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ACTIVITY 1.4

REPORT OF REGIONAL WORKSHOP (include name of the region/target area)

On the basis of the scenarios produced with the A1.2 and the assessment of the A1.3, this activity aims to raise awareness of the relevant institutions in charge of territorial policy making and of the social and economic stakeholders on data about water use and water saving practices, to support its concrete conceptual consideration in institutional and sectoral policies and implementation through concrete practices. This is made possible through the organisation of ad-hoc Regional Workshops in each targeted area, with the contribution of each partner.

DATE: July, 3rd, 2025

TIME/DURATION: 3,5 h

PLACE: online

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 18

REPRESENTED SECTORS/ORGANISATIONS:

1. Regional Agency for Environmental Prevention and Protection of Apulia - ARPA Puglia
2. Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change - CMCC
3. MareVivo Puglia Association
4. Apulian Aqueduct public company
5. University of Salento
6. Apulia Region - Water Resources Section
7. Bari Maritime Directorate
8. Water Research Institute - National Research Council (IRSA-CNR)
9. Southern Apennines District River Basin Authority
10. Regional Strategic Agency for the Eco-sustainable Development of the Territory - ASSET Puglia

SHORT SUMMARY OF THE EVENT

09.30-09.45	Institutional Greetings Eng. Elio Sannicandro <i>Director General of ASSET</i>
09.45-10.00	Beprepared project (INTERREG ITA-CRO): - local, regional, and national policies stakeholder needs analysis <i>Eng. Giuseppe Garofalo, Arch. Letizia Musiaio Somma – ASSET</i>
10.00-10.10	European projects on the topic of climate change: the Arianna project (Interreg IPA ADRION) <i>Eng. Domenico Denora, Dr. Marino Spilotros – ASSET</i>



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10.10-10.30	Climate scenarios in Apulia - the Egnazia pilot area <i>Eng. Giuliana Barbato – Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change – CMCC</i>
10.30-10.40	Introduction to the parallel working sessions <i>ASSET</i>
10.40-12.00	Working sessions: - Introduction of the participants - Presentation of the discussion questions - Defining the priority critical issues - Drafting the urgency-importance matrix
12.00-12.45	Plenary session: - Presentation of the work's results
12.45-13.00	Concluding remarks and workshop closure

DETAILED REPORT (please include pictures)



• WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

At 09:30 the Director General welcomed the participants and thanked them for their attendance. He then outlined the agency's main objectives as a partner in the Beprepared project.



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• PLENARY SESSION

The plenary session started at 09:45 am with a series of presentations to set the context for the day, outlining the projects' objectives and the structure of the workshop. The speakers and topics were as follows:

1. Letizia Musaio Somma: an overview of the Beprepared (INTERREG Italy-Croatia) project, aim, partners involved and a summary of actions conducted to date (review of the existing policies, local stakeholders mapping and needs assessment);
2. Giuseppe Garofalo: a review of the ASSET Agency's efforts to improve climate change resilience;
3. Marino Spilotros: an introduction of the Arianna (INTERREG IPA Adrion) project;
4. Domenico Denora: a technical presentation on the planned NBS action for the Arianna project;
5. Giuliana Barbato: technical analysis of climate scenarios in Puglia, with a focus on the Egnazia pilot area;
6. Letizia Musaio Somma: an explanation of the methodology for the working sessions and the key discussion questions.

The **aim** of the working groups are:

- To define priority aspects and themes in relation to the climate resilience of territories;
- To define operational tools within the group of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS);
- To identify a system of actions to which importance and urgency can be assigned;

The **working phases** are:

- Phase 1: presentation of the participants;
- Phase 2: questions at the basis of individual reflection and collective discussion;
- Phase 3: definition of the priority aspects and completion of the Eisenhower matrix that represents them;
- Phase 4: voting on the priority actions.

The discussion **questions** are:

1. What are the main risks related to the impact of climate change in the area of interest that require priority intervention?
2. What actions do you consider necessary to initiate in order to increase the environmental, economic, and social resilience of the territory to climate change?

The working method was then explained, which involved using the Miro board tool. Participants were instructed to use it to answer questions on digital post-its, complete the Eisenhower matrix with the identified risks and actions, and finally, vote on the main risks and priority actions.



