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# MY CLIMATE RISK

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This report was authored by the WCRP My Climate Risk Lighthouse Activity

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The My Climate Risk Lighthouse Activity aims to develop and mainstream a 'bottom-up' approach to regional climate risk, which starts with the requirements of decision-makers. By developing a new framework for assessing and explaining regional climate risk using all the available sources of climate information, climate information will be made meaningful at the local scale. More information is available at: [www.wcrp-climate.org/my-climate-risk](http://www.wcrp-climate.org/my-climate-risk)

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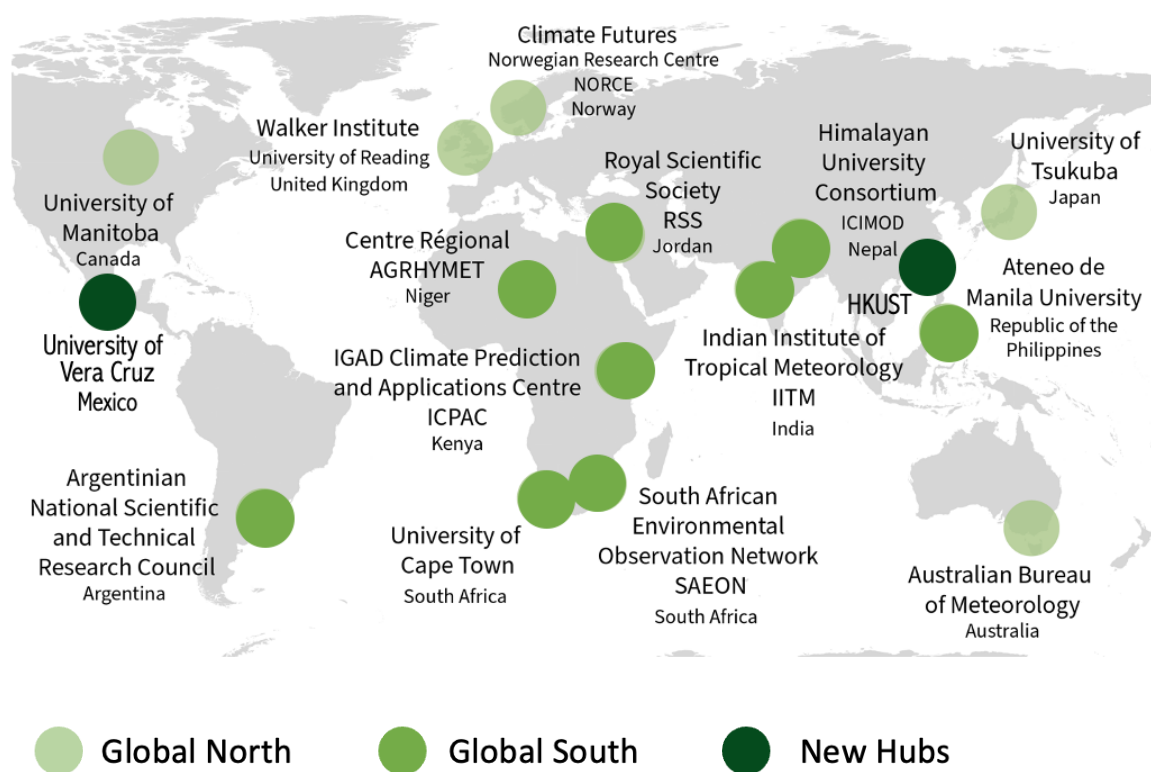
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## INTRODUCTION

The fourth World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) My Climate Risk (MCR) General Assembly (GA) took place virtually on 3, 16, and 17 May 2024. The GA was split into three online sessions, each lasting 3-4 hours, to accommodate the various time zones. Participation was by invitation only and included members of the MCR Scientific Steering Group (SSG), representatives of the 16 MCR regional hubs ((see Figure 1), ex-officio representatives of other bodies, invited guests, and WCRP Secretariat staff (Annex 1). All three sessions followed the same agenda, starting with hub-led presentations in a more open format, and then proceeding to a closed session with a review and discussions on wider MCR developments and interactions. All sessions were recorded so that participants could watch other sessions on their own time, and slide decks were made available.<sup>1</sup>

## MAP OF MCR HUBS



<sup>1</sup> [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SD9GKBBxx-Y9ZGwjHV-EluDWskmcksl?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SD9GKBBxx-Y9ZGwjHV-EluDWskmcksl?usp=drive_link)

## **SUMMARY OF HUB PRESENTATIONS**

To get to know each other and to connect the roots of the network, each hub was invited to make a presentation within their respective session, followed by a Q&A session. The presentations provided insights into the hubs, the people involved, their alignment with the spirit of MCR, and their particular interests, as well as some of the challenges they face.

There were no presentations this time from the University of Manitoba or Agrhymet hubs.

