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CONFERENCE ON BUILDING A SCIENCE and DATA-BASED AGENDA FOR DECISION-MAKING ON RESILIENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN

October 20 – 21, 2022

**Cabrits Resort & Spa Kempinski Dominica
Roseau, Commonwealth of Dominica**

ANNOTATED AGENDA

The objectives of the Seminar/Workshop are to:

- Identify critical gaps in the availability and use of science-based data to support decision-making on vulnerability reduction and resilience building in the Caribbean
- Assess good practice and lessons learned from national, regional, and global resilience building
- Develop an agenda of collaboration among Caribbean Governments and regional and international agencies to address these critical data gaps in the short, medium, and long-term

THURSDAY OCTOBER 20, 2022

Registration: 7: 00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

SESSION 1:

**From Climate Vulnerability to Climate
Resilience: Essentials for Sound Decision-
making**

The IPCC's Special Report released in October 2019, makes clear that the targets set in the Paris Agreement and the steps identified by countries in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are not ambitious enough and will not bring about any significant reduction in climate change impacts, especially on the marine environment. Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius is predicted to destroy between 70 and 90 per cent of reef-building corals while warming of 2 degrees Celsius will likely destroy 99 percent of tropical coral reefs. Other predicted climate change impacts include increased economic and social vulnerability, increased probability of droughts and coastal flooding associated with the strengthening of episodic ocean current events; increasing intensity of tropical cyclones and altered food security through changes in arable land available for agriculture. Scientists forecast that without major mitigation efforts, carbon dioxide concentrations will reach about 560 ppm in another 40 years, that is by 2060 (Gergis, 2019). This means that Caribbean countries must aggressively speed-up the design and implementation of policies and strategies at the individual, business, community, state, and national level to achieve climate-resilient and sustainable development. The adaptive instruments must



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include structural resilience strategies to fortify buildings, shorelines, and infrastructure as well as non-structural strategies to better prepare people and governments to withstand and efficiently build back from climate-related trends and disasters.

This overview session will explore the following topics/issues:

- Overview of the status of climate science (limitations of modelling/forecasting tools); sector-centered impact forecast and sector-based indicators of change –fishery and agriculture)
- Key metrics for determining critical climate change impacts (economic, social, and environmental)
- Understanding the science of climate risks and their transient nature over time (risk reduction, transfer, acceptance; equitably balancing the costs and the benefits across the parties and communities they affect).

Moderator- Francine Baron, Chief Executive Officer, Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD)

- **Dr. David Farrell** – Principal – Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH)
- **Dr. Michael Taylor** - Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology – The University of West Indies (UWI) Mona
- **Dr. Roger Pulwarty** - Senior Scientist - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Physical Sciences Laboratory
- **A. Amina Wilkins** – Biologist – Society for Risk Analysis, Councilor, Justice, Equity and Risk Specialty Group
- **Dr. Rashmin Gunasekera** - Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist - Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), The World Bank
- **Dr. Jorge Vanegas** – Director of the Institute for Sustainable Communities - Texas A&M

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. COFFEE BREAK

10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. SESSION 2: Decision-making Essentials for Energy Resilience

Electricity security is vital to well-functioning modern societies and economies. Digital technologies, communications infrastructure, and industrial operations all depend on a reliable and efficient supply of electricity. As energy systems become more interconnected and smart, and as Caribbean countries shift



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to less carbon-intensive sources of electricity, the security of these systems becomes paramount. And while renewable sources might provide for redundancy of energy grids and decentralized systems, new challenges to building the resilience of the source, distribution lines as well as energy storage systems arise. Consequently, energy systems in the Caribbean need to be modern and renewable and be able to withstand wide-ranging indigenous and exogenous shocks, including disasters, climate change, price shocks, disruptions in the energy supply chain, social conflicts, and new and emerging cyber threats.

The panel will explore the challenges for utility companies in investing on building resilience of their systems before the threat of business interruptions caused by more frequent and active hurricane seasons. Public-private partnerships and partnerships with the tourism industry will be examined to find formulas to increase investments in energy resilience. Finally, the panel will address the emerging environmental challenges posed by renewable energy, such as changes in water flows, and in evapotranspiration rates caused by clearing of forest and grasslands.

Issues to be discussed include:

- Managing energy-water linkages
- Life-cycle cost analysis for reliable/resilient energy resilience solutions
- Energy resilience analysis methodologies (including analysis of alternatives)
- Developing the business case for future energy resilience decisions
- Tracking availability/reliability of energy systems and infrastructure (outage data, failure rates, etc.) to assist in trade-off decisions
- Critical Physical Planning considerations
- Assess barriers to accelerating alternative financing of energy resilience projects

Moderator – Hon. Dr. Vince Henderson, Minister for Planning, Economic Development, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy - Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica

- **Dr. Devon Gardner** – Head of Technical Programmes - Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE)
- **Dr. Cletus Bertin** - Executive Director - Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC)
- **Dr. Al Binger** - Secretary General - Small Island Developing States
- **Dr. Ramon Sanchez** – Principal Investigator and Research Associate - Harvard University TH Chan School of Public Health
- **David Stamp** - Generation Manager - Dominica Electricity Services (DOMLEC)
- **Dr. Kalim Shah** – Associate Professor - University of Delaware Biden School of Public Policy



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11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Workgroup

12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Reports

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

LUNCH

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SESSION 3: Building Resilience with Geospatial Intelligence

As the risks, effects and costs of disasters increase, disaster resilience emerges as the primary means for Caribbean Governments to help control their fiscal, social, and environmental exposure to disasters. Geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) is defined as “the exploitation and analysis of imagery and geospatial information to describe, assess, and visually depict physical features and geographically-referenced activities on the Earth.” It allows communities to: (1) gain a fuller appreciation of their circumstances through the identification, monitoring, and modeling of the risks they face; (2) develop the requisite actions to build a community’s overall resilience; understand the economic, social and environmental implications of potential disaster; (3) foster a community’s psychological resilience and strengthen its ability to “bounce forward”; (4) and build a culture of resilience in its citizens and development partners (civic organizations, businesses and levels of government¹. GEOINT enables the use of complex, geographically based models to assess, visualize, and present risk such that data-driven decisions may be made.

The panel will explore the requirements for geospatial data and products for supporting decision-making in disaster prevention and mitigation, as well as in disaster preparedness and response. A look into multilateral agreements for making data and products available in case of emergency –including the International Charter, but also bilateral agreements and collaboration among spatial agencies will seek to take a stake of the development of the sector in the hemisphere and identify opportunities for horizontal and triangular cooperation.

This session will explore the following:

- Emerging trends in geospatial technologies
- The current state of use and barriers to the use of GEOINT in the Caribbean
- Developing strategies to overcome these barriers
- Climate services
- Mainstreaming GEOINT in support of resilience planning across all sectors
- The use of GEOINT in designing critical infrastructure (water, energy, transportation)

¹ Report by the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation



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- Cascading effects of infrastructure failure
- Coordination with telecommunications and information technology industries
- Restoration and repair of telecommunications infrastructure
- Protection, restoration, and sustainment of national cyber and information technology resources
- Developing partnerships and shared ownership of resiliency agenda
- Geospatial technology for building smart cities
- Data requirements for Environmental Impact Assessment
- Building a Climate Resilient Agriculture
- The science of Resilient Physical Planning

Moderator – Dr. Franklin Carrero-Martínez, Senior Director, Global Sustainability and Development at National Academy of Sciences

- **Pierre Chrzanowski** – Science, Technology and Open Data for Climate and Disaster Risk - Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), The World Bank
- **Martin Hilljegerdes** – Information Management and Media Officer – United Nations Platform for Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)
- **Raúl Kulichevsky** – Executive and Technical Director - Argentina National Space Activities Commission (CONAE)
- **Dr. Jong Sung Lee** - Deputy Associate Director - National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
- **Ricardo Quiroga** - Disasters Program Coordinator - National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Earth Science Applied Sciences
- **Christy Monaco** - Vice President of Programs - U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF)
- **Rebecca Hunter** - Senior Manager - Government Affairs at SpaceX / Starlink

