## GUIDELINES – LOCAL OR THROUGHOUT GERMANY

Various users have different viewpoints on climate impacts. While a forester is interested in the local woods, an employee at a German federal ministry deals with forests throughout Germany. Therefore, the portal provides information about the whole of Germany, the individual federal states or districts. In that respect, catchment areas or partial catchment areas of rivers are proposed for the hydrology sector. A powerful search function facilitates the identification of these areas in the portal. For example, the search function proposes various candidates even while the user is entering the name of a city. Users can select a city with the click of a mouse and will be directed to the surrounding district or partial catchment area. Features such as rivers, cities or borders of German federal states are displayed on the charts. In that respect, the information density of the current resolution of the chart is adjusted so as to avoid too many elements covering the relevant facts. Users can also remove features that are currently not of interest.
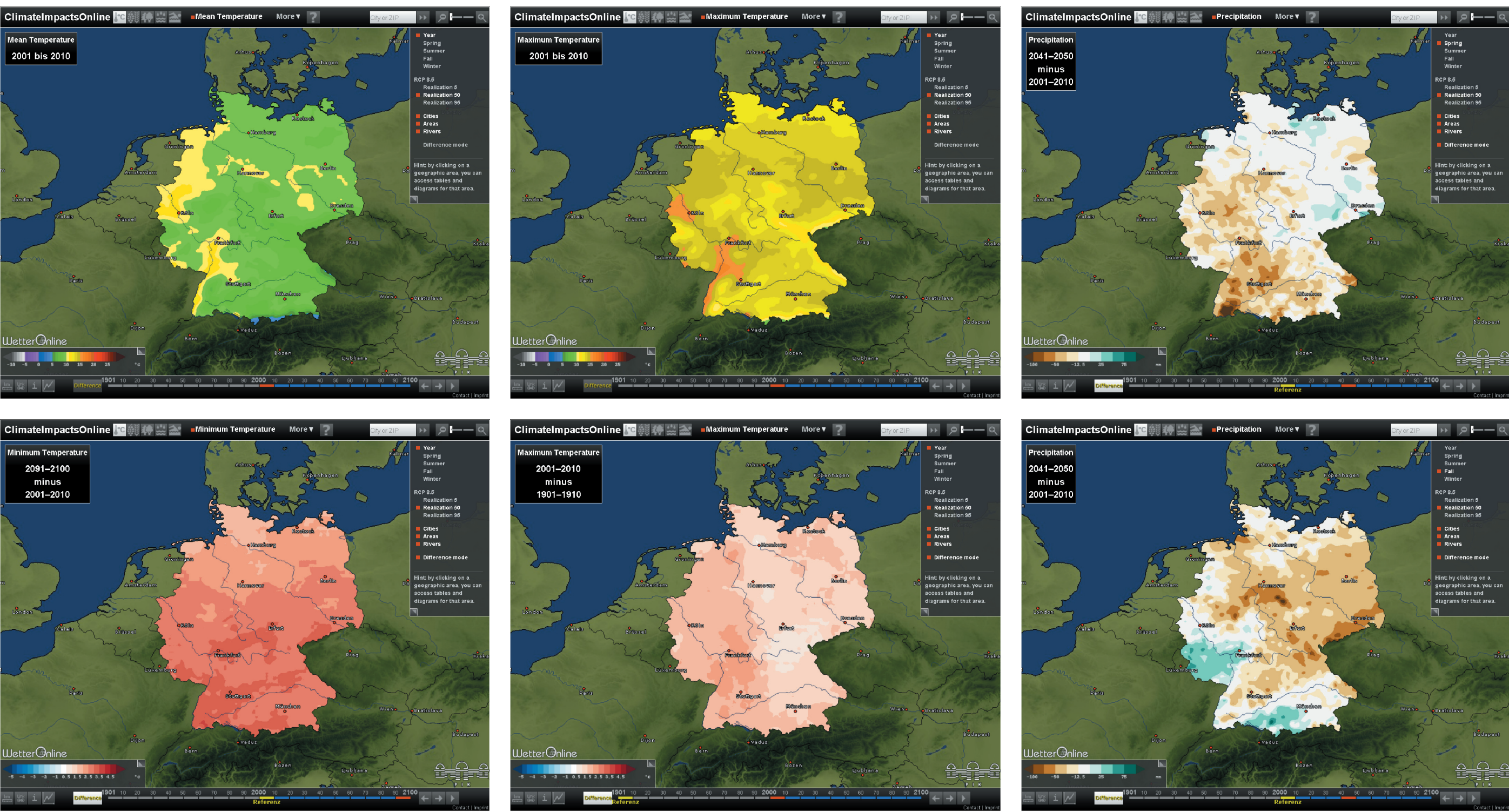

