



GLOBAL SOUTH INCLUSION TASK TEAM

First Report

May 2025



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1. Background

Following the WCRP Open Science Conference (OSC), a survey was conducted by the WCRP Activity My Climate Risk (MCR) hubs to gather perspectives from MCR participants regarding their experiences at the OSC. One of the key findings from the survey include gaps in what climate information is produced and what society needs, particularly in the Global South. The survey report was discussed during the MCR General Assembly and as an outcome of those discussions, the MCR leadership wrote a letter to the Joint Scientific Committee (JSC), highlighting, for example, (1) the gap between how climate information is produced and what is needed (difference between Global North and Global South) and that (2) at that time, 75% of the leadership within the WCRP core activities was from just 5 countries in the Global North (UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand). The survey respondents emphasized the need to transform society and tackle colonialism in climate science institutions. The Early and Mid-Career Researcher plenary talk was the most favored during the OSC. In contrast, the plenary talk on future climate modelling was the least favored, as it was seen as disconnected from reality.

In May 2024, the JSC decided to form a Task Team to develop recommendations on how to improve inclusion of the Global South in WCRP activities and panels. The creation of the Task Team is also in line with the pledge of the call for commitment of the WCRP leadership stated in the [Kigali Declaration](#): *“identifying and implementing timely actions to give equal visibility, voice, and access to opportunity to early career scientists, marginalized scientists, and historically disadvantaged scientific communities, in the work, leadership and global influence of WCRP”*.

In September 2024, the WCRP JSC chair invited all co-chairs of the WCRP Core Activities to nominate activity members to participate in the Task Team. This call was quite successful, receiving nominations from all Core Projects, two Lighthouse Activities, as well as from the Academy. To coordinate the Task Team, Anna Sörensson, incoming JSC 2025 member, was convened. With help from the Secretariat and the two co-chairs of MCR, the list of members was finalized. The timeline for the Task Team to provide recommendations was set for the JSC meeting in 2026. As an outcome of the virtual JSC meeting in January 2025, four members from the JSC were added to the team, now comprising 25 members (see Annex A for the list of members).

Respecting the summer holidays of the Southern Hemisphere, home of many Global South countries as well as Task Team members, a first series of two-hour meetings by time zone was set up at the beginning of March 2025. Meetings were arranged for the 1) **Americas**, 2) **Africa, Europe and Central Asia**, and 3) **East Asia and Oceania**. The material from this set of meetings was compiled into a first draft of the present report and revised by the Task Team members. In April, two follow-up 1-hour meetings (for **Americas, Africa and Europe** and for **Asia and Oceania**) were held to complete the report. After this second set of meetings, a second round of revisions of the report was completed.

2. The Global South concept

The Global South inclusion Task Team (GSiTT) acknowledges that the term **Global South** is a broad conceptual category and that the membership in the category varies according to different sources and contexts. For the purpose of the GSiTT it is important i) to have a common understanding on why we use the concepts “Global South” and “Global North”, and ii) to adopt a definition, e.g. a set of countries, that fulfils our practical purpose and can integrate the context, culture and values of the Global South countries.

The following criteria were suggested by one GSiTT member, following a [search using AI](#)

- Greater vulnerability to climate
- Less influence on global decisions
- Less representation in international climate science

A complementary way to define the terms Global North and Global South corresponds to the characteristic of the Global North in climate science in general, and in WCRP in particular, to adopt a role of presumptive authority in relation to the Global South. The Global North also has a neo-colonialist extractive approach to partnerships with the Global South (see e.g. “Parachute Science”, [Mercier, 2023](#)), which increases the gaps.

Altogether, the terms Global North and South speak more of asymmetric power relationships than of economic indicators such as GDP or HDI. Critical scholars argue that this binary division into North – South oversimplifies complexities and warn against treating the Global South as homogeneous. For example, the definition through economic indicators overlooks, on one side, the persistence of inequalities and marginalized communities and knowledges within both “hemispheres”. On the other side, the contemporary multipolar geopolitical landscape, with emerging economies countries like China, India, and Brazil, complicates the binary approach. Despite these complexities, the North–South distinction remains critical for identifying and addressing structural climate injustices, systemic vulnerability, as well as epistemic marginalization and power asymmetries embedded in global climate governance and knowledge production systems. Specifically, in the case of WCRP the largest part of its funding can be traced back to the Global North, which may implicitly or explicitly influence membership and leadership decisions. The asymmetric distribution of monitoring networks, platforms, and their maintenance increases the gap in participation in many WCRP activities, as many Global South countries do not have the monitoring capacity to be part of initiatives. This is more evident as the initiatives require more sophisticated measurements as the case of biogeochemical cycles and ocean monitoring, to name a few. Another example that exemplifies this power asymmetry is the use of Global North metrics when assessing the career and competence of Global South scientists.

