Strengthening Climate Resilience in Morocco

Technology-Driven Research and Innovation in Smart Cities, Urban Edges, and Rural Areas

Workshop 2 (UK) – Innovation, Collaboration, and Scaling Impact

September 15, 2026

United Kingdom

Funded by BRITISH COUNCIL



Welcome and Introductions

Part 1

10:00 – 10:30

Cardiff Metropolitan University | Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd

UM6P University Mohammed VI Polytechnic

BRITISH COUNCIL



Climate Resilience

United Kingdom & Morocco

Research & Innovation

YI

الائتلاف المغربي من أجل العدالة المناخية
ⵜⴰⵎⴰⵡⴰⵙⵜ ⵏ ⵜⵣⵔⴼⵜ ⵜⴰⵎⴰⵔⵜⵉⵜ ⵖ ⵓⵙⵎⵓⵔⵜ
Coalition Marocaine pour la Justice Climatique

AL MOUTMIR

Platfform yr Amgylchedd Cymru
Environment Platform Wales

MENTER MÔN

Cardiff Metropolitan University | Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd

UWE Bristol

UM6P
University Mohammed VI Polytechnic

8

Climate Resilience



Dr Issam Damaj, UK Lead
Cardiff Met, UK



Dr Youssef Iraqi, MA Lead
UM6P, MA



Dr Loubna Mekouar
UM6P, MA



Dr Mehmet Aydin, R&D Expert
UWE Bristol, UK

5



Dr Fiona Carroll, Mentor
Cardiff Met, UK



Prof Elizabeth Redmond, Mentor
Cardiff Met, UK



Dr Chaminda Hewage
Cardiff Met, UK



Dr Imtiaz Khan
Cardiff Met, UK

Workshop Purpose

- Strengthen UK–Morocco research and innovation collaboration
- Connect research with industry, policy, communities, and wider stakeholders
- Explore pathways from research to knowledge exchange, innovation, and real-world impact
- Share perspectives on research governance, commercialisation, entrepreneurship, and scaling
- Identify opportunities for sustained partnerships and future collaborative activity

YI

Climate Resilience

Today's Programme

10:00 – 10:30	**Welcome & UK–Morocco Collaboration Context**	
10:30 – 11:00	**Industry Engagement and Commercialisation**	Dr Mehmet Aydin
11:00 – 11:30	**Research Governance, REF, and Institutional Impact**	Dr Chaminda Hewage
11:30 – 11:45	**Networking Break**	
11:45 – 12:15	**Partnerships, Knowledge Exchange, and Research Impact**	Andrew Schofield Environment Platform Wales
12:15 – 12:45	**Climate Adaptation Pathways: From Planning to Implementation**	Prof Carolyn Hayles
12:45 – 1:00	**Event Closing and Future Collaboration Pathways**	



Opening remarks from the British Council

- Ms Kenza ElMohajir, Education Program Manager, British Council Morocco

BRITISH COUNCIL

About the Project

Part 2



ID

Climate Resilience

Project Overview

Project Title

Strengthening Climate Resilience in Morocco through Technology-Driven Research and Innovation in Smart Cities, Urban Edges, and Rural Areas

Funding Programme

British Council – Going Global Partnerships

Research Environments 2025–26

Project Partners

Cardiff Metropolitan University (United Kingdom)

University Mohammed VI Polytechnic (Morocco)

Project Duration

January 2026 – March 2027

Project Focus

Climate Resilience

Technology & Innovation

Capacity Building

Stakeholder Engagement

UK–Morocco Collaboration

Climate Resilience

Project Rationale

01

Escalating climate risks in Morocco with uneven social and gendered impacts

02

Need for technology-enabled, locally grounded climate resilience solutions

03

Gaps in research capacity and project development pathways

04

Opportunity to strengthen inclusive research environments and leadership

What the Project Adds



Structured pathway from challenge identification to implementable ideas



Emphasis on digital and technological approaches to climate resilience



Capacity strengthening for early and mid-career researchers



Practical mechanisms to accelerate quality and readiness

Added Value of the UK–Morocco Partnership



Complementary UK and Moroccan expertise and perspectives



Equitable collaboration and shared leadership



Strong institutional and cross-sector networks



Foundations for sustainability and future funding

Project Structure (At a Glance)