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Following the plenary session, participants were divided into two working groups, each containing a diverse mix of representatives from various public entities and associations.

• WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES – INITIAL SESSION, ACTIVITY 1, ACTIVITY 2

At 10:40, the working group sessions began with a round of brief self-introductions. The two discussion questions were then read aloud, and participants were given time to answer each one individually, writing their responses on post-it notes.

Group 1

Facilitator: Michele Strizzi - Regional Strategic Agency for the Eco-sustainable Development of the Territory - ASSET Puglia

Participants:

Roberta Aretano – Regional Agency for Environmental Prevention and Protection of Apulia - ARPA Puglia
 Maria Chiara Cascarano – MareVivo Puglia Association
 Luigi De Caro – Apulian Aqueduct public company
 Domenico Denora – Regional Strategic Agency for the Eco-sustainable Development of the Territory - ASSET Puglia
 Domenica Lepore – Apulia Region

Group 2

Facilitator: Letizia Musiaio Somma - Regional Strategic Agency for the Eco-sustainable Development of the Territory - ASSET Puglia

Participants:

Maria Scarola - Southern Apennines District River Basin Authority
 Chiara Toziano - Apulia Region - Water Resources Section
 Marino Spilotros - Regional Strategic Agency for the Eco-sustainable Development of the Territory - ASSET Puglia
 Stefania Santoro - Water Research Institute - National Research Council (IRSA-CNR)
 Giuseppe Garofalo - Regional Strategic Agency for the Eco-sustainable Development of the Territory - ASSET Puglia



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Group 1 activities

The first working group, led by Michele Strizzi, addressed the questions by first working individually and then sharing their opinions as a group. The discussion focused on the risks associated with the impacts of climate change, as well as the processes and actions required to tackle them in both the short and the medium-to-long term.

Question 1: What are the main risks related to the impact of climate change in the area of interest that require priority intervention?

The participants highlighted the following main risks:

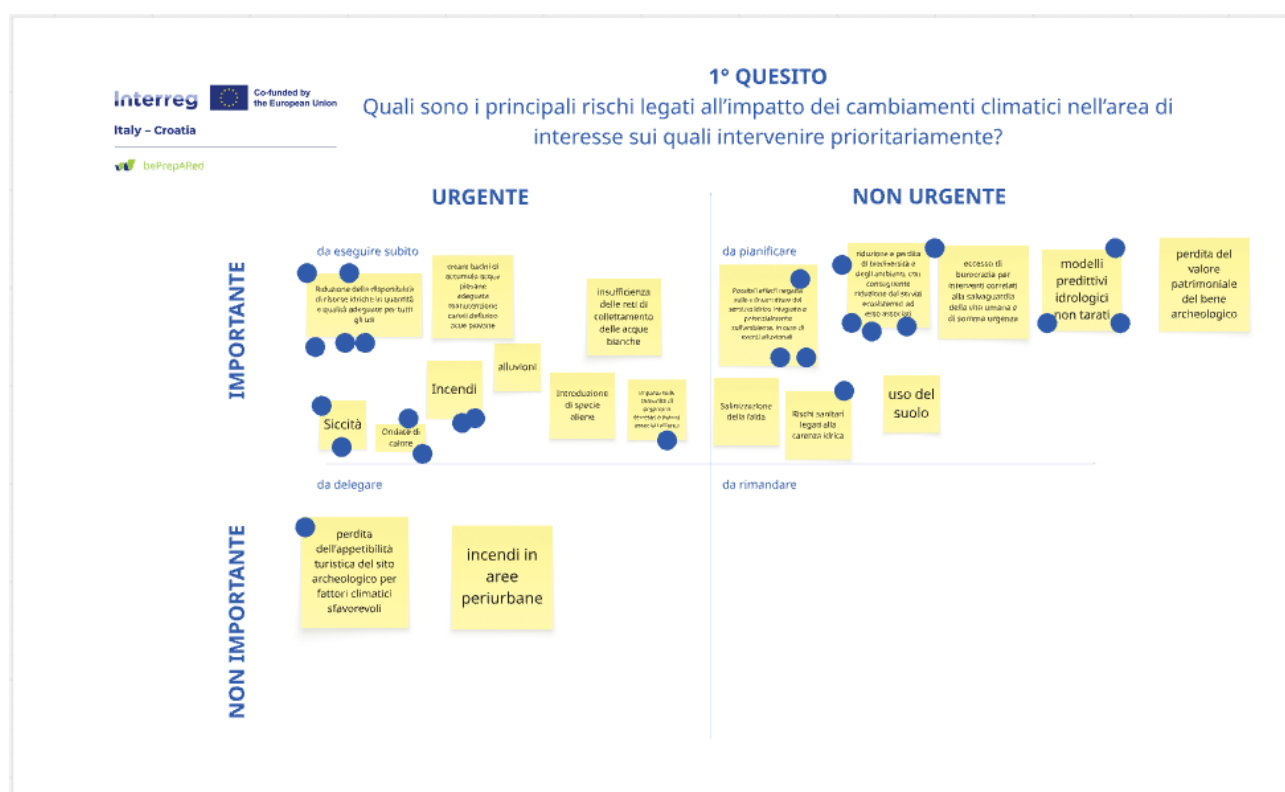
- Reduction in the availability of water resources in adequate quantity and quality for all uses
- Heatwaves
- Drought
- Wildfires
- Impact on the area's terrestrial and marine biological communities
- Floods
- Inadequacy of stormwater drainage networks
- Introduction of invasive alien species
- Reduction and loss of biodiversity and habitats, with a consequent reduction in their associated ecosystem services
- Potential negative effects on the integrated water service infrastructure and the environment in the event of flooding
- Uncalibrated hydrological predictive models
- Excessive bureaucracy (red tape) for urgent interventions related to safeguarding human life
- Health risks related to water scarcity
- Loss of heritage value of the archaeological asset
- Saltwater intrusion into the aquifer
- Land use issues
- Loss of the archaeological site's touristic appeal due to unfavorable climatic factors
- Wildfires in peri-urban areas

