

Climate Change Adaptation Portals: a comparison

A CC portal is designed to disseminate INFORMATION and KNOWLEDGE about climate change.

Other objectives include: SHARING knowledge, and LINKING to other partners in the area of climate change.

There are many portals: a Google search will show that the number of portals available is numerous, and that the number is growing.

This brief reviews some of the main portals available, their main characteristics, and how they may meet your needs.

THE MAIN PORTALS WE HAVE SELECTED FOR OUR REVIEW ARE:

1	CAKE	http://islandpress.org/cake/
2	CI: GRASP	http://cigrasp.pik-potsdam.de/
3	ALM	http://www.adaptationlearning.net
4	INFOSPRING	http://www.infospring.org
5	ADAPTATION ATLAS	http://www.adaptationatlas.org
6	CLIMATE COLLABORATORIUM	http://www.climatecollaboratorium.org/web/guest;jsessionid=E3CA040B314B3F8B220D73DFF4C4DCF7
7	ELDIS	http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/dossiers/climate-change-adaptation
8	CLIMATE1STOP	http://arcserver4.iagt.org/climate1stop/
9	CLIMATELAB	http://www.climatelab.org
10	WORLD BANK CLIMATE PORTAL	http://sdwebx.worldbank.org/climateportal/home.cfm?page=globemap
11	AFRICAADAPT	http://www.africa-adapt.net/AA/
12	WEADAPT	http://www.weadapt.org/

CAKE: <http://www.islandpress.org/cake/>

Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE) is a joint project of [Island Press](#) (27 years as the leading publisher of solutions-based environmental information) and [EcoAdapt](#) (recognized leadership in developing the concepts and practices of climate adaptation).

Objectives and key focus:

Cake is aimed at building a shared knowledge base for managing natural systems and is intended to help build an innovative community of practice.

The main focuses are:

- Vetting and clearly organizing the best information available,
- Building a community via an interactive online platform,
- Creating a directory of practitioners to share knowledge and strategies,
- Identifying and explaining data tools and information available from other sites.

These consists principally of 4 interlinked components:

- [Virtual Library](#)
- [Case Studies](#) on a Google Maps interface
- [Directory](#)
- [Tools](#) a directory of tools is being built up for adaptation decision making

Community:

Cake houses community forums for the discussion of current issues in conservation in a changing climate:

- [Opportunities Forum](#)
- [Advice Column](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Workshop Support Pages](#)

Strengths:

- Organized interesting data, easy to navigate, and intuitive;
- Strong community involvement, intended for all types of expertise;
- Links to other resources.

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- Global Systems
- Natural Systems
- Human Systems
- Built Environment

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cake
Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange

Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE) is a joint effort by EcoAdapt and Island Press to create an innovative community of practice on climate change adaptation. Cake is intended to support individuals interested in developing the discipline of adaptation to climate change by

- Facilitating the identification of important information and its accessibility
- Building a community via an interactive online platform
- Connecting practitioners to share knowledge and strategies
- Networking to other tools and sites in the field

News

8.24.10: Two Kresge Grantees Launch a Web-based Resource Site Focused on

STAY CONNECT
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Sub

ISLAND BLOGS
Go to the Blog >

UPCOMING EVE
View Calendar >

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- Twitter
- Facebook
- YouTube

