

Pandemics, Disasters, Sustainability, Tourism

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Pandemics, Disasters, Sustainability, Tourism: An Examination of Impact on and Resilience in Caribbean Small Island Developing States

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List of Abbreviations

BEST	The Bahamas Environment, Science & Technology Commission
BNT	Bahamas National Trust
BTC	Bahamas Tourism Cooperation
CARE	COVID-19 Allocation of Resources for Employees
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CAST	Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism
CBOs	Community-based Organizations
CBT	Community-based Tourism
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEPAL	La Comisión Económica para América Latina
CERMES	Center for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CHTA	Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association
CNBC	Cable News Broadcasting Corporation
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CT	Collaboration Theory
DCNA	Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance
DMOs	Destination Management Organizations
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GBI	Grand Bahama Island
GBPA	Grand Bahama Port Authority
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GCFI	Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF SGP	Global Environment Facility, Small Grants Program

GEO Blue Planet	Group on Earth Observations Blue Planet
GHGs	Greenhouse Gasses
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
HCA	Hawksbill Creek Agreement
IAD	Institutional Analysis and Development
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ITour	Island Tourism
JMD	Jamaican Dollar
JR	Job Retention
JTB	Jamaica Tourist Board
MDPMR	Ministry of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction
MLP	Multilevel Perspective
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NASA.	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NCCC	National Policy for the Adaptation to Climate Change
NGOs	Nongovernment Organizations
NPIs	Nonpharmaceutical Interventions
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PROBLUE	Blue Economy Program (World Bank)
SARIMA	Seasonal Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average
SaWS	Sargassum Watch System
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEAS	Sargassum Early Advisory System
SEM	Socioeconomic Metabolism Model
SET	Supporting Employees with Transfer of cash

SHS	State Hope Scale
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SITour	Sustainable Island Tourism
SLR	Sea-Level Rise
SPAW-RAC	Specially Protected Area and Wildlife-Regional Activity Center
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
SWOT	Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats
Texas A&M	Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University
TICDMF	Tourism Industry Crisis and Disaster Management Framework
TMC	Transition Model Canvas
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TOURS	Tourism Recovery Scorecard
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Plan
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
USA	United States of America
USD	United States Dollar
USGS	United States Geological Survey
US NASA	United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Utech	University of Technology
UWI	University of the West Indies
WGI	Worldwide Governance Indicator
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Tourism Organization
WTTC	World Travel and Tourism Council

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About the Editors

Ian Bethell-Bennett, PhD, is an Associate Professor and former dean of Liberal and Fine Arts at the University of The Bahamas. He holds degrees in Trade Policy, Cultural Studies, English, and Spanish. His research interests include gender in development and migration. His recent publications focus on unequal development in the Caribbean, particularly in The Bahamas and Puerto Rico where resorts take over land and disenfranchise locals.

He writes on art and culture and has participated in NE7 and NE8 as well as in 2018 Double Dutch Hot Water with Plastico Fantastico as a part of the Expo 2020 collective. He works around Haitian and Cuban migration to and through The Bahamas and is currently working on a project on Statelessness in The Bahamas. He writes in the daily newspapers on gender and development. He is a member of DESDEMOS, West Indian Literature Conference Organization, and Caribbean Studies Association.

Dr Sophia A. Rolle is a well-respected and highly sought-after resource in the areas of sustainable tourism development, education, and research, both locally and internationally. She holds four earned degrees in the areas of Hotel Management, Business Management, Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Management, and Family and Consumer Sciences Education with emphasis in Tourism Management.

Professionally, Dr Rolle has kept busy in the world of academia and industry – researching, teaching, and consulting over various pedagogical areas of tourism development and its impact on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), such as The Bahamas. She is also the proud recipient of a plethora of distinguished scholarly certifications, awards, and accolades including the prestigious Cacique Award for Human Resources Development presented to her in 2005 by The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism. Besides teaching and research, Dr Rolle was recommended by the Governor General for the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to serve in the capacity as Justice of the Peace for the entire Bahamas. She maintains active affiliations with many local and international organizations and is a board member for the Governor General Youth Awards; a founding director of Friends of The Arts; member of the Rotary Club of Nassau Sunrise, and lifetime member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Sophia is an accomplished Fine Artist and owner of the Villa Gemella Art House and Gallery located in Nassau, The Bahamas.

