

From Skills to Shifts: How Climate Investigations Get Results

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OPEN	CLIMATE
REPORTING	
INITIATIVE	

Project aims

Through training and skill-sharing to:

- Investigate and expose wrongdoing
- Explain what's happening on the ground
- Give an overview of the 'bigger picture'
- Make connections
- Facilitate collaboration
- Craft meaningful stories



OCRI's main goal is to raise the standard of environmental investigations to enable thoroughly researched public interest reporting and evidence-based advocacy through training and skill-sharing with target audiences.

When

April 2022 to March 2024 (1st run)
April 2024 to date (2nd run)

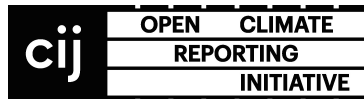
Where

Pilot (April to August 2022)
Nepal

Year 1 (April 2022 to March 2023)
Latin America (excluding Brazil)
Anglophone Africa
Francophone Africa

Year 2 (April 2023 to March 2024)
Brazil & Lusophone Africa
Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
South Asia

Year 3 (April 2025 to September 2025)
Latin America
Anglophone Africa
Francophone Africa
South Asia



OCRI regions

Open Climate Reporting Initiative – A few useful links

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OCRI Tools and Resources

OCRI's extensive work reaching beneficiaries in nearly 80 countries across three continents has led to the production of relevant tools and resources useful for journalists, researchers, academics, activists, environmentalists, civil society actors and other stakeholders in interrogating climate change.

Do you want to dive deeper and gain relevant skills to undertake climate investigations? Then the Climate Investigations Course (CIC) is for you! Keep an eye on our [upcoming scheduled course page](#) or [sign up](#) for our newsletter to ensure you don't miss the announcement of bookings opening. In January 2025, we [launched](#) the CIC as a CIJ scheduled course and have trained more than 200 participants through the three CIC runs and the [Climate Investigations Masterclass](#) with participants from 29 countries across Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe and Australia.

We have compiled below useful resources across various climate change sub-themes such as climate justice, deforestation, the United Nations (UN) Conference of Parties (COP), renewable energy, greenwashing and flooding.

Publications, tips, techniques, datasets & other resources

- [Warming Peaks, Heat Islands, Vanishing Shores](#) by Subhra Priyadarshini & DataLEADS
- [Useful resources for a COP coverage](#) by Tais Gadea Lara
- [Harvesting disparity: Climate Change, Food and Water, Security, and Migrants of the UAE](#)
- [Need assessment report for improving climate change and environmental reporting within conflict situations](#) by NasActive Network
- [Data-driven local coverage of climate justice handbook \(in Portuguese\)](#) by Open Knowledge Brasil (OKBR)
- [Network of environment and climate change experts in the Arab region](#) by ClimateInArabic
- [What #PopeTracker: Journalists found in Mozambique](#) by Oxpeckers Center for Investigative Environmental Journalism (Oxpeckers)
- [The human face of the renewables revolution \(Mozambique learning narrative\) in English and Portuguese](#) by Oxpeckers
- [Liberated data on solar energy projects in Mozambique](#) by Oxpeckers
- [5 recommendations to develop the hypothesis of your journalistic investigation](#) by Fundación Gabo
- [8 keys to starting a journalistic investigation on climate change](#) by Fundación Gabo
- [Steps and key questions to researching climate change](#) by Fundación Gabo
- [9 digital tools to investigate climate change](#) by Fundación Gabo
- [Liberated data on Renewable energy projects in Southern Africa](#) by Oxpeckers
- [Investigating renewable energy in Southern Africa](#) by Oxpeckers
- [COP Reporting Handbook](#) by the Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CIID)

