

MY CLIMATE RISK SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT APRIL 2025

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[My Climate Risk](#)



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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

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents a summary of the Sixth My Climate Risk (MCR) General Assembly, showcasing recent progress, ongoing conversations, and emerging opportunities and challenges in the evolution of this Lighthouse Activity (LHA). The April 2025 General Assembly brought together members of the MCR Scientific Steering Group (SSG), representatives from existing and emerging regional hubs, leaders of the MCR Working Groups, the Chair of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee, Tim Naish, and external invitees, fostering an open environment for dialogue on MCR's growth, direction, and collective identity. We also welcomed the new hubs at Yale and in Costa Rica.

Held across three online sessions in the Americas, Africa-Europe, and Asia-Pacific time zones, the Assembly continued the participatory and discussion-centered format. The sessions took place on April 9th, 14th, and 17th, 2025. Each session was limited to two hours, with no formal presentations; instead, pre-recorded videos and/or slide decks were prepared and circulated beforehand and after the session from the co-chairs as well as the different working groups and hubs. This allowed the discussions to be fully focused on participant engagement and ideas exchange.

The discussions across the three sessions of the General Assembly converged around several recurring themes that reflect both the evolving priorities of the MCR community and the broader context in which it operates. A central topic was the notion of transdisciplinarity, particularly how to foster deeper collaboration across scientific, policy, and local knowledge systems to make climate risk information more actionable and meaningful. Another prominent thread was the development and sustainability of MCR hubs, including strategies for maintaining engagement, securing funding, navigating institutional relations and articulating interactions among the hubs. Some conversations highlighted the importance of building shared language, making space for uncertainty and complexity, and the need to clarify MCR's links to adaptation and decision-making processes. These themes collectively underscored a shared commitment to co-production and context-driven practice, while also surfacing practical challenges that many hubs face in translating MCR's principles into daily work.

This report compiles highlights from the pre-recorded content and synthesizes the major discussion points across the three sessions. It also includes a list of participants, a photo montage of each session, and an acronym glossary. The Sixth General Assembly shares the diversity and goals of the MCR community, reaffirming its

commitment to bottom-up, context-based approaches to addressing climate risk that centre local knowledge, practice, and learning.

2. UPDATE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

The two MCR co-Chairs (Regina Rodrigues and Ted Shepherd) gave an update on developments since the last GA.

Because of the withdrawal of US funds from the WCRP, we had to reduce our 2025 budget from CHF 47.5k to CHF 38k. This is still sufficient to fund the pre-COP30 workshop in Brazil (joint with the BASE Initiative and Rede CLIMA) and the IITM-led training school. In anticipation of severely reduced funding going forward, we submitted a reduced request for 2026, which includes a workshop led by the ICPAC hub in Kenya.

The MCR special issue of *Environmental Research: Climate* has now gone live (<https://iopscience.iop.org/collections/ercl-250113-756>), and the Guest Editors (drawn from across MCR) are in the process of soliciting papers.

A number of participants from the MCR workshop in Bern last October submitted a proposal to the International Space Science Institute (ISSI) in Bern for a workshop on 'Opening up Earth Observations (EO) for climate adaptation', which was approved. It will be held in the week of December 8-12, 2025, and will lead to two high-level publications. We should have some remaining MCR budget in 2025 which can be used to help facilitate MCR participation (ISSI generously pays for the local costs).

Kendra Gotangco Gonzales and Anna Sörensson, from the MCR SSG, were elected to the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee, joining Amadou Gaye (also from the MCR SSG).

Anna is leading the WCRP Task Team on inclusion of the Global South, which includes many MCR members. A preliminary report was submitted to the JSC meeting in Paris in May 2025 (available from the WCRP web site), and the Task Team will work in earnest over the coming year. One notable result from the initial statistical analysis in the preliminary report is that MCR has achieved a remarkable level of representation from the Global South (75% of all speakers) through its extensive use of online webinars.

Regina and Ted presented the MCR update at the JSC meeting in Paris. Both the written report and the slide presentation are available from the WCRP website.