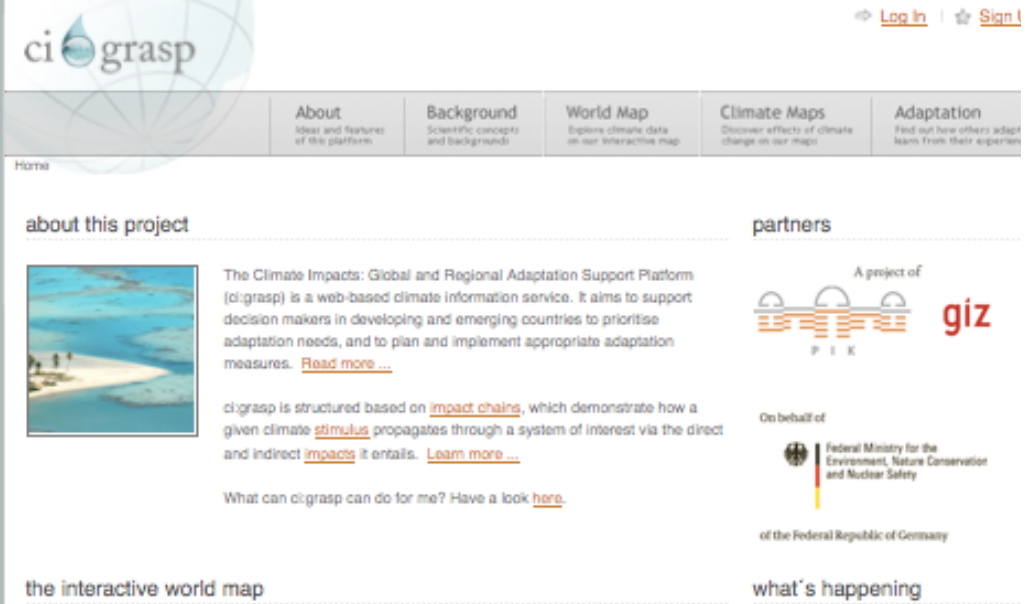

Climate Science

Links to various tools such as SimClim

<http://www.climsystems.com/simclim/>

Weaknesses:

Mainly US focused, with practically no case studies outside America.

<p>CI:GRASP: http://cigrasp.pik-potsdam.de/ (Climate Impacts: Global and Regional Adaptation Support Platform, GIZ, Germany); Focal countries: Brazil, Chile, China, India, Indonesia, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, and Tunisia.</p>	
<p>OBJECTIVES AND KEY FOCUS:</p> <p>Ci:grasp performs as a climate information service and provides sound knowledge on current and projected climate stimuli, climate impacts and adaptation options at the national, sub-national and regional level.</p> <p>Information is organized via a layer structure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stimuli 2. Impacts 3. Adaptation <p>The impact chains help you to navigate through the information and draw the connections between stimuli, impacts, and adaptation options.</p>	<p>about this project</p> <p>The Climate Impacts: Global and Regional Adaptation Support Platform (ci:grasp) is a web-based climate information service. It aims to support decision makers in developing and emerging countries to prioritise adaptation needs, and to plan and implement appropriate adaptation measures. Read more...</p> <p>ci:grasp is structured based on impact chains, which demonstrate how a given climate stimulus propagates through a system of interest via the direct and indirect impacts it entails. Learn more...</p> <p>What can ci:grasp can do for me? Have a look here.</p> <p>partners</p> <p>A project of giz</p> <p>On behalf of  Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany</p> <p>the interactive world map</p> <p>what's happening</p>
<p>Community</p> <p>Target audience is not clear. Possibility to contribute and create your own project.</p>	<p>Climate science</p> <p>Maps available for climate impacts projections.</p>
<p>Strengths:</p> <p>User friendly, lots of maps available, adaptation cases available. Information organized in layers, with a glossary and bibliography for literature. Visually appealing.</p>	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <p>Lack of distinction of a target audience.</p>

ALM: <http://www.adaptationlearning.net>

Collaborative Knowledge-Sharing Platform created in 2007 by UNDP and other agency partners (UNFCCC, UNEP, World Bank, and other UN specialized agencies, such as FAO).

OBJECTIVES AND KEY FOCUS:

- Bridge knowledge gaps by bringing stakeholders together to exchange information, experiences, and expertise.
- Encourage a strong participation of Southern institutions.

Key Focuses

The ALM aims at developing tools and resources to support the following:

- Adaptation practices – what can be done to adapt to climate change on the ground?
- Integration of climate change risks and adaptation into development policy, planning and operations – how can policies and plans support adaptation over time?
- Capacity building – how can people be better assisted in becoming equipped for adapting to climate change?

