

# REIMAGINING THE AGENDA

**UNLOCKING THE  
GLOBAL PATHWAYS  
TO RESILIENCE, GROWTH,  
AND SUSTAINABILITY  
FOR 2030**

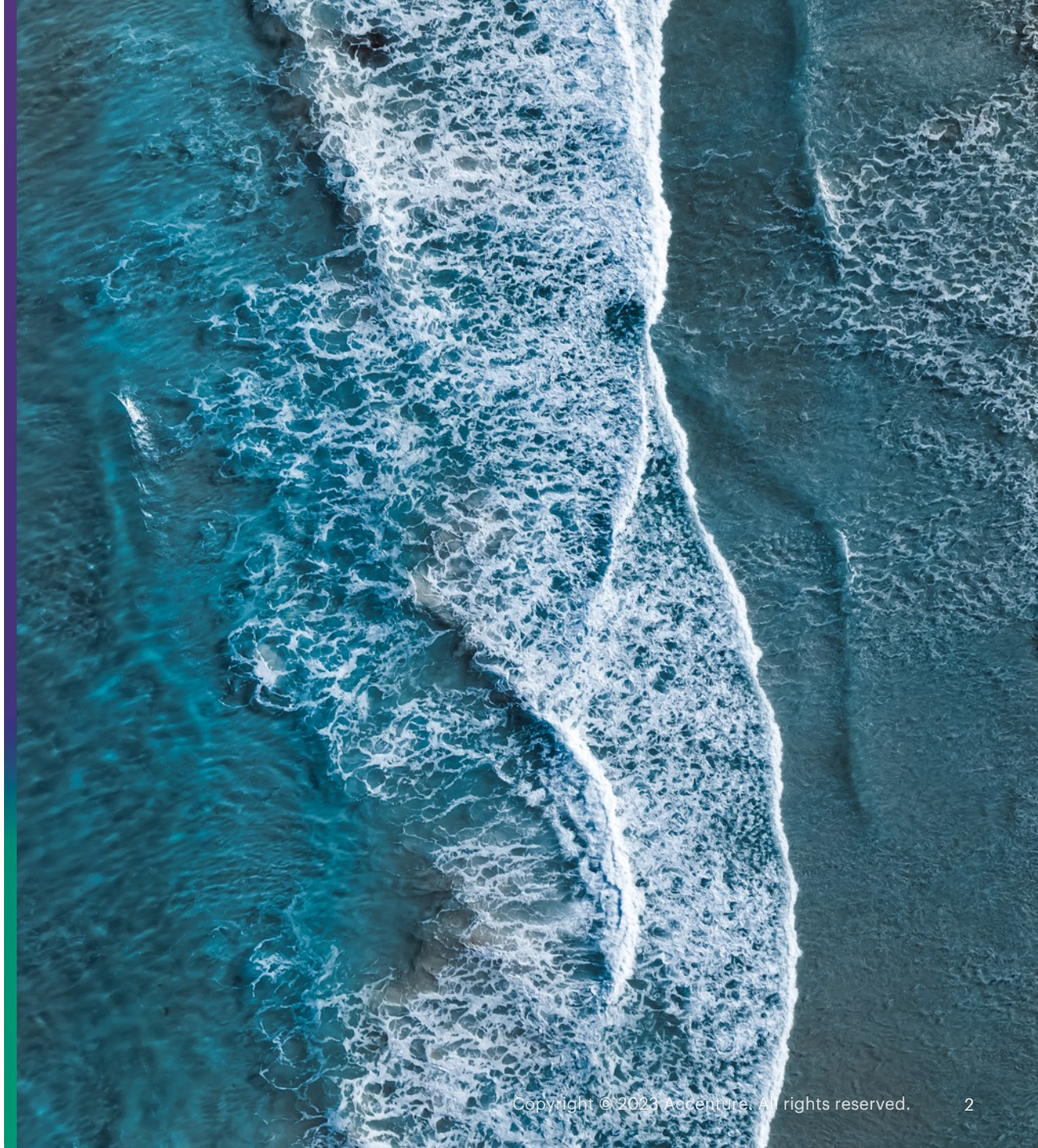
The 12th United Nations Global  
Compact-Accenture CEO Study



