



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

Workshop Day 1

May 27, 2025

Funded by





Welcome and Opening Remarks

Part 1

10:00 – 10:15 AM



Introduction



1

Background: Climate change disproportionately impacts women, particularly in developing regions like Morocco.



2

Vision: Empowering women to be leaders in climate resilience through interdisciplinary approaches, mainly through the integration of technology.



3

Alignment: British Council's focus on equitable and inclusive higher education partnerships.

Project Objectives

1

Empower ECRs from diverse disciplines to tackle climate challenges.

2

Promote gender equality by integrating women's perspectives into research and solutions.

3

Enable long-term collaboration between UK and Moroccan institutions.

4

Develop scalable and impactful technological solutions to local and global challenges.



Cardiff
Metropolitan
University

Prifysgol
Metropolitan
Caerdydd



Welcome and Introductions



Lead Applicants:

Dr Issam Damaj, Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK

Dr Loubna Mekouar, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic, Morocco



Mentors & External Experts:

Prof Elizabeth Redmond and Dr Fiona Carroll, Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK

Prof Dalila Loudyi and Prof Rachida El Morabet, Hassan II University, Morocco

Dr Mehmet Aydin and Dr Mazhar Mali, University of the West of England, Bristol, UK



Emphasis:

Interdisciplinary expertise across STEM, social sciences, and environmental fields.

Associate Partners



UK Partners:

Environment Platform Wales
Menter Môn



Moroccan Partners:

Association Democratique des
Femmes du Maroc
Moroccan Coalition for Climate
Justice

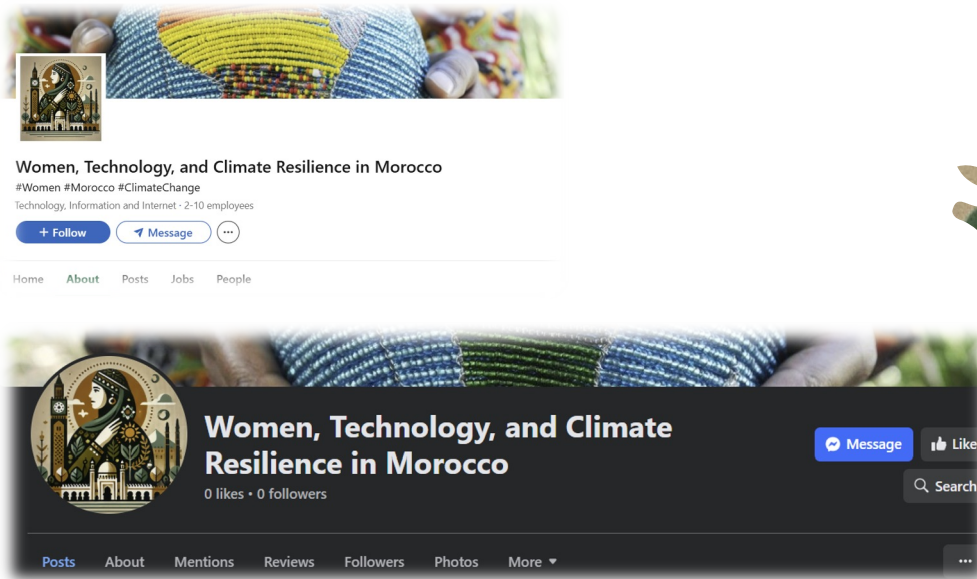


Roles:

Networking, stakeholder
engagement, and scaling project
outcomes.

