CLIMATE RESILIENCE
AWARDS FOR BUSINESS 2026

Business resilience in action

Businesses are rising to the challenge on climate resilience

→ *Now we need to scale solutions that work*



World Business Council for Sustainable Development

GLOBAL RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP



AT A GLANCE

What the 2026 applications show

189* applications from organizations headquartered in 49 countries

66 countries host at least one resilience initiative

67% of applications come from SMEs

1.18m people supported to date, reported by 81 case studies

About the Climate Resilience Awards for Business

As the world risks overshooting 1.5°C, building resilience must go hand in hand with limiting further warming.† Businesses are already facing climate impacts today, through disruptions to operations, assets, value chains and workforce. It has arguably never been more important for businesses to take action on resilience to protect the people, critical infrastructure, and value chains they depend on and to safeguard business continuity. The **Climate Resilience Awards for Business** recognize and share what that action looks like in practice.

In 2026, the awards had four categories – agriculture and food systems, infrastructure, people first and water stewardship – for both corporates and for SMEs. The 2026 round received 189 applications, of which 175 were viable and form the evidence base of this report. 23 applications were selected as **finalists**.

The findings in this report reflect the applications received and are indicative of patterns in this year's entries, not a comprehensive picture of business resilience action.

Figure 1: The 2026 award categories and submission statistics

Building Climate-Proof Infrastructure	Promoting Water Stewardship	Safeguarding Agriculture & Food Systems	Protecting People First
15 Corporates	**16** Corporates	**15** Corporates	**12** Corporates
19 SMEs	**9** SMEs	**67** SMEs	**22** SMEs
13 Implementers	**15** Implementers	**33** Implementers	**12** Implementers
21 Providers	**10** Providers	**49** Providers	**22** Providers

Notes: 175 viable applications were received across the 4 award categories from 189 total applications. Corporates and SMEs competed separately within each category. Applications were submitted by implementers (those deploying projects for their own operations and value chains) and providers (those providing solutions to others).

Five patterns stand out across the applications:

1. **SMEs lead the way.** They submitted the highest number of applications, predominantly from Africa and Asia, and are driving adaptation as resilience solution providers, tailored to local contexts and community needs.
2. **Water stress, land degradation and rising temperatures are the top challenges addressed.** Applicants reported chronic physical risks as the main drivers of resilience action more often than acute events.
3. **Technology is the most common resilience solution.** AI, analytics, IoT and telecommunications services were the leading solutions and supported the most people.
4. **Partnership is how resilience gets delivered.** Communities, value chains and funding or financier partners are named most often as collaborators for resilience initiatives.
5. **Projects delivered wider benefits beyond resilience.** The key KPIs tracked by the Awards were people protected and finance mobilized, but these capture only a small part of the overall value. Most benefits are described by applicants, however credible measurement remains a challenge.

> *"Building climate resilience at scale requires businesses to move beyond individual action and work together to accelerate solutions. These awards bring visibility to companies leading that change."*



Jenny Kwan
Director, Climate and Nature Action, WBCSD

* Out of the 189 applications, 175 were viable, meaning the submission described a resilience project and passed eligibility screening.
† UNEP (2026). Limiting Overshoot - Navigating exceedance of 1.5°C and pathways towards return

SMEs lead the way

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) submitted 117 of the 175 applications (67%). Three in four SMEs (85 of 117) are resilience solution providers – offering products, services or technology to others as part of their business model. Corporates are the mirror image: approximately three in four (41 of 58) are resilience and adaptation solution implementers, protecting their own operations, sites and value chains.