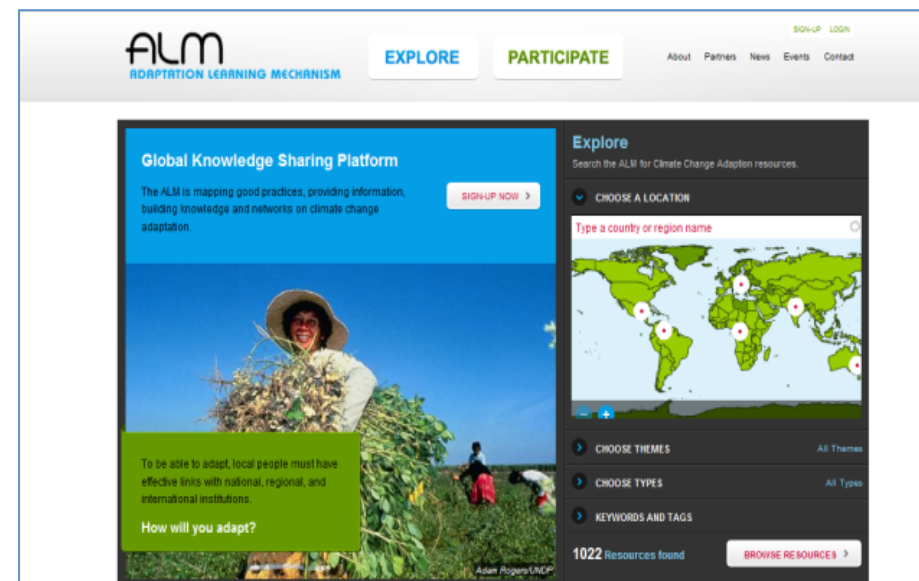
Community

Possibility to contribute information, good practice and multi-media on what you are doing for climate change adaptation;

Join expert group discussions to comment with others on key adaptation issues and approaches

Strengths:

User friendly, tidy and navigable; cases can be found easily; a “Google translate” option is available so the site can be viewed in many different languages; links to networks and other resources are possible; the “Explore” toolbox allows quick and easy searches for different options.

**Climate science**

Includes climate science only in segments.

Weaknesses:

Lack of distinction of a target audience.

Infospring: <http://www.infospring.org>

The InfoSpring Project is managed by the Earth Institute at Columbia University through the Master's in Development Practice program, and supported by a grant from DAI, an employee owned development consulting firm, which provided the original seed funding for InfoSpring in 2009-2010

Objectives and key focus:

- InfoSpring is a question and answer tool created to help development professionals, especially those working in the **field**, share critical knowledge.
- The site offers a personalized collaboration tool designed to help practitioners, researchers and students to find, share brings together people from the integrated field of sustainable development.

Community

Seems more destined for development practitioners, as it is difficult, if not in this field, to use the site to its full potential. Questions can be easily published, and are regularly posed and answered by a fair sized community of researchers. However, many questions remain unanswered.

Strengths:

- The question and answer theme is very intuitive.
- Helpful distinctions are made that can facilitate navigation (for example, the newest questions are separated from older questions).
- Clear purpose of the site, with emphasis on dissemination of field work
- General topics areas are relevant
- Great site for linking development practitioners and specialists on a specific question.

**Climate science**

The site does not include baseline climate data.

Weaknesses

- The site is not greatly user friendly, as it is 'busy' and difficult to navigate. The homepage is confusing.
- It is difficult to get relevant results for specific topics or areas, and there are no case studies on adaptation.
- Links to relevant websites and journals, but not enough links to other resources, so some questions can stay unanswered.

AdaptationAtlas: <http://www.adaptationatlas.org>

The Adaptation Atlas is a dynamic mapping tool, developed by [Resources for the Future](#), in collaboration with a diverse network of [partners](#). The idea for the Adaptation Atlas was born out of an attempt to write a research paper on adaptation funding flows.

Studies included are based on the current [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) [Special Report on Emissions Scenarios](#) (SRES).

Objectives and key focus:

The Atlas brings together diverse sets of data on the human impacts of climate change and adaptation activities across the themes of food, water, land, health and livelihood to help researchers, policymakers, planners and citizens to establish priorities and act on adaptation.