Project Internet Profile

- Website (Under Construction)
- [LinkedIn Page](#)
- [Facebook Page](#)





Guest of Honor

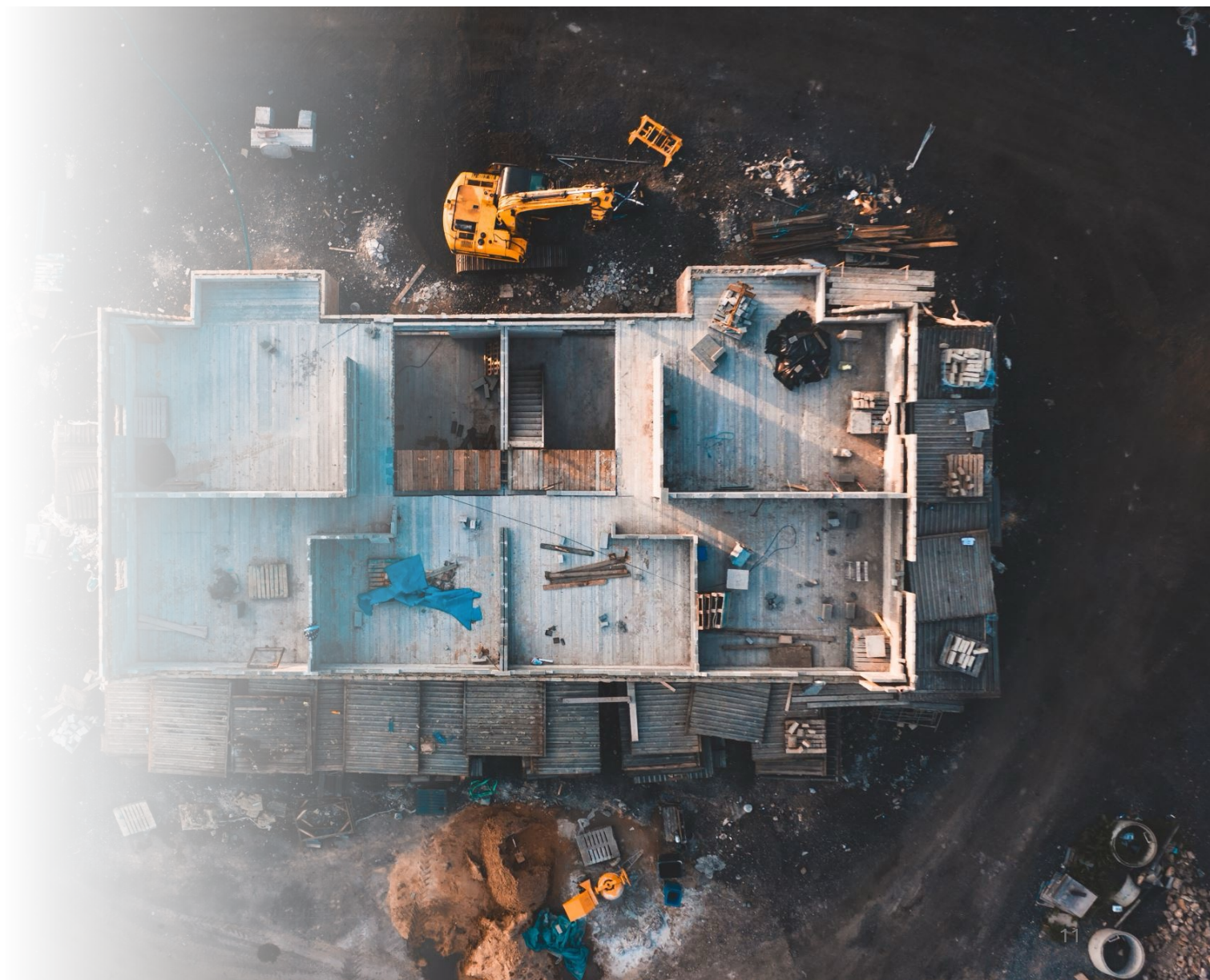
- Ms Alexandra Balafrej,
Country Director, British
Council Morocco

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Keynote Session

Part 2

10:15 – 11:00 AM



Workshop Overview



Structure:

Day 1: Introductions, thematic presentations, and setting objectives.

Days 2–3: Hands-on training, mentoring, and project development.

