

Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI) summit 2021

Engaging Sciences with Action

Regional program for Europe, Africa, the Middle East

Organizing committee

Andrew Collins, Tom De Groeve, Jörgen Sparf (regional summit host)

Date and time

September 1, at 09:00–15:00 CET

Regional theme

Exploring solutions to bridge the gaps for implementation of science in action

Schedule

Time (CET)	Session
	Plenary
09:00–09:10	Welcome address by the regional hosts
09:10–10:15	Two keynotes + moderated discussion
Break, 15min.	
10:30–11:15	Discussion panel 1 <i>Bridging the Collaboration Gaps: Integrating DRR and CCA for a Science in Action Agenda</i>
Lunch break, 45 min.	
12:00–12:45	Discussion panel 2 <i>Bridging the Knowledge Gaps: Exploring solutions for Transforming Data into Action</i>
Break, 15 min.	
13:00–13:45	Discussion panel 3 <i>Bridging the Science–Policy Gaps: Contextualising Governance to Explore Opportunities for Action</i>
Break, 15 min.	
14:00–14:45	Discussion panel 4 <i>Bridging the Generational Gap: Catalysing Science in Action by Youth Engagement</i>
14:45–15:00	Conclusions in plenary Closing of the conference section

Overall introduction to the regional programme for Europe, Africa and Middle East

Exploring solutions to bridge the gaps for implementation of science in action

This regional programme complements the earlier stages in the overall Summit programme and will emphasise solution building. As evident across the full summit, there is a wealth of research that pervades the global disaster research effort, active through multiple contributors both formalised and well-known, or more hidden. However, in spite of efforts to build large integrated research programmes such as the European Union's Horizon Europe funding programme for research and innovation, this myriad of contributions often remains less than the potential sum of their individual parts, and as we see it do not keep pace with a rapidly building demand for more impactful science sufficient for dealing with every day and rapid onset risk and sustainability challenges. This part of the event has selected four areas within which researchers worldwide may actively contribute to transitioning solutions for current demands, bridging gaps in collaboration, knowledge, policy and inter-generationally. Each also assumes the context of COVID-19 as pertinent to growing awareness.

To this end, Discussion Panel 1 focuses on the inevitable convergence of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation fields in the current era of climate emergency. Evidence-based risk reduction and adaptation research, policy and practice agendas inclusive of ecologically and socially informed prevention and response approaches and technological advances are pervasive. This session is also associated with the COP26 Adaptation and Resilience series of events led by UKRI Natural Environment Research Council, the UK, for which GADRI is a partner institution. The section will also explain the Mission on Climate Change Adaptation and Societal Transformation, a new mission-oriented approach to R&I in the European Union. The aim is that items from this session and other parts of the GADRI Summit will feed into COP26 contributions through this collaboration. Discussion Panel 2 recognises that the global research community is only as effective as the usefulness and applications of its data. The session assumes the broadest definition of contributing forms of data, considering knowledge as active data and responding to the UNDRR 2019 Global Platform steer that "we need to make better use of existing data for information and action". Examples of ways of investing in this agenda are wide-ranging, and the session should serve as part of a process to include all facilitators and users of disaster-related data in a consolidated rethink of bridging gaps to greater levels of action. Discussion Panel 3 enables reflection on the tension between science in action that is evidence based, yet needing to be active in uncertainty, particularly alongside human behaviour and consequent policy environments otherwise driven. With governance systems in constant change, it is intended that this session will help researchers and the GADRI community to visualise new ways of working that bridge the inevitable gaps between science-based and politically driven cultures. Discussion panel 4 uses the opportunity of the summit to orient at the heart of risk and sustainability issues, the youth and the as yet unborn future. Global issues of survivability represented by disasters researchers get increasingly realised and speeded up further through youth engagement that no longer can be left on the periphery of science into action. Youth are already widely engaged, and the session will provide further impetus to research that will be followed up in GADRI actions on youth alongside its partners, including the UN Major Group on Youth.

Plenary session

09:00–09:10 **Welcome address** by Jörgen Sparf, regional organizing committee

Session chair: Andrew Collins

09:10–10:15 Keynote presentations and joint discussion

Tom de Groeve, Deputy Head of the Disaster Risk Management Unit at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre.

Nico Elema, Director of PeriPeri U, Stellenbosh University International, South Africa.

Discussion panel 1

Bridging the Collaboration Gaps: Integrating DRR and CCA for a Science in Action Agenda

Whilst barriers to demand led, interdisciplinary scholarship can be conceptual, methodological or constructed through working environments, the relationship between DRR and CCA emerge naturally as co-drivers of the same agenda. This symbiosis lies at their core, in that given the status of hazards related to the world's climate, to not adapt is to create greater disaster risk. Conversely, more effective DRR requires adaptation to every level of environmental, social and economic policy and practice. The process of enhancing both DRR and CCA is through consolidating learning and research, human behaviour and political will around a common agenda of improving short and long-term well-being. This session explores interconnected DRR and CCA solutions that close the gap around sustainable solutions complimentary in purpose, though often challenging in the practice of advancing the intended outcomes of the 2015-2030 UN agenda. How can we use the GADRI network of collaborating institutions to speed up disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation solutions based on evidence-based actions of the combined agenda?

