

Early Warning Early Action Future Leaders Network Latin America and the Caribbean Committee



2023 in Review- 2024 in Focus

The year 2023 was a very exciting, engaging and productive year for the Early Warning Early Action Future Leaders Network Latin America and the Caribbean Committee (EWEA FLN LAC committee). The Committee was officially launched on May 23 2023 with a bilingual virtual meeting. Following this, the committee hosted several meetings, participated in regional and international events focused on anticipatory action, hosted a virtual webinar, published blogs and engaged key stakeholders. The LAC team looks forward to keeping up this momentum in 2024 and to continue to expand the EWEA FLN's reach in Latin America and the Caribbean and other global regions. This report provides an overview of the committee's achievements in 2023 and highlights some key proposals for 2024.

Activities in 2023

- **Development of Work Plan and Terms of Reference**

Before establishing the committee, the Regional Representatives, Matias Menalled and Christal Benjamin developed a work programme and defined the Terms of Reference for the committee. The FLN Core Team approved these documents and the Regional Representatives used them as a guide to establish contact with other young professionals in the region, inform them about the committee's objectives and invite them to join the committee.

- **Establishment of the LAC Committee**

Currently the LAC committee comprises nine members from South America and the Caribbean:

- Regional Representatives- Matias Menalled, PhD Student, Uppsala University, Sweden; and Christal Benjamin; Researcher, Association of Caribbean States, Trinidad and Tobago
- Rapporteur- Julian Goni, Scientific Application Specialist, Argentinian Meteorological Service
- Events Lead- Tomas Sarkis Badola, Information Management & Risk Analysis National Coordinator, Argentina Red Cross
- Outreach and Engagement Lead- Kristinia Dougherty, PhD Student, The UWI Jamaica

Other Committee Members: Vito Galligani, Scientific Researcher at CONICET in Argentina; Daniela Salazar Diaz, Anticipatory Action Assistant, IFRC Geneva; Colis Allen, Specialist Hydrologist at Guyana Hydrometeorological Service

- **Monthly meetings and communication**

The committee hosted monthly meetings to plan and review activities and to build interactions among the members. We also created a WhatsApp group, where we disseminate information, maintain constant dialogue and organise operational issues related to the functioning of the network. This WhatsApp group is part of the global EWEA FLN WhatsApp community. The Representatives and Rapporteur also attended the EWEA FLN Core team meetings and supported the involvement of the LAC committee in activities at the global level.

- **Community Conversation #13: Recording and cataloguing hazards and their impacts: balances, challenges and perspectives**

The committee hosted Community Conversation #13: Recording and cataloguing hazards and their impacts: balances, challenges and perspectives on 16th August 2023. During the event a panel of international experts shared some of the challenges, lessons learned and future perspectives from their work to record and catalogue the impacts of extreme meteorological events. The event convened over 100 participants from across government, academia, the private sector and the humanitarian sector. The event recording is available [here](#).

- **Blog on Community Conversation 13**

Based on the organised webinar, we wrote a summary text that was published on the Anticipation Hub's website. The aim of the publication is to contribute to the visibility and promotion of the activities and topics of interest worked on by the LAC Committee. The blogs can be accessed at the following links:

[Registro y catalogación de amenazas y sus impactos: balances, retos y perspectivas](#)
[Recording and cataloguing hazards and their impacts: balances, challenges and perspectives](#)

- **“Anticipation Talks” podcast**

“Anticipation Talks” podcast is part of the FbF regional program's communication strategy that involves engaging different key partners in the region, in a more spontaneous and dynamic format. Christal Benjamin and Matias Menalled participated in an interview with Natalie Acosta with the aim of promoting the EWEA FLN in the Latin American and Caribbean region. You can listen to the episode on Spotify at the links below:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/1BuDxYPlwMPBZi8PKnDCC2?si=kJ6N1BGMQgigbvRI-ZCV8Q>
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/7w9sydi8nKen0smEuK6sQK?si=nIO60rHATKurSev0cq3X5Q>

- **Participation in the 11th Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action (GDP)**

The EWEA FLN participated very actively in the 11th GDP, which was held in Berlin, Germany from 9-12th October, 2023. Christal Benjamin and Tomas Sarkis Badola represented the EWEA LAC Committee. During the event they took part in the plenary and parallel sessions and also contributed to the meeting of the EWEA FLN. They along with Matias Menalled (virtual participation) also contributed to the network's parallel session on *Revisiting Past Disasters and Reimagining their Future Impacts*. Christal and Tomas also met with key

regional stakeholders during the event and welcomed a new member, Daniela Salazar Diaz to the LAC committee.

- **Participation in Regional Dialogue Platform in Central America**

The EWEA FLN Latin America and Caribbean Committee participated in the Regional Dialogue platform in San Pedro Sula, Honduras from October 31 to November 2. Kristinia Dougherty and Julian Goni represented the network at the platform. Julian presented at the Ignite Session on the structure and activities of the network. He also made a call to young professionals to join the network. Kristinia and Julian wrote a blog on their experience at the Platform which will soon be published.

- **Established key contacts**

In 2023, we established contact with several regional and international experts who provided their contributions and ideas to further strengthen the network. Some of them are: Natalie Acosta (German Red Cross), Jair Torres (UNDRR), Michael Glantz (University of Colorado Boulder), Kester Craig (CDEMA), Wendy Vera García (Because I am a Girl Movement) Tim Woods (Anticipation Hub), Shonna McCulloch (Anticipation Hub), Paola Salio (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina), Juan Bazo (Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Center) and Virginia Jimenez (La Red).

Ideas for 2024

- Participate in the Global Dialogue Platform
- Participate in the LAC Regional Dialogue Platform
- Establish contact and host a joint event/initiative with the UNDRR Youth Network
- Participate in the CDEMA, WFP workshop on Anticipatory Action- following up on an email from Lieutenant Colonel Kester Craig
- Participate in the “South American Meteorological Hazards and their Impacts Database” regional workshop (hybrid, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 18th and 19th of March 2024)
- Participate in Anticipation Hub Training modules
- Interact with other regional committees. We can take an active standpoint about it.
- Be active in engagements and participate in events related to AA, DRR, etc. (Asia and Africa)
- Host activity related to EW4ALL, engagement with experts, etc
- Follow up on progress made in recording hazards and impacts
- Host an internal “training session” or “monthly meetings with special guests” to discuss specific topics. For example, RC, NMHS, NGOs, etc (more informal webinars which require less organisation from the LAC Committee)
- A new edition of the Community conversation webinar. Discuss ideas, topics of interest, and participants we would like to have. Tentative date and people in charge.
- Increase engagements
- Alternate monthly meetings with guest talks