

Regional Forum: Catalysing innovation & partnerships to build local disaster resilience in Caribbean communities

PANEL DISCUSSION: “How can we catalyse, support and empower Caribbean civil society and communities to build resilience to hurricanes and other climate extremes?”

INTRODUCING OUR PANELISTS

Guest panellists:



Dr. Nicole Greenidge
Disaster Risk Management Specialist, CDEMA



Chamberlain Emmanuel
Head, Environmental Sustainability Division, OECS Commission



Cecilie Marisa Clarke-Marshall
Coordinator, Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Cell of Excellence (CADRIM CoE), IFRC



Arica Hill
Executive Director, Environmental Awareness Group, Antigua



Glenroy Toussaint
Local Government Commissioner, Local Government Division, Dominica



Leisa Perch
International Development Consultant, Barbados

A virtual forum under the project: CSOs for Disaster Resilience - Empowering civil society and local communities to build resilience to hurricanes and climate extremes in the Eastern Caribbean





Dr. Nicole Greenidge is the Disaster Risk Management Specialist at the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Coordinating Unit (CU). In this role, she focuses on incorporating consideration of disaster risk inclusive of risk associated with climate change into the programming of the CDEMA CU and the 18 Participating States. Nicole has a PhD in Human Geography with a focus on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in Small Island Developing States. She has 12 years of combined experience as a researcher and practitioner in the field of disaster and climate-related risk management.

Nicole has trained and worked internationally as well as within the region. She specializes in technical assistance programming, disaster risk management policy development, risk governance, integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, environmental policy coherence, stakeholder engagement, and innovation. Nicole is an outgoing person who enjoys nature, travelling and outdoor activities. Some of her exploits include climbing Snowdon which is the highest mountain in Wales and the volcano – Mount Stromboli.

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Mr. Chamberlain Emmanuel is the head of the Environmental Sustainability Division (ESD) at the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission and oversees a portfolio of programmes and projects spanning: Climate Change and Disaster Resilience; Biodiversity and Ecosystems; Land and Water Resources; Ocean Governance and Fisheries; Sustainable Energy; and Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Management.

As a Professional Civil Engineer (BSc) and Project Manager (PMP, Dip.) Mr. Emmanuel has some twenty years of practical experience in leading and implementing regional, national and community projects addressing development, disaster resilience and climate change adaptation. He served as chair of Saint Lucia's National Damage and Needs Assessment (DANA) Committee from 2008 to 2019 and continues to serve in the community. His recent professional pursuits (MSc. in Innovation and Entrepreneurship) also affords him a unique perspective on engagement and action.

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Ms. Cecilie Marisa Clarke-Marshall has worked at the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) since 2013 in the areas of Resilience, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction. Currently, Marisa is the Coordinator of the Red Cross Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Cell of Excellence (CADRIM CoE). At CADRIM, she manages a team of subject-matter experts that provide knowledge management and information sharing; capacity building and training; research and innovation; technical assistance and support; advocacy and promotion; partnership building and coordination; and, strategic policy development and coordination of policy engagement on a wide-ranging spectrum of domains such as climate change, disaster law, disaster risk reduction, health or inclusion.

Through its services and products, CADRIM COE aims to reduce risk at the community level, and, at the institutional level, to prepare Red Cross National Societies to fulfil their auxiliary role to ensure timely and effective humanitarian assistance to prevent and alleviate human suffering. Marisa holds a B.A degree in Geography with Social Sciences (UWI Mona), an Advanced Diploma in Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI Cave Hill) and a M.Sc. in Planning and Development (UWI St. Augustine).

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Ms. Arica Hill is an Antiguan environmentalist presently serving as the Executive Director of the Environmental Awareness Group in her home country. A recipient of an Australian Leadership Award, Arica holds a Masters in Environmental Management (Sustainable Development) and later went on to complete a Fellowship at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Arica has been working in the environmental field for more than a decade and championed the Plastic Bag Ban in Antigua and Barbuda. She believes strongly that real change comes through communication, and desires to see not just the sustainable use of natural resources, but an appreciation for them as well.

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Ms. Leisa Perch is a Barbadian consultant who specializes in gender and environment. She has BA in International Relations with a minor in Computer Studies and a Masters in Environmental Management. She has worked in government, with regional projects and at hemispheric (OAS) and international organisations throughout her 20+ year career. After a 13-year career in the UN, she has been an international development consultant for the last 3 years, working mostly in the Caribbean but also in Africa. She developed the Gender Equality Mainstreaming Policy for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission and was the lead consultant in designing the EnGenDER project which seeks to make climate and disaster recovery more gender-responsive.

She is currently working on several assignments including the mainstreaming of EbA and Gender in Climate Change Adaptation focused on the OECS countries, analysis of gender in fisheries value chains in 3 CARICOM countries (Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Suriname) with UWI CERMES and developing a Gender and Infrastructure certified training programme for the Barbados Water Authority in collaboration with UWI Institute for Gender and Development Studies. She has also recently designed and implemented virtual gender mainstreaming workshops for CANARI and others

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Mr. Glenroy Toussaint has been involved in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction for the past thirty-one (31) years. He currently holds the position of Chairman of the Shelter Sub-Committee of the National Emergency Planning Organization (NEPO) in Dominica. Among other things, this Committee is responsible for the identification of suitable buildings to serve as Emergency Shelters; identification of Shelter personnel; and the provision of training to address shelter needs.

Mr. Toussaint's current position of Local Government Commissioner in Dominica empowers him to work with communities and Community Based Organizations in the establishment and training of Disaster Management Committees at the community level. These committees are charged with the responsibility of Management of Disaster related intervention at the local level. Mr. Toussaint is an Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)-trained Instructor for Disaster Management related training. He has facilitated extensive training modules in Shelter Management, Initial Damage Assessment, Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) and preparation of households and Community Disaster Plans

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