



## The Open Climate Reporting Initiative

The Open Climate Reporting Initiative (OCRI) is a project run by the Centre for Investigative Journalism (CIJ).

It focuses on **raising the standard of environmental investigations** to enable thoroughly researched public interest reporting and evidence-based advocacy through training and skill-sharing with target audiences **across six different regions** between **April 2022 and March 2024**.

OCRI will provide the necessary tools, techniques and expertise to:

- investigate and expose wrongdoing;
- research and quantify accurate pictures of the situation and the impact of other efforts;
- craft meaningful stories which garner support for changes in policy, regulation or economic actors' decisions.

Climate change is a multi-faceted problem in which the issues at play are interlinked and complex, running across many different fields; scientific, financial and political. Finding solutions requires an understanding of these issues that can be facilitated through access to high-quality, trusted information and the ability to construct compelling narratives.

The impact that climate change is having and will have on the world's population is many-sided. This includes but is not limited to migration, economics, conflict & insecurity, displacement (flooding, rising of sea level), hunger (freshwater loss and desertification) and health (extreme weather events such as heatwaves). The survival of the earth and sustainable development relies heavily on mitigating the impact of climate change and reducing the human-induced causes of it. Despite the centrality of climate issues to the UN Sustainable Development Goals one to five, there is often a severe lack of emphasis on them.

The CIJ will leverage collaboration with partners in each region who will be responsible for coordinating and delivering training to participants cutting across different disciplines including investigative journalists, trainers, researchers, activists/environmentalists, academics, development sector workers (NGOs and CSOs). While the delivery of the project will be dependent on identified needs and available infrastructure in each region, a hybrid approach of online and in-person engagements will be preferred.

Three regions have been identified for Year 1 of the project. They are Latin America (excluding Brazil), Anglophone Africa and Francophone Africa. The selection of these regions is based on a combination of different indices that includes the impact of climate change (vulnerability and adaptability) across the geographical spread, access to training and the journalistic needs of investigative journalists in the regions, acceptability and spread of languages and building on CIJs existing work in the regions.

Groundwork is ongoing to identify the Year 2 regions from the following candidates - Russian-speaking Eastern Europe, South Asia, Central Asia, Brazil and the Middle East. The final three regions will be chosen based on the findings from the groundwork and considering the listed indices.

OCRI will be delivered in two phases:

**Phase 1 – scoping phase** (June 2021 to March 2022)

**Phase 2 - delivery phase** (**Year 1:** April 2022 to March 2023 & **Year 2:** April 2023 to March 2024).

