



WORLD APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS

A Biennial AAfH Anthropology for Humankind Event

29th–31st January 2026 | ICRISAT, Hyderabad

THEME:

**INTERWOVEN WORLDS: ANTHROPOLOGICAL
ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GLOBAL AND LOCAL CHALLENGES
OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION**

Organized by
**Anthropological
Association for Humankind**



Hosted by
ICRISAT Hyderabad



Knowledge Partners



हैदराबाद विश्वविद्यालय
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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO
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WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the World Applied Anthropology Congress 2026 (WAAC-2026), it is with great pleasure and deep appreciation that we welcome you to this distinguished global gathering.

WAAC-2026 marks the Second Biennial Flagship Event of the Anthropological Association for Humankind (AAfH)—a growing movement dedicated to advancing applied anthropology as a force for human flourishing and social transformation.

This year's theme, "Interwoven Worlds – Anthropological Engagement with the Global and Local Challenges of Climate Change and Migration," invites us to confront two of the most defining challenges of our time. As the world faces mounting environmental disruptions and intensifying patterns of migration, anthropology offers an essential, human-centered lens—rooted in culture, ethics, and lived experience—to shape sustainable, just, and inclusive responses.

WAAC-2026 is not merely a conference—it is a space for co-learning, co-creation, and collective action. We are honored to host a rich and diverse community of ethnographers, Indigenous leaders, applied anthropologists, researchers, scientists, environmentalists, materiologists, ecologists, climate activists, policymakers, NGOs, engineers, technologists, and social scientists. Together, we aim to share insights, elevate underrepresented voices, and shape solutions that transcend disciplines and borders.

This Congress is committed to generating tangible, lasting outcomes: from community toolkits and policy briefs, to collaborative research projects and shared declarations. More than that, WAAC-2026 aspires to build a global, enduring network of engaged scholars and practitioners, united in their pursuit of ethical, impactful responses to the interwoven crises of our age.

We warmly invite you to participate with purpose—through presentations, workshops, dialogues, and informal exchanges—and to help shape the future of applied anthropology as a vital tool for change.

May WAAC-2026 be intellectually rich, socially engaging, and personally inspiring.

Welcome to the Congress. Welcome to the interwoven worlds of WAAC-2026.

With warmest regards,



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Convenor



Dr. Pedarattaiah Gadde
Convenor



Dr. Ananda Gandikota
Co-Convenor



Prof. Bartholomew C. Dean
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Prof. Barnabas Danborn
Co-Convenor

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Founder & Chairman,
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Prof. Bartholomew C. Dean
Prof. Rabindranath Duggirala

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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Theme: *Interwoven Worlds: Anthropological Engagement with the Global and Local Challenges of Climate Change and Migration*

A Biennial AAfH Anthropology for Humankind Event

The World Applied Anthropology Congress (WAAC) is the biennial flagship event of the Anthropological Association for Humankind (AAfH), serving as a premier platform for interdisciplinary engagement on pressing global challenges. WAAC-2026, hosted by ICRISAT, will focus on the intersection of climate change and migration—two defining issues of our time—through the lens of applied anthropology and allied sciences.

The World Applied Anthropology Congress (WAAC-2026), the biennial flagship event of the Anthropological Association for Humankind (AAfH), is dedicated to advancing applied anthropological research and practice in response to the critical global challenges of our time. Under the unifying theme *Interwoven Worlds*, WAAC-2026 will emphasize anthropology's unique capacity to integrate the global and the local challenges, theory and practice, past, present, and future—through focused engagement to address the issues of climate change and migration.

Scheduled for 29–31 January 2026 at ICRISAT in Hyderabad, India, this Congress will bring together scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and activists from around the world. WAAC-2026 is designed to foster transdisciplinary collaboration, generate actionable solutions, and showcase anthropology's potential in understanding and addressing human and environmental transformations.