United Nations  
Global Compact

accenture

**ALARMED BY THE SPEED  
AND SCALE OF TODAY'S  
UNPRECEDENTED GLOBAL  
CHALLENGES, CEOS FIND  
THEMSELVES AT A CROSSROADS:  
EMBRACE SUSTAINABILITY  
FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE OR  
SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.**



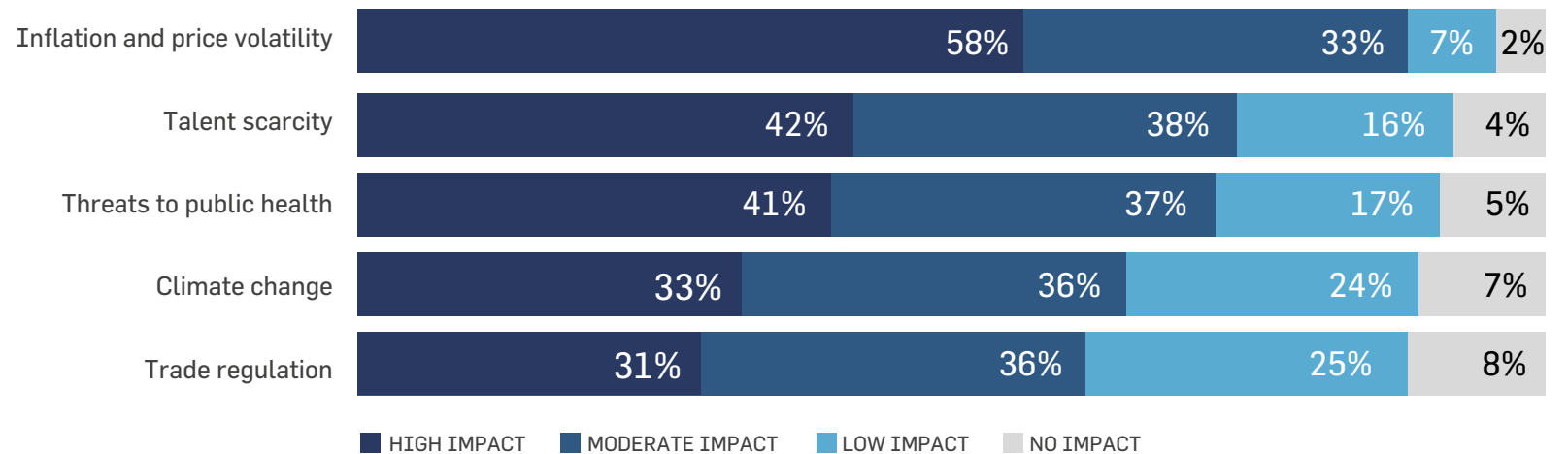


**THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY  
AGENDA IS OFF TRACK.  
A DRAMATIC RISE IN  
INTERSECTIONAL,  
GLOBAL CHALLENGES  
IS FORCING CEOS TO NAVIGATE  
UNPRECEDENTED UNCERTAINTY.**

**MOST CEOS  
ARE DEALING  
WITH A SLATE  
OF GLOBAL  
CHALLENGES,  
MANY OF WHICH  
SPAN BEYOND  
TYPICAL  
BUSINESS  
BOUNDARIES**

**93%** OF CEOS ARE DEALING WITH **10 OR MORE GLOBAL CHALLENGES** TO THEIR BUSINESS

The top five challenges are:



**GEOPOLITICAL  
INSTABILITY IS  
COMPOUNDING  
THOSE GLOBAL  
CHALLENGES**

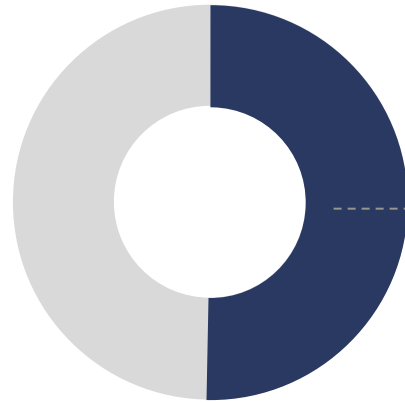
**87%**

OF CEOS FEEL THAT CURRENT LEVELS OF **GEOPOLITICAL  
INSTABILITY LIMIT THE WORLD'S ABILITY TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS**



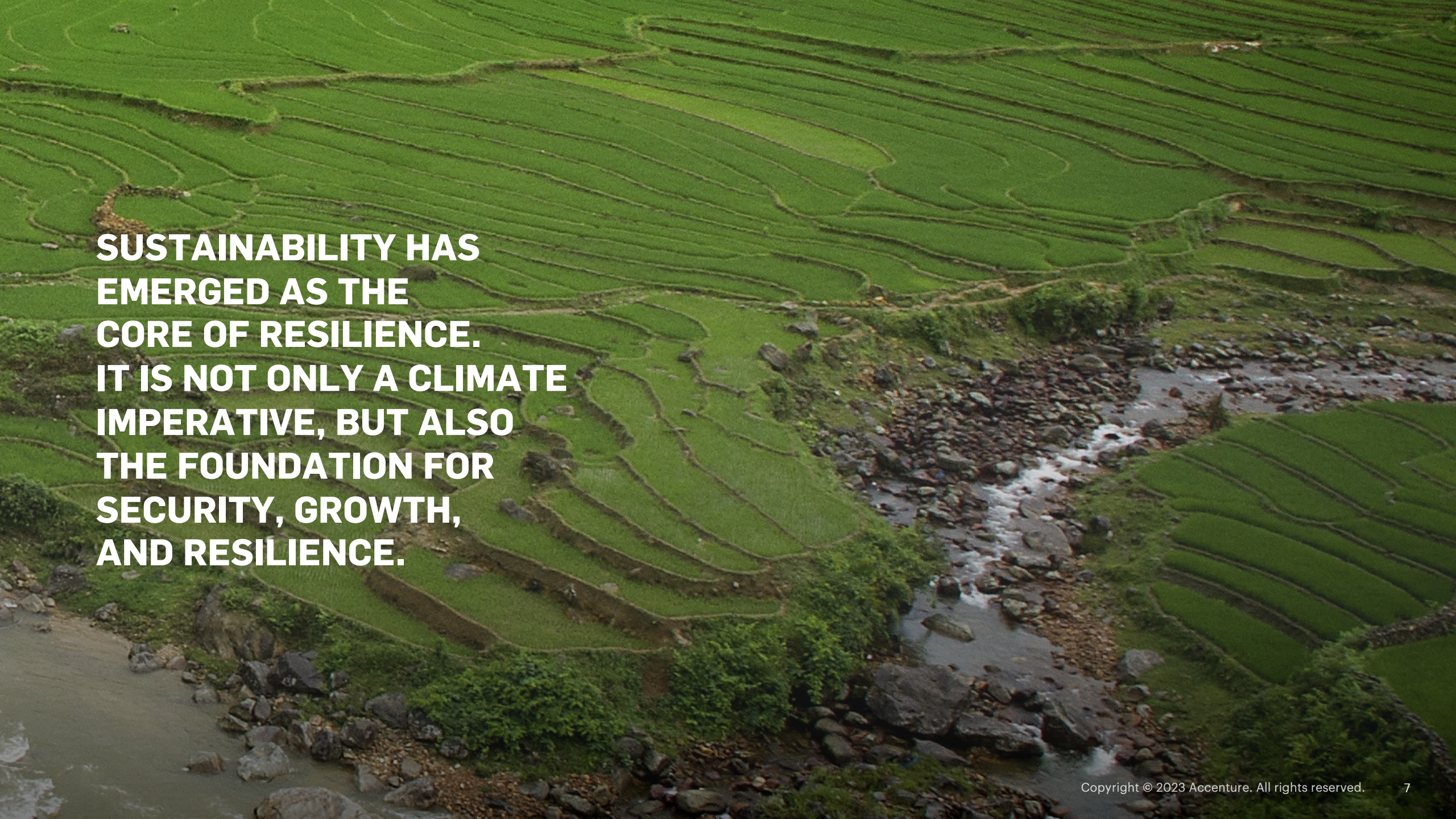


**TO ACHIEVE  
THE SDGS,  
CEOS CALL  
FOR INCREASED  
COMMITMENT  
AND ACTION  
FROM THE  
PRIVATE  
SECTOR**



**51%**

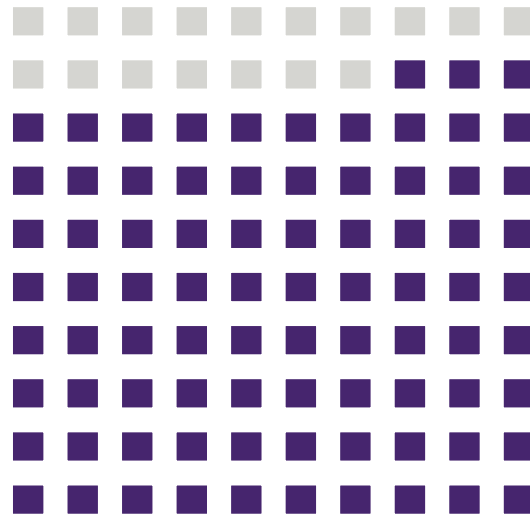
of CEOs feel that business could play a critical role in achieving the SDGs with **increased commitment and action**

