

# Improving climate information on Wikimedia

The UK's first residency for climate

Lucy Crompton-Reid  
Chief Executive  
Wikimedia UK

**WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE**



**Wikimedia UK's  
vision is of a more  
informed,  
democratic and  
equitable society  
through open  
knowledge**

**WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE**





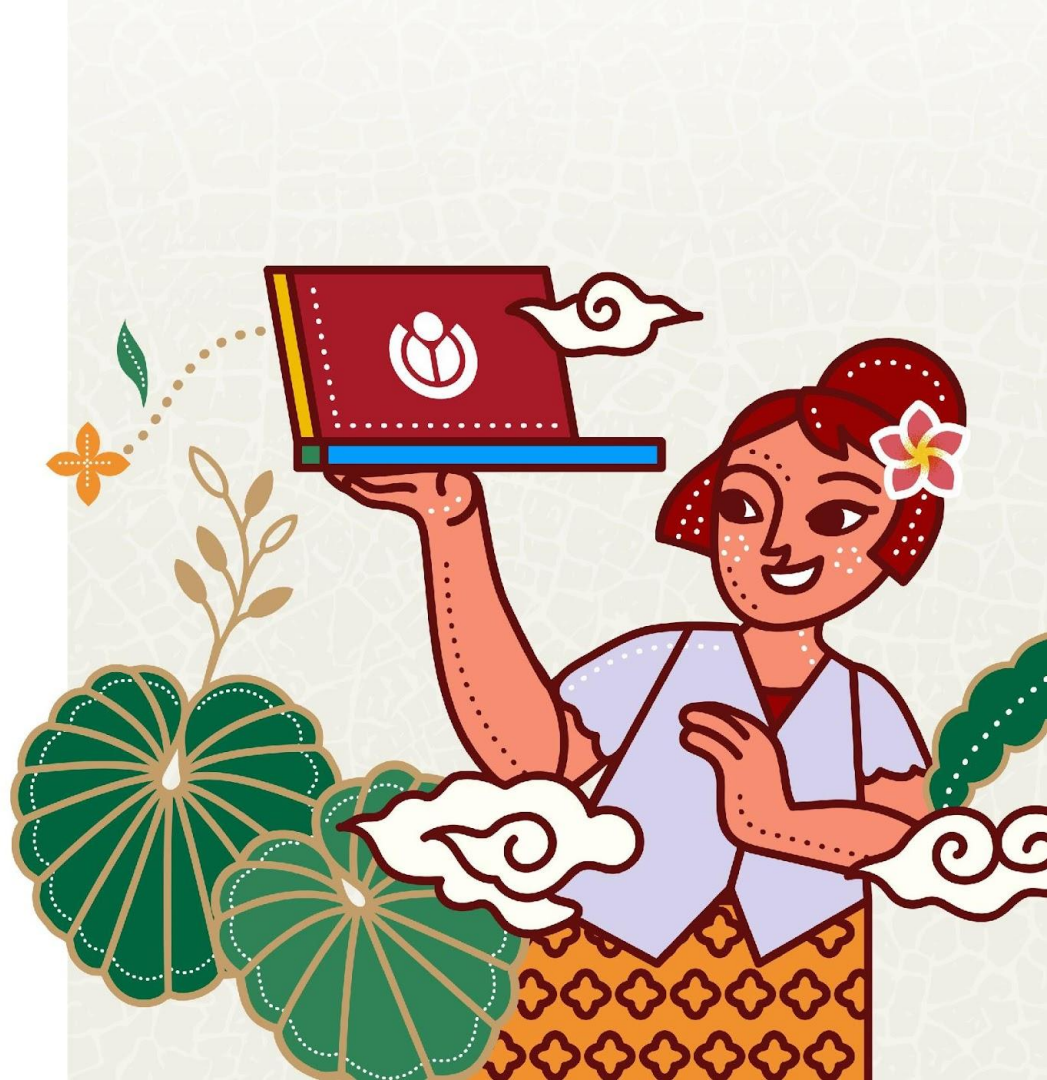
**WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE**

**Our mission is to enable people to engage with open knowledge and access reliable information in order to develop their understanding of the world, and make informed decisions about issues that affect them.**

## Key facts about us

- 16 staff across the UK
- A highly diverse board of 11 trustees
- Hundreds of community leaders, half of whom are women
- Major partnerships with world-renowned cultural and educational institutions

**WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE**



## Impact and Reach, 21/22

- 236 events, 46% focused on underrepresented content
- Over 1200 new editors trained
- 843,440 articles created/improved through our programmes, with 250 million views of articles
- 15 billion views of images released through our partnerships

**WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE**



**Climate & Environment is one of Wikimedia UK's three strategic themes for 2022–2025. It recognises the accelerating climate crisis and Wikimedia's vital role in providing up-to-date, accurate and unbiased information about the impact of climate breakdown on our planet and people, as well as potential actions, mitigations and adaptations.**

**WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE**



# Wikimedia's climate coverage could be better

The number of editors working on climate is small, with little expert input. Coverage of issues impacting the global majority is poor, and mis/disinformation is a concern on non-English wikis. Greenwashing is an issue, compounded by a lack of open data from climate NGOs.