When dwelling on which countries should be considered as the Global South, it is well noted that, while the concept is widely used in organizations such as the UN and the WMO, none of these bodies have defined the concept. Therefore, it is not considered feasible that the GSiTT should create a strict definition. However, the [following division](#) of the [UNCTAD](#) into developed and developing countries could be helpful to the WCRP community, since it makes clear that the Global South includes Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (excluding for French Guiana), Asia (excluding Israel, Japan, and South Korea), and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand):

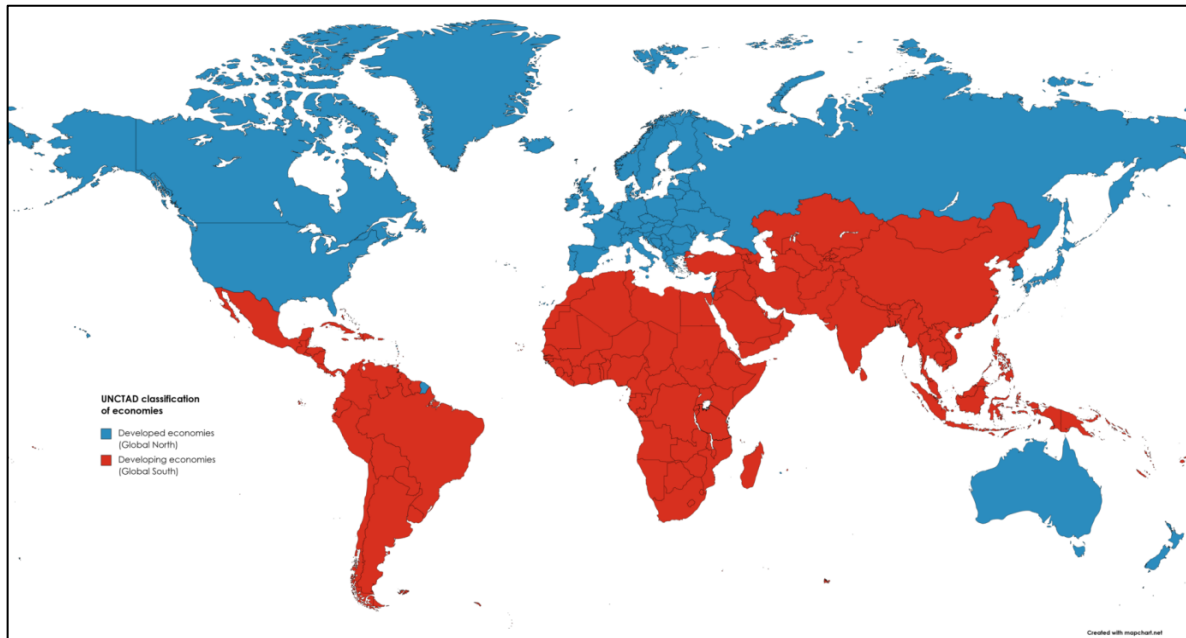


Figure 1: Economic classification of the world's countries and territories by the UNCTAD in 2023.

3. Current participation of the Global South in WCRP

For the first report, the GSiTT has looked at the composition of the highest-level Scientific Steering Committees (SSC/G) of the WCRP core activities as well as the JSC. In collaboration with the Academy, we have also analyzed the characteristics of the WCRP training opportunities/events by examining the WCRP Academy Catalogue and the WCRP Community Calendar events from 2021 to 2024. It should be noted that most of the core activities have Committees, Working Groups and Advisory Boards that sit below the SSC/Gs and are carrying out crucial work within the WCRP. The GSiTT is planning to carry out a more extensive analysis including the composition of these groups. As to the WCRP events it is worthwhile noting that not all training activities are registered and could therefore not be included in the analysis.

3.1. Representation in the Scientific Steering Committees / Groups of WCRP core activities

While 30% of ordinary members of the Scientific Steering Committees / Groups (SSC/G) of WCRP core activities represent countries from the Global South, only 18% of the Co-Chairs are from the Global South (Table 1).

Table 1. SSC/G Co-Chairs and ordinary members of the 13 activities of WCRP as of April 2025 divided into residents of the Global North and the Global South. The percentage of total number of participants from Global North countries is displayed in the rightmost column for comparison to Table 3.

WCRP CP / LHA	Co-Chairs		SSG members		Panel total
	Global North	Global South	Global North	Global South	Global North (%)
APARC	3	0	8	3	79
CIIC	2	0	7	5	64
CLIVAR	1	1	5	6	46
ESMO	2	0	8	4	71
GEWEX	2	0	9	3	79
RfS	1	2	8	2	69
Digital Earths	2	0	19	1	95
EPESC	2	0	9	0	100
GPEX	2	0	10	3	80
MCR	1	1	7	10	42
RCI	2	0	9	4	73
SLC	2	0	8	1	91
Academy	1	1	2	4	38
TOTAL	23	5	109	46	72

These 18% of the Co-Chairs come from 4 out of 13 activities of the WCRP, that is, 9 activities have Global North Co-Chairs only. The 30% of the ordinary members of SSC/Gs from the Global South are also unevenly distributed among activities, with 7 activities including between 0 and 3 Global South scientists. Looking at the total number of members (Co-Chairs as well as ordinary members) in each SSC/G, Global South scientists outnumber Global North scientists in only three of the 13 WCRP core activities.

In the case of the JSC (Table 2), the participation from the Global South as an ordinary member has increased since 2017, notably with the 2025 inclusion of 5 Global South scientists. However, no Global South Scientist has occupied the role of Chair or Vice-Chair during the period, and only one Global South Scientist has been an Officer.