### **IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) (Nairobi, Kenya)**

The ICPAC hub provides climate services and forecasts to mitigate climate risks and enhance community resilience in East Africa. Its mandate is very salient as the region has recently been experiencing increased rainfall, causing flooding in Tanzania and Kenya's coastal areas, and elevated heat levels in South Sudan. ICPAC's key activities include monitoring rainfall anomalies and extreme weather events, developing impact-based forecasts for agriculture, and proposing AI-integrated risk dashboards. It is also establishing climate and health hubs and conducting research on climate change and extreme weather. Additionally, ICPAC organizes the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum and collaborates on early warning systems. Notable projects include the East Africa Hazards Watch, which provides multi-hazard monitoring, and the Heat Stress Prototype Product, which focuses on managing heat-related risks. It had a strong presence at the WCRP Open Science Conference (OSC). ICPAC faces challenges in securing interdisciplinary proposals and increasing regional collaborations. Future plans involve strengthening partnerships with regional health organizations, continuing to develop climate service proposals, and enhancing Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration in climate modelling through collaborations with the Walker Institute, Regional Information for Society (RIfS), and the African group within the WCRP Explaining and Predicting Earth System Change (EPESC) Lighthouse Activity.

### **National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) (Buenos Aires, Argentina)**

The CONICET hub focuses on interdisciplinary climate risk research with 19 members from different disciplines, including climate science and social anthropology. The hub meets bimonthly and occasionally organizes webinars and participates in international conferences. Between June and September 2023, the hub conducted four open webinars on climate risk, storylines, multiple lines of evidence, and co-production

strategies. The recordings are available on the hub website as well as on the WCRP YouTube channel. It also had a strong presence at the WCRP OSC, including the organization of the MCR Learning Lab <sup>2</sup>(see separate item below) and the Townhall session on South-North inequalities led by Young Earth System Scientists (YESS) community. Key project proposals include the Sal BV project, a European-South American collaboration on climate, environment, and health, currently in its second round of evaluation. The hub collaborates with CoSav Changement Climatique IRD, the Belmont Forum CEH2 Hall, and is exploring collaborations with the Hub in Veracruz and Canada as well as with the potential new Hubs in Peru and Central America. The hub has been developing a strategic plan over the past year, which will soon be published. Future plans include enhancing interdisciplinary communication through workshops and webinars to facilitate knowledge exchange.

### **Universidad Veracruzana (Veracruz, Mexico)**

The newly established Universidad Veracruzana hub operates in five regions covering 27 municipalities, serving nearly 90,000 students across approximately 400 undergraduate and postgraduate programs. The university offers around 6,000 services, including medical, social, and environmental support, maintaining strong community ties. The climate change program, initiated through collaboration with the state government and the British Embassy, focuses on enhancing climate resilience through research and practical applications. Key activities include conducting workshops with local communities to integrate traditional knowledge with climate science, developing communication strategies to convey climate risk information, participating in national and international research collaborations, gathering georeferenced data, and focusing on integrating traditional knowledge with scientific research. Despite challenges in bridging the gap between scientific knowledge and local practices and ensuring sustained stakeholder engagement, the hub aims to enhance community-based participatory research, develop inclusive communication strategies, and strengthen partnerships with local organizations and policymakers.

### **South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) (Pretoria, South Africa)**

The SAEON hub focuses on providing world-class environmental platforms to support sustainable societies, particularly impacting coastal communities and marginalized groups. It operates six research nodes and addresses various climate and marine issues. Key activities include collaborating with the aquaculture industry and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) partners to develop decision support tools to predict Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and creating operational ocean forecasts and early warning systems. SAEON researchers were collaborators in the publishing of the book 'Sustainability of Southern African Ecosystems under Global Change: Science for Management and Policy Interventions' and have published several policy

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wcrp-climate.org/news/wcrp-news/2086-mcr-ll>

briefs to increase outreach of actions by SAEON. At the annual SAEON Science Meeting, the hub co-leads led a session to introduce MCR and its associated objectives. All SAEON staff were invited to contribute to the Hub. The future involves organizing a SAEON My Climate Risk webinar series, identifying My Climate Risk champions in each node, and seeking funding for coastal resilience projects.

## **University of Cape Town (Cape Town, South Africa)**

The University of Cape Town hub focuses on research related to climate variability, seasonal prediction, and impacts on hydrology, agriculture, and health. Its work intersects with MCR through social aspects, governance, and risk perceptions, especially in African cities. Emphasizing the cascading effects of climate change on human health and the lived experiences of marginalized communities, it employs transdisciplinary methods and cross-city learning. Key activities include the Cascade Project, which addresses climate and health risks in African cities, highlighting opportunities and resilience as these cities grow. This project depends on the lived experiences of marginalized communities, using a systemic perspective and an outcomes-based framework. The hub conducts Climate Risk Learning Labs, part of the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI), and is commissioned to build a community of practitioners for climate resilience as part of the European Union (EU)-African climate issue. It has organized two virtual and one hybrid learning lab, developing systems maps for floods and droughts, and analyzing responses to climate stories. Additionally, the hub runs CATER Schools<sup>3</sup>, teaching nature-based solutions for cities through winter schools. Challenges include aligning structured Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) frameworks with qualitative, transdisciplinary approaches, managing stakeholder overload and multiple uncoordinated projects. To address these challenges, the hub plans to explore theoretical framings and methodologies for transdisciplinary research, continuing to build relationships and access knowledge to enhance resilience options.