Based on the votes cast by the participants, the most imminent risks were found to be the **reduction in the availability of water resources** (in both adequate quantity and quality) and the **loss of biodiversity and natural habitats**, with the consequent decrease in ecosystem services. Following these, other highlighted risks included the potential negative impacts on the **integrated water service infrastructure** and the environment during flood events, in addition to the critical issue of **inadequately calibrated hydrological models**. Finally,



among the risks considered less urgent but still significant, were heatwaves, wildfires, drought, bureaucratic hurdles for urgent interventions, and health risks linked to water scarcity.

Following a group discussion, all identified risks were classified using the Eisenhower priority matrix. They were categorized into four quadrants: Urgent and Important; Important but Not Urgent; Urgent but Not Important; and Not Urgent and Not Important, as illustrated in the matrix below.



Question 2: What actions do you consider necessary to initiate in order to increase the environmental, economic, and social resilience of the territory to climate change?

The participants proposed the following actions:

- Public outreach and dissemination at the Local/Regional/National level on the issues (including the inclusion of citizens in mitigation actions)
- Increase the availability of water sources for all uses
- Monitoring of biological communities (both terrestrial and marine) with particular attention to vulnerable species
- Urban and peri-urban forestation



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- Reuse of wastewater for irrigation purposes
- Adequate early warning systems
- Promoting awareness among local authorities regarding risk management through civil protection actions that encourage multi-purpose land use to limit soil exploitation
- Update hydrological forecasting models based on the most recent extreme events
- Promote the reuse of treated wastewater
- Optimize water use and reduce water losses
- Rainwater harvesting and reuse systems
- Local-scale planning (e.g., SECAP - Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan)
- Reduce "gray" infrastructure in favor of "green" infrastructure
- Creation of rainwater collection basins and maintenance of rainwater runoff channels
- Sizing of sewage networks and treatment plants to account for potential flood events
- Restoration of species and habitats in the study areas (including recovery, repopulation, protection, and conservation)
- Rain gardens, permeable surfaces, and water plazas
- Maintenance of the water supply network
- Low heat-absorption surfaces (cool surfaces)
- Green roofs and walls
- Increase water supply interconnections to optimize the use of water resources
- Planning must be correlated with risk management, not just hazard assessment
- For issues related to hydrogeological instability, territorial governance should be based on river basins rather than the Southern Apennines District authority

The working group identified **public outreach at all levels** as the top priority, actively involving citizens in mitigation actions.