An aerial photograph of terraced rice fields. The fields are arranged in a series of curved, step-like terraces that follow the contours of a hillside. The rice is in a lush green stage. A rocky stream flows through the lower right portion of the image, with water cascading over dark, jagged rocks. The overall scene is a vibrant green landscape with a natural water feature.

**SUSTAINABILITY HAS  
EMERGED AS THE  
CORE OF RESILIENCE.  
IT IS NOT ONLY A CLIMATE  
IMPERATIVE, BUT ALSO  
THE FOUNDATION FOR  
SECURITY, GROWTH,  
AND RESILIENCE.**



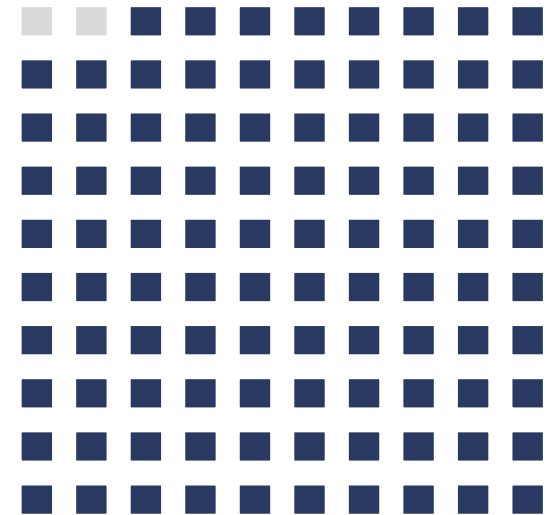
# CEOS ARE STEPPING UP AS ADVOCATES FOR SUSTAINABILITY