WAAC-2026 will bring together anthropologists, policymakers, environmental scientists, economists, migration experts, and community leaders to foster a transdisciplinary dialogue on these critical issues. Through research presentations, policy discussions, and collaborative workshops, the congress will explore how anthropological insights can inform climate resilience strategies, sustainable adaptation models, and equitable migration policies. WAAC-2026 aims to be a transformative platform that goes beyond academic discourse to drive action-oriented solutions. By bridging global expertise with local realities, the congress will facilitate knowledge exchange, build policy recommendations, and foster collaborative networks to tackle climate change and migration challenges holistically.

Tracks & Sub-Themes:

Each track will be accompanied by a Plenary Session Speaker, fostering deep dives into interdisciplinary and applied conversations.

Climate Change–Related Tracks (1–7)

1. Climate Adaptation: Strategies, Policies, and Implementation

- Advancing inclusive and multi-sectoral strategies for climate adaptation
- Integrating diverse and equitable knowledge systems for climate adaptation

2. Climate Resilience: Strengthening Systems for a Changing Climate

- Systems-based approaches to climate resilience across sectors and scales
- Innovations, governance, and community strategies for strengthening climate resilience

3. Climate Mitigation: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Enhancing Carbon Sinks

- Decarbonizing systems through renewable energy, sustainable practices, and circular economy models
- Innovative technologies and nature-based solutions for carbon sequestration and climate mitigation

4. Climate Action: Practical Implementation of Climate Solutions

- Multilevel governance, corporate strategies, and community engagement for climate action
- Technological innovation, energy transition, and impact evaluation of climate solutions

5. Climate Justice: Ethical, Social, and Human Rights Aspects

- Equity, rights, and representation in climate governance
- Integrating indigenous knowledge, gender, and justice in climate response

6. Climate Finance: Financial Mechanisms and Investments

- Innovative climate finance mechanisms and investment strategies
- Equity, accountability, and access in global and local climate finance

7. Climate Narratives & Visual Storytelling

- Narratives and media representations of climate change and migration
- Artistic, cultural, and community-based storytelling for climate engagement

Migration-Related Tracks (8–14)

8. Interwoven Histories: Archaeology of Migration and Climate Change

- Archaeological responses to environmental and societal stress
- Migration routes and cultural hybridity in material culture

9. Biocultural Transformations and Climate Stress

- Biological Anthropology, adaptation, migration, population genetics, and genetic epidemiology
- Biocultural health impacts of displacement

10. Cultural Dimensions of Climate and Migration – Diaspora and Identity

- Diaspora and identity
- Indigenous ecological knowledge and climate adaptation

11. Language, Communication, and Integration

- Linguistic anthropology in contexts of displacement
- Language revitalization, communication, and environmental storytelling

12. Technologies of Witnessing: Visual and Digital Anthropology

- Media, digital methods, and storytelling in climate/migration research
- Documentation, ethics, and new narrative forms

13. Anthropology of Policy and Governance

- Climate and migration governance through anthropological critique
- Participatory policy design and intersectionality

14. AI and Anthropological Futures

- Artificial intelligence in ethnographic research
- Algorithmic governance and the anthropology of prediction

We are calling for submissions of full panels, round tables, individual (or co-authored) papers, posters, and sessions of "rapid-fire talks" focused on a theme. All presentations and papers must be given in English.

To increase participation from around the world, presentations may be given virtually or in-person. Questions can be directed to waac2026@aaafh.org

CLICK HERE

to make your Submission

CLICK HERE

to Register Online

WAAC–2026 OBJECTIVES

Theme: “Interwoven Worlds: Anthropological Engagement with the Global and Local Challenges of Climate Change and Migration”

1. Foster Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Collaboration

Objective: To convene experts from diverse domains—anthropology, climate science, disaster studies, migration studies, ecology, economics, development practice, policy research, technology, and humanities—into a common platform that enables dialogue, co-creation of knowledge, and integrated action plans.

