



Advancing Adaptation to GSN 2.0





Ira Feldman

- president & senior counsel, greentrack strategies
- founder, Climate Adaptation Scholars™
- ISO Adaptation Coordinator
- University of Pennsylvania
- State of Maryland Climate Change Commission
- American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP)
- American Bar Association (ABA – Climate Change, Sustainable Development & Ecosystems)



Overview and Key Points

- Climate Adaptation Scholars TM
- Next generation online solutions, generally
- An online standards system for adaptation

Mitigation and Adaptation



- **Mitigation** refers to reduction of greenhouse gases (GHGs)
- **Adaptation** refers to adjusting to impacts of climate change
- *Mitigation and adaptation are inextricably linked because, simply stated, a failure to aggressively pursue mitigation through GHG reductions will inevitably translate to the need for a greater degree of adaptation to climate change impacts.*
- Mitigation and adaptation are still largely two separate communities of practice
- Adaptation closely aligned with sustainability concepts and principles

Climate Adaptation Scholars™



Overview

- Initiated as an activity for 16 graduate students at University of Pennsylvania in 2012.
- Today, approaching 2600 members in over 160 countries.
- Established as a LinkedIn group (and still accepting new members through LinkedIn), Climate Adaptation Scholars is now transitioning to a more robust, multi-functional platform on Collaborase.

Climate Adaptation Scholars™



Overview

- Climate Adaptation Scholars on LinkedIn has amassed content in over 80 dedicated ongoing threads, organized by adaptation topic, geography and sector.
- The dedicated threads were a reaction to the typical ad hoc nature of posts in LinkedIn groups.
- Curation required extraordinary effort largely because LinkedIn did not anticipate or encourage this structure.

Climate Adaptation Scholars™



Overview

- The reaction was uniformly positive from the adaptation community of practice.
 - “The best organized adaptation group”
 - “A veritable online think tank”
- Practitioners, policymakers, and academics all valued the extensive posts and links to original sources – credited with rescuing several dissertation projects.
- Despite the unwieldy mechanics of scrolling through the numerous threads, those who made the effort to grasp the scope of topics presented were rewarded with an unexpected gift – **a workable structure for understanding the interdisciplinary adaptation space!**

Climate Adaptation Scholars™

Overview



- But what was possible with this structure established?
- How to advance and utilize the comprehensive framework?
- And To what end?
- Goal → to leverage content and expertise to create deliverables, knowledge products (e.g. guides, standards), and other derivative works that would advance the adaptation state of play.

Climate Adaptation Scholars™

Overview



- Announced May 2015 at US National Adaptation Summit that Climate Adaptation Scholars would no longer be a just a LinkedIn group, but would also convene dialogues on specific topics and generate deliverables, including an online textbook.
- Constrained by LinkedIn platform, began to investigate other options to leverage the collected content and the expertise residing in the growing membership of experts and stakeholders.

Climate Adaptation Scholars™

Strategy to achieve Goal



- Cultivate existing content as interactive knowledge Wiki
- Augment content to become inputs to standards development process in a parallel structured Wiki that links content in both Wikis (i.e. “Standards 2.0”)
- Engage multiple stakeholder groups to define and populate a Wiki-based framework and roadmap
- Link these networks with ISO, UNFCCC, etc. to inform their existing processes
- Ultimately, evolve into a self-governing adaptation platform for standards, best practices, etc.

Climate Adaptation Scholars™

Expected Outcomes of Achieving the Goal



- Catalyze and motivate adaptation community to deliver online services (scale, efficiency)
- Advance understanding of adaptation issues, especially the interdisciplinary aspects of the community of practice
- Leverage adaptation standards as tools to mobilize climate action in support of the Paris Agreement and SDGs



Climate Adaptation & ISO Standards

- ISO is the major player in standards development, but adaptation is a new area for ISO
 - ISO TC207/SC7 has an ongoing process that has been informed by the online community of practice, resulting in an outline of the current adaptation landscape plus the identification of perceived needs and priority activities
 - The ISO adaptation standards development process will continue, and we will help maintain the linkage to experts and stakeholders outside the official process
- The current ISO roadmap contemplates a suite of standards developed through ISO's traditional process, typically over a 3-4 year timeframe
- ISO strategy needed to engage with the adaptation community to outline the adaptation landscape, framework and priorities
 - leveraged online adaptation community

Climate Adaptation & ISO Standards



- There is concern that ISO's *modus operandi* will not fully meet the needs of adaptation community
- The state of the art in adaptation is wide-ranging and rapidly evolving and therefore needs a dynamic and agile integrated system
- An online network is necessary to achieve objectives of fair participation, transparency, cost effectiveness, and speed to market—how will this happen?

Next Generation Standards Systems

Better Standards and Better Collaboration



- How a standard is developed
 - More agile, more participatory, more transparent/democratized process
- How a standard is structured
 - Modular, compatibility/comparability
 - More dynamic as “living documents” for continuous updates
- How the holistic standard system is managed
 - Standards development + application + knowledge exchange
 - Global Solution Networks
 - Integration with digital technologies and market-based solutions

Next Generation Adaptation Standards Systems

Vision and Next Steps



1. Engage the adaptation community of practice
2. Develop a robust interactive platform of experts, knowledge, and structured collaboration for agile development
3. Support experts in an open standards system to develop standards and related guidance

Next Generation Adaptation Standards Systems

Vision and Next Steps



1. Engage the adaptation community of practice

- *Climate Adaptation Scholars*™ LinkedIn group established January 2012
- Now with over 2500 members in 160 countries
- Thematic and geographic threads
- Resource for all adaptation professionals

Next Generation Adaptation Standards Systems

Vision and Next Steps



2. Transition from LinkedIn to a more robust interactive platform

- Maintain substantive threads
- Add additional functionality
- Powerful commenting and consensus-building
- Surveys, working groups
- Knowledge management and mobilization
- Link to online resources

Next Generation Adaptation Standards Systems

Vision and Next Steps



3. Develop open standards system

- Engage leading experts and representative stakeholders without travel and convening expense and impact
- No lag time in knowledge management with real time updates
- Result: timely standards that better reflect the actual state of play

From Article 7 of the Paris Agreement



Prospective project for new platform

10. Each Party should, as appropriate, submit and update periodically an **adaptation communication**, which may include its priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions, without creating any additional burden for developing country Parties.

11. The **adaptation communication** referred to in paragraph 10 of this Article shall be, as appropriate, submitted and updated periodically, as a component of or in conjunction with other communications or documents, including a national adaptation plan, a nationally determined contribution as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 2, and/or a national communication.

12. The **adaptation communications** referred to in paragraph 10 of this Article shall be recorded in a public registry maintained by the secretariat.

Next Generation Adaptation Standards Systems

Vision and Next Steps



4. *Climate Adaptation Scholars* on Collaborase announces pilot standards development process.

- Guidance on “Adaptation Communication”
- Introduced in COP-21 Paris Agreement
- No current consensus framework for such disclosure of information
- Experts and stakeholders will co-create a proposed standard for global use

Next Generation Adaptation Standards Systems

Vision and Next Steps



5. Participate in the development of the “Adaptation Communication” standard

- Next Generation Adaptation Standards Systems pilot to be hosted by *Climate Adaptation Scholars on Collaborase*.
- Register at:

www.collaborase.com/climateadaptationscholars



Ira Feldman

ira@greentrack.com

www.greentrack.com

1-202-669-1858

SKYPE: <irafeldman>