4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

COFFEE BREAK

4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Workgroup

5:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Group Photo



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*Conference On Building A Science and Data-Based
Agenda For Decision-Making on Resilience In The Caribbean*

Cabrits Resort & Spa Kempinski Dominica

Opening Ceremony

October 20th, 2022

6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

National Anthem *Angel Joseph*

Prayer *Pastor Ehdí George*

Welcome Remarks *Francine Baron, Chief Executive Officer, CREAD*

Remarks *Kim Osborne, Executive Secretary for Integral Development,
Organization of American States*

*Hon. Dr. Vince Henderson, Minister for Planning, Economic
Development, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development and
Renewable Energy*

Keynote Speaker *Isaac Solomon, Vice President of Operations, Caribbean
Development Bank*

Entertainment *Sixth Form Sisserou Singers*

Feature Address *Hon. Roosevelt Skerritt, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of
Dominica*

Vote of Thanks *Careen Prevost, Secretary to the Cabinet*



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FRIDAY OCTOBER 21, 2022

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Report – Workgroup on Geospatial Intelligence

8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Amazon Web Services Spotlight Presentation – Meeting Sponsor and Partner – Abby Daniel – Director

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. SESSION 4: Science for Building Citizen Resilience

Ultimately, the social, political, environmental, or economic shocks associated with slow and rapid-onset disasters impact people’s well-being, including their health and livelihoods and more generally, their coping and adaptive abilities. The first to respond to emergencies and disasters are those affected by them. The evidence has shown that resilience assessments and strategies that are broad-scale, and top-down in nature are nowhere as effective as participatory, community-based, bottom-up approaches. For this reason, the OAS advocates the adoption of a “whole community approaches” to resilience that involve sub-national and national governments, the private sector, academia, and community-based organizations among others. This shift is encouraged by rapidly developing information and communication technologies that can empower citizens to become more resilient and to participate more effectively in decision-making at the household, community, sub-national and national levels. Citizens now have access to extensive, real-time information for risk management (as well as improving data provision in data-scarce regions)². Professional first responders might be overwhelmed or may not be able to access communities that are remote or that become isolated by the failure of infrastructure. While training and organizing community members in emergency preparedness and response becomes paramount, it is not sufficient for an effective response. Community emergency preparedness and response mechanisms must also be integrated within national systems, and this integration must start with training and disaster preparedness.

This session will examine:

- How citizen science can help to reduce risk against water, climate and seismic-related hazards and respond to global environmental change
- How citizens can be assisted in reconciling their disparate interpretations of risks posed by their various hazards
- How citizens in data-poor areas can support data-gathering and monitoring and in pre-and post-disaster assessments
- Lessons from natural hazards-related citizen science projects

² Paul, J, Hannah D, and Liu W, “Citizen Science: Reducing Risks and Building Resilience to Natural Disasters



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- What constitutes “best practice” in a citizen science context
- Lessons from Community Emergency Response activities in the Americas

Moderator – Gloria Joseph, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning, Resilience and Sustainable Development, Telecommunications and Broadcasting – Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica

- **Elizabeth Riley** – Executive Director – Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)
- **Dr. Evangeline Springer** – Director Disaster Risk Reduction Center – The University of West Indies (UWI) Cave-hill
- **Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva** – Executive Director – Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)
- **Artie Dubrie** – Coordinator – Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit at Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- **Deborah Galindo** – Manager of Public Policy for Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean – Meta
- **Candice Ramkissoon** – Technical Officer - Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
- **Paul Saunders** – Operations Officer Environmental Sustainability – Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. COFFEE BREAK

10:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon SESSION 5: RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS

Over the past decade, the Caribbean region has been challenged by compound climate and health hazards, including tropical storms, extreme heat, and droughts, and overlapping epidemics of mosquito-borne diseases, including dengue, chikungunya, and Zika. The COVID-19 pandemic has both drained and diverted public health funding, resulting in declining resources to address the impacts of climate disasters on health. In response to these threats, Caribbean countries are investing in innovative climate change adaptation strategies, including a Health-Climatic Bulletin and the development of early warning systems (EWS) for climate-sensitive diseases. These so-called ‘climate services’ are tailored to support the needs of end-users – in this case, the public health sector – providing timely and accurate information that can guide decisions about early interventions to reduce morbidity and mortality. The creation and implementation of decision support tools require strong collaborations amongst health, climate, and disaster practitioners with transdisciplinary researchers to assess needs and priorities



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jointly, assess available data, co-develop the tool, gather feedback via national and regional consultations and conduct training. Challenges to the sustainable implementation of climate services for health include a lack of technological capacity and human resources between the climate and health institutions, a lack of local studies providing evidence of climate-health linkages, and a lack of funding to sustain an operational system. Caribbean countries are also developing National Health Adaptation Plans (HNAPs) to guide these efforts, and this session will discuss the current status of these efforts. Through a process of co-creation, Caribbean health systems will be better able to mainstream climate information into decision-making processes using tailored tools, such as epidemic forecast reports, risk maps, and climate-health bulletins, ultimately increasing the resilience of the health system.

The session will:

- Assess the status of and barriers to the creation and implementation of:
 - Health National Adaptation Plans (HNAPs)
 - Climate services for the health sector including bulletins and early warning systems for climate-sensitive health issues.
 - National or regional climate and health observatories (integrated surveillance systems)
- Review best practices and lessons learned in creating and sustaining regional and national collaborations amongst the climate, health, disaster, and academic communities to address the impacts of climate disasters on health.
- Determine the scientific information needed by decision-makers to develop policies and interventions to strengthen the resilience of health systems.

Moderator – Dr. Anna Stewart-Ibarra, Scientific Director, Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)

- **Dr. Irving McIntyre** – Minister of Health, Wellness, and New Health Investment – Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica
- **Dr. Laura Lee Boodram** – Head of Vector-borne Diseases – Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)
- **Dr. Carissa Etienne** – Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO)
- **Dr. Prabhjot Singh** – Advisor, Health Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control – Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO)
- **Dr. Diedre Defoe** – Medical Director and COO, Innovation Health, Co-Founder, The Johns Hopkins Health Equity Group, Co-Founder, The Power to Heal Group



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12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Workgroup

1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Reports

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

LUNCH

2:30 p.m. to 4:00 pm

**Plenary on
Next Steps**

**Agreement on an Action Agenda and Allocation
of Follow-Up Responsibilities**

Moderator - Cletus Springer, CEO and Principal Consultant, Impact Consultancy Services Inc.

- **Dr. David Farrell** – Principal – Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH)
- **Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy** – Regional Manager for the Caribbean – Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)
- **Dr. Michael Taylor** – Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology – The University of West Indies (UWI) Mona
- **Dr. Rashmin Gunasekera** – Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist – Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), The World Bank
- **Dr. Roger Pulwarty** – Senior Scientist – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Physical Sciences Laboratory
- **Dr. Prabhjot Singh** – Advisor, Health Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control – Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO)

4:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

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Closing Ceremony

4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

- **Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva** – Executive Director – Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research
- **Kim Osborne** – Executive Secretary for Integral Development – Organization of American States
- **Hon. Dr. Vince Henderson** – Minister for Planning, Economic Development, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy - Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica



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Speakers Biographies

Kim Osborne

Executive Secretary for Integral Development – Organization of American States



For almost two decades Kim Osborne has dedicated herself to the socio-economic development of the Latin American and Caribbean region. As a pioneer of the OAS Small Tourism Enterprise Program, an internationally recognized best practice, she focused on assisting small and medium enterprises achieve competitiveness and profitability by combining internationally recognized standards with high-value products, targeted marketing and branding. She is co-author of the Business Management and Operations Manual for Small Hotels and the tourism training and capacity building program in the region.

