) the introduction of agricultural insurance systems (e.g., for risky practices such as cattle breeding in distant pastures); (ii) national environmental, organic standards and norms for agricultural production and food security; and, (iii) local farmers who are looking to restart their business at a time of price inflation.
- Other needs include, for example: (i) research and development in various areas, including agroforestry systems and silvo-pastoral systems, to improve varieties and increase productivity; (ii) strengthened agricultural extension models, to enhance the transfer of sustainable technologies to small and medium producers.

Good Practices for Scaling Up

The national consultations cited numerous green and climate smart agricultural practices, that could be scaled up, including:

- Sustainable family farming, aimed at transforming production on small scale farms through reducing/eliminating agrochemicals and promoting the uptake of renewable energy sources.
- Kitchen, roof-top and backyard domestic gardening (with traditional medicinal plants and trees, utilising local and organic inputs for fertilisation and pest management) to reduce food waste and achieve food self-sufficiency and nutrition security.
- Planting organic products, introducing seed banks, upscaling of agrotechnology (digital innovation for agriculture), promoting drip irrigation, promoting intensive rice cultivation systems, use of organic manure, improving traditional slash-and-burn methods to better manage the soil and water resources, and protect environment and crop diversification.
- Implementing public policies that integrate ancestral knowledge and ensure sustainable agricultural production systems.
- Adoption of pasture rotation, the enrichment of green cover and integrated pasture management to help reduce degradation and preserve ecosystems under pressure from grazing.
- Enhanced government support and protection of farmers and their products, particularly those who work in the organic farming sector, through laws and regulations, financial and logistical support for farmers.
- Training for youth on new and organic farming techniques.
- Promotion of local goods to reduce reliance on imports and possible delays and restrictions and to support local economies and communities.
- Large food businesses working with farmers to integrate them in their supply chain and provide inputs and technical advice.
- Strengthen early warning systems to prevent environmental disasters in the agriculture sector.

Recommendations

- With the looming threat of droughts, war and sanctions, food security must be prioritised and coordinated globally. Food security can be supported through the promotion of climate smart agriculture, incentives for local food production to reduce imports (e.g., through the valorisation of local green products), promoting home gardening and urban agriculture, agribusinesses and integrated agriculture.
- Enhance support along the value chain, for example: investment in production (e.g., improved technology for seed production), development of storage infrastructure, processing (e.g., post-harvest technology and mechanisms of food and facilities), marketing and specialised training along the value chain, including for marginalised groups.
- Facilitate access to agricultural inputs and production factors for disproportionally impacted groups.
- Promote sustainable agricultural systems linked to sustainable water and land management. For example, through accelerated investments in soil conservation agriculture employing no tillage methods, anti-erosive measures, afforestation, and reforestation

aimed to increase soil quality, the adoption of good agricultural practices (GAP) and indigenous agricultural methods, enhanced climate resilient crop and livestock varieties through upscaling of land management, farm mechanisation, irrigation system, land ownership rationalisation and Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) compensation/ insurance schemes.

- Prioritise agriculture research and development to develop innovative ways of addressing climate and environment related issues.
- Support green entrepreneurship to increase locally-produced eco-friendly/green production.
- Increase incentives to promote green and climate smart agricultural.

6.2 Buildings and Infrastructure

The development of infrastructure resilient to climate change is identified as a challenge.

Needs/Actions/Recommendations

- Promote green building design construction through demonstration projects and cost benefit analysis to showcase their cost efficiency and environmental benefits. This could additionally be linked to fiscal incentives on energy efficient appliances/ equipment/building to motivate adoption of technologies.
- Further develop public infrastructure to meet the needs of those with disabilities.
- Ensure green procurement processes and construction projects comply with sustainable practices.

6.3 Energy

The decarbonisation of the energy sector and promotion of low-carbon technologies is seen as a key challenge. In some countries dependence on fossil fuels remains high while energy efficiency (in buildings and in the public sector) is low. Access to low-carbon energy technologies (such as solar) is limited by know-how and infrastructure. Energy security concerns are on the rise and may result in delays to the transition to clean energy.

