

RFF TO LAUNCH NEW GLOBAL ADAPTATION ATLAS AT COPENHAGEN CLIMATE TALKS

*Global Adaptation Atlas Will Provide Data to Help
Planners Respond to Climate Change*

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WASHINGTON – A powerful analytical tool to help the world's nations prepare and adapt to the impacts of climate change –will be unveiled at the United Nations climate deliberations in Copenhagen.

The Global Adaptation Atlas, an initiative of Resources for the Future's Center for Climate and Electricity Policy, will present information vital to adaptation in a user-friendly, dynamic, online mapping tool that synthesizes and visualizes the diverse types of data needed for research, planning, policy development and more importantly, funding for adaptation action.

Adaptation is a complex problem: climate impacts are highly local, but adaptation finance and planning are global and national responsibilities, says Ray Kopp, RFF senior fellow and director of RFF's Center for Climate and Electricity Policy. RFF has been at the frontier in the development of complementary mitigation and adaptation strategies he adds, and has specifically focused on the need for large-scale information collection and wide-spread dissemination regarding the effectiveness of mitigation and adaptation finance and activities.

The Atlas is a multi-year initiative, led by Kopp and Atlas Project Manager Nisha Krishnan. The beta version of the Atlas will be launched at Copenhagen. Atlas Advisory Board members, comprising experts on adaptation research, finance, and technology, include Mohamed El-Ashry of the UN Foundation; Mike MacCracken of the Climate Institute; and Cristina Rumbaitis del Rio of the Rockefeller Foundation, among others.

Atlas Advisory Board Chair and former RFF Fellow Shalini Vajjhala notes that the issue of transparency is at the core of current negotiations. “The Atlas has the potential to serve as a virtual honest broker, bringing together input from citizens and scientists around the world to make the link between regional climate impacts, international adaptation funds, and on-the-ground progress,” says Vajjhala.

The Atlas website – www.adaptationatlas.org – will be officially launched on December 7, 2009, at a special exhibit at the COP 15 meeting in Copenhagen.

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Founded in 1952, Resources for the Future is an independent, nonprofit research organization that conducts policy analysis – rooted primarily in economics and other social sciences – on environmental, energy, and natural resource issues.