Key focus

- A strategy building tool for policymakers, donors, businesses as well as those interested in practical action on adaptation.
- As we progress towards collecting more downscaled and sub-national level data, we hope that the Atlas will enable planning for adaptation strategy — for national, regional and local governments.
- For researchers, we hope that the Atlas provides a comprehensive look at the current state of science on the human impacts of climate change, and allow them to realign their research agendas.

Community

Brings a range of community together, as the focus is on human impacts of climate change. Entry level is intermediate. Target audience is sustainable development practitioners (especially working in the field). Links to other resources, collaborative organisations and partners are available. Limited possibility to contribute and interact with others.

Strengths:


- Simple layout, easily navigable.
- The separation of the human impacts of climate change on five themes: food, health, land, livelihood and water. This allows for easily refined searches, which yield relevant results.

**Climate science**

The site does not include baseline climate data.

Weaknesses

- Complicated in comparison with other portals;
- The site would need a more clear search option to make more complex searches;
- Interaction is limited and complicated.

<p>Climate Collaboratorium: http://www.climatecollaboratorium.org/</p> <p>The Climate CoLab is a forum where teams create Proposals for what to do in a series of annual Contests.</p>	
<p>Objectives and key focus:</p> <p>To provide a global platform that allows people to work together in developing plans for what to do about global climate change.</p>	
<p>Community</p> <p>Intended for anyone “from experts to interested citizens”.</p> <p>There are three ways to contribute in the CoLab:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote for plans • Join the debates • Create new plans <p>A debates page allows interaction with others.</p>	<p>Climate science</p> <p>The site does not include baseline climate data.</p>
<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple layout, easy to browse, navigate, and search for specific topics and locations. • Welcomes people from all areas with all points of views on climate change. 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cases on adaptation • No links to related resources • A search engine to get through content of the site more efficiently would be useful

Eldis: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/dossiers/climate-change-adaptation>

Eldis is one of a family of knowledge services from the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex. (core funded by Sida, Norad, SDC and DFID).

Objectives and key focus:

Key objective is to support the documentation, exchange and use of evidence-based development knowledge. The site brings together materials, which are of strategic, policy or practical interest for development practitioners based in both the North and South.

Key focus

The aim of Eldis is to:

- support the documentation, exchange and use of evidence-based development knowledge
- communicate this knowledge effectively through a range of appropriately designed services, using the Internet (web and email) as the main communication medium for delivery
- reach audiences of researchers, development practitioners and policy formers at national and international levels
- play a role in the processes of evidence-based policy formation
- provide this information and services free of charge at point of use

Community

Target audience includes development professionals, donor agency staff, policy-makers, NGOs, researchers, students, information workers, development communicators, and development-focused web-service providers. Broad editorial policy applied in selecting items to include on the website.

Links to other organisations working on climate change adaptation are possible.

Strengths:

- Case studies on adaptation available.
- Possibility to search for specific topics (sorted by date and matching words).



Climate science

The site does not include baseline climate data.

Weaknesses

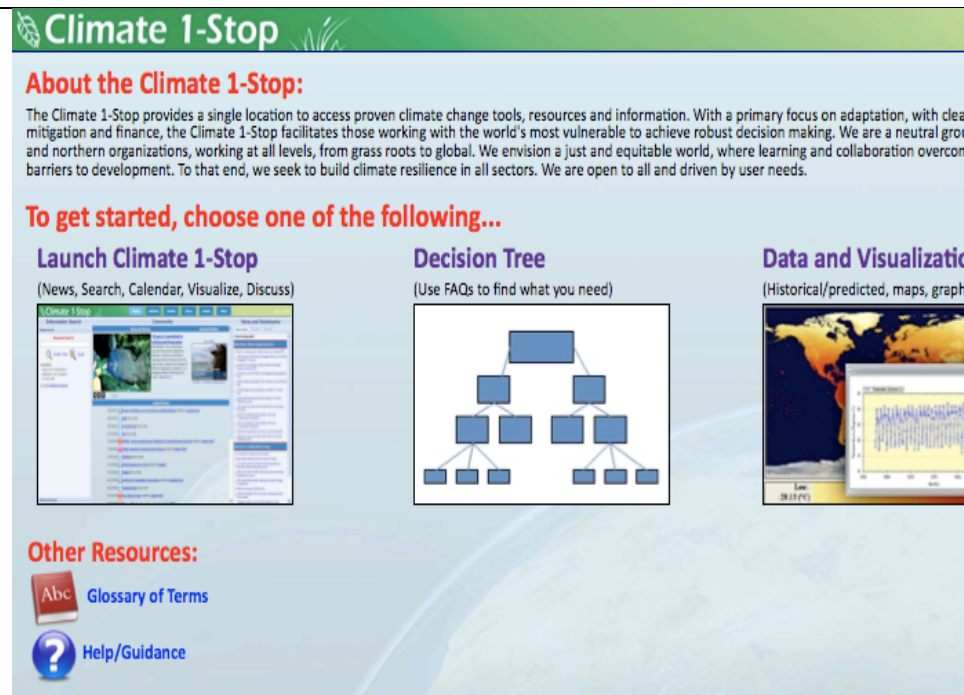
Complicated to use and navigate due to too much feed and lack of summary of the content.