2. Promote Culturally Sensitive Climate Action

Objective: To identify how local cultures, rituals, environmental worldviews, and community institutions shape adaptation and mitigation strategies across diverse ecosystems and geographies.

3. Mainstream Indigenous and Local Knowledge Systems

Objective: To validate and integrate indigenous ecological knowledge, oral histories, farming practices, and conservation methods into climate governance, academic discourse, and public education.

4. Address Climate-Induced Displacement and Migration

Objective: To investigate the root causes, patterns, experiences, and socio-cultural consequences of migration triggered by climate variability, resource stress, and extreme weather events.

5. Strengthen Evidence-Based, Culturally Informed Policy Frameworks

Objective: To shape national and international policies on climate and migration using anthropological evidence about meaning-making, belief systems, governance structures, and social trust.

6. Cultivate Youth Engagement and Future Anthropological Leadership

Objective: To involve students, emerging scholars, grassroots innovators, and youth leaders through fellowships, research grants, internships, and knowledge-sharing platforms.

7. Develop Technological Tools for Community-Centered Research

Objective: To advance digital anthropology, participatory GIS, storytelling platforms, and meaning-mapping tools like Human Meaning Orientation Theory (HMOT) for co-producing knowledge.

8. Advocate for Equity, Gender Sensitivity, and Climate Justice

Objective: To foreground intersectional analyses of vulnerability—examining how gender, caste, race, class, disability, age, and indigeneity intersect with environmental challenges.

9. Generate Actionable Research, Toolkits, and Policy Briefs

Objective: To translate high-quality anthropological research into usable formats such as guidelines, briefs, training manuals, community toolkits, and media products.

10. Strengthen South-South and Triangular Cooperation Networks

Objective: To build transregional partnerships among institutions and scholars from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific, and connect them with institutions in Europe and North America.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF WAAC-2026

Theme: Interwoven Worlds: Anthropological Engagements with the Global and Local Challenges of Climate Change and Migration

Dates: January 29–31, 2026 | **Venue:** ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India

Global Knowledge Convergence

WAAC-2026 will convene leading anthropologists, policymakers, scientists, and civil society actors to co-produce transformative knowledge on climate change, migration, adaptation, and resilience.

Alignment: SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 17 (Partnerships), UNFCCC Paris Agreement (Art. 7 on adaptation).

Policy-Informed Action Frameworks

The Congress will deliver actionable policy recommendations and frameworks grounded in applied anthropological insights, supporting just transitions and localized responses to global threats.

Alignment: SDG 16 (Peace, Justice), CSR focus on governance, UNFCCC Global Stocktake mechanism.

Community-Centered Innovations

Showcasing grassroots and indigenous strategies of climate resilience and cultural adaptation, the Congress emphasizes community wisdom in future-oriented sustainability planning.

Alignment: SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 15 (Life on Land), CSR on local community development.

South–South and South–North Collaborations

WAAC-2026 aims to strengthen networks between institutions and researchers across the Global South and Global North, enhancing mutual learning and joint research.

Alignment: SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 9 (Innovation & Infrastructure), CSR on global equity.

Youth & Indigenous Leadership Forums

Special sessions will nurture next-generation scholars and indigenous voices through fellowships, platforms for visibility, and mentorship.

Alignment: SDG 4 (Quality Education), UNFCCC Action for Climate Empowerment, CSR on inclusive education.

Launch of the Hyderabad Declaration on Climate and Culture

A formal declaration articulating commitments to cultural, ecological, and ethical stewardship in the Anthropocene will be released and endorsed.

Alignment: SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption), UNFCCC COP-level cultural side events, CSR ethical mandates.

Strategic Collaborations and Institutional Alliances

New partnerships will be forged with global organizations, research councils, and multilateral institutions to scale the anthropological contributions to global agendas.

Alignment: SDG 17 (Partnerships), CSR on strategic alliances and science diplomacy.

Publication of Congress Proceedings

Peer-reviewed publication of presented papers and insights will contribute to global scholarship and policymaking on climate change, migration, and cultural transitions.