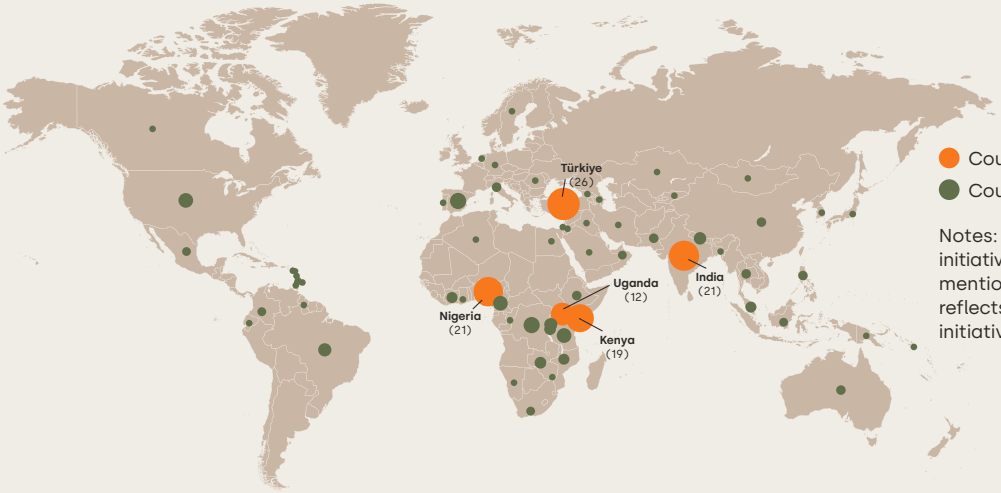
Africa (39%) and Asia (36%) account for three quarters of applicants by headquarters, but projects reach further than the headquarters map suggests: 66 countries host at least one resilience project, against 49 headquarters countries. In general, SMEs tend to deploy projects in their headquarter countries, while corporates often invest in resilience initiatives in other regions, around manufacturing sites or important agricultural areas and regions. Looking at industry representation amongst the applicants, agriculture & food is the largest, with most applications submitted by SMEs. Corporates contribute to the majority of applications from manufacturing & industry and financial services.

> *"SMEs are driving some of the most exciting innovations in climate resilience. Particularly across the Global South, entrepreneurs are developing practical solutions shaped by real-world challenges, creating new opportunities and contributing to stronger, more resilient economies."*



Jesper Hörnberg
CEO, Global Resilience Partnership

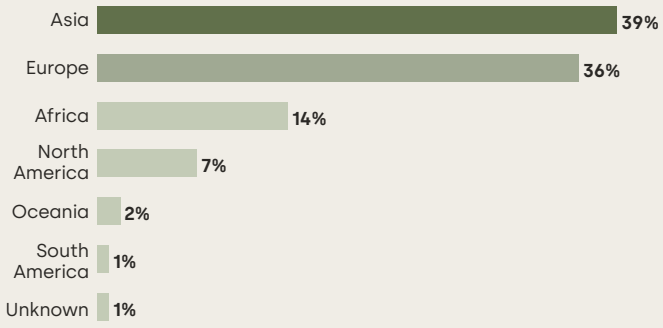
Figure 2: Viable applications by deployment country, with five hotspots



Countries with 10 or more applications
Countries with less than 10 applications

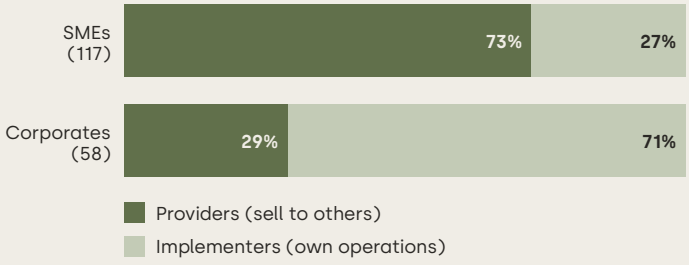
Notes: 170 out of 175 viable applications shown by initiative deployment country. 5 applications did not mention concrete deployment country. Bubble size reflects the number of applications with a resilience initiative in each country.

Figure 3: Viable applications by headquarters continent



Notes: Based on 175 viable applications, ordered from most to fewest. Percentages show each continent's share of the 175 viable applications. One application has no recorded headquarters continent.

