

COMMONWEALTH FUTURES

CLIMATE RESEARCH COHORT

26 researchers for climate action



The Association
of Commonwealth
Universities



BRITISH
COUNCIL

Background and context

In 2021, the ACU and the British Council partnered to establish the Commonwealth Futures Climate Research Cohort, supporting 26 rising-star researchers to bring local knowledge to a global stage, build international collaborations, and translate research into action in the lead-up to the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).

The cohort convenes researchers with expertise in a range of disciplines, and who have a deep understanding of communities disproportionately impacted by climate change. Reflecting the diversity of the Commonwealth, members of the cohort are based at 25 ACU member universities from 16 countries.

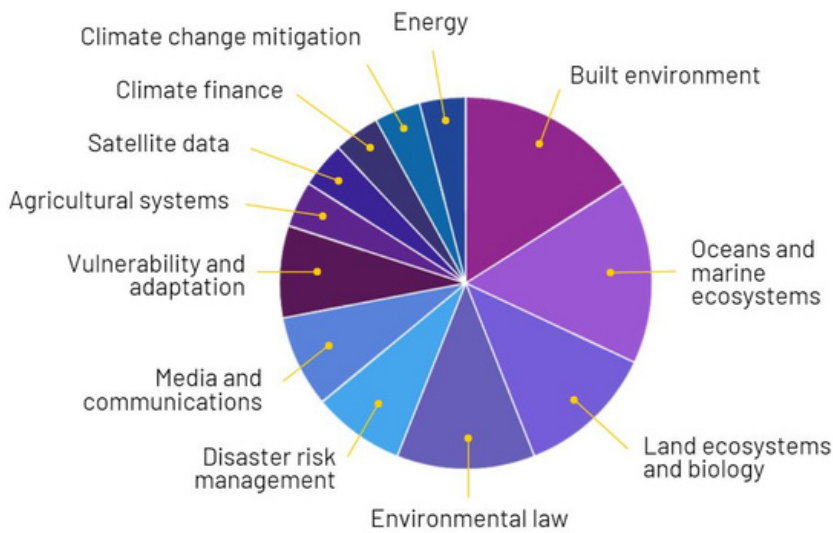
Throughout 2021, the 26 researchers attended a series of expert-led workshops, benefitted from mentorship from senior climate research experts, and designed and delivered their own peer-led research-to-action projects with seed funding. By supporting the development and retention of research leaders, the ACU-British Council partnership works to build a more equitable research landscape, ensuring that university research continues to thrive, inspire action, and play an essential role delivering impactful climate solutions across the Commonwealth.

In 2022, the cohort will be in attendance at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, to build connections and scope collaborations for climate action.

Home institutions



Disciplines



R2A project themes

- Food security
- Nature-based solutions
- Energy and decarbonisation
- Climate education
- Climate policy



16

countries and 25 institutions are represented in the cohort



73%

of the cohort's researchers are PhD holders, and 27% are current PhD students



50/50

gender split amongst researchers in the cohort



65%

of the cohort's researchers are from, or based in, ODA-eligible countries

Mentors & workshop facilitators



18

senior climate-focused academics from 13 countries and 17 institutions are also participating in the programme as mentors to the researchers, providing regular career advice, guidance, and support for programme activities and beyond.



3

expert facilitator teams from 3 countries and 4 institutions were recruited to deliver the virtual workshops for the cohort, covering research leadership, knowledge exchange, and research-to-action.

Workshop facilitator institutions



Maseno University



Moi University



Fiji National University



South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

"The workshop was a turning point in my career. The technical aspects discussed and the tools are definitely useful."

- Cohort member and senior lecturer

"The workshop made me feel more confident. I was able to understand my strengths and weaknesses very well, and how I can manage them in my quest to becoming a research leader."

- Cohort member and lecturer

Programme timeline