3. MY CLIMATE RISK HUBS

At the time of the General Assembly there were 21 MCR hubs, as outlined in the map and table below. The two new hubs, added since the last General Assembly, are described in the following subsections.



	Hub Host Institution	Focal Point
1	Ateneo de Manila University (Manila, Philippines)	Daniel Ratilla
2	Australian Bureau of Meteorology (Melbourne, Australia)	Mitchell Black
3	Centre Régional AGRHYMET (Niamey, Niger)	Abdou Ali
4	Centro de Estudios Avanzados en Zonas Áridas (CEAZA), Chile	Boris Dewitte
5	Climate Futures, Norwegian Research Centre (NORCE) (Bergen, Norway)	Jesse Schrage
6	Faculty of Physics, University of Belgrade (Belgrade, Serbia)	Milica Tosic and Vladimir Djurdjevic
7	Himalayan University Consortium (HUC) (Kathmandu, Nepal)	Chi Huyen Truong (Shachi)
8	HKUST (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong)	Alexis Lau
9	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) (Nairobi, Kenya)	Masilin Gudoshava
10	Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) (Pune, India)	Roxy Mathew Koll and Aditi Modi
11	National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) (Buenos Aires, Argentina)	Anna Sörensson

12	Royal Scientific Society (RSS) (Amman, Jordan)	Iain Stewart
13	South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) (Pretoria, South Africa)	Nicole du Plessis and Jennifer Veitch
14	Universidad Veracruzana (Veracruz, Mexico)	Carolina Ochoa-Martinez
15	University of Cape Town (Cape Town, South Africa)	Chris Jack
16	University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, Canada)	Julienne Stroeve and Jennifer Lukovich
17	University of Tsukuba (Tsukuba, Japan)	Van Doan
18	University of the West Indies (Kingston, Jamaica)	Tannecia Stephenson
19	Walker Institute, University of Reading (Reading, UK)	Ros Cornforth
20	Yale University (New Haven, Connecticut, USA)	Jessica Seddon
21	University of Costa Rica (San Jose, Costa Rica)	Ana Maria Duran Quesada

3.1 New Hub: Yale University (New Haven, Connecticut, USA)

Yale recently joined the My Climate Risk network with a hub focused on documenting and developing structures for increasing the integration between climate knowledge and environmental governance, defined as “the social function centered on steering societies toward collectively desirable outcomes and away from collectively undesirable outcomes.” (Young, 2017, p. 12) Over the coming years, the hub will create a community of learning across campus on strategies for working with policymakers, communities, and others to develop research questions, incorporate research users in their work, and communicate about knowledge and uncertainties around environmental change. The hub will bring together faculty and student interest projects with a shared commitment to documenting and sharing transdisciplinary research practices and the lessons from failures as well as successes. It will also host a reading group and a practitioner speaker series on knowledge-governance exchange and convenings to catalyze interdisciplinary applied research on the practice and theory of connecting climate knowledge to local and regional governance.



Students and Faculty with Denice Ross, former United States Chief Data Scientist, after a practitioner talk on climate knowledge, data, bureaucracy, and policy.

