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# Climate and Development Knowledge Brokers Workshop

Eschborn, Germany  
3-5 June 2011

## Workshop report



## About this publication

This report summarises the key discussions and findings from the Climate and Development Knowledge Brokers workshop, held in Eschborn, Germany, from 3-5 June 2011, and organised by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK).



**giz**



[www.cdkn.org](http://www.cdkn.org)  
[www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)  
[www.pik-potsdam.de](http://www.pik-potsdam.de)

For more information about the workshop, and the Climate Knowledge Brokers Group that has been established to take this collaborative agenda forward, visit:  
[http://en.openei.org/wiki/Knowledge\\_Brokers\\_Workshop](http://en.openei.org/wiki/Knowledge_Brokers_Workshop)

## Information on funders

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## Disclaimer

This report summarises discussions held in an informal workshop setting. The views expressed are those of the individual participants who took part in the workshop, and do not necessarily reflect those of their respective organisations, or their funders.

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## Overview and key outcomes

### The challenge

Access to reliable information, and the ability to share lessons and experience, are key ingredients in tackling climate change. This is a particular priority for developing countries, where the dual challenges of climate change and development are closely intertwined.

Over the past decade, numerous websites, portals and online platforms have been set up to take on this 'knowledge brokerage' role, and more are being launched every year. But the 'knowledge infrastructure' within the climate and development sector is still weak. There are many data and information gaps,<sup>1</sup> and many of the knowledge sharing initiatives that exist operate in isolation from each other, risking duplication of effort and the 'reinvention of wheels'.

Many initiatives are also fragile and under-resourced; it is often easier to fund new initiatives than to build on those already there. This leads to a phenomenon we dubbed 'portal proliferation syndrome'.<sup>2</sup> Most importantly, it is often hard for potential users of climate change information to make sense of what's out there. Where do you go? Who do you trust? How can be sure you're getting the most relevant and up-to-date information?

### The objectives

The hypothesis behind the workshop was that closer collaboration between existing initiatives is an important way to address this challenge: "Surely we can do this job better if we are talking to each other?"

The specific objectives were to:

- build bridges between and within the development, climate adaptation, climate mitigation and climate finance worlds, and between global and regional initiatives
- find out about the approaches being taken and the niches that different initiatives fill
- compare notes on the challenges we face
- discuss modalities for closer collaboration and assess which would be most effective
- agree concrete steps to take the collaboration agenda forward.

### The event

The workshop was convened by CDKN, GIZ and PIK-Potsdam, and held at the GIZ offices in Eschborn. It was organised for the weekend before the June 2011 UNFCCC climate talks in Bonn, enabling people to attend both events. Thirty-five participants from 21 web initiatives (13 global and 8 regional) attended. These cut across climate sub-sectors, so managers of adaptation portals met with counterparts covering low carbon growth, and those from climate finance initiatives interacted with colleagues covering ecosystem services or wider development issues.

The format was highly participatory. Each initiative was asked to prepare PowerPoint presentations in advance, but to 'leave them at the door'. They were uploaded to a shared web space,<sup>3</sup> hosted by OpenEI, to provide a publically accessible reference point.

The first day focused on mapping existing initiatives, understanding demand better, and sharing challenges. The second day asked: 'how can we collaborate better?' After an initial visioning exercise, participants explored different modalities of collaboration and discussed in concrete terms what should we do together, both on a one-to-one basis and as a group.

<sup>1</sup> The IPCC report (2007) noted this gap

<sup>2</sup> <http://cdkn.org/2011/06/portal-proliferation-syndrome/>

<sup>3</sup> [http://en.openei.org/wiki/Knowledge\\_Brokers\\_Workshop](http://en.openei.org/wiki/Knowledge_Brokers_Workshop)

## Achievements

- **Getting this group together** was a first; there's not been anything quite like it before. Many participants noted how valuable it was to broaden their networks, and there was a clear desire to build on the goodwill and momentum created.
- We did a **baseline survey** of who knows who, and who is already collaborating with whom. This will be repeated in six months' time to see how collaborative networks have evolved.
- We constructed a **detailed knowledge map**, in the form of a matrix, of who's doing what, how, and for which target audiences. This will be a useful source document, both for participants and others.
- The session on **understanding user demand** was particularly appreciated, as everyone recognises this as a weak spot. And the session on **sharing challenges** showed how much we have to learn from each other.

## Reflections

- **Collaboration can happen at many levels.** Just knowing about each other is a start; creating mechanisms to share lessons and experience is perhaps the next step.
- Setting up a **joint search facility** is relatively easy these days, so rather than being left to the mercy of Google, users can be offered an intelligent search of a subset of recommended climate websites.
- Moving up the scale, there are several **automated content-sharing options** which allow websites to take interesting content from other sites and present it to their users.
- **Sharing platforms** with other partners is one of the closest forms of collaboration, and several participants offer this service.
- These approaches can go a long way towards treating the worst effects of portal proliferation syndrome. We agreed that too much collaboration could actually be detrimental, since an element of competition is what keeps innovation moving on the web. Participants adopted the phrase '**constructive co-opetition**' to describe what might be optimal.

## Next steps

- Through the workshop, we have established an informal **Climate Knowledge Brokers Group** to build on the momentum generated by the workshop. A steering group has been established to coordinate this.
- This group will **keep sharing and talking**. An email list has been created and the existing online space on OpenEI will be used to share files.
- **Four joint projects were identified**, which will: progress the linked open data concept (via a workshop/webinar); develop a 'portal-of-portals' to signpost what's out there; expand the use of the **reegle shared search facility** and glossary;<sup>4</sup> and explore a possible project on shared metadata standards, including analysis of existing standards.
- The group will take **three discussion areas forward**: usage and impact monitoring; communicating uncertainty around climate change; and approaches to adaptation/mitigation.
- Many **specific follow-up actions** were agreed between individual initiatives (42 in total).
- **We will meet again in a year's time** – in Germany, around the time of the June 2012 Bonn UNFCCC meetings. Regional versions of the workshop might also be useful if there is interest.

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<sup>4</sup> See: [www.reegle.info](http://www.reegle.info)



## Origins of the workshop

The idea of this workshop emerged from conversations in late 2010 between CDKN, IDS and a number of other organisations involved in managing climate-related portals and other online knowledge initiatives. There was an immediate recognition of the problem of initiatives working in isolation from each other, duplicating efforts, and not 'connecting up' as well as they should. And it feels like new websites are being launched almost every week, adding to an already crowded and confusing information marketplace. Rather than seeing each other as competitors, there seemed to be an appetite to work together to do something about this. A meeting to discuss closer collaboration felt like a good first step.

The concept crystallised a few months later at the AfricaAdapt Symposium in Addis Ababa, where discussions focused on the importance of supporting regional knowledge initiatives, and linking global and local knowledge more effectively. A consensus emerged that we should act sooner rather than later, and try to organise a workshop to coincide with the June UNFCCC inter-sessional talks in Bonn.

The next step was to find an organisation to host the workshop. GIZ stepped forward to take on this role, offering their headquarters in Eschborn. As joint managers of the ci:grasp website, along with PIK-Potsdam, they were thinking along similar lines and had in fact had planned to hold a workshop of this kind earlier in the year that ended up being postponed.

A Steering Group was formed to help shape the agenda and plan the event. This comprised:

Geoff Barnard, CDKN	Florian Bauer, REEEP
Daniel Buckley, UNDP	Sadie Cox, NREL
Roopa Rakshit, UNEP	Christoph Feldkoetter, GIZ
Susanne Schwan, GIZ	Catherine Fisher, IDS
Blane Harvey, IDS	

Who to invite was an important early decision. It was agreed we should keep the group reasonably small, and that it should include a mix of leading global and regional knowledge sharing initiatives. Invitations went out to around 30 initiatives, of which 21 were able to come; an encouraging sign of the interest in discussing closer collaboration.