Table 2: Chair/Vice chairs, Officers and members of the JSC over time (2017-2025) divided into residents of the Global North and the Global South.

	Chair / Vice-chair		Officer		Members	
	Global North	Global South	Global North	Global South	Global North	Global South
2017-2018	2	0	2	1	8	5
2019-2010	2	0	3	0	7	5
2021	2	0	3	0	7	6
2022	2	0	3	0	6	5
2023	2	0	3	0	6	6
2024	2	0	3	0	5	6
2025	2	0	–*	–*	6	9

*Elections will be held at JSC 12-16th of May 2025

The GSiTT concludes that we need more positions from the Global South in leadership roles to help shape the research agenda and the WCRP Strategic Plan for the next decade.

3.2. Does WCRP follow its own rules on representation of the Global South in high-level SSC/Gs?

The above question is, at the moment, not correctly formulated, since WCRP does not have any rules referring to the Global South nor their participation in activities and decision-making panels. The diversity criteria for high-level SSC/Gs can be found in this document: [“Guidelines on Membership and Responsibilities of WCRP High-level Steering Committees”](#) and the criterion is that “at least one third of all members should be resident in countries not designated as high-income economies”. The category “high income economies” is defined by the [World Bank](#), and is based on Gross National Income per capita, a purely economic indicator that does not consider the distribution of the wealth nor how the country invests in science, and even less the complexity of the power balance and historical legacy of the Global South concept. Since the category is based on if the Gross National Income is higher than \$14,006, the list of countries that belong to the category changes year to year. As an example, Chile, Uruguay, Panama as well as several small island states and countries in the Middle East that are included in the Global South definition are currently defined as “high income economies”.

Table 3: SSC/G Co-Chairs and ordinary members of the 13 activities of WCRP as of April 2025 divided into residents in high-income economies and non-high-income economies. The rightmost column shows the percentage of members that reside in a high-income economy. Green color shows the activities where the diversity criterion of WCRP is met.

	High-income economies	Non-high-income economies	High income economies %
APARC	12	3	80
CLIC	11	3	79
CLIVAR	7	6	54
ESMO	9	3	75
GEWEX	12	2	86
RIFS	9	4	69
Digital Earths	21	1	95
EPESC	11	0	100
GPEX	12	4	75
MCR	9	10	47
RCI	11	4	73
SLC	10	1	91
Academy	3	5	38
Total	137	46	75

Table 3 shows that only three (3) activities out of 13 meet the diversity criterion of the WCRP Guidelines, and one more with 69% almost meets the criterion. On the contrary, 8 of the activities have more than 75% of their SSC/G members from high-income economies. Since some countries that belong to the Global South are defined as high-income economies, Table 1 and 3 differ slightly.

Initial reactions from GSiTT members are that the Global South concept should be used for the diversity criterion instead of the current criterion. Members also pointed to the fact that no criterion exists for the participation of the Global South in the chairing of the SSC/Gs.

3.3. WCRP rules for providing support to the Global South

To highlight countries that should be considered for providing support, WCRP does not use the term Global South, but instead the UN convention of ["Least Developed Countries"](#), ["Landlocked Developing Countries"](#), and ["Small Island Developing States"](#). This definition excludes almost all countries in Latin America, as well as many countries in Africa and Asia.

This criterion affects the participation of the Global South as the expectation for the Global South researchers that are not included in this definition to be able to self-finance e.g. assistance to conferences and meetings is out of context with the countries' reality. The Task Team also noticed that in the SSC/Gs these countries are almost not represented at all. In conclusion, the criteria both for participation in WCRP leadership and for support need to be analyzed in depth by the GSiTT.

3.4. Global South participation in WCRP Events

The sample for this study consists of events advertised in the WCRP Academy Catalogue and the WCRP Community Calendar from 2021 to 2024. The events analyzed are webinars, workshops, conferences and seasonal schools. We encourage event organizers to register their events so that they can be considered for future analysis. The full report can be found in Annex B, and here we will discuss the main conclusions.

During the period, 15 in-person events were registered. 10 were held in Europe, 2 in North America and 2 in Asia. A total of 30 hybrid events were organized. 28 had an in-person component in the Global North (17 in Europe, 9 in North America, and 2 in Australia), while 5 had an in-person component in the Global South (4 in Asia and 1 in Africa). This highlights the fact that attending WCRP events in-person requires longer and more costly travel for scientists outside of Europe and North America. For most Global South scientists, support for travel cost is very limited and attendance also depends on getting a visa.

Fifty (50) webinars were registered in the databases used for the analysis. We counted the number of speakers in these 50 webinars and found that 61 speakers resided in the Global North and 47 in the Global South. Although the Global North–South balance might shift if we were to include webinars that were not registered, the conclusion that we draw is that Global South scientists are active in WCRP webinars. Especially if we compare the location of in-person events to purely online events, we notice that the Global South takes advantage of this least costly way to meet, engage and share knowledge, despite lesser participation in leadership.

4. The importance of inclusion of Global South Scientists in WCRP

The name of WCRP puts an emphasis on the word “World”. Claiming that the programme is for the whole world implies working on representation and diversity, in particular on the inclusion of more Global South scientists, who have a historical and current limited participation and influence in the programme.

