



Urban Heritage Climate Observatory

LAUNCH

26.04.2021

12:00 - 14:00 CET

Online open event



UHCO - A new Community
Activity in the GEO
Work Programme



Agenda

MONDAY 26th APRIL 2021	
Opening remarks	
12.00 - 12.10	Mechtild Rössler , Director, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Evangelos Gerasopoulos , Director of the Greek GEO Office (facilitator)
12.10 - 12.15	Ernesto Ottone R. , Assistant Director General for Culture, UNESCO
12.15 - 12.20	Gilberto Câmara , Secretariat Director of Group on Earth Observations
Keynote speeches	
12.20 - 12.30	Greek initiative at UN level: Flexible mechanism to protect cultural heritage and monuments of nature from climate impacts George Kremlis , Principal Advisor to the Greek Prime Minister on energy, climate, environment and circular economy issues
12.30 - 12.40	The role of Earth observations to implement adaptation under the Paris Agreement Joanna Post , Programme Management Officer for Research & Systematic Observation, UNFCCC Secretariat
12.40 - 12.50	Copernicus contribution to the cultural heritage community of users Cristina Ananasso , Project Officer European Commission, DG Defence Industry and Space, Earth Observation Unit
12.50 - 13.00	Earth observation needs for cities to prepare for climate change impacts Shannon McDaniel , Director of Data Strategy, Global Covenant of Mayors
13.00 - 13.10	Q/A session
UHCO presentation	
13.10 - 13.20	UNESCO World Heritage Cities Programme Jyoti Hosagrahar , Deputy Director, World Heritage Centre, Culture Sector, UNESCO
13.20 - 13.30	Urban Heritage Climate Observatory: A GEO Community Activity Evangelos Gerasopoulos , Director of the Greek GEO Office
Panel discussion and closing	
13.30 - 14.00	Moderated panel discussion – Q/A All speakers Sara Venturini , Climate Coordinator, GEO Secretariat (moderator)

SPEAKERS



Mr Ernesto Ottone R.

Assistant Director General for Culture, UNESCO

Mr Ernesto Ottone R. is the Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO. Prior to this position, Mr Ottone R. served as Chile's first Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage from 2015 to 2018. As Minister of Culture, he created a Department of First Peoples, a Migrants Unit and strengthened copyright laws and heritage protections. During this time, he also chaired the Regional Centre for the Promotion of Books in Latin America and the Caribbean (2016 -2017). From 2011 to 2015, Mr Ottone R. served as Director-General of the Artistic and Cultural Extension Center of the University of Chile, which manages the National Symphony Orchestra of Chile, the Chilean National Ballet (BANCH), the Chile Symphony Choir and the Vocal Camerata. From 2001 to 2010, he

held the position of Executive Director at the Matucana 100 Cultural Center in Santiago. Mr Ottone R. holds a Master's degree in Management of Cultural Institutions and Policies from the University of Paris IX Dauphine (1998) and a Bachelor of Arts in theatre from the University of Chile (1995).



Dr Mechtild Rössler

Director, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Centre

An expert in both cultural and natural heritage and the history of planning, Ms Rössler was appointed in 2015 as the Director of the World Heritage Centre. In 1991, she began at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in the Division for Ecological Sciences and transferred in 1992 to the newly created UNESCO World Heritage Centre. She held different positions including Programme Specialist for Natural Heritage and cultural landscapes (1993-2001), Chief of Europe and North America (2001-2010), Chief of the Policy and Statutory Meeting Section (2010-2013), Deputy Director (2013-2015) and Director of the Division for Heritage (2015-2018). Prior to joining UNESCO, she worked as a visit-

ing scholar at the University of California at Berkeley (1990-1991) and at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) (1989). She has a degree in cultural geography and literature from Freiburg University (Germany) and a Ph.D. from the Faculty for Earth Sciences, University of Hamburg (Germany).



Prof Dr Gilberto Câmara

Director, Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Secretariat

Dr Câmara joined GEO as Secretariat Director in July 2018. He is well-known in the GEO community as a leading researcher in Geoinformatics, Geographical Information Science, and Land Use Change, and he has been recognised internationally for promoting free access and open-source software for Earth observation data. He is a former director of Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE) (from 2006 to 2013). Under his guidance, as Director for Earth observation (2001-2005) and Director General (2006-2012), Brazil's National Institute for Space Research made significant advances in land change monitoring using remote sensing, which contributed to Brazil achieving 80% decrease in deforestation in the Amazon rainforest, supporting Brazil's commitment made at the UNFCCC COP15.



Mr George Kremlis

Head of the Coordination Unit for the Flexible Mechanism on Climate Change Impacts on Cultural and Natural Heritage, Principal Advisor to the Greek Prime Minister

George Kremlis is currently Principal Advisor to the Greek Prime Minister on energy, climate, environment and circular economy issues. Mr. Kremlis is also Honorary Director of the European Commission (EC), and in this capacity, he is responsible for circular economy in the Greek islands. He started his career in the EC in 1981, where he was a Legal advisor in the European Commission's Legal Service, with a brief interruption from to serve different functions in Greece, such as Advisor to the Greek Minister of National Economy (1990), National Coordinator for the European Economic Community (EEC) internal market (1990-1992), Head of the EEC Committee under the Greek Prime Minister (1993), and Secretary General for European Affairs in the Ministry of National Economy (1993). In 1995 he joined the Directorate-General for the Environment (DGENV), serving as Head of the Legal Unit, responsible for all legal issues in the DG from 1995 to 2004, Head of the "Legal affairs and Governance" Unit (2004-2005), Head of "Cohesion Policy and Environmental Impact assessments" Unit (2005-2013), Head of the "Mainstreaming and Environmental Assessments" Unit (2013-2018).



