

E04SD WEBINAR SUMMARY

Setting the scene: The climate resilience challenge and how ESA is responding.

This document presents a short summary of and key lessons from the **European Space Agency's Earth Observation for Sustainable Development (E04SD) Climate Resilience Cluster's** recent webinar "**Setting the scene: The climate resilience challenge and how ESA is responding**". The webinar, the first in a series of seven held by the E04SD Climate Resilience Cluster in June and July 2020, provided an introduction to using Earth Observation (EO) data to build climate resilience and summarised ESA's current and planned activities in this area.



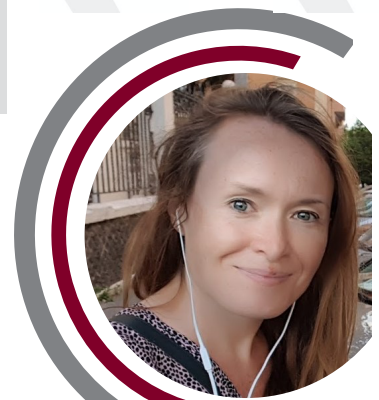
Satellite imagery of Hardap Region, Namibia
(Photo by Mickael Torunier, Unsplash)



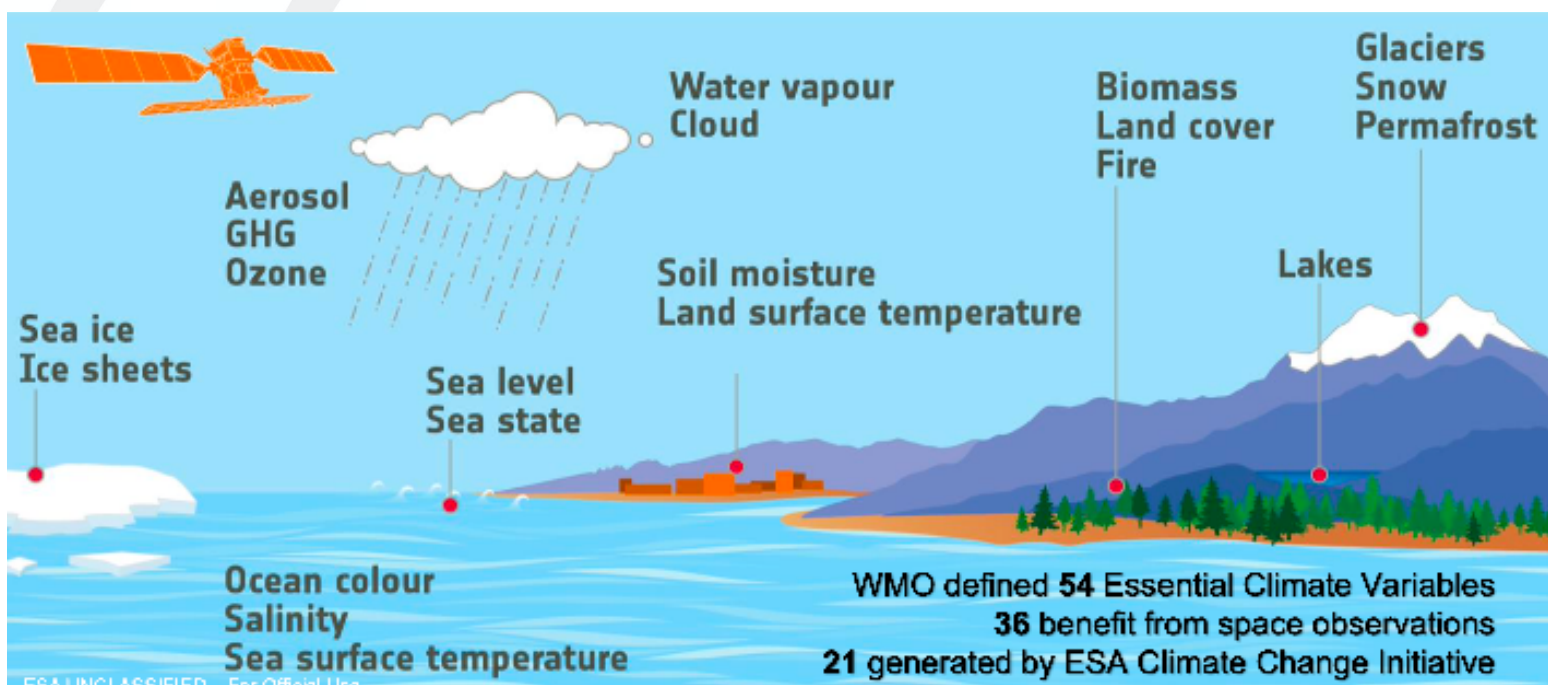
SUSANNE MECKLENBURG
Head of ESA Climate Office

Susanne spoke of the growing importance of EO data noting a rise in public interest in recent years. She demonstrated that **it is not enough to drive climate adaptation and mitigation efforts through political action**. It is important to **invest in science, research and technology development** that allows for the building of systems that make for better decision-making.

Anna addressed the potential of EO data and ongoing work within ESA. So far, **more than eighty projects are using EO products and services in partnership with multilateral development banks (MDBs)** covering a variety of sectors including agriculture, water, urban development, and disaster risk reduction. This will be scaled up into a Global Development Programme by 2024, with **climate resilience integrated as an essential component**.



ANNA BURZYKOWSKA
Technical Officer at ESA





ANA BUCHER

Senior Climate Change Specialist at the World Bank

Bernice highlighted that, since 2008, the Bank has worked on **40 collaborative projects with ESA** to ensure that EO information is informing its thinking and practice. Speaking on climate change resilience and development planning, she stressed that Earth Observation is not just about providing critical inputs for climate science, but for **development projects and action on the ground**.

Ana Elisa then spoke in more detail about how the Bank uses EO data in a **development context** and presented the on-going **collaboration activities** between the EO4SD climate cluster and the World Bank.

Lydia then described the state of climate science, the future we can expect to have, and the legal and financial context surrounding climate change. She noted that human activities have caused the earth's climate to warm by more than 1oC, compared to pre-industrial levels, and that this warming is driving unprecedented changes to the earth's climate system. **It is therefore imperative that we take steps today, to adapt to a warmer world, and build resilience to climate change and its impacts.** Lydia also highlighted the Cluster's activities and broke down their ongoing work into three main areas. First, the Cluster is **supporting IFIs integrating different types of EO data** into their current Global Risk and Resilience Tools. That way, EO data will be instantly accessible to them through familiar means. Second, the Cluster is examining how EO data can be **useful for different audiences** by looking at different problems at various stages of the project cycle. Finally, the Cluster has been working to help people make use of all of this information by **offering training and bespoke support** in using the tools in different ways.



BERNICE VAN BRONKHORST

Global Director for Climate Change at the World Bank



LYDIA MESSLING

Communications Consultant at Acclimatise

RESOURCES

Further Reading:

- **EO4SD CR Capacity Building Material** [here.](#)
- **ESA Climate Change Initiative** [here.](#)
- **IPCC Reports** [here.](#)

Full webinar recording available [here.](#)

Key Takeaways

- Earth Observation is an important part of the value chain of services.
- ESA data can support various global agendas: climate action, sustainable development goals, and disaster risk reduction.
- Improving access to information has among the highest net benefits of any climate action.
- Earth Observation is a critical tool for meeting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and for helping development projects meet their goals.

“Earth Observation is not just providing critical inputs for climate science but for development projects and action on the ground”.

- Bernice Van Bronkhorst, Global Director for Climate Change at the World Bank