



## CONFERENCE AGENDA

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Climate Change in the Caribbean Conference:

Promoting Climate Resilience in USVI & Puerto Rico

DAY 1: Tuesday, April 19: 8:30 am - 4:45 pm AST/ET

DAY 2: Wednesday, April 20: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm AST/ET

#### DAY 1: Meeting [Zoom link](#)

##### 8:30–9:00 AM: Welcome, Greetings from conference sponsors and hosts

Héctor L. Vélez Cruz, Lead General Attorney Associate Regional Counsel for Caribbean Programs / Caribbean Disaster Recovery Coordinator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2

Janet McCabe, Deputy Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Astor Boozer, Regional Conservationist, West Region, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Roberto García, Meteorologist in Charge, Weather Forecast Office San Juan, National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Keone Nakoa, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior

##### 9:00–10:00 AM: Plenary 1: Panel on Global Perspective on Climate Change

Moderator: Geno Olmi, Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team Coordinator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

- Sammi Dowdell, International Relations Specialist, Office of International Affairs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Trigg Talley, Director, Office of Global Change, U.S. Department of State, [The United States and International Climate Policy](#)
- William Hohenstein, Director, Office of Energy and Environmental Policy, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Climate Change and Land Management](#)
- Daniel Morchain, Global Climate Adaptation Director, The Nature Conservancy

##### 10:00–10:45 AM: Plenary 2: Climate Change Impacts in the U.S. Virgin Islands & PR

Moderator: Maricelis Rivera, President, Access All Services

- Adam Terando, Research Ecologist, U.S. Geological Survey-Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center, [Historical and Future Trends in Temperature and Precipitation](#)
- Ernesto L. Díaz Velázquez, Caribbean Regional Manager, Tetra Tech, [Climate Change Impacts in Puerto Rico's Coastal Communities and Marine Systems](#)
- Greg Guannel, Director, Caribbean Green Technology Center, University of the Virgin Islands, [USVI Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan: Building a Comprehensive Approach to Risk Reduction in the Virgin Islands](#)



**10:45–11:00 AM: BREAK**

**11:00–12:00 PM: Plenary 3: Climate Change Actions: Adaptation Initiatives and Opportunities**

Moderator: Luis Jorge Rivera Herrera, Program Analyst, Community Planning & Capacity Building Section, Federal Emergency Management Agency

- Arturo Massol-Deyá, Executive Director, Casa Pueblo, [Community Self-Management in Climate Adaptation](#)
- Lloyd Gardner, President, Foundation for Development Planning, Inc., [Climate Adaptation in the U.S. Virgin Islands: Current Status and Opportunities](#)
- John Englander, Executive Director, Caribbean Center for Rising Seas, Puerto Rico Science, Technology, & Research Trust, [Elevation Presents Opportunities for Adaptation](#)

**12:00–12:45 PM: LUNCH**

**12:45–1:45 PM: BREAKOUT SESSION I**

**Breakout Room A: Rising Sea Level and Coastal Management/Planning (12:45–1:45PM)**

[Session Zoom link](#)

Moderator: Tashya Allen, Southeast and Caribbean Learning Services Coordinator, NOAA Office for Coastal Management

- Heidi Stiller, South Regional Director, Office for Coastal Management-National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, [The 2022 Interagency Sea Level Rise Technical Report and Tools for Accessing the New Data](#)
- Hilary Lohmann, Coastal Resilience Coordinator, USVI Department of Planning & Natural Resources, [Sea Level Rise and Planning in the USVI](#)
- Robert J. Mayer, Professor/ Director, University of Puerto Rico, [Using Ecological Restoration of Dunes and Mangroves to Increase the Resilience of Coastal Communities](#)
- Roberto Viqueira Ríos, Executive Director, Protectores de Cuencas, Inc.