## **Royal Scientific Society (RSS) (Amman, Jordan)**

The RSS hub focuses on communicating climate change impacts and adaptation strategies to various user groups, emphasizing local context and community engagement. It addresses key questions on empowering local communities, handling data complexity, ensuring sustainability, and fostering a common language for climate action. Key activities include projects on climate resilience planning and water-related health impacts, developing the Jordan Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system for tracking Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, and engaging stakeholders through meetings. RSS supports climate action and mobility planning for UN Habitat, collaborates with the West Asia-North Africa (WANA) Institute on gender and climate change, and participates in international events like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP) and Open Science Conference (OSC). RSS strongly emphasizes using storylines to bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and community practices. It strives to locate important

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<sup>3</sup> <https://caterschools.net/>



community areas and extract stories to build a digital archive, aiming to foster people-centered climate communication through storytelling methodologies. This approach has highlighted that more organizations, like the International Rescue Committee (IRC), are now focusing on climate as a priority area, marking a significant shift in the global approach to climate issues. Key initiatives include “Product vs. Process,” “Public as Problem vs. Solutions Spectrum,” and “Restorying Azraq.” Challenges include translating scientific knowledge into actionable information for local communities and balancing top-down strategic initiatives with bottom-up community needs. Future plans involve enhancing methodologies for community engagement, formalizing the training program, and establishing a science media center.

### **Walker Institute, University of Reading (Reading, UK)**

The Walker Institute hub focuses on risk and adaptation research to enable policy action, leveraging long-term partnerships in transboundary water resource management, food security, health, and cultural heritage. Its wide-ranging scientific background supports communities through innovative approaches. Key activities include developing the Implementation Centric Evolving Climate Change Adaptation Process (ICECAP) framework for climate risk assessment and adaptation planning (published as Wells et al. 2023 in *Frontiers*), creating Integrated Climate-Environmental (ICICLE) storylines with stakeholder consultations, and utilizing Farmer's Voice Radio, visual methods, adaptive policy pathways, and interactive theatre for inclusive adaptation planning. It collaborates with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and Himalayan University Consortium (HUC) partners on Belmont Forum proposals and identifies key research questions.

The Walker Institute embeds the MCR strategy in transdisciplinary research, fostering cross-collaboration and educational group initiatives, and integrates the MCR approach in Climate Tipping Points (CLIMTIP) to assess food security risks and link neglected tropical diseases. Challenges include addressing soft barriers like resourcing, institutional frameworks, capacity building, funding challenges, and colonial legacies in research proposals. Future plans involve fostering transdisciplinary research and cross-sector partnerships, expanding training partnerships, and developing curricula to overcome these challenges. The hub also engages in cross-hub collaborations (including through the MCR Interdisciplinary Learning Group which meets monthly), supports the MCR Education Working Group on decolonizing the curriculum, and enhances its online presence for knowledge sharing and reporting. It works on refining enabling environments by understanding soft barriers in resource management and is establishing cross-hub training partnerships with RSS/WANA and AGRHYMET, focusing on food security and resilience programs.

## **Climate Futures, Norwegian Research Centre (NORCE) (Bergen, Norway)**

The Climate Futures hub at NORCE, the second largest research institute in Norway and a key partner of the Bjerknes Centre on Climate Research, focuses on climate prediction and the co-production of climate services, primarily in Africa. Recently, they have re-oriented their activities to align more strongly with MCR objectives, incorporating initiatives like CATER Schools<sup>4</sup>, which include cross-hub lectures, workshops, and summer schools focusing on risk-related themes. Key activities include the CONFER Project, developing climate services based on stakeholder needs in East Africa, and new projects like ACACIA in Madagascar and Ethiopia, focusing on flood risk forecasting and impact measurement using randomized control trials. They also engage in disaster risk management through the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum and run educational initiatives such as the K2 School in Kenya with plans for future schools in Tanzania. Challenges for the hub include securing long-term funding and stakeholder engagement, as well as addressing impact assessment and ethical considerations in randomized control trials. Future plans involve organizing workshops and webinars on summer schools and early warnings in Africa, as well as exploring climate health research collaborations.

