

FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT

KEY RESULTS OF THE PLENARY TABLE

“FRONTIERS PLANET PRIZE: CAN SCIENCE SAVE THE PLANET?”

— Turning micro climate fixes into macro impact

Climate and biodiversity thresholds are being crossed faster than political systems are responding, yet research continues to deliver solutions that work in real places – from nature-based urban design to restoring lake ecosystems. This session stressed that turning such proven micro-level interventions into macro-level impact now depends on scaling what already works, closing the gap between science and implementation and removing the bureaucratic barriers that slow climate action.

Science is not the bottleneck: across 750 universities, the Frontiers Planet Prize highlights research that measurably reduces emissions, restores biodiversity and builds resilience. The central challenge is embedding effective measures in cities, communities and user groups at a pace that matches the crises. Achieving this requires coordinated governance, practical partnerships and capital that accelerates widespread uptake.

THE PANEL CALL TO ACTION:

1 — Scale micro-solutions into macro impact.

Expand climate and biodiversity solutions that already work in real places by replicating them across cities, municipalities and user groups. When proven interventions are implemented at many sites instead of remaining academic papers, they collectively shift planetary outcomes.

2 — Bridge the gap between science and implementation.

Co-design with end users from the start and integrate research into their daily workflows, producing guidance that people understand, trust and can apply without specialist support.

3 — Cut bureaucratic friction so climate action can keep pace with science.

Shorten permitting cycles and reduce risk-averse procedures by involving agencies early, enabling local actors to act in months rather than years.

4 — Build intermediary institutions that turn knowledge into action.

Support organisations that translate research into simple playbooks, training and mentoring so communities, municipalities and user groups can adopt solutions without relying directly on researchers.

5 — Mobilise capital to drive long-term, risk-tolerant science and uptake.

Unlock philanthropic, public and private funding to de-risk early deployment and sustain multi-year monitoring. Ensure these mechanisms are accessible to partners in the Global South so indigenous knowledge, local organisations and restoration projects can scale alongside frontier technologies.

This event is supported by Frontiers Planet Prize and assembled in the framework of the Falling Walls Science Summit 2025 in Berlin. The Falling Walls Science Summit is a leading international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral forum for scientific breakthroughs. It commemorates the fall of the Berlin Wall and aims to promote dialogue between science and society.



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