Session chair: Andrew Collins

Panellists

Liviu Stirbat	Deputy Head, Adaptation Unit, European Directorate General for Climate Action; also representing Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans, Head of Europe Green Deal
Deidre Brock	Member of Parliament, Scottish Government. Deidre is Shadow SNP Spokesperson for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Desmond Manatsa	President of African Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (AADRI), Executive Dean Faculty of Science and Engineering and Professor of Climate Science, Bindura University of Science, Zimbabwe
Sarah Webb and Mark Pelling	United Kingdom Research and Innovation – Sarah is Associate Director Natural Environment Research Council and Chair of Adaption and Resilience

COP26 preparative programme. Mark is UKRI Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF) Challenge Leader, Chair of UK Disaster Research Group and Professor, King's College London.

Discussion panel 2

Bridging the Knowledge Gaps: Exploring solutions for Transforming Data into Action

In 2021, the EU will launch a new element in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism: A Knowledge Network. The Knowledge Network is thought up as a solution for pooling knowledge, expertise and experience across Participating States, as well as a place for debate on knowledge gaps and foresight for future disaster risk management. It has two components: training and exercise, and science. Panelists will discuss the new Knowledge Network and three concrete examples of transforming data into action. A further aspect of the session is to consider how communication and media development enables the bridging of knowledge gaps through a whole of society objective, influencing social and behavioural change to enable disaster risk reduction. What are the keys to more comprehensive bridging of knowledge gaps through activating data and information for utilized knowledge? How might GADRI institutions use their disaster research data processes to have more impact in disaster risk reduction?

Session chair: Tom De Groeve

Panelists

Marzia Santini	Scientific Officer and Knowledge Manager, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission; also representing the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre
Zuzana Stanton-Geddes	Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank
Lisa Robinson	Head of Advisory, BBC Media Action

Discussion panel 3

Bridging the Science–Policy Gaps: Contextualising Governance to Explore Opportunities for Action

The idea that policies should be based on, or informed by, value-free facts and proofs is attractive. The use of mathematical modelling and statistical indicators, for instance, conveys an impression of precision, prediction and control. Evidence-based policies emerged in the health and medicine field in the U.S. post World War II, in which scientific facts are produced by experimental designs, using randomised controlled trials and the systematic reviews of their results. After gaining traction in social policy programs in the 1980s and 1990s, we have witnessed a significant expansion of evidence-based policy in other social policy areas since the turn of the millennium. At present evidence-based policy is intended to apply to virtually all policy areas. For DRR, this poses a problem since the field spans over the whole society and is highly contextual—geographically, biologically, socially, and politically. Still, science-based policy for DRR has become increasingly pronounced since the launch of the SFDRR. This session will discuss how science can be turned actionable in various contexts and governance systems to support the bridging of science-policy gaps.

Session chair: Jörgen Sparf

Panelists	organization
David Alexander	Professor, Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction, University College London and Editor-in-Chief, International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction
Dzhergalbek Ukashev	Director for The Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction, Kazakhstan
Valeria Drigo	Responsible for leading GNDR's policy activities globally and supporting members' advocacy, Global Network of Civil Societal Organizations for Disaster Risk Reduction (GNDR)

Discussion panel 4

Bridging the Generational Gap: Catalysing Science in Action by Youth Engagement

Disaster learning and action has a generational divide in that younger people often command less influence on gatekeeping roles in education and research, and the social and political realms that can engage disaster prevention and response. Meanwhile the views about what matters for progress in reducing disasters and providing the means to better quality of life for future generations may be prioritised differently amongst younger generations than those in positions of greater influence. In a world of speeded up disaster threats and of mass communication the generational divided becomes more magnified. The gap between demand and supply of actions on disaster reduction in relation to young generational influences suggests that a way to catalyse greater steps towards the world becoming safer, healthier and free, is through its youth. This session opens the core topics covered in other sessions to a youth orientated discussion. How can current disaster research and advocacy support the young to become the change future generations need to become?

Session chair: Chipu Mudavanhu, Bindura University

Panelists	
Anaïs Couasnon	The United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth: The Science Policy Interface
Marie-Claire Graf	YOUNGO
Fang, Lian	Science Officer of IRDR and focal point of IRDR Young Scientists Programme
Ida Ngurah	Humanitarian and Resilience Program Manager, PLAN international, Indonesia