Figure 4: Providers and implementers by organization size



Notes: Based on 175 viable applications (117 SMEs, 58 corporates). Percentages show each group's split by providers of resilience solutions (offering solutions to others as part of their business model) and adaptation & resilience implementers (resilience projects deployed in own operations or value chains.)

Figure 5: Viable applications by sector, SME-heavy and corporate-heavy

SME-heavy sectors

- **Agriculture & Food** 39%
- **Technology & Digital** 10%
- **Water & Waste Management** 9%

Corporate-heavy sectors

- **Manufacturing & Industry** 7%
- **Financial Services** 6%

Notes: Based on 175 viable applications. Share of viable applications by sector. The five most common sectors among applicant organizations are shown.

PATTERN 2

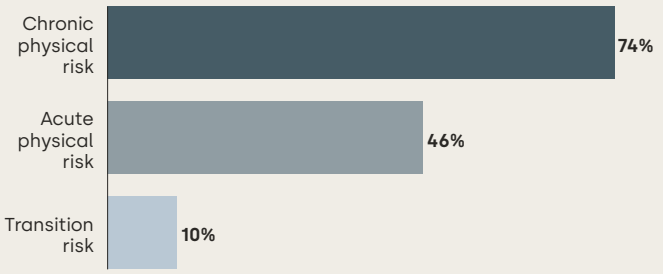
Water stress, land degradation and rising temperatures are the top challenges addressed

Three in four applications (74%) name a chronic physical risk, against 46% for acute events and only 10% for transition risks such as policy or market shifts. Drought and water scarcity are mentioned most (53%), followed by erratic rainfall and shifting seasons (37%) and flooding (37%). Among projects in Africa, 65% name drought as the key driver of resilience action.

SmartWTI · SME · Jordan

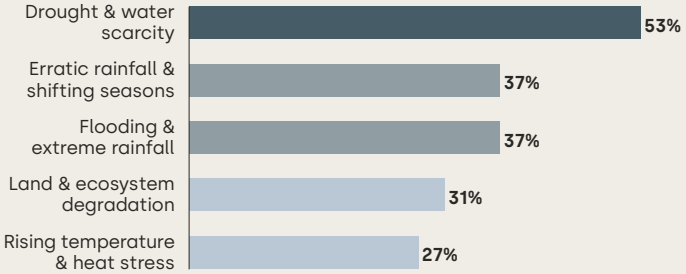
IoT and AI-enabled smart controllers and water sensors in more than 35 schools, reporting 20 to 25% less water loss and 32,089 people supported, including students and school staff.

Figure 6: Climate risk types named in viable applications



Notes: Based on 175 viable applications. Share of viable applications mentioning climate risk categories. An application can name more than one type of climate risk.

Figure 7: Five most named climate hazards



Notes: Based on 175 viable applications. The five most named hazards are shown. An application can name more than one type of climate risk. 13% name no specific climate risk.

PATTERN 3

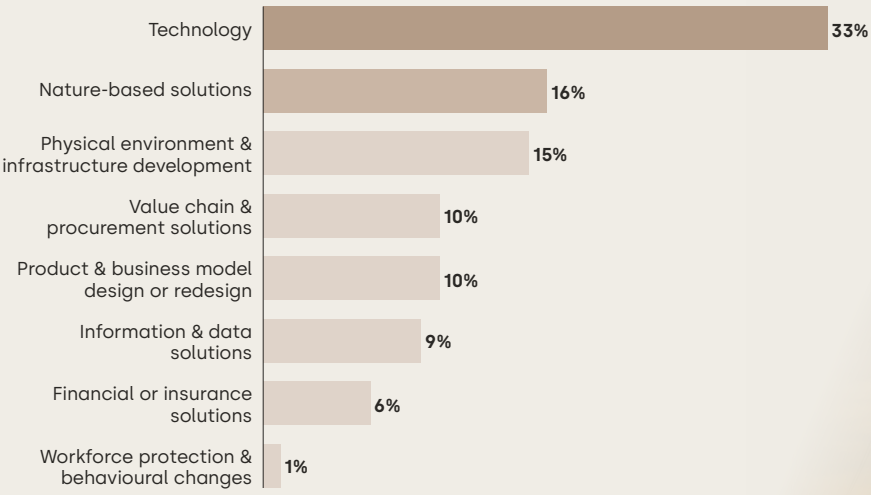
Technology is the most common resilience solution

