



## Presenter

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### Resiliency in Puerto Rico: Before, During, and After Hurricane Maria

Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico on September 20, 2017, and with recovery efforts still underway, it is considered the worst storm in the Caribbean Island's history. This session is focused on how a native and professional biologist from Puerto Rico weathered the storm and quickly acted as a key member of the operational team at one of the Island's most important critical infrastructure facilities – the SJU Airport. Examples and analyses of resiliency planning efforts will be discussed, with attention to critical infrastructure emergency planning. Several initiatives developed by the Puerto Rico Climate Change Council and other stakeholders will also be presented, which serve as good examples on how the Island has been working to address coastal development and existing vulnerabilities. Information will also be offered on how some strategies were modified after Hurricane Maria and the valuable role many non-governmental organizations have had in the reconstruction of Puerto Rico. Lessons learned, future challenges, impasse avoidance, and cultural adaptability will be a key point throughout the presentation.