Conference Summary

The Cultural Adaptations Conference - 2-4 March 2021
Glasgow, UK

Cultural Adaptations

Exploring Culture and Creativity in Climate Change Adaptation

About the conference

""How can creativity help us in solving the challenges around climate change adaptation?"

With more cities, regions and nations declaring a state of climate emergency,how can cultural organisations and creative practitioners adapt their work and lead societal adaptation?"

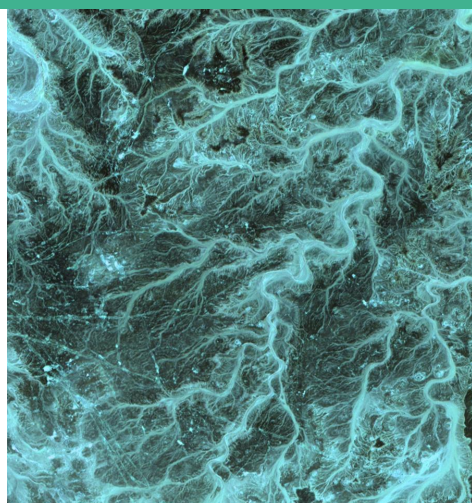
The Cultural Adaptations conference will explore how our cities and regions across Europe can **creatively adapt to climate change impacts**, as well as **the adaptation challenges cultural organisations are likely to face** themselves. This **unique and innovative event** will bring together an ambitious and diverse group of adaptation practitioners, city officials, cultural organisations and artists from across **Europe and the UK.** The host city **Glasgow** is leading the effort of British cities to become carbon neutral and is due to host **UN COP26** later in 2021. The conference provides an excellent opportunity to support the **green recovery** from the pandemic, and to learn and build connections in the lead up to COP26. Taking place **2-4 March 2021**, the conference will develop and disseminate new knowledge on tackling challenges in adaptation using creative, innovative solutions.

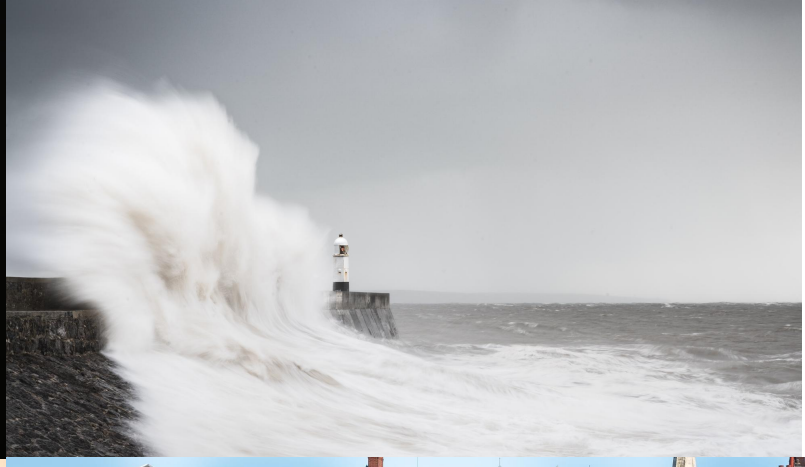
Core details

Showcasing unique, innovative and creative approaches to solving complex climate challenges, the event will present **new ways of working collaboratively in adaptation**. Interactive and practical sessions will focus on transformation through research, policy and practice enabling attendees to apply learning in their own cities, using specially developed tools and resources. **An engaging programme, spanning over 3 days** will involve expert speakers from adaptation science and the cultural sector as well as workshops and demonstrations to facilitate knowledge sharing amongst the participants.

The Cultural Adaptations conference marks the culmination of a 30-month experimental action research project **co-funded by the European Union's Creative Europe programme and the Scottish Government**. Leading cultural organisations in Glasgow, Ghent, Gothenburg and Dublin have been paired with local municipal sustainability partners to host transnational knowledge-sharing, drive change by embedding artists in strategic processes, co-create advice for adapting to climate predictions, and develop resources to widen the impact of the project and enable replication. This conference will share the results and tools of the Cultural Adaptations project, and explore wider knowledge and international experiences of how creativity can help us to adapt. **You can find more information about the project and the conference on our website.**

- 150+ attendees
- 3 days
- European audience
- 20+ workshops





The need for creative approaches to adaptation

Throughout history, societies have adapted to the local conditions of their physical environments, but **the pace of climate change will create new challenges and opportunities for cultural organisations**. The climate projections for North-West Europe include more **extreme warmer, wetter and wilder weather, with heatwaves, sea level rise and storms** becoming more common. To be socially, environmentally and financially resilient to these changes, **culture must adapt**. Well planned, early adaptation action saves money now and lives later.

Cultural Adaptations seeks to **develop the knowledge and the skills that cultural organisations and policy makers need to adapt their work**. The event brings together cultural organisations, adaptation practitioners and local government to share best practices, coming up with innovative solutions for adaptation challenges.

Additionally, artists, designers and other creative practitioners who live and work through creative and cultural practices often work in a different way to established institutions in other sectors. These **cultural methods can therefore bring a new perspective, new skills, and new knowledge to help problem-solving in climate change**, adaptation and sustainability.

The conference will disseminate learning from the Embedded artists project, helping organisations to **harness creative practices in their work on climate change,** and to use creativity for positive social change

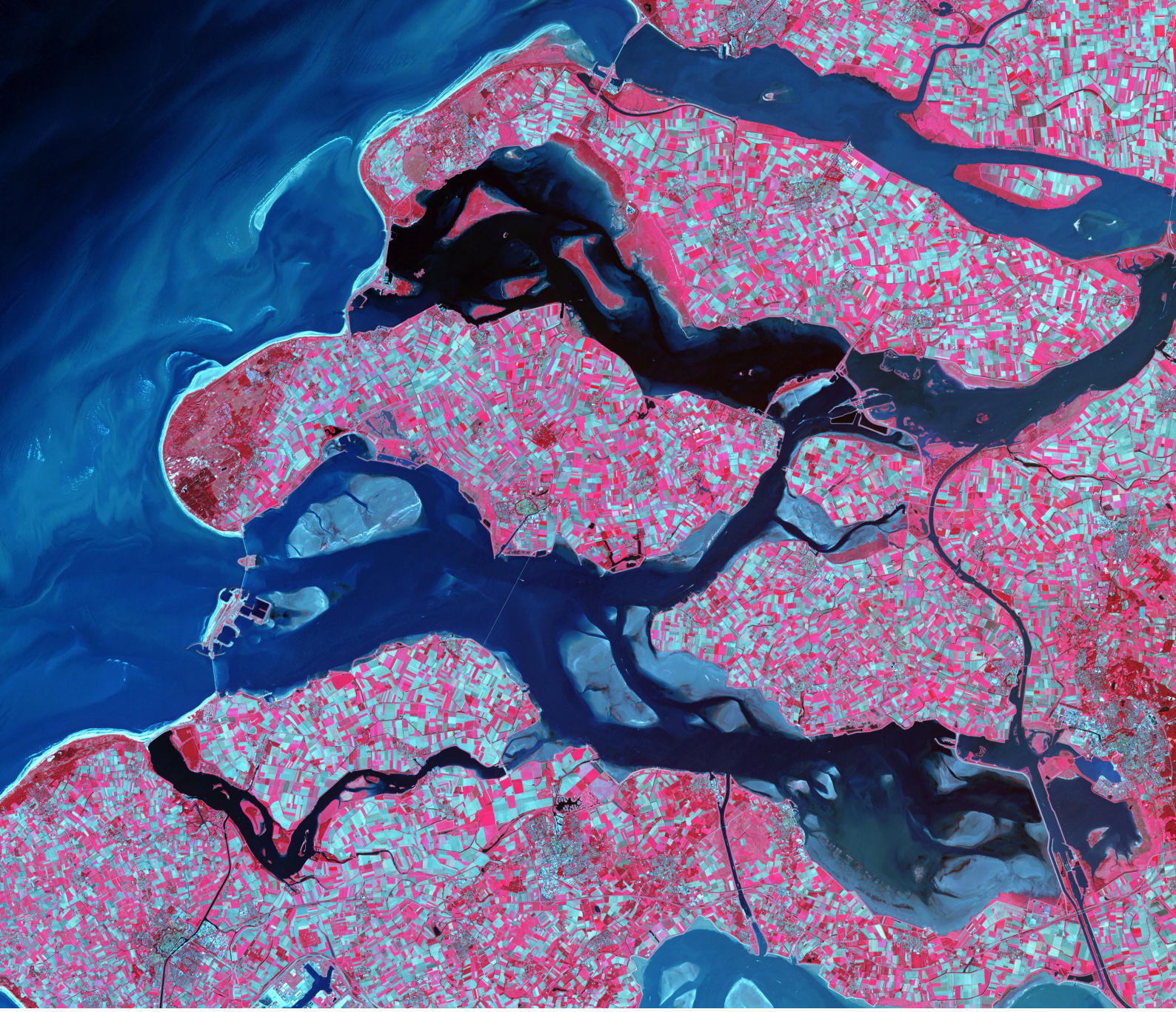
Programme Overview

The conference programme will span **over three days**, giving the participants ample time to establish and build up connections. The days have been themed to allow participants to focus on their preferred topics and to engage in new areas of work. This draft programme is subject to change, but draft structure and indicative sessions are:

- Day 1 - **Transformation in Culture:** What has been done so far? Sharing best practices in mitigation and adaptation in Scotland and further afield.
  - *COP26: Showcasing cultural engagement in COP, plans for COP26 in Glasgow, and how we can move beyond culture as a communications tool.*
  - *Adapting Glasgow walking tour: exploring the connections between Glasgow's industrial revolution origins, it's status as a European Capital of Culture, and it's future under climate change.*
  - *Show and Tell: dynamic snapshot stories from cultural organisations driving change through practical action, advocacy, engagement and artistic means.*

- Day 2 - **Transformation of Culture:** How can cultural organisations and SMEs adapt to climate change in their region? What are the first steps and where do the challenges lie? Learning from adaptation professionals and adapting cultural pioneers
  - *Place-based adaptation: our culture needs to adapt to a changing climate, but how can culture's role in adapting cities be realised?*
  - *Storytelling and narratives for adaptation: how do the stories we tell, and narratives we use shape our approach to adaptation?*
  - *Climate change and cultural heritage: Our cultural heritage is at risk as a result of climate change. How is the heritage community tackling this challenge?*

- Day 3 - **Transformation through Culture:** How can cultural practices help in driving for positive change? How can art and creative methods contribute to climate change adaptation? Disseminating learning from the embedded artists project and leading examples from across Europe
  - *Creative logic for transformational change: how can artistic methods and ways of thinking be used to change and challenge how we work on climate change?*
  - *Embedding an artist in your city's climate change work: learning from the Cultural Adaptations project and a preview of the free resources.*
  - *Transforming Europe's Adaptation: A look at a range of current projects and innovations in European climate change adaptation.*



Register for updates about the event here

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Scottish Government
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Cultural Adaptations website