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 provides 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 fields; scientific, financial and political. Finding solutions requires understanding 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 its 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 is **leveraging collaboration with partners** in each region responsible for coordinating and delivering training to participants across different disciplines, including investigative journalists, trainers, researchers, activists/environmentalists, academics, and development sector workers (NGOs and CSOs). While the project's delivery will depend on identified needs and available infrastructure in each region, a hybrid approach of online and in-person engagements will be preferred.

Following a successful [pilot in Nepal](), three regions were covered for [Year 1]() of the project. They are [Latin America (excluding Brazil)](), [Anglophone Africa]() and [Francophone Africa](). Over the past few months, we have heavily leveraged partnerships to train **237**, directly reaching **2000+** journalists, researchers and activists/environmentalists in **38** countries. 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.

Brazil (and Lusophone Africa), South Asia and North Africa/Middle East (MENA) have been identified as the regions for Year 2.

OCRI is 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).

OCRI Year 1 footprint
AROUND THE WORLD

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OPEN   CLIMATE REPORTING INITIATIVE

Countries* OCRI training have reached

*numbers exclude the pilot phase in Nepal

3 regions covered for year one – Anglophone Africa, Francophone Africa & LATAM (excluding Brazil)

10 OCRI partners working in the regions

71 Supported stories published/broadcast so far

37 Total number of countries OCRI training participants have come from in year one

42 Different forms of in-person and virtual engagements held so far in the form train-the-trainer, curriculum development meeting, training, workshops, learning & sharing situation room/session, masterclasses, tools demos, conference panels and public launch

225 Trained across the 3 regions

2000+ Reached directly