THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE
CLIMATE DATATHON

PROMPT OWNER

World Resources Institute, ClimateWorks Foundation, McGill University

PROMPT TOPIC

Mapping the Climate Data Platform Space

PROMPT BACKGROUND

Data that measure and track progress towards climate goals are critical for the global stocktake, as well as mitigation efforts, adaptation to current and future climate impacts, ensuring adequate and appropriately targeted climate finance, and to support an equitable and just transition. The good news is that a lot of reputable climate data spanning mitigation, adaptation, and finance already exist. There is, however, no comprehensive list of available data or data platforms. Given the amount of data constantly being created, updated, or retired, it is nearly impossible to provide a comprehensive assessment of climate data available to power important analyses or, even more significantly, where there are critical data gaps.

Further complicating the landscape, there are also many topics that fall within the umbrella of 'climate change.' To give a sense of the complexity, international authorities developed three indicator frameworks that cover 272 indicators with different overlaps and categorizations (Figure 1).

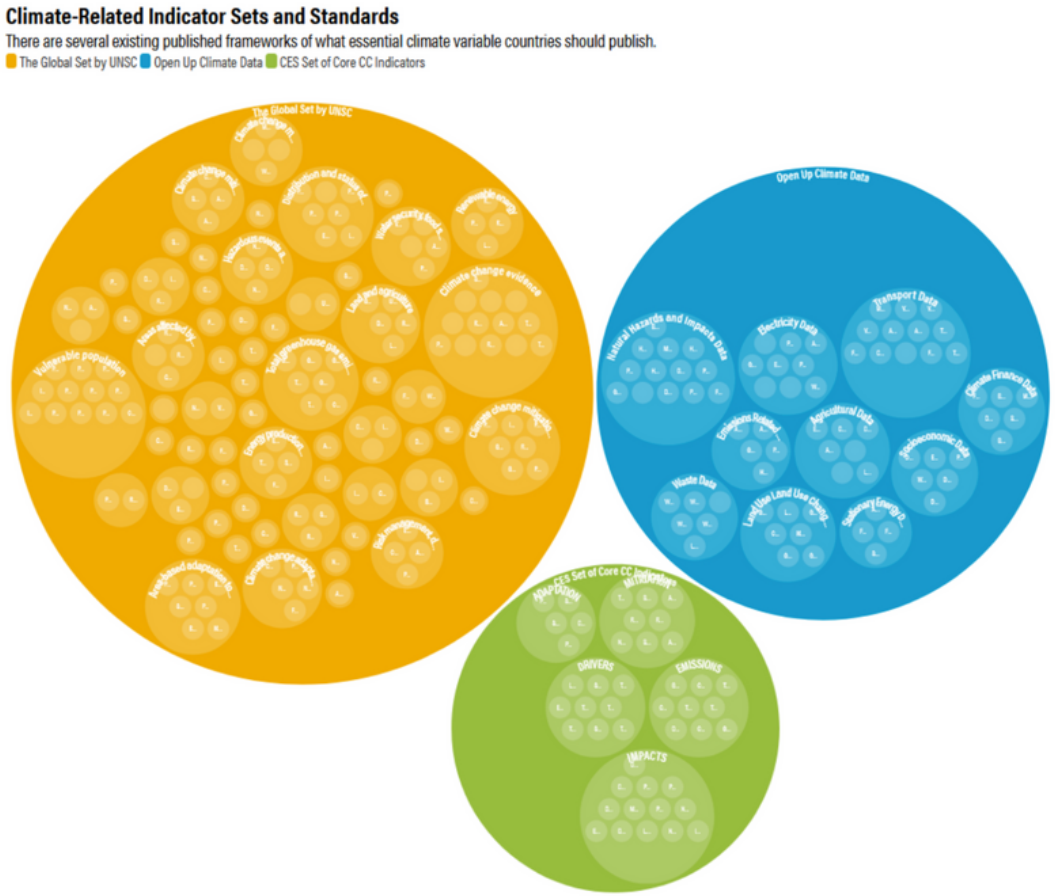

Figure 1 - Climate related indicator sets

A better catalog of the types of data already out there, particularly via the major climate data platforms, is an essential step to make existing data more discoverable for the GST, for non-expert end-users, and for this Datathon itself.

World Resources Institute (see Figure 2), ClimateWorks Foundation and McGill University have previously and separately compiled inventories of major climate data platforms. We are now aiming to come together at the Datathon to align existing inventories and make them accessible to end-users.