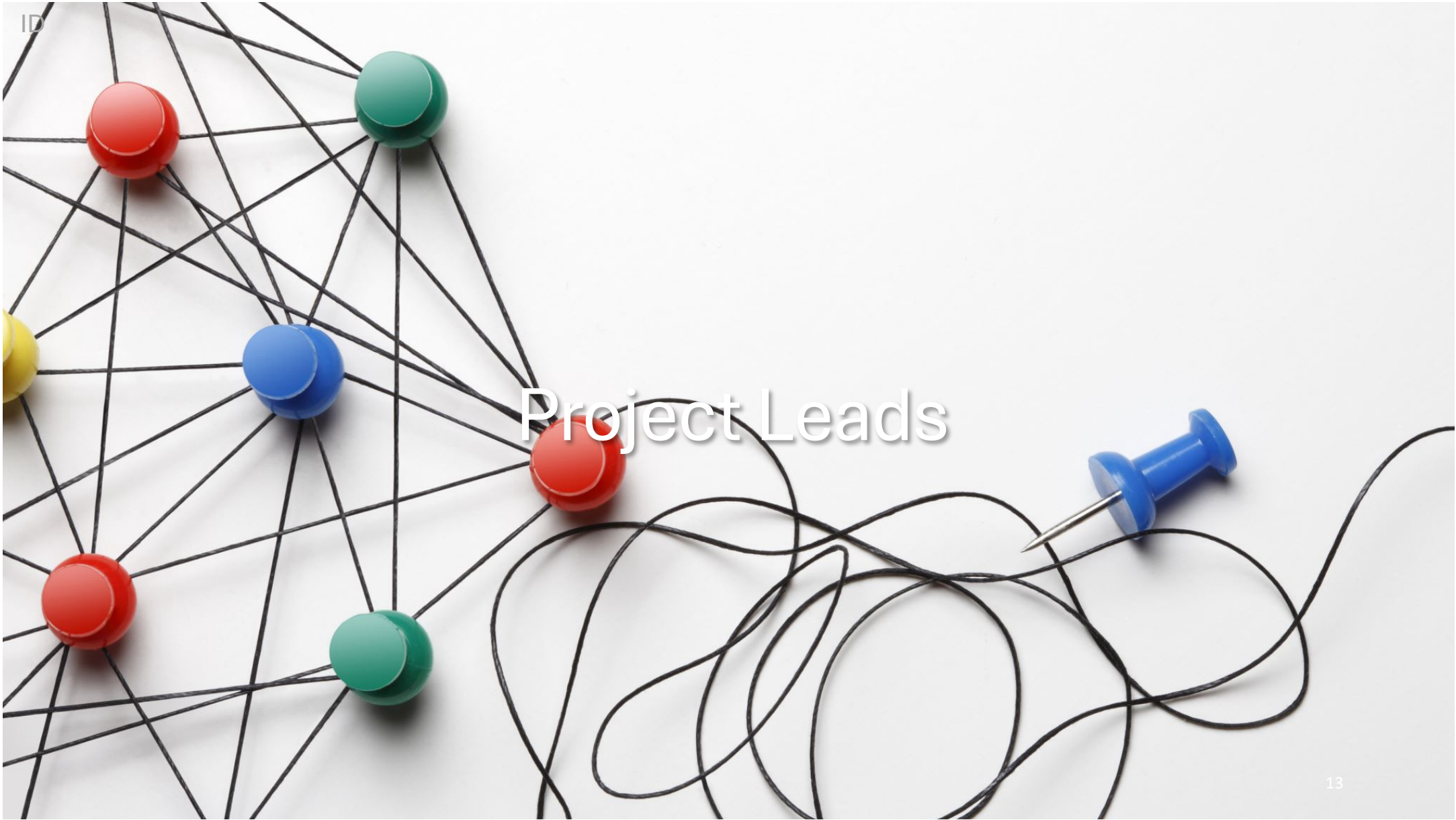
Day 4: Challenge Prize proposal presentations and judging.



Themes: Digital technology, food safety, gender and ethics, climate resilience.

