



Workshop Climate Change & Health



5-7 September 2023
Trieste, Italy



The InterAcademy Partnership and Save the Children are collaborating to develop a book of case studies that present science-based policy solutions for climate change and health challenges.



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BASSI Andrea Italy (Online) KnowEdge Srl

After the development of the sector guide for Health and Wellbeing for GCF, and of a WHO guide for the estimation of health co-benefits of climate action, KE has worked with several partners for the co-creation and use of



systems thinking in the identification and quantification of the link existing between climate and health.

Team: Andrea Bassi, Georg Pallaske, Marco Guzzetti from KnowEdge Srl; project managers at Save the Children, GGGI, Aroha, World Resources Institute, IISD.

Methods: knowledge integration using systems thinking (with a multi-stakeholder and co-creation approach), system dynamics (for quantification of impacts) and several other models (e.g. including energy models, spatially explicit models for heat and flood risk).

Results: systems diagrams that are co-developed with local stakeholders and create a shared understanding of the link between climate and health. Policy analysis, with also Cost Benefit Analysis that includes the economic valuation of health impacts (e.g. via nutrition). The end-users are government officials and representatives of civil society, representative of academia involved in the project and in policy development. The link between climate and health is strong, a multi-stakeholder approach is needed to make it explicit. Quantification, with economic valuation of health co-benefits, highlights that climate action is at times not financially viable, but it is always economically viable when considering the societal benefits it generates.



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CANALES-Holzeis Claudia United Kingdom The Kirkhouse Trust

Food systems, health and climate change are intimately interlinked. Global progress towards food security has halted, and an increasing number of people are unable to afford a healthy diet. Women and children are particularly affected. Food systems are vulnerable to climatic variables, and at the same time, important contributors to climate change. Improving the access, affordability and sustainability of healthy diets are therefore key policy priorities. The Kirkhouse Trust (KT) was established to address food security in African countries and in India. The Kirkhouse Trust (KT) addresses the connection between food systems, health, and climate change, particularly focusing on food security in African countries and India. KT employs a unique approach, including targeted funding, scientific capacity building, research infrastructure establishment, knowledge sharing, long-term financial support, and partnerships. KT's priority is to boost the productivity of important legume crops in Africa via the application of marker-assisted breeding. A second stream of work aims to identify the potential resilience to climate change of underutilised legume species in India and in African countries. Since 2008, KT has funded breeding projects in 18 countries, and awarded 58 MSc and 49 PhD scholarships. Over 20 improved legume crop varieties have been released today, with several more nearing release in the coming year.



CYNTHIA, Awuni
Ghana
University of Ghana and
Imperial College, London



In common with many cities around the world, Tamale, Ghana, is suffering from increasing urban flooding. Driven by climate change and urbanization, flooding has cross-cutting effects for society but the impacts on the health of communities and individuals are profoundly unequal. This work aims to enable equitable climate adaptation by developing a deep comprehension of the distribution and drivers of flood risk in Tamale. A transdisciplinary team of researchers in the Pathways to Equitable Healthy Cities partnership work closely with communities, traditional leaders, NGOs, and government agencies to co-produce solutions. A mixed-methods approach includes interviews with a cross-section of society coupled with risk mapping exercises and the deployment of novel sensor technologies.

HOWARD Ben
United Kingdom
Imperial College London



Results reveal that vulnerable and underserved communities in Tamale experience the highest flood risk, as observed in other cities in the global south. However, whilst the highest flood risk is typically experienced by people who move into high-risk areas, in Tamale it is experienced by people who have inhabited the same areas for generations. Flood risk here has increased because of inequitable city-level flood adaptation, such as storm drains that direct flood water to poor areas. Additionally, community and household level adaptation is not available to poor people, who often live in flood-vulnerable mud houses. To enable more equitable flood adaptation, this work addresses governance complexity, exploring ways in which traditional and modern systems can cooperate. Working closely with city officials, the improved evidence and data on flood risk is used to develop a city-level flood adaptation plan, providing accountability and ensuring equity. Novel research insights are delivered in several formats to reach diverse end-users, including communities, government officials and international funders of climate adaptation. This work highlights systemic inequities in climate adaptation which serve to exacerbate risk for the most vulnerable, overall reducing climate resilience.



