

Preamble

IDS believes that efforts to integrate climate change adaptation into the development process must ensure that the most vulnerable groups are central to the rapidly expanding climate change research and policy agenda. We further believe that decision-making is strengthened when it is underpinned by timely and relevant information that reflects a diversity of viewpoints. We contribute to this, through IDS knowledge services, by acting as an intermediary between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. We seek to identify and bridge knowledge gaps and use innovative knowledge-sharing approaches to provide better access to the global pool of knowledge on development.

As such our approach and strategy are closely aligned to the objectives of the NWP, and we felt strongly that, in particular, our experience and expertise in convening and hosting networks and knowledge services' on adaptation and development included clear overlaps and potential benefits to the programme. Conversely the NWP provided IDS with a strong impetus for improving cross-coordination across the different IDS-hosted knowledge services to make the wealth of resources on climate impacts, vulnerability and adaptation as accessible as possible worldwide, and in so doing establish sector-leading services on climate change and development.

Relationships brokered through the NWP and our commitment to working in partnership, have helped us to lead and facilitate a process of harmonisation of adaptation knowledge services.. Internally, this has meant a number of changes to how we are organising climate change knowledge services to create easier and clearer interfaces with complementary platforms.

We are also contributing to processes that are helping to reflect on the overall adaptation knowledge domain and propose new and more efficient forms of collaboration.

Box 1. IDS pledge responds directly to 3 objectives from the “Detailed Results from SBSTA Conclusion”

(m) To share and use information on, and analysis of, experiences in climate risk assessment and management; and to promote the use of tools and systems for these purposes;

(n) To exchange information on experiences, lessons learned, constraints and barriers of past and current adaptation measures and actions, and the implications for sustainable development;

(o) To promote different ways and means for information sharing and for the enhancement of cooperation among Parties and relevant sectors, institutions and communities, including in the areas of disaster risk reduction and management.

Outcomes and impacts of actions

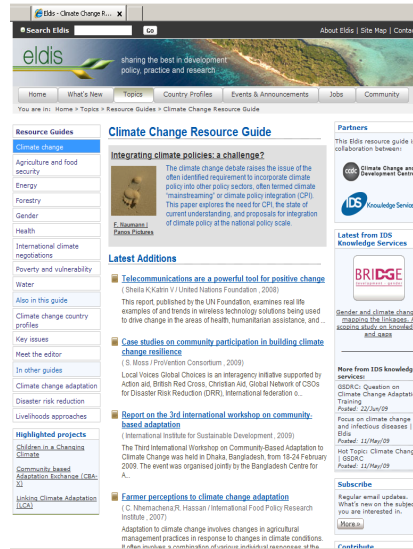
Activities

1. Reorganising our knowledge services on climate change adaptation to better serve the needs and objectives identified by the NWP

Eldis Climate Change Resource Guide

IDS has improved coordination across the different IDS-hosted knowledge services to make the wealth of resources on climate impacts, vulnerability and adaptation as widely accessible as possible, and in so doing establish it as a sector-leading source of information on climate change and development.

In April 2008, the Eldis Climate Change resource guide was redesigned as the focal point for all Climate Change knowledge services from IDS. This coordination has extended beyond IDS to work with NWP partners the Adaptation Learning Mechanism (ALM) and the IDRC supported AfricaAdapt network to enable content sharing between platforms. Eldis has supplied full summaries of over 400 research and policy documents on climate adaptation and related themes to these partners in 2009.



This activity directly responds to the NWP objective to improve understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change by providing free summaries and access to climate change resources. Additionally, it also meets the IDS pledge to exchange information on adaptation issues and enhance cooperation with other NWP partners (See Box 1).

The guide is available at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/climate-change>

Joto Afrika Series

Joto Afrika is a new series of printed briefings and online materials about adapting to climate change in Africa developed by the IDS knowledge services in collaboration with Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN) and AfricaAdapt. The series provides practical information about



how people are adapting to climate change in Africa, and the issues, constraints and opportunities they face.

Joto Afrika also meets IDS's pledge to the NWP to exchange case studies and lessons learnt on climate adaptation as well as enhancing cooperation with communities that are prone to climate change impacts.

