



# WCRP Academy Lighthouse Activity

43rd Session of the WCRP Joint  
Scientific Committee

*Angela Maharaj*

28 June 2022

Online



# Progress and achievements

- Bulk of the Academy's work has been to meet WG1 objectives.
- Mid-late 2021: Inaugural global climate training stocktake survey to collect data on appetite, availability and gaps in training.
- Expansion of the WCRP Academy support team:
  - Beatriz Balino (CliC) 50% support
  - Two consultants (South Africa and Philippines)
- Survey analysis and key outcomes – completed. Highlights next slide.
- Horizon-scanning of climate training opportunities to develop database – completed (but ongoing)
- Second consultant
  - broadening survey uptake into and engagement with Asia and the Global South
  - Investigating and planning models for the Academy web and portal development
  - Funding options
- WG2: Phase 1 website design and content – in progress

## WCRP Academy working groups and roles

### Chairs:

Consulting with WCRP and partners  
Comms and outreach

### WG1: Stock-take

Aim: Design mechanism to understand what training is available and what is needed.

Long-term: How to operationalize this function.

Current work: Stock-take survey

### WG2: Identity and portal

Aim: Establish value-proposition and brand

Develop web-portal

Long-term: Guides development of platform

Current work: Portal requirements

### WG3: Finance

Aim: Establish business model

Build proposal and options

Long-term: Financial sustainability and mechanisms

Current work: funding sources.



# Survey – respondent snapshot

## Survey respondents

Global North	198
Global South	216
<b>Total</b>	<b>414</b>

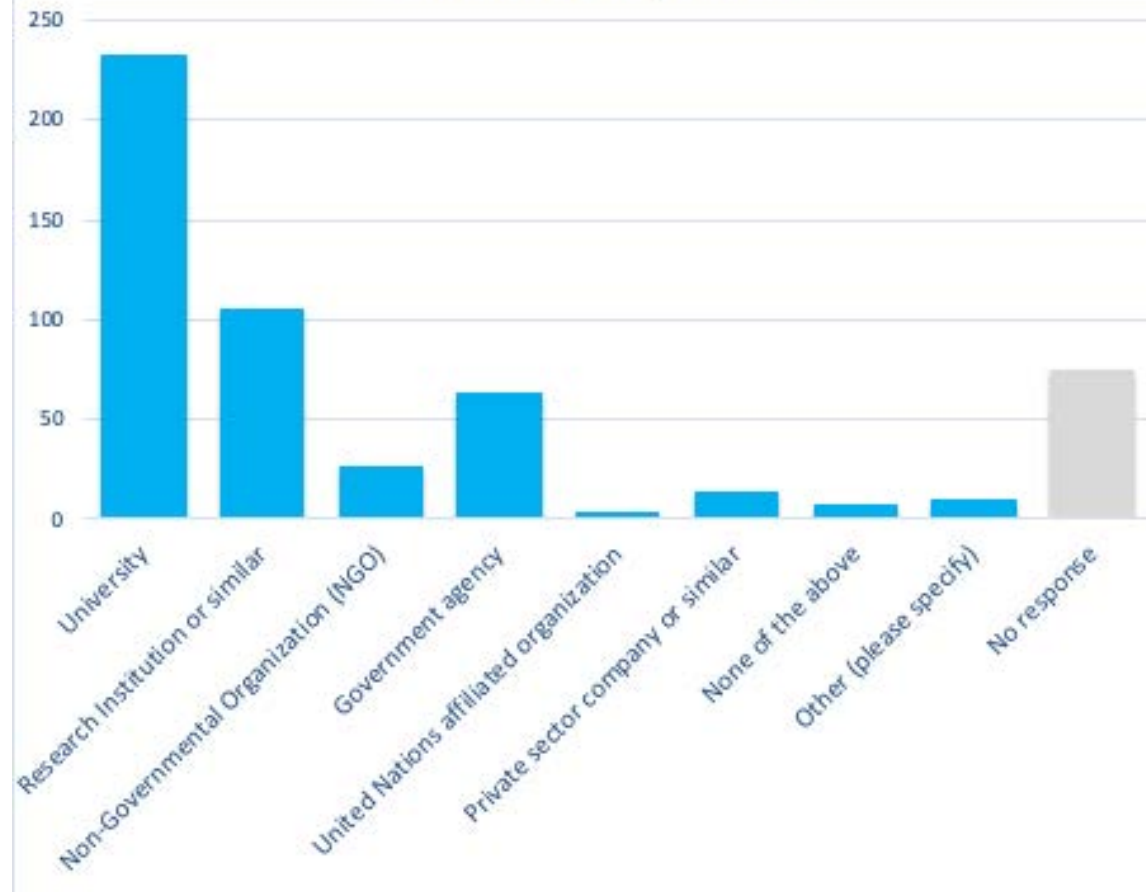
## Gender

Man	222
Woman	180
Non-binary	6
Prefer not to say	6

## Top 10 respondent countries

Brazil	50
United States	35
United Kingdom	35
Australia	24
Germany	22
India	21
Nigeria	20
Peru	14
Argentina	14
Norway	11