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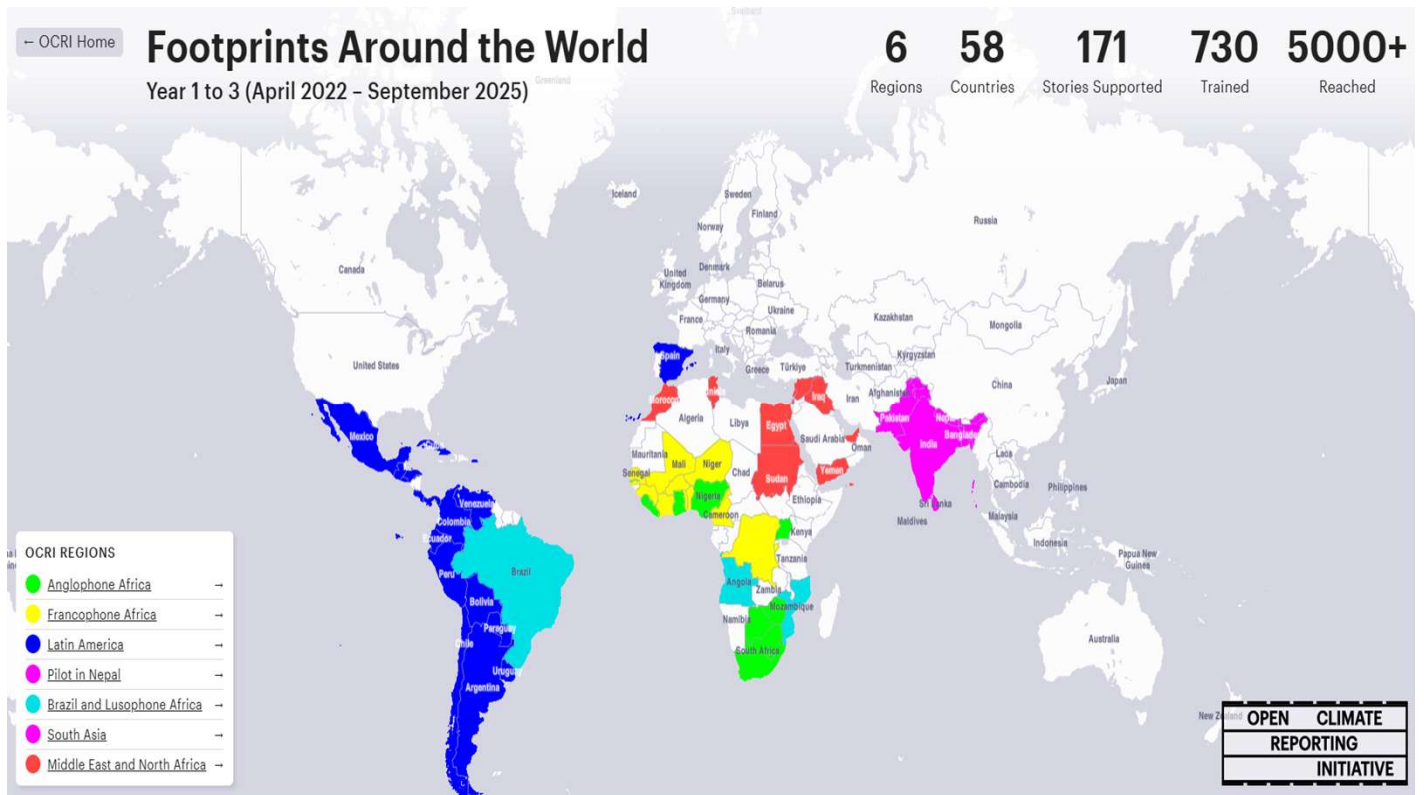
- [Survey Report – Challenges Anglophone West Africa Journalists Face in Covering Climate Change](#) by CIID