The first issue is available on: <http://tinyurl.com/oeel9t>

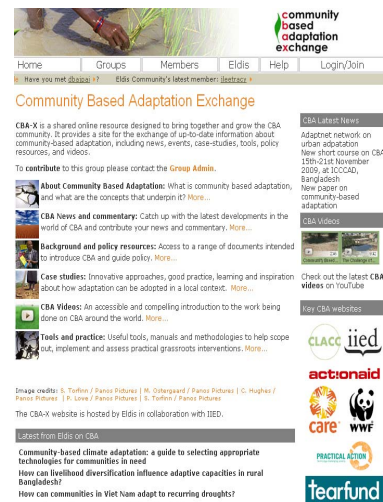
Community Based Adaptation Exchange – CBAX

IDS and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) re-launched the Community Based Adaptation Exchange at the 3rd International Conference on Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2008.

The interactive web space is a shared online resource designed to bring together the CBA community, which has recently grown to over 400 members. It provides a site for the exchange of up-to-date information about community-based adaptation, including news, events, case-studies, tools, policy resources, and videos.

CBAX is a platform that promotes NWP's objective to exchange information and provide a community-styled platform for information sharing. Partners of CBAX include a number of NWP parties, which include WWF International and Care International.

CBAX is available at: <http://community.eldis.org/.59b70e3d/>



2. Consulting with the NWP partners and LDC countries in the redesign of the LCA Network

Drawing on the recommendation of the OECD-commissioned report on “web-based resources for the integration of climate change adaptation into development planning and assistance” (Paas and Hammill, October 2008)¹ IDS hosted a two-day workshop, in October 2008, to bring together representatives from Linking Climate Adaptation (IDS), weADAPT (SEI) and the Adaptation Learning Mechanism (UNDP) along with IDRC and partners of AfricaAdapt (IDS/ENDA/FARA/ICPAC). The meeting report² highlights the

¹ Recommendations for a Web-Based Resource to Facilitate Integration of Climate Change Adaptation into Development Planning and Assistance, Paas and Hammill, IISD, 2008

² Coordinating web-based knowledge sharing for climate change adaptation: Meeting report and workplan for next steps in strengthening cooperation, IDS/SEI/ENDA/UNDP/IDRC, 2008

initial commitments made by each of these platforms to improve coordination between their services.

AfricaAdapt

The AfricaAdapt knowledge sharing network was launched by IDS, ENDA, FARA and ICPAC in May 2009. While not explicitly included in IDS' pledge to the NWP, AfricaAdapt has been developing strong relationships with the other platforms and partners mentioned above. It has a strong focus on adaptation knowledge sharing in Africa, which has helped to extend the reach of IDS' existing knowledge services. AfricaAdapt's membership is now over 500, with 80% of members based in Africa.

Frontline Knowledge Explorer

As a follow up activity of the IDS workshop, participants at the meeting undertook a collaborative exercise to explore innovative use of web-based tools to facilitate learning related to climate change adaptation. Frontline Knowledge Explorer, a wiki based synthesis of practical experience of the linkages between Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation, was the result of this initiative.

3. Partnering the Secretariat in developing a proposal and designs for developing a NWP web-based interface.

In May 2009, Xianfu Lu from the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat joined IDS colleagues from IDS Knowledge Services and the Climate Change Development Centre to attend the Adaptation Knowledge Service Design mini-workshop.

Some of the key issues discussed included:

- Understanding user needs and demand

- Portal and other knowledge service approaches
- Editorial strategies and collaborative methods for content production

In June 2009 IDS Fellow Merylyn Hedger presented the outcomes of this workshop at the side event on the Nairobi work programme during the Bonn Climate Change Talks³. As a result of this presentation and subsequent talks with interested parties, IDS was invited to attend the co-ordination meeting for the USAID led “Climate 1 Stop” initiative whose stated aims appear to be aligned with needs identified by the Secretariat and IDS. IDS continues to follow and contribute to this initiative.