Needs/Actions

- Restructuring of the energy system, through a phase out of coal, gas and oil. This requires the development, promotion and investment in/scale-up of clean energies, including green hydrogen.
- Promote and accelerate the transition to renewable energy and energy efficiency through (i) development of the enabling environment, including reviewing and revising the current feed-in tariff structure to make investments more attractive to producers; (ii) expanding available financing mechanisms (e.g., low-interest loan schemes provided through commercial banks); (iii) popularising renewable and efficient energy technologies at the domestic level. For example, incentivising rooftop solar energy systems – to encourage people to switch to alternative energy for lighting and space heating purposes, and promoting improved cooking stoves; (iv) developing sustainable energy infrastructure (including storage) and solar mini-grids; and, (v) developing Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to finance projects. This requires the development of renewable energy business models.

Good Practices for Scaling Up

- Renewable energy projects in general (e.g., bioenergy, solar, hydro and wind) and improved cooking stoves and low-carbon technologies.
- The promotion of solar energy in villages through financial and technical support (e.g., zero interest rate finance to install rooftop PV in homes).
- Photovoltaic and hot water systems for low-income households, and the upgrading of energy efficiency technology in homes.
- Financing for energy efficiency, especially for SMEs.
- Energy performance contracting (EPC) for energy efficiency in public buildings and facilities.

Recommendations

- Support the development and adoption of Low-Carbon Economic Development Strategies (LCDS) focusing on diversifying the economy from traditional energy sources and scaling up of renewables.
- Increase investment in solar, wind and hydro power.
- Sustain/introduce government support and incentives to maintain SME engagement in light of macroeconomic volatilities and prolonged payback periods for investments.

6.4 Health

Access to affordable and well-functioning health systems and low COVID-19 vaccination rates is a key challenge facing many countries.

Access to healthcare is particularly challenging in rural areas and COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted groups already at risk of being left behind. An increase in mental health issues, especially in children and an increase in domestic violence due to lockdowns was also noted, both requiring an increase in resources to address.

Needs/Actions

- Increase COVID-19 vaccination rates through increased community awareness/campaigns.
- Support recovery in key COVID-19 affected sectors and value chains.
- Enhance the health sector's capacity for future outbreaks.

Good Practices for Scaling Up (Recovery)/Recommendations

- Invest in and strengthen the health sector to increase its resilience and responsiveness. For example, strengthening emergency health services with PPE and oxygen cylinders.
- Development of online health services.
- Establishment of digital platforms for daily monitoring of COVID-19 cases to be able to track the impact of the pandemic in real time and organise services accordingly.
- In some countries vaccine rejection rates are high due to misinformation; hence, improving community awareness is key (including awareness on sanitary precaution measures). To varying degrees there is a need to continue/increase vaccination and sanitary protection measures and vaccination awareness to achieve community im-

munity, reduce border restrictions and best prepare for recovery.

- Development of COVID-19 sanitation protocols along with communities. Awareness and advocacy on COVID-19 is needed, targeting the poor and marginalised people.
- At the global level, more equitable access to vaccines and support to improve the preparedness of poorer countries to reach their most disproportionally impacted citizens is required.
- Increase in hygiene and health awareness. For example, WASH programmes implemented at schools and other activities in collaboration with UNICEF working at household levels and with traditional leaders.

6.5 Mining

Needs/Actions/Recommendations

- Development of social and environmental sustainability standards for the mining sector, including the mine closure process.
- Increased public awareness of the threats of mining to the environment through the dissemination of information concerning these threats and how they can be mitigated. This information should be summarised in maps of the concerned areas.
- Review royalty systems and ensure royalties cover the proper closure of mines.
- Eliminate tax subsidies to large mining companies and pass them on to small ones that generate employment and have the potential for social development.

6.6 Natural resource management

Key challenges noted in the national consultations facing natural resources include: (i) sustainable management of water sources; (ii) recovery of coastal and marine areas including tackling over-exploitation of fisheries and illegal fishing; (iii) conservation of biodiversity through the Protected Areas Networks; (iv) land degradation / soil degradation due to overgrazing and deforestation; (v) deforestation and forest degradation resulting in land degradation, soil erosion and sedimentation of water bodies.

Needs/Actions

- **Nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based management/restoration** can make a huge contribution to building back better after the COVID-19 pandemic. They present opportunities to conserve ecosystems and biodiversity outside of Protected Areas and to create jobs and economic opportunities for local communities. They are often cost effective and can be combined with sustainable use activities, such as recreation or low-impact tourism, to make a positive impact on local economic development.
- Adopt ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) measures that will increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems and people in the face of the adverse effects of climate change.
- Adopt a natural capital approach to support decision makers in the organisation of information on how the environment interacts with the economy. Such systems support the integrity of ecosystem services which underpin the viability of key productive sectors such as agriculture, forestry, tourism and industry.