Climate1Stop: <http://arcserver4.iagt.org/climate1stop/>

Group of southern and northern organizations, working at all levels, from grass roots to global.

Objectives and key focus:

With a primary focus on adaptation, Climate 1 –stop provides a single location to access proven climate change tools, resources and information, aimed to facilitate working with the “world most vulnerable”.



Climate 1-Stop

About the Climate 1-Stop:

The Climate 1-Stop provides a single location to access proven climate change tools, resources and information. With a primary focus on adaptation, with clear mitigation and finance, the Climate 1-Stop facilitates those working with the world's most vulnerable to achieve robust decision making. We are a neutral group and northern organizations, working at all levels, from grass roots to global. We envision a just and equitable world, where learning and collaboration overcome barriers to development. To that end, we seek to build climate resilience in all sectors. We are open to all and driven by user needs.

To get started, choose one of the following...

Launch Climate 1-Stop
(News, Search, Calendar, Visualize, Discuss)

Decision Tree
(Use FAQs to find what you need)

Data and Visualization
(Historical/predicted, maps, graphs,)

Other Resources:

ABC Glossary of Terms

? Help/Guidance

Community

Intended audience is hard to define. The site itself does not specify, and the information could be helpful to a wide range of users. Possibility of adding entries and engage in discussing topics.

Strengths:

- Tidy and regularly updated.
- Cases on adaptation easily locatable via the Climate Project Locator Map.
- A ‘visualisation projects map’ shows all climate related projects that have been registered through the Climate 1-Stop. A ‘decision tree’ also helps find answers you need, by choosing the question most appropriate to what you are looking for.

Climate science

Links to historical observed climate, modeled projections, hazard vulnerability and links to other climate tools.

Weaknesses

- Results for specific searches are not always relevant.
- Lack of contributors
- Many discussions have no questions, or answers

Climatelab: <http://www.climatelab.org>

Climate Lab is a nonpartisan nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in Washington, DC, with the mission is to develop web-based tools for knowledge sharing and collaboration that drive action to address climate change.

Objectives and key focus:

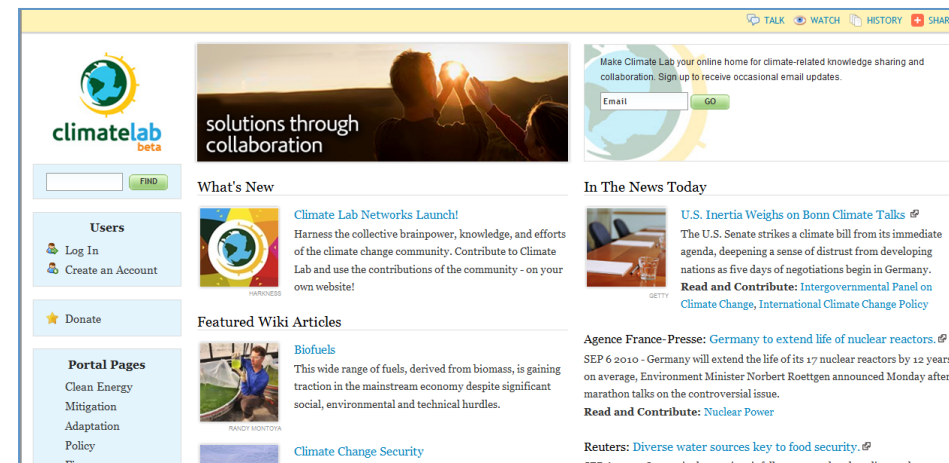
- A means for experts, policymakers and regulators to learn about new technologies, perspectives and solutions at all stages of development
- A climate change information management system for NGOs, multi-lateral development banks and governmental agencies
- An exciting teaching tool for professors and educators to use with students at the high school, college and post-graduate levels
- A resource for clean energy businesses to educate their clients and identify opportunities
- Virtual space to post academic research, data, and other climate change information.