ESHETIE, Seyoum Melese

Ethiopia

Space Science and Geospatial Institute of Ethiopia

Urbanization drives global environmental changes and presents a challenge for sustainability, notably through urban overheating. This leads to increased air pollution, elevated temperatures both day and night, discomfort, and higher mortality due to excessive heat. Understanding land surface temperature (LST) distribution and drivers is crucial for mitigating overheating. A study in Addis Ababa aimed to uncover LST spatial patterns, explore variable-LST relationships, and compare ordinary least squares (OLS) and geographically weighted regression (GWR) for modeling these links. Significant hot spots were found in the north-central area. While OLS showed non-stationarity, GWR demonstrated superiority ($R^2=0.57$, $AIC=1052.1$) over OLS ($R^2=0.42$, $AIC=2162.0$), capturing spatial variations effectively and improving model accuracy in explaining the relationship between LST and variables.



GUINTO Renzo R.
Philippines
Planetary and Global Health
Program, St. Luke's Medical
Center College of Medicine,
Philippines



The Philippines, highly vulnerable to climate change, is witnessing early health impacts like infectious diseases and climate-related anxiety. The Planetary and Global Health Program of SLMCCM-WHQM has collaborated with Alabat and Ajuy municipalities since 2022 to implement a local intervention. This involves aligning policies, enhancing local capacity, fostering cross-sectoral collaboration, and using innovative tools for diagnosing climate-health issues. The initiative aims to design climate adaptation projects for health resilience, with municipalities creating proposals for the People's Survival Fund. An early lesson from this initiative is that building climate-resilient local health systems requires a “diagonal” approach – combining “horizontal” investments such as health workforce development and disaster-proofing infrastructure with “vertical” programming focused on specific climate-sensitive health concerns such as water-borne disease and heat-related illness.

HOUNKPATIN Hashim

Benin

Centre de Recherche en Reproduction Humaine
et en Demographie, CERRUHD, Benin

After years of negotiation, Benin released its national adaptation plan (NAP), in May 2022. I used the Walt and Gilson health policy triangle to analyse the context, the process, and the actors involved. Benin is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change (CC), adding additional stress to its already strained health system. However, the country has policy, legal and institutional frameworks favourable to adaptation response. The content of the NAP – climate hazards, health risks, and adaptation measures – was not systematic. As a result, important health risks, and subsequent adaptation actions were not considered. The NAP process was undertaken under the intergovernmental organisations' umbrella with important asymmetry in 'knowledge' and resources. A timeline of the process has been outlined. External and national actors were involved. The end users are the general population broadly, but marginal populations such as people in the informal sector or living in urban slums, women, and children, specifically. Though there was a clear claim to incorporate indigenous knowledge, the NAP did not specify how. Lessons learned: Climate change threats to human health are well-perceived by policymakers. They understand its disproportionate and intersectional impact on marginal populations but still fail to meaningfully engage them in the decision-making process. Finance is the main barrier to implementation, raising the issue of climate justice. Countries with shared CC challenges can enhance collaboration for synergy in policy alignment, regional integration, and economies of scale; those functions could be facilitated by regional instruments such as the West African Health Organization or the African Center for Disease Control.



KAMARUDDIN Mohd Norzikri

Malaysia

University Malaya



Sustainable Urbanization and Climate Action in Kuala Lumpur: Protecting the Health of Older Communities

Malaysia's sustainable urbanization efforts in Kuala Lumpur serve as a model for other cities worldwide. By integrating climate change mitigation, protecting the health of older communities and fostering a sustainable urban environment, Kuala Lumpur commits to a greener, healthier and more resilient future.



