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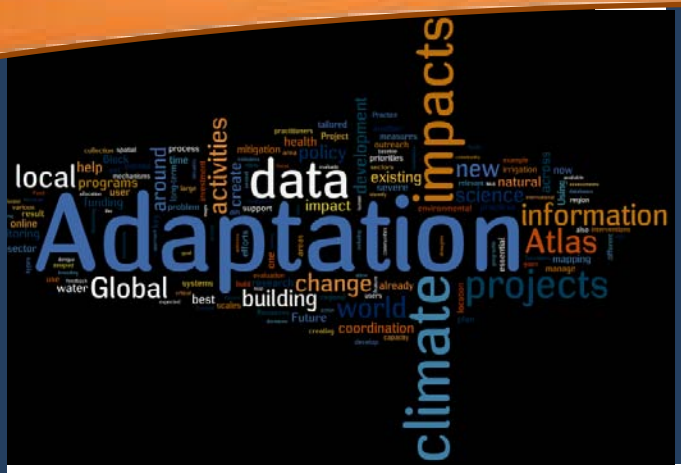
Adaptation Atlas
Newsletter

Atlas Report



This Issue

Introduction and Welcome
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An Update from Bonn

Meet the Atlas Advisory Board

Heather McGray

Heather McGray is a Senior Associate at the World Resources Institute in the Climate and Energy Program. She currently leads WRI's project on vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. McGray is a thought leader in the adaptation field and a substantive and engaged participant in UNFCCC climate negotiations.

In a 2007 publication titled *Weathering the Storm: Options for Framing Adaptation and Development*, McGray and her co-authors described the critical relationship between adaptation and development. Their framework for evaluating adaptation funds and activities has played a major role in shaping the structure of the Atlas.

Each month we will introduce a new Advisory Board member.

InterAction- August 6, 2009

The Atlas team was invited to present the latest developments on the prototype at InterAction to working groups on Climate Change, Food Security and Disaster Risk Reduction. InterAction is the largest coalition of over 180 U.S.-based international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) focused on the world's poor and most vulnerable people.

The discussion following the presentation was lively and provided constructive feedback on future avenues for innovation and outreach. The conversation covered a wide range of topics from the Atlas' ability to include vulnerability assessments to the continuum between development and adaptation, as well as plans for post-launch activities of the Atlas.

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Adaptation and the Road to Copenhagen

Welcome to the *Atlas Report*. Our team at Resources for the Future is creating a dynamic new online tool: The *Global Adaptation Atlas*. The aim of this effort is to help diverse users visualize and download spatial data on both projected climate impacts and adaptation activities on the ground in their regions and around the world.

Nairobi Work Programme

The Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) leads the UNFCCC Secretariat's work on impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation. The NWP aims to improve assessment and dissemination of information to help communities adjust to local climate changes. A complementary goal is to help Parties to the Convention (countries)make informed decisions on climate impacts and adaptation measures in the negotiating process and to help developing country decision-makers address key adaptation issues at home.

The NWP engages over 130 organizations, including research institutions, private sector firms, and communities, as partners in the Programme. It relies on these partners to submit action pledges and advance the programs major goals. The work of the NWP is structured around nine key responsibilities including, but not limited to, collecting climate data and observations, conducting research, and sharing adaptation planning lessons and on-the-ground best practices.

Resources for the Future and the Adaptation Atlas project recently joined the NWP as a partner organization. Being part of the NWP allows the Atlas team to collaborate and coordinate with a diverse of actors. We look forward to working closely with the NWP community over the coming months and building on the lessons learned to date to tailor the development and innovation process of the Atlas to a wide-range of audience, including scientists, policymakers, and adaptation practitioners.

Activities: UNDP CBA

In the last issue of the Atlas Report, we introduced the concept of Community-Based Adaptation (CBA). CBA projects focus on understanding and addressing local adaptation needs and vulnerabilities.

Our latest set of Atlas adaptation activity data focus on the United Nations Development Programme's set of CBA projects, funded in part through the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Small Grants Program. This initial dataset covers ten countries chosen in the first round of the UNDP CBA program: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Samoa, and Viet Nam. The rich adaptation activity information in this database includes individual CBA Country Programme Strategy documents to project implementation documents and associated visual media. Through the efforts of the team at UNDP, this repository of information also contains detailed descriptions of the total amounts of funding granted, project status, and local contact information.

Impacts: Global Agriculture

Alongside the CBA adaptation project data, the Atlas also features dozens of climate impact data layers and maps. One example of the type of study included in Atlas is the "Effects of Climate Change on Global Food Production under SRES emissions and socio-economic scenarios" (Parry et al., 2004).* This study, in short, provides global data on raw projections of and projected changes of yields of maize, wheat, and rice, spanning six socio-economic and emissions (SRES) scenarios, for five time-frames (as defined in the Atlas). This study is an example of the type of data we aim to feature in the impact layer catalogue of the Atlas to provide a basis for mapping adaptation projects relative to anticipated impacts.

**Global Environmental Change 14 (2004) p. 53-67*

What's Next?

In September's issue, learn more about our data collection, prototype development and user-testing and outreach efforts.

For more information on the Atlas, please visit our website at www.adaptationatlas.org. To learn more about RFF's research, visit www.rff.org.

Have data? We want to hear from you! Send us an email at data@adaptationatlas.org, and we'll be in touch on how to feature your study or project(s) in the Atlas for its launch in December.

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