Videos

- [How to develop collaborative stories about climate change and its impacts in Latin America \(in Spanish\)](#) by Fundación Connectas
- [COP30: How to Better Cover the Climate Negotiations?](#) by Centre for Investigative Journalism, London (CIJ)
- [Chasing Deforestation in Cambodia](#) by CIJ
- [Climate Arson and Cover-Ups](#) by CIJ
- [COP Reporting – How to Prepare and Keep Focused](#) by CIJ
- [Investigating the Climate Crisis – Beyond Reporting the What](#) by CIJ
- [Addressing Climate Misinformation – Now & Beyond](#) by DataLEADS
- [Flash Floods – How to Report when Climate Disaster Strikes](#) by CIJ
- [Broken Promises: Greenwashing Uncovered](#) by CIJ
- [Making It Count – Using Data to Tell Stories from the Climate Crisis](#) by CIJ
- [Flooding and Environmental disaster in Nigeria presentation at CIJ's Climate Change Media Summit](#)
- [Virtual course on Investigating and Narrating Climate Change \(in Spanish\)](#) by Fundación Connectas
- [Climate Change Documentary: Nigeria Flooding case study](#) by CIID
- [Lessons and what to train journalists on Climate Change reporting in Francophone Africa \(in French\)](#) by CIJ
- [Digital Tools for Researching Climate Change \(in Spanish\)](#) by Fundación Gabo
- [How to Approach Climate Change Research \(in Spanish\)](#) by Fundación Gabo
- [Wood for the Trees: Data-Driven Environmental Journalism](#) by CIJ

- **OCRI Website:** <https://tcij.org/ocri/>
- **Tools & resources (tips, techniques, datasets & videos):** <https://tcij.org/ocri-resource/ocri-tools-and-resources/>
- **Climate Investigations Course:** <https://tcij.org/scheduled-training/>





Countries we have trained Journalists in since inception

OCRI Year 1 footprint

AROUND THE WORLD (APRIL 2022 - MARCH 2023)



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Countries OCRI training have reached

numbers includes the pilot phase in Nepal

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

11 OCRI partners working in the regions & Nepal pilot

81 Supported stories published/broadcast so far

36 Total number of countries OCRI training participants have come from in year one including Nepal pilot

43 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

237 Trained across the 3 regions

2000+ Reached directly

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OCRI Year 2 footprint



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AROUND THE WORLD (APRIL 2023 - MARCH 2024)

Following a successful pilot in Nepal and execution in the three Year 1 regions: Latin America (excluding Brazil), Anglophone Africa and Francophone Africa, we worked with **10 regional partners** from April 2023 to March 2024 for OCRI Year 2. We trained **444** and directly reached more than **2000** journalists, researchers and activists/environmentalists in **16** countries across **Brazil & Lusophone Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East & North Africa (MENA)**.

This has set us up for more work in Year 3 running from April 2024 to September 2025.



10 OCRI partners working in the regions

16 Number of countries OCRI training participants have come from

46 Different forms of in-person, hybrid and virtual engagements

66 Supported stories published/broadcast

444 Trained across the 3 regions

2000+ Reached directly

Countries OCRI training reached in Year 2: Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Mozambique, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Yemen

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Impact & countries reached

Apr 2024 - Sept 2025



During the third implementing year of the Open Climate Reporting Initiative (OCRI), we

- developed the first of its kind, *Climate Investigations Course (CIC)*
- delivered a region-contextualized version of the CIC during *story-lab* workshops in Latin America, Anglophone Africa, Francophone Africa, and South Asia
- launched and ran 3 iterations of the CIC as a CIJ scheduled course
- supported the execution of publication of climate investigations

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IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Year 1 to 3
(Apr 2022 - Sept 2025)

OPEN CLIMATE REPORTING INITIATIVE



5395 directly reached

Through different forms of engagements - in-person, hybrid and virtual



730 trained



470 news & media organisations reached



221 experts, trainers and mentors engaged



171 OCRI-supported stories published

Published stories featured in Print, Online, Television and Radio.