ID

Project Leads





Dr Issam Damaj

- **Current Role:** Senior Lecturer & Programme Director of Computer Science, Cardiff Metropolitan University; Co-Director, CeRISS.
- **Expertise:** Embedded systems, smart technologies, engineering education.
- **Academic Background:** PhD (Computer Science, London South Bank University); Masters (American University of Beirut); Bachelors (Beirut Arab University).
- **Experience:** Professorial roles in Lebanon, Kuwait, and Oman.
- **Contributions:** 100+ research publications, Editor/Reviewer (IEEE, Elsevier, Wiley, Springer), Senior IEEE & IET member.
- **Recognition:** Multiple awards for mentoring, research, and academic excellence.
- **Website:** www.idamaj.net



Dr Loubna Mekouar

- **Current Role:** Assistant Professor, College of Computing, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic (UM6P), Morocco.
- **Expertise:** Peer-to-peer systems, trust/reputation management, recommender systems, computing education.
- **Academic Background:** PhD (Computer Science, University of Waterloo, Canada); MSc (Computer Science, University of Montreal, Canada).
- **Previous Experience:** Assistant Professor, Zayed University, UAE, and Lecturer, Dhofar University, Oman.
- **Contributions:** Active in international conferences organization and technical program committees.
- **Professional Affiliations:** Senior Member, IEEE; Fellow, Higher Education Academy (AdvanceHE, UK).

Keynote Session: Climate Resilience & Gender Equity

- Talk 1: "**Approaches to Decision-making in Climate Resilience and Adaptation**"

Speaker: Prof Carolyn Hales, Cardiff Met, UK

- Talk 2: "Climate Change in Morocco and Impacts"

Speaker: Prof Fatima Driouech, UM6P, Morocco

- 15 min talk + 15 min talk + 15 min Q&A



Prof Carolyn Hayles

- **Current Role:** Chair of Environmental and Sustainable Design, Cardiff School of Art and Design, Cardiff Metropolitan University.
- **Leadership:** Leads the CARDI Research Group (Climate Adaptation Research and Design Initiatives).
- **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.

Keynote Session: Climate Resilience & Gender Equity

- Talk 1: "Approaches to Decision-making in Climate Resilience and Adaptation"
Speaker: Prof Carolyn Hales, Cardiff Met, UK
- Talk 2: “**Climate Change in Morocco and Impacts**”
Speaker: Prof Fatima Driouech, UM6P, Morocco
- 15 min talk + 15 min talk + 15 min Q&A



Prof Fatima Driouech

- **Current Role:** Associate professor at UM6P and the scientific coordinator of its climate modeling project within IWRI.
- **Academic Background:** a PhD in sciences of the universe, environment, and land surfaces from the Polytechnic Institute of Toulouse.
- **Previous Roles:** Former Head of Morocco's Meteorological Research Center and National Climate Centre.
- **International Engagement:** Co-chair of the World Meteorological Organization Standing Committee on Climate Services.
- **Regional Involvement:** Active contributor to the Mediterranean Climate Outlook Forum (MedCOF).
- **Research Focus:** Climate science, adaptation, and resilience in Morocco and North Africa.
- **Capacity Building:** Leads training and institutional development efforts across Moroccan research and policy institutions.
- **Publications:** Widely published in climate monitoring, adaptation strategies, and regional climate resilience.