The case study provides insights for policymakers, researchers, and community leaders to learn from Malaysia's experiences and replicate successful approaches in their own contexts. This case study focuses on the sustainable urbanization and urban planning efforts in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with a particular emphasis on addressing climate change challenges and protecting the health of its older citizens. The case study aims to provide a comprehensive overview of Malaysia's initiatives in a language that is accessible to both laypersons and scholars. Kuala Lumpur has experienced rapid urbanization over the past few decades. The government recognizes the need to balance urban development with environmental conservation and the well-being of its citizens, including the older population. Through a multi-sectoral approach and long-term planning, Malaysia has implemented various sustainable practices that contribute to climate change mitigation and protect the health of its citizens.

LIMAYE Vijay USA (Online) Natural Resources Defense Council New York

The interconnection of climate change, extreme heat, and air pollution poses substantial public health risks due to fossil fuel combustion generating harmful emissions and contributing to global warming. This study examines health co-benefits associated with climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in Ahmedabad, India. The research team involved GERMI for energy demand estimates, IITM for air quality modeling, and NRDC and IIPH-G for health impact analysis. The study forecasts a five-fold increase in renewable energy capacity in Gujarat, alongside expanding cool roofs from 5% to 20% of residential roof area. This leads to energy savings that counterbalance rising cooling demand driven by climate change by 2030. Without further climate actions, local air quality is predicted to worsen; however, implementing clean energy and cool roof initiatives is projected to slightly decrease PM_{2.5} air pollution from 2018 levels, preventing up to 1,414 premature deaths annually by 2030 compared to business-as-usual. The study's findings have been shared with municipal, state, and central government pollution control managers, showcasing the integration of health considerations into planning. The research methodology, involving climate, energy, air, and health modeling, provides a blueprint for estimating air quality and health co-benefits of climate responses in India. This approach aids public comprehension of how climate action can lead to cleaner and healthier air quality in the country.



MUGIYO Hillary,
South Africa
Centre for Transformative
Agricultural & food systems
University of KwaZulu-Natal



Mapping high-risk agricultural drought areas is critical for informing policy and decision-making to formulate drought adaptation strategies. This study used the Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI). This hybrid drought index integrates the Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI), Temperature Condition Index (TCI), and Vegetation Condition Index (VCI) to delineate bioclimatic zones with both high rainfall variability and water scarcity for South Africa. Historical satellite climate data (1981–2019) was used with land use/cover maps of South Africa to generate five scales ranging from very severe to no drought. A machine learning algorithm, the Classification and Regression Tree (CART) in R and ArcGIS, was used for analysis and map graphics. Average sorghum yields obtained at the district level were used to validate results obtained from the mapping exercise. The VegDRI (74.1%), VCI (71.8%), TCI (66.2%), and SPI (59%) showed higher performance in explaining sorghum yield, respectively. Over 50% of South Africa's land experienced droughts of different magnitudes. The predictive accuracy of drought risk maps was computed from the pixel-by-pixel comparison. However, high accuracy values from Kappa of VegDRI with VCI (0.80–0.98) and TCI (0.72–0.90) do not necessarily indicate an accurate mapping of drought risk maps. VegDRI is a helpful index in designing climate-smart practices for improved food and nutrition security under increasing water scarcity.

NOWREEN Sara, Bangladesh Institute of Water and Flood Management of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology



Food systems and agriculture:
Aquifer storage and recovery (ASR)
technology for irrigation water supply
in coastal Bangladesh.

Team: Ahmmmed MH1, Nowreen (team lead),
Zzaman RU1, Sharmin A2, Akhtar S3.

- 1) Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology,
- 2) Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation,
- 3) Krishi Gobeshona Foundation Bangladesh

Preventing climate change in the saline prone coastal area namely, Dacope, Bangladesh adopted the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) technique in 2019 to store monsoon water underground and retrieve it during the dry season. The goal was to reduce groundwater salinity and enhance agricultural yield. To conduct efficacy testing of this ASR we employed an integrated methodology, including in-situ rainfall, groundwater level (GWL), and electric conductivity (EC) monitoring, contaminant tests, Sentinel-2 imagery analysis, and focus group discussions.