### A word on terminology

One problem we struggled with was agreeing a term to describe the kind of initiatives we were talking about. There is no agreed definition of what a 'portal' is as opposed to a website, or how this is different from a 'knowledge platform' or an 'information gateway'.

The Steering Group decided to use 'Climate Knowledge Brokers' as an umbrella term to describe the set of initiatives we were concentrating on. The deliberate focus was on online initiatives that play an explicit knowledge brokerage role, rather than being simply institutional websites.

Since we recognise that terminology is important, after the workshop Catherine Fisher volunteered the following working definition of 'knowledge brokers':

**Climate and development knowledge brokers** support knowledge sharing between stakeholders. They raise awareness of existing knowledge from diverse sources, improve access to it, and support stakeholders to understand and use data, information and knowledge in climate-related planning, decisions and actions. Knowledge brokers' key role is to catalyse knowledge and enable stakeholders to use multiple information sources in change processes.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Further discussion around terminology related to knowledge broker function can be found at the Knowledge Brokers' Forum site: [www.knowledgebrokersforum.org](http://www.knowledgebrokersforum.org)

We see this definition as a work in progress. As discovered during the workshop, we use different terms to describe the work we do, and initiatives do not fit into neat boxes. Nor is terminology easy to agree upon; as Daan Boom from ICIMOD noted, the word ‘brokering’ often means matching supply and demand – with a charge for delivering. For this reason, some participants prefer the terms ‘knowledge managers’ or ‘knowledge facilitators’.

To understand each other, we need to delve further and get beyond the language we use to grasp the essence of what initiatives are trying to achieve, for whom, and by which means. This was the focus of the first workshop session on mapping knowledge niches.



## Mapping knowledge niches

Facilitator: Catherine Fisher (IDS)

The aim of this session was to position climate and development knowledge initiatives with respect to each other. Who is doing what, how, and for whom? And where are the overlaps?



*Catherine Fisher opens the session on mapping knowledge niches*

### **Where do you stand on a spectrum?**

The session began with a purposeful icebreaker. Participants were asked to organise themselves in a line representing a spectrum from one extreme to another. This got conversations going, and after each line up was formed, Catherine asked people at different points on the spectrum to describe their initiative and how they answered the question. Four questions were posed and a sample of responses are summarised below.

#### *a) How long has your initiative been going?*

ICIMOD dates back to 1987, while Eldis has been in operation since 1995; at the other end of the spectrum, LACPF was just 48 hours old at the start of the conference!

#### *b) How many people work for your initiative?*

ICIMOD led the way with 140 people.<sup>6</sup> Several were around the 6-8 person mark, including AfricaAdapt and ci:grasp. In contrast, ClimatePrep employs just 10% of a person.

#### *c) What kind of stuff do you cover in your service, from local to global?*

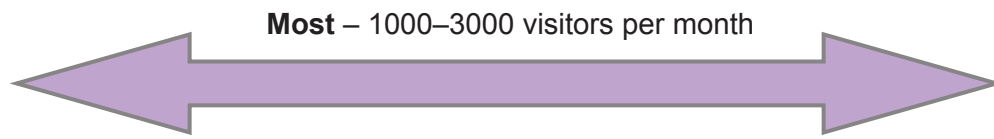
Most organisations positioned themselves in the middle: "We do both". This often includes a focus on local stories, but using global tools and methodologies.

<sup>6</sup> This refers to ICIMOD's full staff team, not all of whom are working on the web platform.



d) *How many unique visitors does your website get per month?*

This was the killer question, and the debates started immediately: “Do you mean hits, visits, unique visitors?”



**ICIMOD and reegle** – 80-100,000 visitors per month

**LACFP** – 10 users in 2 days

## Mapping exercise

The second part of the session sought to be more systematic. Six main sets of criteria for describing knowledge initiatives had been developed beforehand. These covered the purpose of the initiative, the content type, subject focus, audience focus, editorial approach, and technology/delivery approach. Under each heading, there were between five and ten criteria to consider – 46 in total.

These were written up on flip charts as a matrix, with the criteria along the top and the names of initiatives down the side. These were pinned on boards around the room, and participants moved around each ‘station’ in turn to describe that aspect of their initiative. A ‘station master’ was positioned at each point to help facilitate discussion and note the key points.

Participants were asked to score their initiative on a scale from 0 to 3, where:

- 0 = not relevant for us/we don't do this
- 1 = we do some of this
- 2 = we do a lot of this
- 3 = this is the most important aspect for us – it's a defining characteristic of our service

This exercise could have been done as an online survey. But the advantage of doing it in a group setting was that criteria could be questioned, and responses queried. It was acknowledged that the criteria themselves were not perfect, since it is hard to categorise complex initiatives into neat boxes. So an ‘other’ column was included at each station, where participants could describe additional features that were not captured in the other criteria. And in cases where an initiative was planning to do more of something, this was recorded with an up arrow.

The results of the mapping exercise are summarised in the following tables. The main trends and discussions at each station are also noted. It is worth noting that these values represent the views of the participants; they do not necessarily represent organisational views.

The numerical values given by participants have been replaced with coloured dots to enable comparison between and within the tables. The totals for each column are the sum of the numerical values; the raw data is available on the workshop website.

- 0 = -
- 1 = ●
- 2 = ●
- 3 = ●

## 1. Purpose

Trends and discussions:

- This category prompted some philosophical debates: what is data versus information versus knowledge? Can knowledge sharing only happen through interaction?
- The website is just part of the work for many initiatives, so it was hard to separate out its purpose from the overall objective of the programme or organisation.
- Improving access to information scored the most 3's. This is a baseline objective for many initiatives.
- For others, exchange and debate are the key things.
- Informing policy making/advocating was less important for most: many are "trying not to do this".
- It's easy to forget why we do things: we get into outputs, web stats, technologies. It's important to come back to the purpose. We can all end up looking similar, despite different initial purposes.
- Is the provision of information enough to meet advocacy aims? It's easy to say one thing in a mission statement and end up doing another.
- Purpose depends on the primary audience – they need to be thought about together.
- Part of the role of web portals is making sense of uncertainty and brokering between climate science and a non-science audience.



Michael Hoppe, GIZ, describes *ci:grasp*'s subject focus

# 1. Purpose

Initiative	Improving access to information	Helping people make sense of and apply info	Supporting knowledge sharing and debate	Promoting more informed policy making	Advocating for specific changes	Other	Specify
Actualidad Ambiental	●	●	●	●	●		media & policy makers are primary audience, provide tools
ALM	●	●	●	●	-		
Africa Adapt	●	●	●	●	- ↑		
African Adaptation Programme	● ↑	● ↑	●	● ↑	● ↑		
CCCCC	●	●	● ↑	●	●		
ci:grasp	●	●	●	●	-		
OpenEI	●	●	●	●	-		
CDKN	●	●	●	●	-		
Climate Change Adaptation in Asia & Pacific	●	●	●	●	-	● ↑	media
World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal	●	●	● ↑	●	-		
Climate Finance Options	●	●	●	●	-		
Climate Funds Update	●	●	●	●	-		
ClimatePrep	●	●	●	●	●		
CRiSTAL	-	●	●	●	-		
Ecosystem Marketplace	●	●	● ↑	●	●		
Eldis	●	● ↑	● ↑	● ↑	- ↑		
ICIMOD	●	● ↑	●	●	●	●	utilization follow up
LACFP	●	●	●	●	-		
MAPS	●	●	●	●	●		
reegle	●	●	●	●	-		
weADAPT	●	● ↑	●	● ↑	-		
<b>Total score</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>11</b>		

## 2. Content type

Trends and discussion:

- There were a lot of categories: some people were challenged to pin down their most important content (having too many 3s was discouraged!)
- A lot of platforms are very aspirational – many want to increase the scope of their work.
- Some are niche platforms – LACFP, for example, focuses on personal profiles and networking between individuals.
- Many people had ‘other’ categories ranked as 3s, e.g. lessons learned, decision-making tools, news and events.



