



WORLD APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS

A Biennial AAfH Anthropology for Humankind Event

29th–31st January 2026
ICRISAT, Hyderabad

Theme:
*Interwoven Worlds:
Anthropological
Engagement with
Climate Change and
Migration*



Organized By
**Anthropological
Association**



Hosted By
**ICRISAT
Hyderabad**

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,



Prof. N.K. Ambasht
Honorary Convenor



Prof. V. Narayana Reddy
Convenor



Dr. Pedarattaiah Gadde
Convenor



Dr. Ananda Gandikota
Co-Convenor



Prof. Bartholomew C. Dean
Co-Convenor



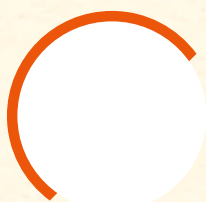
Prof. Barnabas Danborn
Co-Convenor

STEERING COMMITTEE



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AAfH GOVERNING COUNCIL



Prof. V. Narayana Reddy
President



Dr. Gandikota Ananda
Vice President



Prof. Bartholomew Crispin Dean
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Dr. Praveen Hoogar
Executive Member



**Dr. Doraboina
Udaya Kumar**
Executive Member



Dr. Raj Kumar Kattula
Executive Member

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS



Prof. Edward Liebow
Former Executive Director,
American Anthropological
Association;
Department of Anthropology,
Washington University, USA



Prof. Jim Skea
Chair, Intergovernmental Panel
on Climate Change (IPCC),
Zenewa, Switzerland



Prof. Vijoy S. Sahay
Former Head,
Department of Anthropology,
University of Allahabad,
Gujarat, India



Prof. Amitabh Pande
Director, Indira Gandhi
Rastriya Manav
Sangrahalay, Bhopal,
U.P, India



Prof. Abhijit Guha
Former Head,
Department of Anthropology,
Vidyasagar University,
West Bengal, India.



Dr. Ram Krishna Nemani
Senior Earth Scientist & Advisor,
NASA Earth eXchange (NEX);
Ames Associate Fellow;
Founder, Niruthi Climate &
Ecosystem Services, USA



**Mr. Harish Chandra
Prasad Yarlagadda**
Founder & Director,
Malaxmi Energy Ventures(India)
Private Limited.
Hyderabad, India.



Mr. Aditya Pundir
Director,
The Climate Reality
Foundation,
India & South Asia

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Theme: *Interwoven Worlds: Anthropological Engagement with 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 waac2025@aaafh.org

IMPORTANT DATES

**ABSTRACTS
SUBMISSION PORTAL
OPENS**

01st July 2025

**CLOSING DATE FOR
SUBMISSION OF
ABSTRACTS**

15th August 2025

**NOTIFICATION OF
ACCEPTANCE OF
ABSTRACTS**

15th 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 June 2025 and should be complete by 15th January 2026. Registration closes on 15th January 2026.

Online Registration Opens
01st July 2025

Online Registration Ending
15th January 2025

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.





Knowledge Partners



इन्दिरा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India

कला यस्मिन् प्रतिष्ठिता:

Congress Secretariat

Organized By



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waac2026.com

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Founder & Director – Operations & BD

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