

# Climate Adaptation

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Hinsawdd



## Participatory Mapping

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## Introduction

Participatory mapping is a way to create maps that show people's knowledge and experiences of a place and their interactions with it. This method can be especially helpful in understanding how climate change is impacting—or might impact— your community.

This method acknowledges that:

- Local communities are experts on their own areas, with a deep understanding of past climate patterns and the places most at risk.
- Community knowledge helps create effective local solutions for adapting to climate change
- This process helps communities understand climate risks, develop strategies and also empowers people by giving everyone—including marginalized and vulnerable groups—a voice in the planning.

## Who is it for?

This process is for anyone interested in how climate change is affecting, or could affect, a specific area. It's most effective when used across a community, ensuring that as many different perspectives as possible are captured.

## What will you get out of this process?

This process will produce a map of places and communities who are most affected by / most at risk of being affected by the impacts of climate change, alongside knowledge on resources and support available to the community. The results from this mapping can guide the community's approach to climate adaptation through the identification of local priorities.

## How to use it

1. Print out a large map of your local area
2. Identify your specific research questions

Create clear, focused questions for participants to answer during the mapping process.

### *Examples:*

- *Which areas in your community do you identify as most affected by climate-related changes, such as flooding, storms, wildfires or coastal erosion?*
- *What are the locations that should be prioritised for climate adaptation efforts?*

- *Where are the critical infrastructure, services and housing that are most vulnerable to climate risks?*
  - *Are there natural habitats and ecosystems at risk from climate change?*
3. List your chosen questions next to your map and assign each question a sticky dot/pin/pen colour.
  4. Invite your community to participate in the mapping exercise.
  5. Record comments and information from participants as they verbally expand on their locations given in response to each question.

**Notes:**

Participants should represent diverse perspectives and possess relevant local knowledge.

Select the techniques and tools you'll use to gather information from participants.

Other data collection methods include:

- Digital marking on a map using tools like Miro online whiteboard such as [Miro](#) or [Canva](#).
- Recording coordinates
- Taking photographs and videos
- Using GPS mapping

Data analysis methods - Decide how you will organise, interpret, and analyse the data collected during the mapping process. This step involves identifying patterns, themes, and key findings that will shape the final maps and the project's overall conclusions.

Possible methods include:

- **Thematic analysis:** Coding interview scripts or map annotations to identify recurring themes.
- **Spatial analysis:** Identifying areas of high and low activity and comparing patterns across different groups.
- **Quantitative analysis:** Analysing survey responses and demographic data.

Summarise the topics covered, write up conclusions and make notes of the actions to follow up on.