

WHAT Climate WORKS Solutions Summit

Success
depends on
all of us

Event Summary

July 2024

The What Works Climate Solutions Summit set out to promote and catalyze systematic evidence on climate solutions for upcoming climate change assessments – particularly the Seventh Assessment Report (AR7) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – as well as other forms of scientific policy advice.

It brought together leading experts on climate solutions, key institutions curating scientific policy advice on climate change (including IPCC, the Lancet Countdown, etc.), evidence synthesis communities (Campbell Collaboration, Cochrane, Collaboration for Environmental Evidence, Evidence Synthesis International, Evidence-based Research Network) as well as policymakers, research funders and other users of evidence to make progress on three major goals:



Understanding what works:

Catalyze rigorous evidence synthesis work across the scientific community through an ambitious work program on climate solutions and advance evidence synthesis methods for evidence-based policy and the IPCC's seventh assessment cycle.



Building evidence synthesis capacity:

Provide access to high-quality training in and spur funding for rigorous evidence synthesis.



Communicating change:

Establish institutional dialogue on and convey the need for evidence synthesis in research, policy and practice as well as establish communication channels within and across the scientific, practice, funding and policy communities.

The Summit and its ambitious agenda to alter evidence-based climate policy was featured ahead of the event in the scientific magazine Nature. There were a total of 335 (179 female, 147 male, 9 diverse) participants from 50 countries discussing evidence-based policy in a total of 210 presentations across 44 parallel sessions.

The Summit featured a total of 11 keynotes, 10 panels and one side-event involving prominent voices from around the globe, such as the IPCC Chair Jim Skea, Germany's State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Policy Jennifer Morgan, IPCC Co-Chair of Working Group II for Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerabilities Winston Chow, Yale Professor and Co-Chair of the Political Economy and Government Group at Jameel Poverty Action Lab Rohini Pande and Executive Director of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change Marina Romanello. The Summit was followed by the Evidence Accelerator, where 40 climate solutions scholars received training in evidence synthesis methods and seeded a bundle of projects that rigorously assess the evidence on climate solutions.

The most prominent message that emerged from the conference: **there is a new what works movement in climate** that unites previously disparate communities from policy evaluation, evidence synthesis and science assessments. **The Summit** therefore **is a beginning** rather than an ending. In particular, there are 5 major outcomes that will be pursued over the coming month and the period leading to the next What Works Climate Solutions Summit:



Build a rigorous evidence bank of climate solutions:

This includes a call for evidence that will be published by Cochrane, the Campbell Collaboration, and the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence; continuing key initiatives for IPCC AR7 like the Global Adaptation Mapping Initiative ([GAMI](#)), developing systematic review ecosystems; the development of a global, interactive, living evidence portal on climate solutions for scientists, funders and policymakers; and urging participants to start new rigorous evidence synthesis projects.



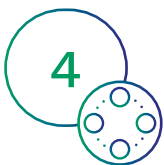
Secure funding:

Discussions among scientists, funders and policymakers focused on how to close the funding gap for evidence synthesis and strengthen evidence-based climate policies as well as support IPCC AR7. Key initiatives include a What Works Climate Solutions Evidence Portal, 25 (living) systematic reviews, updated GAMI evidence, evidence that supports climate solutions and cities, and integrating evidence synthesis in new project proposals.



Build evidence synthesis capacity:

At the Summit's Evidence Accelerator, 40 scholars received training in evidence synthesis methods and launched new projects to rigorously assess the evidence on climate solutions. Flexible training capacities can match the demand, but a sustainable support structure is needed to continuously enhance evidence synthesis capacity in the climate solutions movement.



Develop specific evidence synthesis methods:

This includes building communities of practice for living evidence; using AI to scale evidence synthesis and streamline human inputs; embracing qualitative and mixed methods; integrating empirical and modeling evidence; and learning from guideline processes (e.g. [GRADE](#)) for transparent, high-quality synthesis and uncertainty assessment.



Continue the dialogue:

This includes establishing a new email list for the climate solutions movement; meeting at events like the [Global Evidence Summit](#) or the [Climate Neutrality Forum](#), planning the next global What Works Climate Solutions Summit in 2026 with interim regional events, and developing the What Works Climate Solutions Network - a forum for exchanging high-quality evidence among policymakers, research funders, and users.

Our community has had an excellent start with this impactful event, but we need to carry this into the future with great ambition now. **Success depends on all of us.**

1. **Join the What Works Climate Solutions Community**, an e-mail list for researchers, funders, policy-makers, as well as other users of evidence to foster and share new high-quality evidence synthesis work, announce conferences and workshops, as well as job and funding opportunities. If you have any further questions, send us an email at community@wwcs.science. [Subscribe here](#).
2. Let us know if you want **to organize the next global WWCS**, or a satellite event (i.e. a regional event, or a workshop). Send us an e-mail on info@wwcs.science with the subject “WWCS Organization”.
3. Engage with or help us build **the What Works Climate Solutions Network** – our forum for exchange between policymakers, research funders and other users of evidence spearheaded by Ruth Stewart from the Future Evidence Foundation. Send us an email at network@wwcs.science.
4. Get in touch with the **Evidence Accelerator team of trainers** led by Hugh Sharma Waddington from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine if you need further guidance on conducting high-quality evidence synthesis or you want to flag training needs. Send us an email at training@wwcs.science.

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