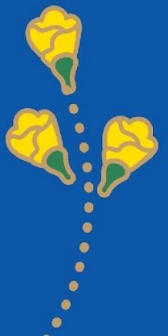
**WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE**



# Wikimedia Visiting Fellow at the Global Systems Institute

In October 2022, Wikimedia UK and the University of Exeter launched a new partnership, with the appointment of a Wikimedia Visiting Fellow at the Global Systems Institute. The partnership came about due to the work and connections of Wikipedia's dedicated - if small - community of editors contributing to climate topics, the support of the GSI's management team, and funding from an external foundation.

WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE



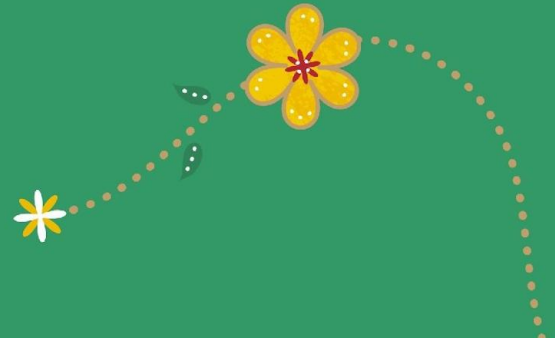


# Global Systems Institute

**Securing our future by bringing research ideas to life**

The Global Systems Institute is thought-leading in understanding global changes, solving global challenges and helping create a flourishing future world together, through transformative research, education and impact.

**WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE**



# Project activities

- Internal advocacy
- Events and training
- Student engagement
- Expert outreach
- External advocacy
- Partnerships
- Content releases
- Improving imagery

**WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE**

## EDIT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

*Wikipedia editathon*

Learn how to edit  
Wikipedia & contribute  
to open source climate  
knowledge

26th January 2023



University  
of Exeter

Global Systems  
Institute



WIKIMEDIA  
UK

# Choosing articles

- Related to climate change
- Identified as needing improvement by editing community
- Missing climate change links
- Lower quality scores prioritised
- Higher page views prioritised

**WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE**



# Tackling misinformation

## Coral reef

🌐 85 languages ▾

---

Article Talk Read Edit Edit source View history ☆

---

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia 🔒

Greenhouse gas emissions present a broader threat through sea temperature rise and sea level rise, resulting in widespread coral bleaching and loss of coral cover.<sup>[160]</sup> ~~though~~ Ocean acidification also affects corals by decreasing calcification rates and increasing dissolution rates, although corals can adapt their calcifying fluids to changes in seawater pH and carbonate levels and are not directly threatened by ocean acidification to mitigate the impact.<sup>[161]</sup> <sup>[162]</sup> Volcanic and manmade aerosol pollution can modulate regional sea surface temperatures.<sup>[163]</sup>



# Improving coverage of key concepts

- Collaborating with an external organisation to develop the 'Net Zero' article, to distinguish concept from 'Carbon Neutrality.'
- Clarifying these differences helps people understand the strategies, goals, and implications associated with each term, which is crucial for organisations making decisions and setting goals related to climate change.
- Clear information helps ensure actions are based on an understanding of the different strategies and their impacts.

**WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE**



# External advocacy

- Encouraging researchers to think about using Wikipedia as an impactful communications platform for their work.
- State of Global Tipping Points report - to be launched at COP28.
- Sharing research on Wikipedia makes it available to millions.

WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE



**Global Systems Institute** @GS... · 31m · Knowledge is Power! See [@TatjanaBaleta](#) at Dartington Hall Writing Retreat breaking barriers with an innovative approach to spreading [#climatechange](#) awareness. Armed with [#Wikipedia](#), she's bridging the gap between literature and environmental consciousness [#LiteratureMeetsActivism](#)



# Partnership working

In collaboration with Wikimedia New York City, Earth Alliance and influencer @depthsofwikipedia we organised a climate change editathon in NYC. Key themes were 1) How we eat, 2) How we move, 3) How we live, 4) What inspires us. The event was attended by new and established editors and resulted in a positive, collaborative space with good quality edits made to articles including the impact of flying first or business class; cocoa production in Ghana; and fishing economy concerns in the Revillagigedo Islands.

**WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE**



## Key achievements by July 2023

- 8 editathon events
- 70+ editors trained
- 248 articles edited
- 7 million page views



**WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE**



# Challenges and key observations

- **Securing a work visa!**
- **Academic timetables and ongoing strikes**
- **Expert availability and involvement**
- **Retaining interest in editathons**
- **No metric for quality of edits**

**Next steps: Securing funding for a second year of the residency, and expanding the work to Wikipedia en español.**

**WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE**





**WIKIMANIA  
SINGAPORE**