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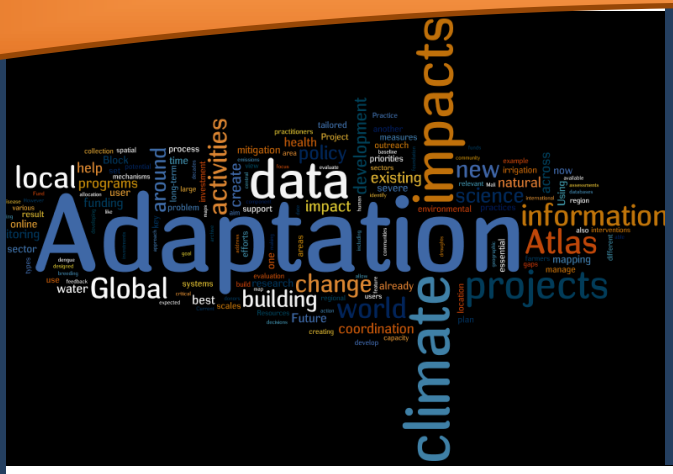
Adaptation Atlas
Newsletter

# Atlas Report




## This Issue

Preview of Bangkok
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Atlas Development Update

## Meet the Atlas Advisory Board

### Dr. Michael MacCracken

Dr. Michael MacCracken currently serves as the Chief Scientist for the Climate Change Program at the Climate Institute. He previously served as the first Executive Director of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) and has contributed extensively to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment reports on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

As a thought leader and expert on both U.S. domestic and international climate science and policy communities, Dr. MacCracken's advice and continued involvement with the Atlas team has been significant in shaping the climate impact and adaptation activity features of the Atlas.

*Each month we will introduce a new Advisory Board member.*

## PLAID Vetting Workshop, September 16-17, 2009

The Project Level Aid Database (PLAID) group at the College of William & Mary and Brigham Young University held a small group data-vetting workshop. The team has been compiling foreign aid allocation information sourced from a varied list of partners – from the OECD Secretariat to national finance and development agencies. The Atlas team has been using the data to establish a baseline for adaptation activities, and attending the workshop allowed the team to learn from other participants' lessons on coding and interpreting the data.

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## Adaptation: Design, Implementation and Lessons Learnt

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, utilize and download spatial knowledge on both projected human impacts of climate change and adaptation activities on the ground in their regions and around the world.

### Preview of Nairobi Work Programme Adaptation Workshop in Bangkok

The ninth and seventh sessions of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) and the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) respectively, opened in Bangkok on September 28, 2009. There are several aims for this session; one of the most important is for negotiating parties to come closer to an agreement for the post- Kyoto world.

As an extension of these sessions, the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) is hosting a technical workshop on advancing the integration of approaches to adaptation planning. The workshop will bring together over 100 experts representing various parties and organizations to share information and knowledge on approaches and experiences in integrating adaptation planning and practice at various scales of planning and implementation.

### Atlas Prototype Development Update

The Atlas is at a critical phase of development. Over the last month, the team has worked to standardize, polish, and ensure the accuracy of our data on both climate impacts and activities.

By working closely with several data partners and contributing authors, we have collated over four hundred impact layers spanning different scales and showcasing all five themes of health, food, land, livelihood and water. Similarly, we have collected over 500 different activities from various sources that showcase the breadth and depth of adaptation practice.

In coming months, the team will be working with representative groups to test-drive the application. Feedback from these sessions will play an important role in the continued development and innovation of the Atlas.

### Partner Updates

#### Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)

The team is pleased to announce that ESRI has generously donated GIS software towards the Atlas project. ESRI has played a key supporting role to the project and has been an invaluable partner in introducing us to other key mapping and climate change related initiatives and individuals around the world.

#### United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP) Adaptation Learning Mechanism

We would like to highlight the United Nations' Development Programme's (UNDP) Adaptation Learning Mechanism (ALM) that was recently overhauled and sports a new look! Please visit their new site at http://adaptationlearning.net and explore. The Atlas and ALM teams have been working closely to share lessons learnt from current efforts on-the- ground as well as sharing data to leverage the best of both tools.

### What's Next?

In the next issue of the Atlas Report, look forward to a synopsis of events in Bangkok and an update on our continued development 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.

Questions? Email us at info@adaptationatlas.org.

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