

GEO Health Community of Practice (CoP)

Telecon: Air Quality

August 3, 2021

In Attendance: 27 participants

John Haynes (NASA HQ), Juli Trtanj (NOAA), Helena Chapman (NASA HQ/BAH), Trisha Castranio (NIH/NIEHS), Morgan Zabow (NOAA), Kimberly McMahon (NOAA/National Weather Service), Sheila Fleischhacker (USDA NIFA), Matthew Andersen (US Geological Survey), Tanya Maslak (Battelle Memorial Institute), Cynthia Hall (NASA Earth Science Data Systems), Mike Gremillion (U. of Alabama), Sydney Neugebauer (NASA), Assaf Anyamba (USRA/NASA GSFC), Sushel Unninar (NASA/GSFC & GESTAR/MSU), Helen Amos (NASA GSFC/SSAI), Natasha Sadoff (NASA/GSFC PACE Applications), Erin Urquhart Jephson (NASA/GSFC PACE Applications), Dana Yakabowskas (NY State Department of Health), Maria Tonellato (U. of Maryland), Ben Zaitchik (Johns Hopkins U.), Josh Colston (U. of Virginia School of Medicine), Adrian Guzman (Mexican Space Agency), Sandra Gómez (UNITEC, Honduras), Martin Murillo (UNITEC, Honduras), Mercy Julia Borbor Cordova (Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral, Ecuador), Justine Blanford (U. of Twente), Ian Coady (UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office).

Summary Notes:

**Prepared by Helena Chapman (NASA HQ/BAH)*

John Haynes (NASA HQ) and **Juli Trtanj (NOAA)** opened the telecon by welcoming all participants. They invited CoP members to provide brief updates on upcoming conferences and related activities.

John Haynes (NASA HQ) reminded CoP members that the deadline for abstracts for the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting 2021 (virtual and in-person attendance) is August 4, 2021. Next, he shared that the [GEO Climate Policy and Finance Workshop](#), which will be held from September 21-23, 2021, will offer initial results of the ongoing mapping of climate-related activities in the GEO Work Programme. The workshop aims to explore the role of Earth observation to support investment decisions for climate resilience and Nature-based Solutions, measure the level of readiness in the GEO community, and expand relevant collaborations with the sustainable finance sector. Then, he reminded CoP members about upcoming webinars: 1) ARSET Intermediate Webinar: [Species Distribution Modeling with Remote Sensing](#) (August 12-19, 2021); 2) ARSET Intermediate Webinar: [Satellite Observations for Analyzing Natural Hazards on Small Island Nations](#) (August 18-26, 2021) (English and Spanish); and 3) CDC Climate and Health Program's Webinar Series on [Climate Change, Extreme Heat, and Health](#) (Wednesday, August 4, 2021 from 3:00-4:15PM EDT/GMT-4). Finally, he mentioned that the [NASA Earth Science Applications Week 2021](#) will be held from August 9-12, 2021 (12:00-4:00PM EDT/GMT-4 each day).

Juli Trtanj (NOAA) reminded CoP members about the community-led summer campaign by NOAA's National Integrated Heat Information System and partners, to map the hottest parts of cities in 11 states across the United States ([NOAA and Communities to Map Heat Inequities in 11 States](#)). She said that the National Integrated Heat Health Information System's Urban Heat Island Community of Practice will host a webinar series, [Urban Heat Island Solutions across the US](#), which will feature community case studies on what happens after Urban Heat Island mapping campaigns are conducted. The first webinar, *Exploring the Heat Hazard*, highlighted the range of experience of heat across the

US, with more than 80 attendees. The next webinar, *Constructing Heat Vulnerability Indices*, is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17, 2021 from 3:00-4:00PM EDT (GMT-4). Finally, she mentioned that the WMO/WHO Integrated Health Services Study Group will hold listening sessions at regional levels, as they seek input of case studies on successful climate and weather information. She said that the WMO COVID-19 Task Team and Study Group coordinated the first roundtable ([Compound Climate Hazards and COVID-19](#)) in June 2021 and will coordinate the next roundtable on seasonality on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 9:00-11:00AM EDT (GMT-4).