PRATT Victoria
United Kingdom
Land Body Ecologies (LBE)



Climate variability is affecting the rotational farming system, also commonly known as shifting cultivation, of the Indigenous community of Pgak'yau (Karen) Changes in rainfall patterns impact annual rice and produce harvests, and government legislation outlaws the practice in many areas of Thailand, severely affecting cultivation. Climate change stressors compounded by human-driven environmental changes such as the shrinking and reclassification of traditional farming lands by the government is impacting the health of the community. Rotational farming plots form an important cultural, spiritual and economic anchor for the community who have practised on this land for generations

ODOCHAO Siwakorn
Thailand
Independent farmer
Lazy man coffee



Land Body Ecologies (LBE) is a network working since 2019 to understand experiences of land trauma among land dependent and Indigenous communities. This research is part of a three year grant by the Wellcome Trust to the members of LBE (Wellcome Hub Award). Our project focus is the relationship between climate, health, and food systems in Ban Nong Tao, Northern Thailand. The LBE team has established decentralised research and engagement hubs, led and facilitated by land dependent and Indigenous communities. Our transdisciplinary team consists of researchers, Indigenous community leaders, human rights activists, artists, and writers. Our work follows the declaration of “Nothing about us, without us” in Indigenous Peoples’ related research. (1) In Thailand, the research and engagement is led by Siwakorn Odochao, founder of Lazy Man Coffee and an Indigenous community leader, and Jennifer Katanyoutanat, a producer, artist, and researcher who works across the environment and arts. Ban Nong Tao is a Pgak’yau (Karen) community in Mae Wang District, near Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. The primary objective of the research activities of the LBE team has been to explore the deep interconnections of mental health and ecosystem health.



RAHMAN Md. Atikur Bangladesh Save the Children

Dengue fever has been one of the most life threatening arthropod-borne viral disease in Bangladesh. Dhaka, the capital city has dengue as endemic for years, and many people are at high risk with



climate change issues like increased temperatures, heat waves etc. An integrated approach is required for prevention and reduction of dengue fever. Objective: Assess the community's awareness level through a Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice survey and evaluate the efficacy of the community-based programs in selected areas of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC). Quasi-experimental study included in 384 community members of the selected zone, using convenient sampling method. A semi-structured questionnaire and an observation checklist were used to collect data. Following the pre-test, a month-long community engagement program was implemented. Following the interventions, a post test was conducted. Health and entomology teams of DSCC were involved in implementation of interventions. The results showed that 57.5% of the respondents were male. During the pre-test, 69.7% of respondents had average scores on knowledge on dengue prevention and control with no one scoring excellent. While the grade during the post-test increased to excellent (49.5%) and good (46.9%). Positive attitudes increased by 17.3% between pre-test and post-test. In addition, respondents were less aware of dengue prevention measures, but the program helped them increase their practice level by 25.1%. Through integrated community approach involving multiples stakeholders' community resilience against vector borne diseases have strengthened in urban areas. So, policy makers and health officials should prioritize such interventions to mitigate similar climate induced emerging infections.

SALDIVA Paulo Brazil (Online) University of São Paulo, Brazil



Extreme temperature or its variability has direct and indirect effects on human health, and changes in temperature patterns. Cities are particularly vulnerable to climate changes, due to their unique combination of large population, urban heat spots and diversity of population vulnerability. Urban centres may be seen as natural laboratories to evaluate the complex mechanisms responsible for climate induced health effects. In such scenario, Brazil has characteristics that favours large scale studies in climate and health, namely: a) large population; b) significant climate variability due to its large territory; c) good health data of morbidity and mortality available on daily basis (~1800 hospitals of the public system); d) extreme social and economic contrasts. In addition, Brazil also experiences events related to global and local climate changes and the emission of toxic air contaminants, as the case of wildfires. In such a context, our group conducted a series of studies in the last years which can be used to implement public policies matching sustainability and human health. The following results were obtained:

- a) The impact of ambient temperature was detected in chronic diseases such as stroke, myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, peripheral arteriopathy, diabetes, kidney insufficiency, asthma, and COPD
- b) Temperature-associated health effects are more intense in children and elderly people, as well as amongst those living in areas with social and economic deprivation;
- c) The optimal temperature range varies across the Brazilian territory, probably due to human physiological as well as urban adaptation;
- d) Wildfires adversely affect human health by the combination of changes in regional climate, but also by emitting measurable quantities of local toxic air contaminants.