To develop, share, and apply the climate knowledge that contributes to societal well-being is part of WCRP’s mission. Societal well-being is contextual since climate impacts present themselves differently, not just based on geography but also socioeconomic and political contexts. Climate change impacts will be more severe in the Global South, where key decisions on adaptation need input from climate science. Global South scientists are often the ones who know how to communicate with local people and hold both local and scientific knowledge that can inform the most appropriate context relevant responses. It should also be noted that most tropical countries and unique contexts such as the small island developing states which are vulnerable to sea level rise, correspond to the Global South (Figure 1). Since the tropical climate and ecosystems have fundamental differences from extratropical ones, it is essential to ensure that the associated scientific interests and needs are adequately represented in WCRP.

The GSiTT stressed the importance of meaningful participation and meaningful representation. This issue is related to the disconnect between how and by who climate information is produced, and what society needs, revealed in the survey conducted by MCR (see Background above). In the Global South, research priorities are different than in the Global North, so being included meaningfully means including Global South research priorities in the WCRP. To achieve this, Global South scientists must be allowed to participate in decision making so that the WCRP agenda is driven both by the North and the South.

There is a need to ensure that we have meaningful involvement of several researchers in the making of the activities and decisions of WCRP, rather than just a few people from a handful of countries just to “tick a box”.

5. Barriers to Participation

The following section is organized in thematic subsections based on the discussed barriers to inclusion in WCRP activities.

5.1. Human capacity of the Global South and its visibility to WCRP

One of the GSiTT members, who is also a member of the JSC, explained that the JSC must ensure geographic representation in the membership of scientific committees of the activities ([see WCRP Guidelines on Membership and Responsibilities of WCRP High-level Steering Committees](#)). The problem is that the invitations do not receive a sufficient number of “qualified candidates” (see also next paragraph) from the Global South. The reasons for this include the marked contrast in terms of the number of specialized scientists in the Global North compared to the Global South. Furthermore, the activity leads, and the SSC/G members, might not be aware of the knowledge of the Global South and lack connections in the Global South.

Other members of the GSiTT highlighted the issue of lack of “qualified candidates” from the lens of power balance and epistemic authority, e.g. the Global North dictates how science should be conducted, including what is the best science for the Global South as well as productivity metrics based on the context of the Global North countries. Hence, it is not surprising that experts for the committees will mostly be found in the Global North. There are differences in career paths, knowledge acquisition and the pace of research between the Global North and South. As an example, number of publications in high impact journals was discussed since Global South scientists often publish less extensively than Global North colleagues. This might be because the focus of research may be different (e.g., local vs global), while journals are looking for publications with broad international appeal, or for publications on locations in the Global North. Another crucial impediment to publishing in high impact journals is the high publication charges of the journals. This problem has become worse lately with the tendency towards journals increasingly moving to “open access only”. These costs are not affordable for most Global South scientists, forcing them to publish in lower impact journals.

A third angle to the visibility of Global South capacity is the lack of connections between scientists from different countries of the Global South. Global South scientists are less connected to the global community, and they are particularly disconnected to scientists from other Global South countries/regions. A stronger network within the Global South, connected to JSC and WCRP activities, could help to find researchers that can have a profound impact on the WCRP activities and leverage the development and participation of countries that have a more limited critical mass of researchers.

Lastly, some thoughts on training. Some members call for training to level the playing field. More access to training would result in more representation. The Academy has conducted annual stocktakes since 2021 and 100% of respondents from the Global South said they need more training, while 26% of Global North respondents said they *do not* need more training. Training as well as mentoring was suggested by some members specifically to train Global South scientists to be able to take on leadership roles in activities.

Contrary (but not incompatible) to this view of training is that the metrics used in WCRP to get into leadership positions are set by the Global North, and there is a need to review those metrics which are largely biased to journal impacts and open access publications. Increased participation of the Global South in leadership inevitably implies increased relinquishment of control (i.e., leadership) by the Global North.

5.2. Technological capacities

Challenges regarding the limited existence of and access to observational data were highlighted during the series of meetings.

Regarding Global Earth System Models, they are almost exclusively developed in a few countries of the Global North, that is, often tailored to the needs of the Global North societies with the Global South societies as users and based on Global North monitoring capacity. These are models that are very demanding of high-computing performance facilities and storage, and most countries do not have the capacity to develop or run them. While the impacts of extreme events caused by climate change are striking the Global South hard, the capacity to develop and run high-resolution regional models that could resolve scales of e.g. small island states is very limited. Climate modelling is a good example of a field where the consequence of limited technological capacity is that know-how is limited in the Global South.

The trend towards high-resolution global modelling could potentially leave the Global South out of the playing field even more. Some participants pointed out that CORDEX is not clearly linked to this initiative of high-resolution global modelling and that it is important that regional climate models are still being prioritized and recognized. Moreover, CORDEX developments are also asymmetric, with many countries of the Global South (auto)excluded from the projects. which end up led by researchers from the Global North.