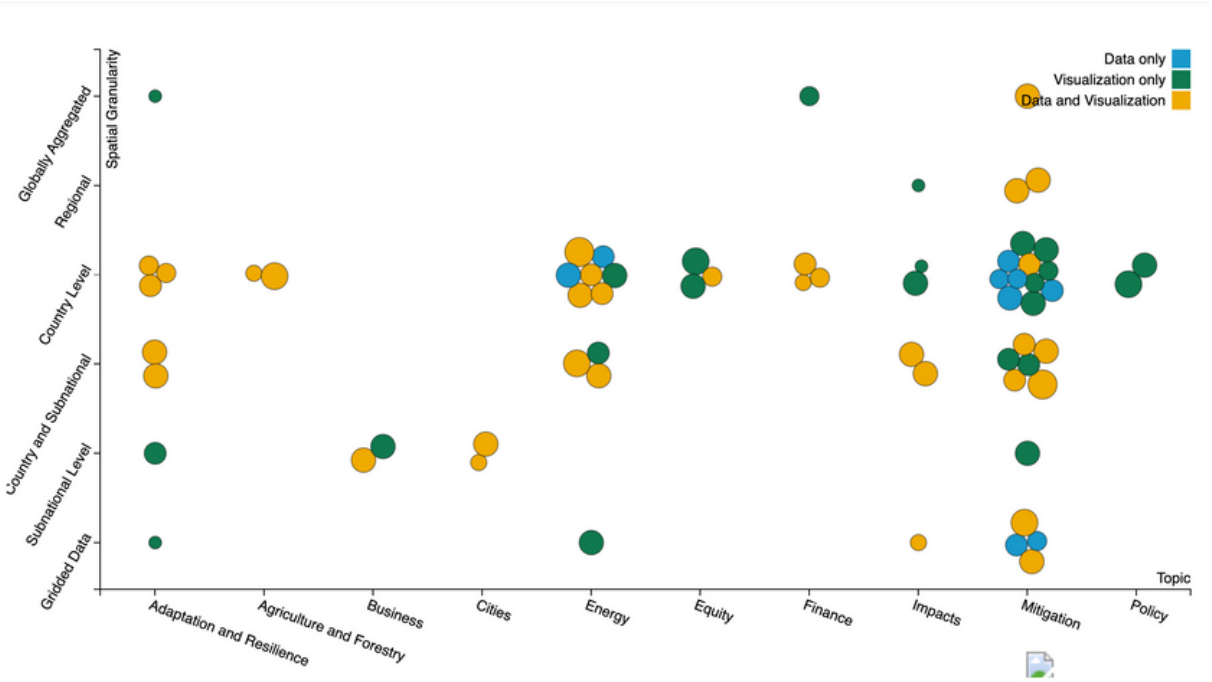

Figure 2 – A example incomplete overview of existing climate change data platforms/websites compiled in 2017 by WRI.

Further reading:

1. PARIS21- Data Ecosystems for Climate Action
2. Open Up Climate Data: Using Open Data to Advance Climate Action

MAIN PROMPT QUESTION/CHALLENGE

Currently there is no comprehensive, public overview of existing climate data platforms that allows experts and non-experts alike to know what type of climate data exists and is available for analysis. The overall goal is to develop a tool or visualization to enable experts and non-experts to discover existing climate data platforms. Achieving this goal will support the global stocktake and broader climate action by collecting and rationalizing existing data platforms, making data-based analyses more accessible and more efficient, and reducing unneeded duplication of climate data tools.

This should be achieved by visualizing a more comprehensive, aligned inventory of platforms with a user question driven approach, giving them a way to explore the most relevant data for their use-cases.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS AND FURTHER GUIDANCE

To achieve these prompt goals, participants should:

1. Help to finalize an existing dataset that contains the most relevant information on climate data platforms, based on three existing inventories, see below (this could be done collaboratively across groups, the prompt organizers can help to support this as well).
2. Fill data gaps in the inventory based on established criteria of what should be included. This could be done manually or automatically with some data harvesting approaches, with the aim of limiting inclusion of additional tools to those most relevant.
3. Envision and design visualizations or a tool that can help users to explore the data and discover the data that is right for them. This could include overview visuals, step by step guides, a filtered search, or other approaches.
4. Build those visualizations or tools so they can be co-published through multiple outlets and reach a wide audience.
5. Design/create a form or survey that enables users to submit additional tools for inclusion in the inventory.

RESOURCES

Three inventories compiled by respective organizations:

1. Portals Inventory (ClimateWorks) 2022
2. DataSpace (WRI) 2017
    a. Data tool map
3. Climate Vis (Sam) 2022
    a. A framework and comparative analysis of web-based climate change visualization tools

Google Sheet that provides guidance of matching the three inventories (you have comment access)
Master Google sheet where the combined inventory will sit (you have edit access and we will co-work on this)

You will see that this is a work in progress. The goal is to integrate the three inventories, but also reduce the scope to include only platforms and indicators that are most relevant to users that want to explore climate data (including adding missing inventories, should you find additional platforms/tools that fit the criteria and should be included) . Note that the indicator scope of the combined inventory will be much smaller than each of the single inventories, to make it more focused and make future updates easier.