SALI Aduwati
Malaysia
Wipnet Research Centre
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UPM



ASEAN region hosts the largest peatland forests in the world. Peatland soil is known as the largest carbon storage in the world, when it is burned, we are releasing a huge amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Now when the region's temperature increases, the probability for peatland forest fires to occur has also increased. Though technology-based peatland management, the forests can be monitored and managed accordingly. Specifically, Internet of Things (IoT) and big data analytics can be deployed to help monitor and predict the peatland soil profiles. The IoT systems have been replicated in Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia using cost-efficient techniques, including the unlicensed long range (LoRA) wireless access technology. It has been shown how LoRA covers the peatland forest by optimising the transmission parameters due to foliage and land covers in the peatland forests. From big data analytics point of view, ground data and weather-related data obtained from the IoT sensors can be used to predict Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) indices such as Drought Code (DC) and Fire Weather Index (FWI). Considering multiple input in Machine Learning (ML) engine has shown more localised FDRS indices, considering peatland profiles in the region. The project can be included in the ASEAN Peatland Integrated Management Systems since the proof-of-concept has been tested in the three countries. The system can be further enhanced when more sensors are deployed across the region, to make it a network of transboundary haze alert.

WRIGHT Caradee

South Africa

South African Medical Research Council

In South Africa, the National Committee on Climate Change and Health is addressing heat-related health threats across the country to mitigate risks and promote awareness and action. Their policy objective is to establish a National Heat Health Action Plan involving key stakeholders and research-based evidence, with a focus on healthcare settings. The team consists of researchers from the Climate Change and Health Research Programme at the South African Medical Research Council, along with governmental bodies, NGOs, and others. Collaboratively, they designed a Heat-health vulnerability assessment tool for small towns, targeting vulnerable spaces like primary healthcare waiting rooms. The assessment in Limpopo revealed temperatures exceeding 40 degrees C in such settings where mothers and babies wait for medical appointments. Educational materials were co-created, including posters, flyers, and videos, to guide keeping infants and the elderly cool during extreme heat. Ongoing collaboration between researchers, government officials, policy-makers, practitioners, and communities is driving this initiative. The outcomes of their research will support the Climate Change and Human Health Adaptation Plan 2023-2027.



REVIEWER

FEARS Robin
Independent consultant
Biosciences, UK



Dr. Robin Fears has a background in biochemistry, nutrition and medical research (BSc, PhD, DSc from UK) with 29 years previous experience (1973–2002) in pharmaceutical industry R&D in the cardiovascular and neuroscience therapeutic areas. During the latter part of his time in the pharmaceutical sector, he set up a R&D Policy function, gaining experience at the science-policy interfaces and outreach to other stakeholders.

Subsequently, since 2002, he has provided advice on biosciences policy issues to a range of public sector organisations, particularly academies of science and medicine and their international networks, parliamentary groups, the European Commission and industry. Much of this activity has been in the EU but he also has experience in advising on policy to UN bodies in other regions and globally, for example at previous UNFCCC events, and to other bodies worldwide (for example, G7 and G20).

He has advised the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) since 2002, directing the work of the Biosciences Programme and helping to ensure that EASAC outputs also catalyse and inform global science-policy activities through the InterAcademy Partnership. His work for IAP has included major global projects on Food and Nutrition Security and Agriculture, and on Climate Change and Health. In both cases he has worked with regional academy networks in Africa, Asia and the Americas, as well as in Europe. Other work for IAP has included contributing to researching and drafting Statements on Synthetic Biology, Antimicrobial Resistance, Regenerative Medicine and COVID-19. In addition to contributing to multiple academy network reports (approximately 50), he has approximately 200 peer-reviewed publications.