*Susanne Etti considers her scores at the 'Content type' board*



## 2. Content type

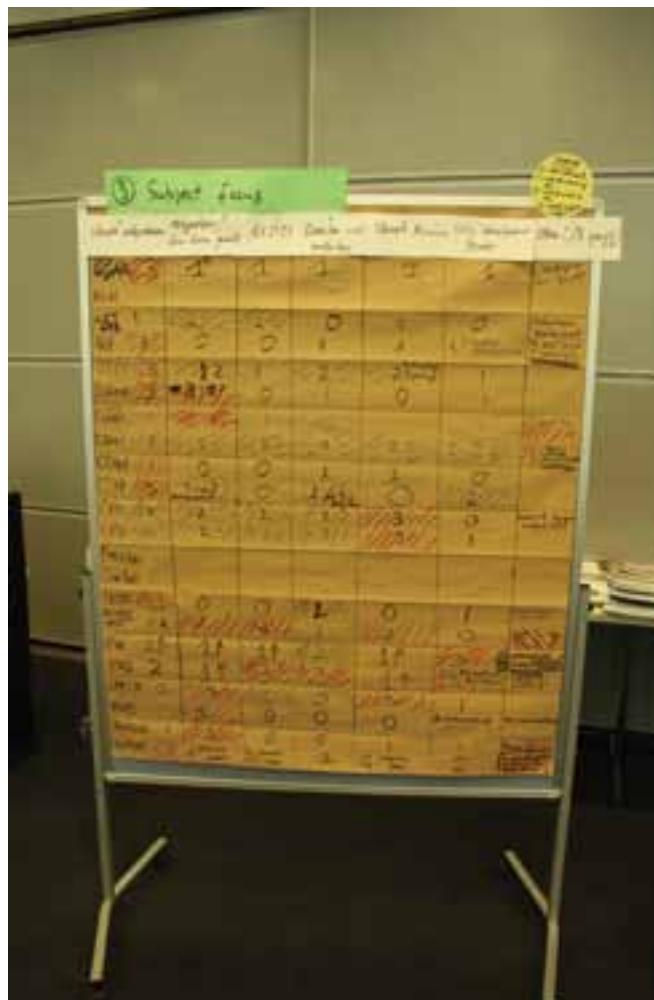
Initiative	Numerical data	Research findings	Case studies/ project info	Government policy docs	Expert commentary/ opinion	News & events	Experts/ personal profiles	Multi-media content	Multi-lingual content	Other	Specify	
Actualidad Ambiental	-	● ↑	●	●	●	●	-	●	-			
ALM	-	●	●	●	-	● ↑	-	● ↑	●	●	Lessons & climate profiles	
Africa Adapt	-	↑	●	●	-	↑	●	●	●	●		
African Adaptation Programme	● ↑	●	●	●	-	●	● ↑	● ↑	●	●	Decision tools	
CCCCC	●	●	●	●	●	●	-	↑	●	●	Down-scaled climate models	
ci:grasp	●	●	●	-	-	●	-	●	-			
OpenEI	●	●	●	●	-	●	-	●	●	●		
CDKN	-	●	●	-	● ↑	●	●	●	● ↑	●	Import content from partners	
Climate Change Adaptation in Asia & Pacific	-	●	●	●	● ↑	●	-	● ↑	●	●	Media kits	
World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal	●	●	●	●	-	●	-	-	-	●	Decision support tools	
Climate Finance Options	●	●	●	●	-	↑	●	-	●	-	↑	Lessons learned
Climate Funds Update	●	●	●	-	●	-	-	●	-	↑	-	
ClimatePrep	-	-	●	-	●	●	●	●	●	●	Lessons learned, personal experience	
CRiSTAL	-	●	●	-	● ↑	●	-	-	●	●	Resources relating to the CRiSTAL tool	
Ecosystem Marketplace	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Eldis	-	↑	●	● ↑	● ↑	● ↑	●	●	● ↑	● ↑		
ICIMOD	●	●	● ↑	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Modelling, learning	
LACFP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	-	-		
MAPS	-	● ↑	●	●	-	● ↑	●	-	-			
reegle	●	●	●	●	-	●	-	●	●	●	Sources, glossary, country profiles	
weADAPT	-	↑	●	●	●	-	-	●	●	● ↑	● ↑	Adaptation decision tools & guidance
<b>Total score</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>20</b>			

### 3. Subject focus

Trends and discussions:

- Some people felt this was the station where the key overlaps/gaps between platforms came up – it tells us who is doing what. It is the place to start finding ‘coopetitors’.
- It was quite a straightforward category, with not a lot of discussion – people could fill it in spontaneously.
- Adaptation was the main issue for most of the initiatives present; fewer focus on mitigation.
- Only one initiative scored ‘3’ for both mitigation and adaptation – ci:grasp – although others want to move into this dual role.
- CDKN work across the board through their cross-cutting approach of ‘climate compatible development’.
- Many platforms are looking to increase their work in certain subject areas.
- ‘Indigenous development’ and ‘decision making’ came up several times in the ‘other’ category.
- There’s an advantage in not doing everything and having a niche – it provides scope for collaborating with others.

*Roopa Rakshit (UNEP): Purpose and subject focus are often donor driven; we should invite donors to the next workshop.*



*A near-completed ‘Subject Focus’ board*

### 3. Subject focus

Initiative	Climate adaptation	Mitigation/ low carbon growth	REDD	Disaster Risk Reduction	Climate finance	Wider development issues	Other	Specify
Actualidad Ambiental	●	●↑	●	●	●	●	●	Indigenous knowledge
ALM	●	-	●	●	-	●		
Africa Adapt	●	●	●	●	●	●		Indigenous knowledge
African Adaptation Programme	●	-	-	●	●	●	●	Decision making
CCCCC	●	●	●	●	●↑	●		
ci:grasp	●	●	-	●	-	●		
OpenEI	●	●	●	-	●	●	●	Energy
CDKN	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Cross-cutting focus: climate compatible development
Climate Change Adaptation in Asia & Pacific	●	-	-	●	●	-		
World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal	●	●↑	-	●↑	-	●		
Climate Finance Options	●	●	●	●	●	-		
Climate Funds Update	●	●	●	●	●	●		
ClimatePrep	●	-	●	●	-	-		
CRiSTAL	●	-	-	●	-	●		Project planning at local level
Ecosystem Marketplace	●↑	●	●	●	●	-	●	Payment for ecosystem services (PES)
Eldis	●↑	●↑	●↑	●	●	●	●	Southern produced resources, gender
ICIMOD	●	●↑	●	●	●	●		PES
LACFP	-	●	●	-	●	●		
MAPS	-	●	-	-	-	●		Scenario modelling
reegle	●	●	-	-	●	●	●	Energy
weADAPT	●	●↑	●↑	●↑	●↑	●↑	●	Decision making tools for adaptation
<b>Total score</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>		

#### 4. Audience/geographic focus

Trends and discussions:

- Practitioners and government decision makers scored highest as priority audiences, followed by civil society and international development agencies.
- The general public and the private sector were low-scoring groups.
- A lot of discussion focused on what was meant by each category: public – “the guy on his laptop in Ivory Coast”; civil society – “those with an agenda, e.g. student activists”; decision makers – “national and local government”; practitioners – “field officers, those on the ground”.
- One audience category that people felt was missing was the media.
- Some platforms have a very specific audience, linked to a specific mandate; others have a broader sense of who they are trying to reach.
- In terms of regional audiences, ‘local/sub-national groups’ was missing as an important category for some platforms.
- Who you target and who actually uses your site are not necessarily the same thing. How do you keep the focus on the key target audience, such as policymakers, when, when others start using the platform and making demands?
- Do audiences change over time, and if so, what happens then? Do you change content to try to hit the originally intended audience, or go with the audience you have because it shows you’re meeting a need?
- It takes time to encourage users; websites need to stay focused to build up a strong user community.
- Do we match what donors want, or recognise the need that is coming up and discuss that with donors? Do you stick with who you appeal to?