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Understanding the language of Climate communication



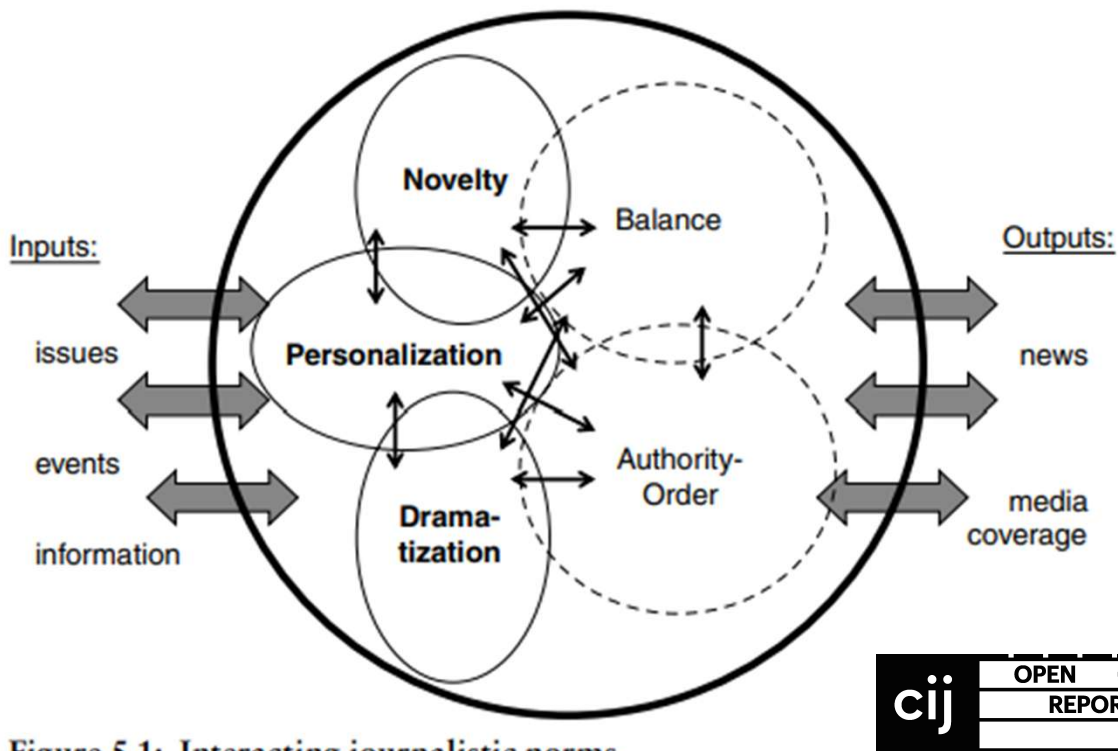
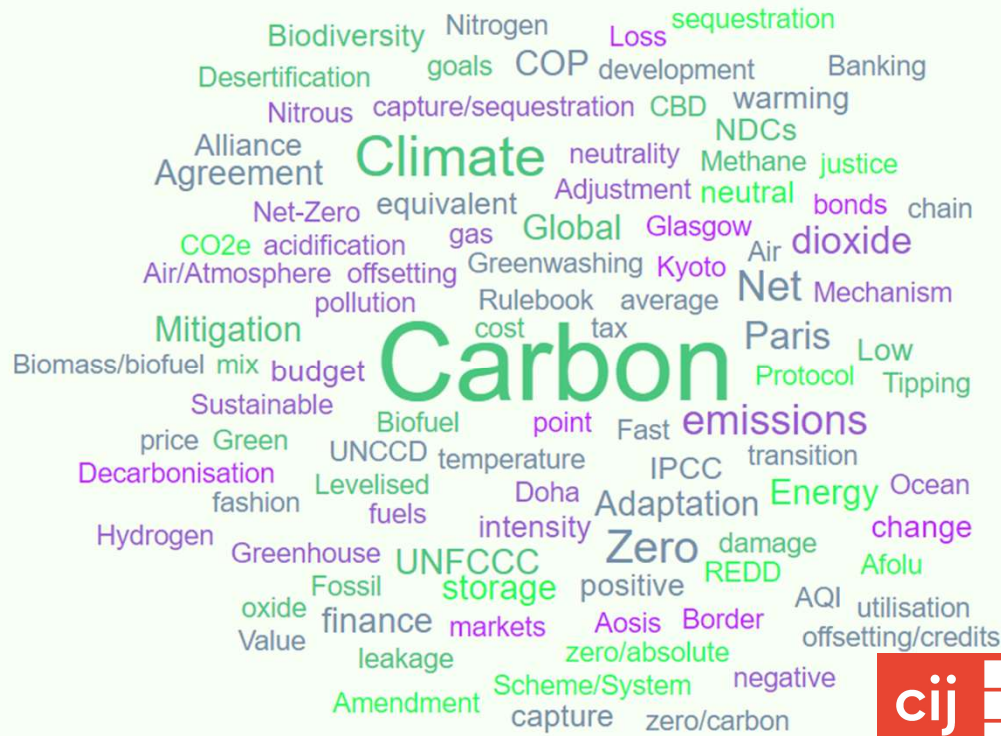


