Case Study:
Climate Information Portal (CIP)

Climate System Analysis Group, Cape Town
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Bruce Hewitson – Conceptual and guidance

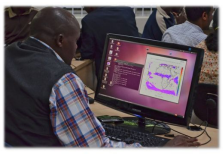
Funded by: Climate Systems Analysis Group (CSAG)
+
UNITAR + CDKN

Why CIP was developed

- Large demand for climate data and information (observed and future projections)
- Need an effective means to provide data and information to a a variety of end users
- Other "portals" provide some data but there are problems:
  - Lack of guidance
  - Inappropriate data usage
  - Over simplified
  - Over complex
- Provides multiple lines of evidence!

Philosophy behind CIP

- Data is not information
- Engagement rather than delivery
- Capacity building
- Information exploration



Focused on developing nations

- ~500 active registered users

What CIP provides

- Observed data and future projections of change
- Averages and inter-annual ranges
- Statistics of climate variables
- Multi-model envelopes of projected change
- Data downloadable to excel or available as graphs
- Integrated guidance text

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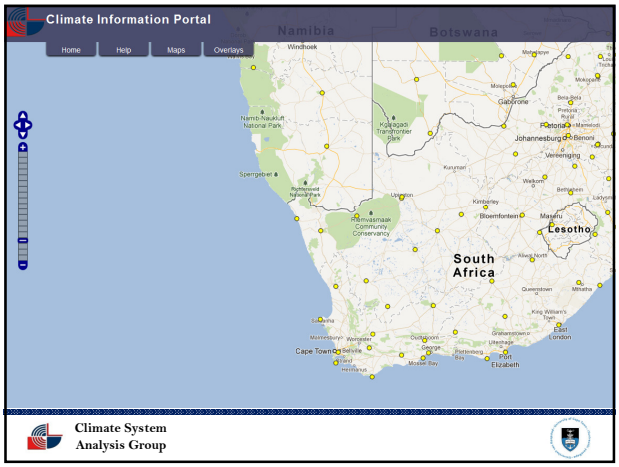

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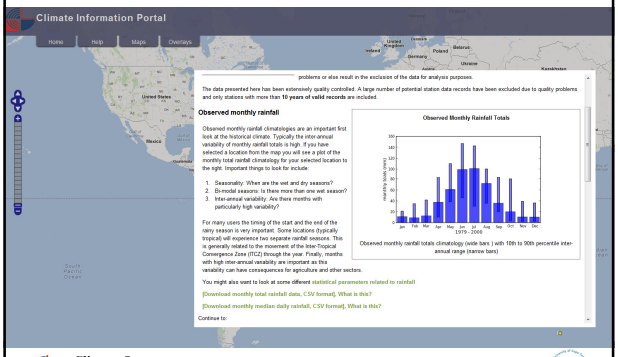
Integrated guidance



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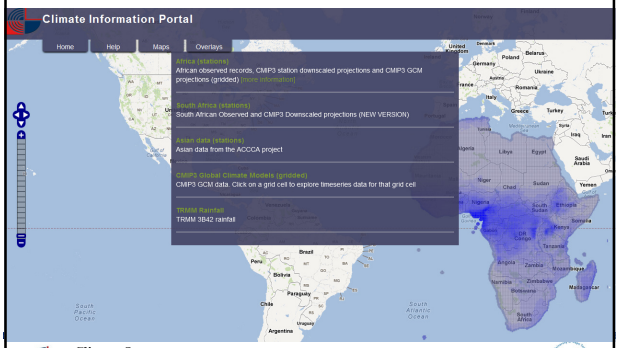
Maps and overlays to meet user needs



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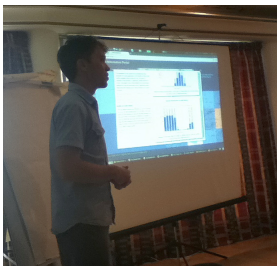
Developed in collaboration with users

Engagements:

- CSAG Winter School
- CDKN C3D+ user-labs
- CORDEX workshops
- Informal engagements



Upcoming:

- Webinar with user base from these activities to reflect on updates

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User-driven evolution

Examples of how users have directly influenced the development of CIP:

- Modification of textual guidance
- New climate statistics added eg
  - Dry spell duration
  - Extreme rainfall
  - Observed trends
- Addition of Asian dataset
- Look and feel - technical changes to performance of underlying database and plotting functions.

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Why it is important to engage users

- Bridging science-society divide
- Users and producers learn from each other
- Decision-relevant product
- User buy-in

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Lessons learnt in user engagement

- Ensure all users are empowered to engage
- Engage appropriate users
- Socio-cultural context awareness
- Difficulty engaging users and producers together

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Lessons learnt in user engagement

- Language
- User needs recognised early in development
- There will always be tension between what users want and the limits of robust science
- *Sustained* and effective engagement

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Technical lessons learnt

- Internet access in developing countries
  - Minimise page reloading
  - Data compression technologies
- Real-time querying and visualisation of large data volumes
  - New platform to be developed to integrate CMIP5 data

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Using CIP in Burkina Faso

Picture from the African Adaptation Programme (AAP)

- Disaster Management workshop in Bagawa village
- Villagers invited to hear about effects of Climate Change using graphs from CIP with a simple interpretation of what it means for them

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Where to from here

- Integration of new climate data (eg CMIP5 and CORDEX)
- Integration of e-learning
- Linkages with partners eg weAdapt and AfricaAdapt
- Integration of satellite information
- Enhance utility of information by working with users (evolving and increasing requirements)

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CIP ongoing development partners:
SEI oxford, NASA-JPL, OODT, UKCIP