*Christoph Feldkoetter (GIZ): The audience board is more about the intended audience than the actual audience.*

*Jürgen Kropp (PIK): There is a clear gap between providers of information and potential users. Our press office explains science every day, but there is a communications problem on the layman’s side. Are we just reaching people who are already convinced – people using information to support their work? How do we reach the people who aren’t engaged? This is not yet being done by the web platforms.*

*Blane Harvey (IDS): Target audiences are donor-driven – “It’s got to be for policymakers”. For AfricaAdapt, the users came out as different groups but the donors ask “Are you reaching policymakers?”*

*Timo Baur (CCCCC): It’s not always easy to reach your target audience online; you need to talk to people. We need to think beyond online platforms. Are fishermen likely to use the internet?*

*Daniel Buckley (UNDP): I would be interested to see a breakdown of how long a platform has been around, and how well defined its audience and subject matter are.*



## 4. Audience focus

Initiative	Priority users									Geographic Focus		
	Government decision makers	International development agencies	Scientists & researchers	Practitioners	Private sector	Civil society	General public	Other	Specify	National level	Regional level	International level
Actualidad Ambiental	●	-	●	●	●	●	●	●	media	●	●	●
ALM	●	●	●	●	-	●	●	-		●	●	●
Africa Adapt	●	-	●	●	-	●	●	●	media	●	●	-
African Adaptation Programme	●	●	●	●	-	●	-	●	media	●	●	●
CCCCC	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	media	●	●	●
ci:grasp	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	-		●	-	●
OpenEI	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	-		●	●	●
CDKN	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	media	●	●	●
Climate Change Adaptation in Asia & Pacific	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	media	●	●	●
World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal	●↑	●	●	●	-↑	●	●	-		●	●	●
Climate Finance Options	●	-↑	●	●	●	●	-	-		●	●	●
Climate Funds Update	●	●	-	●	●	●	●	-		●	●	●
ClimatePrep	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	-		●	●	●
CRiSTAL	●	●	-	●	-	●	-	-		●	●	0
Ecosystem Marketplace	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	-		●↑	●	●
Eldis	●↑	●	●↑	●	-	●↑	●↑	●		●↑	●↑	●↑
ICIMOD	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	youth	●	●	●
LACFP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	-		●	●	●
MAPS	●	●	●	-	-	●	●	-		●	●	●
reegle	●	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	media & education	●	●	●
weADAPT	●	●	●	●	-	●	●	-		●	●	●
<b>Total score</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>22</b>			<b>54</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>35</b>

## 5. Editorial approach

Trends and discussions:

- Most initiatives organise content by theme and by country; this is the most widely used editorial approach.
- There is editorial input, with most initiatives selecting content (though what this means varies from a 'light touch' process of accepting or rejecting submitted content to actively seeking out new material).
- Not many initiatives have introductions to topics or syntheses – is this a gap?
- Some content is user-generated – could more of it be?
- A lot of initiatives are developing toolkits/media kits.



*Discussions at the mapping boards*

## 5. Editorial focus

Initiative	Editor selects content	Users/partners contribute content	Content organised by theme/country/topic	Introductions to topics/concepts provided	Summaries/abstracts of documents written	Synthesis products produced	Other	Specify
Actualidad Ambiental	●	-	●	-	●	-		news agency
ALM	●	●	●	● ↑	●	●		
Africa Adapt	●	●	●	●	●	●		
African Adaptation Programme	● ↑	● ↑	●	●	● ↑	● ↑		
CCCCC	●	●	●	●	●	●		
ci:grasp	●	●	●	● ↑	● ↑	●		
OpenEI	●	●	●	●	●	●		
CDKN	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Climate Change Adaptation in Asia & Pacific	●	●	●	●	●	●	● ↑	media kits
World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal	●	-	●	● ↑	●	●		Toolkits, models, library of links
Climate Finance Options	●	●	●	●	-	-		Library of docs, toolkits
Climate Funds Update	●	-	●	●	●	●		
ClimatePrep	●	●	●	●	-	-		
CRiSTAL	●	●	●	●	-	-		
Ecosystem Marketplace	●	-	●	●	●	●		Breaking news, features
Eldis	●	●	●	● ↑	●	● ↑		Key Issue Guides, print
ICIMOD	●	●	●	●	●	●		Media, press, global events
LACFP	●	●	●	●	●	-		
MAPS	● ↑	● ↑	●	● ↑	● ↑	● ↑		
reegle	-	●	●	-	-	●		
weADAPT	●	●	●	-	-	-		
<b>Total score</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>		

## 6. Technology/delivery approach

Trends and discussions:

- Differences between initiatives were clearer under this category than most others.
- 'Searchable database' scored the most 3s – this is a key aspect of most websites.
- Visualisation and decision-making tools/maps were the next most common approaches (maps were taken as referring to a simple Google map layer, whereas visualisation and decision-making tools implied more advanced features and data presentation approaches)
- There was some debate over where certain technologies fit in the sub-categories e.g. where do email forums go?
- The 'other' included a lot of mediums: radio, video, multimedia, print.
- Social networking got quite a few 0s, surprising some people: "I thought everyone did this."
- Blogging scored mostly 0s and 1s – again a surprise for some.
- A lot of initiatives are aspirational and are planning to use more approaches.

*Fatema Rajabali (IDS): How people are approaching this is quite subjective. Some are aspirational, some focus on current content. Scores may vary depending on interpretation.*

### Reflections on the process

- Some groups worked silently, some discussed. Those who discussed tended to adjust scores during the discussion more than others (often grading their scores upwards).
- As the exercise progressed, some station masters introduced the new group to the board by recapping what previous groups had noted – this often helped to kick-start discussions (although it may have prevented other issues coming up).
- Would some general discussion of the categories before the ranking exercise began have helped to establish some common ground/definitions?
- A quick straw poll at the end suggested most people felt the exercise was useful. People did raise some issues about the methodology, both during and after the exercise.
- Was the scoring based on the current situation, or on aspirations? Conclusion: score on current situation, add notes about aspirations.
- How much subjectivity was there in the categories and the scoring? Does this change as categories become clearer through discussion?
- Do scores reflect the theoretical importance of something to a service, or the amount of content/money/time spent? In terms of technology, for example, a portal may have lots of one thing, but something else is the key delivery approach or niche.
- Does the ranking reflect just the web portal or broader knowledge broker work? Some people reflected their programme more widely, while others stuck to the portal.
- Is it easier to score if your service has been around for longer, or is more established? You then have a clearer idea of where you are.
- The data will identify people working in your subject area – it will be possible to identify your closets comparators.

*Shaun Martin (WWF): There is a lot of potential for analysis in this mapping e.g. which organisations are working on the same subject – and are they doing it in the same way? We need the data collated to identify trends.*