- Increase the number of Protected Areas (PAs) and strengthen PA management, including incomes for local communities. Reinforce institutional and regulatory frameworks to protect Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs), Marine Protected Areas and fishing reserves.
- There is a need to promote participatory land use planning and the role of indigenous and local communities in the preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- Sustainable financing for biodiversity conservation.
- Safeguards from zoonotic diseases arising from unsustainable development activities and illegal wildlife consumption and trade.
- **Forests (terrestrial and mangrove).** There is a need to: (i) design programmes that better protect forests; (ii) invest in reforestation, afforestation and restoration in degraded landscapes; (iii) plant endemic trees; (iv) promote practices to reduce deforestation such as the use of biofuel, improved stoves, and renewable energy; (v) reduce pressures on forest from land clearing, overgrazing, bush fires; and (vi) develop sustainable forest land use plans (incorporating wood and non-wood forest products and forest regulating and cultural services).
- **Coastal and marine ecosystems.** A blue transition and the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources will enable more prosperous societies. Actions to be taken to enable this include: enhanced coastal zone protection and management; the provision of technical skills and fishing equipment to small scale fisheries; developing and implementing interventions to promote marine protected areas; promotion of eco-friendly tourism; and, increased water conservation practices across coastal communities.
- Wetland protection and conservation programmes should be implemented through integrated wetlands management strategies, which requires the mapping of wetland areas and creating restricted zones for developmental projects.

Good Practices for Scaling Up

- Core best practices include nature-based solutions (for example, seawall defences built with natural products, including rocks sourced from within the communities) and ecosystem-based adaptation practices. More finance and incentives to better manage and increase the number of Protected Areas and promote the blue economy.
- **Forestry practices that can be scaled up include:** Reforestation and restoration actions (including agroforestry); multipurpose forest management (conservation and biodiversity protection, timber production, NTFPs, provision of ecosystem services, including ecotourism); the practice of planting one or two timber or fruit trees each time a tree is cut down in indigenous territory; civil society and church involvement in tree planting campaigns; the establishment of community groups/patrols responsible for preventing the burning and cutting down of trees and/or wildlife hunting; use of PES and other sustainable financing mechanisms (e.g., soft loans to forest villages); inclusive community forest management which empower communities and creating green jobs (including forest management committees and other participatory approaches).

- Successful initiatives in **coastal and marine areas,** that could be scaled up include: establishment and effective management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), protection of mangroves, Ridge to Reef (R2R) projects which have an ecosystem-based approach and support communities and agencies in sustainable land management, restoration of coastal ecosystems including coral farming and artificial reefs supported by coral reef monitoring.
- Inclusive financing models to support local government and communities, for example, through economic and fiscal instruments, socioeconomic incentive measures and partnership building through nature-based solutions.
- Watershed management to better manage water resources.

Recommendations

- Forestry: (i) Increase carbon sequestration through sustainable forest management and reforestation; (ii) Encourage community tree planting in both urban and rural areas; (iii) Promote alternative domestic energy sources where fuelwood and charcoal use are common; and, (iv) develop PES schemes.
- Marine: (i) Promote sustainable ocean economy; and (ii) provide technical skills and fishing equipment to people engaged in small scale fishing.

6.7 Tourism

Promotion of sustainable ecotourism is seen as a core component of a green/blue and inclusive economic model.

Needs/Actions

- Enforce policy that every new hotel built should be green globe certified.
- Transition from mass tourism to slow/environmentally and culturally conscious tourism that attracts tourists willing to invest in the local economy and respect the environment and culture.
- Support (local) tourism to help boost job opportunities for local communities and youth.

6.8 Transport

Reducing emissions from the transport sector, to improve air quality and reduce GHG emissions, is cited as a challenge.

Needs/Actions

- Improve public transportation systems, including an increased number of buses linked with better IT platforms for fleet management and efficiency. Improvements in public transport requires increased investment in clean energy public transport such as electrical buses and railway lines, by government and the private sector.
- Develop mass green transport in urban areas. For example, the uptake of electric vehicles should be encouraged through incentives and investments in infrastructure.
- Popularise electric cars.

Good Practices for Scaling Up/Recommendations

- Supporting the move to electric vehicles to reduce pollution through the provision of incentives (subsidies) and investments in

infrastructure such as charging stations to ensure adequate coverage and improved batteries.

