

June 8th, 2023

Dear Kate Brown,
Co-Chair, Local 2030 Islands Network



Greetings, I'm Dr. Pablo A. Méndez-Lázaro Lead Principal Investigator of the NOAA CAP/RISA Caribbean Climate Adaptation Network (CCAN) and Associate Professor at the Environmental Health Department of the University of Puerto Rico-Medical Science Campus, Graduate School of Public Health. CCAN seeks to address climate change issues by bringing together a multidisciplinary team of universities, agencies, and non-governmental organizations based out of the Caribbean region and the US. We will enhance and expand partnerships through the development and convening of stakeholders in Puerto Rico and USVI. We are currently working at three scales ranging from the community micro level to territorial meso-level, and macro level of regional networks. We use a human centered design approach, bringing together impacted community and government stakeholders, and multidisciplinary scientists to develop and co-produce community climate adaptation capacities, strategies, and actions that build on collectively produced insights and realistic locally grounded scenarios.

Equity and justice are built into the aims and objectives of this NOAA CAP/RISA network. We lead from the point of view of prioritizing opportunities to build empathy and listen, to identify and serve as advocates for under-represented talent. This includes racial and ethnic minorities, socioeconomically disadvantaged people, environmental justice communities, and non-citizen immigrant groups. This Network places all of these elements front and center through its diverse personnel, students, and early career researchers, through its “co-production” approach to build network capacity across environmental and social justice organizations, local and regional government agencies, and through its focus on learning with and from underserved and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities.

I believe Local2030 Island Network could be an excellent resource to Puerto Rico, USVI and other disadvantaged Island communities in the Caribbean Region that are collaborating with our network. Also, our network could be an asset to Local2030 Island Network since we lead from the point of view of prioritizing opportunities to build empathy and listen, to identify and serve as advocates for underrepresented talent. The proposed knowledge-action network (CCAN) is designed to help build adaptive capacities for future climate extremes, plan responses to cascading climate hazards and governance crises. The proposed work will focus on enhancing program management and leadership through the building of internal capacity. It is our best interest to make available our professional experience to move forward towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean Region.

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Based on all the above-mentioned, with this letter I would like to formally request to join as an official member of the Local 2030 Islands Network.

We are looking forward to working together in creating a more sustainable future for islands in the Caribbean. I hope to hear from you and soon. In the event more information is needed, please feel free to contact us at [REDACTED]



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Lead Principal Investigator NOAA CAP/RISA Caribbean Climate Adaptation Network (CCAN)

Grant Number: [REDACTED]

Lead Principal Investigator Aerosol Monitoring Tool/Early Warning System (PR-CLIMAH/NASA/UPR/CARICOOS)



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