

# Helping Improve Project Implementation with GEF IW:LEARN Tools (Website Toolkit, Portfolio Visualization Tool and Community Platform)

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## IW:LEARN Participant-led workshop

0915 – 0930      **Introduction to IW:LEARN Project Component 4:  
Information Management and Communications  
Platform to Support GEF IW Projects Learning and  
Dialogue**

Johannes Akimuwi (UNEP)

**What's New in the Website Toolkit**

Khristine Custodio (IW:LEARN)

0930 – 1000      **Visualization tools**  
Johannes Akimuwi (UNEP), Christian Lederrman  
(IW:LEARN)

1000 – 1015      **Touring the GEF IW Online Community**  
Khristine Custodio (IW:LEARN)

1015 – 1045      **Open Forum**



# The IW:LEARN Website Toolkit



The Website Toolkit is a user-friendly website template that offers GEF IW projects and partners a fully-functional dynamic and sophisticated website that is customizable, simple and easy to use.



It is based on [Plone open source software](#) which is a powerful content management system.



It can function as an extranet and intranet server, document publishing system, and as a groupware tool for online collaboration between users. Other functionalities can be added by installing freely Plone products.



IWLEARN provides customizable themes while a vast variety of themes are also freely provided by Plone theme developers.



# IWLEARN Website Guidelines








IW project websites should meet the requirements of interoperability, so that information sharing can be accomplished. The website guidelines will ensure that minimum requirements for interoperability are met.



<http://iwlearn.net/websetoolkit/website-guidelines>










# Why open source software?

-  **Cost (free to download and install)**
-  **Avoids dependence on vendors (vendor lock-in) for support and services**
-  **Avoid costly upgrades and dropping of support of older software versions**
-  **Adoption of open standards (avoid non-stand formats and compatibility issues in proprietary software)**
-  **Software can be readily customized (source code can be viewed and edited by anyone)**
-  **Distribution to stakeholders not restricted**
-  **Any translation possible – investment may be too great for proprietary software developer**

# Why a content management system (CMS)?

**A CMS is software that allows users to manage content on their own website;**

-  **Content – refers to any online material including text, images, files, folders etc.**
-  **Allows non-technical staff to create, edit and manage content**
-  **Design consistency. Enables the design to be automatically applied throughout**
-  **Allow users to modify content through their web browser**
-  **Organizations are increasingly moving to adopting CMS**
-  **Good built-in SEO - friendly URLs for marketing and SEO placement**
-  **Content is stored in a database**

# Types of CMS



Free and open source software, commercial  
(can cost up to several thousand USD)








[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_content\\_management\\_systems](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_content_management_systems)

- free/open source
- proprietary software

Comparison of various CMS

<http://www.cmsmatrix.org/>

# Why Plone CMS for the IWLEARN Toolkit?

-  **Open source software - free to use, modify and distribute**
-  **Security better than alternatives (esp. PHP-based CMS)**
-  **Widely used - active community of developers and users**
-  **Considerable functionality with modular structure where new products can be readily installed;**
-  **Plone is standards compliant**
-  **XHTML and CSS compliant to enable viewing in different browsers and enhance search engine visibility**
-  **Accessibility compliant for visual and motor A impaired users**

## Plone 4 vs. Plone 3 & 2.5



**Changed default text editor from Kupu to Tiny MCE**



**Default theme is different and streamlined – more minimal and less intrusive**



**More popup dialogue windows which save time and extra steps**



**The portlet manager now allows users with access to it to hide/disable a portlet.**

**For more Plone 4 Features: <http://plone.org/products/plone/features>**



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# Website Toolkit update

## 9 Regional ICT Workshops were held since 2006

[Dubrovnik \(Croatia\)](#) - October 2011; [Ayutthaya \(Thailand\)](#) - May 2011;  
[Nairobi \(Kenya\)](#) - December 2009; [Tunis \(Tunisia\) \(GIS focus\)](#) - July 2009;  
[Istanbul \(Turkey\)](#) - March 2009; [Athens \(Greece\)](#) - September 2008;  
[Boca Raton, Florida \(USA\)](#) - June 2008; [Beijing \(China\)](#) - December 2007;  
[Mombasa \(Kenya\)](#) - November 2006

## 20 Active sites

- 15 GEF IW Projects
- 3 Partner organizations
- 2 GEF Climate Change Projects

## 2 In the pipeline

<http://iwlearn.net/websitetoolkit/users>

<http://iwlearn.net/websitetoolkit>