Overall Structure

- 12-month UK–Morocco partnership project
- Phased delivery combining research environment strengthening and pilot implementation
- Integrated capacity building, knowledge exchange, and sustainability planning

Core Components

- Scoping and priority setting
- Capacity strengthening and collaborative development
- Pilot co-design and implementation
- Dissemination and institutional consolidation

Key Workstreams

Workstream 1: Scoping, Review, and Prioritisation

- Climate and gender-responsive scoping review
- Identification of priority challenges across urban, peri-urban, and rural contexts
- Thematic focus areas aligned with partner and national priorities

Workstream 2: Capacity Strengthening Programme

- Training needs assessment
- Delivery of hybrid workshops and collaborative development sessions
- Strengthening research leadership, interdisciplinary working, and project design skills

Climate Resilience

Key Workstreams (continued)

Workstream 3: Pilot Co-design and Implementation

- Co-design of 2–3 pilot initiatives
- Application of technology-driven solutions to climate resilience challenges
- Monitoring, evaluation, and learning throughout delivery

Workstream 4: Knowledge Exchange, Dissemination, and Sustainability

- Engagement with institutional and external stakeholders
- Synthesis of learning and development of case studies
- Sustainability planning and foundations for future collaboration and funding



Jan.–Feb. 2026

Phase 1: Project Initiation
Project set-up, grant finalisation, governance and monitoring frameworks, kick-off meeting, and communication planning.

Jan.–Apr. 2026

Phase 2: Scoping Review & Vulnerability Mapping
Desk-based scoping review, climate–gender vulnerability mapping, thematic prioritisation, and UK–Morocco exchange visit.

Mar.–Oct. 2026

Phase 3: Capacity Building Programme Design & Delivery
Training needs assessment, development of capacity-building materials, delivery of hybrid workshops, mentoring and cascading activities.

May–Sep. 2026

Phase 4: Stakeholder Engagement & Knowledge Exchange
Stakeholder mapping, workshops in Morocco and the UK, progress review, and knowledge exchange synthesis.

Feb.–Nov. 2026

Phase 5: Pilot Co-design, Deployment & Evaluation
Pilot selection and co-design, implementation of 2–3 pilots, monitoring, evaluation, and development of case studies.

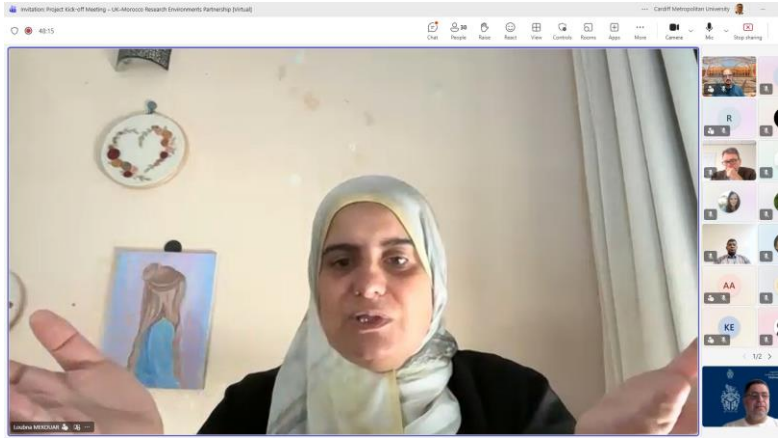
Apr.–Dec. 2026

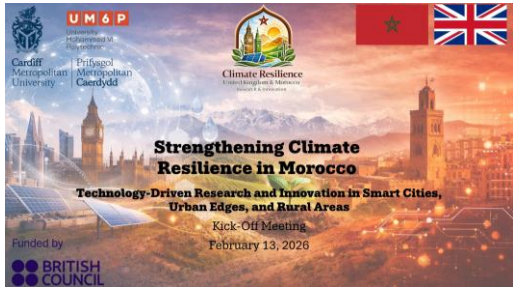
Phase 6: Hub Development, Consolidation & Closure
Development of the UK–Morocco Climate Resilience Hub, sustainability planning, strategic roadmap, dissemination, and final reporting.

