ROAR: SCIENCE & INNOVATION FOR ADAPTATION

When: 9 November 2021, 11:30 - 13:00 GMT
Where: UNFCCC Meeting Room 4, COP26 Blue Zone, Glasgow

Climate change is making billions of people vulnerable to extreme weather events, food shortages, economic hardship and disease. Adapting effectively to a changing climate, based on evidence of what works best in each local context, is now an urgent imperative. For this to happen, researchers and implementers need to work together to ensure the effectiveness of adaptation actions.

Here is the solution: Results-Oriented Adaptation Research (ROAR). This new emerging paradigm in climate adaptation brings together and reorients the research and action communities in a space of radical collaboration, such that solutions are co-created from the start with those at risk and are responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable. We know this approach works. We now have to take it to scale.

This is the reason that thirty-three organisations came together at the Gobeshona Conference in January 2021 and committed to co-developing the Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA), an innovative initiative that co-creates adaptation solutions with those on the frontline of risk and catalyses investment in support of research that is action- and results-oriented. Over the course of this year, the ARA has evolved from an idea to a full-fledged partnership with membership consisting of over 70 major funders, end users, researchers, implementers and intermediaries. As a first step, the ARA members have co-developed a set of Adaptation Research for Impact Principles that serve as the signposts for the transformative change towards results and action oriented research, and help to align and galvanise the full range and depth of stakeholders on climate adaptation.

The purpose of the event is threefold: (1) to emphasise the importance of science and innovation for adaptation to transform the research–action landscape for enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities; (2) to surface the need for relevance of action research and the need for the ARA in different contexts; (3) to mark the official launch of the Adaptation Research Alliance. In keeping with its purpose, the event will showcase a joint statement by ARA members endorsing the Adaptation Research for Impact Principles as well as commitments to action research and to the ARA.
Event Programme

The programme will be facilitated by Mr. Jesse DeMaria-Kinney, Head of Secretariat of the ARA and will be livestreamed here.

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| 11:30 – 11:35 | Prof Watts welcomes participants to the event and provides an overall framing of the Adaptation Research for Impact Principles as well as of the ARA in bridging the gap between science/innovation and practice for finding effective adaptation solutions. | Prof Charlotte Watts  
Chief Scientific Adviser  
UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office |
| 11:35 – 12:05 | Five high-level speakers articulate the demand and support for the Adaptation Research and the ARA by national governments around the world. Minister Milling of the United Kingdom formally launches the ARA. | H.E. Ms Amanda Milling  
Minister for Asia of the United Kingdom  
H.E. Mr Henry Puna  
Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum and former Prime Minister of the Cook Islands  
H.E. Mr Keriako Tobiko  
Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Kenya  
H.E. Mr Rodrigo Rodriguez Tornquist  
Secretary of Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Innovation of Argentina  
H.E. Ms Patricia Fuller  
Ambassador for Climate Change of Canada |
| 12:05 – 12:30 | Panel members from organisations representing adaptation action and research at different scales articulate the transformative impact of ROAR, and their hopes and expectations from the ARA | Prof Maarten Van Aalst  
Director, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre  
Ms Izabella Koziell  
Deputy Director General, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)  
Prof Mizan Khan |
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| 12:30-12:55 | The ARA co-chairs provide an overview of the key features of the ARA and plans for the future; and commitments to the ARA are announced by ARA members and partners | **Dr Rosalind West**  
ARA Co-Chair and Senior Climate Science Advisor, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
**Prof Anand Patwardhan**  
ARA Co-Chair and Professor, University of Maryland School of Public Policy  
**Prof Lucy Chappell**  
Chief Scientific Adviser, UK Department of Health and Social Care  
**Dr Alix Zwane**  
Chief Executive Officer, Global Innovation Fund  
**Mr Max Cuvellier**  
Head of Mobile for Development, GSM Association |
| 12:55-13:00 | The event concludes with thanks and a call to action by Prof Belcher for a concerted effort to deliver on the promise of the ARA | **Prof Stephen Belcher**  
UK Met Office Chief Scientist |