Community

- * Intended audience ranges from local communities and the general public to experts, policymakers and regulators.
- * Each key section has an introductory overview allowing those with a low level of prior knowledge to familiarise themselves with the topic. This enables local communities and the general public to contribute and share climate changed-related information with a global audience.
- * There are lots of easy ways you can get involved right now
 - **Share your knowledge** - Create or edit a wiki article
 - **Go multimedia** - Add pictures, video, maps, new feeds and more
 - **Wikify!** - Turn static information into a public resource

Strengths:

- The homepage is full of interesting articles, including a 'key links' section, covering a majority of user needs. The 'Wikipedia' styled layout allows for simple and continuous searching throughout the site content.
- Most articles include pictures and graphs.

**Climate science**

Portal page on Climate Science

http://climatelab.org/Climate_Science

- User friendly and good layout;
- A 'featured article' section offers relevant and interesting articles concerning the topic the user is browsing.
- Specific searched are relevant
- Cases on adaptation easily available; links are formatted into the adaptation introduction, offering country level case studies and fact related case studies.

AfricaAdapt: <http://www.africa-adapt.net/AA/>

AfricaAdapt is an independent bilingual network (French/English) focused exclusively on Africa.

AfricaAdapt is collaboratively hosted by four organisations: Environment and Development in the Third World (ENDA-TM), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), and Institute of Development Studies (IDS).

Objectives and key focus:

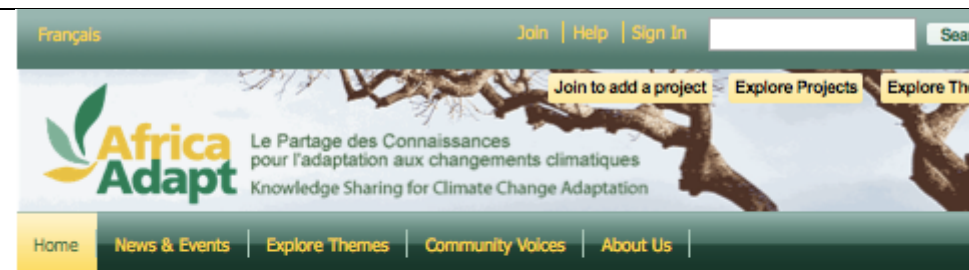
The Network's aim is to facilitate the flow of climate change adaptation knowledge for sustainable livelihoods between researchers, policy makers, civil society organisations and communities who are vulnerable to climate variability and change across the continent. Also, to create awareness on climate change causes, repercussions, mitigation and adaptation measures and create a space for climate change issues on sustainable development planning. This will be done through popular African applied theatre capitalizing on performing arts and puppetry.

Community

- Intended audience is Researchers, policy makers, civil society organisations and communities who are vulnerable to climate variability. Entry level is intended to all.
- You can add your own project, upload materials about your project, follow projects as they develop, and connect to others working on climate change adaptation work in Africa.
- Possibility of contributing projects, sharing ideas with colleagues and other users.

Strengths:

- Good layout, easy to use and browse, with a themes page organised around 8 key issues to climate change adaptation in Africa.
- Well designed and updated regularly.
- Cases on adaptation are available.
- Links to other resources, including to definition sites and introductory papers concerning adaptation and vulnerability.
- Users can sign up to news feed.