Nonetheless, the global South has an opportunity here. The continued expansion of more and more data sources exacerbates an already existent dilemma: the non-congruency of data from different sources which the global North has been slow to address. With the rich heterogeneity of contexts and close understanding of stakeholder realities, the global South is well positioned to provide leadership and drive this knowledge frontier.

5.3. Unequal knowledge about and access to research networks

Do people know about WCRP? There is unequal access (between Global North and Global South) to research networks. Many of the WCRP meetings and in particular the meetings that inform decision-making have not been accessible to researchers from the Global South. Important meetings to define the research agenda of WCRP has been by invitation only, excluding researchers from the Global South either by not inviting them, or by other restrictions (too short notice to obtain visas, by not covering the costs for their participation), see for example <https://www.wcrp-climate.org/wcrp-ip-meetings/wcrp-hamburg>.

Most of the scientists from the Global South do not know how to engage with the WCRP, and that networking internationally is beneficial to their careers. Therefore, promoting and knowing what you can give and get out of networking is important. It is important that Early Career Global South scientists know about WCRP and put their foot in the system. However, institutional politics and hierarchies in the Global South often mean that opportunities are based on seniority and internal power dynamics, and it is less common that Global South mentors involve ECRs in international networks (see also [Testani et al. 2025](#), outcome from WCRP OSC). These hierarchical schemes in the Global South are very often characterized by patterns of gender discrimination and harassment, directly affecting the participation of women.

It is common for an individual without a global network to feel inadequate or intimidated in the context of IPCC or WCRP, increasing the risk for the researchers from the Global South to be insecure of their participation in these groups and experiencing work-related mental health conditions (e.g burn-out, impostor syndrome).

This presents an additional perspective. It can be argued that it is not so much the inclusion of the South in WCRP, but how well the South is included in the scope of activities dominated by the North --- involvement in the WCRP is strongly coupled to involvement in the North's activities, thus fostering the latter is equally (or more important?) than involvement direct into WCRP. An example is the range of scientists from the South involved in the many UK FCDO/IDRC CLARE projects in Africa and Asia, which is an excellent example of growing global South inclusion that expands the potential community to draw into the WCRP. Working through these opportunities is an opportunity for the WCRP to leverage such large consortium actions and bring their activities closer into the fold of WCRP.

5.4. Nature of WCRP as voluntary work

WCRP engagement is voluntary work without a clear connection to funding opportunities. It is common that institutions in the Global South do not offer support to those involved in the WCRP since they do not see participation of their employees as leverage but as time being used for other organizations' activities without providing funding.

Other systemic barriers to being able to volunteer time were discussed. For example, the teaching, administration and technical workload tends to be very high in the Global South. Individuals often carry a multiplicity of unrelated responsibilities that fragment their focus, for example administrative and technical responsibilities that Global North institutions more often have dedicated personnel to cover for. In this sense, the time that Global South scientists can dedicate to WCRP work is often less, meaning that expectation of Global North metrics for engagement may be inappropriate.

It is also recognized that in the Global South, frequently someone in a specialty is the only one in their institution with no “person-next-door” support, which makes the voluntary engagement in WCRP more challenging.

The lessons from the 2.5-year phases of CORDEX-Africa offer valuable insight in how such a barrier can be overcome through providing meeting and mobility support, along with collaboration coordination, and then allowing participants to engage to whatever measure of discretionary volunteer time they can, however large or small that may be. The outputs from this cohort modality speak volumes for building a community of collaboration.

5.5. Funding Limitations, Visas, Carbon footprint

Considering what has been said above on the importance of networking, the importance of in-person meetings was highlighted. Funding for travel is decreasing and the number of countries that can apply for travel support is being reduced. Many Global South countries are now excluded from support lists (see e.g. 3.3 above).

Visas for travel are a structural barrier difficult to obtain for most Global South scientists. The timing of invitation letters and travel processes may not be enough to complete visa processes. Also, part of the process in some cases the passport must be sent few weeks or more to specific embassies-consulates, limiting availability for other activities. In cases in which the countries do not have a consular office, visa processes follow a third country, adding to the time required to complete travels. Translation of documents and correspondent fees are usually covered by the participants as many institutions do not cover these expenses.

The recent emphasis on the importance of minimizing carbon footprint also limits possibilities for Global South scientists, particularly early career scientists, to participate in or form networks through in person connections.

5.6. Brain Drain

It is well-known that Global South scientists emigrate to Global North countries because they feel stagnated and do not have a chance for career advancement in the Global South. In some regions this situation has been escalating very rapidly in recent years due to regional political instabilities ([Ciocca and Delgado, 2017](#); [Miranda-Nieto et al, 2022](#)). [Miranda-Nieto et al, 2022](#)). This is a huge problem for the Global South aggravating all the above-mentioned barriers. The common practice of science development follows the structure of research groups, in which students are key.

However, in many Global South countries, the resources for research assistant support or scholarships are very limited, reducing the capacity of the groups. It is very common to find that Global South research groups have only undergraduate students. The offer of graduate studies available is also limited in many countries, with few PhD programs as people decide to emigrate. Regional graduate studies in the Global South can benefit from enhancing networking and development of joint programs. Global South can benefit from enhancing networking and development of joint programs.