Technology is the largest solution category with 57 applications (33%), followed by nature-based solutions (27) and physical infrastructure (26). Most technology applications come from solution providers (46 of 57), and include AI, analytics and decision-support tools (28 applications), mobile, digital and IoT services (25) and energy-efficient or solar-powered equipment (20). Technology solutions also account for the largest share of reported reach: about 476,000 of the 1.18 million people supported.

farmbetter · SME · Kenya

AI-powered farming advice for smallholder farmers on WhatsApp, supported by an extension-agent app and an organizational dashboard, in 10 languages across 9 countries.

Figure 8: Main adaptation solution category per application



Notes: Based on 175 viable applications. Each application is counted once, under its main adaptation solution category, ordered from most to fewest. Adaptation solution categories were defined following WBCSD Classification.*



* WBCSD (2025), Adaptation Planning for Business – Navigating uncertainty to build long-term resilience

PATTERN 4

Partnership is how resilience gets delivered

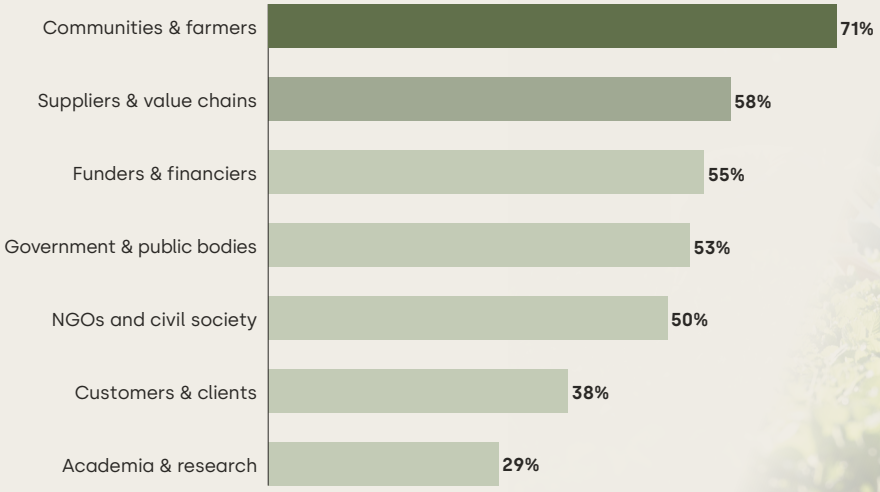
Almost every application names the people it works with. Communities and farmers come first (71%), followed by suppliers and value chains (58%), funders and financiers (55%), government (53%) and NGOs and civil society (50%). Less than half of all applications also report partnerships with customers and clients (38%) and academia and research (29%) Even applicants improving their own operations look outward: 92% of implementers name at least one external partner type.

Most innovation lies in how solutions are organized and delivered, not only in the technology: business model and finance, process and implementation, technology and digital, and partnership and governance are each named by about two in three applications (65 to 67%).

ofi (Olam Food Ingredients) · Singapore · Ecuador

Supporting 2,925 smallholder cocoa farmers through regenerative agriculture, agroforestry and blended finance.

Figure 9: Partner types named in viable applications



Notes: Based on 175 viable applications.
An application can name several partner types.