**Featured Projects****Réduire la pauvreté rurale par la promotion du petit élevage**

Dans la région de DAVIE-ASSOME, où les populations sont fortement touchées par les impacts du changement climatique, le projet vise à lutter contre la pauvreté par le renforcement des groupements, la formation sur les bonnes pratiques agricoles et la promotion de l'agriculture familiale. La diversification de leurs sources

**Featured Resources**

DAVEKENVO@HOTMAIL.COM



I am project coordinator for my organisation. I have more than 10 years of experience as a community conservationist with MSc in applied ecology and conservation. I have a Policy fellowship with START on climate change.

Climate science

No climate data.

World Bank Climate Portal:

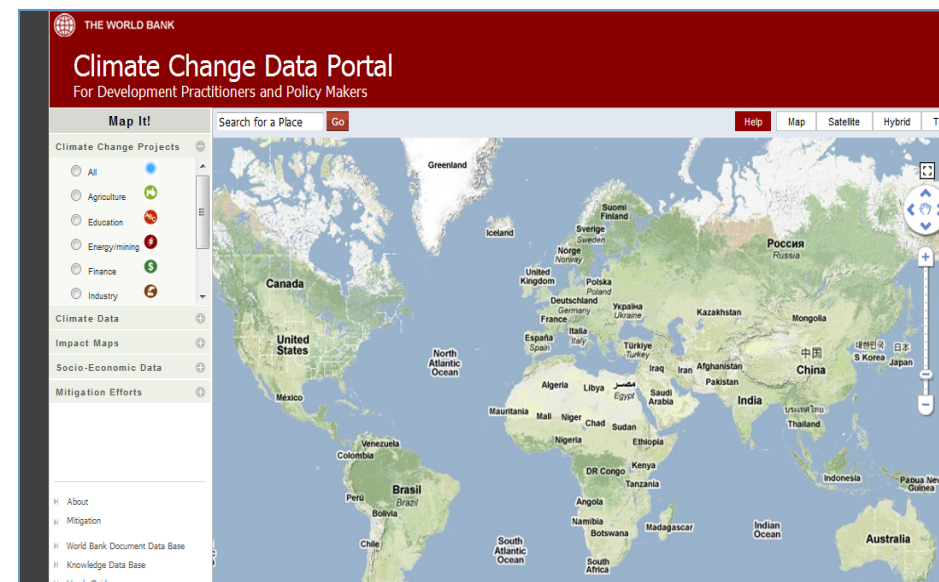
<http://sdwebx.worldbank.org/climateportal/home.cfm?page=globlemap>

The WB *Climate Change Portal* is intended to provide quick and readily accessible climate and climate-related data to policy makers and development practitioners.

The site also includes a mapping visualization tool (webGIS) that displays key climate variables and climate-related data.

Objectives and key focus:

To provide quick and readily accessible climate and climate-related data to policy makers and development practitioners.

**Community**

Target audience is mainly policy makers and development practitioners. Though there are active contributions on the site, it is not possible to directly interact and link to others.

Climate science


The site does not include baseline climate data, but it does include links to climate change databases.

Strengths:

- Neat and professional, with clarity of map tool
- Easy to browse and use (especially the mapping feature).
- Fairly good layout, climate change projects are helpfully divided into sectors such as agriculture, education, energy, finance and industry.
- The site includes a mapping visualization tool (webGIS) that displays key climate variables and climate-related data.
- Links to related resources.

Weaknesses

- No option for specific topic searches.
- Would require a search option, allowing to quickly browse through content.

<p>weADAPT http://www.weadapt.org/</p> <p>Adaptation portal with semantic technology allowing people to connect, learn and share knowledge on climate adaptation issues.</p>	
<p>Community</p> <p>Target audience is of all ranges, from practitioners, academics, donors and policy makers, to general public. Possibility of contributing through an initiative (different levels of contribution).</p>	<p>Climate science</p> <p>The site does not include climate data yet but will link to the Climate Informatic Portal see weadapt.org/using-climate-science.</p>
<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neat and professional, with clarity of map tool • Easy to browse and use • Good layout • Adaptation cases available and easily accessible through the adaptation layer • Links to many related resources available. 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific target audience • No translation options