**Breakout Room B: Social Vulnerability and Public Health (12:4–1:45PM)**

[Session Zoom link](#)

Moderator: Mona Behl, Associate Director, University of Georgia

- Noreen Michael, Research Director/Research Associate Professor & Interim Director of the Caribbean Exploratory Research Center, School of Nursing, University of the Virgin Islands, [Social Vulnerability and Public Health under Climate Change Conditions in the U.S. Virgin Islands](#)
- Saria Hassan, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Emory University School of Medicine, [Disasters, Vulnerability, and Health Disparities](#)
- Marysel Pagán Santana, Senior Program Manager, Migrant Clinicians Network, [Community Mobilization as a Model for Emergency Management in Puerto Rico](#)
- Tischa Muñoz Erickson, Research Social Scientist, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, USDA Forest Service



## Breakout Room C: Climate Change and Terrestrial Natural Resources (12:45–1:45PM)

### [Session Zoom link](#)

Moderator: Yogani Govender, Dean, Inter American University of Puerto Rico Metro Campus

- Kristin Wilson Grimes, Research Assistant Professor, University of the Virgin Islands, [GROEE USVI Mangroves: Growing Research, Restoration, Outreach and Education of the territory's mangroves](#)
- Marconi Campos Cerqueira, Chief Science Officer, Rainforest Connection, [Understanding how birds and frogs respond to climate change by combining acoustic monitoring and species distribution models](#)
- Eileen Helmer, Research Ecologist, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, USDA Forest Service, [Neotropical cloud forests and páramo to contract and dry from declines in cloud immersion and frost](#)
- Aura M. Alonso-Rodríguez, PhD candidate in Natural Resources, University of Vermont. [Lowland tropical forest responses to global change](#)

## Breakout Room D: Island Food Security and Climate Change (12:45–1:45PM)

### [Session Zoom link](#)

Moderator: Luis Alexis Rodríguez Cruz, Research Fellow, USDA Caribbean Climate Hub

- Uriyoán Colón Ramos, Associate Professor of Nutrition & Global Health, George Washington University, [Nutrition security in the face of disasters: findings from Puerto Rico](#)
- Mariolga Reyes, Co Founder and Director, Fideicomiso de Tierras Comunitarias para la Agricultura Sostenible (FiTiCAS), [Common assets, food sovereignty and climate justice](#)
- Christina Chanes, Research Specialist/Extension Agent I, University of Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service, [Climate and Health Impacts: A Pathway to Food and Water Security](#)
- Sommer Sibily-Brown, Founder & Executive Director, Virgin Islands Good Food Coalition, Inc., [Secure, Sovereign and Sustainable: The Intersections of Food, Environment and Justice](#)

**1:45–2:00 PM: BREAK**



## 2:00–3:00 PM: BREAKOUT SESSION II

### Breakout Room A: Community Voices: Confronting the Challenges of Climate Change and Environmental Justice (2:00–3:00PM)

#### [Session Zoom link](#)

Moderator: Claudia Gutierrez, Acting Deputy Director, EPA Region 2, Division of Laboratory Services and Applied Science Division

- Dr. Anahita Williamson, Director, Laboratory Services and Applied Science Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, [Overview of EPA's Caribbean Science Consortium and Citizen Science](#)
- Jennifer Valiulis, Executive Director, St. Croix Environmental Association
- Lirio Márquez, Executive Director, Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust, [Climate Change: Community Response, Unmet Needs](#)
- Dulce María del Río-Pineda, Co-Founder & Organizational Coordinator, Mujeres de Islas, Inc., [Communities Make Things Happen](#)
- Marissa Reyes Diaz, Farmer and Coordinator, Guakiá, Colectivo Agroecológico; El Puente Enlace Latino de Acción Climática; Organización Boricúa de Agricultura Ecológica

### Breakout Room B: Sustainable and Regenerative Tourism (2:00–3:00PM)

#### [Session Zoom link](#)

Moderator: Javier Laureano, Director, Clean Water Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Region 2