**2013**

**CEO Study Question**

As CEO, I am accountable for the sustainability performance of my company



**2022**

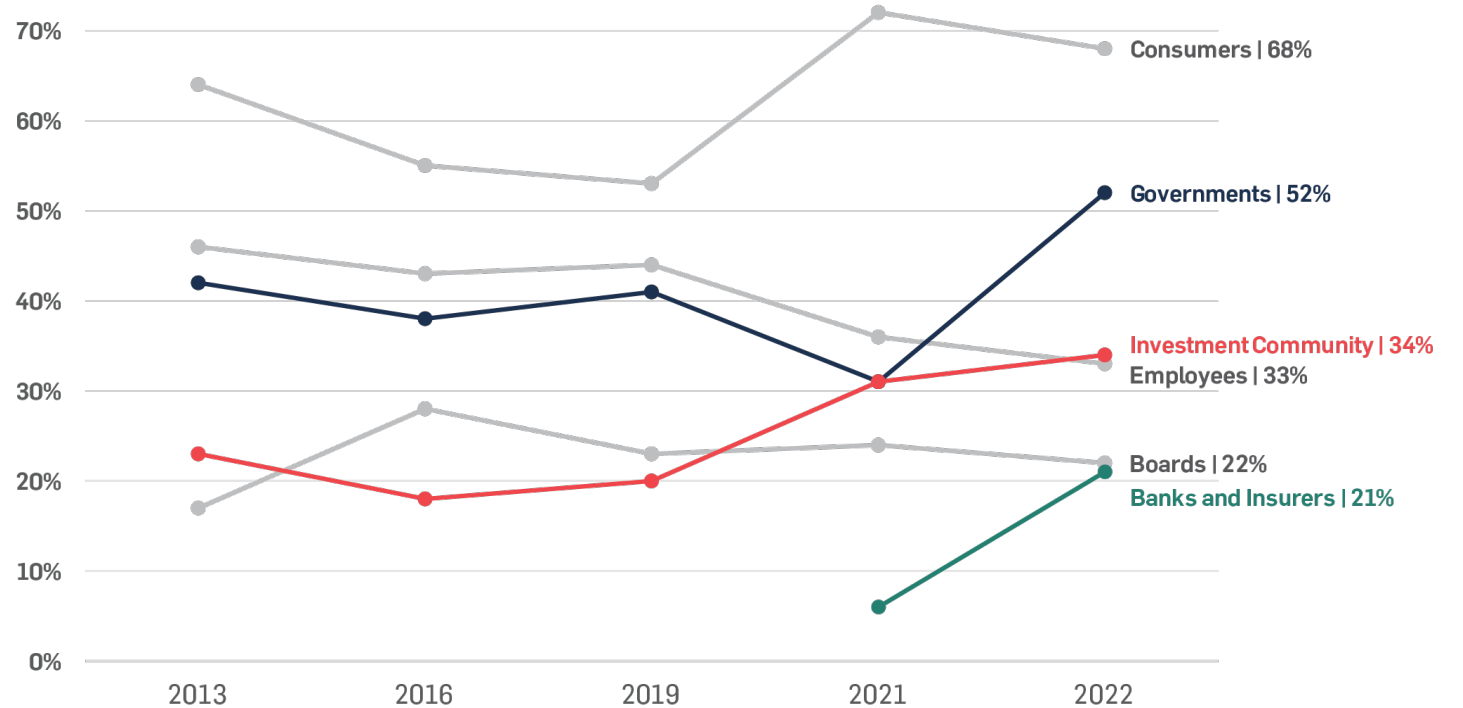
**CEO Study Question**

It is the role of a CEO to make my business more sustainable



**STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING GOVERNMENTS, INVESTORS, AND BANKS ARE INCREASINGLY DRIVING THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABILITY**

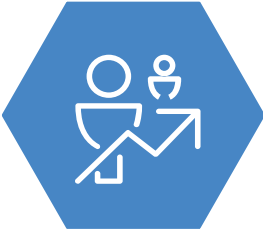
## WHICH STAKEHOLDERS MOST INFLUENCE YOUR COMPANY'S SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA?





