One of the major challenges facing the adaptation community is identifying examples of 'good adaptation practice' that can be scaled up and learned from. Finding and connecting with others who are working on similar projects or in the same area can be a major challenge undermining the effectiveness of work on-the-ground and sometimes creating unnecessary duplication. Moreover, delivering information to decision makers is often a bottleneck in turning research results into effective decisions and policies.

As part of the weADAPT collaboration we are addressing these needs, by integrating Google Earth within the platform to display and communicate climate risk and climate adaptation information relevant to decision makers, researchers, project officers and those in the NGO community.

Anyone can browse and search the data geographically or by keywords using a web browser, and registered users can download information on projects (e.g. on water, health or ecosystem services) and open this using Google Earth on a desktop computer. This enables users to develop ‘storylines of adaptation’ using the Google ‘tour’ functionality.

When a search is performed you will see all of the relevant information (e.g. project, videos, organisations etc) appear as points (placemarks) around the globe. Clicking on any of these placemarks produces a small balloon with an image, a brief description of the project, organisation or data, a contact person and link for more information and the logo of the implementing organisation.

Trusted partners and their networks can add their own information to the system, which will then be available for the wider climate adaptation community to view. This will ensure that the information available through the system is quality assured. This information is searchable on the internet and is highly visible due to the way it is structured in the weADAPT Knowledge Base.

An innovative feature is the ability to create adaptation stories or ‘tours’, which combine qualitative and quantitative data and experiences to create stories of adaptation. The tours allow you to ‘fly’ to different locations, open up relevant projects or organisations and then move on to the next place. Adding narration to these tours means you can link impressive visuals to the ‘story-telling’.

weADAPT is a collaboration on climate adaptation led by SEI with key partners including the University of Cape Town, Oxfam GB, IIED, IDS (CBAx), UNEP RRCAP, UNITAR, Google.org, SENSA, the Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS) and START.