Regional Conference on Environmental Data
Geneva, 8 May 2019
Palais des Nations, Geneva
Meeting room VIII

Presenters

John Matuszak, National Council for Science and the Environment.

John Matuszak recently retired after 30 years with the federal government – State Department, USAID and USDA. He spent his career promoting the use of science for decision-making with multiple international organizations, governments, and multilateral environmental agreement processes. He was a Senior Policy Advisor and the Division Chief for Sustainable Development and Multilateral Affairs in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. He was elected as a Vice President United Nations Environmental Assemblies 3 and 4 and UNEP's Governing Council GMEF2011. He was a Policy Advisor to UNEP's Global Environmental Outlooks 4, 5, and 6. John also represented State Department in the U.S. Group on Earth Observation and co-chaired their international activities working group. He represented the U.S. with GEO internationally including as co-chair of the Program Board; the budget committee; and the initiative on Earth Observation for Ecosystem Accounting.

John was seconded to the World Bank WAVES partnership in 2013 and 2014 serving as the Head of Global Engagement, to promote the use of the UN System of Environmental and Economic accounts for decision-making. From 2001 until 2013, as Division Chief, John led U.S. engagement with UNEP, the UN Economic Commission for Europe-Committee on Environmental Policy and the Commission on Sustainable Development, including as U.S. focal point for the Rio +20 Conference. He and his team represented the U.S. on delegations to numerous Multilateral Environmental Agreement processes and multilateral institutions. He received dozens of honor awards including for work on sustainable development, forests, biodiversity, chemicals management and pollution reduction, energy and environmental governance. John was the regional coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean in USAID's Global Environment Center from 1997-2002. He was an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Diplomacy Fellow at the State Department from 1994-1997.

Matthew Billot, United Nations Environment Programme.

Matt Billot has over twenty years' experience in undertaking environmental assessments as well as environmental management and policy. Matt worked for WSP Environment and Energy in the UK as an Associate Director of the Environmental Planning team. He was responsible for undertaking environmental impact assessments of development proposals across a wide range of sectors, particularly property, industry and transport.

Matt joined UN Environment in 2010 as the Head of the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) Unit within UN Environment's Science Division (Scientific Assessment Branch) and was responsible for the Integrated Environmental Assessment Section and in particular delivering UN Environment's flagship Global Environment Outlook-5 assessment in 2012.

He is currently responsible for delivering the activities of UN Environment's sub-programme 7 'keeping the environment under review' in the pan-European region. In particular, focusing on establishing a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) for the region by 2021. This involves building the capacity of countries to generate, share and use environmental data/ statistics and information for multiple purposes ranging from national state of environment reporting and MEA reporting, to Agenda 2030/SDG follow-up and review. Matt manages the delivery of other key UN Environment products and services which include producing the regular GEO Assessment for the pan-European region and providing web-based tools and technologies to support sharing of environmental data and information from national to global levels.

Gregory Giuliani, University of Geneva.

Dr. Gregory Giuliani is the Head of the Digital Earth Unit - UN Environment/GRID-Geneva and a Senior Lecturer in Earth Observations at the University of Geneva, Institute for Environmental Sciences.

His research focuses on how Earth Observations can be used to monitor and assess environmental changes and support sustainable development.

He is currently leading the Swiss Data Cube project. The main objective of this project is to deliver an efficient solution for improving environmental monitoring using Big Data Analytics techniques to harness the information potential of Earth Observations and enhance the scientific and societal impact of satellite imagery.

Martin Brocklehurst, European Citizen Science Association.

Martin Brocklehurst (EU) is one of the founders of the European Citizen Science Association and the Citizen Science Global Partnership (CSGP). He has worked since 2013 to foster new Associations in Europe, Africa, and Asia and is supporting the development of global citizen science programmes in support of the SDG's. He has coordinated the CSGP delegations to UNEA3 & UNEA4 and to the World Data Forum in Dubai This work is alongside his environmental advisory work for a wide range of organisations including NGO's, Public Sector Regulators, Trade Bodies and the UK Parliamentary Audit Committee. Prior to this period for 13 years, he was a senior public-sector regulator, in developing and delivering UK Environmental Regulations. For 14 years previously he was a senior health safety and environmental manager in business recognised for delivering outstanding performance for multi-national oil companies.

Independent Environmental Consultants (2011-19), Executive Manager UK Environment Agency (1998-2011), Senior HSE Manager Gulf Oil, Chevron and BP (1984-1998). Professional member of CIWM, the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), the Energy Institute and a Fellow of the RSA

Nickolai Denisov, Zoï Environment Network.

Nickolai Denisov is the co-founder and a Senior associate of Zoï Environment Network, a non-profit environmental organisation in Geneva. Nickolai has over 25 years of experience with environmental information, assessment and reporting, in particular in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and has been a long-time collaborator of the UN and the EEA. The overview of findings he will present is based on country-level analysis by Alexander Shekhovtsov in Moscow and Anela Rodic in Sarajevo.

Maryna Yanush, UNECE Environment Division.

Maryna Yanush has been working as an Environmental Affairs Officer at the UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat since 2010. She supports the work on access to information and access to justice as well as capacity-building. She has almost 18 years of professional experience dealing with various aspects of the development, implementation of and compliance with environmental law at the national and international levels.

Johannes Mayer, Head of International Cooperation, Environment Agency Austria.

Johannes Mayer is Head of the International Relations Department at the Environment Agency Austria and represents Austria as National Focal Point at the European Environment Agency. Before focusing on international relations and capacity-building, he developed the public information services of the Agency, including the development of the initial Environment Agency Austria website.

Taeke Anton Gjaltema, UNECE Statistical Division.

Taeke Gjaltema is currently the Head of the Statistical Modernization and Management unit of the Statistical Division. This unit is responsible for the work done under the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS). This is a group of thirteen committed Chief Statisticians actively steering the modernisation of statistical organisations. Under the HLG-MOS every year, several projects, groups and networks are active and several workshops are organized. The main outputs are statistical standards, models, frameworks and recommendations that enable statistical organisations to modernize the production of statistics.

Taeke works for UNECE since 2010. Before he worked for UNECLAC, UN DESA, Eurostat, Statistics Netherlands Antilles, Statistics Netherlands, the Royal Academy of Science and various other research institutes and universities in Europe, Latin America and Asia. His specialties are in the areas of stochastic forecasting, statistical modelling, demographic analysis and official statistics in general. He has degrees in Demography, Economics and Geo Information Management (spatial sciences).

Galina Georgieva, European Environment Agency.

Galina Georgieva is the Head of Networks and Partnerships Group in the Coordination and Strategy Programme of the European Environment Agency (EEA). Responsible for the coordination and strategic orientation of the work of the European Information and Observation Environment Network (Eionet) covering EEA 33 member countries and 6 cooperating countries in the Western Balkan region, the Agency's EU institutional relations, involvement in the pan-European and international activities, among which the delivery of the European Neighbourhood Initiatives in the Eastern Partnership and the Southern Mediterranean region.

Since 2010 Galina has been responsible for the EEA engagement in the European Neighbourhood in implementing the Shared Environment Information System (SEIS) and promoting the EEA/Eionet methods of work

and good practice examples of management, assessment and sharing of environmental data and information, in synergy with activities of UNECE, UNEP, UNDP, OECD and a number of other partners.

Steven Vale, Regional Adviser, UNECE Statistical Division.

Steven Vale is the UNECE Regional Advisor on Statistics. The task of the Regional Adviser on Statistics is to promote the implementation of commonly agreed international statistical standards for use in national official statistics, so that policymakers and users of statistical information can be provided with the relevant data they need, which are at the same time methodologically sound and internationally comparable.

Mr. Vale has been Regional Adviser since 2016, having served in other roles with UNECE since 2007. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Economic Accounting and Law at the University of Wales, he completed his formation at the Royal Statistical Society (UK). His extensive experience in the sector includes, among others, the Statistical Office of the European Communities as a Detached National Expert, the British Office for National Statistics in charge of Analysis and Survey functions, and various statistic fields in the United Nations. As Coordinator and Quality Manager, he was responsible for the development of UNECE's system of statistic databases and as Head of Statistical Information and Methodology Unit he coordinated the modernization of the statistical production.