6. Practical ways forward (May 2025–May 2026)

The GSiTT is tasked to provide recommendations to the WCRP leadership at the JSC meeting of 2026. A lot of ideas and suggestions on recommendations have naturally already come up during the meetings of the Team, but our plan is to build the recommendations on evidence from well-designed activities during the coming year. Possible activities that have been discussed are surveys and virtual regional workshops.

- a) Surveys: Both quantitative and qualitative surveys may be employed to capture widespread trends without disregarding specific experiences which may have cultural and contextual nuances. Discussions at the GSiTT meetings also revolved around the question of who the audience of the survey would be. Different questions may need to be designed for Global North scientists compared to Global South scientists. The instrument might also need to recognize instances of mixed background e.g. scientists originally from the Global South but working in the Global North for an extended period, or vice versa. In addition, the GSiTT considered whether it would be possible to reach scientists who are currently *not* part of the WCRP to explore the factors that might be hindering engagement.
- b) Virtual Regional Workshops: These workshops are considered as a complement to the surveys, to delve deeper into issues and insights that might emerge from the survey results. Given that Key Informant Interviews might be too time- and resource-intensive, structured workshops and group sharing in a virtual setting provide an alternative mode to elicit thoughts, experiences and recommendations relating to more meaningful engagement of Global South researchers in the WCRP.
- c) In Africa there is a large pan-Africa RfS-CORDEX (with Academy involvement) strategic meeting (Sept 2025), that is convened and organized by Africa, with an expected 70–100 participants, and an opportunity to engage on this subject.

The work mode will continue with virtual meetings by time zone, virtual meetings in smaller groups dedicated to specific tasks, as well as off-line work.

7. The goals of the GSiTT

These first sets of meetings as well as the off-line discussions related to the revisions of the present report have helped us to get a better common understanding of the goals of the GSiTT.

1. Regarding the barriers mentioned above we think that Global North scientists might not comprehend some of these barriers and the lived experiences of the Global South scientists. A goal for the GSiTT is to promote meaningful exchange so we can come to a better understanding of the respective contexts and needs of the different communities of scientists. RIfS has also proposed a cross-WCRP task force to look at commonalities and disparities in understanding of terminology and concepts, and if approved by the JSC may be an opportunity to leverage for exploring perceptions of the lived experiences of the North and South.
2. Inclusion means playing a key role in decision making in WCRP. This includes but is not limited to a higher proportion of Global South scientists in leadership positions. Our goal is for Global South scientists to play a more active role in the development of the next Strategic Scientific Plan.

Annex A: Members of the Global South inclusion Task Team

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Annex B. Global South Stocktaking of WCRP Events

Global South Stocktaking of WCRP Events

1. Introduction

The World Climate Research Programme has been central in coordinating and advancing the global scientific enterprise in climate phenomena and impacts. WCRP encompasses a comprehensive network of Core Projects, Lighthouse Activities, and other initiatives that advance climate knowledge through various approaches. The WCRP Academy, for instance, serves as the research training advisory and coordination arm by acting as a hub that connects training providers with users through its online catalogue. As a global institution, WCRP is made up of scientists and practitioners from various backgrounds, each contributing to the scientific body using their respective expertise.

This report assesses the inclusivity and accessibility of WCRP-organised events, particularly by looking into the experiences of Global South scientists and practitioners. A sample of **93 WCRP-organised events** has been analysed – these events were advertised in the WCRP Academy Catalogue and the WCRP Community Calendar. While the authors of this report recognise that there are more WCRP-organised events within the time frame, limiting the sample to the aforementioned catalogues and databases will ensure fairness in the analysis. Furthermore, the non-inclusion of WCRP events in either the Academy Catalogue or the Community Calendar is indicative of the need to prepare a streamlined process for listing and advertising WCRP events.

2. Trends and Characteristics of the WCRP-organised events

Event Count per Year

The number of WCRP-organised events has increased from 2021 (n: 5) to 2023 (n: 37). Although the count of 2024 events decreased, this may not necessarily be attributable to fewer events being organised by WCRP.

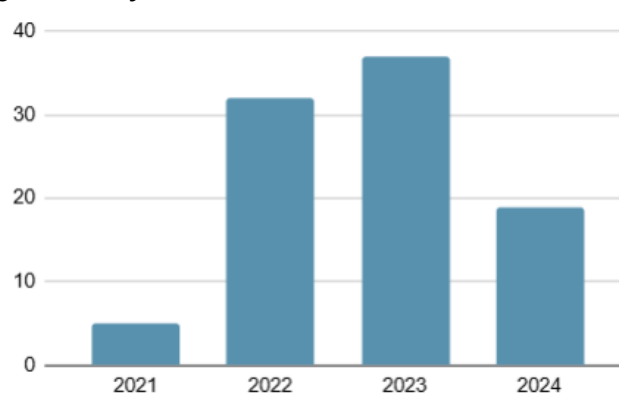


Figure 1. Event count per year from 2021 to 2024

Types of Events

WCRP-organised events are mostly in the form of *webinars* (n: 37), although *workshops* and *conferences* are also frequently used (n: 27 and 24, respectively). 5 *seasonal schools* have been organised, while no *short courses* and *massive open online courses* have been conducted. While the high number of *expert webinars* is welcome, Core Projects and Lighthouse Activities must strive to organise more *short courses* and *seasonal schools*. Batino et al. (forthcoming), in their stocktaking of climate trainings, note that *short courses*, *seasonal schools*, and *expert webinars* are consistently ranked highly by Global North and Global South respondents alike as their preferred types of training delivery.