## **Australian Bureau of Meteorology (Melbourne, Australia)**

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology hub focuses on climate adaptation and resilience research, addressing the need for a consistent national approach to understanding climate risk. A core activity this year is conducting a comprehensive risk assessment to inform a plan to improve Australia's resilience, providing the underpinning data for users to base their risk assessments on. This involves developing foundational projections datasets from the Coupled Modelling Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6) and Coupled Modelling Intercomparison Project Phase 7 (CMIP7). Key activities include promoting interdisciplinary knowledge sharing, developing novel climate services like an operational attribution service, and tailoring climate information for Indigenous communities. The hub emphasizes using storylines of climate change to enhance understanding. Additional efforts include recruiting new participants who are adaptation practitioners, holding focus group discussions, arranging an interdisciplinary webinar series, and investigating cross-MCR collaborations to enhance climate resilience efforts. Challenges include integrating diverse research findings into coherent policy recommendations. Future plans involve continuing these initiatives to strengthen Australia's climate resilience framework.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://caterschools.net/>

## **Ateneo de Manila University (Manila, Philippines)**

The Ateneo de Manila University hub is undergoing transitions, with Daniel Ratilla now leading the hub and Kendra Gonzales still affiliated with MCR. Its core group has expanded, bringing in more collaborators from the humanities and the social sciences. It continues to host a webinar series, including “Climate Voices on the Ground,” which over the past year focused on climate activism and climate justice; and “Climate Research ‘As if People Mattered’,” which delved into the energy sector and into gender issues. These webinars often feature sign language interpreters to ensure inclusivity and accessibility. Resilience workshops were also conducted with various stakeholders representing collaborators in the SECRA project<sup>5</sup> NGOs, local government offices, and colleagues from the academe. Future initiatives include a qualitative analysis of the web series content, expanding climate and disaster resilience workshops, and potential partnerships with local communities and vulnerable groups. The hub uses systems thinking in the resilience workshops to help participants make sense of their experiences and analyze proposed interventions. The hub is exploring collaborations with organizations/projects like Coordinated Regional Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX) SEA, Asian City Resilience Initiative for Sustainable Transformation (ARISE), SECRA, and DRAW. It emphasizes inclusivity and effective communication, continuously improving its strategies to reach diverse audiences.

## **Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) (Hong Kong)**

The HKUST hub is also a new hub. Although small, HKUST is a powerhouse of climate research and collaboration, welcoming long-term sabbatical visitors and fostering extensive partnerships. It focuses on personalized health monitoring systems, utilizing real-time air quality data through the PRAISE mobile app to provide health alerts, collaborating with organizations like the Hong Kong Asthma Society and the Red Cross. Its work in high-risk urban planning, especially concerning tropical weather, addresses climate adaptation and risk management. It integrates statistical models and big data for individual health exposure alerts and organizes focused conferences every six months to advance its climate risk models. HKUST emphasizes collaboration with existing climate risk initiatives and aims to position Hong Kong as a sustainability champion through increased interactions with business schools. It focuses on climate and policy impact, sustainable green finance, insurance, and catastrophe bonds. Its initiatives include “Surviving the Heat,” which combines science and adaptation strategies to manage urban heat events.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://drrcollab.org>

## **University of Tsukuba (Tsukuba, Japan)**

The University of Tsukuba hub focuses on understanding regional climate change, its mechanisms, and associated human dimensions within the Division of Global Environmental Science. It develops AI applications in atmospheric informatics, numerical modelling, extreme weather, urban climate, and regional climate change to promote mitigation and adaptation strategies. It also hosts training workshops on urban climate risk assessment for Southeast Asia megacities and conducts climate downscaling technique workshops for urban credit risk assessment. Key activities include developing regional climate risk predictions for urban thermal environments and agricultural meteorology, collaborating with CORDEX to use computational techniques for producing regional climate change data, and building capacity. It is also working on multiple approaches for the Mega Cities Initiative, including weather-type-based downscaling and trend research on land surface physics for urban thermal environments. Additionally, it is building a database of fine-scale urban climate information for megacities in Japan and Asia and planning workshops for information exchange and training with CORDEX-SEA. Notable projects include the urban climate initiative and climate downscaling linked to CORDEX. Challenges include expanding the group involved and learning about MCR activities. Future plans involve establishing a research group in and outside Japan, connecting MCR with CORDEX-SEA and the AMS Board on the Urban Environment, and organizing a workshop with CORDEX-SEA in early 2024. An interesting question posed to the hub was how it can integrate with existing climate networks. The answer was to connect MCR with CORDEX-SEA and organize collaborative workshops.

## **Himalayan University Consortium (Kathmandu, Nepal)**

The Himalayan University Consortium hub focuses on risk management in High Mountain Asia, working closely with early career scientists to address the region's specific challenges through bottom-up discussions and capacity building. It collaborates with academia to develop policy briefs and uses hybrid and "unconference" approaches for training. Core activities include the HiRISK initiative, which brings together researchers from the region to assess and discuss regional challenges, providing a platform for early career scientists to contribute to data production and evaluation. The hub emphasizes capacity building, helping scientists communicate effectively, and addressing variability in political systems across the region. Key activities involve developing context-specific policy briefs on climate-resilient millet crops for local governments in Northeast India, Bhutan, and Nepal. These workshops reverse the traditional process by involving community members from the beginning, guiding scientists in understanding their needs. Hybrid learning modalities and field labs are used for food security training and enhancing knowledge of data and climate risk management. Challenges include the intense experience of collaborative brief writing, with peer reviews and debates to clarify and improve the content. Future plans involve continuing these collaborative efforts to strengthen regional resilience and cross-border academic cooperation.