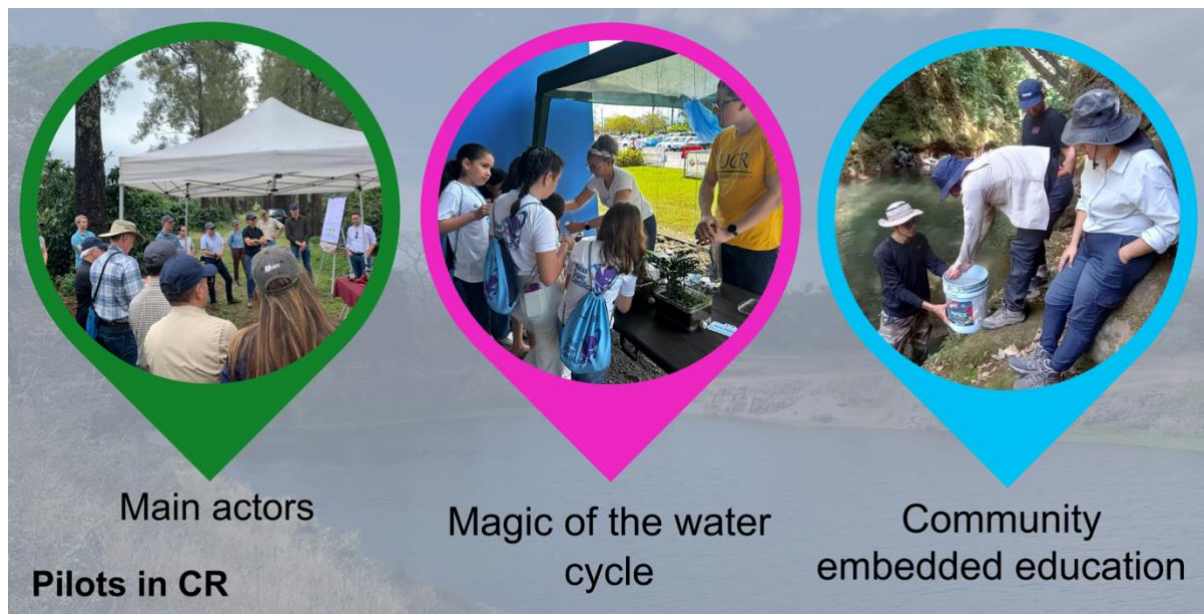
The Yale My Climate Risk Hub is currently convened by Jessica Seddon at the Jackson School of Global Affairs. Its initial Steering Committee draws on faculty across various departments: Deborah Coen (History), Rohini Pande (Economics), Juan Lora (Earth and Planetary Sciences), Karen Seto (Yale School of the Environment), and Julie Zimmerman (Vice Provost, Yale Planetary Solutions). Its initial work is supported by a gift from the Bamboo Grove Fund.

3.2 New Hub: University of Costa Rica (San Jose, Costa Rica)

The new My Climate Risk regional hub for Central and Northern South America is presented as a space for understanding and addressing climate risk from a local and regional perspective. Although this region is often categorized separately in climate studies, its countries share numerous cultural, historical, and linguistic elements, as well as similar challenges. This new hub seeks to expand collaboration, strengthen existing regional efforts, and foster climate research framed by equity and social justice.

The hub's vision goes beyond traditional academic approaches, proposing climate science that is bias-aware and people-centered. The goal is to transform the way the

scientific community interacts with local communities, promoting greater synergy between regional actors and participatory activities that connect scientific knowledge with local realities. The hub aims at developing co-creation strategies in which the participation of university students is encouraged as part of their training process, fostering a better understanding of education and the national and regional contexts.



Hub activities

The first steps taken include the formation of the team, the identification of shared goals, and the prioritization of actions through surveys on local challenges. Countries such as Costa Rica, Colombia, El Salvador, Panama, and Nicaragua are already involved in this effort, with initial activities such as community education based on the water cycle and pilot projects in Costa Rica. The University of Costa Rica (UCR) is providing support for the preliminary work plan implemented by the Environmental Pollution Research Center with support from the School of Geography, and the hub's approach aims to consolidate a strong network of regional collaboration. The team is currently integrated by participants with backgrounds in physical, social, agricultural and human health sciences. The early stages of the hub are focusing on communication focused on the communities to build trust and address the issue of replication of scientific colonialists' practices.

4. EDUCATION WORKING GROUP (EWG)

My Climate Risk's EWG, led by Vandana Singh, seeks to provide a space for the MCR community to share learnings about working with communities and knowledge gaps they may identify in their work. Its goals include improving the communication of climate science through educational approaches that can serve both future scientists and the public and finding effective ways to disseminate knowledge within and outside MCR.

The EWG, composed of 14 members from diverse regions of the world, seeks to rethink climate education from a critical perspective, focusing specifically on the implications of colonialism on climate science and its practices. The main objective is to transform climate education into an effective tool for climate change adaptation and mitigation through decolonial pedagogical methodologies, community knowledge sharing, and more accessible communication.



