

Enhancing inclusive global south participation in the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities (Inclusive SR Cities)

Singapore Management University & Climate Adaptation and REsilience

INTRODUCTION

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a United Nations body established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- It is responsible for assessing the science related to climate change and plays a crucial role in providing policymakers with regular scientific assessments on climate change, its impacts, future risks and options for adaptation.
- The IPCC’s seventh assessment cycle (2023–2029) is producing major scientific reports that guide policymakers on climate impacts and solutions. Such large-scale reports rely on Coordinating Lead Authors, supported by Chapter Scientists who manage references, coordinate efforts and facilitate diverse contributions.
- Participation in this global effort is often hindered by funding constraints, particularly for Chapter Scientists - early-career researchers who support senior scientists in coordinating research and analysis. Without external funding, many from the Global South struggle to take a prominent role in the assessment process, limiting the diversity of voices shaping climate action.

Target Group
Global South Chapter Scientists
& Coordinating Lead Authors in the SR Cities Report

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



- A global call for Chapter Scientists to participate in SR Cities received over 1320 applications with over 117 nationalities represented
- Selected 10 Chapter Scientists in total which includes 6 CLARE-funded Chapter Scientists
 - CLARE Chapter Scientists come from countries like Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Kenya, India, Philippines
- 💡 **Fun Fact:** The Global North CLAs for the SR Cities Report also have Chapter Scientists from the Global South!
- 6 Global South Coordinating Lead Authors supported

AREAS BRIDGED

- Financial support
 - Funding for travel and subsistence allowance to attend all external meetings
 - IT equipment and software support
- Transdisciplinary knowledge & valuable skillsets
 - Mentoring and networking sessions
 - Training sessions for applied skills
- Networking opportunities

CHALLENGES & GAPS

- Although there were many applicants for the Chapter Scientists role through the global call, there was an imbalance in the skillsets and qualifications that applicants from the Global South compared to the Global North
- Coordinating Lead Authors had to balance competing demands and priorities as they select each Chapter Scientist with the right skillset and proximity to where they work
- Stipend is limited and only early career researchers who are available to take on multiple jobs/roles at this point of their career are able to take on this role
- Working across cultures with so many authors and for many of the Chapter Scientists, it is their first foray into the IPCC – they may need the confidence and skills to contribute effectively and work well with their Coordinating Lead Authors.
- Ways to create a welcoming and inclusive working environment so everyone has the chance to be represented and speak in developing SR Cities.

Contributors

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OBJECTIVES

Through the partnership with CLARE and Singapore Management University (SMU), it aims to provide support to global south Chapter Scientists and Coordinating Lead Authors. This ensures broader representation, strengthen their research capacity and contribution to the Special Reports on Cities and Climate Change (SR Cities).

There are four main objectives:

1. Ensure effective and equitable participation of Global South Coordinating Lead Authors through recruitment and funding
2. Strengthen capacity and leadership potential through tailored training, peer exchange and networking opportunities
3. Enhance inclusion of Global South expertise through targeted training
4. Enable Global South Chapter Scientists to play an active role in knowledge brokering to engage with relevant global south stakeholders (i.e. policymakers, government agencies) on the content, key findings and recommendations



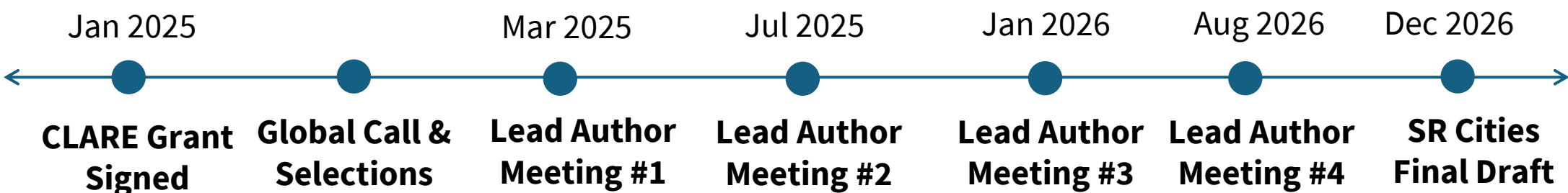
Chapter Scientists all meeting for the first time at Lead Author Meeting 1 in Osaka, Japan

Left photo: CLARE Chapter Scientists Ian, Graces (Project Coordinator), Ana Paula, Malena, Shaurya & (not pictured) Cameron.

Right photo: SR Cities Chapter Scientists – front row from left Ian, Aysha, Malena, Sherine (TSU), Minh, Deepal; behind row from left – Ana, Shaurya, Cameron. (Not pictured) Cynthia.

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

- Modalities for activities: Virtual training sessions, in-person workshops, tutorials
- Capacity Building Programmes are designed based on Chapter Scientists’ feedback what they hope to learn and gain from participating in SR Cities as well as Coordinating Lead Authors’ inputs and needs based on their past experienced
- MEL evaluation after each Lead Author Meeting to monitor the growth of Chapter Scientists; Short survey collected after their participation in capacity building activity to improve each session. CLA’s also reflect on their CS development and work.
- Types of Capacity Building Programmes to be planned in the next 2 years:
 - Knowledge Brokering
 - Science Communication to policymakers, governments, researchers
 - Stress Management
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Training
 - Data and Reference Management; Figure Management Systems
 - Project Management
 - Writing Workshops
- Regular group and individual sync-ups with Chapter Scientists enable us to support them through their IPCC SR Cities journey



OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunities to collaborate and sharing past experience organising successful capacity building programmes
- Suggestion on methods for evidence to monitor and collect the efficacy of programmes
- Suggestions to overcome some of the challenges mentioned
- Explore how top down and bottom up approaches can be better linked - IPCC SR Cities come from a top down in terms of knowledge for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, how can this be linked with local experiences on the ground (from bottom up) for greater impact and relevance of the SR Cities document
- Opportunities for our Chapter Scientists to know other networks and CLARE projects to expand their research network