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Dr Okumus has widely published in leading journals, including *Tourism Management*, *Annals of Tourism Research*, *Journal of Business Research*, *Service Industries Journal*, *Management Decision*, *International Journal of Hospitality Management*, *International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management*, and *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Research*. He has over 250 academic publications (over 150 refereed journal articles, three books, 12 book chapters, and 90 conference presentations and reports). According to Google Scholar, as of September 1, 2020, his publications have received over 10,300 citations and he has an h-index of 50. He chaired/cochaired and served on numerous PhD dissertation and master thesis committees. He secured competitive grants, contracts, and scholarships totaling an amount of \$500,000.

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Recognizing his contributions and accomplishments, Dr Okumus has received numerous highly prestigious awards and recognitions including "The Michael D. Olsen Research Award" in 2016; "The University of Central Florida Scroll & Quill Society Award" in 2017 and the "CFHLA Preeminent Chair Professor" again in 2017; and "The John Wiley & Sons Lifetime Research Achievement Award" from ICHRIE in 2018. He was also recognized and honored for his accomplishments at the University of Central Florida's Board of Trustees Recognition ceremony on November 19, 2018.

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Foreword

The timing of the publication of *Pandemics, disasters, sustainability, tourism: An examination of impact on and resilience in Caribbean small island developing states* is opportune, coming on the heels of two mega crises that have impacted our nation, region, and wider world, namely the historically devastating Hurricane Dorian of 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic, the latter of which, at the time of publication, though in regression, is still very much with us.

I take this opportunity to congratulate and commend the powerhouse team of four professors/editors from The University of The Bahamas and Florida International University – Dr Ian Bethel, Ms. Jessica Minnis, Dr Sophia Rolle, and Dr Fevzi Okumus – for assembling this collection of scholarly research on the impact of the recent disasters, hurricanes, pandemic, and environmental threats induced by climate change that have afflicted the nations of the Caribbean region. In the arena of this university textbook, these educators, along with the host of expert contributors, bring sharp focus to the recent crises that have confronted us as a region; they examine the socioeconomic impact on our citizens and open engaging discussion on the way forward to resilience and sustainability.

Given the relevancy of the topics to the present and foreseeable future of our region, this textbook will, no doubt, enjoy a lengthy shelf life. The content of this textbook concerns each and every citizen among the 44 million population of the Caribbean. As such, it is of keen interest and will engage a wide audience: students, educators, policy makers, economists, and members of the general public.

This textbook is replete with real-life case studies of the impact of hurricanes, the COVID-19 pandemic, and natural disasters caused by climate change – from the devastation assailed by Hurricane Dorian on The Bahamas’ two northern islands, Abaco and Grand Bahama; to the pandemic-inflicted economic distress of accommodations workers in Jamaica to the impact of sargassum on the tourism industry in Barbados. The scope of content of this publication makes it ideal for adoption as a mandatory textbook in tourism and sustainability courses of tertiary institutions across the Caribbean.

In my estimation, the key appeal of this publication lies in its ability to create and promote awareness of the threats of natural disasters that we face in the region. It equips us with knowledge of our vulnerability as a small island developing state. Given our geography, we have always been vulnerable to Atlantic hurricanes, a threat which has been magnified in recent times by climate change. Climate change not only intensifies the formation of hurricanes but also ushers in

brand new threats: rising sea levels, sargassum, and the death of marine life that is critical to the livelihoods of people on so many of our islands.

The tone of this textbook inspires a refreshing sense of hopefulness as the content recommends approaches and strategies to laying policy frameworks for sustainability and building resilience in the face of threats.

As a region, we face a future of uncertainty, but we remain undaunted. Our small developing states have been left to grapple with challenges brought about by the runaway carbon emissions produced by the giant economies of the developed nations. At the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) held in Glasgow, Scotland, we watched with pride and admiration as our Caribbean leaders challenged developed countries to up the ante on reducing climate change.

As we wait for a more intentional and robust response from the developed nations, we, small island developing states of the Caribbean, must get on with our agenda to do our part to reduce climate change. The textbook that you hold in your hand shows how to make adaptations to contribute to a more sustainable lifestyle that will contribute in meaningful ways to positively address climate change.