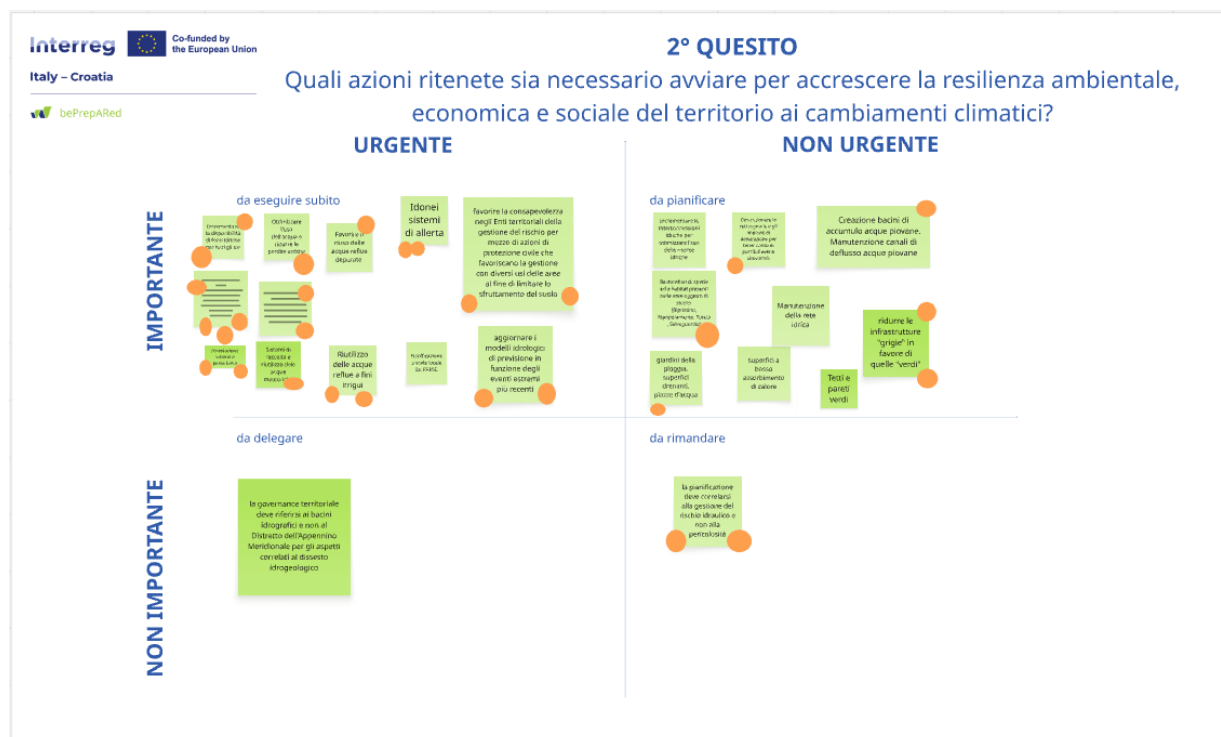
Following this, **increasing available water resources, monitoring vulnerable species, urban forestation, wastewater reuse**, and the **adoption of early warning systems** were also considered fundamental.

Subsequent priorities included **raising awareness among local authorities** for integrated risk management, **updating hydrological models, promoting green infrastructure**, and integrating spatial planning with flood risk management.

Finally, other noted interventions included **optimizing water use, reducing losses, rainwater harvesting, adapting sewage networks to extreme events**, and environmental protection through **habitat restoration and green infrastructure**.

Following a group discussion, all identified risks were classified using the Eisenhower priority matrix. They were categorized into four quadrants: Urgent and Important; Important but Not Urgent; Urgent but Not Important; and Not Urgent and Not Important, as illustrated in the matrix below.





Group 2 activities

The second working group, led by Letizia Musiaio Somma, addressed the questions by first working individually and then sharing their opinions as a group.

Question 1: What are the main risks related to the impact of climate change in the area of interest that require priority intervention?

