

From climate-digital transitions to inclusive climate adaptation: linking capacity gaps, spatial priorities and finance

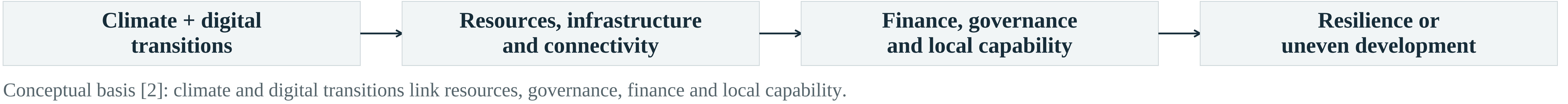
Gowhar Meraj^{1*}, Rabin Chakraborty¹, Hosni Ghedira¹, Matthias Ruth¹, Hasnan Baber¹, Shizuka Hashimoto², Fei Zhang³, Tarek Ben Hassen⁴, Tarig Ali¹

¹ American University of Sharjah ² The University of Tokyo ³ Zhejiang Normal University ⁴ Qatar University

Closing the finance gap requires funding that people can reach and use.

US\$187–359bn/year

Annual adaptation finance gap for developing countries.
AGR2024 baseline in Meraj & Hashimoto (2025) [1].
Nature-based solutions need finance, technical capacity, institutions and local participation [1,2].

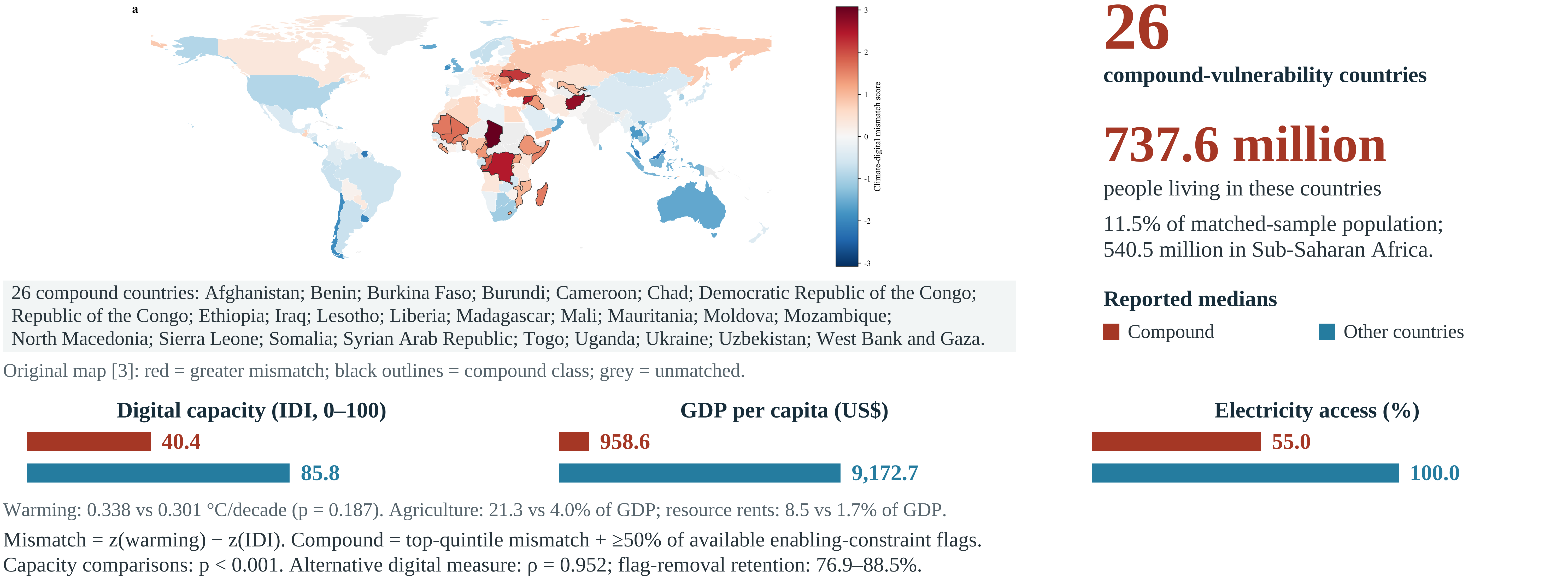


01

Locate the adaptation capacity gap

161 countries [3]

ERA5-Land warming (1991–2024), IDI (2024), economic capacity, electricity and livelihood dependence.