REVIEWER

CAUSSY Deoraj Integrated Epidemiology Solutions Mauritius

Dr Deoraj Caussy is an Independent Epidemiologist offering Integrated Epidemiology Solutions in a variety of contemporary issues including climate change and health. His experience stems from world-class institutes such as the NIH, CDC, and WHO. As Environmental Epidemiologist for WHO he tackled contemporary environmental issues that spurred his interests in epidemiological risk assessment and management through inter-disciplinary approach of classic epidemiology combined with social and environmental elements to solve multi-dimensional public health issues. He actively participates in the work of academies by contributing to changing disease patterns in Africa. He is currently the lead editor for the climate change and health in Africa for NASAC and IAP.



REVIEWER

CHRISTOPHIDES George
Department of Life
Sciences,
Imperial College
London, UK



George Christophides received his PhD in Molecular Biology from the University of Athens and continued his research career as a Marie Curie postdoctoral fellow at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), Heidelberg, Germany. He moved to Imperial College London in 2005, where he is currently Professor and Chair of Infectious Disease and Immunity. He is also Adjunct Professor and Associate Dean at the Cyprus Institute, Cyprus. He is interested in the biology of infectious diseases, especially vector-borne, and how this may be affected by human interventions and the changing environment. Through his research, he wishes to contribute to public health innovations and in improving human life. In addition to directing the Vigilab, he is convening a final year course at Imperial College on Advanced Topics in Infection and Immunity and lecturing in Immunology and in Advanced Topics in Parasitology and Vector Biology courses.

REVIEWER

KHAN Shabana
India
Indian Research
Academy, Delhi



Dr. Shabana Khan is the Director of the Indian Research Academy, New Delhi, India. She is a scientific committee member of Scientific Committee Member: Climate and Health Working Group, The Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA). She is an alumna of the Global Young Academy and a World Social Science Fellow on Risk Interpretation and Action with the International Social Science Council. Her current research is focusing on climate change, risk communication, and disaster response from an interdisciplinary perspective. In her nearly 20 years of the research journey, She has published more than 34 international publications in peer-reviewed journals, reports, and books. Her current research is focused on risk communication across global agreements, climate and health in India, and resolving disaster dilemmas at the local level. Previously, Dr Khan has also worked on water-related hazards and governance in Dwarka as part of the EU project Chance2Sustain with the University of Amsterdam, and accreditation of disaster management training, education, and research in India with SEEDS Technical Consultancy Services. She has also taught as an assistant professor at the Department of Geography, at the University of Delhi, as a research fellow at the School of Planning and Architecture, as a researcher at the New Zealand Climate Change Research Institute, and as a visiting scholar at the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Sciences in New Zealand.

PONGSIRI Montira

Save the Children United States

Dr. Montira Pongsiri leads the Climate and Health team at Save the Children. Her primary research and science policy interests are in applying scientific understanding of the relationships between the condition of natural systems and human health to inform policies and actions for long-term sustainability impact. She received her PhD and MPH from Yale University. She has a background in infectious diseases epidemiology, environmental health policy and sustainability science. Dr. Pongsiri served on The Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on Planetary Health. Dr. Pongsiri was the first Science Advisor at the U.S. Mission to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), based in Jakarta, Indonesia where she led the Mission's efforts to apply science and technology to support ASEAN's sustainability goals and to strengthen science-based policy making. She developed with ASEAN Member States science programming including a sustainable cities partnership as well as the U.S.-ASEAN Science and Technology Fellows Program. Dr. Pongsiri was on assignment at the U.S. Mission to ASEAN from her base at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Research and Development. As an Environmental Health Scientist at the EPA, she developed an interdisciplinary research initiative on biodiversity and human health. She was the agency's technical lead on partnerships with The Smithsonian Institution focused on biodiversity-health research and education/outreach activities. Dr. Pongsiri also led EPA's technical partnership with The Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities to apply science-based tools and strategies to support community resilience.