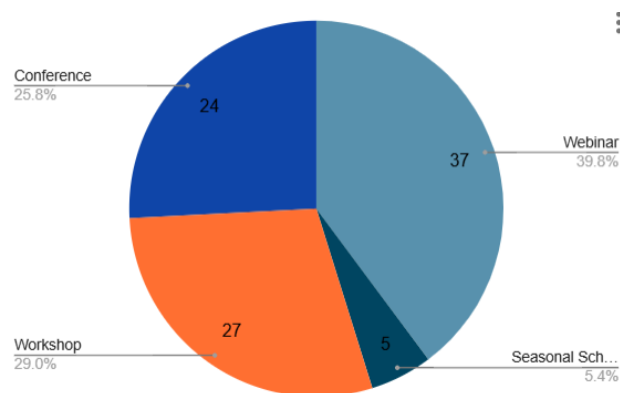


Figure 2. Types of events of WCRP-organised trainings

Modality of Events

The *Modality of Events* is an important indicator of the accessibility of climate training events. Although in-person training opportunities are perceived as favourable for intensive hands-on trainings, it is recognised that hybrid¹ and online modalities ensure accessibility of training events, particularly for women and Global South audiences. As Batino et al. explain, “this may indicate that women appreciate the flexibility of online training more as they balance other responsibilities, or that men have greater access to resources to travel to in-person training[s].”

WCRP-organised trainings are mostly held online (n: 49), which is followed by hybrid and in-person trainings (n: 30 and 14, respectively). Looking into the modality of events from

¹ The WCRP Academy considers hybrid trainings as events that have *any alternatives* for remote participation or access (e.g. livestreams, online coursework, etc.). Online and in-person trainings are those that can *purely* be accessed digitally and onsite, respectively.

2021 to 2024, it is seen that the number of online trainings has steadily decreased from 2022 to 2024. Meanwhile, hybrid and in-person events have consistently been utilised to a lesser extent than online initiatives. Moving forward, the WCRP must continue to organise hybrid and online events to ensure accessibility, especially for the Global South and women scientists.

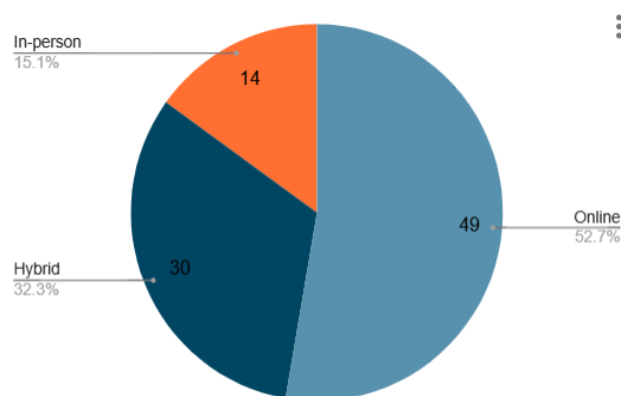


Figure 3. Modality of events of WCRP-organised events

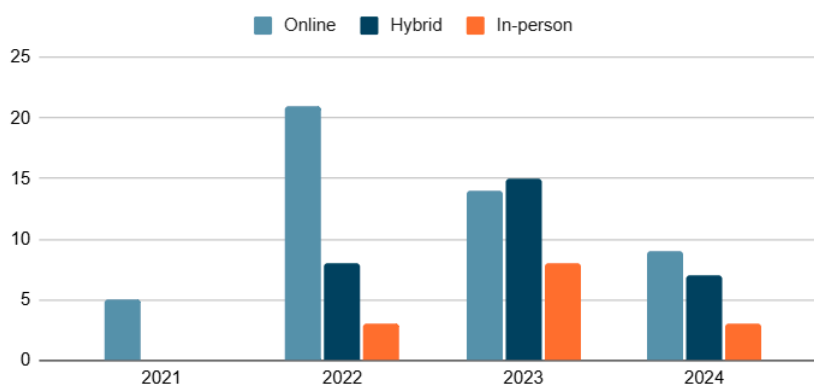


Figure 4. Modality of events of WCRP-organised events from 2021 to 2024

Location of In-person Events

Most in-person events organised by WCRP are held in Europe. Meanwhile, no in-person events were organised in Africa, Australia, and South America. The location of in-person events is critically factored in by Global South scientists, noting that there is a great need for funding assistance for them to attend in-person events (Batino et al. forthcoming). Furthermore, hosting in-person events in various regions around the world can enhance attendance for Global South scientists while fostering greater regional collaboration.

Location of In-Person Events	Number of Trainings
Europe	10
Asia	2
North America	2
NA	0
Africa	0
Australia	0
South America	0

Table 1. Location of In-Person Events

Location of Hybrid Events

Unlike purely in-person events, the locations of hybrid events are more dispersed across different global regions. Nonetheless, Europe retains the highest number of hybrid events, while North America and Asia record 9 and 4 events, respectively. Africa was selected as the location of a hybrid activity only once - that being the WCRP Open Science Conference in Kigali, Rwanda - while South America did not hold any hybrid events.