## **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) (Pune, India)**

Early Career Researchers (ECRs) play a pivotal role within the IITM hub, with discussions centered on pressing issues in a novel format. The emphasis on effective communication and early engagement of local communities was integral to the Learning Lab hosted by IITM. A notable initiative discussed was the community-driven flood forecasting system in Kerala, India, aimed at empowering local communities. Plans were outlined to extend these efforts under the WCRP MCR Activity, fostering active local engagement. Additionally, the proposed ECR Summer School in the South Asia Indo-Pacific region was highlighted for its focus on climate research and modelling actions, building upon previous MCR initiatives. The school will collaborate across MCR hubs, leveraging the Skill Development, Awareness & Application (SDA2) framework introduced at the Climate and Ocean-Variability, Predictability, and Change (CLIVAR) Summer School in 2023, ensuring skill development, awareness, and practical application. The event stressed the importance of inclusivity, welcoming participants with diverse experience levels to foster collaboration.

## **Learning Lab at the Open Science Conference in Kigali**

There was a dedicated presentation by Nadia Testani on the Learning Lab<sup>6</sup> at the OSC entitled “Democratizing Climate Science: Making it Meaningful at Local Scales,” which was an MCR activity, led mainly by the CONICET hub in Argentina. A detailed report is available on the MCR website. The Learning Lab facilitated discussions on fundamental MCR concepts and knowledge advancement, including in the three months of regular meetings across various hubs leading up to the event. At the Lab itself, participants shared best practices, lessons learned, and personal experiences, focusing on bottom-up approaches and insights into regional climate dynamics. Central to the discussions were questions concerning the establishment of long-term partnerships leveraging local knowledge, educational initiatives tailored to local scales, and collaborative efforts. The report underscored the need to involve a diverse range of stakeholders, including Early and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs), but lacked a detailed analysis of the disciplinary backgrounds of participating scientists since that information was not gathered. This prompted reflections on the potential benefits of conducting a comprehensive study in the future to better understand the composition of scientists engaged in such initiatives. Discussions revolved around enhancing educational outreach efforts and fostering a broader spectrum of perspectives to enrich dialogue and generate new insights. Word clouds generated during the discussions highlighted recurring themes such as community, trust, local engagement, and regional risk interests. Emphasizing the critical role of community, participants explored the motivations behind session participation and identified opportunities for future engagement strategies.

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<sup>6</sup> [https://www.wcrp-climate.org/images/documents/My\\_Climate\\_Risk/Research\\_Report\\_LLO6.pdf](https://www.wcrp-climate.org/images/documents/My_Climate_Risk/Research_Report_LLO6.pdf)

## **Invited Presentations**

There was also a brief presentation from the Sea Level Rise group of the Safe Landing Climates (SLC) Lighthouse Activity, who is interested in developing linkages with MCR.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

### **WCRP Update**

Regina Rodriguez and Ted Shepherd provided an update on MCR developments since the last GA. They began by reminding participants of the two overarching goals of MCR: (i) to develop and mainstream a bottom-up approach to climate risk, and (ii) to develop an ecosystem of communities of practice, especially in the Global South. They described the expansion of the MCR community over the past year. The highlight was certainly the WCRP OSC in Kigali, which had strong MCR participation. And the Learning Lab was the highlight of the OSC as far as MCR was concerned, as it gave MCR a clear sense of self-identify within the WCRP context. There was a definite sense in Kigali that climate science needs to change to be more bottom-up, and that MCR is leading by example in this respect. Thus, we were energized by the experience. The OSC has motivated us to aim for more in-person gatherings, although we still believe that our GA's need to remain online-only. Having said that, we are still struggling to find the best format for the GA's. Regina and Ted also described the new budgeting process within WCRP, and the items that had been requested for MCR in 2025.

### **Education Working Group**

Vandana Singh reported on the Education Working Group. It currently comprises nine members from five regions and is actively recruiting new members. While the Group is still refining its mission, its goals include integrating insights from social science and education into climate science practices and advocating for education as a critical component of climate adaptation and mitigation, particularly focusing on marginalized communities in the Global South. They aim to expand these discussions into high school and undergraduate education, potentially developing an educator's guide and ambitious online courses in collaboration with hub partners such as the Walker Institute and the HUC. Last year, the Group held a two-part webinar series on colonialism and climate science, which it is seeking to turn into a teaching resource. The Group is in the process of launching a dedicated website and blog to facilitate these initiatives, despite challenges like coordinating across multiple time zones and managing logistical complexities.