*Blane Harvey (IDS): We need a cooperation finder tool – like a dating service.*



## 6. Technology/delivery focus

Initiative	Searchable database	Social networking platform	Visualisation & decision-making tools	Blogs	Maps	Email news-etter	Email disc-ssion list	Face-book/ Twitter	RSS feeds	Face to face events	Other	Specify
Actualidad Ambiental	●	●	●	●	-	●	-	●	●	●		
ALM	●	● ↑	●	-	●	●	● ↑	● ↑	● ↑	-	● ↑	multimedia
Africa Adapt	● ↑	● ↑	-	●	●	●	- ↑	●	● ↑	● ↑		
African Adaptation Programme	● ↑	-	●	● ↑	-	● ↑	● ↑	-	-	●	●	
CCCCC	●	-	● ↑	-	●	●	● ↑	-	●	●		by countries/ categories
ci:grasp	● ↑	● ↑	● ↑	-	●	-	-	● ↑	●	-		
OpenEI	● ↑	-	●	●	●	●	-	●	●	● ↑	● ↑	open data, RDF, video
CDKN	● ↑	● ↑	-	●	-	●	-	●	●	●	● ↑	video
Climate Change Adaptation in Asia & Pacific	● ↑	-	-	-	●	●	● ↑	-	●	●	● ↑	linked open access coming soon
World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal	●	-	●	- ↑	●	-	-	-	-	-		
Climate Finance Options	●	● ↑	●	-	-	● ↑	- ↑	● ↑	- ↑	● ↑		
Climate Funds Update	●	-	-	-	●	-	-	-	-	-		
ClimatePrep	-	-	-	●	-	●	-	●	●	-		
CRiSTAL	●	-	-	-	●	-	● ↑	-	-	●		
Ecosystem Marketplace	●	-	●	●	-	●	●	●	●	-		
Eldis	● ↑	● ↑	● ↑	● ↑	●	● ↑	● ↑	●	● ↑	● ↑		Open API
ICIMOD	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		meta data
LACFP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
MAPS	- ↑	- ↑	-	- ↑	-	- ↑	- ↑	-	- ↑	-		
reegle	● ↑	-	●	●	●	-	-	●	●	- ↑		open data RDF
weADAPT	●	●	●	- ↑	●	- ↑	-	- ↑	- ↑	-		
<b>Total score</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>23</b>		

## Understanding demand

Facilitator: Blane Harvey (IDS)

This session looked at understanding demand: how well do we know our audiences? We all have labels for who we think our products are for, but: what does 'policymaker' mean? How do they use information? When do they use it? What for?

### Methodology

To start the conversation, people were asked to work in pairs to:

- visualise an end user (a real person). What do they do? Why do they use your service? What do they like/dislike? How do you know them? When do they use the service?
- introduce your service to a partner from the perspective of the end user – put yourself in their shoes.

Participants were also asked to reflect on the following questions:

- Do you understand the needs of your selected user as well as you'd like to?
- How typical do you think your end user is to the broader usership of your service?
- How do you imagine his/her needs and priorities will have evolved five years from now?

The discussion then moved into three larger groups, where at each table several participants gave examples of approaches they had used to gauge demand or to survey user feedback. They were encouraged to share what hasn't worked, as well as what has. Finally, tables were asked to feed back to the plenary the shared lessons and principles that had emerged.

### Shared lessons and principles

The group discussions identified several principles for reaching users.

- Users don't necessarily know what they want; it is important to have a participatory development process.
- Understand the difference between demand-driven and outcome-driven: what do you want to change for people? It may not always be what people say they want.
- Asking users to sign up can be useful for knowing who they are, but can also be a turn-off.
- Likewise, it is great to get user profiles, but they have to be updated – things change.
- Usability testing is essential for understanding if you meet user needs or not; beta testing is also very useful to engage with users early on.
- Using Twitter and Facebook is very useful to analyse user's networks – it gives you a lot of information.
- Within an organisation, it can be difficult to establish a common understanding of who your users are.
- Be happy with the users you've got: "If you can't be with the one you love, love the one you're with."
- The business we are in is not for walk-in customers – we cater to the needs of processes, not individuals.
- If you want decision makers to use your tools, involve them at the start.
- Keep it simple! Put information in an accessible format and it will reach your key audience.
- 'Dumbing down' does work – don't be afraid that you are losing a technical audience, but include access to more detailed information.
- Cultivating trust agents – trusted people on the web with a large following – is a good way to increase your usership. Find out: who are your key audience already reading?
- You need to build a relationship with bloggers – they can also provide you with stories and content.

*Fatema Rajabali (IDS): Eldis haven't met many of their users. We are now trying to meet them when they travel, to have a better understanding of the challenges they face when using Eldis.*

*Geoff Barnard (CDKN): Many sites are under pressure to be all things to all people. It's very difficult to do.*

*Daan Boom (ICIMOD): I did a user survey on products disseminated to ADB. They have a big cabinet: "This is where we store the books and every year we throw them away".*

*Florian Bauer (REEEP): It's very important to do usability tests. You see people trying to find the service, trying to find something, and can find out how you have to improve your system to help them to succeed.*

*Steve Zwick (Ecosystem Marketplace): The real challenge is luring in the disinterested people – we are good at preaching to the converted but need to lure in the others.*

*Geoff Barnard (CDKN): The trouble is that we don't know the vast majority of web users. Many are probably random Google users – 'pinball' users who bounce in and out your site in very unpredictable ways.*

*Christoph Feldkoetter (GIZ): Hardly any [of our target audience] are decision makers – we are going for the advisors to them. This may be a relatively small group of users, but it may be the people we should be looking for."*

*Blane Harvey (IDS): Should we pitch to the middle – go for the average? Or pitch to the 10% of users who are actually our target? There are the people you are aiming to reach versus the people who come up in the stats. Maybe we need to change who we focus on, or maybe we can't.*

*Jürgen Kropp (PIK): We are doing the second step before the first. The core of the communications problem is uncertainty – how do we communicate this? Stakeholders don't understand how to interpret all this information. Information is not enough – they need to understand uncertainty.*



*Steve Zwick and Luis Eduardo Cisneros discuss their end users*

## Sharing challenges

Facilitator: Catherine Fisher (IDS)

The aim of this session was share some of the challenges that initiatives face, and get concrete advice from other participants on how best to address them.

### Methodology

A 'Peer Assist' approach was used for this session.<sup>7</sup> We divided into three groups and sat around a flip chart where a volunteer presented a challenge they face in their work. After asking questions for clarification, a facilitator went round the group to get their advice on how to tackle the challenge. Ideas were noted on the flip chart.

After 20 minutes, participants moved around, so they heard about another challenge and, after another 20 minutes, the third. By the end of the hour, the volunteers had received focused feedback from the entire group, and the flip charts were full of concrete suggestions.

### Challenge 1: How do we get policymakers to champion knowledge management?

Roopa Rakshit from the UNEP Adaptation Knowledge Platform organised an event in Asia for 40 knowledge managers. They all gave similar feedback – practitioners engaged with their services, but the problem was policymakers. How do you raise awareness of knowledge management at the policy level? Roopa explained that in Asia, each country has its own priorities and mandates – but the concept of knowledge management is not a priority for anyone. How do we fill the gap between practitioners and policymakers? What is their incentive for engaging with knowledge management? How do you change the culture?

The immediate response was “It can't be done”. A defeatist response, or a realistic assessment based on years in the field? Christoph Feldkoetter (GIZ) said he couldn't remember a policymaker in Germany who championed knowledge management: “If we don't have such a person, is it realistic to expect it in other countries?”



*Roopa Rakshit gets advice on how to work with policymakers*

Aditi Maheshwari, from the World Bank, sought to clarify the issue. “Knowledge management may not be a priority, but the appropriate use of appropriate knowledge may be. Are we actually trying to instil a knowledge management culture among policymakers? Do we want them to adopt the terminology of knowledge management, or just make appropriate use of knowledge?”

<sup>7</sup> A helpful YouTube clip demonstrating the peer assist methodology can be found at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObmQyW3EiiE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObmQyW3EiiE)

Others felt that it is simply not how policymaking works in much of the world. Daan Boom (ICIMOD) said: “Forget about reaching the policymakers; you need to reach the intermediaries.” Others agreed; you need to reach the lobbyists, the advisors, the intermediaries. AfricaAdapt takes the approach of working with people already engaged with policymakers, such as CORAF.

The discussion ended with an interesting debate – is the terminology wrong? Daniel Buckley (UNDP) said: “The term ‘knowledge management’ is the problem. It’s a very obtuse term; it makes no sense to some people. It needs better marketing, a better sounding term that makes people realise they do it already. Even politicians do it on a basic level. Evidence-based policy is better.”

## **Challenge 2: How can I turn a general interest in sustainable development into a specific interest in my tool?**

Steve Zwick from Ecosystem Marketplace wants people to be aware of how ecosystem services work. “People won’t pay for something they don’t understand; we need the majority on our side.” But their readership is mostly the converted. “How do we reach the mainstream, the people who don’t know about this stuff?” They get about 12,000 readers a month, but it’s topped out and is not going up.

