



## SESSION DESCRIPTION

# **B5 Earth observations for climate-resilient cities: Resilience Brokers, GEO**

## **Panel**

**Date:** Thursday, April 26, 2018

**Time:** 16:30-18:00

**Rooms:** S30-32

**Language:** English

**Contact:** Andrew Simmons

**E-mail:** [andrew.simmons@resiliencebrokers.org](mailto:andrew.simmons@resiliencebrokers.org)

**Organized by:** Resilience Brokers (Eco Sequestration Trust),  
Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

### **OBJECTIVE**

The use of earth observations (“EO”) and geospatial data and their effective integration with other development- and civic-related information sources can produce a quantum leap in tracking progress towards and achieving the Global Goals [1] and Sendai Framework outcomes while allowing policy and planning decision makers and communities to more effectively implement climate-informed resilience measures through data modeling and communications tools, collaboration and knowledge sharing. [2]

From a range of practitioners’ perspectives, this session introduced current and emerging case studies, joint EO-support programmes and initiatives, and open source platforms across thematic topics and contexts. The examples demonstrated the profound value of EO/remote sensing data – when combined with federated-database approaches operating with free-at-use data access policies, integrated-decision and communications-support tools, and facilitated information sharing and collective-knowledge building – in advancing more resilient development pathways in city-regions.

### **OUTCOMES**

Participants left the workshop session with:

- Knowledge of specific case studies and current and emerging roles of EO (e.g., integrated climate risk assessments, dynamic M&E in real time, SDG reporting [3], public-realm asset management, stakeholder communication strategies, examples of public-private sector collaboration) and sensitivity to issues of scale and jurisdictional boundaries in project design, implementation and data integrity/relevancy;
- Knowledge of accessible resources and an understanding of the roles of specific leading actors and EO-support programmes and partnerships – intergovernmental agencies and initiatives including the [Group on Earth Observations](#) (GEO), UN agencies, the European Space Agency’s [Earth Observation for Sustainable Urban Development \(EO4SD-Urban\)](#) project, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#) to support disaster risk reduction; open-access satellite and remote sensing datasets, including the [GEOSS Common Infrastructure](#) (GCI), the [GEO Human Planet Initiative](#), and the [Global Human Settlement Layer](#) (GHSL); emerging open-source data platforms to support policy and community decision-making, such as “[PREPdata](#)” for climate-related hazard analysis and “[resilience.io](#)” for informed scenario planning through integrated-systems modeling, as well as research initiatives including the [Urban Climate Change Research Network](#) (UCCRN);
- Appreciations of the value of EO data together with the need for open access and open source data products, models and platforms that promote data interoperability, knowledge sharing, partnership building and civic engagement, so as to: facilitate scaling, optimize data integrity, inform practitioners, and enable global support for community/grassroots initiatives.



## METHODOLOGY

- Welcome and GEO introduction: the facilitators lead an icebreaker, and the session begins with a brief presentation from Steven Ramage on the role and activities of the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO). **(10 minutes)**
- Panel 1: Presentations from European Commission, European Space Agency (ESA), and UNISDR on EO-support programmes from planetary, national and regional (SDGs, NDCs, Sendai Framework) to local levels (urban resilience, adaptation planning); lightning-round Q&A. **(20 minutes)**
- Panel 2: Presentations on case studies: resilience.io and Rezatec's "URGED" initiative for climate-derisked public realm/infrastructure asset management (with ESA and Scottish Canals); how EO data were communicated to multisectoral decision makers and applied to adaptation planning in Mozambique (CCAP); lightning-round Q&A. **(20 minutes)**
- Combined panelists' discussion with audience Q&A. **(35 minutes)**
- Wrap-up: concluding remarks from the facilitators and next steps. **(5 minutes)**

## CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitators: *Steven Ramage, Head of external relations, Group on Earth Observations (GEO), Geneva, Switzerland*

*Andrew Simmons, Director of Research, Resilience Brokers Programme, Ecological Sequestration Trust, London, UK*

Panelist *Thomas Kemper, Scientific Officer, Joint Research Center, European Commission, Ispra, Italy*

Panelist *Marc Paganini, Technical Officer, Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes, European Space Agency (ESA), Paris, France*

Panelist *David Stevens, Head of Bonn Office, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Bonn, Germany*

Panelist *Philip Briscoe, Chief Operating Officer, Rezatec, Harwell, UK*

Panelist *Stephen Passmore, Technology Director and Resilience.io Platform Lead, Resilience Brokers Programme, Ecological Sequestration Trust, London, UK*

Panelist *Maria Olanda Bata, Chief of party, Mozambique Coastal Cities Adaptation Project, Maputo, Mozambique*

With thanks to: *Stelios Grafakos (IHS, Erasmus University), André Obregón (GEO), Laura Kavanaugh (UNFCCC), Monika Zimmermann (ICLEI), Christoph Aubrecht (ESA/World Bank).*

---

### **Further recommended reading:**

"Earth observations in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (GEO 2017):

[www.earthobservations.org/documents/publications/201703\\_geo\\_eo\\_for\\_2030\\_agenda.pdf](http://www.earthobservations.org/documents/publications/201703_geo_eo_for_2030_agenda.pdf)

"Roadmap 2030: Financing and implementing the Global Goals in human settlements and city-regions" (Ecological Sequestration Trust): <http://ecosequestertrust.org/roadmap2030.pdf>

"Satellite earth observations in support of the Sustainable Development Goals" (CEOS and ESA 2018) :

<http://eohandbook.com/sdg/>

"d\_city manifesto: Connecting global futures for environmental planning" (GEO): <http://dcitynetwork.net/manifesto>

---