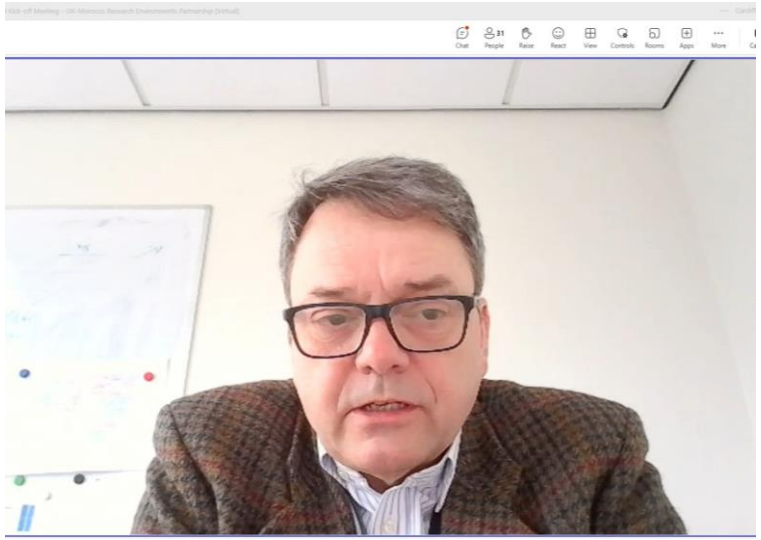
Kick-Off Meeting (Pictures)