Key suggestions from the group included:

- Don’t try to be the master disseminator – go after the disseminators already out there.
- Go after the mainstream media, let them take your message forward – use services like the BBC.
- Are 12,000 visitors a month enough? Maybe you’ve done all you need to do.
- It could be a question of timing – getting the message out takes time.
- You need to select your language carefully – get back to basics!

Sadie Cox from NREL came up with an interesting idea – think of another tool, like an app or a board game to hook the younger generation. People mentioned Farmville on Facebook. Could the Farmville idea be copied to get the ecosystems services message across: REDDville? Steve found the session very useful; he’s got four ideas to take back home.

## **Challenge 3: How do I understand more about impact?**

Florian Bauer from reegle wanted to know more about the impact of his work. A key question is: how to measure the success of portals and how to present success stories to donors? The first point to come up was the need to know what impact you want to have. You need a theory of how your work creates change – then test that theory. And change what you do if necessary! Others had practical advice:

- Trace users through social networking – this can help you understand more about them.
- Surveys aren’t foolproof – they don’t always tell you what you want to know.
- Use Google Analytics – this tells you quite a bit about your users.

Perhaps the key advice was this – whatever it is that you learn, be clear about what you will do with it – feed it in to making your service better.

## Modalities for collaboration

Facilitator: Catherine Fisher (IDS)

The second day kicked off with another ‘where do you stand on a spectrum’ exercise, to gauge views on the value of closer collaboration and see how much people work in partnership at present. Not surprisingly, most people clustered towards the positive end of the spectrum on the first question; on the second, everyone does at least something in partnership. Some of the comments that followed are captured below.

*Steve Zwick (Ecosystem Marketplace): It makes sense when we have a lot of small organisations with different resources. We will get the message across better than individually.*

*Daan Boom (ICIMOD): Society is so complex that you have to collaborate with partners to make things happen.*

*Geoff Barnard (CDKN): I sometimes think you can either network, or do stuff. There is a competition for your time and headspace, so you need to find a balance.*

*Farhana Yamin (CIFF): Collaboration takes a long time to get right. A lot of our work is in the early stages – there’s a tension to get on with your stuff and catch the linkages.*

*Blane Harvey (IDS): I work in Brighton. It’s hard to do knowledge for development without working with partners.*

### Why collaborate?

Catherine then introduced the session with some slides on reasons to collaborate and reasons not to.

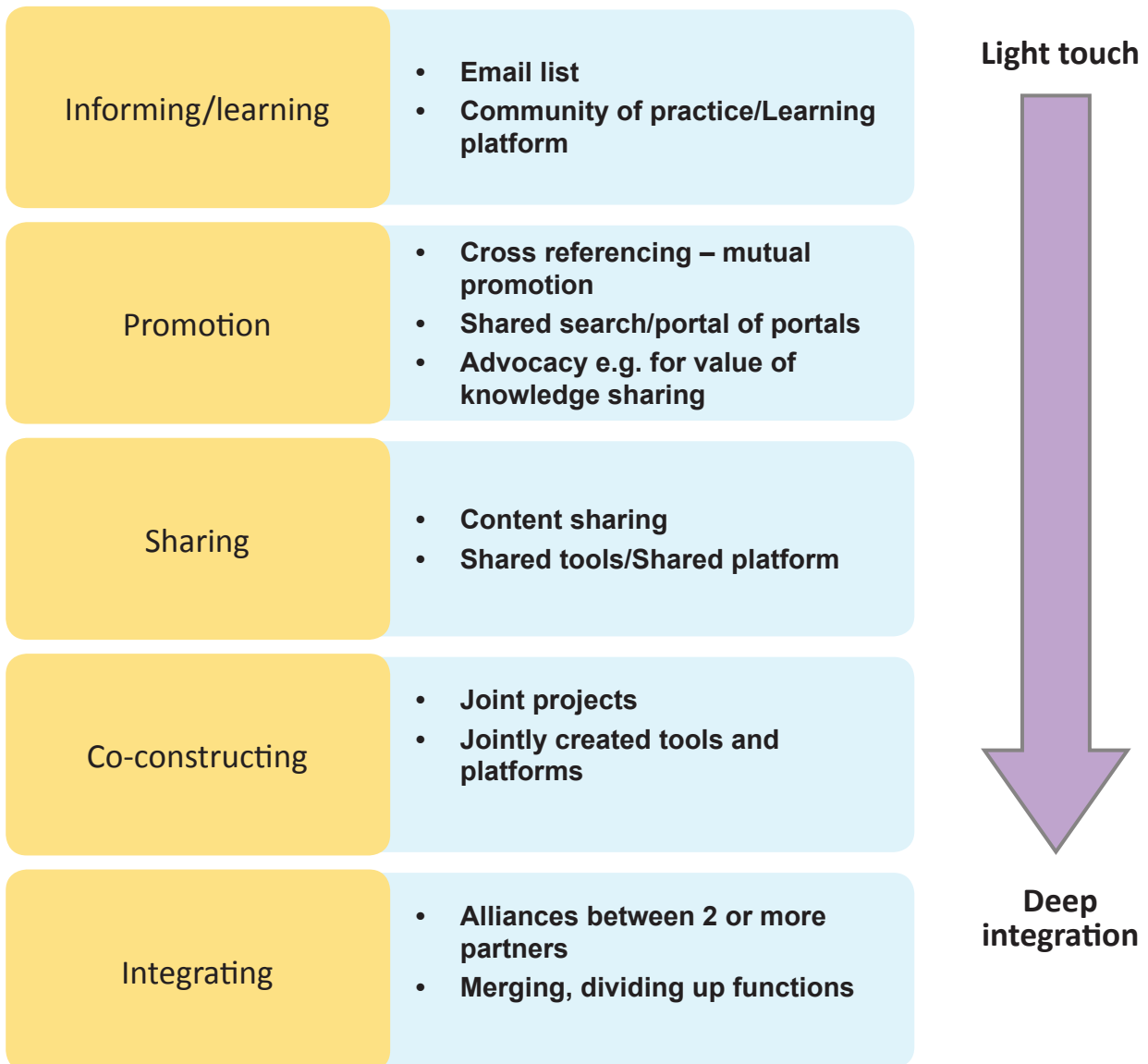
Reasons to collaborate	Barriers to collaboration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To learn</li><li>• To do better</li><li>• To be more efficient</li><li>• To reach further or scale up</li><li>• To do things you couldn’t do alone</li><li>• To do things you can’t even imagine!</li><li>• Because the challenges are too big for one organisation to tackle alone</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of motivation – the value is not seen</li><li>• It can be difficult</li><li>• Funding can be a barrier to entry</li><li>• Conflicts of interest – competition</li><li>• Lack of information about potential collaborators</li></ul>

### Degrees of collaboration

There are many different forms of collaboration between knowledge initiatives. Catherine sketched out a five-step spectrum, ranging from ‘light touch’ collaboration through to deep integration. This is outlined in the figure below, with examples at each level. She also noted that collaboration can happen formally or informally, at a personal or organisational level, and on a one-to-one or a many-to-many basis. The menu of options is wide open.



## Degrees of Collaboration



*Shaun Martin (WWF): Donors are funding forced partnerships that don't make sense; the funding for collaboration is there, but it's misplaced.*

*Rebecca Carmen (UNDP): Donors expect us to collaborate more, it's seen as having a potentially bigger impact. It can be positive or negative.*

*Farhana Yamin (CIFF): As a donor, when you have 40 proposals for a project, you see how they could work together if only they talked to each other. Organisations on climate change are working on too small a scale.*

## Sharing visions

Facilitator: Daniel Buckley (UNDP)

The aim of this session was to get participants to think beyond their own initiative and imagine what a well-connected knowledge infrastructure would look like. Daniel put the pressure on at the start: “This is the culmination of the workshop – moving towards some concrete collaboration. Let’s cast out – how are we going to move into the future?”