Helena Chapman (NASA HQ/BAH) shared that the Health session will be held on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 (9:00-11:00AM EDT/GMT-4) at the AmeriGEO Week 2021 (August 23-27, 2021). She confirmed 22 poster presenters and six panelists: Anna Stewart-Ibarra and Ana Watson (*Addressing the Challenge: Building a Transdisciplinary Climate Environment Health Research Network in Latin America and the Caribbean*); Cascade Tuholske (*Urban Extreme Heat Exposure Trajectories in AmeriGEO Countries*); Ben Zaitchik (*Climate and COVID-19: Using Earth Observations to Understand Seasonal and Meteorological Sensitivities*); Pablo Méndez-Lázaro (*Interactions between SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), Air Quality due to Saharan Dust and Social-Environmental Factors in Puerto Rico*); Marcella Ohira and William Pan (STePs to upscale and implement a regional malaria early warning system); and John Malone (*A Geospatial Surveillance and Response System Resource for Vector Borne Disease in the Americas*). She said that the Health session will have four break-out sessions for the 22 poster presentations, which will be held on the Wonder platform. She reminded the six panelists to schedule their pre-recorded sessions with the AmeriGEO team by Friday, August 6, 2021, and the 22 poster presenters to upload their posters by Friday, August 13, 2021. Next, she encouraged all presenters to prepare flash talks for the *Special Edition of the GEO Health CoP: The Americas*, which will be held on September 7, 2021 (8:30-10:00AM EDT/GMT-4).

Helena Chapman (NASA HQ/BAH) introduced **Natasha Sadoff (NASA Goddard/SSAI)**, who provided a brief overview of the NASA [Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem \(PACE\) mission](#) and highlighted how the PACE Applications program will enable use of NASA's most advanced global ocean color and aerosol mission to date using hyperspectral earth imagery and multi-angle polarimetry. She encouraged CoP members to participate in the PACE Early Adopter Program in order to engage with PACE mission and project science and participate in workshops, focus sessions, and tutorials. She reminded CoP members that the upcoming [2021 PACE Applications Workshop](#) will be held on September 15-16, 2021.

Juli Trtanj (NOAA) asked about the mission capabilities related to heat. **Erin Urquhart (NASA PACE Applications)** mentioned that PACE will not have thermal bands.

Juli Trtanj (NOAA) opened the telecon for CoP member updates.

Ben Zaitchik (Johns Hopkins U.) mentioned that the Heat Small Work Group plans to meet on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 from 10:00-11:00AM EDT (GMT-4) to discuss potential action items, and that **Cascade Tuholske (Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Earth Institute, Columbia U.)** has agreed to serve as co-chair. **Juli Trtanj (NOAA)** suggested that they discuss potential pilot studies that may follow the urban heat mapping activities.

Juli Trtanj (NOAA) shared that **Dorian Janney (NASA Goddard/GPM)** will hold the next Food Security and Safety Small Work Group telecon on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 from 11:00AM-12:00PM EDT (GMT-4). She said that the next telecon will be held on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 from 11:00AM-12:00PM EDT (GMT-5). **Juli Trtanj (NOAA)** encouraged all CoP members to join a Small Work Group, especially since many cross-cutting issues offer valuable conversations.

John Haynes (NASA HQ) and **Juli Trtanj (NOAA)** thanked CoP members for their continued contributions to the field and engagement in the group discussion. She agreed that this telecon had provided an opportunity to share information, connect researchers, and leverage resources that can amplify current activities using Earth observations for public health applications.

John Haynes (NASA HQ) and **Juli Trtanj (NOAA)** closed the telecon and mentioned that the Health session at AmeriGEO Week 2021 will be held Tuesday, August 24, 2021 from 9:00-11:00AM EDT (GMT-4). They said that the *Special Edition: The Americas* telecon will be scheduled for Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 8:30AM EDT (GMT-4).

Adjourned: 9:30AM EDT (GMT-4)