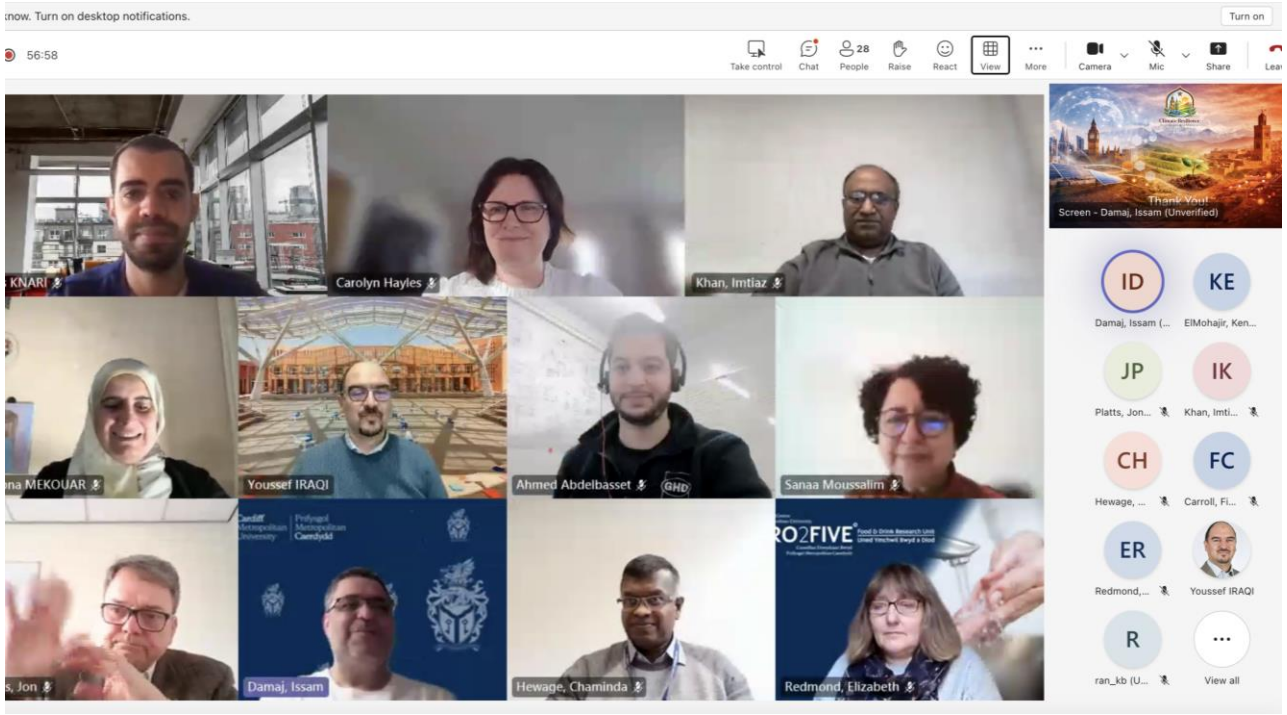


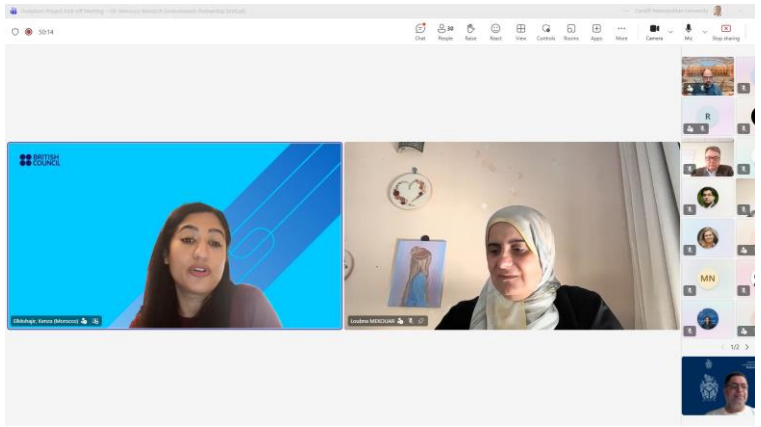
February 13, 2026




Cardiff Metropolitan University
Climate Resilience
Strengthening Climate Resilience in Morocco
Technology-Driven Research and Innovation in Smart Cities, Urban Edges, and Rural Areas
Kick-Off Meeting
February 13, 2026
Funded by
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56:58
Take control
Chat
People
Raise
React
View
More
Camera
Mic
Share
Carolyn Hayles
Khan, Imtiaz
Youssef IRAQI
Ahmed Abdelbasset
Sanaa Moussalim
Damaj, Issam
Hewage, Chaminda
Redmond, Elizabeth
Thank You!
Screen - Damaj, Issam (Unverified)
View all



Visits in Morocco (Pictures)



June 13–20, 2026


Strengthening Climate Resilience in Morocco
Technology-Driven Research and Innovation in Smart Cities, Urban Edges, and Rural Areas
Workshop 1 (Morocco) – Stakeholder Engagement for Climate Resilience
June 15, 2026
Morocco
Funded by
BRITISH COUNCIL
Tryfona, Catherine
Damaj, Issam
Youssef IRAQI
Loubna MEKOUAR
Tryfona, Catherine
Youssef IRAQI
Sanaa Moussalim
Macaulay, John

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CAREBOT






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CAREBOT



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Climate Resilience
United Kingdom & Morocco Research & Innovation

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BRITISH COUNCIL GOING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS – RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTS 2026

CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP SERIES

BUILDING RESEARCH CAPACITY FOR IMPACT AND INNOVATION

Four expert-led workshops to strengthen research skills, ethics, funding success, and evidence-based impact.

1 THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2026



Dr Fiona Carroll
Reader in Human–Computer Interaction
Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK

Ethics, Responsible Innovation and Emerging Technologies

1:00–2:00 pm (UK Time)
1:00–2:00 pm (Morocco Time)

ELIGIBILITY LEVEL 1
Postgraduate & Early Researcher

2 THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2026



Dr Imtiaz A. Khan
Reader in Data Science
Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK

Strategic Grant Writing and Research Positioning: Bridging Academia and Industry

1:00–2:00 pm (UK Time)
1:00–2:00 pm (Morocco Time)