## ECR Community

Julia Mindin and Fiona Spuler reported on the MCR Early Career Researcher (ECR) community, which was established late last year to serve as a gateway to MCR for ECRs not affiliated with specific hubs but interested in the MCR ethos. The community aims to foster discussion, influence MCR from an ECR perspective, and cultivate a supportive network. While currently operating publicly yet not extensively advertised, it maintains flexible eligibility criteria. Current activities include monthly meetings in an open and candid format, led by Fiona and Julia with plans for leadership rotation. The group is currently focusing on identifying common challenges and maintaining a storyline repository to generate adaptable data. They are actively exploring collaboration with ANDEX and RfS. Emphasizing scalability, the community underscores the importance of mentoring, particularly for scientists lacking previous MCR opportunities, aiming to provide inclusive spaces for interdisciplinary collaboration across generations and global fellowship groups to avoid working in silos.

## MCR Survey

Shachi Truong reported on the draft report which she had prepared (with help from Kritika Sharma from the HUC hub) on the survey conducted promptly after the WCRP OSC in Kigali, to gather perspectives from MCR participants regarding their experiences at the event. The draft reported was circulated to participants in the MCR GA but will not be made publicly available. The survey revealed robust discussions among OSC participants about power dynamics, authority in decision-making processes, and the ethical principles guiding community engagements. Key findings from the survey underscored the challenges faced by researchers in navigating complex ethical landscapes and the imperative of establishing clear ethical guidelines for research within the MCR framework. Vandana Singh's advocacy for documenting these deliberations aligns closely with survey respondents' concerns, emphasizing the need for transparent communication and inclusive decision-making processes. The survey highlighted the community's aspiration to disseminate knowledge effectively across diverse geographical and disciplinary boundaries, aiming to foster a shared understanding of ethical practices in climate research. Moving forward, integrating these insights from the survey will fortify the foundational principles of the MCR community, ensuring that ethical considerations remain central to its collaborative endeavors and interactions with global stakeholders. It was suggested that Ted and Regina write a short letter to the Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) briefly summarizing some of the more salient findings from the survey, especially the perception of the Global North-centric nature of the WCRP and the lack of meaningful involvement from the Global South. (This letter was subsequently written.) The survey was subsequently finalized and distributed to GA participants.

## **MCR at COP30**

COP30 will be held in Brazil in November 2025. Regina Rodriguez led the discussion of how we could use this opportunity to hold in-person MCR events in the region in the run-up to the COP. The MCR budget request for 2025 has requested funds to help facilitate this, including a workshop run by the ECR group where the focus will be on leveraging inter-hub collaborations and recognizing the pivotal role of ECRs as a valuable resource in this respect. This was exemplified by the CONICET hub's substantial participation in Kigali, which underscored the sense of community within the MCR network. Regarding COP30, plans also include potential pre-meetings aimed at establishing a pavilion, supported by the government's current endorsement. Regional considerations remain integral to this, with plans for a series of side events like ANDEX. Masilin Gudoshava suggested organizing an MCR webinar series leading up to COP30.

## **An MCR Special Issue of a Journal**

Ted Shepherd led the discussion of a topic which has come up in previous GA's, namely whether we should work towards a special issue of a journal dedicated to MCR science. The consensus was that the time had now come. Publishing a paper on MCR science involves navigating various challenges, particularly regarding regional disparities between the Global North and South. Access to publications is, moreover, often hindered by financial constraints, with many unable to afford the publication fees. Establishing a special issue, which can be financially supported by the WCRP, thus facilitates broader publication opportunities and critical discussions. A special issue can allow for various publication formats, e.g., perspectives and case studies, and an over-arching editorial. Ted will seek volunteers for editing and manuscript preparation and draft a prospectus which can be shopped around to various journals (but avoiding the predatory journals). The pitch will be the first goal of MCR, namely developing scalable methodologies which retain the richness of local descriptions.

## **CONCLUSION**

In reflecting on the recent discussions and outcomes across the three days of the GA, several key themes emerged, underscoring the MCR commitment to interdisciplinary research and robust community engagement. A central focus was on effective communication strategies and the sharing of knowledge, essential for navigating challenges such as funding limitations and stakeholder fatigue. Opportunities for collaboration among South-South networks and cross-hub interactions were also highlighted as pivotal for advancing climate resilience efforts. Each hub presented unique initiatives: from Ateneo de Manila University's integration of systems thinking and mobile apps for resilience, to Hong Kong's innovative use of big data for personalized health monitoring in the context of climate adaptation. The importance of storytelling in climate action, exemplified by podcasting efforts in the Philippines, underscored the power of narrative in engaging diverse audiences. The hubs also emphasized the necessity of engaging local communities and vulnerable groups in



climate initiatives, as well as enhancing educational resources and policy brief development tailored to regional needs. Looking forward, action items include refining discussion topics for future gatherings, exploring virtual hubs for focused research, and leveraging open-access platforms for educational outreach. These efforts aim to foster greater collaboration and community-building within the WCRP network, ensuring a comprehensive approach to climate resilience.

