Climate Adaptation Platforms

Australia

The Climate Change in Australia (CCiA) portal was jointly developed by CSIRO and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology as part of the Australian Government funded Regional NRM Planning for Climate Change initiative (2012/13 -2015/16). The primary purpose of the portal is to provide National Resource Management users access to new CMIP5-based regional climate projects for Australia, including projects data and associated decision support tools and analytical functionality. The CCiA portal provides the only national scale projections for Australia, however there are also multiple state-based portals providing access to higher resolution (downscaled) projections which are more constrained in terms of spatial coverage. More recently, CCiA users have identified the need for enhanced functionality and utility to address new and emerging data and information gaps and needs; effectively a 'one-stop-shop' for accessing climate change data, information and associated technical support as an essential feature of a fully functional 'climate change service' capability for Australia covering the full spectrum of physical climate change science and services to inform climate risk and adaptation planning.

Over the same period, separate but otherwise related climate change science-based data and information websites and portals have been developed to meet specific needs in Australia (e.g. CoastAdapt) that provides access to data, information, guidance materials, tools and other resources specifically to inform coastal adaptation) and similar needs for the Pacific and SE Asia (e.g. Pacific Climate Change Science website, Pacific Islands Regional Climate Centre (PI-RCC) Network, the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Platform (AP-Plat) and the Regional Climate Consortium for Asia-Pacific (RCC-AP) portal.

This BKE event will focus on the following challenges compiled based on those expressed by Geoff Gooly of CSIRO as areas of interest:

1. Platform governance – the need for 'best' practice benchmarking standards for platform design and content, in terms of operational transparency/legitimacy, scientific rigour/credibility, quality assurance/control etc, and means of developing, applying and evaluation/compliance reporting these standards;
2. Platform content / functionality – scoping of content across the science-based knowledge spectrum of decision-making (e.g., across the IPCC spectrum) and in the context of supporting those decisions related to physical climate change risk, adaptation planning and more broadly climate action in the context of the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework and SDGs and national policy;
3. Platform utility / usability – the extent to which platforms are and should be designed to be readily discoverable and navigable, and otherwise self-contained or otherwise supported by relevant resources / capacity (i.e. the extent to which they are 'web-based') and/or otherwise leveraging off technical support and related partnerships and/or vice versa; integration or co-location of complementary science and services across multiple specified or seamless timescales (weather to climate to climate change);
4. Identifying the key design features/criteria for 'best' practice platform architecture and operation, both from the perspective of outward facing (targeted users) and behind the 'firewall' (designers, administrators and funders); and
5. Characterising needs of platform users – identifying key learnings to guide platform design, functionality and content to meet the needs of specific target users such as i) indigenous communities (e.g. recognising and incorporating traditional knowledge, accommodating cultural sensitivities, delivery of products and services using local language translations and/or other delivery modalities e.g. animations, storylines (written and spoken), games etc, ii) civil society (e.g. policy framing), iii) the private sector (e.g. TCFD-style disclosure for the

financial services sector, informing science rationale for climate financing instruments including ODA funding, Green/Climate Bonds, etc).

Canada

The Canadian Centre for Climate Services (CCCS), launched in October 2018, is a multi-disciplinary team with expertise across a broad range of climate-related disciplines. We work with partners and stakeholders to help Canadians understand, and become more resilient to climate change by: delivering climate services driven by user need, providing access to climate information, building local capacity and offering training and support. Supporting delivering this role is the CCCS website, which hosts a climate data viewer, data extractor and a library of climate resources; and the recently launched (August 2019) Canadian Climate Data Portal - a user-friendly online climate data source created in partnership with regional climate service providers that is intended to be used to assist in adaptation and resilience planning.