OVER TIME

However, not only are spatial features important, time is too. In that respect, the constantly visible time bar allows the displayed decades to be quickly amended, and at a glance identify which decades are currently displayed. If the user is interested in the difference between two decades, these are also marked in the time bar and can be easily shifted. This is accomplished through the option of displaying animations to consider the development over a period of decades.
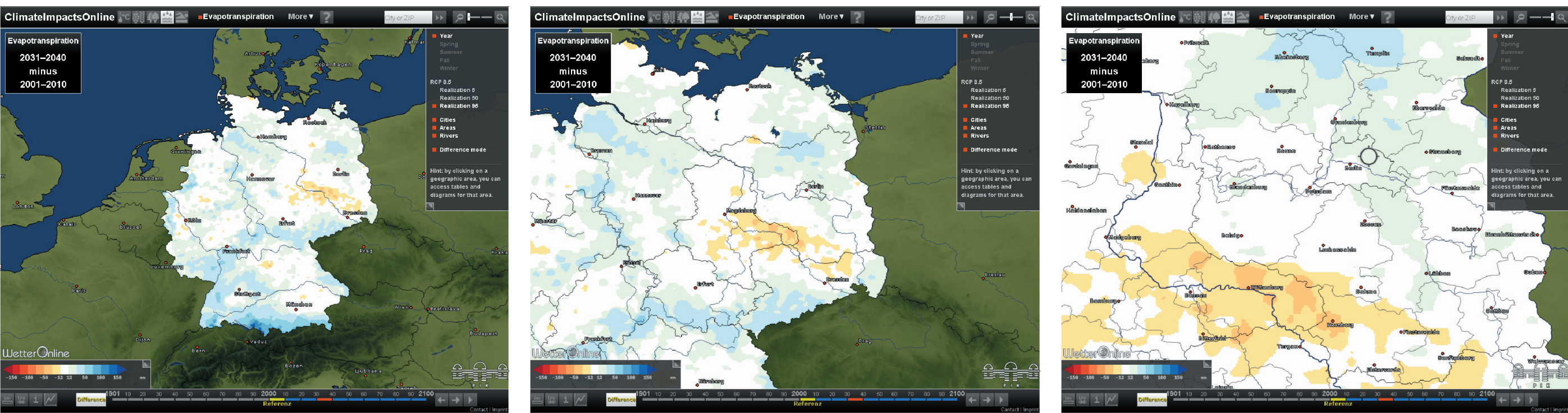
## VARIETY OF INFORMATION, BUT EASILY ACCESSIBLE

The wealth of information (for various locations, parameters, decades and scenarios etc.) runs the risk of overwhelming the user with choices. Therefore, great importance was attached to keeping the many options set out in a clear manner where possible. Decades, scenarios, illustrated geographical information, notification intervals and parameters can be selected independent of each other and in a manner that is easy to understand.

There are very many parameters. Therefore, they are grouped together in sectors with related topics: Climate, Agriculture, Forestry, Water and Others (including Tourism and Energy) to increase the sense of clarity. To make it easier for users to classify information, supporting texts are available that can be called up on a context-sensitive basis. Therefore, finding an explanation for individual parameters is easy. However, general information about the portal and the data method is also available.
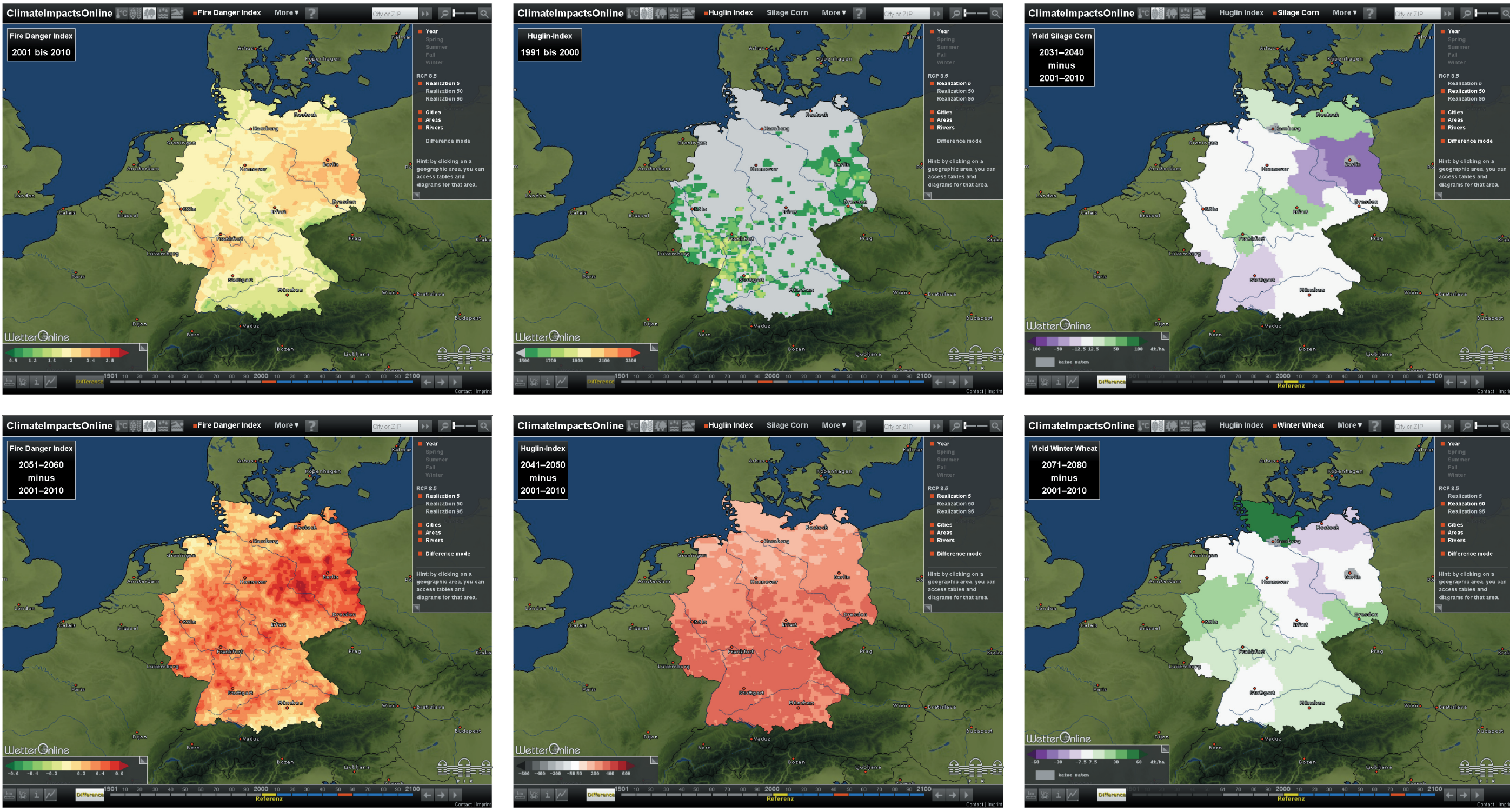
EXCHANGING IDEAS WITH OTHERS

