

# About the contributors

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**Albert Henry Binger** is a research scientist with over 30 years experience in diverse scientific areas, including Chemical Engineering, Biophysics, Agronomy, Energy, Climate Change and Sustainable Development. Dr Binger currently serves as Advisor to the Executive Director for the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs), located in Belize, and Technical Coordinator for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), New York. He is a former Professor and Director of the University of the West Indies Centre for Environment and Development (UWICED), the regional institution in the Caribbean designated to provide research, training and information related to developing capacity on environment and development issues affecting small island states, and since 1993 he has been a Visiting Professor at Saga University, Japan, where he is involved in research on Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC). Dr Binger is the former Chair, Strategic Planning for the Global Environment Division at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, where he was responsible for directing the planning process for the development of the Foundation's activities in global energy and environmental protection management, and has been credited for forming the Biomass Users Network (BUN), Costa Rica, which was established by and for developing countries to promote South-South co-operation in strengthening national capabilities to plan and implement more sustainable natural resource development programmes, especially energy from biomass resources. Dr Binger holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a PhD in Agronomy from the University of Georgia.

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**Mark D Griffith** is an environmental and legal specialist. He has a PhD in Geography with specialisation in Remote Sensing of the Environment and Geographical Information Systems and a Bachelor (LLB Hons) and Masters in Law (LLM) with specialisation in corporate, commercial law, commercial arbitration and European Union Law. Dr Griffith is also a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, United Kingdom as well as a Member of the Honorable Gray's Inn, United Kingdom.

Dr Griffith played the leading role, within the context of the Preparatory Process, for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in the conceptualisation and articulation of the concept of small island developing states (SIDS) and the need for the international community to consider them as a special case for environment and development. This laid the foundation for the adoption by the international community of Chapter 17 (G) of Agenda 21 on Small Island Developing States. He also led Barbados's preparation for the hosting of the First United Nations Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, serving as Head of the Interim National Secretariat for the Conference (1992–93) and Technical Advisor to the GOB on the Conference (September 1993–May 1994). Dr Griffith has also served as Head of the Environment Unit, Ministry with responsibility for Environment between 1986 and 1992

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Dr Griffith has served in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a Senior Officer for almost a decade and a half in various capacities. He was responsible for re-establishing the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) where he served, with distinction, for seven and half years, as STAP Secretary. He has also served in the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) in various capacities, including UNEP/GEF Coordination for Latin America and the Caribbean.

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