From 2008 to 2011, she was appointed as the OAS Country Representative to Belize and in that role managed the OAS' programs and relations with that country; navigating the political spectrum, while implementing numerous initiatives on sustainable livelihoods, institutional capacity building, tourism training and certification, women's empowerment, among others. Osborne is a founding member of the Center for Community Resource Development, an NGO set up to assist the most disadvantaged communities, by combating poverty through the application of an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) methodology.

More recently, Osborne has served as the head of the Technical Cooperation Section at the OAS Secretariat for Integral Development where she oversaw the Organization's Development Cooperation and partnerships program. In that capacity she led the re-structuring of the OAS Development Cooperation Fund and spearheaded the application of an alliance model to maximize multi-stakeholder partnerships for development and south-south cooperation.

Ms. Osborne has successfully negotiated and secured several partnership agreements with international and regional organizations to foster the work of the OAS in the hemisphere. She is a three-time winner of the organization's outstanding performance award and in 2016 was elected as President of the Staff Association, where she led the effort towards the establishment of the OAS' alternative work schedule scheme.



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Before joining the OAS, Ms. Osborne was employed at the National Development Corporation of Dominica and has also held private sector positions in both Dominica and the Netherlands Antilles. She holds a Master’s Degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Public Management and Bachelor’s degree on Hospitality Management-Travel and Tourism Studies.

Francine Baron

Chief Executive Officer – Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD)



Francine Baron was born in Roseau, Dominica. A lawyer by training, she holds graduate and post-graduate degrees in Law from the University of Wolverhampton and the University of London respectively. Miss Baron is currently the CEO of the Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD). As the CEO, she is tasked among other things, with supporting the implementation of Dominica’s Climate Resilient Recovery Plan, the achievement of resilience targets, and delivery of major capital projects. Prior to taking up the role of CEO at CREAD, Ms. Baron held the position of Principal Advisor to the Government of Dominica. From December 2014 to December 2019 she was the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of Dominica. During the period of 2012 and 2014, Ms. Baron served in the diplomatic service as High Commissioner of Dominica to the Court of St. James’s and Head of the Dominica High Commission, in London promoting the interests of Dominica in the United Kingdom. Ms. Baron also held the position of Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Dominica from 2007 to 2010, providing legal advice to Cabinet and government departments.

Dr. Michael Taylor

Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology – The University of West Indies (UWI) Mona



Michael Taylor is Professor of Climate Science and Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology at the Mona campus of The UWI. He is the co-director of the Climate Studies Group, Mona (CSGM) which is a



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centre of regional thought and expertise with respect to climate change science for small islands and the wider Caribbean. He is a Coordinating Lead Author for Chapter 3 of the Special Report on 1.5 Degrees of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He has also received the Silver Musgrave Medal for Science from the Institute of Jamaica and is the 2019 ANSA Caribbean Laureate for Excellence in Science.

Dr. David Farrell

Principal – Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH)

Since 2006, Dr. David Farrell has been employed as the Principal of the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), the technical Organ of the Caribbean Meteorological Organisation. Over the last 16 years, he has been heavily involved in pre- and post-impact assessments following the passage of hydro-meteorological and climatic events through the Caribbean as well as resilience building efforts.

He has worked with the international community to design, implement and sustain end-to-end early warning platforms in the Caribbean that integrate disparate hazard, vulnerability and socio-economic information developed and delivered through a range of communications platforms. Dr. Farrell and CIMH staff frequently participate in regional Rapid Needs Assessment Teams (RNAT) coordinated by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) to obtain a unique perspective of the impacts of hydro-meteorological events on countries, communities and the larger Caribbean as well as a perspective on approaches to enhance regional early warning systems and resilience programmes to reduce loss.

Dr. Farrell also collaborates with regional and international agencies seeking to enhance the resilience of the region. Dr. Farrell and the CIMH team have produced many reports, publications and presentations addressing hydro-meteorological and climatic hazards and impacts in the Caribbean.

Under Dr. Farrell's stewardship, the CIMH has significantly expanded its capacity as well as its programmes to include (i) online continuing professional development for meteorologists and hydrologists, (ii) the WMO designated Regional Climate Centre (RCC) for the Caribbean, (iii) the Caribbean Centre for Climate and Environmental Simulations (CCCES), (iv) the Pan American Node of the WMO Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System (SDS-WAS) and (v) the Regional Marine Forecast Support Centre (RMFSC).

Dr. Farrell has both a Ph.D. (1997) and an M.Sc. (1993) in Hydrogeology from the University of Manitoba, Canada and received a B.Sc. (Hons.) in Geophysics from the University of Western Ontario, Canada in 1989. Dr. Farrell has over 30 years of experience working on a range of water resources, environmental and geological hazard and risk assessment projects in the USA, Canada and the Caribbean. Dr. Farrell was previously employed as initially a Research Scientist and later a Senior Research Scientist in the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) at Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), San Antonio, Texas, USA from 1998-2006.



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Dr. Roger Pulwarty

Senior Scientist – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Physical Sciences Laboratory



Roger S. Pulwarty is the Senior Scientist in NOAA's Physical Sciences Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado. Dr. Pulwarty's research and over 120 publications focus on climate, disaster risk reduction, water resources, and resilience. He has also developed and lead programs integrating science and services, including the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments, U.S. National Integrated Drought Information System, 5Cs Mainstreaming Adaptation in the Caribbean Vulnerability and Capacity assessment, the IAI Collaborative Research Network on Eastern Boundary Currents, among others.

Dr. Pulwarty has served as a convening lead author on national and international assessments including the IPCC, the UNDRR, the EU, the International Science Council, and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and has provided testimonies before the US Congress, the UN President of the General Assembly, and served on White House Task Forces on Climate and National Security and the Water-Energy-Food nexus. He also co-chairs the UN WMO Climate Services Information System and is on the UNDRR Science and Technology Advisory Group for Latin America and the Caribbean. He has worked closely with CIMH, CDEMA, 5Cs, UWI-Cave Hill and others in the region for over two decades and this work has been formally recognized by the Governments of Trinidad and Tobago and the U.S.

He is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society, the American Geophysical Union, and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, and Lecturer Adjunct at the University of Colorado and the UWI, Cave Hill. He is the co-editor of "Hurricanes: Climate and Socio-economic Impacts" (Springer, reissued 2012), "Drought and Water Crises" (CRC Press 2017), and "Droughts: from Risk to Resilience" (UN Press, 2021).

Amina Wilkins

Biologist – Society for Risk Analysis, Councilor, Justice, Equity and Risk Specialty Group

Amina Wilkins is an active member of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA). SRA is multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, scholarly, international society that provides an open forum for all those who are interested in risk analysis at a local, regional, national, or global level. SRA also includes many specialty groups for members to interact with risk analysts in their disciplines.



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Mrs. Wilkins was elected to serve as Councilor for the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) in December 2019, and in this leadership capacity, she serves on the SRA Outreach and Engagement Committee as well as the World Congress Planning Committee. Amina's actions have led to increased diversity of SRA members and annual meeting presenters.

In 2021, Amina established the SRA Justice, Equity and Risk Specialty Group (JERSG) for members with interest in identifying disparities in risks experienced by specific subpopulations and sources of those disparities, informing the scientific community about issues related to justice and equity in the distribution of risks, and discussing and recommending approaches to address and/or mitigate disparities in exposure to risks. She served as the inaugural chair and currently serves as the cochair for JERSG. Amina has previously co-chaired the SRA Exposure Assessment Specialty Group.