Website: <https://www.mcrcducationworkinggroup.org/>

Notable achievements include the organization of a [webinar in March 2025](#) with multiple international stakeholders, including the Ateneo de Manila Hub (host), the Philosophy Working Group (PWG), and the Climate Systems Analysis Group in Cape Town. The creation of mini-educational guides based on past talks was also highlighted. These guides are intended to be adaptable to different educational contexts, and there are plans to convert them into a self-directed digital course. In addition, the group actively collaborates with other centres and working groups,

including an initiative with the Himalayan University Consortium, the Walker Institute and an upcoming event on green colonialism with the University of Cape Town.

The group also launched a new website in collaboration with graphic design students, strengthening their digital presence. However, they face challenges such as time zone differences, the urgency of the climate crisis in the face of the pace of educational advancement, and the need for greater global collaboration.

5. EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS (ECR)

The MCR Early Career Researchers (ECR) group aims to provide a networking space for early- to mid-career researchers (ECRs), especially those not directly affiliated with a Hub. Currently, the group is coordinated by Fiona Spuler (University of Reading) and Julia Mindlin (University of Leipzig), although it is visualized that this role will pass on to other members in the future. The group seeks to foster discussions on methodologies, ideas, and experiences in climate research, promoting interdisciplinary learning and collaboration. Furthermore, the ECR group strives to influence the My Climate Risk agenda from a researcher-in-training perspective and to generate spaces for dialogue with senior researchers.

For this session of the General Assembly, the ECR shared two key updates. First, they mentioned a survey on bottom-up approaches to climate information generation, which has led to the organization of a series of seminars for the next six months. These seminars, co-organized with the YESS (Young Earth System Scientists) community, seek to share local methods and approaches across the various MCR hubs. The series is open to the general public and is not limited to current MCR members, with recorded sessions initially available only to ECR but potentially more widely disseminated later.

The second update concerned a planned workshop that will focus on community-based adaptation and climate evidence related to loss and damage from wildfires in the Amazon region. The event is planned for September or October 2025 in Brazil. It will be co-organized by MCR, the BASE initiative (which works on locally led adaptation in South America), and the Brazilian organization Rede Clima.

6. PHILOSOPHY WORKING GROUP

The Philosophy Working Group (PWG) was launched in October 2024 during the workshop '[My Climate meets Philosophy of Science](#)' at the University of Bern. The PWG is coordinated by Vincent Lam, a philosopher of science, and is constituted by climate scientists, social scientists and philosophers.

The PWG aims to explore the epistemic foundations of the MCR approach(es), providing a toolbox for critically addressing issues related to objectivity, causality, explanation, understanding, interdisciplinarity as well as the entanglement of value-laden/normative and epistemic dimensions at the heart of MCR. The PWG also works on establishing a common language on these issues among the various disciplines involved in MCR.

To this aim, the PWG organizes a regular reading group where topics are discussed from various disciplinary perspectives. The PWG reading group has met three times so far, on 2 December 2024, 12 February 2025, and 30 April 2025. The PWG reading group welcomes suggestions and collaborations, especially from the MCR hubs (the February meeting was co-organized with the Manila Hub). A number of fruitful synergies have started to emerge with the Education Working Group (EWG), and Vincent Lam has participated to the Transdisciplinarity and Colonialism in Climate Education webinar and workshop organized by the EWG on 12 March 2025.

7. MAIN DISCUSSION TOPICS

7.1 Transdisciplinarity and coproduction

One of the most prominent and cross-cutting themes throughout the three sessions was the role of transdisciplinarity in the MCR approach. Participants emphasized that co-production of climate risk knowledge must go beyond the inclusion of diverse perspectives. It requires sustained engagement and mutual learning across scientific, local, policy, and practitioner communities. This process is not linear, and participants noted the need to embrace its iterative, sometimes irregular nature.

Several hubs shared experiences of navigating tensions between academic or technical framings of risk and local understandings rooted in place and culture. These tensions are not seen as obstacles but rather as sites of productive negotiation and learning. The issue of trust was discussed in terms of the need for updating curriculum, for example in physical science, and providing education on climate justice. This was highlighted as a point of action widely discussed in the EWG. A recurring insight was that fostering transdisciplinarity requires careful attention to process design: who is involved, how discussions are structured, and what counts as “valid” knowledge. Participants stressed that transdisciplinarity cannot be an afterthought or a checkbox; it must shape the foundation of how hubs operate, the local context of interactions with communities, and how they frame their questions from the outset.