Impact

Access to information should not be viewed as an end in itself but as a contributor to development processes and social change. Individual stories from users of the IDS Knowledge Service have helped us to develop a framework to guide our work and improve planning, evaluation, analysis and targeting of services. The resulting theory of change⁴ sets out how the Knowledge Services have an impact on information use in development and the model will evolve as it is tested, debated and used in planning, evaluation and research. As yet we have been unable to test this model thoroughly in the context of policy processes and knowledge creation around climate change adaptation. However the theory of change gives us a clearer idea of where we have influence and where there are gaps. It also sets out our assumptions and the external factors which influence information flows. We will continue to test these assumptions as work progresses.

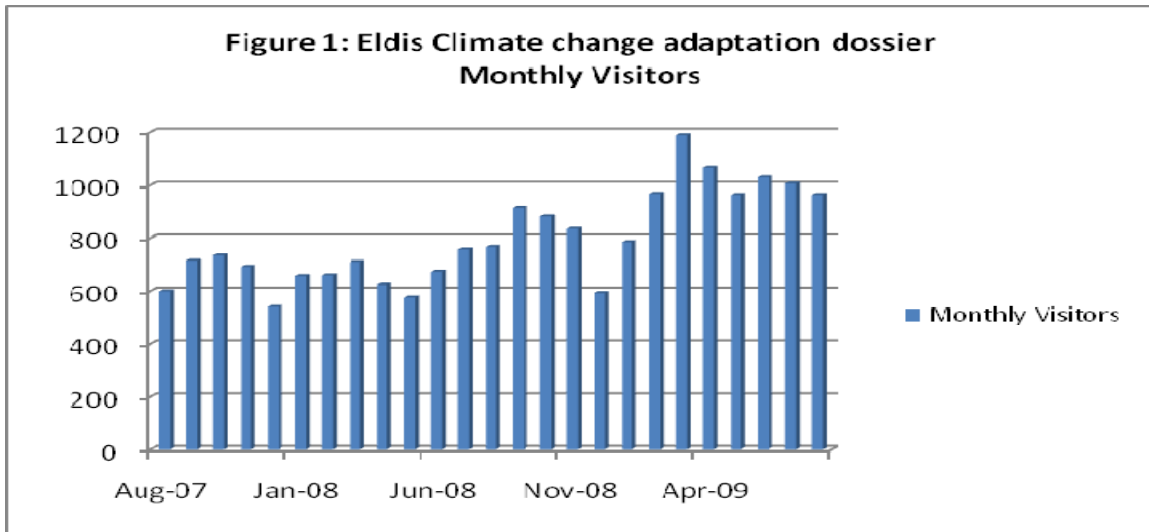
Early indicators of achievement

The IDS Knowledge Services provide access to a wide range of research on climate change adaptation, from a variety of perspectives (e.g. livelihoods, gender, governance, conflict etc.). Our most recent data shows that the Knowledge Services attracted a combined total of over 200,000 visits in August 2009.

The Linking Climate Adaptation (LCA) Network is ranked **second** on both Google and Yahoo for the search term “climate change adaptation” (September 2009). The number of monthly visitors to the LCA website has progressively increased over the past two years (see figure 1 below)

³ [Supporting the development of an Adaptation Web Portal under the NWP](#), Merylyn Hedger, 2009

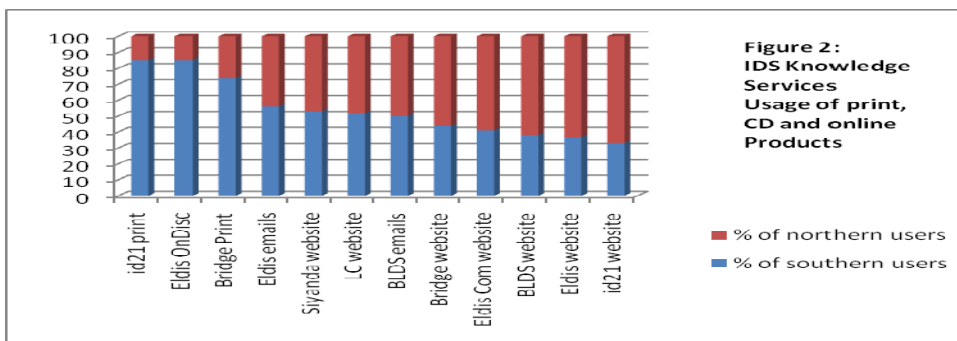
⁴ [From Access to Action: Impact Pathways for the IDS Knowledge Services](#) A theory of change, Anna Downie, IDS, 2008



There were **5154 subscribers** to the Eldis climate change newsletter in June 2009, up 30% from 1 year previous and **969 subscribers** to the Linking Climate Adaptation (LCA) Network listserv, up 16% from 1 year previous.