- Nildamarie Díaz, Sustainable Tourism Development Officer, Division of Sustainable Tourism, Puerto Rico Tourism Company
- Keenan Adams, Forest Supervisor, El Yunque National Forest, [El Yunque's Regenerative Tourism Models](#)
- Honorable Joseph B. Boschulte, Commissioner, U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism

### Breakout Room C: Coastal & Marine Ecology (2:00–3:00PM)

#### [Session Zoom link](#)

Moderator: Lisamarie Carrubba, Deputy, ESA Interagency Cooperation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NOAA Fisheries

- William J. Hernández, Senior Consultant, Researcher, Environmental Mapping Consultants LLC, R&D Center of UPRM, [Satellite and field water quality parameters associated to coral reef areas in Puerto Rico](#)
- Yaritza Rivera, Hurricane Response Coordinator, Marine Debris Program- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, [NOAA Marine Debris Program in the Caribbean - Prevention and Recovery Efforts](#)
- Áurea E. Rodríguez Santiago, CARICOOS University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez, [Zooplankton biodiversity and dissolved oxygen patterns through seasonal Sargassum pulse](#)
- Hector Ruiz, Executive Director, HJR Reefscaping, [Understanding coastal vulnerability in small cays around Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands](#)



## Breakout Room D: Climate Change and Working Lands (2:00–3:00PM)

### [Session Zoom link](#)

Moderator: Nora Álvarez-Berríos, Research Associate, USDA Caribbean Climate Hub/USFS International Institute of Tropical Forestry

- Pedro Ríos, Ecologist and Ecosystem Manager, El Yunque National Forest, [Planning for Climate Change - All Lands Approach](#)
- Guillermo Ortiz Colón, Professor/Dairy Cattle Nutrition, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, [Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change: The Case Study of the Dairy Industry of Puerto Rico](#)
- Lisette Fas, Executive Director, Cafiesencia, [Working Lands in the Puerto Rico Coffee Region](#)
- Edgardo González, Forester, Centro para la Conservación del Paisaje, [Observaciones del Manejo Forestal ante el Cambio Climático en el Caribe](#)

## 3:00–3:15 PM: BREAK

### [Meeting Zoom link](#)

## 3:15–4:30 PM: Plenary 4: Equity & Environmental Justice

Moderator: Makeda Okolo, Director, Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs-National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

- Ruth Santiago, Community & Environmental Lawyer, Puerto Rico Community and Environmental Groups, [Environmental and Climate Justice in Puerto Rico](#)
- Olugbenga (GBenga) Ajilore, Senior Advisor USDA Rural Development, [USDA Justice 40 Overview](#)
- Ryan Hathaway, Environmental Justice Coordinator, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Lisa García, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2, [Equity, Environmental Justice, and Climate Justice](#)

## 4:30–4:45 PM: CLOSING Day 1

- Geno Olmi, Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team Coordinator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Héctor L. Vélez Cruz, Caribbean Disaster Recovery Coordinator/Lead General Attorney, Associate Regional Counsel for Caribbean Programs, US Environmental Protection Agency
- William A. Gould, Director, USDA Caribbean Climate Hub, USDA Forest Service



**DAY 2: Meeting [Zoom link](#)**

**9:00–9:30 AM: Welcome Day 2, Greetings from USVI & PR Governments**

William A. Gould, Director, USDA Caribbean Climate Hub, USDA Forest Service

Luis Cruz-Arroyo, Caribbean Director, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Congresswoman Jennifer González, Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico in the U.S. House of Representatives

Congresswoman Stacey E. Plaskett, Representing the United States Virgin Islands' at-large Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives

Hon. Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands

**9:30–10:30 AM: Plenary 5: Strategies for Reducing GHG Emissions**

Moderator: Irene Margaret Xiarchos, Senior Economist, USDA

- Marisol Bonnet, Coordinator, Puerto Rico Energy Recovery, U.S. Department of Energy-Office of Electricity
- Aaron Ng, USVI Energy Recovery, U.S. Department of Energy
- Ariel Stolz, Caribbean Green Technology Center, University of the Virgin Islands
- Lillian Mateo-Santos, Commissioner, Puerto Rico Energy Bureau Commissioner