The discussion also raised the importance of time and trust. Building meaningful relationships between actors with different roles, priorities, and epistemologies takes time, which is not always accounted for in project cycles or funding models. The goal,

as articulated by many, is not just to integrate knowledge but to build shared understanding and ownership over both the questions and the outcomes.

7.2 MCR identity and positioning

During the sessions, many participants discussed how MCR is different from other climate initiatives. They agreed that its focus on local, context-based, and collaborative approaches makes it unique. However, as the network grows, some also noted that it's not always easy to explain what MCR is, especially to people outside the network who expect clear goals, deliverables, or technical outputs.

For many, MCR is more than a research project; it is a community of practice where learning happens through experience and dialogue. This flexibility is a strength, allowing each hub to adapt the approach to its local realities. But it can also create confusion, especially when compared with other climate initiatives that follow more structured or top-down models. It was discussed that part of the difficulties we may have in explaining what MCR is, lies in the bias to top-down models that dominates our background and interactions with peers. Hence, the need to recognize the relevance of bringing less structured bottom-up approaches is important.

Overall, there was agreement that MCR should continue building a clear and shared narrative that reflects its values but also helps improve communication with partners, funders, and decision-makers. Instead of promoting one method, MCR's strength lies in its open, process-based way of working focused on relationships, reflection, creativity, and learning in place.

7.3 Hub development and sustainability

In all sessions, participants raised concerns about how to keep MCR hubs active in the long term, especially when there is little or no financial support. Many hubs rely on voluntary work or limited project funding, which makes it difficult to plan activities, organize events, or grow their teams. Without stable resources, the risk is that motivation fades over time, even when there is strong interest in the MCR approach.

Given the current global context with shrinking research budgets, rising costs, and increasing pressure from climate impacts, many participants stressed the urgent need to seek new funding opportunities. Suggestions included applying for joint grants, building partnerships with local institutions or NGOs, and developing clear messages to show funders why MCR's bottom-up and context-driven approach matters.

At the same time, participants emphasized the importance of building stronger teams within each hub. Sharing responsibilities, developing leadership among younger members, and creating links with other hubs could help reduce pressure and make

the work more sustainable. Overall, it was clear that long-term financial and organizational support is key to ensuring that hubs can keep contributing to MCR's global mission.

7.4 Knowledge sharing and future directions

Participants across the sessions emphasized the importance of improving communication and learning between hubs. While the MCR network has grown, many hubs still work in isolation, and there is a strong desire for more structured ways to share experiences, tools, and lessons. People noted that even simple exchanges like short updates, informal chats, or resource libraries could help reduce duplication and strengthen collaboration. In this case some people have joined already the WCRP Workspace built by the Secretariat in the pilot phase.

Language was also a key theme. Some participants pointed out that many of the terms used in climate science, such as “risk” or “adaptation,” can mean different things in different places. Others mentioned that MCR terms like “transdisciplinarity” or “bottom-up” are not always easy to translate into local contexts. There was an agreement that being intentional and inclusive with language can make MCR more accessible, especially when working with communities or institutions outside of academia.

In general, participants supported the idea of creating more opportunities for cross-hub interaction, including regionally focused gatherings, shared projects, or co-developed communication materials. These efforts could help strengthen a sense of belonging within the network and support MCR's long-term growth.

8. CONCLUSION

This report summarizes the key points of the Sixth General Assembly of MCR, held through three online sessions in April 2025. The Assembly brought together members of the MCR Scientific Steering Group, representatives of existing and emerging hubs, leaders of the MCR Working Groups, and other invited guests. Its main purpose was to discuss recent progress, ongoing conversations, and emerging challenges and opportunities in the evolution of this activity of WCRP.