PATTERN 5

Projects delivered wider benefits beyond resilience

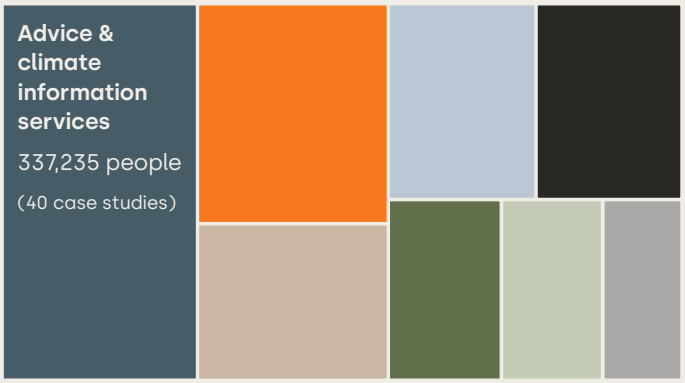
Applicants reported two measures of impact: people protected and finance mobilized. Together they claim 1.18 million people protected (81 case studies) and USD 1.23 billion mobilized (80 case studies). Both figures are based on self-reported figures and have been calculated using conservative estimates. The finance figure should be read with care. Debt makes up 91% of the total, from just 12 case studies, and the median project mobilized USD 202,500.

EPVI New Technological Epoch (Enlog x Bloom Hotels) · SME · India

An example of a measured outcome: across a 100-hotel portfolio, emergency maintenance callouts and downtime per equipment incidents fell 61% and 55%, respectively (September to November 2024 against 2023).



Figure 10: Estimated 1.18M people supported, by type of support



- **Advice & climate information services:** 337,235 people (40 case studies)
- **Finance, insurance & payments:** 193,761 people (13 case studies)
- **Health, safety & disaster protection:** 137,999 people (26 case studies)
- **Training & capacity building:** 132,556 people (67 case studies)
- **Markets, income & jobs:** 131,538 people (46 case studies)
- **Water, energy & basic services:** 92,724 people (24 case studies)
- **Inputs, equipment & technology:** 84,017 people (47 case studies)
- **Land, nature & ecosystem restoration:** 65,698 people (29 case studies)

Notes: Estimated number of people supported by type of support. Box size shows people supported to date, shared equally across the types an application names; realized numbers only. Based on 81 of 175 viable applications with a counted figure.

Figure 11: Estimated USD 1.23 billion funding, by source



- **Loans, bonds & other debt:** USD 1,119M (12 case studies)
- **Equity & venture investment:** USD 31M (10 case studies)
- **Source not stated:** USD 25M (14 case studies)
- **Own funds, CSR & internal budgets:** USD 22M (36 case studies)
- **Grants, philanthropic funding:** USD 16M (49 case studies)
- **Public & multi-lateral funds:** USD 5.9M (12 case studies)
- **Revenue, carbon & customer-funded:** 3.9M (15 case studies)
- **Insurance, blended & risk-sharing finance:** 3.1M (5 case studies)