ELIGIBILITY LEVEL 2
Advanced Research & Research Leadership

3 WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2026



Dr Youssef Iraqi
Associate Professor
UM6P, Morocco

Communicating Your Research: Publishing, Peer Review, and Reaching Your Audience

11:00–12:00 pm (UK Time)
10:00–11:00 am (Morocco Time)

ELIGIBILITY LEVEL 1
Postgraduate & Early Researcher

4 THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER 2026



Dr Issam Damaj
Head of Department – Computer Science
Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK

Research Methods for Evidence Synthesis: Systematic & Scoping Reviews for the Digital Age

11:00 am–12:00 pm (UK Time)
10:00 am–11:00 am (Morocco Time)

ELIGIBILITY LEVEL 1
Postgraduate & Early Researcher

ID

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BRITISH COUNCIL GOING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS – RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTS 2026

CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP SERIES

ETHICS, RESPONSIBLE INNOVATION AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES



SPEAKER

Dr Fiona Carroll

Reader in Human–Computer Interaction
Co-Leader, Creative Computing Research Centre (CCRC)
Chair, Ethics Committee, Cardiff School of Technologies
Cardiff Metropolitan University, United Kingdom

DATE & TIME

Thursday,
3 September 2026

1:00–2:00 pm
(UK Time)

1:00–2:00 pm
(Morocco Time)

DELIVERY MODE

Microsoft Teams
(Virtual)

ELIGIBILITY

Level 1 – Postgraduate and Early Researcher

Postgraduate students, doctoral candidates, postdocs, early-career researchers and research staff.

EXPLORE
emerging technologies and their impact

EMPHASISE
responsible innovation and ethical principles

PROMOTE
inclusive, transparent and accountable research

BUILD
sustainable benefits for society and future generations

UNITED KINGDOM & MOROCCO
Collaborating for Climate Resilience through Research & Innovation

Cardiff Metropolitan University | Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd

UM6P University Mohammed VI Polytechnic

Climate Resilience
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BRITISH COUNCIL GOING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS – RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTS 2026

CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP SERIES

Strategic Grant Writing and Research Positioning: Bridging Academia and Industry



SPEAKER

Dr Imtiaz A. Khan

Reader in Data Science
Founding Director, Centre for Industry 4.0 and Blockchain Research
Cardiff School of Technologies
Cardiff Metropolitan University, United Kingdom

DATE & TIME

Thursday,
10 September 2026

1:00–2:00 pm
(UK Time)

1:00–2:00 pm
(Morocco Time)

DELIVERY MODE

Microsoft Teams
(Virtual)

ELIGIBILITY

Level 2 – Advanced Research and Research Leadership

Researchers, academic & research leaders, managers, innovation and knowledge exchange professionals. Master's & MPhil students may be considered (subject to active engagement in research projects or proposal development).

LEARN
advanced grant writing strategies

CONNECT
academia with industry and funders

TRANSLATE
research into impact and innovation

LEAD
high-performing research teams

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Climate Resilience
United Kingdom & Morocco
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BRITISH COUNCIL GOING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS – RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTS 2026

CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP SERIES

Communicating Your Research: Publishing, Peer Review, and Reaching Your Audience



SPEAKER

Dr Youssef Iraqi

Associate Professor
Director, MANARA Lab
College of Computing
University Mohammed VI Polytechnic (UM6P), Morocco

DATE & TIME

Wednesday, 30 September 2026

11:00–12:00 (UK Time)

10:00–11:00 (Morocco Time)

DELIVERY MODE

Microsoft Teams (Virtual)

ELIGIBILITY:

Level 1 – Postgraduate and Early Researcher

Postgraduate students, doctoral candidates, postdocs, early-career researchers, academic and research support staff.