It must also be noted that there are hybrid events with more than 1 in-person location. Thus, even if there are only 30 hybrid events in the sample, 33 locations are listed in Table 2.

Location of Hybrid Events	Number of Trainings
Europe	17
North America	9
Asia	4
Australia	2
Africa	1
South America	0

Table 2. Location of Hybrid Events

Activities by Organiser

Activities by Organiser	
Digital Earths	6
Explaining and Predicting Earth System Change (EPESC)	3
Global Precipitation EXperiment (GPEX)	0
My Climate Risk (MCR)	14
Research on Climate Intervention	0
Safe Landing Climates (SLC)	18
Lighthouse Activities	40
Atmospheric Processes And their Role in Climate (APARC)	1
Climate and Cryosphere (CliC)	6

Climate and Ocean Variability, Predictability and Change (CLIVAR)	18
Earth System Modelling and Observations (ESMO)	11
Global Energy and Water Exchanges (GEWEX)	15
Regional Information for Society (RIfS)	0
Coordinated Regional Climate Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX)	2
Core Project	48
WCRP General	6

Table 3. Activities by Organiser

3. Trends and Characteristics of the WCRP-organised webinars

Webinars are the most commonly organised type of event. While the Academy's Catalogue and the WCRP Community Calendar only list 37 webinars from 2021 to 2024, it must be noted that there are *more* WCRP-affiliated webinars within this time period. Many of these are not listed individually as they are advertised as part of a larger "webinar series" (e.g. there are several webinars under the "Tipping Points Discussion Series" of the Safe Landing Climates). Nonetheless, in this thorough examination of the characteristics of webinars, the sample size was expanded to reflect the individual components of webinar series that were listed in the *description* section of the discussion series at the time of its publication in the WCRP Academy Catalogue. Thus, the sample size for this portion of the analysis is expanded to 50 webinars.

It must also be noted that some of these are jointly organised by two or more Core Projects or Lighthouse Activities

Webinars by Organiser

Lighthouse Activities, particularly My Climate Risk and Safe Landing Climates, organised several webinars from 2021 to 2024. Meanwhile, the only Core Projects that initiated webinars within the sample are CLIVAR and GEWEX.

WCRP Core Project or Lighthouse Activity	Number of Webinars Organised from 2021 to 2024
Safe Landing Climates	17
Explaining and Predicting Earth System Change	5
My Climate Risk	19
Digital Earths	4
CLIVAR	3
GEWEX	3
WCRP General	1

Table 4. Number of Webinars Organised from 2021 to 2024 per WCRP Core Project or Lighthouse Activity

Number of Global North and Global South Speakers

There are more Global North than Global South speakers in the webinars organised.

Location of Speaker	Number
Global North	61
Global South	47

Table 5. Number of Global North and Global South Speakers in Webinars Organised from 2021 to 2024

Number of Global North and Global South Speakers by Organiser

My Climate Risk and Digital Earths invited more Global South than Global North Speakers. Meanwhile, all other Lighthouse Activities and Core Projects invited more Global North speakers.

WCRP Core Project or Lighthouse Activity	Global North Speakers	Global South Speakers
Safe Landing Climates	33	3
Explaining and Predicting Earth System Change	9	4
My Climate Risk	10	30
Digital Earths	2	5
CLIVAR	4	2
GEWEX	4	2
WCRP General	3	3

Table 6. Number of Global North and Global South Speakers in Webinars per WCRP Core Project or Lighthouse Activity

Languages used in Webinars

All webinars utilised English, although four events were also offered in Spanish. Organising webinars with sign language interpreters also increased the accessibility of the events.

Language(s) Used	Number
English only	31
English and Sign Language	15
English and Spanish	4

Table 7. Classification of 2021 to 2024 Webinars according to Language(s) Used

Platforms used in Webinars

A significant number of webinars also uploaded their event on YouTube, which thus allows participants to playback the event and make use of auto-translate features. While these undoubtedly improve the accessibility of events, auto-translate services of the aforementioned platform may contain translation errors, especially in highly nuanced and scientific language.

Platform(s) Used	Number
Zoom and YouTube	46
Zoom only	2
Microsoft Teams and YouTube	1
GoTo	1

Table 8. Platform(s) Used in Webinars

Starting Time of Webinars

The starting time of webinars greatly impacts the accessibility of the event for participants around the world. Although these online events can be accessed remotely, they may be scheduled at an inconvenient or impractical time, thus hindering participants from joining despite their virtual modality.

Starting Time of Webinars	Number of Webinars
00:00 UTC	1
7:00 UTC	1
8:00 UTC	12
8:30 UTC	3
10:00 UTC	3
11:30 UTC	1
12:00 UTC	2

13:00 UTC	4
13:30 UTC	3
14:00 UTC	9
14:30 UTC	2
15:00 UTC	3
15:30 UTC	2
17:30 UTC	1
20:00 UTC	1
NA	2

Table 9. Webinars according to start time