The Assembly discussions converged on several recurring themes, highlighting the importance of transdisciplinarity and the co-production of knowledge on climate risk. The need to go beyond simply including diverse perspectives, fostering sustained engagement and mutual learning among scientific, local, policy, and practitioner communities, was emphasized. Another key topic was the development and sustainability of MCR hubs, including the challenges of maintaining participation, securing funding, and navigating institutional relationships. Participants also explored

MCR's identity and positioning, as well as how to enhance knowledge sharing and define future directions.

The General Assembly reaffirmed the MCR community's commitment to bottom-up, context-based approaches to addressing climate risk, centering local knowledge, practice, and learning. During the event, two new hubs were welcomed at Yale University (USA) and the University of Costa Rica (Costa Rica), expanding the existing network to 21 hubs. Additionally, updates were presented from the Education, Early Career Researchers, and Philosophy Working Groups, showcasing the various ongoing initiatives. Although practical challenges remain, especially in translating MCR principles into daily work and long-term sustainability, the Assembly demonstrated a shared commitment to co-production and context-based practices.

9. PICTURES

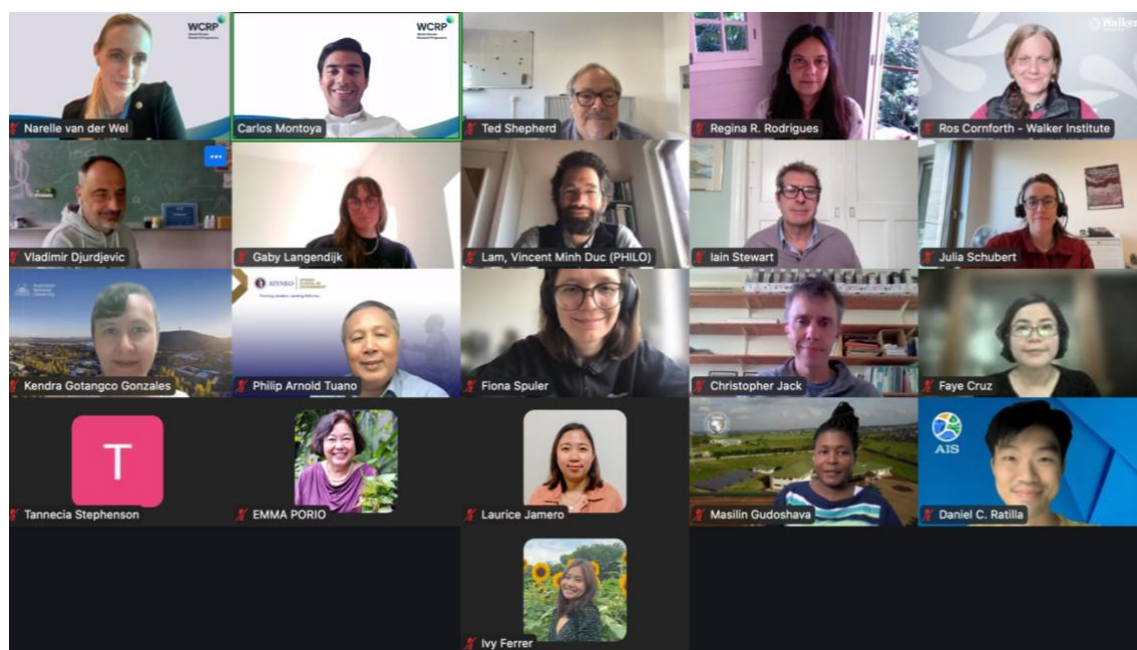
Asia - Pacific Session:



Americas Session:



Africa - Europe Session:



ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Name	Role	Affiliation	Country
Aditi Modi	Hubs	Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune	India
Ali Nazemi	ExOfficio GEWEX	Concordia University, Montreal	Canada
Ana Bucher	ExOfficio	World Bank	USA
Ana María Durán Quesada	SSG, Hubs	University of Costa Rica	Costa Rica
Anna Sörensson	SSG	National Scientific and Technical Research Council, Buenos Aires	Argentina
Boris Dewitte	Hubs	CEAZA	Chile
C. Kendra Gotangco Gonzales	SSG	Ateneo de Manila University, The Australian National University	Philippines, Australia
Carlos Montoya	WCRP Secretariat	WCRP Secretariat	Switzerland
Chris Jack	Hubs	University of Cape Town	South Africa
Daniel Ratilla	Hubs	Ateneo de Manila University	Philippines
Emma E. Porio	Hubs	Ateneo de Manila University	Philippines
Faye Cruz	Hubs	Manila Observatory	Philippines
Federico Robledo	Hubs	National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) Centro de Investigaciones del Mar y la Atmósfera (CIMA)	Argentina
Fiona Spuler	ECR Group Leader	University of Reading	UK
Florencia Fossa Riglos	Hubs	National Scientific and Technical Research Council, Buenos Aires	Argentina
Gaby Langendijk	SSG	Deltares	Netherlands
Iain Stewart	Hubs	Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Amman	Jordan
Ibiza Martinez	Hubs	Veracruz University	Mexico
Ivy Ferrer	Hubs	Ateneo de Manila University	Philippines
Jennifer Lukovich	Hubs	University of Manitoba, Winnipeg	Canada
Jessica Seddon	Hubs	Yale University	USA
Jiayue Huang	Hubs	HKUST	Hong Kong, China

Julia Mindlin	ECR Group Leader	University of Leipzig	Germany
Julia Schubert	Invited guest	University of Frankfurt	Germany
Laurice Jamero	WCRP Academy	Manila Observatory	Philippines
Masilin Gudoshava	SSG, Hubs	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), Nairobi	Kenya
Mitchell Black	Hubs	Bureau of Meteorology	Australia
Narelle van der Wel	WCRP Secretariat	WCRP Secretariat	Geneva
Natalia Pessacg	Hubs	CONICET & UNPSJB	Argentina
Paola Arias Gomez	SSG	Universidad de Antioquia	Colombia
Philip Arnold P. Tuaño	Hubs	Ateneo de Manila University	Philippines
Rae Leung	Hubs	HKUST	Hong Kong, China
Regina Rodrigues	Chair SSG	Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina	Brazil
Rodrigo Estevez	Hubs	University Santo Tomas	Chile
Ros Cornforth	Hubs	Walker Institute, University of Reading	UK
Roxy Mathew Koll	Hubs	Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune	India
Shipra Jain	ExOfficio WWRP	University College London	UK
Sugata Narsey	SSG	Bureau of Meteorology	Australia
Tannecia Stephenson	Hubs	The University of the West Indies (UWI)	Jamaica
Ted Shepherd	Chair SSG	University of Reading, and Forschungszentrum Jülich	UK, Germany
Tim Naish	Invited guest	WCRP Chair	New Zealand
Van Doan	Hubs	University of Tsukuba	Japan
Vandana Singh	SSG, EWG Leader	Framingham State University	USA
Vincent Lam	PWG Leader	University of Bern	Switzerland
Vladimir Djurdjevic	Hubs	Faculty of Physics, University of Belgrade	Serbia

ANNEX 2: LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym	Full Form
CEAZA	Centro de Estudios Avanzados en Zonas Áridas - Center for Advanced Studies in Arid Zones
CIMA	Centro de Investigaciones del Mar y la Atmósfera - Center for Marine and Atmospheric Research
CONICET	National Scientific and Technical Research Council
COP	Conference of the Parties
ECR	Early Career Researchers
EO	Earth Observations
EWG	Education Working Group
GA	General Assembly
GEWEX	Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment
HUC	Himalayan University Consortium
ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre
IITM	Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
ISC	International Science Council
ISSI	International Space Science Institute
JSC	Joint Scientific Committee
LHA	Lighthouse Activity
MCR	My Climate Risk
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NORCE	Norwegian Research Centre
PWG	Philosophy Working Group
Rede CLIMA	Rede Brasileira de Pesquisa sobre Mudanças Climáticas - Brazilian Research Network on Climate Changes
RSS	Royal Scientific Society
SAEON	South African Environmental Observation Network
SSG	Scientific Steering Group
UCR	University of Costa Rica
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UWI	The University of the West Indies
WCRP	World Climate Research Programme
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWRP	World Weather Research Programme
YESS	Young Earth System Scientists