Whether it is meeting targets set to reduce use of fossil fuels, implementing more stringent building codes, conducting tourism activity according to internationally accepted standards of sustainability, increasing our regional collective fund to assist sister nations with disaster relief, or stepping up our public awareness campaigns to promote sustainable lifestyles in all of our islands across the Caribbean, this textbook engages readers in mapping out solutions and strategies to address the potential crises our region faces in the foreseeable future.

The principal tertiary institutions of a country play a crucial role in national development. In the case of young developing nations such as ours in the Caribbean, the role of the university is even more critical. The university is an institution that serves as a catalyst for change. It leads the way in opening and moderating the national conversations that must be had to address the issues that impact the welfare of the citizenry. Today, in the Caribbean, there is no issue more urgent than climate change and the disasters and crises that it can potentially engender.

On behalf of the Government and People of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, I extend sincere thanks to The University of The Bahamas for the collaborative effort led by its three professors, in conjunction with Florida International University, to produce a signature textbook that will prove to be a highly useful tool in preparing the upcoming generation to stage an effective counteroffensive of readiness and resilience in the face of the eventuality of natural disasters.

Editors and contributors, congratulations, again, on a well-executed textbook and guide to sustainability and resilience.

The Honourable I. Chester Cooper, M.P.
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism,
Investments & Aviation Commonwealth of The Bahamas

Acknowledgments

This text would not have been possible had it not been for the hard work, dedication, and professionalism of each contributing author. Each author provided rich perspectives regarding the region's battle with natural disasters and the current COVID-19 pandemic. We are deeply indebted to you all. We are especially thankful to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism and Aviation, Honorable I. Chester Cooper, for his contributions to the Foreword. We give a special thanks to the University of The Bahamas, Fiona, and her editorial team at Emerald for their advice and support for and throughout this publication. Finally, we are grateful for having such a fertile landscape in which to write such a text. The Caribbean consisting of its many Islands and Cays provided an opportunity to the researchers to delve into the diversity of life and environment in the region. We are very happy to have written it for scholars, enthusiasts, and others interested in the study of tourism.

Dr Ian Bethell-Bennett

I wish to thank my family and friends who journeyed with me through this project. My wife and children have been tremendous. Appreciation to my professional mentors, two of whom I met in my twenties and who have become more than professional mentors, who continue to quietly encourage me to strive and to achieve with this project. To our kitchen table crew who may be physically dispersed now, but remain spiritually united, thank you. We energize and empower one another. Thanks to Sophia and Jessica for their tireless work to bring this project to fruition, and to Fevzi Okumus for his eagle-eyed clarity. Thanks also to those who served as peer reviewers. Thanks also to my family from my old Department for all their camaraderie and encouragement.

Dr Sophia A. Rolle

I would like to dedicate my contributions to this book to my mother Helen Hutcherson. She was with me at the beginning of this journey but suffered a massive setback on February 14, 2021. To date, I have not been able to share with her the good news of the completion of the publication, as she remains in a coma. I know that she has guided my thoughts throughout this journey. I also wish to thank my daughter Eboni D. Adderley and Mrs. Sheena Newton for their editorial expertise. My colleagues all benefited from your assistance. I once again would like to thank Jessica Minnis and Ian Bethell-Bennett for believing that we could produce another textbook and that we can create a further

dent in the paucity of scholarly works coming out of the Caribbean. Thank you Fevzi Okumus for agreeing so readily to join our editorial team. You brought a particular challenge and flavor to our team for which we all benefited. Thank you all.

Jessica Minnis

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Fevzi Okumus

I would like to thank my coeditors, Ian Bethell-Bennett, Sophia Rolle, and Jessica Minnis for inviting me to join this meaningful project. Special thanks to all the authors and reviewers for their contribution to this valuable edited book. Crises and disasters negatively affect destinations. However, destinations in developing countries and islands are more negatively affected by crises and disasters. Sadly, such destinations also appear to face more crises and disasters. I hope that this much needed edited book can help destinations in the Caribbean region and similar regions to better prepare, respond to, and manage possible future crises and disasters.