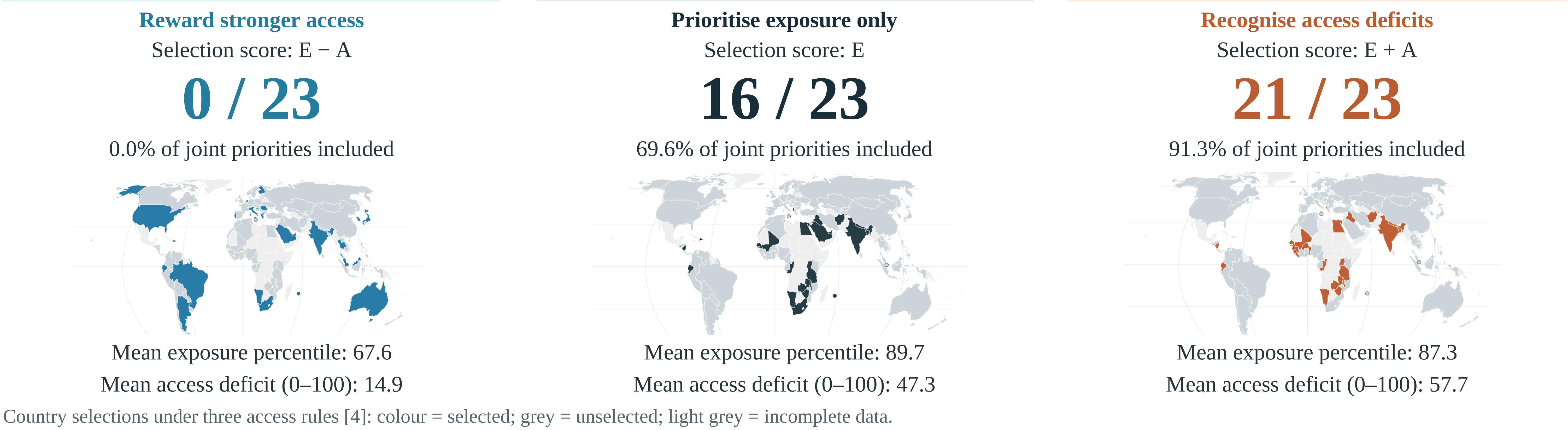


02

Make the access assumption explicit

116 economies [4]

ND-GAIN physical exposure; access deficit = mean internet non-use and lack of account ownership (2021).
E/A are empirical ranks. 23 joint-priority economies occupy both upper thirds; each rule selects the same 24 economies.



Five additional joint priorities: Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

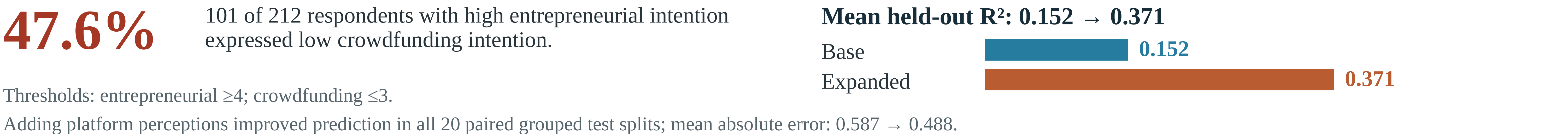
19 of 24 selections retained from exposure-only ranking; mean exposure percentile: 89.7 → 87.3.

19 priorities recur in ≥80% of 120 weight settings. 22 of 23 joint priorities have both deficits (median-based profiles).

03

Design for participation

Independent survey: n = 475 [4]



From finance mobilisation to inclusive adaptation

Finance nature-based solutions alongside climate services, enabling infrastructure and local participation.