Mrs. Wilkins is present at this meeting in her SRA capacity, but she is also a senior scientist for the United States Federal Government where she works as a biologist to develop models, tools, guidance, and data to assess human exposure to environmental chemicals and to facilitate the systematic review of literature supporting chemical risk assessments. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Sciences (minoring in Water Quality Sciences) from the University of the District of Columbia and a Master's Degree of Public Health from the George Washington University.

Dr. Rashmin Gunasekera

Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist – Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), The World Bank



Rashmin Gunasekera is a Senior Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Specialist and leads the Global Program for Disaster Risk Analytics at the GFDRR/WB. He has developed and led several innovative products and applications of DRM worldwide. He has 20 years of work experience extending to the public sector, re/insurance industry and academia. Prior to joining the World Bank in 2012, he was also a coordinator of the Willis Research Network, the world's largest collaboration between public science and the financial sector. His PhD is in earthquake seismology, and he holds an honorary lectureship at University College London.



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Dr. Jorge Vanegas

Director of the Institute for Sustainable Communities – Texas A&M University



Since Sept.20, Dr. Jorge A. Vanegas serves as Director of the Institute for Sustainable Communities at Texas A&M University (TAMU). He joined Texas A&M in Jan.'06 as a tenured Professor in the Department of Architecture in the former College of Architecture (now School of Architecture) and has courtesy appointments as Professor in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering in the College of Engineering since Feb.'20, and as Research Professor in the Texas Engineering Experiment Station of the Texas A&M University System since Sept.'11.

In addition, he served as Associate Vice President, Department of Engagement for Sustainability in the Division of Academic and Strategic Collaborations of the Office of the President (Jan.'22 to Oct.'22).

Prior to joining Texas A&M, he held appointments as Associate Professor and Professor in Civil & Environmental Engineering at Georgia Tech (May'93–Dec.'05), and as Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering at Purdue University (Aug.'88–May'93). Since 1984, his primary areas of scholarly and professional activities in research & creative work, learning & teaching, and engagement in outreach, service & practice include: (1) built environment sustainability, with emphasis on livable, resilient, sustainable & smart communities; (2) problem solving, with emphasis on social change, fueled by curiosity & imagination and based on creative, innovative, design, entrepreneurial, and digital thinking, infused with systems & critical thinking; (3) advanced strategies & methods tools for integrated capital asset delivery & management in Architecture, Engineering, Procurement, & Construction of capital projects, with emphasis on innovative, best & value improvement practices.

Dr. Vanegas graduated with a degree in Architecture ('79) from the Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia, South America, and is a registered Architect in Colombia (inactive). He pursued graduate studies in Construction Engineering and Management of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Stanford University, Stanford, California, graduating with a M.S. degree ('85), and a Ph.D. degree ('88).



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Dr. Devon Gardner

Head of Technical Programmes – Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE)



Dr. Devon Gardner is an established thought-leader in the energy sector and academia. Devon, who holds a Ph.D. in Chemical Physics (2001) with specialization in numerical analysis and modelling from the University of the West Indies (Mona Campus) in Jamaica and has over twenty-years of dedicated and reliable service within the sector.

Since February, this year, Dr. Gardner has been serving as the Head of Technical Programmes at the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE), which was established in April 2018 through a multi-government agreement among Heads of Government within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In this role, he has oversight for the development and implementation of the strategic anchor programmes of the Centre, which based on the optimization of sector intelligence and functional alignment to successfully design and execute initiatives, programmes, projects and actions that are contributing to an enhancement of energy security and climate resilience within the Caribbean.

Prior to this appointment at the CCREEE, Dr. Gardner was Programme Manager for Energy and Head of the Energy Unit at the CARICOM Secretariat for over seven years, serving from September 2014 until December 2021. Dr. Gardner was Sustainable Energy Advisor within the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs) between 2010 and 2014, and, over the past two decades, held multiple appointments in academia, ranging from Senior Research Fellow to Professor in various universities within the Caribbean and Europe.

Dr. Cletus Bertin

Executive Director – Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC)

Cletus Kennedy Bertin is the Executive Director of the Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC), from May 2017 to present. He has worked throughout the Eastern Caribbean, Belize, and Trinidad & Tobago, with several Governments, Educational Institutions and Corporations in the private sector, and with Regional and International institutions, such as the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL); OECS Secretariat; Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD); Commonwealth Secretariat; The World Bank, Global Information &



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Communication Technologies Department; Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the European Union (EU) Delegation to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, as a consultant, and in some instances, as a fulltime employee.

He has led several transformational and organisational development initiatives, most notably with: the OECS Secretariat (as Project Manager for the Institutional Strengthening Project: 2009-2012), the Government of Saint Lucia (as Director of Public Sector Modernisation: 2012-2017), and presently with CARILEC (leading the development and implementation of the Strategic Plan: 2018- 2022, which has resulted in the repositioning of the organisation, and the successful adoption of policy, process, technological, governance, personnel and structural changes).

His areas of expertise include Management of Change & Innovation, ICT Implementation, Business Process Analysis & Reengineering, Strategic Planning, Project Management, Organisational Development and Capacity Building, across several sectors: ICT, Telecommunications, Education, Public Administration, and the Electric Utility sector. He holds a B.Sc. in Management (1991) and a M.Sc. in Management, specialising in Information Systems (1997) from the University of the West Indies and a Ph.D. in Information Systems & Change Management (2003) from City University in London, England.

Dr. Albert Binger **Secretary General – Small Island Developing States**

Dr. Albert Binger has been a driving force in helping to build and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable countries and people across Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and low-lying developing countries, and is recognized globally, as a leader representing millions of people, standing at the forefront of the greatest challenge facing humankind – climate change.

He has spent the past 20 years evangelizing a shift to utilizing the SIDS greatest renewable resource – the oceans, and how it can play a significant role in the transformation of the energy sector as a means to wean poor countries from fossil fuels, and help countries adapt to climate change. In 2015, as the main architect of the SIDS DOCK – the Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience Organization, Dr. Binger piloted the launch of the Organization as the first United Nations (UN) - recognized sustainable energy and climate resilience Treaty organization among Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with all the rights and privileges of a UN Organization, and this has helped position him as a leader on the sustainable energy and climate resilience global stage.

SIDS DOCK serves 32 countries across the Caribbean, Pacific and Atlantic and Indian Oceans, representing millions of people. The SIDS DOCK organization was developed to provide the small island developing states with a mechanism that collectively advances the transformation of the energy sector in SIDS from petroleum fuels-dominated, to renewable sources in order to help generate financial resources to address climate change adaptation.



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Dr. Binger, is the former Professor and Director for the University of the West Indies Centre for Environment and Development (UWICED), and is credited as a major contributor to the development and start-up of significant capacity building mechanisms, including BUN – the Costa Rica-based Biomass Users Network (1984); LEAD – Rockefeller Foundation Leadership for Environment and Development Program (1991); the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre {CCCCC/5Cs} (2007); the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency {CCREEE} (2015) and the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency {PCREEE} (2017).

He is also a former member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Technology Executive Committee and former Science Advisor and Technical Coordinator to the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Dr. Binger is the former Chair, Strategic Planning and Director of the Global Environment Division, Rockefeller Foundation, in New York, USA, and served as Director, Bioenergy Division, responsible for identifying and promoting opportunities for public-private partnership investments in non-food agriculture, at Agro 21, in the Office of the Prime Minister, Kingston, Jamaica. Dr. Binger is the former Director for Research and Development at the Scientific Research Council, Kingston, Jamaica. He is also a board member of the International Bioenergy Association, Stockholm, Sweden.

Dr. Ramon Sanchez

Principal Investigator and Research Associate - Harvard University TH Chan School of Public Health



Dr. Ramon Sanchez is the former Director of the Sustainable Technologies and Health Program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He has 15 records of invention; of those, 5 are U.S. Patents, and the rest are trade secrets.