- The modernisation of public transport vehicles.
- Construction of lanes for public transport.
- Promotion of active mobility, through creating an infrastructure for cycling (e.g., cycle lanes, bicycle parking and bike rental services), economic incentives (for example, the removal of customs tax for importing bicycles), and awareness raising on active mobility.
- Promote green transportation through services (provision of electric bicycle rental services).

6.9 Urban Environment (Sustainable Cities)

Rapid and unsustainable urbanisation is a challenge to address.

Needs/Actions

- Enhance understanding of green and resilient cities with a focus on sustainable transportation, green spaces and their health benefits.
- Investments in low-carbon sustainable cities, including sustainable infrastructure construction.
- In order to build safe and eco-friendly cities, the government should increase green standards and norms and stimulate the creation and expansion of green areas/belts in and around cities.
- Develop infrastructure for cities that ensures a safe, environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive environment

Recommendations

- Initiate urban resilience projects with a particular focus on infrastructure and waste management.
- Better inform the public about the ecological condition of the urban environment.
- Publicise the activities of state organisations and city services to address environmental issues.
- Involve youth and environmental organisations, as well as city activists in the environmental life of the city, using an area-based education approach.
- Improve sanitation (latrines).

6.10 Waste management

The lack of sustainable waste management systems, pollution from landfills, the lack of infrastructure for collection and sorting of waste, limited investment in waste management and in the uptake of a circular economy were all cited as challenges in the national consultations.

Needs/Actions

- Implement an effective public policy for managing residues and waste that encompasses the participation and involvement of all sectors (companies, local governments, citizens) and that has environmental education, equality, and human rights as a cross-cutting axis.
- Strengthen regulations to implement measures based on an integrated waste management model and circular economy and enforce fines.

- Encourage the private sector to complement the efforts of the government in the recycling of the waste.
- Develop partnerships with companies to return or better dispose of end-of-life vehicles and tighten import regulations.
- Develop supporting infrastructures for the application of the 5 Rs (refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, recycle), to move towards a circular economy.
- Expand anti-litter programmes.
- Provide incentives for recycling initiatives and implement schemes that generate income for communities.
- Introduce low-waste and non-waste technologies.
- Eliminate the use of single-use plastics, and minimise plastic packaging and bags to protect human health and marine biodiversity.
- Build the capacity of stakeholders in waste management and recovery. Expand skills on waste recycling and increase the resources and capacity of waste collection and transportation at municipal level, to promote the health of societies and create pathways towards cleaner and greener cities.
- Recognise the benefits to the health sector from improved waste management

Good Practices for Scaling Up

- Changing consumption patterns and waste management in line with a circular economy and the 5 Rs under SDG 12.
- A multidepartment coordination mechanism for zero-waste cities with clear leadership and distribution of duties.
- Strengthening the supervision and monitoring capacities for hazardous waste recycling and disposal to reduce environmental risks.
- The promotion of selective sorting and recycling, as practices that can also favour the integration of people with disabilities;
- Civil society and church involvement in the cleaning campaigns and the promotion of community-based recycling practices. For example, by installing recycling stations and creating neighbourhood compost bins, so that in each community there is a practical service supported by leaders in each location.
- Construction of communal dumps, to facilitate recycling and involvement of municipalities in the management of garbage collection systems.
- Operationalisation of WASH clubs in schools and community health centres.
- Transformation of dumping spaces into green areas.

Recommendations

- Strengthen waste management (removal of waste near communities and creation of landfills far from inhabited communities).
- Develop/reinforce Public Private Partnerships.
- Strengthen enforcement and penalties around improper waste disposal and introduce tax exemption on good waste management practices.

6.11 Water Management

Needs/Actions

- Improve water management and promote rainwater harvesting in both rural and urban areas for non-drinking purposes.
- Address water security at local, regional and global levels, through a fair distribution and an efficient usage of water resources.
- Develop National Water Strategies.
- Conserve lakes, rivers and glaciers.
- Develop policies and laws on glaciers and undertake more scientific studies.
- Establish safe wastewater management plants and infrastructure and improve effluent treatment.

Good Practices for Scaling Up/ Recommendations

- Introduction of technologies aimed at improving water accounting in the irrigation networks to increase transparency in the use of irrigation water.
- Increase implementation of water conservation projects, in particular rainwater collection/harvesting, to provide alternative access to clean water.
- Storm water management/treatment to prevent debris and wastes from reaching the ocean.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