This BKE event will focus on the following challenges as expressed by Lo Cheng of Environment and Climate Change Canada:

1. Integration and collaboration among platforms working in the same space – how to deal with the potential confusion and conflicts that can arise from multiple web-based and other platforms offering data, information, guidance and engagement;
2. Meeting the needs of different audiences (e.g., elected officials, public servants, municipal planners, design engineers, etc.) without building a multitude of platforms and vice versa adapting products and services offered that are relevant, usable and legitimate to those different audiences;
3. Focusing on building tools that can be further customised by users – building value-added tools that still allow / enable users to pick what is important to them and/or customise to their definition;
4. Cooperative development / co-production 'best' practices or cases in which users and climate service providers work together; and
5. Leveraging others' work and building upon it for innovation and continuous improvement.

Japan

NIES launched A-PLAT in 2016 to disseminate and implement the adaptation strategies specified in Japan's National Adaptation Plan, which was first formulated in 2015. By scaling up the scope of A-PLAT, NIES has been developing an Asia-Pacific Adaptation Platform, AP-PLAT, launched in June 2019 at the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth in Karuizawa, Japan. AP-PLAT should be the platform for communication and interaction to facilitate partnership and collaboration to adapt to climate-resilient and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

This series of BKEs will build on earlier workshops hosted in Japan in December 2018 (also involved South Korea, Australia, Indonesia, and several non-G20 countries) and will focus on the following challenges as expressed by Yasuaki Hijioka of NIES:

1. Sharing experiences and lessons learnt related to developing and operating a national adaptation platform;
2. Comparing the content, functionalities and structures of national adaptation platforms; and
3. Exchanging experiences and lessons learnt related to supporting local governments – those in charge of developing and delivering adaptation policy - via establishing, maintaining and evolving national adaptation information platforms.

4. Understanding to what extent and how such platforms can be used to support monitoring, evaluation and reporting at the national and international (e.g. NDC) levels.

South Africa

The National Climate Change Information System is part of the national effort to track South Africa's overall transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy by offering a series of decision support tools to inform policy and decision-making. It is a web-based platform that collates data from a range of sources for the purpose of specific reporting requirements; and integrates systems from other stakeholders locally and abroad. The information presented in the NCCIS can be used to provide insights regarding the country's progress in responding to climate change and achieving national and international goals and targets. The NCCIS is a first step towards the development of an open source, standards-based, and integrated portfolio of systems that aims to eliminate duplication of effort, limits multiplication of data sources, and is re-usable on many levels of government in South Africa. The NCCIS is composed of a portal for capturing and reporting climate change projects and their details; monitoring and evaluation tool; climate information centre; tracking and evaluation portal; portfolio of online atlases, decision support systems and tools; services, tools, static content, documentation including reports, policies and guidelines, and other digital objects developed by external partners and stakeholders; standardised vocabularies and; search and discovery capabilities.

South Africa's involvement will focus on the following challenges as expressed by Tsepang Makholela and Tlou Ramaru of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries South Africa:

1. Creation of offline tools and systems which can support policy and decision making in areas where there is no internet access;
2. Facilitation of bottom up support, ownership and buy in developing and operationalising systems and tools;
3. Doing more with limited sustainable financial, technological and capacity support; and
4. Optimising scientific outputs and outcomes to support user needs and requirements

India

Climate Change Web Portal- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change as the nodal agency for climate change aspects is working to establish a publicly available knowledge portal. The overall objective is to establish a single repository of for the vast number of official documents and relevant publications related to climate change, and make it available for general public. It also intends to create synergies within government institutions by knowledge sharing and managing information.

Accordingly, the Portal serves as a single-point-access system that synthesizes widely available knowledge and provides easy and timely access to information for different stakeholders including government institutions, civil society, private institutions and companies, academics and general public. The platform when completed will provide the users with a consolidated interface for free and open access to MOEFCC's approved knowledge and information. By doing so, it will be the first of its kind climate platform from which credible, reliable and authentic data and knowledge can be accessed. The information and knowledge is collated under broad sections for ease of use and clarity.