WRITE better papers that get published

UNDERSTAND peer review and respond effectively

SHARE your research with wider audiences

MAXIMISE impact and build your profile

UNITED KINGDOM & MOROCCO
Collaborating for Climate Resilience through Research & Innovation

Cardiff Metropolitan University | Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd

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Climate Resilience
United Kingdom & Morocco
Research & Innovation

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BRITISH COUNCIL GOING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS – RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTS 2026

CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP SERIES

Research Methods for Evidence Synthesis: Systematic and Scoping Reviews for the Digital Age

SEARCH SCREEN SYNTHESISE REPORT



SPEAKER

Dr Issam Damaj

Head of Department – Computer Science
Co-Director, Centre for Engineering Research in Intelligent Sensors and Systems (CeRISS)
Cardiff School of Technologies
Cardiff Metropolitan University, United Kingdom

DATE & TIME

Thursday, 8 October 2026

11:00 am – 12:00 pm (UK Time)

10:00 am – 11:00 am (Morocco Time)

DELIVERY MODE

Microsoft Teams (Virtual)

ELIGIBILITY

Level 1 – Postgraduate and Early Researcher

Postgraduate students, doctoral candidates, postdocs, early-career researchers, academic and research support staff.

LEARN robust methods for evidence synthesis

USE AI tools to support the review process

ENSURE rigour, transparency and reproducibility

APPLY best practices for real research impact

UNITED KINGDOM & MOROCO
Collaborating for Climate Resilience through Research & Innovation

Workshop Roadmap

Part 4

10:30 – 12:45



Why We Need Stakeholder Input

Climate resilience challenges cannot be addressed by researchers alone.

Effective solutions require collaboration between academia, industry, government, civil society, and local communities.

Stakeholders provide practical insights, implementation experience, and policy perspectives.

Your input will help shape future project activities, capacity-building programmes, and the UK–Morocco Climate Resilience Network.

At the end of today's workshop, we will invite participants to complete a short stakeholder survey to help capture priorities, collaboration opportunities, and future engagement interests.

YI

Climate Resilience

Today's Programme

10:00 – 10:30	**Welcome & UK–Morocco Collaboration Context**	
10:30 – 11:00	**Industry Engagement and Commercialisation**	Dr Mehmet Aydin
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11:30 – 11:45	**Networking Break**	
11:45 – 12:15	**Partnerships, Knowledge Exchange, and Research Impact**	Andrew Schofield Environment Platform Wales
12:15 – 12:45	**Climate Adaptation Pathways: From Planning to Implementation**	Prof Carolyn Hayles
12:45 – 1:00	**Event Closing and Future Collaboration Pathways**	

Industry Engagement and Commercialisation



Dr Mehmet Aydin, The University of the West of England, Bristol

10:30 – 11:00

Translating research into innovation and impact

Industry–academia collaboration models

Commercialisation pathways and innovation ecosystems

Opportunities for UK–Morocco collaboration



Dr Mehmet Aydin

- **Project Role:** Research and Innovation Expert
- **Current Role:** Senior Lecturer in Computer Science, University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol.
- **Academic Background:** BSc, MA, and PhD degrees from Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul University, and Sakarya University, respectively.
- **Research Interests:** Machine learning, intelligent agents and multi-agent systems, metaheuristics, swarm intelligence, resource planning, scheduling and optimisation, and combinatorial optimisation.
- **Editorial and Professional Service:** Guest editor for special issues of peer-reviewed international journals; member of advisory committees for numerous international conferences; editorial board member of various academic journals.
- **Professional Affiliations:** Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (AdvanceHE, UK); Member of the EPSRC College; Senior Member of ACM and IEEE.

Research Governance, REF, and Institutional Impact

Dr Chaminda Hewage, Cardiff Metropolitan University

11:00 – 11:30

Research excellence and impact in the UK

Research governance and responsible innovation

Knowledge exchange and institutional collaboration

Building sustainable international partnerships

YI



Dr Chaminda Hewage

- **Current Role:** Reader (Associate Professor), Cardiff School of Technologies, Cardiff Metropolitan University; Associate Dean for Research
- **Expertise:** Computer security, multimedia communications, networked systems, research and innovation leadership.
- **Academic Background:** PhD (Multimedia Communications, University of Surrey); BSc Eng (Electrical and Information Engineering, First Class Honours, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka).
- **Experience:** Former Telecommunications Engineer at Sri Lanka Telecom; extensive leadership in research strategy, postgraduate programmes, and research environment development.
- **Recognition & Professional Standing:** Gold Medal for Engineering Excellence (University of Ruhuna); Overseas Research Scholarship (HEFCE/Universities UK); Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK); Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Teaching and Learning (Kingston University London).