## IDEAS THAT CAME UP

- 1 To allow more time for discussion within the GA's, all presentations (including hub updates) could be provided in the form of videos which could be watched beforehand. Each hub could bring one topic or concern to discuss with the wider group, and the GAs could include breakout groups
- 2 An MCR newsletter was suggested. This, however, would require considerable effort to pull off, unless it could be somehow streamlined. Ideas in this respect are certainly welcome. For example, HUC has now decentralized its communication; it just provides a central place and does fact-checking (i.e. whether the connection with HUC is legitimate). A template is provided, which gets populated by the members.
- 3 The concept of "virtual hubs" was floated, to allow for involvement of people who are not affiliated with a hub. We already have the Education Working Group and the ECR group, and are considering a philosophy of science group, which serve this purpose. However it is important to avoid moving into a traditional WCRP panel structure, which can rapidly become top-down and dominated by the Global North.
- 4 The concept of a "pop-up hub" was also floated. That could just be a one-off event (or series of events), which is certainly feasible within the current MCR structure. For example, Chris suggested having a funders "learning lab" to shift the thinking within the funding community.
- 5 To facilitate cross-MCR collaboration, we could make more use of online collaboration resources such as Slack or Discord. The Education Working Group is already moving into Slack-style mode, which documents the discussions but avoids the constraint of meeting together at the same time. We can perhaps learn here from the HUC High Mountain Data Thematic Working Group, which apparently "lives" in Slack.
- 6 We would still very much encourage hubs to organize bilateral or trilateral workshops, for cross-learning. It has become very clear that the GA's do not provide an appropriate format for this.

## ANNEX 1: LIST OF INVITED PARTICIPANTS

Category	Name	Affiliation/Organization
<b>Chairs</b>	Regina Rodrigues	Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil
	Ted Shepherd	University of Reading, UK and Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany
<b>Members</b>	Amadou Thierno Gaye	École Supérieure Polytechnique (ESP) Université, Senegal
	Ana Bucher	World Bank
	Ana María Quesada Durán	University of Costa Rica, Costa Rica
	Anna Sörensson	National Scientific and Technical Research Council, Argentina
	Bruce Hewitson	University of Cape Town, South Africa (RIfS)
	C. Kendra Gotangco Gonzales	Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines
	Chi Huyen Truong (Shachi)	Himalayan University Consortium, Nepal
	Douglas Maraun	University of Graz, Austria
	Elisabeth Gilmore	Carleton University, Canada (WASP)
	Fei Chen	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)
	Fiona Spuler	University of Reading, UK (MCR ECR community)
	Francisco Doblás-Reyes (Paco)	Barcelona Supercomputing Center - Centro Nacional de Supercomputación, Spain
	Gaby Langendijk	Deltares, the Netherlands
	Julia Mindlin	University of Leipzig, Germany (MCR ECR community)
	Julienne Stroeve	University of Manitoba, Canada
	Karen McKinnon	UCLA, United States
	Lin Wang	Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
	Masilin Gudoshava	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), Kenya
Paola Arias Gomez	Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia	
Shipra Jain	University College London, UK (WWRP)	
Sugata Narsey	Australian Bureau of Meteorology	
Susann Tegtmeier	University of Saskatchewan, Canada (ESMO)	

	Vandana Singh	Framingham State University, United States
<b>Hubs</b>	Abdou Ali	Centre Régional AGRHYMET
	Aditi Modi	Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)
	Alexis Lau	HKUST
	Alice McClure	Climate System Analysis Group (CSAG), University of Cape Town (UCT)
	Ana Durán	University of Costa Rica, Costa Rica
	Carolina Ochoa-Martinez	Veracruz University
	Chris Jack	University of Cape Town
	Daniel Mardi	Walker Institute
	Daniel Ratilla	Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines
	Elena Saggioro	Walker Institute
	Erik Kolstad	Climate Futures, Norwegian Research Centre (NORCE)
	Florencia Fossa Riglos	National Scientific and Technical Research Council, Argentina
	Francisco J Doblas Reyes	Earth Sciences Department at the Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC)
	Iain Stewart	Royal Scientific Society (RSS)
	Ian Harvey Claros	Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines
	Jakob Steiner	University of Graz, HUC
	Jean Jardeleza Mijares	Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines
	Jennifer Veitch	South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)
	Julieta Canneva	National Scientific and Technical Research Council, Argentina
	Konstantina Pratta	Walker Institute
	Nadia Testani	CIMA, Argentina
	Nicole du Plessis	South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)
	Ros Cornforth	Walker Institute, University of Reading
	Roxy Mathew Koll	Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)
	Shikha Singh	Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)
	Van Doan	University of Tsukuba
<b>Secretariat</b>	Narelle van der Wel	WCRP Secretariat
	Suhana Sehwat	WCRP Secretariat
<b>Invited Guests and Others</b>	Aïda Diongue-Niang	Agence Nationale de l'Aviation Civile et de la Météorologie du Sénégal (ANACIM)

	Carlo Buontempo	ECMWF
	Darko Savic	University of Belgrade
	Elisa Armijos	Geophysical Institute of Peru (IGP)
	Elisabeth Holland	University of the South Pacific, Fiji and University of Bergen, Norway (SLC)
	Martha Vogel	Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre
	Milica Tomic	University of Belgrade
	Ram Paulo A. Anayan	Ateneo de Manila University
	Thea Turkington	Centre for Climate Research Singapore
	Vincent Lam	University of Bern
	Vladimir Djurdjevic	University of Belgrade