Alignment: SDG 9 (Research & Innovation), CSR on thought leadership and public access to science.

Digital Archives and Learning Platforms

A legacy digital archive of the Congress will be created, enabling open access to presentations, interviews, indigenous testimonies, and working group reports.

Alignment: SDG 4 (Lifelong Learning), CSR on knowledge sharing and transparency.

Blueprint for Future Anthropological Congresses

WAAC-2026 will set a replicable model for integrating anthropological insights into global and local policy design, including Congresses focused on climate-affected regions.

Alignment: SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 1 (No Poverty), UNFCCC Loss & Damage agenda, CSR on climate-resilient planning.

IMPORTANT DATES

**ABSTRACTS
SUBMISSION PORTAL
OPENS**

01st July 2025

**CLOSING DATE FOR
SUBMISSION OF
ABSTRACTS**

30th September 2025

**NOTIFICATION OF
ACCEPTANCE OF
ABSTRACTS**

31st October 2025

**NOTIFICATION OF THE
PROGRAM SCHEDULE
WAAC 2026**

15th November 2025

**CLOSING DATE FOR
REGISTRATIONS**

29th January 2026

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

In-person attendees	Amount
High-Income Countries	\$200
In-Person Faculty member	\$150
In-Person Postdoctoral/Other Scholar non-member	\$150
In-Person Postdoctoral/Other Scholar member	\$100
In-Person Student non-member	\$50
In-Person Student member	\$25

Other Countries	Amount
In-Person Faculty non-member	\$50
In-Person Faculty member	\$35
In-Person Postdoctoral/Other Scholar non-member	\$25
In-Person Postdoctoral/Other Scholar member	\$10
In-Person Student non-member	\$10
In-Person Student member	\$5

Virtual Attendees	Amount
High-Income Countries	
Virtual Faculty non-member	\$150
Virtual Faculty member	\$100
Virtual Postdoctoral/Other Scholar non-member	\$80
Virtual Postdoctoral/Other Scholar member	\$40
Virtual Student non-member	\$28
Virtual Student member	\$20

Other Countries	Amount
Virtual Faculty non-member	\$35
Virtual Faculty member	\$25
Virtual Postdoctoral/Other Scholar non-member	\$20
Virtual Postdoctoral/Other Scholar member	\$8
Virtual Student non-member	\$8
Virtual Student member	\$4

Notes

Online registration opens 1st July 2025 and should be complete by 15th January 2026. Registration closes on 15th January 2026.

**SCAN QR CODE
TO REGISTER**



**Online Registration Opens
01st July 2025**

**Online Registration Ending
15th January 2026**

WAAC-2026 VENUE



ICRISAT as the Venue for WAAC-2026

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), headquartered in Patancheru, Hyderabad, India, is a globally renowned institution dedicated to agricultural research and development in dryland regions. Established in 1972, ICRISAT focuses on improving agricultural productivity, enhancing food and nutritional security, and promoting sustainable farming practices in the semi-arid tropics.

ICRISAT's Hyderabad campus offers state-of-the-art facilities suitable for hosting international conferences like the World Applied Anthropology Congress 2026 (WAAC-2026). The campus includes well-equipped conference halls, meeting rooms, and accommodation facilities, all set within a serene and green environment conducive to academic and professional gatherings.

Hosting Institution and Knowledge Partner

As the hosting institution and knowledge partner for WAAC-2026, ICRISAT brings extensive experience in organizing international conferences and workshops. The institute has previously hosted events such as the Inter Drought-V conference, which brought together over 900 delegates from 56 countries. ICRISAT's expertise in facilitating knowledge exchange and fostering collaborations makes it an ideal partner for WAAC-2026.

Conference Facilities

ICRISAT's main conference hall is designed to accommodate large gatherings and is equipped with modern audiovisual technology. The facility has hosted numerous high-profile events, providing a professional setting for keynote speeches, panel discussions, and workshops.





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