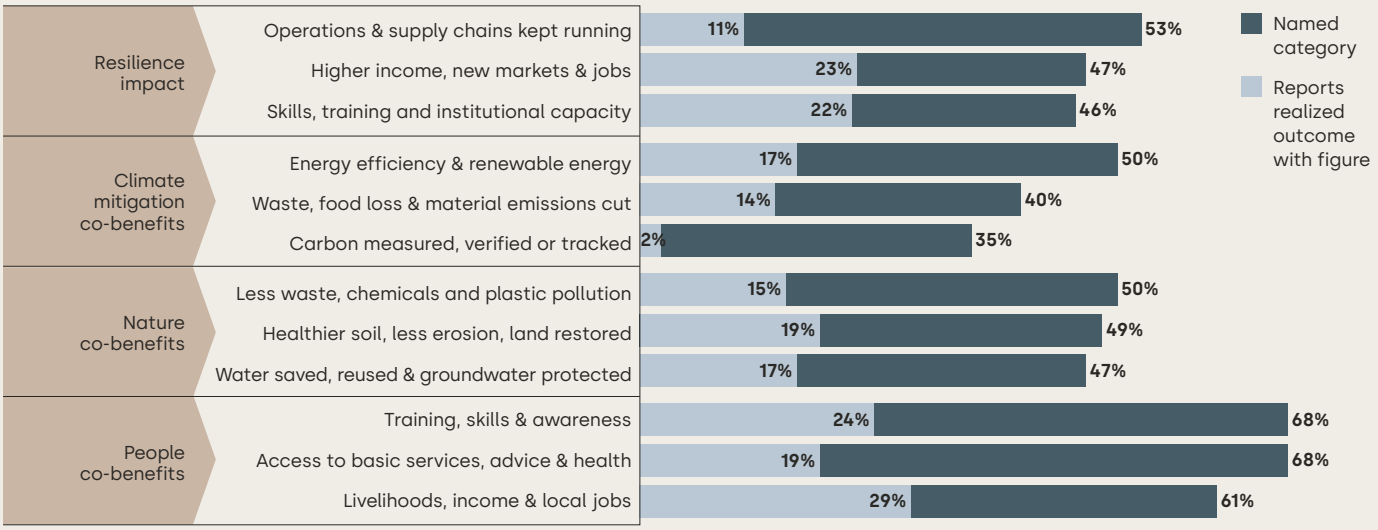
Notes: Estimated funding in USD by source of funding. Box size shows the funding amount; labels also show the number of case studies per source. "Source not stated" covers funding with no named source. Based on 80 of 175 viable applications with a counted figure.

These two numbers capture only part of the value. Resilience projects also deliver benefits that no headline measure counts, such as secure jobs, lower costs, healthier communities and less pressure on shared resources. Keeping operations and supply chains running, the most-named resilience impact, appears in 53% of applications, while the most common benefits described by applicants were people co-benefits: 68% name training, skills and awareness, 68% name access to basic services, advice and health, and 61% name livelihoods, income and local jobs.

Around half also describe nature co-benefits such as less pollution (50%), healthier soil (49%) and water saved or reused (47%), and climate mitigation co-benefits such as energy efficiency and renewables (50%).

Value that is untracked and uncounted is easy to miss, hard to compare and harder to fund. A shared reporting standard would let businesses show the full value of resilience, not only the two numbers we can count today.

Figure 12: Top three reported and realized outcomes across resilience and co-benefits



Notes: Percentage of 175 viable applications naming each category in their application text. Dark bars show applications that name the outcome; light segments show those that also give a realised result with a figure. An application can name several categories.

23 finalists across four award categories

The table below shows the finalist case studies of the 2026 Climate Resilience Awards for Business. The winner of each category is marked with a label. "Deployment country" shows where the location of the project. The final column summarizes the resilience initiative.