If a user has identified something of interest he can easily share it with others. By clicking on the mouse he can access a link with which he can notify others, for example by e-mail or social media. The recipient can view the portal in exactly the same mode in which the sender viewed it – same map sections, same parameters, same scenarios, where applicable the same diagram or the same table. This is a great help when exchanging ideas because there are no complications in having to describe how information is accessed. Instead a simple link is sent. Such links can also be set up on other websites, and then refer to ClimateImpactsOnline. On the one hand, this means those visiting other websites can access certain information. On the other, such visitors can explore the content of ClimateImpactsOnline themselves to obtain further information. This promotes an understanding of the correlations between climate change and its consequences.
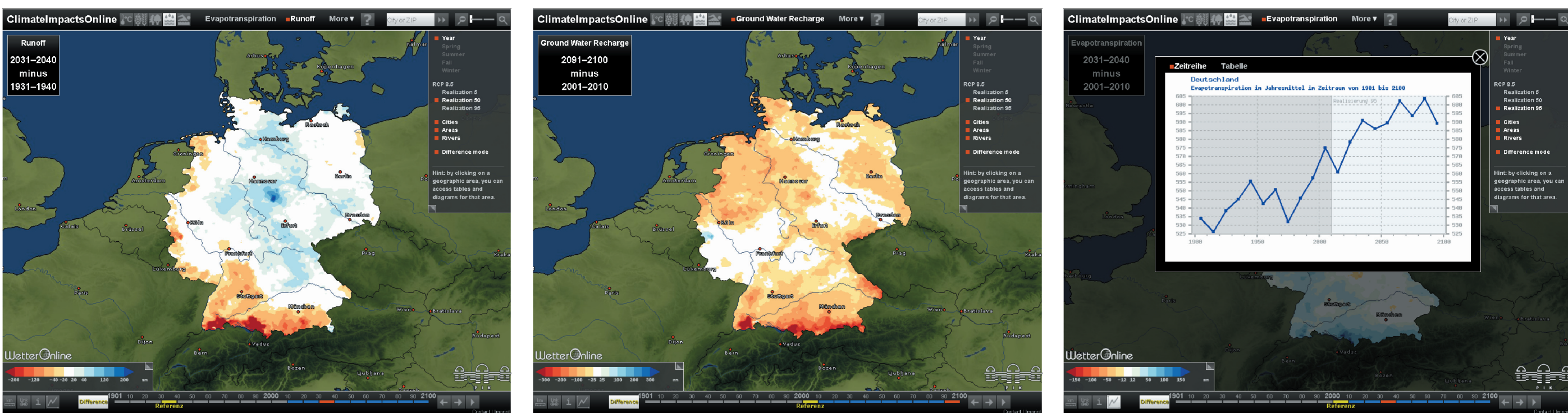
GLOBAL FUTURE

Climate change and its consequences are global. Even though KlimafolgenOnline.com focuses, in particular, on Germany, it is already geared towards application for other countries. This starts with the portal being accessible in several languages. For now, only German and English are available, but more languages can be added with little labour input. The portal can easily present data for countries other than Germany, including outside Europe. The technology that forms the basis of the portal was designed with international use in mind. WetterOnline incorporates its experience with foreign weather portals, for example for China.