Dr Joanna Post

Programme Management Officer for Research & Systematic Observation, UNFCCC secretariat

Joanna Post has been working as Programme management officer with the UNFCCC Secretariat since 2014. She is lead officer for the negotiations and international collaboration on research and systematic observation, and secretariat focal point on ocean and climate change. Prior to joining the secretariat, Dr. Post was communication manager for a number of national and international scientific research and educational programmes and projects in both the UK and Germany. She holds a Ph.D. in environmental science from the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK.



Dr Cristina Ananasso

Project Officer, European Commission, DG Defence Industry and Space, Earth Observation Unit

Cristina Ananasso has a degree in Physics, a PhD in Polar Sciences and a Masters in Project Management and Space Policies. She worked for 13 years at the Italian Space Agency (ASI) in the Earth Observation department. In 2015, she moved to the European Commission to work for Copernicus, the European Union's program on Earth Observation and monitoring. Currently, she is providing her technical and programmatic experience as Seconded National Expert in the EC in support of the decision-making processes of European institutions. In this context, she supports the management of the delegation agreement for the Copernicus Atmospheric Monitoring Service (CAMS), collaborates in the Horizon Europe programme for Space, and she is member of the ESA Mission Advisory Group.



Dr Shannon McDaniel

Director of Data Strategy, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)

As the Director of Data Strategy at the Global Covenant, Dr. McDaniel guides the development of the data initiative for cities as well as analyzing the data to amplify the effects of climate action by cities. Dr. McDaniel's research has included climate change, nuclear sciences, virology, engineering of detectors for public spaces, to pioneering and award-winning research on ice using neutron scattering. Prior to joining the Global Covenant, she was an independent consultant in scientific and technical analysis, focusing on identifying cutting-edge technologies for government agencies and data management for Fortune 500 companies resulting in licensing leads for SMEs. She received a PhD in Earth and Space Sciences from the University of Washington in 2005.

LAUNCH EVENT ORGANIZERS



Dr Jyoti Hosagrahar

Deputy Director, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Culture Sector

Jyoti Hosagrahar is Deputy Director for the World Heritage Centre at UNESCO. Among other responsibilities, she leads the implementation of the Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation, the World Heritage Cities Programme, World Heritage and Sustainable Development, the Earth-en Architecture Programme, as well as the Culture 2030 Indicators for measuring Culture in the 2030 Agenda across all the Culture Conventions and Recommendations. Prior to her current role, she served as Director of the Division for Creativity at UNESCO (2016-2018). Before joining UNESCO, she was a professor and Director of the Sustainable Urbanism International (SUI) Lab at Columbia University (2005-2016); UNESCO Chair in Culture, Habitat, and Sustainable Development at Srishti Institute of Art, Design, and Technology in Bangalore, India (2012-2016); and Founder-Director of Sustainable Urbanism International (SUI), an NGO in Bangalore, India (2003-2016). She has a PhD in Architecture and Urbanism from the University of California, Berkeley.

opment at Srishti Institute of Art, Design, and Technology in Bangalore, India (2012-2016); and Founder-Director of Sustainable Urbanism International (SUI), an NGO in Bangalore, India (2003-2016). She has a PhD in Architecture and Urbanism from the University of California, Berkeley.



Dr Evangelos Gerasopoulos

Director, Greek Group on Earth Observations Office (GGO)

Dr Evangelos Gerasopoulos is a Research Director at the Institute for Environmental Research and Sustainable Development of the National Observatory of Athens since 2006. He serves as the Director of the Greek GEO Office (2014 -present), represents Greece in the relevant international bodies in the field of Earth observation (i.e. GEO Programme Board - 2015-present, EuroGEO Coordination Group/EC, 2017-present), he is Member of the Special Scientific Committee on Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment and Energy (since 2020) and in the past he has served as Member of the Sectorial Scientific Council for the Environment and Energy of the National Council for Research and Technology (2014 - 2016), among other positions. Since 2020 he is

co-leading the GEO Community Activity "Urban Heritage Climate Observatory (UHCO)" and co-chairs GEO's group on "Urban Resilience" to introduce "Resilient Cities and Human Settlements" as GEO's 4th engagement priority. He holds a PhD in the field of Atmospheric Physics and Dynamics from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.



Dr Sara Venturini

Climate Coordinator, Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Secretariat

Dr Sara Venturini leads GEO's work to advance the use of Earth observations in support of climate action by UN member countries and partners. She has over 10 years' professional experience collaborating with UN bodies and advising governments and organisations on developing climate change adaptation policies, accessing climate finance, and participating in multilateral negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). As a climate change advisor, she has worked with countries in the Caribbean and Indian Ocean, the Western Balkans, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. She put her scientific expertise at the service of art projects, including the film

anthology "Interdependence" that premiered at the Film Festival of Rome in 2019. She holds a PhD in Climate Change Science and Management from Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy.