

# Evaluating Olympic Sustainability through the Policy of Paris 2024



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## Abstract

The present study sought to understand the extent to which the Paris 2024 Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games is pursuing formal commitments to environmental sustainability through their policies. A Modified Environmental Policy Integration Assessment Framework revealed a solid but insufficient pursuit of environmental sustainability.

## Methodology

The data sample comprised 16 documents responding to the search terms "sustainability," "environment," "sustainable development," "legacy," or "climate" (EN/FR), released between 2017 and 2023, in the Olympic Public Archives.

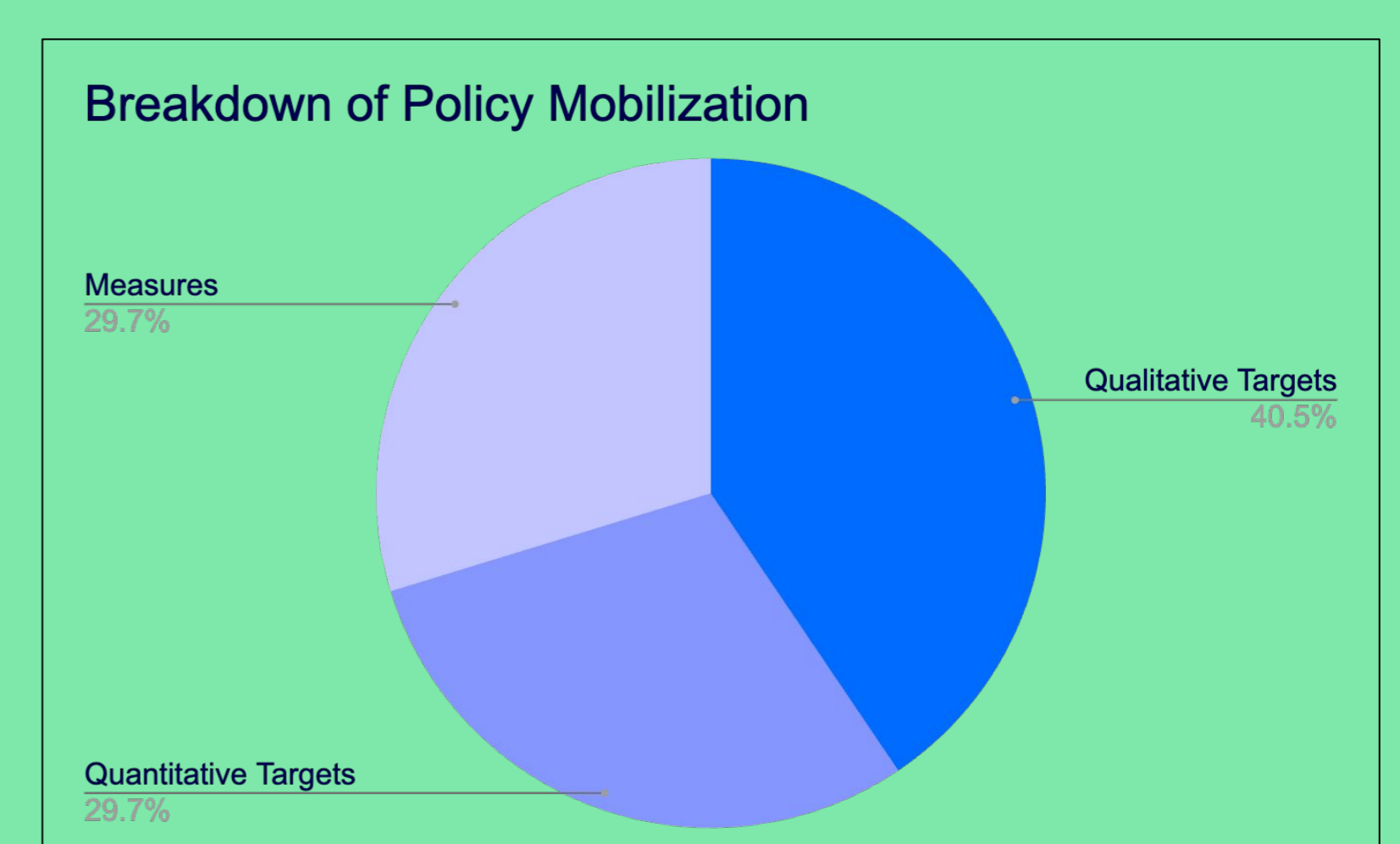
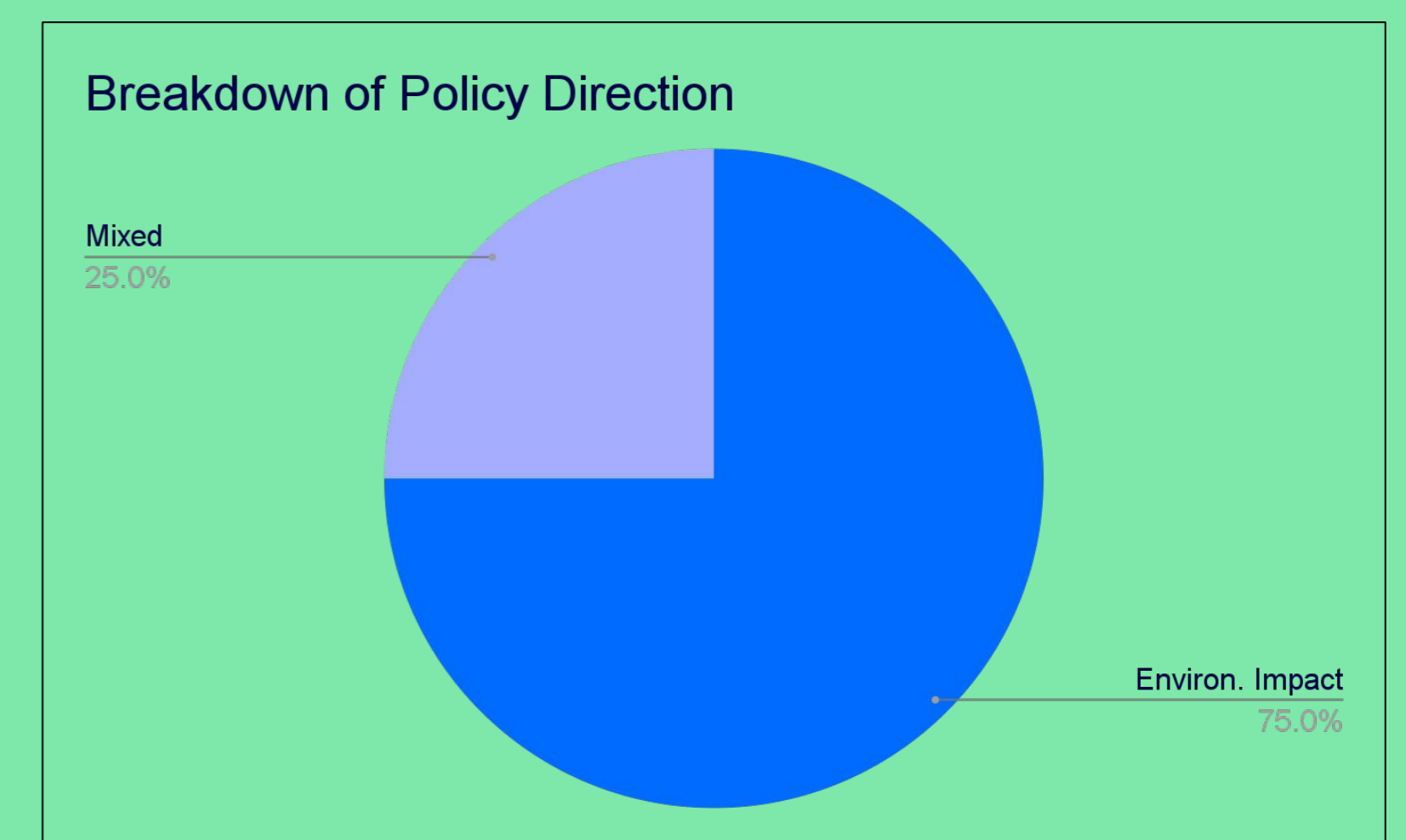
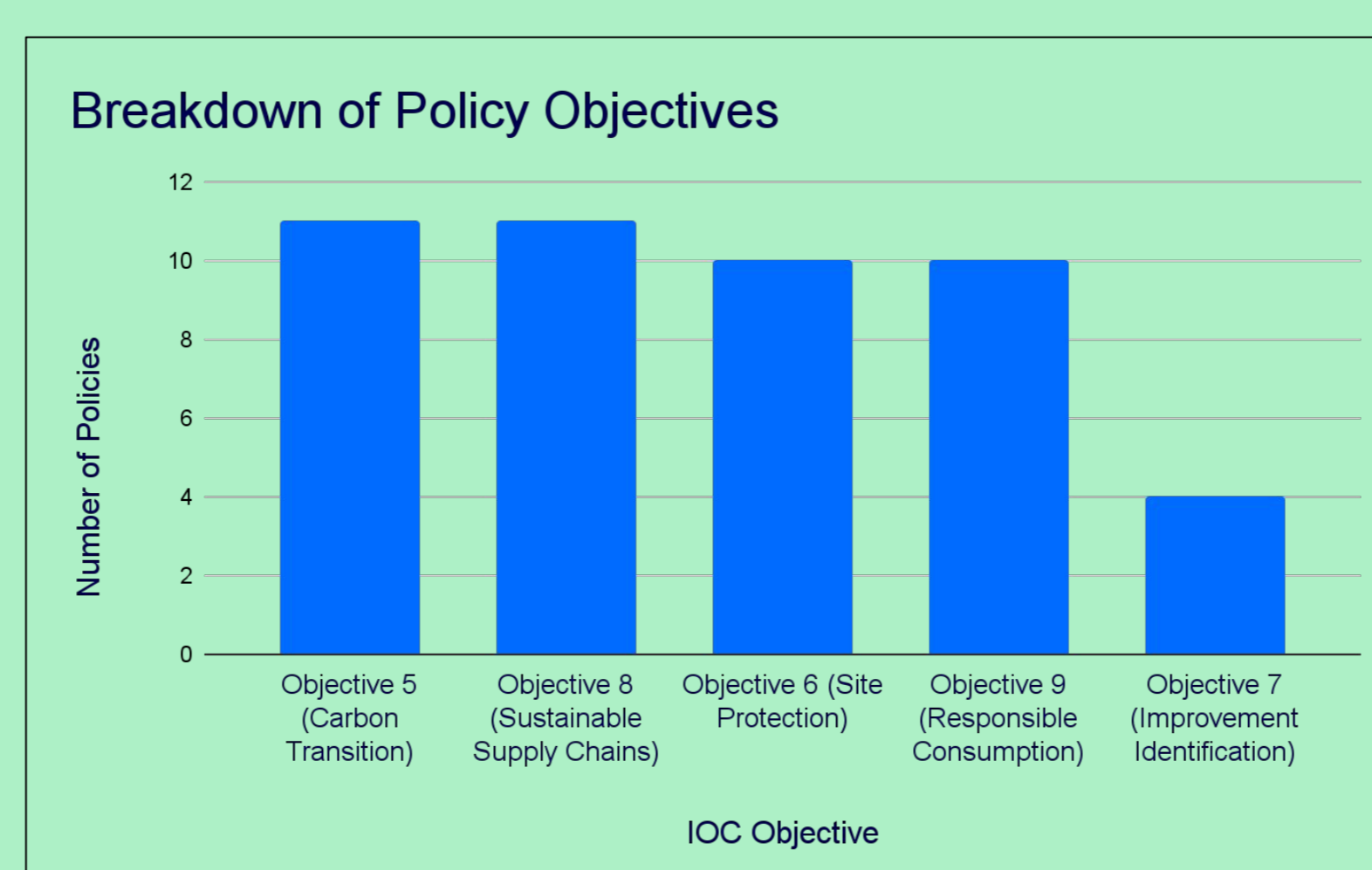
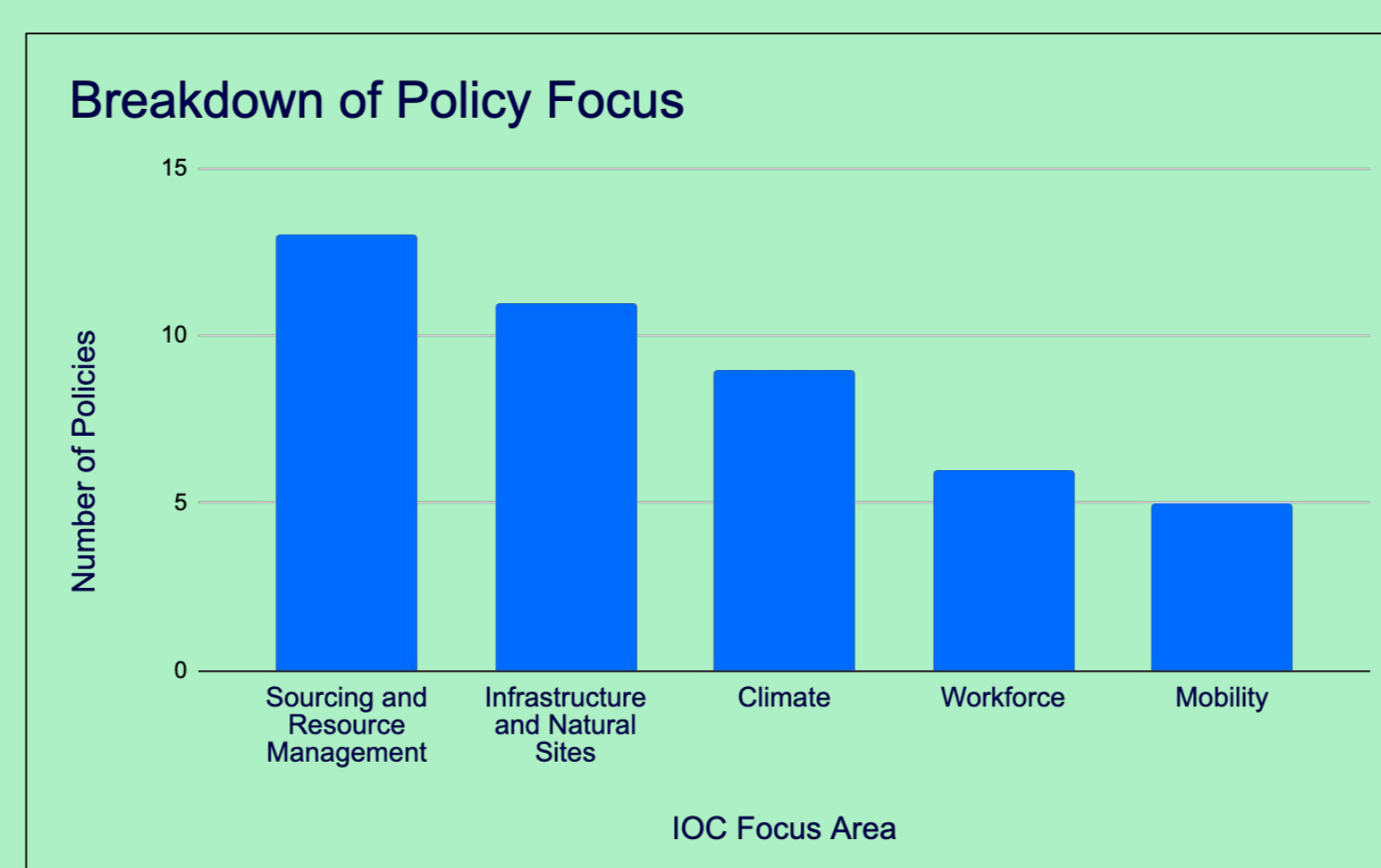
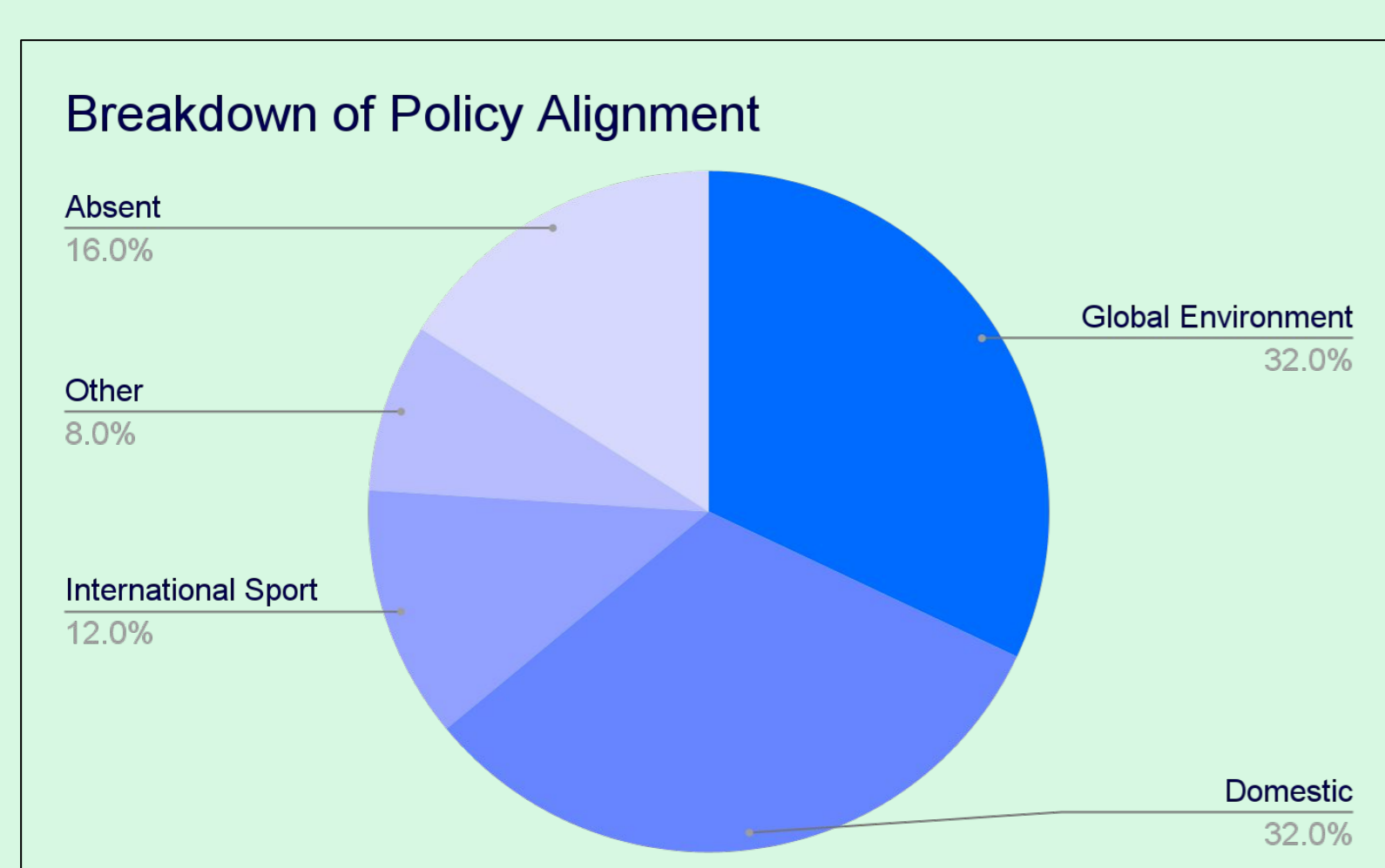
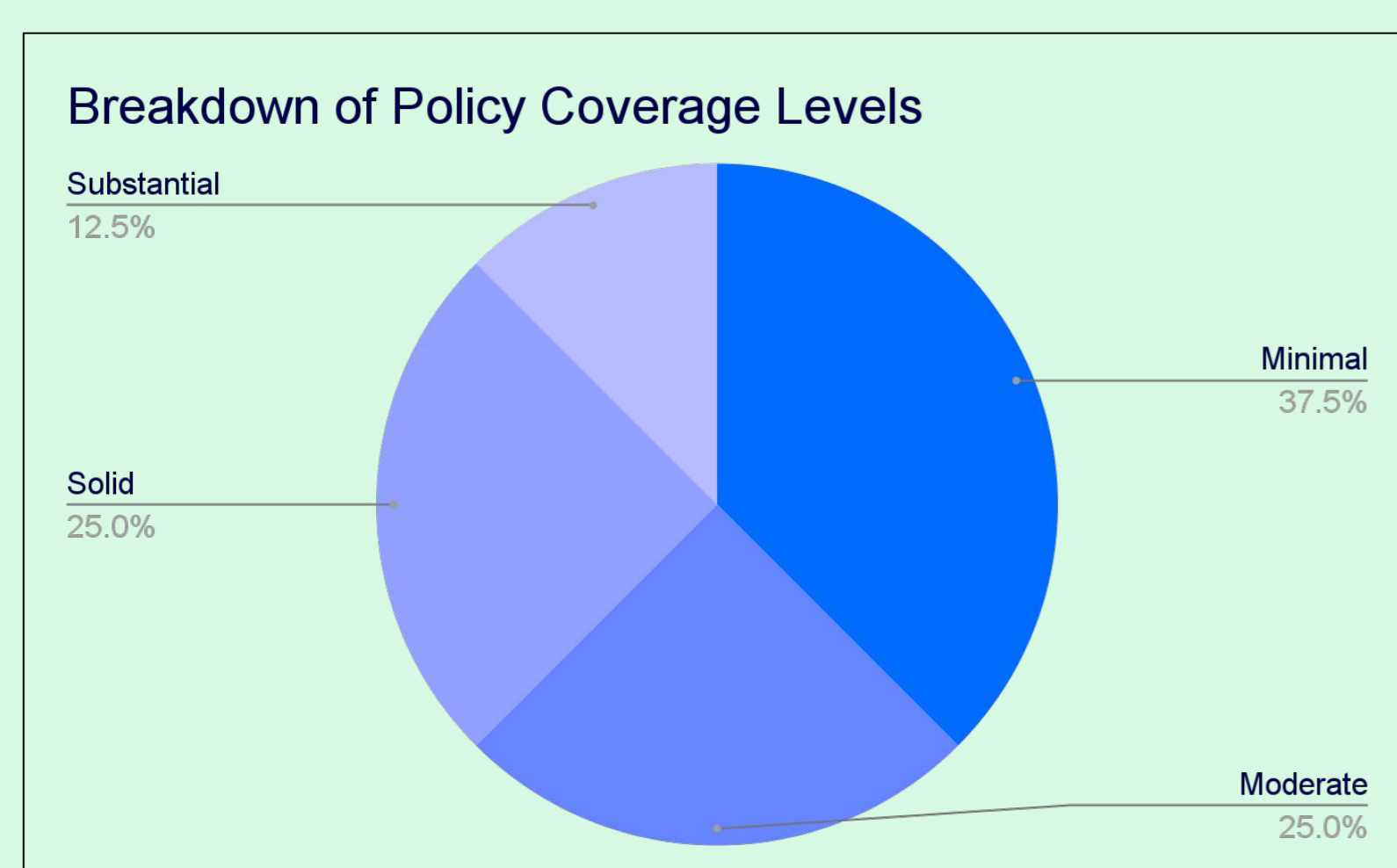
A **Modified Environmental Policy Integration Assessment Framework** was adapted from the work of Cury et al.<sup>4</sup> and Becken et al.<sup>5</sup> and employed six variables:

- **Coverage:** extent to which environmental sustainability is addressed in a policy
- **Direction:** policy's environmental approach
- **Focus:** alignment of the policy with the IOC's five Focus Areas
- **Alignment:** reference in the policy to external policies on sport or the environment
- **Objective:** alignment of the policy with the IOC's 2021-2024 Objectives as Owner of the Olympic Games
- **Mobilization:** mechanism through which the policy seeks to enact change

## Introduction

The Olympic Games, of which the upcoming rendition was awarded to the City of Paris in 2017, have increasingly centred environmental sustainability as part and parcel of the Olympic mission, for example instituting the environment as a third pillar of the Olympic Movement.<sup>1</sup> The Games have, nevertheless, inspired a range of negative outcomes, be it mass CO<sub>2</sub> emissions<sup>2</sup> or ecosystem destruction.<sup>3</sup> Environmental policy integration (EPI), defined as "the integration of environmental aspects and policy objectives into sector policies," is a useful tool for understanding the role of environmental sustainability at the Olympics.<sup>4</sup>

## Results



## Conclusion

The data analysis revealed that the Paris 2024 Olympics demonstrates a **solid but insufficient pursuit of environmental sustainability** across its formal policy commitments.

With "climate" as the least prevalent search term and with no policies devoted uniquely to climate change adaptation, a key finding is the lack of consideration for climate change adaptation.

The interdisciplinarity of the sample shines at times and falters at others. Sample policies effectively interwove the content of the different IOC Focus Areas, but largely failed to make meaningful connections with domestic or international environment and sport policy.

Finally, the Paris 2024 sustainability policy ecosystem suffers from uncertain accountability. The organizing body ultimately reinforces accusations of greenwashing by failing to make explicit the mechanisms behind environmental goals in key policy documents.

## References

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