Climate Finance Knowledge Portal (CFKP) - The Centre for Climate Change at Bankers Institute of Rural Development, the training wing of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), with support from GIZ has developed a one-stop web-based knowledge portal on Climate Finance in India (Climate Finance Knowledge Portal). The platform provides space for accessing knowledge products and facilitating dialogue on climate finance. The purpose of creating a knowledge portal with a focus on Climate Finance is to establish an easy to use unified point of access to knowledge and services related to climate finance. This, in turn, should help the users mobilize and access sources of climate finance.

Through the platform, a wide range of audiences including farmer producer organizations, Panchayati Raj Institutions, governments, civil society organizations, private sectors, cooperation agencies, financial institutions, students and researchers can learn about climate finance and its aspects, including funding mechanisms, at global, regional and national levels. Other key areas covered in the portal are discussion forums, e-learning links of other organizations, information about national and global climate events and trainings.

Climate Change Information Portal - Building resilience to climate change requires that adaptation measures must be based on reliable and scientifically sound projections on climate change impact. This web-based climate change information portal was developed as part of Indo-German Bilateral Cooperation project "Climate Change Adaptation in Rural Areas of India (CCA-RAI) with the aim of supporting evidence-based adaptation planning.

The portal-- targeted at government and non-government practitioners, researchers and students-- allow users to freely access climate information from across India at the district level. The users can generate maps and charts for different climate variables like temperature, rainfall, extreme events for each State at the district level under different RCP scenarios (RCP 4.5 and 8.5) and for different time periods (2020-2030; till 2040, mid-century and end-century).

The Climate Change Information Portal System uses data from the India Meteorology Department to provides historical time series and future projections using 10 different regional models and also as an ensemble mean. This data is further processed and converted into user-friendly information/products such as monthly, season, annual temperature and rainfall projections, information on climate extremes like the number of dry days and wet days, etc., and are presented through graphs, maps and tabular data. At present the portal also provides district level vulnerability data from four states-- Himachal Pradesh, Punjab Tamil Nadu, and Telangana. Such scientific information and products can be used by the planners for evidence-based planning and decision making to integrate climate concerns into state/local development planning.

Knowledge Management Platform – The Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (MDoNER) with support from GIZ established the Knowledge Management Platform. The specific aim of the platform is to collate all facts and information related to different aspects of environment of North Eastern Region (NER) under one single platform. This internet-based platform, aims to include amongst others, information on the current status of natural resources and climate change, climate change adaptation measures, natural resource management, science and technology innovations, eco-tourism and livelihood

enhancement efforts in the NER. Once launched, the platform with all the most updated information will be linked with the MDoNER's existing website.

Some challenges that knowledge platform should consider:

1. Promoting, documenting and peer reviewing successful pilot projects on adaptation and dissemination of such knowledge products in the widest possible knowledge forums.
2. Integration and coherence across knowledge platforms: Enhancing coherence and eliminating confusion as a result of different web platforms providing similar information or scientific data.
3. Encouraging preparation and dissemination of easily understandable, relevant and accessible knowledge products such as blogs, discussion forums and policy briefs.
4. Knowledge to action: The platform should focus on how developing capacity on climate adaptation interventions through knowledge sharing can be used as a decision-support system that informs climate action plans.
5. Cooperation among developing and developed countries in sharing knowledge on climate adaptation impact assessments, including integrated assessment models to monitor and evaluate the impacts of adaptation projects under GCF, Adaptation Fund and NAFCC.
6. Technical aspects: The platform should include information and knowledge resources supporting climate adaptation in various sectors such as finance, agriculture, technological innovations, etc., supported by search filters enabling easy discoverability by its users.
7. Collaboration that enables participation of the private sector in research and innovation, including interdisciplinary efforts on climate adaptation best practices and related scientific research.
8. Portal Management: Dedicated personnel/entities should be responsible for scoping the content and technical aspects on the portal.

Mexico [to be added]

Argentina [to be added]