

The environmental crisis as a shared European security risk

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Main messages

- Ecological crises pose a risk to the EU's security
- Environment-related risks erode societal resilience as well as defence capability
- There is a need to respond to multiple crises simultaneously
- Sustainable development is a prerequisite for a secure environment

Environment-related security risks

Direct risks

- Direct ecological impact on humans/societies

-E.g.

- Exceptional storms
- Widespread wildfires
- Long-lasting heatwaves

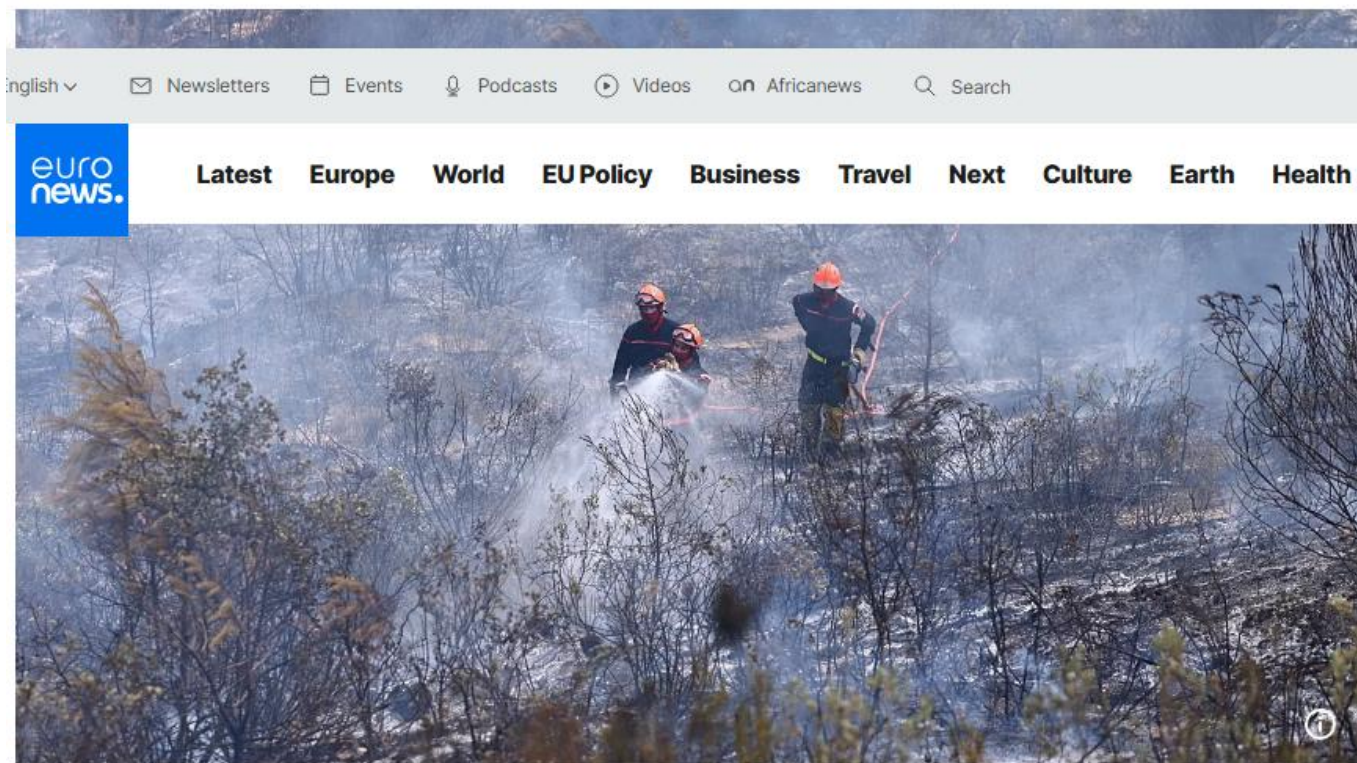
Europe's summer of extreme weather caused €43bn of short-term losses, analysis finds

Greatest damage from heat, drought and flooding done in Cyprus, Greece, Malta and Bulgaria



A forest fire in Vila Real, Portugal, in August. Mediterranean countries including Spain, Italy and Portugal have been badly affected by extreme weather over the summer. Photograph: Pedro Sarmiento Costa/EPA

Europe's scorching summer could cost EU economies €180 billion



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By [Quirino Mealha](#)