Dr. Sanchez has helped to create and secure funding for more than 300 startups in health and sustainability since August 2014. Ramon is currently Principal Investigator in research projects to strengthen local innovation ecosystems worldwide (to have innovation hubs like Boston and Silicon Valley around the planet).

He is the lead instructor of the courses “Design of Renewable Energy Projects,” “Sustainable Product Design and the Innovation Ecosystem,” and “Innovative Technologies for Climate Change Resilience” at



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the Harvard Extension School. In these courses, he helps people to gain knowledge and develop skills on how to design renewable energy and sustainable technology projects, how to assess their sustainability and health benefits, how to create business proposals to facilitate financing, and how to work with international investors and stakeholders in different communities to implement sustainable financing projects equitably. Dr. Sanchez also teaches the winter course “Social and Sustainable Innovation Driven by the Sustainable Development Goals” for students in all graduate schools at Harvard University.

Ramon Sanchez received a Doctor of Science Degree in Environmental Health from Harvard University, a Master of Science Degree in Environmental Health from Harvard University, and a master’s in manufacturing systems from the Tech of Monterrey in Mexico.

Before coming to Harvard University, he was an automotive engineer and director of engineering and manufacturing in a large manufacturing company. He supervised hundreds of engineers and thousands of workers in seven departments with operations in 3 countries (Mexico, China, and the USA).

Dr. Sanchez serves as the Chair of the Science Advisory Board at the Responsible Battery Coalition, which has several global automotive vehicles and battery manufacturers among its members.

David Stamp

Generation Manager - Dominica Electricity Services (DOMLEC)

Dave W. Stamp is currently the Generation Manager of DOMLEC, where he is responsible for all the generating assets and the production of electrical energy to the island. This responsibility includes a notable renewable mix of over 30% hydro generation. An innovative change agent, Dave has over 30 years engineering experience in major projects development and implementation, and over 20 years’ experience in the power generation industry in which includes a significant portfolio in implementation of green energy projects.

Dave is a member of several local and international professional institutions including, American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Dominica Board of Engineering, Deputy Chairman of the National Electro-Technical Standards Committee of Dominica, former Board member of the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce (DIAC) Currently Dave is DOMLEC’s project leader in partnering with the Government of Dominica in the development and acceptance of geothermal energy for the island, and also the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project.

He also plays a lead role in the development of DOMLEC’s 5 year Sustainable Energy Plan which will see the transition of the company’s sustainable energy services portfolio to 100% renewable by 2030. Dave was also instrumental working with the utilities regulator in Dominica (the IRC) in the development of Dominica’s Generation Code and the 2014 – 2033 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), and has played the lead role in working with the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) in the development of Dominica’s Sustainable and Renewable Energy Plan (S-REP).



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Dr. Kalim Shah

Associate Professor - University of Delaware Biden School of Public Policy



Dr. Shah is a recognized expert on public policy, regulation and governance in small states and islands. As an institutional theorist, his research addresses science-based policy and regulatory design and administration for climate change, pollution prevention, clean technology, industrialization and sustainable production and consumption.

His recent work is on the effectiveness of tools such as technology needs assessments, regulatory impact assessments for informing policy decisions and futurecasting models of clean energy transition.

He is currently a professor of Energy and Environmental Policy and the Joseph R. Biden Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Delaware where he also heads the Island Policy Lab. He is a Fulbright Scholar and received his Ph.D. in Public Policy at George Mason University with his dissertation on corporate sustainability metrics and regulatory environmental management in the energy sector. He has nearly fifty peer-reviewed publications in top journals including Energy Policy, Energy Strategy Reviews, Journal of Cleaner Production, Policy Sciences, Sustainability, Geoforum and others.

He is also immediate past President of the us based Interdisciplinary Environmental Association and a board member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Caribbean Committee. Dr. Shah is designate Global Coordinator of the Universities Consortium of Small Island States, a UN multi-stakeholder partnership. He was Coordinating Lead Author for Policy Assessment in the latest UN Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-6) Latin America and Caribbean iteration.

Dr. Shah's expertise is called upon in the international sphere, where he has provided expert advice, research and analysis for multilateral organizations and various governments including Guyana and Suriname. His scholar-based practical policy innovations make him a frequent speaker at academic and industry forums. Such innovations include his 'legitimacy gap' concept in public-private partnerships; his livelihood vulnerability to climate change estimation method for islands; and the 'triple stream' climate adaptation policy model in constrained institutional governance regimes.



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Dr. Shah is Editor-In-Chief of the Caribbean Environmental Studies and Renewable Energy journal; Associate Editor of Business Strategy and Development journal (Wiley), Business Ethics and Environmental Responsibility (Wiley) and Frontiers in Sustainability.

Dr. Franklin Carrero-Martínez

Senior Director, Global Sustainability and Development – U.S. National Academy of Sciences



Dr. Franklin Carrero-Martínez holds a Ph.D. in Cell and Developmental Neurobiology and a Certificate in Business Administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

His multidisciplinary career includes roles as researcher and educator, science administrator, and science diplomat in government, academia and NGOs. In academia, Franklin established a strong research program aimed at understanding the brain's self-organization principles and how to use that knowledge to manipulate brain connectivity.

His successful career at the University of Puerto Rico included tenure, promotion to Associate Professor, visiting scholarship to Duke, sabbatical at MIT's Brain Institute, community service and outreach, invention disclosures, curricular reform and awards recognizing his innovative approaches to science education for underserved populations.

In 2012, he transitioned to government service as the American Association for the Advancement of Science Roger Revelle Fellow in Global Stewardship. He served this prestigious distinction with a joint appointment between the Department of State's Office of the Science and Technology Adviser (STAS) and NASEM. He later joined STAS and was posted to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City as acting Science Counselor before moving to the National Science Foundation Office of International Science and Engineering in 2014. Franklin returned to STAS in 2016, and during this time he directed the office and served as the Department's senior advisor on science, technology and innovation.

In 2018, he joined NASEM where he directs the Global Policy and Development and the Science and Technology for Sustainability Programs at the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM).



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Pierre Chrzanowski

Science, Technology and Open Data for Climate and Disaster Risk – Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), The World Bank



Pierre Chrzanowski is a Disaster Risk Management Specialist at the Global Facility for Disaster and Reduction Recovery (GFDRR) administered by the World Bank. He is part of the Digital Earth team that is supporting countries to harness the new generation of Earth Observation services for development. Pierre's main areas of expertise are digital platforms, open data, and geospatial data. He holds a Master's degree in Computer Science and Engineering from the University of Technology of Troyes in France.

Martin Hilljegerdes

Information Management and Media Officer – United Nations Platform for Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)

Martin Hilljegerdes is an Associate Information Management and Media Officer at the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), Bonn Office, which is a platform within the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). He oversees the programme's communications and knowledge management activities.

Before joining the UN through the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme, Martin worked at the German Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK). He holds a M.Sc. degree in Cartography from the Technical University of Munich (TUM) and a B.Sc. degree in Geography from the University of Bonn. He has a strong interest and experience in working with geographic information systems and remote sensing in disaster management context.



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Raúl Kulichevsky

Executive and Technical Director – Argentina National Space Activities Commission (CONAE)

Aeronautical Engineer from the National University of La Plata and Master's Degree in Science and Technology of Materials from the National University of San Martín.

Previously worked for the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) as Responsible of Instrumentation and Operations for the Group of Studies and Testing of Structural Components Activity (Unit ENDE), as well as Deputy Chief of the Sub Project "Synthetic Aperture Radar Antenna" (ARAS) as part of the Agreement CNEA-CONAE for the development and fabrication of the structure and mechanisms of the SAR antenna of the SAOCOM Project.