IDS Knowledge services have substantial experience in targeting their products and services to audiences in the global South. From October 2007 to September 2008, 43% of visitors to all services which include climate change related information (Eldis, Eldis Community (Eldis Com), Livelihoods Connect (LC), id21, Bridge, Siyanda and BLDS) were from developing countries.⁵

For print and CD products, more than 75% of all recipients are based in the South. For websites, the figures vary from 33% to more than 50%. If these figures are compared to inequalities between the North and the South in terms of internet access, the Knowledge services' southern reach is considerably better than might be expected (see figure 2). However we cannot be complacent about the continuing problems of poor connectivity and high cost for internet access in the developing world. Print and offline products are still vital to reach these audiences as the graph below shows.



⁵ Figures for the current academic year 2008-09 are not yet available

The Community-based Adaptation Exchange (CBAX), now has **486 members** and has attracted **17,636 visits** over the past year. The group has hosted over 60 news and discussion items in the past year highlighting [case studies](#), information on [conferences](#), [research](#) papers, [toolkits](#) and online videos. It has members in 75 countries, 65% of which are from the global south.

Overall the IDS knowledge services provide access to more than 1600 fully summarised climate-related documents and provide links to over 250 organisations working on climate change issues around the world.

Emerging good practices and lessons learned

IDS - through its own experience and through its global network of organisations that play a knowledge and information intermediary role in development - has identified a number of lessons around the design and implementation of web-based interfaces or so-called “portals” (see Box 2). We have drawn on these in working with the Secretariat and other NWP partners to address NWP objectives relating to knowledge exchange.

Box 2: 10 Portal Pitfalls

1. Don't assume that a portal is the best solution
2. Don't do it if someone else already has and don't go solo
3. Don't ask stakeholders what they want from a portal
4. Don't try to be everything for everybody
5. Don't start if it does not fit with your organisation vision and mission
6. Don't over obsess about the technology
7. Don't forget about the content
8. Don't set up complicated or untenable delivery teams
9. Don't assume that if you build it 'they will come'
10. Don't think that you can set it up then sit back

See <http://ikmediaries.pbworks.com/10-Portal-Pitfalls> for more details

Discussions during the IDS hosted two-day workshop “Coordinating web-based knowledge sharing for climate change adaptation” identified a number of lessons, for existing services, drawn from the experience of participants:

- Greater harmonisation of content management (formats, thematic categorisation, etc.) is required between the services to facilitate sharing of resources
- Channels of communication between the services must improve to enable a mutual promotion of resources
- Greater sharing of resources for tracking and identifying new content are needed to avoid unnecessary duplication of work
- Greater integration of certain tools and resources across platforms will provide added value and coherence for end-users.

Our involvement with partners from this meeting in the wiki-based “Frontline Knowledge Explorer”, and other experience of using wikis that IDS has taken part in, has

also enabled us to draw a number of lessons and challenges around the use of wikis as a tool⁶. [NOTE: These are IDS initial conclusions and not necessarily those of the other project partners]

- Wikis are useful for co-collation of knowledge not co-creation. Wikis are not useful for generating new knowledge, if there are differences of opinion about an issue it is useful to see the debate, however editing other peoples work on a wiki does not constitute debate.
- Wikis are useful as a shared workspace for those who work in geographically dispersed teams

In a research context lack of familiarity with the other participants, lack of familiarity with the technology and lack of time were the most common barriers to participation. These barriers can be mitigated by strong facilitation and identification of appropriate incentives but this requires significant time investment.

⁶ Wikis in Practice: the challenges of collaboration, IDS, 2009 (DRAFT)