## ANNEX 2: LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym	Full Form
<b>ACDI</b>	African Climate and Development Initiative
<b>AGRHYMET</b>	Centre Régional AGRHYMET
<b>AI</b>	Artificial Intelligence
<b>ANDEX</b>	Andean Network for Climate and Extreme Events
<b>ARISE</b>	Asian City Resilience Initiative for Sustainable Transformation
<b>CLIVAR</b>	Climate and Ocean - Variability, Predictability, and Change
<b>CONICET</b>	National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties
<b>CORDEX</b>	Coordinated Regional Downscaling Experiment
<b>CSIR</b>	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
<b>DRAW</b>	Disaster Resilience and Awareness Workshop
<b>ECR</b>	Early Career Researcher
<b>EMCR</b>	Early and Mid-Career Researchers
<b>EPESC</b>	Explaining and Predicting Earth System Change
<b>GA</b>	General Assembly
<b>HAB</b>	Harmful Algal Blooms
<b>HKH</b>	Hindu Kush Himalaya
<b>HKUST</b>	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
<b>HUC</b>	Himalayan University Consortium
<b>ICICLE</b>	Inclusive Climate Information for Community-led Environment

<b>ICIMOD</b>	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
<b>ICPAC</b>	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre
<b>IOP</b>	Institute of Physics
<b>IRC</b>	International Rescue Committee
<b>K2</b>	K2 School in Kenya
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MCR</b>	My Climate Risk
<b>MRV</b>	Monitoring Reporting and Verification
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NORCE</b>	Norwegian Research Centre
<b>OSC</b>	Open Science Conference
<b>PRAISE</b>	Personal Real-time Air-quality Informatics System for Exposure
<b>RiFS</b>	Regional Information for Society
<b>RSS</b>	Royal Scientific Society
<b>SAEON</b>	South African Environmental Observation Network
<b>SDA2</b>	Skill Development, Awareness, and Application
<b>SECRA</b>	Southeast Asian Climate Resilience Alliance
<b>SLC</b>	Safe Landing Climates
<b>SSG</b>	Scientific Steering Group
<b>WANA</b>	West Asia-North Africa
<b>WCRP</b>	World Climate Research Programme
<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organization
<b>WWRP/SERA</b>	World Weather Research Programme / Societal and Economic Research Applications
<b>YESS</b>	Young Earth System Scientists

## ANNEX 3: AGENDAS

Session	Time (UTC)	Agenda
<b>AMERICAS SESSION (MAY 3)</b>	<b>HUB-LED SESSION</b>	
	16:00	Welcome (Regina and Ted)
	16:05	ICPAC
	16:25	CONICET
	16:45	UoM

	17:05	Veracruz
	17:25	LL06 report
	17:45	Brief discussion of SLC SLR report (read beforehand)
	17:50	Break
<b>CLOSED SESSION</b>	18:00	WCRP update and MCR budgeting (Regina and Ted)
	18:15	Education Working Group (Vandana's pre-recorded comments)
	18:25	Early Career Researcher Group (Julia)
	18:35	MCR survey report (Shachi)
	18:40	Special MCR issue discussion (Ted)
	18:55	Workshop discussion for 2025 COP (Regina, Julia)
	19:10	General discussion
	19:30	Close
<b>AFRICA/EUROPE SESSION (MAY 16)</b>	<b>HUB-LED SESSION</b>	
	09:00	Welcome (Regina and Ted)
	09:05	SAEON
	09:25	UCT
	09:45	Agrhymet
	10:05	RSS
	10:25	Walker
	10:45	NORCE
	11:05	Brief discussion of SLC SLR report (read beforehand)
	11:10	Break
<b>CLOSED SESSION</b>	11:30	WCRP update and MCR budgeting (Regina and Ted)
	11:45	Education Working Group (Vandana)
	11:55	Early Career Researcher Group (Fiona)
	12:05	MCR survey report (Shachi)
	12:10	Special MCR issue discussion (Ted)
	12:25	Workshop discussion for 2025 COP (Regina)
	12:40	General discussion
	13:00	Close
<b>EAST ASIA SESSION (MAY 17)</b>	<b>HUB-LED SESSION</b>	
	03:30	Welcome (Regina and Ted)
	03:35	BoM
	03:55	ADMU
	04:15	HKUST
	04:35	Tsukuba

	04:55	HUC
	05:15	IITM
	05:35	Brief discussion of SLC SLR report (read beforehand)
	05:40	Break
<b>CLOSED SESSION</b>	05:50	WCRP update and MCR budgeting (recording from May 3)
	06:00	Education Working Group (Vandana's pre-recorded comments)
	06:10	Early Career Researcher Group (recording from May 3)
	06:20	MCR survey report (Shachi)
	06:25	Special MCR issue discussion (Ted)
	06:40	Workshop discussion for 2025 COP (Regina)
	06:55	General discussion
	07:15	Close