

LHA – My Climate Risk



43rd Session of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee

27/06-01/07/2022, Online

Regina Rodrigues & Ted Shepherd



Progress and achievements

Small is beautiful: climate-change science as if people mattered

Regina R Rodrigues, Theodore G Shepherd 

PNAS Nexus, Volume 1, Issue 1, March 2022, pgac009,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/pnasnexus/pgac009>

✓ **Grappling with complexity** of local situations...
...by expressing climate knowledge in a conditional form

✓ **The importance of simplicity** when dealing with deep uncertainty...
...through the use of physical climate storylines

✓ **Empowering local communities** to make sense of their own situation...
...by developing “intermediate technologies” that build trust and transparency

Progress and achievements

- ✓ Session at **SRI 2020** (held in 2021)
- ✓ **HUC Summer School 2021**
- ✓ **HUC Workshop** on Storying Climes of the Himalaya, Andes, and Arctic (leading to an edited book)
- ✓ Session at **AGU 2021** (leading to a paper)
- ✓ Many presentations of My Climate Risk in *various fora*



AGU FALL MEETING
New Orleans, LA & Online Everywhere
13-17 December 2021



Progress and achievements

✓ 11 members of the **Science Plan Development Team** indicated a desire to continue as regular members of the SSG

✓ We held an **open call** for new members from all continents except Europe (since it was already well represented among the continuing members)

✓ There were **34 applicants**; 9 have been nominated for SSG membership

- ✓ We need a relatively large SSG to provide good regional representation and for our GAs to function well, as they will be virtual

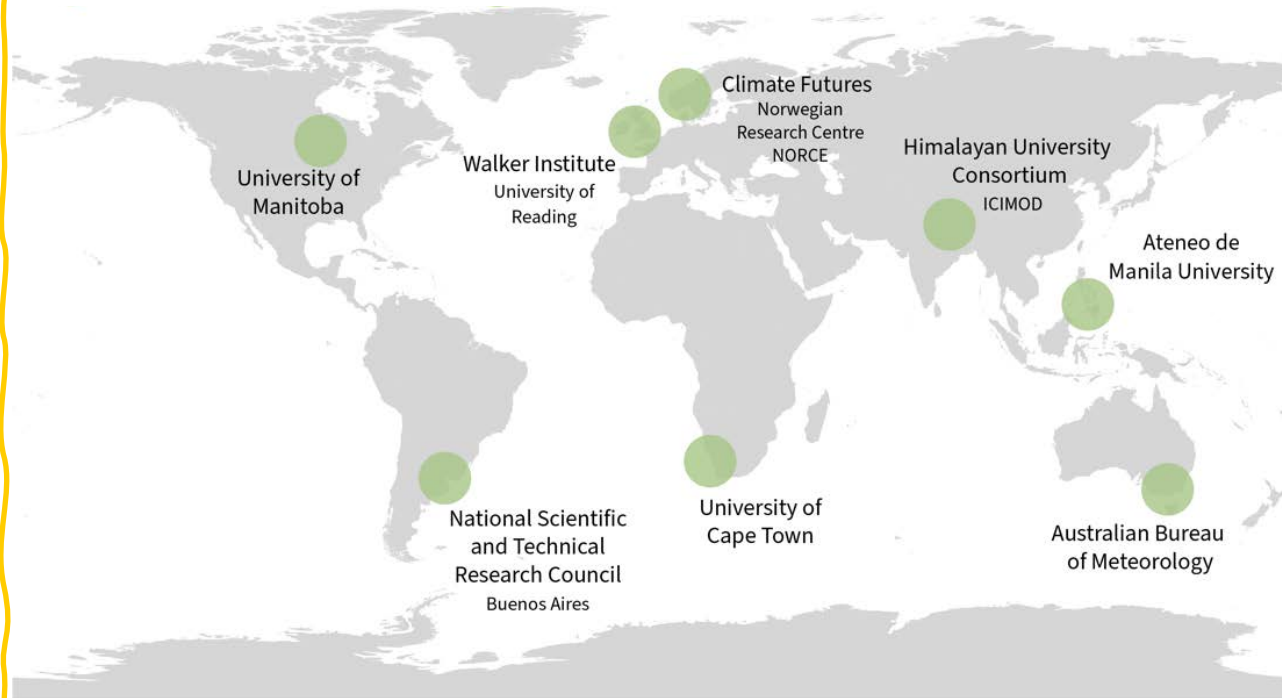
✓ Overall description of the **20 nominees**:

- ✓ Europe (4), Africa (2), South and Central America (4), North America (4), Asia (5), Australasia (1)
- ✓ Female (12), Male (8)
- ✓ PhD's before 2000 (5), from 2001-2020 (13), after or not yet (2)

Progress and achievements

- ✓ Eight MCR regional **hubs** in process of establishment
- ✓ Arose through a **variety** of routes, including WCRP Climate Forums
- ✓ Hubs need to share **bottom-up** approach of MCR
- ✓ Aim is to expand (slowly) into **regions not well** represented within WCRP
- ✓ See the MCR **website** for FAQs about hubs

Network of *My Climate Risk* regional hubs



Progress and achievements

ICIMOD HUC Himalayan University Consortium

WEBINAR

Climate risk and uncertainty in India

12 May 2022 | 16:00-18:00 (IST) | Zoom

Organized by

WCRP's My Climate Risk Regional Hub for the Hindu Kush Himalaya under the Himalayan University Consortium (HUC), ICIMOD