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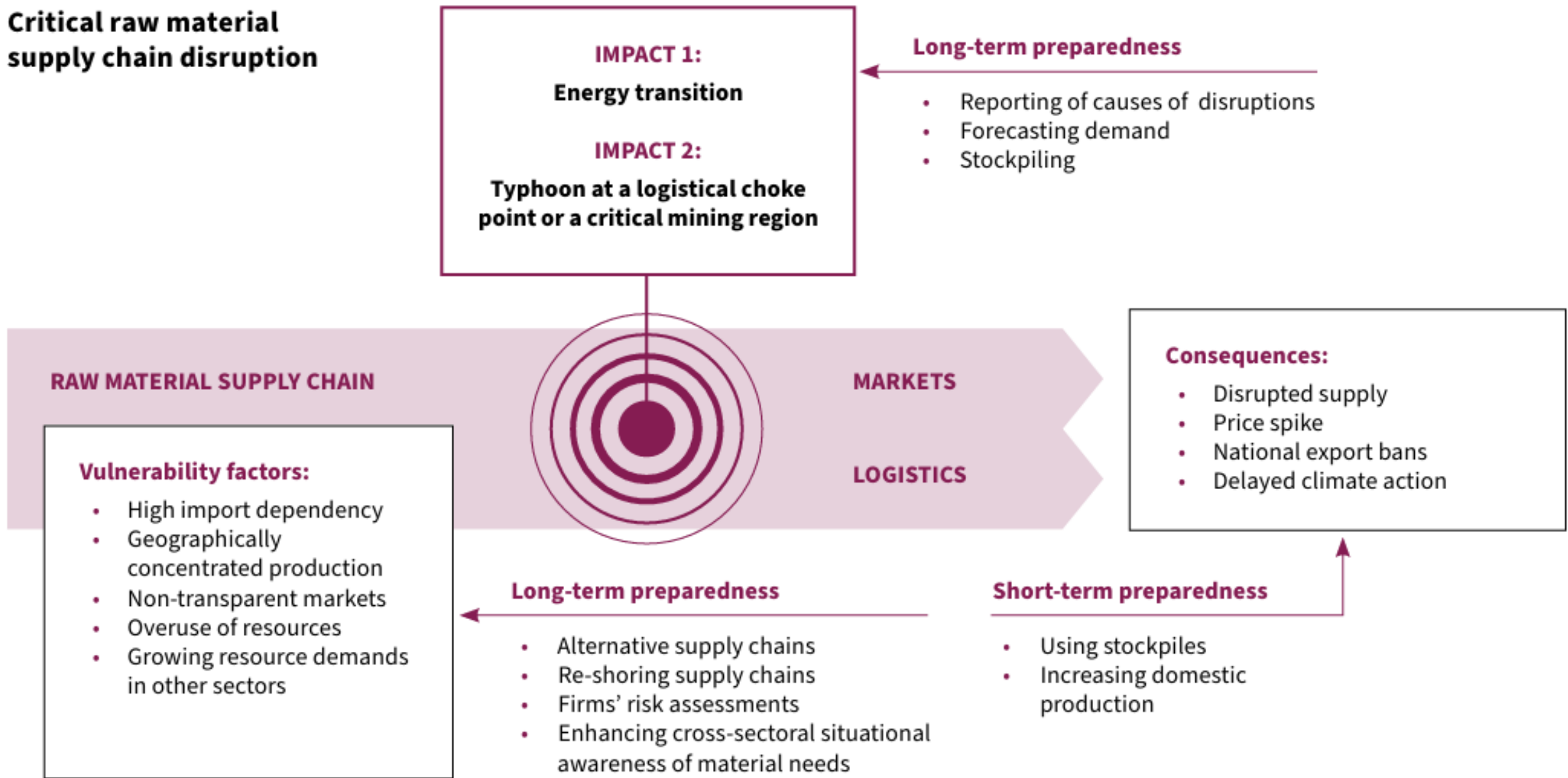
Cascading risks

- Ecological impact+ socio-economic factors

-E.g.

