

Small Islands: staying afloat and alive@1.5

Monday, 14th November, 18:00-19:30 local time

Organizer: Michelle Mycoo and Elvira Poloczanska

Contact and email: Michelle Mycoo (michelle.mycoo@sta.uwi.edu) and Elvira Poloczanska (elvira.poloczanska@ipcc-wg2.awi.de)

Objective

The main objective of the event is to share climate change science with a broad range of stakeholders by providing a platform to discuss climate change impacts, the implementation of adaptation solutions for small islands, which may assist in achieving transformation toward the end goal of a sustainable future for small island states, and vulnerabilities they face in addressing impacts and taking adaptation action.

Many small islands are seeking answers to what urgent climate adaptation action is needed to protect themselves from the impacts of climate change. No single adaptation measure will be the panacea or provide the “silver bullet” for all the challenges faced by small islands. It is clear that a balancing act is needed in implementing adaptation solutions ranging from a combination of ecosystem-based adaptation and engineered coastal structures to extreme measures such as planned relocation in retreating from the coast. To this end, we can expect that stakeholders are in search of finding out:

1. What adaptation solutions are available;
2. Is there a “one size fits all” solution or would solutions need to be country-specific;
3. Are there examples of best practice in small islands where adaptation solutions have been implemented;
4. What will these adaptation measures cost;
5. Where will the finance come from to compensate for loss and damage from climate change events;
6. What advice can be given to facilitate access to adaptation finance given the challenges many of them have encountered in so doing; and
7. Adaptation limits, barriers and opportunities.

Almost a decade ago, a formal mechanism to tackle loss and damage was established but concrete steps to address the issue have not materialised. The topic of loss and damage is expected to be highly debated at cop27, as small island states occupying the frontline are already being impacted by floods, droughts, tropical cyclones, rising heat and sea levels and coral reef damage. The issue of climate justice will be also contested by small islands as they seek distributive justice. The event will follow the format of (i) first presenting the occurring and projected impacts of climate change; (ii) second, current adaptation solutions/options being implemented and their associated barriers, limits and opportunities for uptake.

The event will take the format of a combination of activities such as keynote addresses, expert panel presentations by IPCC small islands chapter authors and an in-built interactive element with the audience using a question-and-answer component.

Agenda

Opening and welcome		
18:00-18:05	Welcome remarks and purpose of session	Michelle Mycoo (virtual), WGII Coordinating Lead Author of Chapter 15, Small Islands <i>video recording as backup</i>
Keynote Addresses: Small Islands Staying Afloat and Alive@ 1.5: Key climate change issues and challenges facing small islands (15 mins)		
18:05-18:12	Keynote I (7 min)	Dr. Mark Bynoe, Assistant Executive Director, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs), (
18:13-18:20	Keynote II (7 min)	The Honourable Sheila Jack Babauta, Member of the House of Representatives of the Northern Mariana Islands
18:20-18:30	Quiz/Poll on Key Issues: Loss and Damage and Adaptation Finance (10 mins)	WGII In-person team
Expert Panel Presentations		
18:30-18:35	Terrestrial Ecosystems in Small Islands	Shobha Maharaj, WGII Lead Author of Chapter 15, Small Islands
18:35-18:40	Coastal & Marine Ecosystems in Small Islands, Blue Economy	John Pinnegar, WGII Lead Author of Chapter 15, Small Islands
18:35-18:40	Human Settlements and Adaptation Solutions in Small Islands	Michelle Mycoo (virtual), WGII Coordinating Lead Author of Chapter

		15, Small Islands
18:40-18:45	Adaptation Limits, Barriers and Opportunities, 5 mins)	Johanna Nalau, WGII Lead Author of Chapter 15, Small Islands
Q&A with audience		
18:45 – 19:05	Q&A with audience - Moderator: Ambassador to Belize, Senior Advisor to AOSIS and CARICOM: Her Excellency Ambassador Janine Felson.	All panelists and keynote speakers
Closing		
19:05 – 19:15	Takeaways: Research Gaps, Future Opportunities and Climate Justice	Shobha Maharaj, Johanna Nalau, WGII Lead Authors of Chapter 15, Small Islands

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