Finalist	*Type*	*Deployment country*	*What they do*
Safeguarding Agriculture & Food Systems			
Nature Bio Foods WINNER	Corporate	India	Nature Bio Foods, a Dutch organic rice company, works with about 50,000 farmers in India on organic and Fairtrade rice. It supports water conservation, lower chemical use, tree planting and community programmes, backed by a KPMG impact assessment and a Fairtrade study.
ofi (Olam Food Ingredients)	Corporate	Ecuador	ofi (Olam Food Ingredients) runs a cocoa programme in Ecuador from 2024 to 2027 combining regenerative farming, agroforestry and biodiversity conservation with farmer support in six provinces. It reports 2,925 farmers reached.
Grupo Cooperativo Cajamar	Corporate	Spain	Grupo Cooperativo Cajamar runs experimental stations in Spain that test and demonstrate climate-smart farming, including water-saving and soil practices, and share results through training and visits. In 2025 it reported 11,758 training participants and 3,730 station visitors.
The Green Intelligence B.V. WINNER	SME	Nepal, Kenya	The Green Intelligence combines community-led agroforestry with a mobile app that tracks tree survival on landslide-prone and degraded land in Nepal. More than 800 hectares have been restored, and farmers receive training, community nurseries and carbon project development.
farmbetter	SME	India & 8 African countries	Farmbetter delivers personalised, multilingual climate-smart farming advice by WhatsApp chatbot and mobile app, with human extension agents where needed. It reports over 50,000 farmers reached across eight African countries and India.
Ecological Food Caterpillars Company	SME	DR Congo	The Ecological Food Caterpillars Company (EFCC) restores community forest in Mwenga Territory, DR Congo, by planting native trees that host edible caterpillars. Indigenous youth and women run nurseries and a cooperative value chain, with 1,130 hectares restored across 22 villages.
Building Climate-Proof Infrastructure			
Birla Estates WINNER	Corporate	India	Birla Estates, an Indian real estate developer, assesses climate risk for every project in its portfolio and builds in measures such as flood protection, raised electrical equipment, water-efficient fixtures and green-building certification. Some projects also use rooftop solar.
Çimsa Çimento COP31 RESILIENCE AWARD	Corporate	Türkiye, Spain	Çimsa's Green Wave programme offers low-clinker cements and binders, FlyCrete rapid-hardening repair concrete, 3D-printed structures and recycled aggregates. FlyCrete reaches 25 MPa in about three hours when tested on an airport pavement.
Brisa Group	Corporate	Portugal	Brisa Group's digital twin combines weather, terrain, land-use and wildfire ignition data with fire-spread modelling to show operators when wildfires could affect the A3 motorway in Portugal. It was developed with the University of Aveiro's Instituto de Telecomunicações and co-financed by the EU Commission.
Schneider Electric	Corporate	China	Schneider Electric's Xiamen campus in Fujian, China uses sponge-city stormwater design: permeable paving, rain gardens, sunken green space, a storage tank and an integrated pipe network, designed to withstand typhoon and extreme rainfall exposure.
GBCE WINNER	SME	Mongolia	GBCE leads the energy-efficiency and climate-resilience design of the AHURP housing programme in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Pilot low-carbon buildings have been built to EDGE standard, and 10,000 households are planned to move from coal-heated gers into insulated, connected housing.
EPVI New Technological Epoch	SME	India	EPVI's Enlog platform retrofits hotels with panel-mounted power monitors, edge-AI appliance controllers and wireless sensors on existing wiring. Across 100 Indian hotels it cut emergency maintenance callouts by 61% and equipment downtime per incident by 55%.