**CEOS ARE  
RECOGNIZING  
THEIR  
WORKFORCE  
AS A CRUCIAL  
LEVER TO BUILD  
RESILIENCE**

**96%** OF CEOS GLOBALLY REPORT TALENT SCARCITY IS A TOP GLOBAL CHALLENGE IMPACTING THEIR BUSINESS



**74%**

are upskilling/reskilling their workforce for the future labor market



**58%**

are offering physical and/or mental wellness resources for their workforce

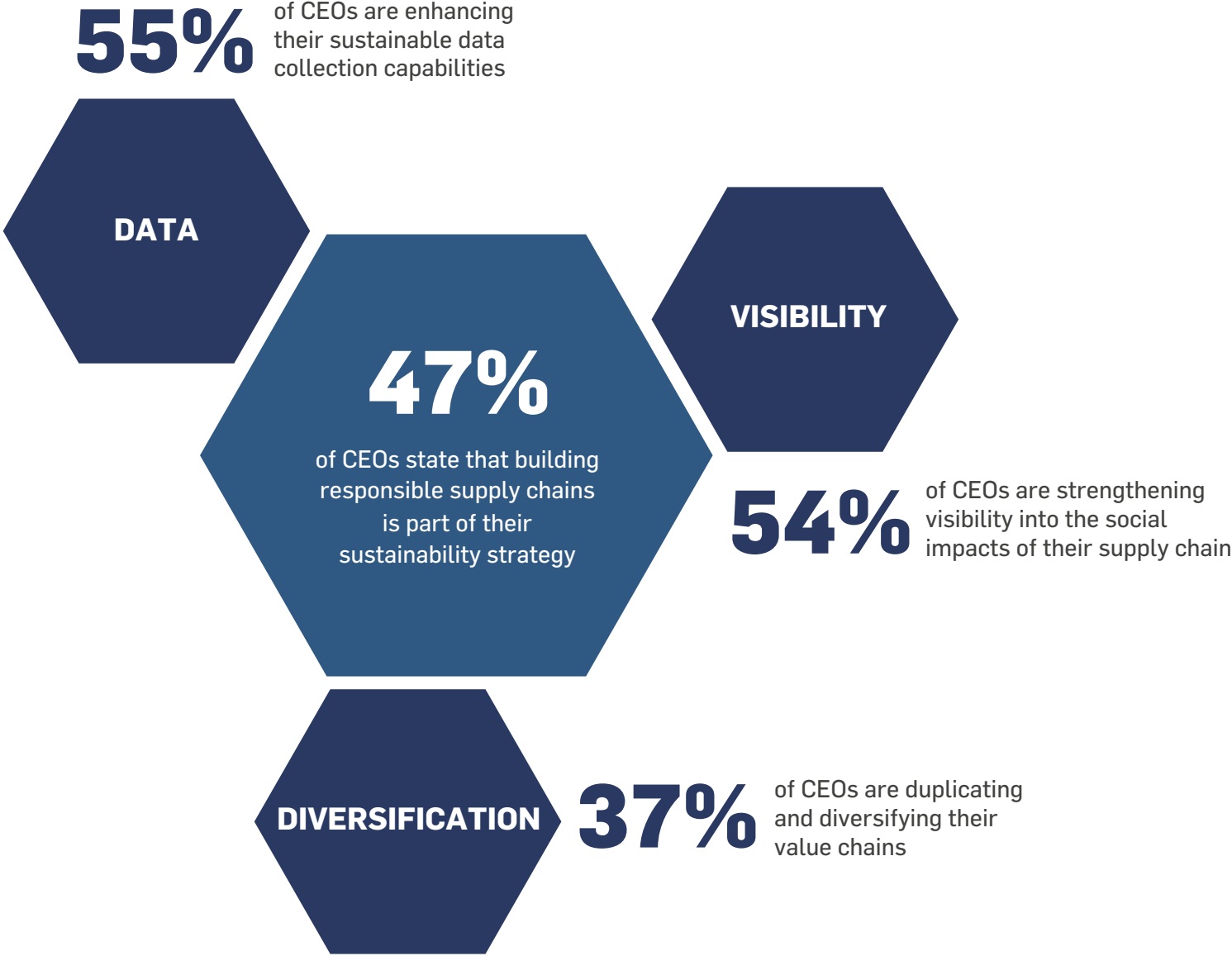


**56%**

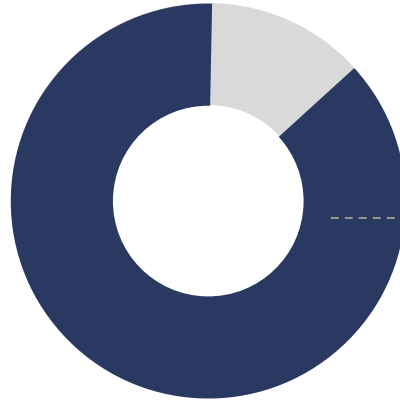
are increasing workforce diversity



**CEOS ARE REIMAGINING THEIR SUPPLY CHAINS TO BUILD RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF GLOBAL CHALLENGES**