Questions & Answers

Prof Carolyn Hales, Cardiff Met, UK

Prof Fatima Driouech, UM6P, Morocco

Duration: 15 minutes

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Break

11:00 – 11:15 AM

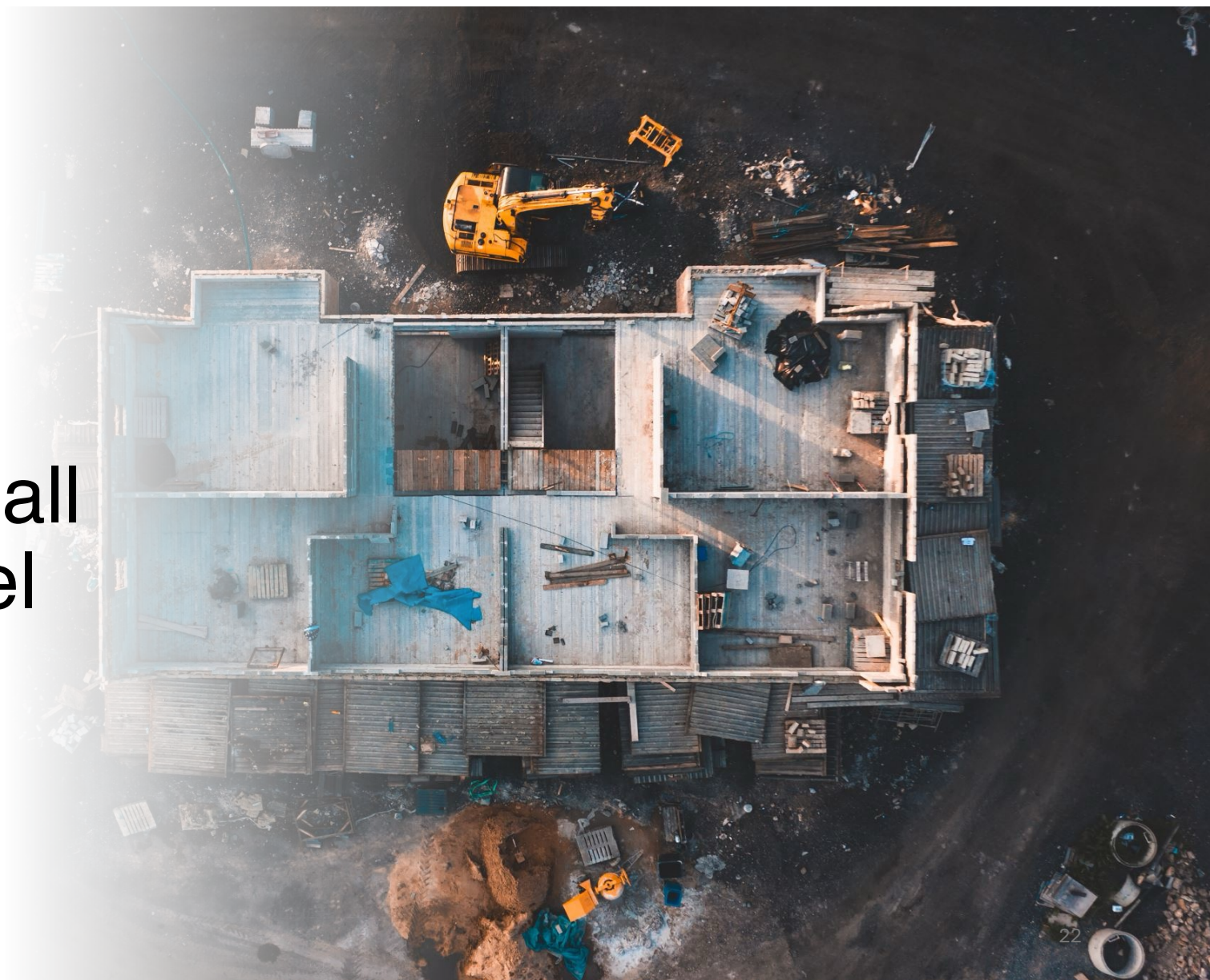


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Expert Small Talks Panel

Part 3

11:15 AM – 12:30





Mentors

Expert Small Talks Panel

"Water and Energy Solutions for Enhancing Drought and Flood Resilience for Most Vulnerable Population in Arid Zones" – Prof. Dalila Loudyi (Mentor, Morocco)

"Climate Change and Food Safety" – Prof. Elizabeth Redmond (Mentor, UK)

"Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) for Advancing Climate Resilience and Gender Equality" – Dr. Fiona Carroll (Mentor, UK)

"Climate Change and its Impact on Human Health" – Prof. Rachida El Morabet (Mentor, Morocco)

15 minutes each + 15-minute joint Q&A session



Prof Dalila Loudyi

- **Role:** Professor, Hassan II University of Casablanca (Faculty of Science and Technology); Active NGO leader.
- **Expertise:** Specializes in water resources, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and the water-energy nexus.
- **Academic Experience:** Over 27 years of lecturing on water and climate change to undergraduate and graduate students.
- **International Involvement:** Member of the Leadership Team for the International Association Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR), focusing on MENA and Africa collaboration. Participated in key climate conferences.
- **Activism and Advocacy:** Dedicated to gender, environment, and climate change justice. Former President of the Democratic Association of Women of Morocco (ADFM), advocating for women's political, socio-economic, and environmental rights. Active member of the Moroccan Coalition for Climate Justice.
- **Contributions:** Provides expert consultation to international organizations and NGOs on climate change impacts and risk resilience.