Participants split into four groups, based on the primary audience they serve: practitioners; decision makers; scientists; civil society and the media. There was also a fifth, overview group who looked at the knowledge infrastructure as a whole.

Each group was given three key questions to consider:

- How do we want our collaboration to look in five years?
- What are the first steps towards this and what will be the legacy of this workshop?
- How would the different groups fit together?

Discussion and feedback from each group are summarised below.

### 1. Practitioners group

Shaun Martin from WWF asked the questions: “How can the platforms be used to share information? What benefits will collaboration bring to the practitioners?”

There is some overlap between projects already: for example, AfricaAdapt and AAP are working together. The collaboration so far has not gone beyond talks, but these are ongoing at the organisational level. Roopa Rakshit (UNEP) noted: “There is already regional to global collaboration. weADAPT pushes global data to AAP’s website so our users have access to this.”

The discussions identified the following ways in which platforms could collaborate:

- share databases/data
- share technologies behind the platforms – problems, benefits, what works well
- share best practice about running platforms
- cross-reference each other’s platforms
- bridge knowledge with different types of audiences
- share best practices: between institutions and between platforms
- increase awareness between mitigation and adaptation activities
- make cross-regional connections – share lessons between regions as well as across them

### Nadia’s warm up exercise

Nadia Manasfi from GIZ started the session with a group exercise.

- Draw a clockwise circle above your head with your finger
- Keep your finger moving in the same direction
- Bring it down in below your face
- Hey presto: it changes to anti-clockwise!



The key message: it all depends on your perspective!

- increase exposure of work by practitioners
- develop institutional relationships
- offline promotion
- share the M & E results of collaboration.

As the discussion progressed, the two groups (adaptation and non-adaptation) split into separate conversations – evidence of the challenge of breaking down these silos. Shaun noted the need to talk across these groups, giving the example of how building a hydropower dam is great for mitigation but terrible for adaptation. “We need to increase collaboration across the silos.” The conclusion was this: if we develop a consensus and speak as one community, it could lead to greater influence on decision makers.

There was also a consensus that we (the groups present) should meet again, but with different institutions, so collaborations are based on institutions, not individuals. The final challenge, left unanswered, was: how to bring in the global south more?

## **2. Decision makers group**

This group worked on a 5–10 year vision, looking at the changes needed for both the decision makers and the knowledge providers.

Decision makers need:

- evidence-based National Adaptation Plans
- to bridge the silos – adaptation, mitigation etc
- to convert uncertainty into decisions, and better understand uncertainty.

Knowledge platforms need:

- less fragmented knowledge provision
- to break donor silos – not every donor needs its own platform
- no more single donor platforms
- context-specific knowledge
- the ‘how to’ of policy response – how to plan
- packaging – we need to provide pre-digested information so it is easier to use
- ‘one channel’ information delivery but ‘multi channel’ information sourcing
- ease of access: language (English and others), timeliness and linked-up lessons, so users can quickly find experts, case studies, tools and methodologies
- to support the breakdown of complexity into manageable impact chains – aim at intermediate outcomes.

A vision:

- no more single donor platforms
- a one-stop shop as an entry point for other climate portals, from where you can draw out more specific information
- quality control would be the issue – who would control the one mega-portal?

Part of the discussion focused on how climate information is packaged, and the problem of presenting complexity and uncertainty. Some of the conversation is captured on the next page:

Lisa McNamara (CDKN): Is the web the best delivery method for decision makers in the south?

Susanne Schwan (GIZ): The way we offer information needs to change.

Christoph Feldkoetter (GIZ): It's not just about the web or 'other'; it's how we package information. For example, country profiles are really important. How you deliver the package comes second.

Farhana Yamin (CIFF): Providers assume what will be the 'right' way to package – email newsletters, portals – without consulting if these things work. In terms of content, they don't know what they don't know.

Christoph Feldkoetter (GIZ): We need to take complexity away from decision makers and pre-digest things for them.

Michael Hoppe (GIZ): To do this we need to really understand what they need and how they need it packaged.

### 3. Scientists group

Jürgen Kropp (PIK) summarised the main issues discussed:

- Without scientists, you [the platforms] are jobless!
- We [scientists] want our results interpreted adequately.
- In science, competition is necessary.
- What is missing is impact inter-comparisons.
- Are the costs of adaptation lower or higher than mitigation costs?
- We need to develop better assessment technologies, which allow us to assess options. Stakeholders don't like being given only one option; they like to select.
- Sustainability – we need to examine transition pathways.
- Cities are a key area – how can they make the transition to sustainability?
- We need to be better at addressing data gaps.

### 4. Civil society and the media group

These audiences are not a priority for most of the initiatives present, but they are important for some. While not everyone sees dealing with the media as their responsibility, decision makers are massively focused on popular opinion, what their constituents think – the media play a key role in this. The media are a potential gateway to policy influence and behavioural change.

Problems include:

- how to communicate research in a way the media and civil society can use
- how we communicate uncertainty – being transparent about this to users is a challenge
- the media, who have a vested interest in the climate change debate
- how to train the scientists to work with the media: they don't have time – what can we do to make scientists' jobs easier?
- how we create better collaborative loops between science, ourselves and the media.

The group did have some possible solutions. Not everyone has to do the same job – we don't all need to work with the media. We could also disaggregate the idea of a knowledge broker – we do a lot of different things and have different priorities; some will have a greater need to work with the media than others. We should find a common interest among the platforms that want to work with the media and civil society – those who see it as a priority.

## **5. Overall knowledge infrastructure group**

This group predicted that the demand for knowledge will increase over time, as climate challenges press further onto the agenda. More websites will be launched, so there is likely to be a growing problem of information overload. Key conclusions included:

- We should avoid one über portal that tries to do everything – this is neither feasible, nor desirable.
- We need better data standards, so people can exchange and reuse data more easily.
- We mustn't forget that it is not all about online information – there will still be a big demand for print, face-to-face events, and other communication approaches.

The 'portal of portals' idea was put forward – how do you signpost users to where they can get the most relevant information for them? Geoff Barnard (CDKN) commented: "We have 20 or so portals here, and another 220 out there. Effective signposting is not so simple ... you can't just list the websites; you need to do the signposting better." One possible idea was developing a user guide of where to go online.

## Concrete examples of collaboration

Facilitator: Roopa Rakshit (UNEP)

This session provided some examples of collaboration approaches and platforms that are already in place. The full presentations can be found on the workshop web page.

Approach	Presenter(s)	Key aspects
Linked Open Data	Sadie Cox (OpenEI) Florian Bauer (reegle)	<p>Linked open data is a way of publishing data on the web that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encourages reuse</li> <li>• reduces redundancy</li> <li>• maximizes its interconnectedness</li> <li>• enables network effects to add value to data.</li> </ul> <p>reegle and OpenEI both make use of linked open data concepts. These allow OpenEI to integrate data from reegle's country profiles into its website. reegle in turn collates datasets for their country profiles from various sources e.g. World Bank, UN, OpenEI. This splits the responsibility for datasets between organisations, which helps avoid duplication of efforts and allows useful datasets to be combined and create meaningful 'mash-ups' for end users</p>
Intelligent search tool	Florian Bauer (reegle)	<p>The reegle search tool uses a Google custom search to scan a wide range of recommended websites. This is backed by a specialist thesaurus and glossary, which provide extra user-friendly functionality. It has recently been expanded from its original clean energy focus and now covers the full territory of climate compatible development. The search tool and glossary can be added as a 'widget' to other websites, so are available for others to use.</p>
Application programme interface (API)	Fatema Rajabali (Eldis)	<p>An API provides a mechanism by which external programs can communicate. It allows data exchange between websites, applications and organisations, while the data source remains in the same place.</p> <p>Eldis is using APIs to make it easier for other platforms to use its data. It has been working with organisations in the global south to see how people could use Eldis datasets in different ways. For example, in India they held workshops to identify the options, which included offline applications, mapping, and trending to see what the current issues are.</p>
Shared platform	Sukiana Bharwani (weADAPT)	<p>weADAPT have made their online platform available to partners to add their content and create their own customisable space for their users and community members.</p> <p>The advantage is that different groups can share the same tools – which include semantic technology and a powerful Google Maps 'Adaptation Layer' – while pooling content and allowing interchange between users and members. Partners can maintain their own identity and branding, while getting added exposure by being part of wider community.</p>



## Matchmaking

Over an extended lunch break, there was time for individual initiatives or clusters of initiatives to get together to discuss bilateral collaboration possibilities. The only rule was to keep moving round so as not to monopolise anyone. Many conversations had begun already during previous sessions so the discussions required little further prompting. The results of these conversations were posted on cards on a pin board.

