



Caribbean Archives Association
c/o National Archives Suriname
Mr. J. Lachmonstraat 174, Suriname

David Fricker, President
International Council on Archives
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CARBICA – Hurricane Irma

Dear David,

As you will know, the northern Caribbean region has suffered catastrophic damage following the recent passage of the Category 5 Hurricane, Irma. I write to seek your assistance as to how best we might approach a Branch response and, in particular, invite ICA's input.

Initially, I have called a meeting of the Executive Committee of CARBICA to determine what steps we, as both a branch of ICA and a regional organization, might take to support our colleagues in these dire circumstances. We foresee that our first actions will involve communicating and coordinating regional support and inviting members to participate in recovery activities as we are able. Perhaps our most important role will be to advocate for the protection and recovery of cultural heritage collections at a time when governments are, rightly, focused on human safety and infrastructure recovery.

The international community is currently launching major relief efforts and so we would like to invite the ICA and its Expert Groups to assist us in effecting response and recovery activities directed specifically for archives. We have contacted the Chair of the Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness group, Emilie Leumas and welcomed her expert advice.

At this moment, we are not entirely apprised of the level of damage to specific archives nor the level of assistance needed. CARBICA is now in the process to make an assessment of the level of damage after which we will draft a recovery plan.

However, we welcome your thoughts and direction as how best to find a way forward in what are very difficult times for our members in the northern Caribbean. I look forward to hearing from you, naturally as a matter of some urgency.

With best regards,
Rita Tjien Foo, President CARBICA