Engineer Kulichevsky joined CONAE in 2015 as Flight Segment Manager of the SAOCOM Project and assumed various roles up until June 2018 when he became Executive and Technical Director of CONAE.

Dr. Jong Sung Lee

Deputy Associate Director - National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA), University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign



Dr. Jong S. Lee is Deputy Associate Director of Software Directorate at National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA). His research interests focus on designing, developing, and operating end-to-end cyberenvironments supporting various research and education communities. He is particularly interested in the role of geographic information sciences and systems in cyberenvironments of various scientific domains. Current representative projects include NIST Community Resilience Center of Excellence (CoE) (Co-PI) with the software platform: Interdependent Networked Community Resilience Modeling Environment (IN-CORE), Ergo: Seismic Risk Assessment Systems, Great Lakes to Gulf Virtual Observatory, ARPA-E SmartFarm, GeoStreaming Platform (API and Dashboard), and DataWolf: Scientific Workflow Systems. Via those projects, he is collaborating with various scientific domains such as hazard management, hazard risk assessment, agricultural food market system, environmental engineering, water management, CFD (Computation Fluid Dynamics) simulation, sensor web, among others.



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Ricardo Quiroga

**Disasters Program Coordinator – National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Earth Science Applied Sciences**



MSc. Ricardo Quiroga is Coordinator of the NASA Disasters Program for the Americas that aims to improve the use of NASA satellites and products for disaster risk reduction in the Americas. Co-chair of the Disasters Working Group in the Group of Earth Observations of the Americas-AmeriGEO. Member of the science and technology advisory group of the United Nations Offices of the Americas for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Christy Monaco

Vice President of Programs – U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF)



Ms. Christy Monaco serves as the Vice President of Programs at the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation. USGIF is the leading non-profit educational foundation for advancing the geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) tradecraft to address global security challenges. As the Vice President of Programs, Ms. Monaco leads content development for all the Foundation’s events and programs, including the Foundation’s signature annual GEOINT Symposium, and also oversees overall membership engagement and Foundation marketing and communications. A 30-year veteran of the intelligence community and Department of Defense, Ms. Monaco most recently served as the Chief Ventures Officer (CVO) at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA). She brings a breadth of experience from prior service in human intelligence, program and financial management, customer experience and corporate communications at NGA, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Office of Naval Intelligence.



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As CVO, Monaco was an advocate and transformational leader in partnerships between the federal government, industry, and academia. Ms. Monaco holds a B.A. in Russian and English from Vanderbilt University, an M.I.M. in International Commerce from the University of Maryland, and an M.S. in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University. She is also a Pilates enthusiast and instructor, enjoys fly fishing, and tries really hard to actually read the book club books.

Rebecca Hunter

Senior Manager – Government Affairs at SpaceX / Starlink



Rebecca Hunter joined SpaceX in October of 2020 to support Starlink; the high-speed low latency broadband service being developed and deployed by SpaceX. Her initial role was in Government Affairs and then transitioned to support the global rollout of Starlink on the Market Access team in April 2022. Prior to SpaceX, Rebecca has been a leader in telecommunications and connectivity fields with over 25 years of industry experience, working for infrastructure and telecommunication provider companies like Crown Castle, American Tower, AT&T and T-Mobile, as examples. Rebecca has focused on connectivity within the public sector (e.g. smart cities and digitalization/infrastructure planning) and telecommunication policy across verticals, like transportation and education. Rebecca has B.A. in Political Science and an Executive M.B.A.

Abby Daniell

**Director – Worldwide Public Sector. Latin America, Canada, and the Caribbean (LCC)
Amazon Web Services (AWS)**



As the Latin America, Canada, and Caribbean programs team manager at Amazon Web Services (AWS), Abby Daniell is the executive responsible for implementing education, workforce development, diversity and inclusion, disaster prevention, climate change, cybersecurity, and other programs in the Latin America, Canada and Caribbean market.



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With more than 25 years of global private and public sector business experience, she has created this dynamic program team to enable the AWS Public Sector organization to expand into these regions.

Abby is quoted in international press and speaks at public sector and industry events regarding cloud technologies and education, innovation, and workforce development.

She previously worked as the commercial director at the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica where she formed part of the management team and assisted U.S. companies doing business in Latin America. Before joining the U.S. Embassy, Abby was the associate publisher of The Tico Times, Central America’s leading English-language newspaper. She represented the newspaper at the Inter-American Press Association. She lived and worked in Costa Rica for two decades and is a fluent Spanish-speaking professional.

Abby moved to Costa Rica after working as a communications director on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. for a member of congress from Seattle, Washington.

She holds a Master of Business Administration from The George Washington University School of Business in Washington, D.C. and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Abby loves the outdoors and is an avid hiker, runner, and PADI certified Open Water Diver. She has served on several nonprofit boards of directors, including the Costa Rican North America Cultural Center.

Elizabeth Riley

Executive Director – Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)



Ms. Elizabeth Riley is the first female Executive Director of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and was appointed to that position on July 1, 2021. She is a committed regionalist with over 22 years of experience in the areas of disaster risk management at the regional and international levels and in environmental management.



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She is passionate about people and sees her role as one of creating spaces and facilitating connections to advance the resilience agenda. At the operational level, Ms. Riley has played a leadership role in the coordination of regional responses to all major hazards impacting the region from Hurricane Ivan in 2004 to Hurricane Dorian in 2019 and is currently playing a leadership role in supporting the Health Sector in the coordination of the region’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Her field experience includes the leadership of CDEMA deployment teams in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma (2017) and Dorian (2019).

She has written, presented, and published technical papers in disaster management and environmental management whilst attached to CDEMA and prior to that during her tenure at the University of the West Indies and the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment in Barbados. At the international level, she has contributed to a range of technical advisory committees and is currently Vice-Chair of the ICG/Caribe Early Warning Systems Group of Experts on Coastal Hazards.

She also sits on the Regional Advisory Group leading the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean on Disaster Risk Management in the Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Sectors. Ms. Riley has also lectured in Disaster Management at the University of the West Indies, Mona and Cave Hill.

She holds a M.A (Econ) in Environment and Development from University of Manchester, United Kingdom, BSc. (Hons) in Geography from the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica and a Masters Certificate in Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation and Information Systems from the University of Laval, Quebec.

Dr. Evangeline Springer

Director Disaster Risk Reduction Center – The University of West Indies (UWI) Cave-hill



Dr. Inniss-Springer is a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) and Certified Continuity Manager (CCM) with over 25 years’ experience in the disaster risk management having worked at the national, regional and international levels.

She has received training in Emergency Management from the International Association of Emergency Managers and in Business Continuity Management from the Institute for Business Continuity Training.



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She holds a master's degree in health studies from the University of Alabama and a Doctor of Health Sciences from A.T Still University in Missouri with a focus on Leadership and Organisational Behaviour.

Prior to being appointed as the Director of the Disaster Risk Reduction Centre in January 1, 2021, Dr. Inniss-Springer worked with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) from 1991 to 2007, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) from 2011 to 2012, the Department of Disaster Management in the British Virgin Islands (The BVI) as Deputy Director from 2012 to Aug 2019 and Acting Director from Sept 2019 to Dec 2020 and internationally with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Prior to taking up the post as Director of the Disaster Risk Reduction Centre, she served as the Acting Director with the Department of Disaster Management in the BVI. In this capacity, she led the Social Sciences Unit of the agency responsible for translating science into action by developing and implementing policies and programmes aimed at building capacity in resilience and influencing behavioural change at the community level and integrating Comprehensive Disaster Management into all sectors.

She has served on several national, regional and international committees, working groups and task forces focusing on enhancing capacity development, partnership and programme management, policy development, operations management and education in emergencies.