Networking Break

11:30 – 11:45

YI

Today's Programme

11:45 – 12:15	**Partnerships, Knowledge Exchange, and Research Impact**	Andrew Schofield Environment Platform Wales
12:15 – 12:45	**Climate Adaptation Pathways: From Planning to Implementation**	Prof Carolyn Hayles
12:45 – 1:00	**Event Closing and Future Collaboration Pathways**	

Partnerships, Knowledge Exchange, and Research Impact



Andrew Schofield, Director, Environment Platform Wales

11:45 – 12:15

Building effective partnerships between academia, government and other stakeholders.

Translating research into policy and practice.

Knowledge exchange for environmental and climate resilience.

Lessons learned from collaborative research networks.



Andy Schofield

- **Current Role:** Director, Environment Platform Wales (EPW). **Leadership:** Leads initiatives connecting academia and government on environmental research in Wales.
- **Collaboration Focus:** Facilitates cross-disciplinary engagement with the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales.
- **Support for ECRs:** Actively supports early-career environmental professionals through outreach and career development initiatives across Wales.
- **Professional Background:** Extensive experience in fisheries, land management, conservation, and water quality.
- **Previous Experience:** Worked on the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon project before entering academia.
- **Community Engagement:** Active member of the South East Wales Rivers Trust, promoting river habitat protection and community awareness.

Climate Adaptation Pathways: From Planning to Implementation



Prof Carolyn Hayles, University of the Built Environment

12:15 – 12:45

Bridging the gap between climate adaptation planning and implementation

Using Climate Adaptation Pathways to identify risks, generate evidence, and support adaptation action

Strengthening governance, organisational learning, and adaptive capacity for climate resilience

Translating climate resilience research and planning into practical implementation



Prof Carolyn Hayles

- **Current Role:** Professor at the University of the Built Environment.
- **Experience:** Over 30 years of academic and professional practice across the UK, USA, Australia, Europe, Hong Kong, and Singapore.
- **Research Focus:** Sustainable decision-making, climate change mitigation, and adaptation.
- **Policy Engagement:** Current Policy Fellow with the Welsh Government, focusing on climate adaptation for cultural and heritage assets.
- **Fellowships:** Awarded funding from UKRI, including ESRC, AHRC, and BBSRC.

Future Collaboration Pathways & Closing Discussion

Part 5

12:45 – 13:00



Wrap-up and Next Steps



Key Takeaways

Shared understanding of project objectives, roles, and governance

Alignment on timeline, milestones, and ways of working

Strong institutional and strategic support for delivery



Upcoming Project Activities

Capacity-building and training activities

Support for collaborative research and innovation projects

Continued stakeholder engagement

UK–Morocco knowledge exchange activities

Development of the UK–Morocco Climate Resilience Network



Opportunities for Participation

Research collaboration

Industry engagement

Policy dialogue

Community engagement activities

Future funding opportunities

A UK–Morocco Network for Climate Resilience and Technology Research & Innovation

- The Network aims to:
  - Connect researchers, industry, policymakers, and community stakeholders.
  - Support the development and adoption of technology-driven climate resilience solutions.
  - Facilitate collaborative research, innovation, and capacity building.
  - Promote knowledge exchange across urban, peri-urban, and rural contexts.
  - Strengthen future UK–Morocco partnerships, funding opportunities, and sustainable impact.
- We Welcome Your Input
  - Your feedback will help shape the future priorities, activities, and partnerships of the Network.

