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**Project:**

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## IMPACT

The climate change related content on Wikipedia was enhanced through over 2300 edits made to 229 climate-related Wikipedia articles and 5 new climate-related articles created. Further, a high number of contributions from the Global South.

Wiki4Climate exposed participants to the importance of using Wikipedia and built the capacity of participants in editing Wikipedia, with 81% of participants indicating their confidence to edit had increased.

Wiki4Climate also served to grow the editing community by bringing in a number of new editors and a diverse group of participants from all over the world. There were 68 active editors during the week of editing with 70% indicating they are likely to edit in future. Further, the Wiki4Climate community Slack channel has grown to 172 members and can be used as a legacy platform to encourage future editing to the larger group of members.



## THE CHANGE STORY

Wikipedia [ranks 13th](#) in the list of most popular websites in the world and receives over [24 billion page views](#) a month. In addition, it is often the first port of call for many (including the youth) to get an overview on a topic such as climate change, highlighting the importance of having accessible and accurate climate information contained in the entries, especially in the era of fake news and misinformation.

There have been [87 million pageviews](#) of climate change related Wikipedia pages in 2020, which is around 238 356 pageviews a day. These numbers clearly illustrate the power of Wikipedia and the importance of ensuring that climate change information on Wikipedia is representative of the global knowledge on climate change, in particular ensuring more contributors and content from the Global South.

Future Climate for Africa (FCFA) and the [Climate and Development Knowledge Network \(CDKN\)](#) have been working with Wikipedia to enhance the participation of editors from the Global South, encourage researchers in the climate and development sphere to start contributing to Wikipedia, and enhance the quality and quantity of climate information on this platform. As a follow-up from [Africa's first Wikipedia edit-a-thon on climate change](#) in 2019, FCFA and CDKN organised [Wiki4Climate](#) (a week of online Wikipedia editing on climate change topics) from 24th of November to the 1st of December 2020.

This event had four specific goals;

1. To enhance climate change related content on Wikipedia, particularly related to the Global South,
2. To increase awareness on the value of contributing to the platform,
3. To enhance the confidence and skills of climate change professionals to edit Wikipedia, and
4. To build a community of climate change editors, particularly women and editors from the Global South.



**FURTHER RESOURCES**

[Guide on How to contribute climate change information to Wikipedia](#)

[Video: Webinar on How to contribute climate change information to Wikipedia](#)

[Video: Wiki4Climate opening session](#)

[Video: Wiki4Climate closing session](#)

**FCFA area of change 3:**  
 Increasing the capacities of users/decision making bodies/institutions to appropriately integrate climate information within medium-term decision-making.

**LEARNING**

Assistance from experienced Wikipedia editors was key. Involving a member from the Wikimedia foundation helped to leverage the profile of the event and to provide on-hand, official advice to a number of queries. Having a cohort of at least 5 experienced Wikipedia editors/mentors available to answer queries was also essential to the success of the event. The collaboration between all these groups worked really well and helped to guide and foster a supportive and open atmosphere.

Providing guidance materials were essential to support new editors. There was a comprehensive Wiki4Climate [project page](#) with links to numerous resources and steps for editors to get started including suggested tasks and articles to edit which helped to orientate participants. The [Guide](#) developed by FCFA and CDKN was also an important starting resource for participants and is a legacy product that can continue to be used for future events.

Edits in other languages were encouraged but the organisers only had the capacity to monitor English edits. It would be beneficial for future edit-a-thon's to consider edits made in other languages especially those widely-spoken in the Global South.

Edits to Climate Change in Country X articles were popular. Participants focussed a lot on editing climate change country articles (eg. Climate Change in South Africa) and if they didn't exist yet they requested for them to be created. This is likely linked to the diversity of participants and each wanting to make sure that a climate change page exists from their country of origin.

These learnings can be taken forward into future edit-a-thon's and although Wiki4Climate is over for now the efforts to improve climate change content on Wikipedia will not slow down. Closing comments and feedback from participants highlight the energy and enthusiasm from participants to continue on their climate change editing journey.

**Future Climate for Africa's Areas of Change are:**

1. Enhancing scientific knowledge and prediction of African climate and new understanding of the resulting impact on the robustness of future climate change scenarios.
2. Strengthening scientists' capacities to develop decision-relevant climate information.
3. Increasing the capacities of users/decision making bodies/institutions to appropriately integrate climate information within medium-term decision-making.
4. Approaches that support co-production of decision-relevant climate information and enable channels for on-going dialogue between the providers and users of climate information.
5. Identifying social, political, behavioural and economic barriers to the use of climate information in long-term decision-making, working to elicit solutions which support effective integration of climate risks within decision making across scales, sectors and social groups.
6. Approaches to climate science research and climate-sensitive risks within medium-term decision making which enable active participation and address the specific concerns of women and marginalised groups.

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