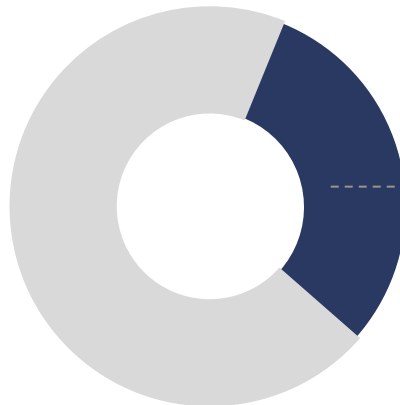


**HOWEVER,  
ACTION ON  
BIODIVERSITY,  
A CORE  
COMPONENT OF  
SUSTAINABILITY  
AND RESILIENCE,  
REMAINS LOW**




**80%** of CEOs understand the impact that their business has on biodiversity

However...



**35%** of CEOs are initiating nature-protection projects

A large, leafy tree with green and yellow foliage dominates the center of the image. In the foreground, several cows are grazing in a field. The background shows a clear sky and some distant trees.

**BUSINESSES HAVE THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO NOT  
ONLY BUILD RESILIENCE,  
BUT ALSO UNLOCK GROWTH BY  
EMBRACING SUSTAINABILITY.**

# INGREDIENTS FOR RESILIENCE

TO BUILD TRUE RESILIENCE, CEOS MUST EMBED SUSTAINABILITY ACROSS THEIR BUSINESS —IN THEIR STRATEGY, WORKFORCE, SUPPLY CHAINS, AND GREATER ECOSYSTEMS



# ASKS OF POLICYMAKERS

CEOS ARE CALLING ON GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT AND ENABLE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ACHIEVE AMBITIOUS SUSTAINABILITY TARGETS



# ABOUT THE CEO STUDY ON SUSTAINABILITY

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**2,600+**  
CEOs Engaged

**130+**  
CEO Interviews

**128**  
Countries

**18**  
Industries

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## ABOUT THE CEO STUDY PROGRAM

The CEO Study Program, developed by the UN Global Compact and Accenture, is an effort to enhance understanding and commitment between the United Nations and the private sector. The program is an extensive review of the advancing corporate sustainability movement, and the publications coalesce dominant views of CEOs, business leaders and UN executives to track developments in sustainability.

## ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

As a special initiative of the UN Secretary-General, the United Nations Global Compact is a call to companies everywhere to align their operations and strategies with Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Our ambition is to accelerate and scale the global collective impact of business by upholding the Ten Principles and delivering the Sustainable Development Goals through accountable companies and ecosystems that enable change. With more than 17,000 companies and 3,000 non-business signatories based in over 160 countries, and 62 Local Networks, the UN Global Compact is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative — one Global Compact uniting business for a better world. For more information, follow @globalcompact on social media and visit our website at [unglobalcompact.org](https://unglobalcompact.org).

## ABOUT ACCENTURE

Accenture is a global professional services company with leading capabilities in digital, cloud and security. Combining unmatched experience and specialized skills across more than 40 industries, we offer Strategy and Consulting, Technology and Operations services and Accenture Song — all powered by the world's largest network of Advanced Technology and Intelligent Operations centers. Our 738,000 people deliver on the promise of technology and human ingenuity every day, serving clients in more than 120 countries. We embrace the power of change to create value and shared success for our clients, people, shareholders, partners and communities. Visit us at [www.accenture.com](https://www.accenture.com).