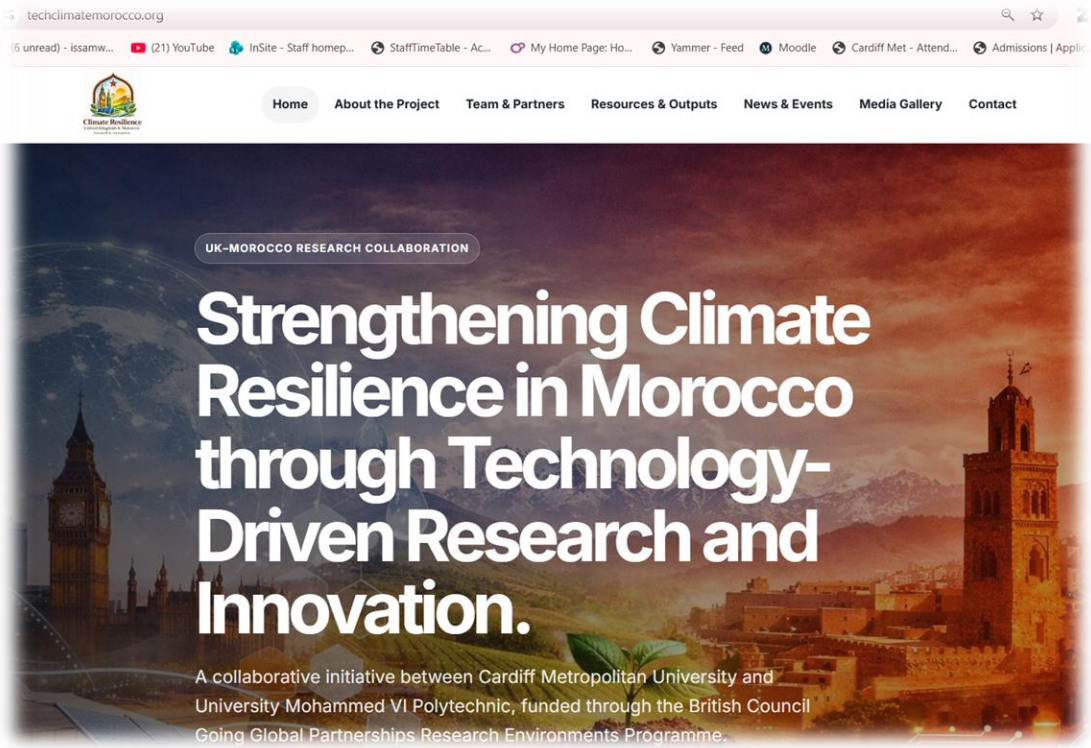
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Project Internet Profile

https://techclimatemorocco.org/

LinkedIn Page

Facebook Page









Empowering Women's Climate Change Resilience in Morocco Through Research and Technological Innovation: A Multidisciplinary Approach



Funded by

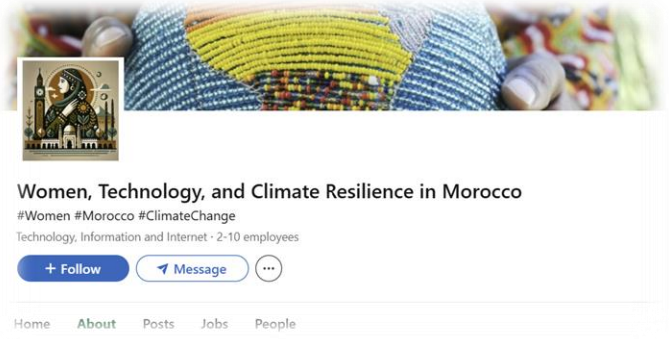
BRITISH COUNCIL

2025

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Project Internet Profile

- Website: https://www.climatemorocco.org/
- LinkedIn Page
- Facebook Page







Stakeholder Survey:
Help Shape Future UK Morocco Collaboration

We invite you to complete a short stakeholder survey to help inform:

- Climate resilience priorities and challenges in the UK and Morocco
- Future collaboration and knowledge exchange opportunities
- Capacity-building and support needs
- Development of the UK–Morocco Climate Resilience Research and Innovation Network
- Future project activities and stakeholder engagement initiatives

Stakeholder Survey:
Help Shape Future UK Morocco Collaboration



- Survey Details
  - Estimated completion time: 4–6 minutes
  - Responses will be treated confidentially
  - Your input will directly inform future project activities and network development
- Link: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/Mi9gmWiFmR



Event Pictures

Part 6


Climate Resilience
United Kingdom & Morocco
Research & Innovation
Thank You!