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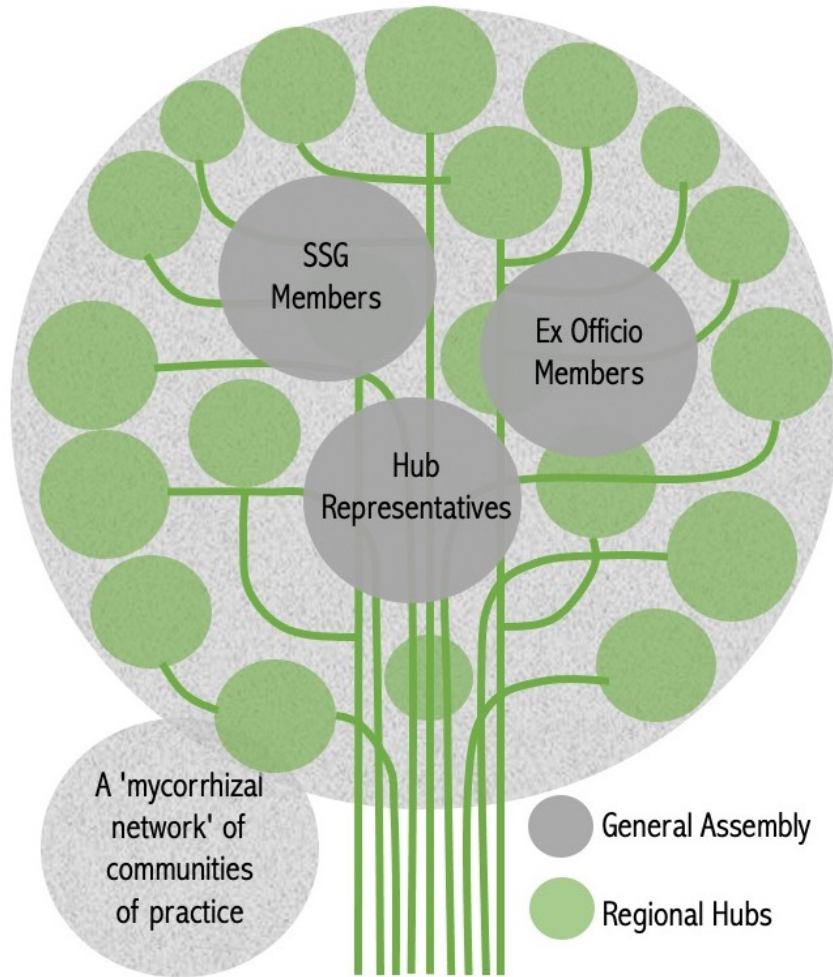
Assistant Professor
Department of Humanities and
Social Sciences, Indian Institute
of Technology, Madras

Take-home message: For vulnerable communities, uncertainty is a way of life, not an error bar

Scan to register for the webinar



Progress and achievements



- ✓ Held our first virtual '**General Assembly**' (essentially, our SSG meeting) between May 30 and June 2, 2022
- ✓ Consisted of 5 two-hour sessions
 - ✓ One plenary, followed by two sessions in each of two 'hemispheric' breakout groups
- ✓ The hub concept seems to be working out very well; doing our science "as if people mattered" is a unifying theme
- ✓ Planning another GA in October/November (annually is too infrequent)
- ✓ See draft meeting report

Future plans – Next steps

- ✓ Consolidation and maturation of the **existing regional hubs**, and development of interactions between them

- ✓ Hub-driven webinar series, both inward- and outward-facing

- ✓ Identification of **opportunities** to share or develop training materials between the hubs, and strengthen linkages with the WCRP Academy

- ✓ Exploration of potential **additional hubs** in parts of the world that are underrepresented within WCRP

- ✓ Could start as branches of existing hubs

- ✓ Initiation of a working group with **Rifs** (and potentially other partners) on epistemological issues in climate risk, involving philosophers of science, and including how to navigate across the 'rational-social dichotomy'

Future plans – Connections

- ✓ In line with the focus of MCR on bottom-up activities, anchored primarily in the hubs, we expect most of the **connections** with international partners (both within WCRP, and externally) to occur there, within a particular context
 - ✓ The people leading those activities are best placed to identify the relevant partners, and the discussions can then be concrete rather than abstract
 - ✓ Many members of MCR are also engaged in WCRP core projects, so are well placed to make connections with them, where they make sense

- ✓ The goals of MCR have much in common with those of **Rifs**, but the modalities are different, and MCR needs to have strong connections with all parts of WCRP

- ✓ Both EPESC and SLC also address climate risk, but at larger spatial scales (continental to global); the most important word in My Climate Risk is **'My'**

Emerging issues

- ✓ Challenges of building **capability** in a sustainable way, especially in fragile or underfunded institutions
 - ✓ Community-led activities tend to be dominated by the powerful
 - ✓ Can WCRP or its partners help in this respect?

- ✓ Building trusted **relationships** takes a long time and is not compatible with the project cycle of funding
 - ✓ Ultimately, it's all about people

- ✓ **Metrics of success** in science tend to encourage competitive and extractive/exploitive practices
 - ✓ Trust and openness are not always compatible

- ✓ The **WCRP Open Science Conference** in Kigali will be an opportunity for MCR, but we will need a lot of funding if we are to be fully engaged

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Thanks!