Expert Small Talks Panel

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15 minutes each + 15-minute joint Q&A session



Prof Elizabeth Redmond

- **Role:** Professor and Research Group Lead at the ZERO2FIVE Food Industry Centre, Cardiff Metropolitan University.
- **Expertise:** Focuses on consumer food safety knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors; risk perception and communication; development and evaluation of food safety interventions; and microbiological and time/temperature profiling.
- **Impact:** Over 29 years of extensive food safety research, with more than 60 peer-reviewed publications and over 220 conference contributions. Secured over £1.2 million in collaborative research funding. Has successfully supervised postgraduate research, including PhD and Professional Doctorate projects.
- **Focus:** Works to bridge the gap between consumer behavior and practical food safety improvements for consumers and the food industry.
- **Key Activities:** Leads multi-disciplinary research projects with organizations like the UK Food Standards Agency and the Welsh Government. Collaborates with national and international academic, healthcare, and industry partners.

Expert Small Talks Panel

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15 minutes each + 15-minute joint Q&A session



Dr Fiona Carroll

- **Role:** Reader, Cardiff School of Technologies (CST), Cardiff Metropolitan University.
- **Expertise:** Interdisciplinary research on the evolving relationship between humans and digital technologies, with a focus on Human-Computer Interaction (HCI).
- **Specialization:** Human dimensions of cybersecurity, aiming to enhance public awareness of online interactions and security.
- **Research Impact:** Secured over £2 million in research and innovation funding; author of more than 90 peer-reviewed publications.
- **Leadership & Contributions:** Serves as Ethics Committee Chair within CST and co-leads the Creative Computing Research Centre (CCRC).
- **Professional Affiliations:** Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and member of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society.

Expert Small Talks Panel

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15 minutes each + 15-minute joint Q&A session



Prof Rachida El Morabet

- **Role:** Full Professor at Hassan II University of Casablanca, Faculty of Human Sciences, Department of Geography. Head of the Master's degree program in Environmental Geography and Natural Risk Management.
- **Expertise:** Interdisciplinary research focusing on Environmental Health, Resilience, and Water Science, with a focus on human-environment interactions.
- **Research Impact:** Leads and participates in international research projects, holds 3 patents, and has published in NaturePortfolio and high-impact Q1 journals. Research aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Recognition:** Recipient of multiple environmental awards for contributions to addressing global challenges (as recognized by Elsevier, 2020-2022).
- **Contributions:** Active member of various associations dedicated to social sciences and human rights

Questions & Answers

Prof. Dalila Loudyi (Mentor, Morocco)

Prof. Elizabeth Redmond (Mentor, UK)

Dr. Fiona Carroll (Mentor, UK)

Prof. Rachida El Morabet (Mentor, Morocco)