REVIEWER PARTNER



WRITER, EDITOR

ANESTIDOU Lida, USA (Online)

Dr. Lida Anestidou has over 20 years of experience with international programs in science policy and responsible science, and a strong record of success in program/portfolio strategy, design, and partnership building. As a consultant and Subject Matter Expert she specializes in One Health; antimicrobial resistance (AMR); biomedical ethics, scientific integrity and responsible science; global health security; veterinary medicine; and (lab) animal ethics and welfare. Dr. Anestidou founded Communities in Science through which she consults for a broad array of governmental institutions, global funders, NGOs and professional societies.



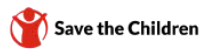
As Senior Program Officer at the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Dr. Anestidou initiated and administered the “Educational Institutes on Responsible Science,” a portfolio of workforce development and biological threat reduction activities in more than 11 countries in the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) and South and Southeast Asia. Before joining the US National Academies, Dr. Anestidou was faculty at Vanderbilt University’s Center for Biomedical Ethics and Society. Dr. Anestidou holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from Aristotle University in Greece (her home country), a Masters in Veterinary Sciences from the University of Florida, and a doctorate (Ph.D.) in Physiology from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Anestidou is Managing Editor of Science and Engineering Ethics, a Springer-Nature international multidisciplinary journal. Dr. Anestidou serves as an Independent Expert in the Ethics Evaluation of grant applications to the European Research Council and the European Commission. She is an advisor to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Responsible Conduct of Research Program, and serves on the board of directors of One Health Lessons.

IAP SECRETARIAT STAFF

McGRATH Peter

IAP Coordinator, Trieste, Italy

Dr. Peter McGrath obtained his BSc (honours) in Agricultural Zoology from the University of Glasgow, UK, and followed this with a PhD from the University of Leeds, UK, in 1989. After a 10-year research career focused on the insect transmission of plant, he worked as a freelance journalist focusing on agricultural, environmental and scientific issues. He joined The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) as writer/editor in 2003. From 2006, he began overseeing the implementation of TWAS's core capacity-building programmes, including South-South fellowships and other exchange schemes, research grants and various award schemes, as well as the activities of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD). During this time he has helped developing new partnerships and activities, including the EU-funded EuroAfrica-ICT project (2009-2012). In 2013, he became Coordinator of the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), overseeing the Trieste office of the IAP secretariat and acting as liaison person for the IAP Science Education Programme and the IAP Biosecurity Working Group. He also retains his position as coordinator of the TWAS science and diplomacy initiative, including representing TWAS in the EU Horizon2020-funded S4D4C project.



IAP SECRETARIAT STAFF



CARIS Sabina, Administrative Assistant, IAP Secretariat Trieste, Italy

Sabina joined the InterAcademy Partnership Secretariat as Project Assistant in 2017 and was appointed IAP Administrative Assistant in 2023. She acquired experience in project management of several EU-funded projects and cross-border initiatives, in particular between Italy and Slovenia, and has been working at The World Academy of Sciences – for the advancement of science in developing countries (UNESCO-TWAS), assisting with TWAS programmes, in particular TWAS prizes, exchange programmes, conferences and contacts with regional offices. Sabina holds a degree in International Sciences and Diplomacy at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Trieste, Italy.

NITTI Sofia, Communications Assistant, IAP Secretariat Trieste, Italy

Sofia joined the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) Secretariat in Trieste as Communications Assistant in 2023. She oversees IAP communications outputs and she relates with IAP member academies, Regional Networks and other organizations. Her duties include the drafting of the IAP Annual Report, the quarterly IAP and YPL newsletters, the preparation of press releases and videos about IAP activities. Sofia worked as a multimedia journalist for French, Italian and English-speaking media outlets. From 2019 to 2022 she was based in Iraq, working as a freelance journalist and multimedia consultant. Sofia holds a degree in Political Sciences and International Relations from the Università Cattolica di Milano, Italy, and Masters in Communication, Political Sciences and Journalism respectively from Sciences Po Lyon, Sciences Po Lille and École Supérieure de Journalisme de Lille, France. Additionally, she studied Arabic at the University Of Alexandria, Egypt.





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