



Geosciences at the Territorial Level and Climate Change: the New Aquitaine Case Study

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For the last 6 years, the Acclimaterra project has collected and analysed a large amount of data over the New-Aquitaine region to provide relevant information for climate policies and decision making. This South-Western region represents one-eighth of the French Territory, and counts 6 million citizens. Its vulnerability to climate change is due to the variety of landscapes (littoral areas, including the large Gironde delta, cities, mountains ...) and to the strong dependence of its economy on natural resources (agriculture, forestry, wine making, touristic activities ...).

During the last decades, two important tempests destroyed about one-third of the Landes forest (the largest one in Europe), and several heat waves had huge impacts. The collected data concern past, present and future climates and cover a large domain of expertise from physical or biochemical sciences, to ecology, sociology, economy, or political sciences, with a main focus on adaptation to climate change.

Main results that will be commented in details, in particular the fact that:

- Only a relatively small amount of scientific information is currently used for decision-making in the domain of climate change, in comparison with the very large amount of available and relevant results produced by public research.
- A collective management of the New-Aquitaine territory is indispensable: many activities depend on common resources such as water, air quality, or common infrastructures for housing, transportation... This also raises the interest and the understanding of the citizens for climate management
- Climate studies require territorial and interdisciplinary approaches to balance at a short term and in a concrete manner objectives that may be contradictory, such as the diminution of greenhouse gas emissions, the preservation of biodiversity, or the social or economic constraints.