In addition to her experience in disaster risk management, Dr. Inniss-Springer has a diverse background of knowledge and experience in capacity development, leadership and strategic planning, work programme development and project management, statistical analysis, logistics supply management, proposal development and grant writing, total quality management and process analysis

Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva

Executive Director – Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)



Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva is Executive Director of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI). He is responsible for the provision of strategic advice to high level policy makers on issues related to global change and their socio-economic impacts. He also provides advice on linkages between the IAI's scientific agenda and global governance environmental frameworks, especially the Sustainable



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Development Goals. He is responsible for the long-range strategic planning and financial oversight of the IAI Directorate to ensure the implementation of the IAI's programme of work.

Previously he held the post of Chief, Knowledge Management and Outreach Services with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). He was responsible for issues related to the use of new information and communication technologies, including those to conduct international trade in specimens of CITES-listed species that is legal, sustainable and traceable. He was previously with the Convention on Biological Diversity where he was responsible for the implementation of the Clearing House Mechanism and for the technical implementation of the Biosafety Clearinghouse under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Before joining the United Nations, Marcos was a Programme Officer with the NAFTA Commission on Environmental Cooperation where his duties included the development of the North American Biodiversity Information Network. He holds a PhD from McGill University and was an Adjunct Professor with the Department of Distance Education and a Computer and Networks Librarian.

Artie Dubrie

Coordinator – Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit at Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)



Ms. Dubrie is the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit Coordinator at the UN-ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. Artie joined UN- ECLAC in November 2017. Artie's UN career began in 2003 with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and with assignments to Latin America and the Caribbean; and Asia/Pacific. At UNEP and now with ECLAC, her UN career has been dedicated to supporting the SIDS Sustainable Development Agendas.

Ms. Dubrie has a Degree in Natural Sciences from the University of the West Indies - St. Augustine, a Master's Degree in Natural Resources Management (Universidad Nacional Pedro Henrique Ureña, (Republica Dominicana) and a Postgraduate Certificate in Laws with Merit in the Specialization of Environment and Natural Resources Law (University of London). Prior to joining the UN-system Artie worked in both the private and public sectors in Trinidad and Tobago.



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Deborah Galindo

Manager of Public Policy for Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean – Meta

Deborah Galindo is the Public Policy Manager at Meta for Central America and the Caribbean, supporting and strengthening national efforts in terms of economic recovery and digital citizenship, among others. In the past, she led the Public Policy Programs team for WhatsApp in Latin America and as part of the Meta Public Policy Programs team she trained more than 10,000 SMEs and non-profit organizations in 11 countries on the value of Meta. Deborah has previous experience in the Federal Government of Mexico, in the Ministry of Health, where she was an advisor and point of contact for international projects with the World Health Organization and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Prior to this, she was a campaign coordinator for the Mexican Social Security Institute. She studied a double degree in Hispanic Philology and Journalism, obtaining both degrees at the University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain.

Candice Ramkissoon

Technical Officer – Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)



Candice has a diverse science and technology background, offering approximately ten years' practical experience and expertise in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Management; Environmental and Natural Resources Management; and specialist skills in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). In her role at CANARI, Candice brings significant national and regional expertise in areas relevant to disaster resilience including participatory vulnerability assessments, planning and implementation of community-based and ecosystem-based DRR, DRR policy-making and related capacity building. She also plays a key role in developing and piloting participatory information and communication technologies (ICTs), including GIS-based tools, for capturing and integrating local knowledge in processes and actions to build resilience in the Caribbean region. Candice has Master of Science degree in Geoinformatics (2011) and a BSc in Environmental and Natural Resources Management & Entrepreneurship (2006) from the University of the West Indies, St Augustine.



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Paul Saunders

Operations Officer Environmental Sustainability – Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

Paul Saunders is a Disaster Risk Management/ Environmental Sustainability professional with over 30 years' experience in the field. He holds a BSc in Geology and an MSc in Natural Resources Management from UWI, Jamaica. He has served the Caribbean region in leadership positions in the National Disaster Management offices of Jamaica and in Trinidad and Tobago. He worked as an independent disaster risk management consultant with private sector, regional bodies and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). and with several governments of the region and their national disaster management offices. Paul joined the Caribbean Development Bank, May 2015 as Operations Officer (Environmental Sustainability) in the Environmental Sustainability Unit.

At the Bank, he is accountable for mainstreaming environmental sustainability concerns throughout the Bank's operations, internally through the maintenance and implementation of appropriate risk management policies and externally by providing advice to Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) on related policy issues and maintaining dialogue with the Bank's development partners. This responsibility extends to the appraisal of investment projects (including financial intermediary lending) and supervision of institutional and regulatory aspects of environmental sustainability on all assigned projects, including management of CDB's emergency response portfolio. He is the also the disaster risk management focal point for the Bank.

Dr. Anna Stewart-Ibarra

Scientific Director – Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)



Dr. Anna Stewart-Ibarra is the Scientific Director of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI). In this role, Dr. Stewart Ibarra supports the development and dissemination of global environmental change science to inform decision making across the Americas.

Dr. Stewart-Ibarra is an expert on climate and health in Latin America and the Caribbean. She was formerly the Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Research Program of the Institute for Global Health and Translational Science at the State University of New York Upstate Medical University (SUNY UMU) from 2012 to 2019.



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Dr. Stewart-Ibarra's research has focused on understanding climate, environment and social drivers of vector borne diseases and other dimensions of human well-being in Latin America and the Caribbean. For more than 14 years, she has collaborated with academic and government institutions in the region to conduct community based social-ecological, epidemiological, and modeling studies. These studies have aimed to inform the development of climate services for the health sector, community health interventions, and novel vector control tools.

Honors and fellowships include Fulbright in Argentina (2018) and Ecuador (2010-2011), the Emerging Public Policy Leader Award of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (2009), and the National Science Foundation Graduate S.T.E.M. Fellowship (2007-2009).

She received her PhD in ecology from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) and Masters in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

Dr. Irving McIntyre

Minister of Health, Wellness, and New Health Investment Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica

Dr. Irving McIntyre is a medical doctor from the small community of Fond Canie in the Roseau Valley, a devoted husband and father of four children. He graduated from the Saint Mary's Academy and later the Sixth Form College in Dominica before pursuing studies in Medicine at the Indira Gandhi Medical College in Shimla, India. Dr. McIntyre graduated from medical school in 1996 and began working in Dominica at the Princess Margaret Hospital shortly thereafter.

Dr. McIntyre was senior medical officer at the Accident and Emergency Department at the Princess Margaret Hospital up to 2009 when he left to operate his private medical practice full time. He began his private practice in 1999 to present and continues to be one of Dominica's most notable physicians caring for the health and social well-being of people from all back grounds both in his professional and personal capacities.

He was a clinical instructor to students at the Ross University School of Medicine in the advanced introduction to clinical medicine programme. He also supervised students on their family practice clerkship rotations.

Dr. McIntyre is a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) representative for the Dominica Olympic Committee at the Regional Anti-Doping Organization (RADO). He was resident Doctor for the Windward Islands Volcanoes Cricket Team, Harlem Football Club, Dominica Cricket Association, Dominica Boxing Association and was also ringside Doctor for the Caribbean Amateur Boxing Association at regional games in Trinidad and St. Thomas.



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Dr. McIntyre is a former National Basketball Player representing Dominica at various tournaments overseas and is presently a sponsor and member of local basketball clubs in his community. He is an avid hiker, a sportsman and swimmer with a passion for farming, having been born and raised on a farm.

After Hurricane Maria in September 2017, Dr. McIntyre managed the procurement and distribution of relief supplies in his Constituency and also conducted free healthcare clinics in the capital city of Roseau, within his community and at the Harlsbro Medical Centre.

On December 6, 2019, Dr. Irving McIntyre was victorious in the general elections and won the Roseau Valley Constituency Seat. On December 18, 2019 Dr. McIntyre was sworn in as the new Minister of Health, Wellness and New Health Investment.