- Disruptions in critical supply chains
- Forced migration
- Growing geopolitical tensions

Critical raw material supply chain disruption



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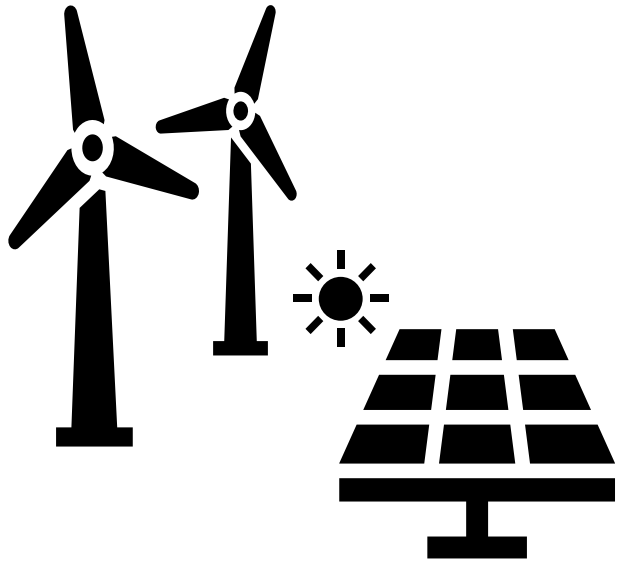
Transition risks

- Consequences of mitigating ecological crisis

-E.g.

- New material dependencies
- Growing societal discontent and disputes
- Changing power-balance between resource-rich countries

*Renewable energy
production grows*



Local production
growth



Environmental harm
Land use disputes
Indigenous rights
violations

Global increase in
demand for
minerals



Environmental harm
Corruption
Child labour
Human rights
violations

Source: Hakala ym 2021

The EU approach to environmental security

Climate and Security Nexus (2023)

- Analysis and foresight
- EU external action and adapting to cascading risks
- Adapting civilian and military capabilities for a changing environment

EU framework for climate resilience and risk management (October 2026)

How Brussels wants to stop the climate disaster blame game

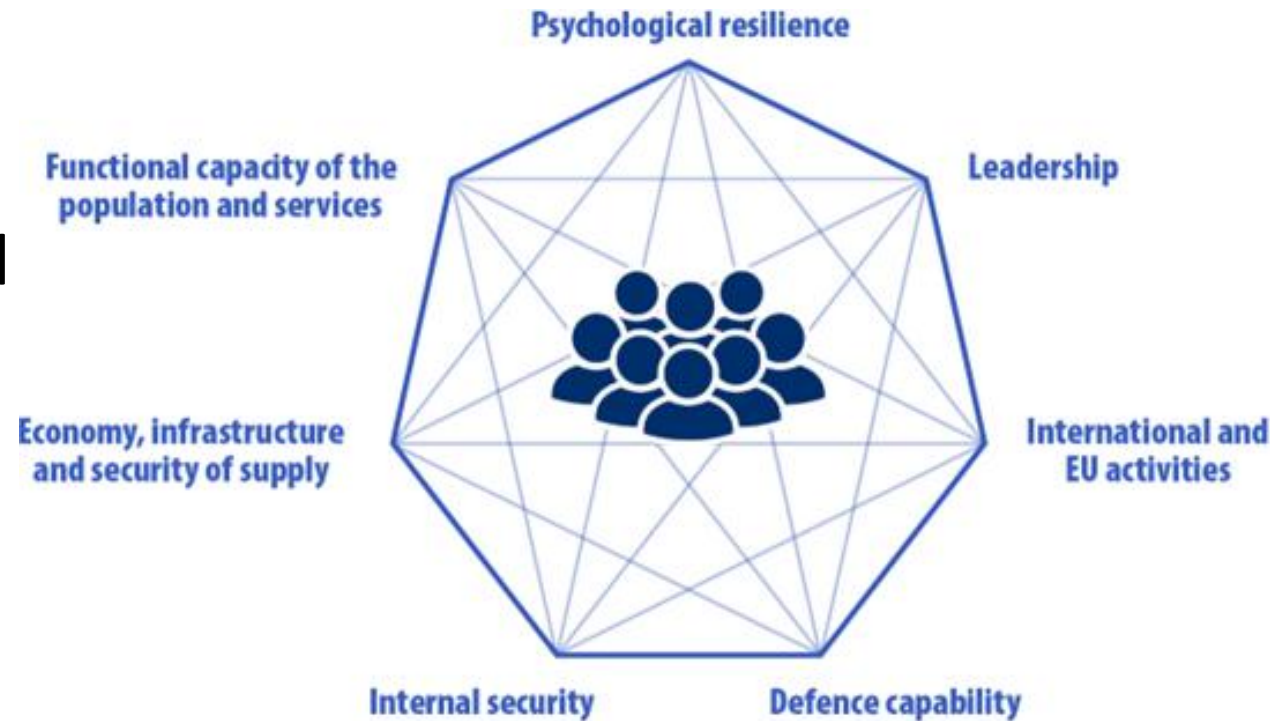
New Commission proposal will seek to clarify who's in charge of managing fires and floods.