**10:30–10:45 AM: BREAK**

**10:45–12:00 PM: Plenary 6: Responding to Disasters by Building Climate Resilient Infrastructure and Communities**

Moderator: Ken Filarski, Architect and Fellow, Architect and Disaster Assistance Committee, Fellow of the American Institute of Architects

- Stacy Bourne, Principal Architect, The Bourne Group, LLC., [The Rhythm of Life for Hurricane Resilience](#)
- Shirley Birriel Osorio, Director, Infrastructure Program Management-CDBG-DR Program, Puerto Rico Department of Housing, [Comprehensive Approach to Climate Resilience](#)
- Greg Guannel, Director, Caribbean Green Technology Center, University of the Virgin Islands
- Laura Rivera Carrión, Coordinating Officer for Disaster Recovery, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

**12:0–12:45 PM: LUNCH**



## 12:45–1:45 PM: BREAKOUT SESSION III

### Breakout Room A: Planned Retreat and Coastal Climate Change Adaptation (12:45–1:45PM)

#### [Session Zoom link](#)

Moderator: Wanda I. Crespo Acevedo, Climate Adaptation Program Specialist, Lynker in support of of NOAA-RISA Program

- Lyvia Rodríguez del Valle, Co Founder, El Enjambre, [Planned Retreat and Climate Justice: Reflections from Practice](#)
- Raúl Santiago Bartolomei, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Planning-University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, [Planned Retreat: Challenges and Equity Concerns](#)
- Carlos Olmedo Alvarez, Disaster Recovery Deputy Director of Planning - CDBG-DR Program at Puerto Rico Department of Housing

### Breakout Room B: Climate Change and Water Resources (12:45–1:45PM)

#### [Session Zoom link](#)

Moderator: Eva Holupchinski, Coordinator, USDA Caribbean Climate Hub, Forest Service International Institute of Tropical Forestry

- Jared Bowden, Senior Research Scholar, North Carolina State University, [Downscaled high-resolution climate change projections for Puerto Rico](#)
- Craig Ramseyer, Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech Department of Geography, [Understanding Drought Mechanisms in the Caribbean](#)
- David M. Sumner, Director - USGS Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center, [Hydrologic monitoring in the US Caribbean](#)
- Odalys Martínez-Sánchez, Hydro-meteorologist, NOAA-National Weather Service, [Trends and Observations](#)

### Breakout Room C: Disaster Recovery: Hazard Mitigation Programs - Nature-based Solutions Examples in Puerto Rico (12:45–1:45PM)

#### [Session Zoom link](#)

Moderator: Paul Fericelli, Senior Climate Advisor, Federal Emergency Management Agency

- Nitza Ayala Fontanez, Hazard Mitigation Grants Specialist, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Kathia Sanchez Ríos, Hazard Performance Analysis Crew Lead, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Pedro Angueira Quirós, Hazard Performance Analysis Crew Lead, Federal Emergency Management Agency, [Hurricane Wind, Storm Surge, Erosion Control, and Stormwater Management Mitigation Measures for Centro Vacacional de Boqueron – Cabo Rojo, PR](#)



**Breakout Room D: Philanthropy Advancing Climate Resilience and Environmental Justice in Recovery (12:45–1:45PM)**

[Session Zoom link](#)

Moderator/Presenter: Carmen Guerrero Pérez, Director, Caribbean Environmental Protection Division, US Environmental Protection Agency

- David Haddock Domínguez, Vice President, Administration and Programs, Fundación Comunitaria de Puerto Rico
- Cristina M. Miranda Palacios, Founding Executive Director, League of Puerto Rican Cities (La Liga), [From Disaster to Systemic Change, one donor at a time](#)
- Deanna J. James, President and CEO, St. Croix Foundation for Community Development