The participants highlighted the following as the main risks:

- Loss of biodiversity
- Water scarcity
- Decline in groundwater quality and quantity
- Drought
- Waste management (direct and indirect)
- Flood risk management
- Wildfires
- Saltwater intrusion

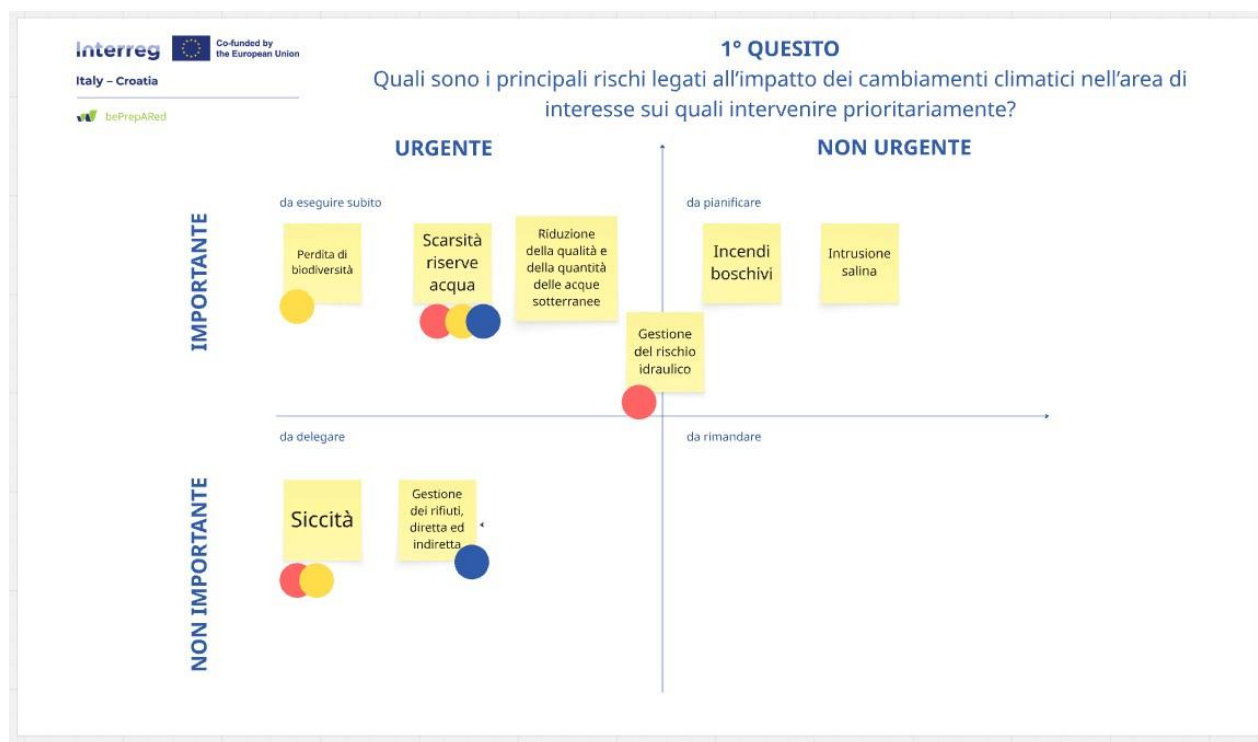
Water scarcity and **drought** were identified as the most imminent risks, followed by **loss of biodiversity**, **flood risk management**, and **waste management** (direct and indirect), based on the votes from the participants.



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Following a group discussion, all the identified risks were classified using the Eisenhower priority matrix. They were categorized into four quadrants: Urgent and Important; Important but Not Urgent; Urgent but Not Important; and Not Urgent and Not Important, as illustrated in the matrix below.



Question 2: What actions do you consider necessary to initiate in order to increase the environmental, economic, and social resilience of the territory to climate change?