As Minister of Health, Wellness and New Health Investment Dr. McIntyre has willingly accepted the call to serve and continues to demonstrate genuine compassion in addressing the needs of all Dominicans.

In view of his excellent leadership and management of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. McIntyre was selected 'Person of the Year 2020' in the Commonwealth of Dominica by the two main News Papers in the country, a choice which was pleasing to everyone.

Dr. McIntyre continues to be at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19.

Dr. Laura Lee Boodram

Head of Vector-borne Diseases – Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)



Laura-Lee Boodram is the current Head of the Caribbean Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme (CR-FELTP) at the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA). The Agency provides technical cooperation in public health capacity building and laboratory reference services to 26 Member States in the Caribbean. Dr. Boodram holds a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of the West Indies and an MSc in Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London.

Her primary research interests include the genetics of diabetes mellitus, infectious disease epidemiology and the effects of climate change on health. She served previously as the Molecular Biologist at the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre, applying molecular diagnostic tools for laboratory surveillance of public health priority diseases.



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Between 2013 – 2018, she was the Programme Coordinator of the Caribbean Regional Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme (CR-FELTP), also based at CARPHA.

As the coordinator for the CR-FELTP, Dr. Boodram spearheaded a multi-country, multidisciplinary training initiative, which aimed at building human resources for health in applied epidemiology, emergency response and preparedness, and public health laboratory practice within the Caribbean. Partnering with international public health agencies and bodies such as the CDC, PAHO, PHE and TEPHINET, over 2014-2021 the Caribbean region has produced 250 FELTP graduates. Since 2018, Dr. Boodram also has had responsibility for the Vector Borne Diseases department at CARPHA. She works with regional and international stakeholders on various strategies to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with mosquito and other borne diseases.

Dr. Carissa Etienne
Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO)



Dr. Carissa F. Etienne, a native of Dominica, began her five-year term as Director of the Pan American Health Organization, Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) in February 2013. She was elected for a second term as the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau on 27 September 2017, during the 29th Pan American Sanitary Conference.

Under her dynamic leadership and strategic guidance, the Organization achieved some noteworthy milestones during the past five years. Some of these can be briefly summarized as follows:

PAHO successfully led preparedness and response efforts to the Zika and chikungunya epidemics in the Region as well as to the cholera and yellow fever outbreaks in Haiti and Brazil, respectively, while significantly improving the Organization’s response to all declared emergencies and disasters in the Region to within 48 hours.

The Americas was the first WHO Region to successfully eliminate the endemic transmission of measles, rubella, and congenital rubella syndrome. The Region also eliminated onchocerciasis in four of six endemic countries, trachoma in one country, and a number of countries are close to malaria elimination



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certification. Of historic note, seven countries and territories in the Region achieved dual elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis.

Efforts to prevent and control the chronic non-communicable diseases through legislative and regulatory mechanisms gained considerable traction as more countries have enacted legislation on the labelling of food products, while others have introduced taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages at the national level. Advances have been made in the strengthening of national health systems and services and in the progress toward universal health. Deliveries by skilled birth attendants increased from 95% to nearly 100% and, for the first time, the Region of the Americas reached the recommended target of 25 physicians and nurses per 10,000 people. Twenty-five countries now have comprehensive financing strategies for universal health coverage.

Moreover, 41 countries and territories currently participate in the PAHO Revolving Fund, enabling them to procure high-quality life-saving vaccines and related products at the lowest price, and 30 countries utilize the Strategic Fund, which facilitates pooled procurement of essential medicines and strategic public health supplies.

From March 2008 to November 2012, Dr. Etienne served as Assistant Director-General for Health Systems and Services at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to that, as Assistant Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau from July 2003 to February 2008, she led five technical areas: Health Systems and Services; Technology, Health Care, and Research; Health Surveillance and Disease Management; Family and Community Health; and Sustainable Development and Environmental Health.

During her tenure at both WHO and PAHO, Dr. Etienne led the efforts to renew primary health care and to strengthen health systems based on primary health care, promoting integration and improved functioning of health systems. She has also spearheaded policy directions for reducing health inequalities and advancing health for all through universal coverage, people-centered care, the integration of health into broader public policies, and inclusive and participatory health leadership.

The World Health Report 2010 – Health systems financing: the path to universal coverage was produced under the direction of Dr. Etienne and WHO's Deputy Director-General. The report is globally recognized for providing an agenda for action by countries at all stages of development to move more quickly and in a sustainable manner towards universal coverage, while proposing ways in which the international community can better support efforts to achieve universal coverage and improve health outcomes. Dr. Etienne has also led the WHO global agenda to support universal access to safe and efficacious medical products and the development of a global code of practice for the international recruitment of health personnel. She also chaired the International Health Partnership (IHP+) initiative, which seeks to commit partners to work together and put into practice international principles for effective aid and development cooperation in the health sector.



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Dr. Etienne began her career in her native Dominica as a medical officer at the Princess Margaret Hospital, and was later appointed as the Chief Medical Officer of that country. She has also served in other high-level posts in Dominica, including Director of Primary Health Care Services, Coordinator of the National AIDS Program, Disaster Coordinator for the Ministry of Health, and Chair of the National Advisory Council for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Etienne received her medical degree (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery-MBBS) from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, and her Master of Science Degree (MSc) in Community Health in Developing Countries from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London.

Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy

Regional Manager for the Caribbean – Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)



On September 1, 2022, Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy assumed office as CAF's Regional Manager for the Caribbean. In this role, Dr. Richards-Kennedy will lead CAF's institutional relationship and engagement with governments and private sector clients in the Caribbean. The establishment of a Regional Office for the Caribbean, located in Trinidad and Tobago, is consistent with CAF's commitment to expand its member countries and facilitate increased development assistance to the Caribbean.

Dr. Richards-Kennedy has close to 25 years' experience in multilateral negotiations, development management and international finance. Her diverse experience includes forging strategic partnerships, leading multi-disciplinary teams and marshalling resources for the successful execution of projects in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Having formerly served as Pro Vice-Chancellor for Global Affairs at The University of the West Indies, which is ranked among the top 1.5% of universities globally, Dr. Richards-Kennedy also has extensive experience working in multilateral development agencies. She was Assistant Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten; Chief Technical Advisor, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); Consultant, The World Bank, Washington DC and Programme Specialist, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.



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A national of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Richards-Kennedy is fluent in Spanish, French and English. She holds a Doctorate in Education from The University of Sheffield, an MSc in Development Management from American University (Washington DC), an MBA specializing in International Finance from American University (Washington DC) as well as a Postgraduate Diploma (International Relations) and Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages, both from The University of the West Indies (St. Augustine, Trinidad).

Dr. Richards-Kennedy has served on several national as well as international boards and committees and has received various awards and recognitions, including the IDB Martin Luther King Award for outstanding contribution to the promotion of social inclusion, selection as one of The UWI Institute of International Relations' Distinguished Alumni, American University's Ernest M. Aiken Award to Outstanding International Scholars, among many others.

Dr. Diedre Defoe

Medical Director and COO, Innovation Health, Co-Founder, The Johns Hopkins Health Equity Group, Co-Founder, The Power to Heal Group



Dr. Defoe, is the medical director and COO of Innovation Health and is also one of the founders of the Johns Hopkins Health Equity Group and The Power To Heal Group. She is the founder and executive director for Alliance for Clinician Equity. She received her MD from Howard University in 1994 and MPH from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 1995.

Dr. Defoe is an obstetrician & gynecologists with further training in occupational medicine and board certification in preventive medicine and public health.

She served as the Chief of Occupational Medicine and Employee Health in the Department of Defense/Defense Health Agency at a military treatment facility in the Washington, DC metro area.

She received leadership development training and certification to Advance Equity in Health Care from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health.