Duration: 15 minutes

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Lunch Break

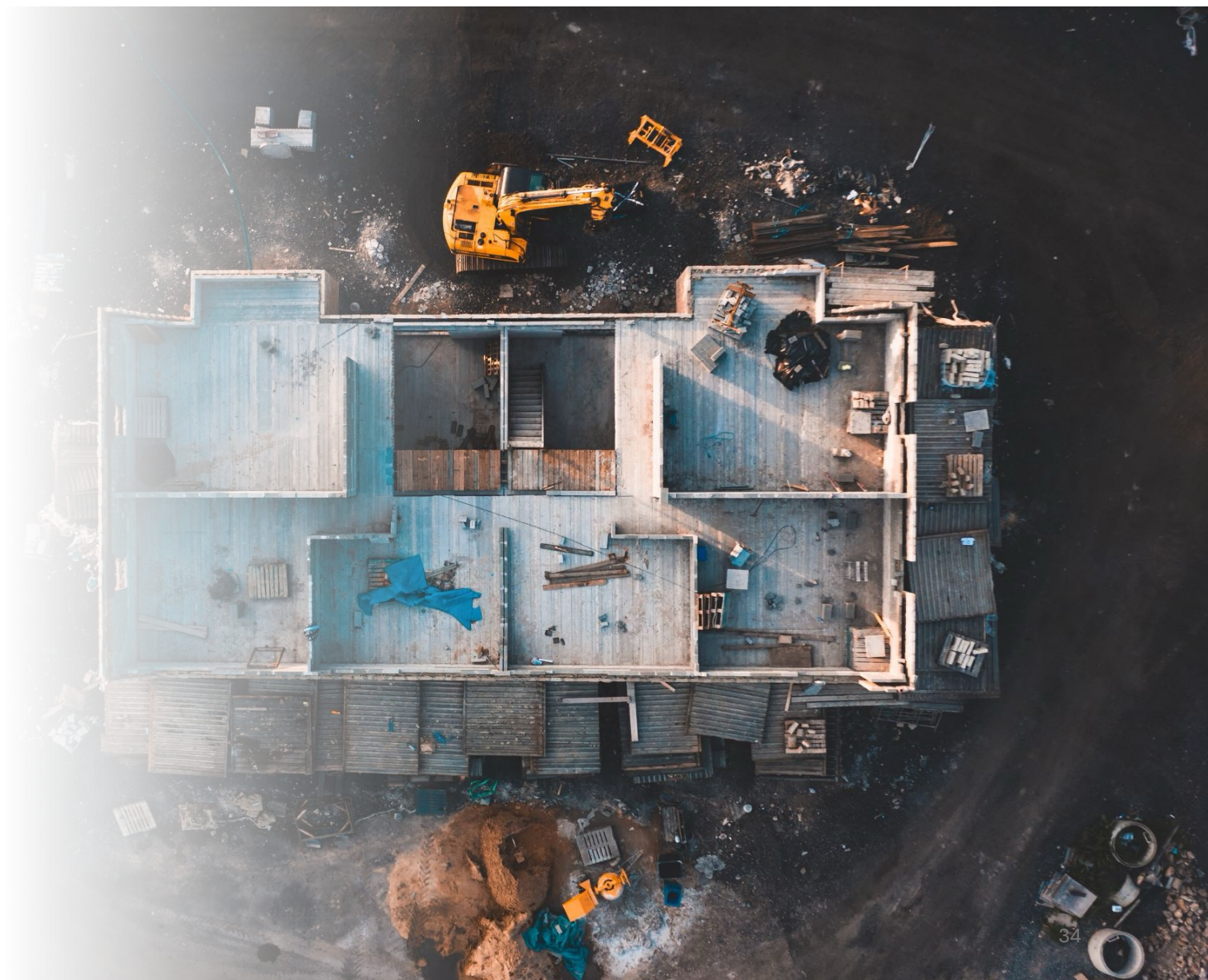
- Duration: 12:30 to 1:30



Interactive Session: Innovation Landscapes

Part 4

1:30 – 2:15 PM



Associate Partners

Associate Partners



UK Partners:

Environment Platform Wales
Menter Môn



Moroccan Partners:

Association Democratique des
Femmes du Maroc
Moroccan Coalition for Climate
Justice



Roles:

Networking, stakeholder
engagement, and scaling project
outcomes.

Interactive Session: Innovation Landscapes

Associate Partners Speakers:

– Environment Platform Wales (UK) – **“Environment Platform Wales: Connecting Research, Policy, and Practice for Environmental Impact”** – Mr Andrew Schofield

– Moroccan Coalition for Climate Justice (Morocco) – "Citizen Voices Facing the Climate Emergency: The Experience of the MCCJ" – Dr Sanaa Moussalim

Speaker:

- University of the West of England, Bristol (UK) – “Innovation Landscape in the United Kingdom” – Dr Mehmet Aydin

Each speaker: 10 min talk each + 15-minute joint Q&A session



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.