**1:45–2:00 PM: BREAK**

**2:00–3:00 PM: BREAKOUT SESSION IV**

**Breakout Room A: Implementing Sustainable Development Goals in Virgin Islands & Puerto Rico (2:00–3:00PM)**

[Session Zoom link](#)

Moderator: Kate Brown, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)

- Lloyd Gardner, President, Foundation for Development Planning, Inc.
- Kyle Fleming, Director of the Virgin Islands Energy Office, Office of the Governor (tentative)
- Marlon Hibbert, USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) and Director of the Division of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) (tentative)
- Ricardo Arzuaga, Founder and Executive Director, United Nations Association of the USA, Puerto Rico Chapter, United Nations Foundation, [Puerto Rico and the SDGs](#)

**Breakout Room B: Environmental and Climate Justice/ Energy Justice (2:00–3:00PM)**

[Session Zoom link](#)

Moderator/Speaker: Dr. Adi G. Martínez-Román, Esq., Director of Operations, UPR Resiliency Law Center, [Advocacy for Climate Justice](#)

- Ingrid M. Vila Biaggi, President, CAMBIO PR, [Queremos Sol Initiative, Advancing Energy Democracy and Energy Justice through Rooftop Solar, Presenting Cambio](#)
- Fernando Tormos-Aponte, Assistant Professor, University of Maryland Baltimore County, [Energy inequality in the wake of disasters](#)
- David Bond, Faculty, Bennington College, [Crucian Crucible: Environmental Justice on St. Croix](#)





## Breakout Room C: Coastal & Marine Resources – Challenges and Opportunities (2:00–3:00PM)

### [Session Zoom link](#)

Moderator: Curt Storlazzi, Coastal/Marine Hazards and Resources Program, U.S. Geological Survey

- Edwin Hernández Delgado, Assistant Professor, University of Puerto Rico Río Piedras and Senior Scientist, Sociedad Ambiente Marino, Inc.
- Miguel Canals Silander, University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez
- Gerald Bove, Researcher, University of Rhode Island
- Ricardo J. Colón Rivera, Management Officer, Northeast Ecological Corridor Natural Reserve, Department of Natural and Environmental Resources of Puerto Rico, [Challenges and management strategies of the Northeast Ecological Corridor in the context of climate change](#)

## Breakout Room D: Federal Opportunities Supporting Climate Resiliency and Sustainable Development (2:00–3:00PM)

### [Session Zoom link](#)

Moderator: Adrienne L. Williams-Octalien, Director of the USVI Office of Disaster Recovery

- Kimme Bryce, Area Director, U. S. Virgin Islands Area Office-USDA Rural Development, [USDA-Rural Development: Supporting Rural Communities](#)
- Mario Rodríguez, State Resource Conservationist, USDA-NRCS and Manuel Matos Rodríguez, State Soil Scientist for Puerto Rico and USVI, USDA-NRCS, [USDA-NRCS Tools and Programs for Communities and Local Governments](#)
- Rafael Canizares, Civil Engineer, Federal Emergency Management Agency. [BRIC: Capacity Building and Funding Opportunities for Climate Resilience.](#)

## 3:00–3:15 PM: BREAK

### [Meeting Zoom link](#)

## 3:15–4:15 PM: Plenary 7: Sustainable Development Goals

Moderator: Celeste Connors, Hawaii Green Growth, Local2030 Hub

- Austin Shelton, University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant
- Kate Brown, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)
- Mitch Roth, Hawaii County Mayor

## 4:15–5:30 PM: Closing Day 2

Moderator: Ruperto Chaparro Serrano, Director, University of Puerto Rico Sea Grant Program

- Frandelle Gerard, Executive Director, Crucian Heritage and Nature Tourism Foundation (CHANT)
- Estrella D. Santiago Pérez, Environmental Affairs Manager for the Corporación del Proyecto ENLACE del Caño Martín Peña
- Isabel McCollough Valentín, Environmental Studies Student, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry

**Final Remarks:** Organizing committee

