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Mr. Mario Hernandez is of Mexican nationality. His background is in Mathematics, in particular had the opportunity to study mathematics as applied to image processing.

He started his professional career with IBM Scientific Centers in Latin America (Mexico), France (Paris) and Europe (Paris). At IBM he participated in the development of satellite image processing software as well as associated links with Geographical Information Systems.

He moved then to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) both in Geneva (Switzerland) and Nairobi (Kenya). At UNEP he was responsible to assist developing countries in using remote sensing to support environmental reporting.

Since 2001 Mr. Hernandez is working in UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) responsible for a new initiative known as the '*Open Initiative on the use of space technologies to support the World Heritage Convention*'. This activity was jointly launched with the European Space Agency and is basically a call to all space agencies, space research organizations and space educational institutions to assist developing countries in monitoring and conserving World Heritage sites. A good number of partners have currently joined this Open Initiative and they are implementing various activities for the protection of our World Heritage.