Interactive Session: Innovation Landscapes

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– Environment Platform Wales (UK) – “Environment Platform Wales: Connecting Research, Policy, and Practice for Environmental Impact” – Mr Andrew Schofield

– Moroccan Coalition for Climate Justice (Morocco) – "**Citizen Voices Facing the Climate Emergency: The Experience of the MCCJ**" – Dr Sanaa Moussalim

Speaker:

- University of the West of England, Bristol (UK) – “Innovation Landscape in the United Kingdom” – Dr Mehmet Aydin

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Dr Sanaa Mussalim

- **Current Role:** Professor of Economics and Management, Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences, Moulay Ismail University, Meknes.
- **Leadership:** National Coordinator, Moroccan Coalition for Climate Justice.
- **Previous Roles:** Former Project Manager, Ministry of Agriculture and Oriental Development Agency.
- **Research Interests:**
 - Regional and territorial development
 - Local governance
 - Territorial marketing and attractiveness
 - Gender and climate change impacts

Interactive Session: Innovation Landscapes

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– Environment Platform Wales (UK) – “Environment Platform Wales: Connecting Research, Policy, and Practice for Environmental Impact” – Mr Andrew Schofield

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Speaker:

- University of the West of England, Bristol (UK) – **“Innovation Landscape in the United Kingdom”** – Dr Mehmet Aydin

Each speaker: 10 min talk each + 15-minute joint Q&A session



Dr Mehmet Aydin

- **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.

Questions & Answers

Mr Andy Schofield

Dr Sanaa Mussalim

Dr Mehmet Aydin

Duration: 15 minutes

ID

Break

5 minutes



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Facilitated Group Discussion (Closed Session)

Part 5

2:15 – 2:45 PM



Facilitated Group Discussion (Closed Session)



Mapping Opportunities & Challenges



Participants reflect on the talks



Small breakout groups

Challenge Prizes

Purpose:

- Incentivize innovative solutions aligned with project goals.

Prize details:

- Four prizes, £2,500 each.
- Focus: Feasibility, innovation, interdisciplinarity, and community impact.

Criteria:

- Address ODA objectives.
- Advance climate resilience and gender equality.

Key Activities

Workshops:

- Virtual with in-person follow-ups in Morocco and the UK, with hybrid options for inclusivity.

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Meet with NGOs, local communities, and policymakers.
- Incorporate feedback to refine solutions.

Collaborative Research:

- Mentor-guided interdisciplinary projects.
- Focus on tangible, scalable outcomes.

Expected Outcomes

Trained researchers equipped with interdisciplinary skills.

Community-driven solutions addressing gender and climate challenges.

Strengthened UK-Morocco academic partnerships.

Contributions to policy and academic discourse.

Timeline



Wrap-Up & Preview of Day 2

Part 6

2:45 – 3:00 PM



Strengthening Impact Through Collaboration



Associate Partners' Role:

Provide expertise and resources to enhance project outcomes.

Support in outreach, engagement, and knowledge dissemination.

Facilitate connections with key stakeholders and communities.



Community Engagement:

Ensuring solutions are tailored to local needs.

Creating opportunities for knowledge exchange and co-development.

Building sustainable relationships for long-term impact.

Ways to Engage in the Project



Early Career Researchers (ECRs):

Participate in workshops and research development sessions.

Compete for Challenge Prizes and gain mentorship.



Mentors & Experts:

Guide ECRs in developing impactful, interdisciplinary projects.

Contribute expertise to research and innovation efforts.



Associate Partners & Stakeholders:

Provide insights and facilitate real-world applications.

Support project dissemination and scaling efforts.

Q&A, Closing Remarks, and Event Pictures



A stack of wooden blocks arranged in three columns and three rows. The top row has three light-colored blocks, each with a black arrow pointing right. The middle row has a red block on the left with a white arrow pointing left, followed by two light-colored blocks with black arrows pointing right. The bottom row has three light-colored blocks, each with a black arrow pointing right. The text "Thank You!" is overlaid in white, centered horizontally and partially overlapping the red block and the middle row of light blocks. A thin white horizontal line is drawn below the text.

Thank You!