By ZIA WEISE



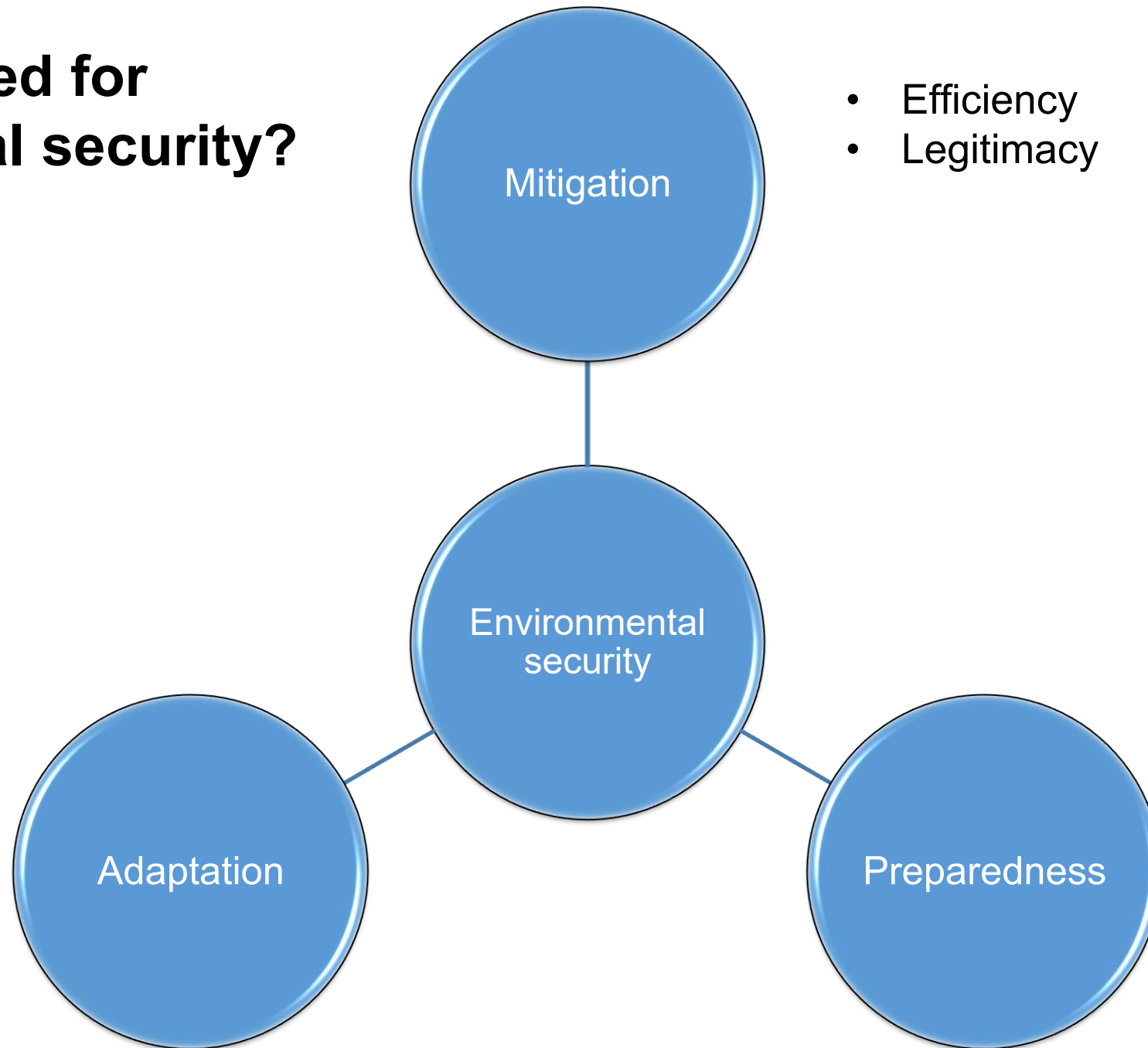
Finland: Comprehensive security as a framework for environment-related risks?

- Security as
 - safeguarding vital functions of society
 - engaging a wide range of actors
- Potential for addressing environmental crises:
 - Cross-sectoral, whole of society approach
 - Proactive outlook
 - Wide understanding of security actors
 - Applicability at multiple levels



What is needed for environmental security?

- Livelihoods
- Infrastructure



Thank you!