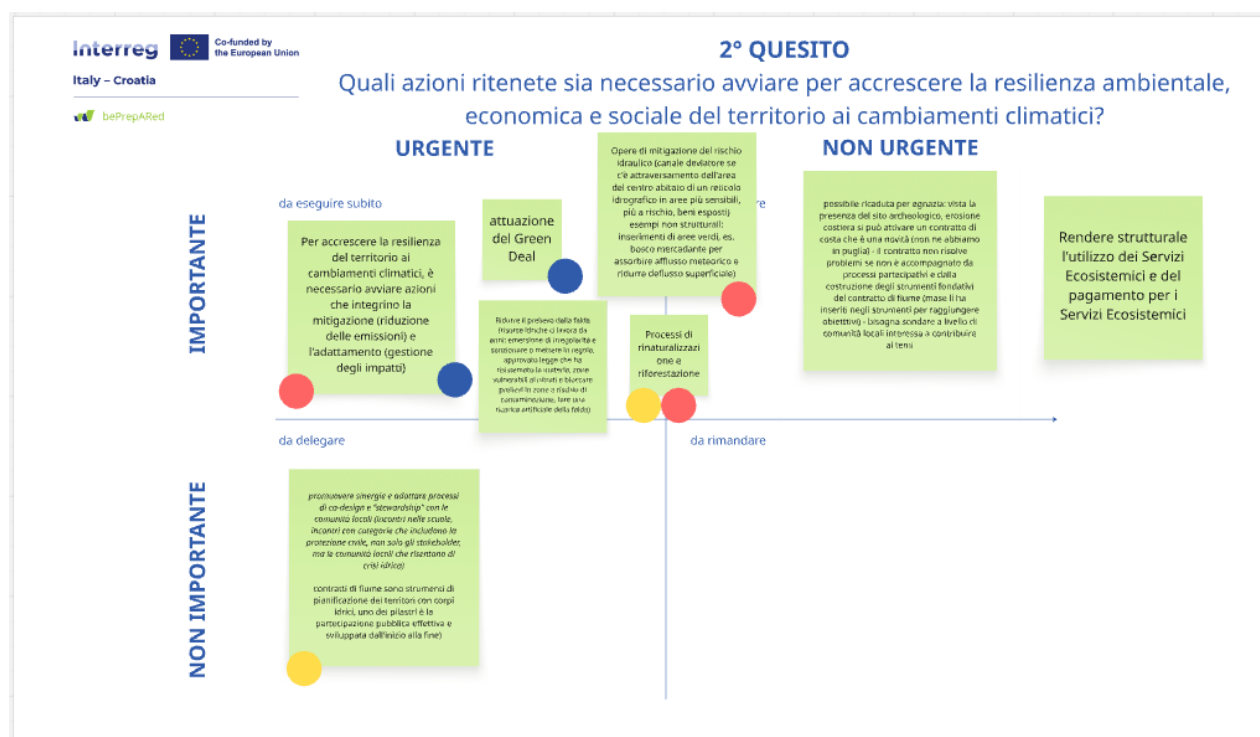
The participants proposed the following actions:

- To enhance the territory's resilience to climate change, it is necessary to initiate actions that integrate both mitigation (reducing emissions) and adaptation (managing impacts)
- Implementation of the Green Deal
- Reducing aquifer withdrawal
- Renaturalization and reforestation processes
- Flood risk mitigation works
- To establish a Coastal Management Agreement
- To mainstream the use of Ecosystem Services and Payments for Ecosystem Services
- To promote synergies and adopt co-design and stewardship processes with local communities



The actions identified as priorities are as follows: **actions that integrate both mitigation** (reducing emissions) **and adaptation** (managing impacts), **renaturalization and reforestation processes, flood risk mitigation works, to promote synergies** and adopt co-design and stewardship processes with local communities.

Following a group discussion, all the proposed actions were classified using the Eisenhower priority matrix. They were categorized into four quadrants: Urgent and Important; Important but Not Urgent; Urgent but Not Important; and Not Urgent and Not Important, as illustrated in the matrix below.



- **PANEL DISCUSSION AND WORKING GROUP CONCLUSION**

A comprehensive analysis of the outputs generated by both working groups has revealed several significant and recurring themes. With respect to the first discussion prompt, which centered on identifying the most critical environmental threats, a strong consensus emerged among participants. The **primary risks** consistently highlighted were the interconnected challenges of **water scarcity** and **prolonged drought**, the escalating danger of **wildfires**, and the fundamental issue of progressive **biodiversity loss**.

Furthermore, when the discussion turned to the second question regarding priority actions for building resilience, there was clear convergence on a set of core strategies. The most prominent among these agreed-



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upon actions were initiatives focused on fostering proactive community involvement and **citizen engagement**; developing targeted campaigns to **increase public awareness** and understanding; and implementing strategic **forestation and reforestation programs** to restore the region's natural capital.