Figure 5.1: Interacting journalistic norms

I will use this illustration explaining Interacting Journalistic Norms taken from Maxwell T. Boykoff's book titled "Who speaks for the climate? Making sense of media reporting on climate change".

What this tells us is that issues, events and information serve as input towards the framework of journalistic norms.

Having undertaken some processes as illustrated in the diagram, the output we get is news and media coverage. A very salient point therefore is to be aware of the role journalists and the media play. These roles are quite defined primarily even considering recent changes in audience engagement that have changed. We know for example the media informs and educates their audiences. In communications no matter the medium, Language is the means. The input must be conveyed via a language for any communication to happen. So, understanding the language of climate change is a crucial element to communicating, reporting and investigating it effectively. As I conclude, I'd like to draw some parallels with our experience in 2020 when the pandemic hit.



I did a Google search on 'climate change words' and found it interesting some media platforms did a climate change A to Z. I combined results from 3 (Sky news, Financial Times and a last I can't really remember now) and this word cloud was formed.

You'd see Carbon is huge. So, in terms of climate communicating and

understanding the language, these terms and nomenclature should be understood. Of course, it's a lot and non-exhaustive. Infact I probably do not know the meaning of more than a third but like every language, there are building blocks.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the UN body assessing the science related to climate change and there are several others nationally and regionally. Such institutions release different reports that sometimes issue warnings that the pace and scale of climate action are insufficient to tackle climate change. How are media practitioners including investigative journalists interpreting it? The interpretation from the high-level language is the crucial role the media and journalists play as we saw in the previous figure. It is not enough to know the

language, how we then communicate it to the final audience is key. And this is where I draw the parallel with COVID-19 to close.

Sounds familiar?

- Pandemic, Endemic, Epidemic
- Coronavirus, COVID-19
- **Social distancing**
- Community spread
- Asymptomatic
- **Self-isolation**
- Super-spreader
- Flattening the curve
- **Quarantine**
- PPE
- Ventilator
- **Vaccine**



Can we all remember how these words suddenly resonated with everyone? It is my opinion that journalists in reporting and communicating climate change now must do something similar to what we experienced during COVID. We had an Infodemic too that season so there should be a balance.

In therefore reporting, the issues, events

and information can be shaped into cause and effect. In understanding the language, we need to know what terms are used when describing climate change and its causes. what role does carbon play, what are greenhouse gases and emissions, who is emitting what? And so on.

In describing the effect of climate change we come to terms like what is Adaptation, Mitigation, loss and damage, climate finance, climate justice and so on. Journalists should use the cause-and-effect language of climate change to inform and educate audiences while revealing certain things.

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Thank you for listening