Finalist	*Type*	*Deployment country*	*What they do*
Protecting People First			
DEKRA WINNER	Corporate	India, Ethiopia, Brazil, Germany	DEKRA's Climate Impact Program funds adaptation and restoration projects from an internal carbon price of EUR 200 per tonne instead of buying offsets. Projects include solar-powered rural water supply with UNICEF in India and Ethiopia and peatland restoration with NABU.
Tetra Pak	Corporate	Brazil	Tetra Pak funds native forest restoration with the NGO Apremavi and Social Carbon in Brazil's Araucaria forest, restoring degraded rural land on private properties. Advance payments are tied to future carbon credits, and 3,479 hectares have been restored.
Arçelik	Corporate	South Africa	Arçelik, with its Defy and Beko brands, developed a refrigerator with an integrated solar panel, battery and smart controller for homes and small businesses without reliable electricity. More than 1,500 units have been deployed in South Africa and neighbouring countries.
KumaonKhand Agro-Innovations WINNER	SME	India	KumaonKhand runs a farmer-owned hemp value chain in Uttarakhand, with village-level processing hubs for drying, threshing and decortication, and sells fibre and handloom textiles. It buys seed directly from farmers at published prices and works with weavers across Almora, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh.
Bottega 8290 Architectural Studio	SME	Philippines	Bottega 8290 Architectural Studio produces "Pulido Arkitekto Tambagi Ko!", a Cebuano radio and social media programme that gives lower-income self-builders in Cebu advice on typhoon-, flood- and earthquake-resistant home construction, with live architect Q&A and free consultations.
NAXA	SME	Nepal, Malawi, Bangladesh,	NAXA's DASTAA platform combines household surveys, geospatial data, weather forecasts and Earth Observation to produce household-level risk profiles and trigger alerts and anticipatory assistance. It is used by municipalities in Nepal, Bangladesh and Malawi, with GSMA funding for the Nepal phase.
Promoting Water Stewardship			
Danone WINNER	Corporate	Indonesia	Rejoso Kita is a watershed programme in East Java supported by Danone and its water brand AQUA. It combines forest protection, regenerative farming, irrigation and well management with a payment-for-ecosystem-services scheme and a multi-stakeholder watershed forum.
NTT DATA	Corporate	Spain	NTT DATA built GOTA, Spain's national water management observatory, with the Directorate-General for Water. It brings hydrological, weather and water-use data from nine river basin authorities and more than 4,000 sensors into one platform for drought and flood decisions.
Coca-Cola Europacific Partners Iberia	Corporate	Spain	CCEP's Spanish water programme combines site-level efficiency and reuse with basin projects, including precision irrigation on citrus farms, marsh restoration and reclaimed water in Tenerife. It is delivered with WWF Spain and other partners and has run since 2009.
Flushh WINNER	SME	Namibia	Flushh manufactures waterless eco-toilets in Namibia and services them for a monthly fee of $11, collecting the waste and converting it to biochar. It has deployed over 200 toilets in schools and communities since a 2020 pilot.
SmartWTI	SME	Jordan	SmartWTI installed IoT sensors and controllers in 35 public schools in Irbid and Mafraq, Jordan, to monitor tank levels, leaks and water quality through a cloud dashboard. The project is funded by a £250,000 GSMA Innovation Fund grant and endorsed by Jordan's Ministry of Education.

Data Use and Interpretation

This report is solely based on applications submitted as part of the 2026 Climate Resilience Awards for Business cycle. Figures are drawn from self-reported applications and should be read as patterns within this year's entries rather than absolute measures. They do not show trends over time and should not be considered as a representative sample of the wider business community.

Applications often name several items, so shares can add up to more than 100%; the notes under each chart explain what each covers. All results are self-reported by applicants. They describe the 2026 applications received, and do not reflect any other resilience initiatives taken by the businesses who submitted applications or the wider business community. Individual applicants chose to apply, so the applications indicate nothing about how common resilience action is in any country, sector, or individual businesses.

The awards received 189 applications between 27 June and 7 October 2026. 175 were judged viable (they passed eligibility screening or were judged viable by the review team) and form the evidence base for the charts in this report. 23 applications were shortlisted by the review team to become finalists. Expert judges from Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS), the Global Resilience Partnership (GRP), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the World Business Countil for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) selected the final winners. Results, figures and amounts are the applicants' own and have not been verified independently by the review team.

Disclaimers

This report has been developed in the name of WBCSD & the Global Resilience Partnership. This does not mean, however, that every member company or stakeholder agrees with every word. This report has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to be relied upon as accounting, tax, legal or other professional advice.

This report was prepared with the assistance of general-purpose AI tools, used to support data analysis and editing. All evidence, figures and attributions were verified against the primary sources by the authors, who retain full responsibility for the analysis, judgements, and recommendations presented. No findings, recommendations, quotations, or primary data were generated by AI.

About WBCSD

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is the leading global community of forward-looking businesses working together to make sustainable business the benchmark for long-term value creation, resilience and competitiveness. Founded in 1995, WBCSD is a CEO-led, member-driven organization that equips companies to navigate complexity, accelerate business transformation, and drive impact at scale.

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About GRP

The Global Resilience Partnership (GRP) advances resilience by identifying and scaling on-the-ground innovation, generating and sharing knowledge, and shaping policy. Founded in 2014, it brings together more than 90 partners from across sectors and regions around a vision of an inclusive world, in harmony with nature, that is better prepared to cope with shocks, adapt to change and transform.

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