## Affiliation of respondents



# Survey – key outcomes

- Training available: Analysis of **observations**, analysis of **model results**, **model evaluation** and **collecting observations, theoretical studies**.
- The most reported **obstacle** to the provision of adequate science training was **financial**.
- **Short courses** were the most selected option for what training the WCRP Academy could provide, followed by **webinars** by experts and **seasonal schools**.
- The survey asked respondents what additional climate science training or education they would like to undertake now or in the future as an open-ended question. Responses spanned:
  - Data analysis skills such as in modelling, big data, AI, machine learning, downscaling, ARC GIS and remote sensing, coding and specific tools such as Python, MATLAB, GRADS;
  - Knowledge areas such as climate science, climatology, adaptation, mitigation, carbon markets, climate and health, disaster management, climate risks, climate impacts, policies and governance, law;
  - Science communication skills including communicating uncertainty, media outreach, data visualization, user-tailored products, interpreting models for stakeholders.
- Survey outcomes to be written up for publication

# Key Recommendations

## Content Curation

- Require inclusion criteria for listing items on the website that meets classification of climate science (e.g., distinguish boundaries with WMO training events of meteorology);
  - Start with listing:
    - WCRP-affiliated training events, networks (e.g., GEWEX networks), internships, and webinars by experts on latest climate science research or practice;
  - Established quality formal climate science programmes within WCRP's network.
- Indicate on all listings:
- If there is a cost, and funding opportunities;
  - Language;
  - Whether event has online option available, or availability of travel funds if in-person;
  - Target audience;
  - Clear learning outcomes/ constructive alignment;
  - Clear level and expected prior learning.

# Key Recommendations

## Repository/database

- Recordings of online training and/or webinars by experts
- Recommended peer-reviewed readings on latest climate science
- Resources to help community with training

## Accessibility

- Consider translating or including materials and training events in multiple languages.

## Clientele

- Consider including option to sign-up to mailing list for regular newsletter.

# Future plans

## Lighthouse Activities:

(a) Summary of proposed key outcomes and impacts, including approximate timeline

## What does success look like for the WCRP Academy?

1. A mechanism to regularly survey climate science training needs and communicate this information to training providers. (commenced 2021)
2. A modern, well-developed platform that allows researchers globally to learn about and access training opportunities. (phase 1- 2022; phase 2 – 2023/4).
3. A funded, permanent Academy team that liaises with the climate science community, maintains and develops the platform, runs the surveying mechanism and maintains communications with potential students and training providers. (?? Depends on funding model??)

Timeline:

Set up: 2-3 years

Horizon: 5-10 years



# Future plans

## Lighthouse Activities:

(a) Summary of proposed key outcomes and impacts, including approximate timeline

	Responsibility	2021 Year 1 of Science Development Team												2022 Year 2 of Science Development Team											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
S1 Definitions for ToR	WG																								
S2 Designing Survey	WG																								
S3 Collection and Analysis	Consultant																								
S4 Reporting survey results	WG+Consultant																								
S5 Ongoing stock-take plan	WG+Consultant																								
I1 Value Proposition	WG																								
I2 Refining Brand	WG																								
I3 WCRP internal resource curation	WG + Consultant																								
I4 Phase 1 web development	Consultant																								
I5 global resource curation	WG + Consultant																								
I4 Portal Development	Consultant																								
I5 Metric Development	WG + Consultant																								
F1 Scoping Business Plan	WG																								
F2 List of Funders	WG																								
F3 Outline Funding Bid	WG																								
F4 Financial Mechanisms	WG																								
F5 Finalise Business Plan	WG																								
F6 Submitting Funding Bids	WG																								
Science Team Meetings	All																								

2021: Set up WGs, Annual stocktake development and execution.

Informed appetite and need for Academy.

2022: Analysis of stocktake; development of inward facing webpage to support WCRP Community; Horizon scanning and develop proposal for outward facing Academy entity.

2023: in consultation with new steering group.



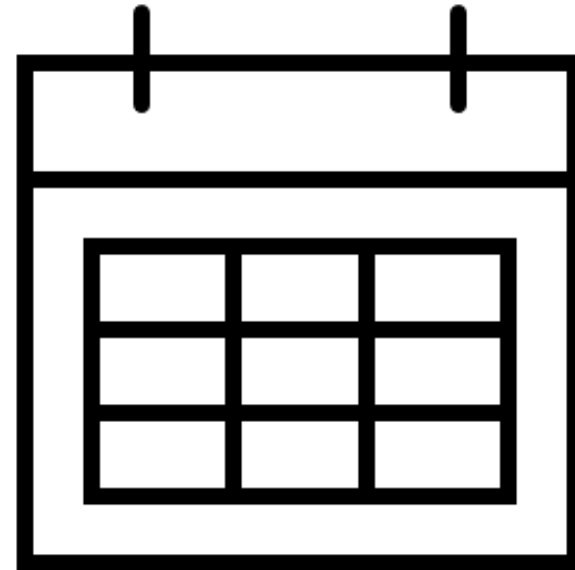


# Future plans

## Lighthouse Activities:

(b) How will your Lighthouse Activity work with the Core Projects and other Lighthouse Activities?

- Provide resources to help with training;
- Curate and co-badge WCRP training;
- Advertise training;
- Seek ex-officio reps for projects which don't have representation on Academy SG and WGs.



# Emerging issues

## Recruitment

- The Academy needs to bring together people with diverse skillsets beyond research: education and training, educational technologies, philanthropy, business and marketing. Need to cast a wide net beyond the WCRP community.

## Quality assurance/ endorsement

- Process for vetting resources coming from outside the WCRP.

## Academy entity model

- Business plan and appropriate entity model for final outward facing World Climate Science Academy.