There were 42 specific follow-up actions noted, ranging from technical collaboration through to content exchange and pooling contacts and networks. It was recognised that not all of these will come off, but CDKN will be surveying participants in six months to see how many of these do bear fruit. Examples include:

- Climate Prep plans to beta test reegle's glossary tool and possibly integrate it into WWF's blogs.
- LACFP will explore hosting a newsfeed from Actualidad Ambiental on their platform.
- ICIMOD and AKP may join forces to organise knowledge management workshops in China.
- weADAPT is talking to the World Bank about linking their geospatial/country profiles with weADAPT's Google adaptation layer.
- weADAPT and reegle will follow up on using the reegle climate change thesaurus on weADAPT.
- CDKN and ALM discussed sharing contacts ahead of COP 17 in Durban, South Africa.
- ci:grasp, AKP and OpenEI talked about strengthening linkages between their websites.
- Eldis is discussing including analysis from Ecosystem Marketplace in its key issues guide on payments for ecosystem services.

## Where do we go from here?

Facilitators: Geoff Barnard (CDKN), Christoph Feldkoetter (GIZ)

The final session looked at where the group goes next, and how best to build on the momentum and goodwill the workshop generated.

Three sub-groups were formed to develop ideas on:

- how the group should stay together as a community
- concrete group projects
- concepts to pursue as a group.

Participants rotated between groups, and the emerging ideas were fed back to plenary, where the following action plan was agreed.



*Discussing the next steps for the group*

### a) Staying together as a community

- The group wants to stay in touch in future, though it is recognised it is a diverse group with different sub-communities within it (this is one of its strengths).
- We will call ourselves the 'Climate Knowledge Brokers Group' (the CKB Group).
- We think there is merit in keeping the group fairly small for now. We don't wish to be exclusive, but we feel there is value on building on the sense of group identity and trust we have now built, rather than throwing it completely open.
- Recommendations for additional people who might be interested in joining the group will be collected and considered. We should keep it focused on knowledge brokers, rather than any institution with a website or an interest in knowledge sharing.
- We will establish a simple email list for now, and build on the online space that OpenEI has established – which can be used as a shared file store (e.g. for workshop presentations).
- A more elaborate online community space (or LinkedIn Group) could follow, but we will need to find an organisation that's ready to take on the moderation of this before getting more ambitious.
- We will use group phone calls to progress discussions within working groups interested in particular topics.
- We will meet again in a year's time – in Germany around the time of the June UNFCCC meetings in Bonn. GIZ kindly volunteered its offices once again as a venue.
- Future workshops should follow a similar participatory format and be kept to a similar size. The agenda for future events needs to move on so we don't find ourselves in a 'groundhog day' scenario, going over the same territory every year.
- But we might want to organise larger events in addition, e.g. a Bonn side event, to open out to a wider audience – in particular information users, who we see as critical stakeholders.
- Regional versions of the workshop might be useful if there is sufficient interest (e.g. UNEP is organising a big regional adaptation event in Bangkok on Oct 27–28 and there could be a smaller knowledge brokers workshop attached).
- The Steering Group set up to help organise this workshop will be reformed, to play a light touch overview and decision-making role (CDKN to take the lead in organising this).

## b) Group projects

There were several concrete projects that the CBK Group hopes to progress, some of which are already underway:

Topic	Action	Who to lead
Linked open data	REEEP and OpenEI already have plans to progress this. A webinar is planned, plus a follow-up workshop (probably in January 2012).	Florian Bauer (REEEP), Sadie Cox (NREL)
Portal signposting and user guide	There was a strong interest in creating some kind of online place where the various CKB initiatives and portals can be signposted. This would be something that all initiatives could link to.  Creating a 'User Guide' facility to go with this would also be beneficial, but this is a more complex job.	Blane Harvey (IDS) to take the initial lead.
Shared search facility	There was a strong interest in making use of the reegle shared search and glossary facility.  To be included in the above discussions.	Florian Bauer (REEEP)
Standards and meta data	There is interest in joint work on harmonising data standards and meta data. The idea needs some refining.	GIZ and PIK to discuss

## c) Concepts to pursue as a group

There were several concepts and issues that came up where there was interest in taking the discussion forward as a group. These fell into three clusters:

- Usage and impact monitoring
- Communicating uncertainty
- Approaches to breaking down the adaptation/mitigation silos

ci:grasp will take the lead in progressing these discussions, via a series of conference calls with interested parties (perhaps one call every three months – starting in September 2011).

## Final thoughts and personal reflections

The workshop finished with a vote of thanks to:

- participants for travelling long distances and giving up a precious weekend to take part
- the Steering Group for organising the event
- Catherine Fisher, Blane Harvey and others for their skilful facilitation work
- Tim Woods for his rapporteuring role
- GIZ for being such gracious hosts (with a particular mention for Susanne Schwan, who masterminded the logistics in a most friendly and efficient way).

Before we closed, there was a round of final thoughts and personal reflections from participants.

Steve Zwick (Ecosystem Marketplace): I found it really helpful, especially the session where people gave advice. We're all going to move forward, doing things together.

Michael Rattinger (IADB): There are three or four organisations we can really work with.

Florian Bauer (REEEP): A lot of good bilateral discussions, and the mapping exercise will produce a lot of useful data.

Sadie Cox (NREL): Thanks to the facilitators for an excellent job.

Michael Hoppe (GIZ): Holding the workshop at a weekend made us a bit more relaxed.

Shaun Martin (WWF): Congratulations on a format that wasn't too presentation-heavy.

Tristan Stubbs (CDKN): I got a lot out of it personally and CDKN have as well. Thanks to GIZ, it's been great to be in Germany.

Roopa Rakshit (UNEP): I liked the participatory format and we must do something concrete while the energy is still there.

Catherine Fisher (IDS): I've been struck by what a group of pragmatic idealists you all are.

Jürgen Kropp (PIK): Thanks for the insights into a different business – it's clear we need you, and you need us. Let's narrow it down to the things we really need to do.

Geoff Barnard (CDKN): Thanks to Jürgen for being our scientific conscience.

Christoph Feldkoetter (GIZ): Collaboration is a difficult animal – you can overdo it – so I am happy we did this. What we have agreed on is doable.

## List of acronyms

ALM	Adaptation Learning Mechanism
AAP	African Adaptation Programme
AKP	Adaptation Knowledge Platform
API	Application Programme Interface
ADB	Asian Development Bank
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CDKN	Climate and Development Knowledge Network
CIFF	Children's Investment Fund Foundation
ci:grasp	Climate Impacts: Global and Regional Adaptation Support Platform
CKB group	Climate Knowledge Brokers' Group
CLEAN	Coordinated Low Emissions Assistance Network
COP	Conference of Parties
CORAF	West and Central African council for agricultural research and development
CRiSTAL	Community-based Risk Screening Tool – Adaptation & Livelihoods
ENDA-TM	Environment and Development Action in the Third World
ERM	Environmental Resources Management
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
LACFP	Latin American Carbon Finance Portal
MAPS	Mitigation Action Plans & Scenarios
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
PIK	Potsdam-Institut für Klimafolgenforschung
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
REEEP	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute
SPDA	Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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