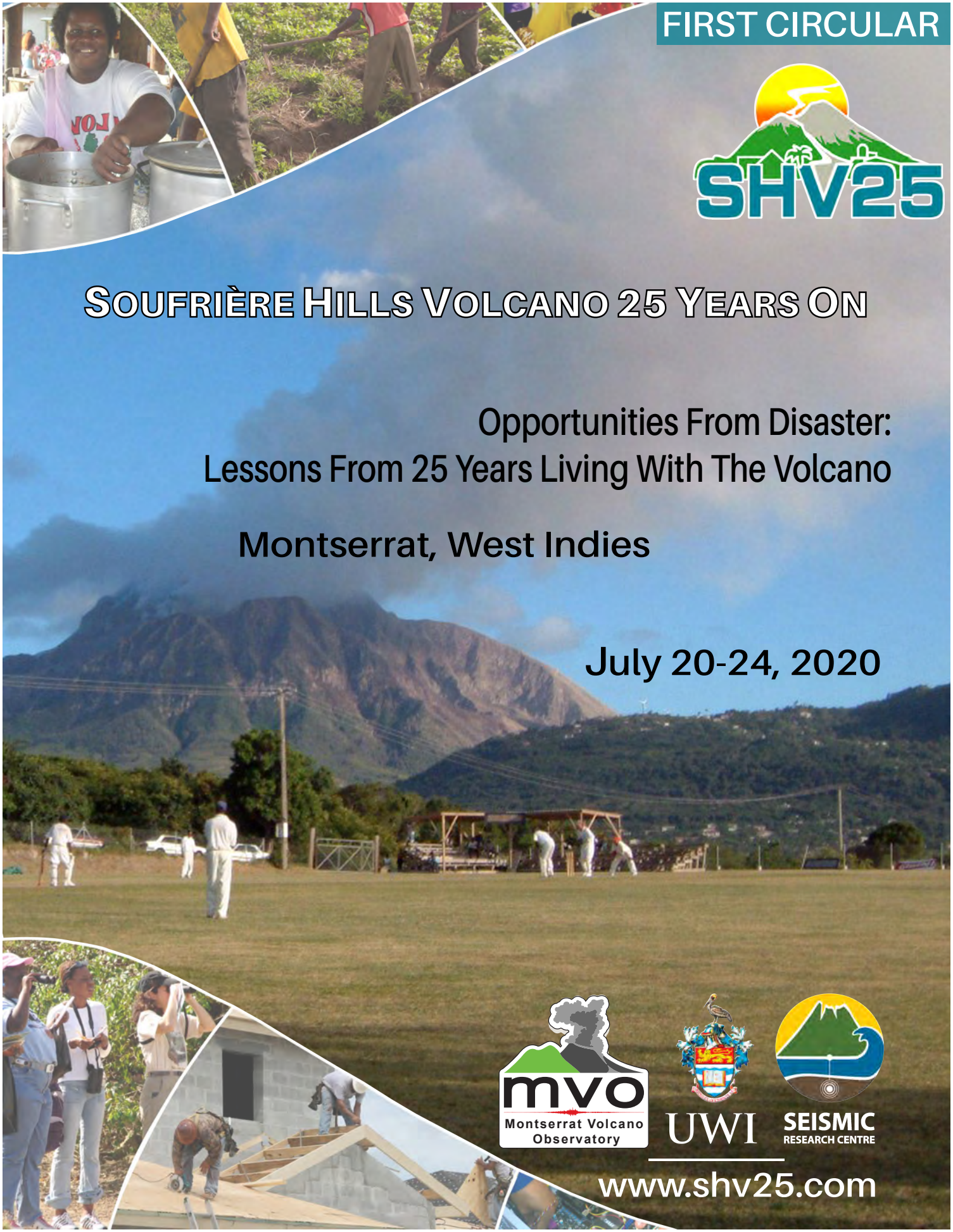


FIRST CIRCULAR

SHV25

SOUFRIÈRE HILLS VOLCANO 25 YEARS ON

Opportunities From Disaster:
Lessons From 25 Years Living With The Volcano

Montserrat, West Indies

July 20-24, 2020

mvo
Montserrat Volcano Observatory

UWI

SEISMIC RESEARCH CENTRE

www.shv25.com

Dear Colleagues and Community,

We at the Montserrat Volcano Observatory (MVO) in collaboration with The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre, are pleased to invite you to participate in the Soufrière Hills Volcano 25 Years On conference in Montserrat, West Indies.

The conference commemorates the 25 year anniversary of the start of the eruption at the Soufrière Hills Volcano. The significance of this eruption to both the community of Montserrat and the international community of scientists studying volcanoes and disaster risk reduction in the last 25 years cannot be underestimated.

The theme for the conference is *Opportunities from Disaster: Lessons from 25 years living with the volcano*. With a view to not only discussing what has happened in the past but also looking towards the future of living with the volcano, integrating experiences from Montserrat and globally.

This conference promises to be one with a difference as there will be a focus on the many variables that go into life with a volcano; volcanism and geology will be discussed together with disciplines from the social sciences. Several day themes are put forth to explore a range of topics including science and disaster risk reduction aspects, how we can learn through our geoheritage, communicating hazard and risk, the cultural response to the eruption as well as how to use natural and knowledge resources for future resilience.

In addition, there will be the oportunity to see more of the island through several field trips exploring the geology and impacts of the eruption and life on a small volcanic island in the Caribbean.

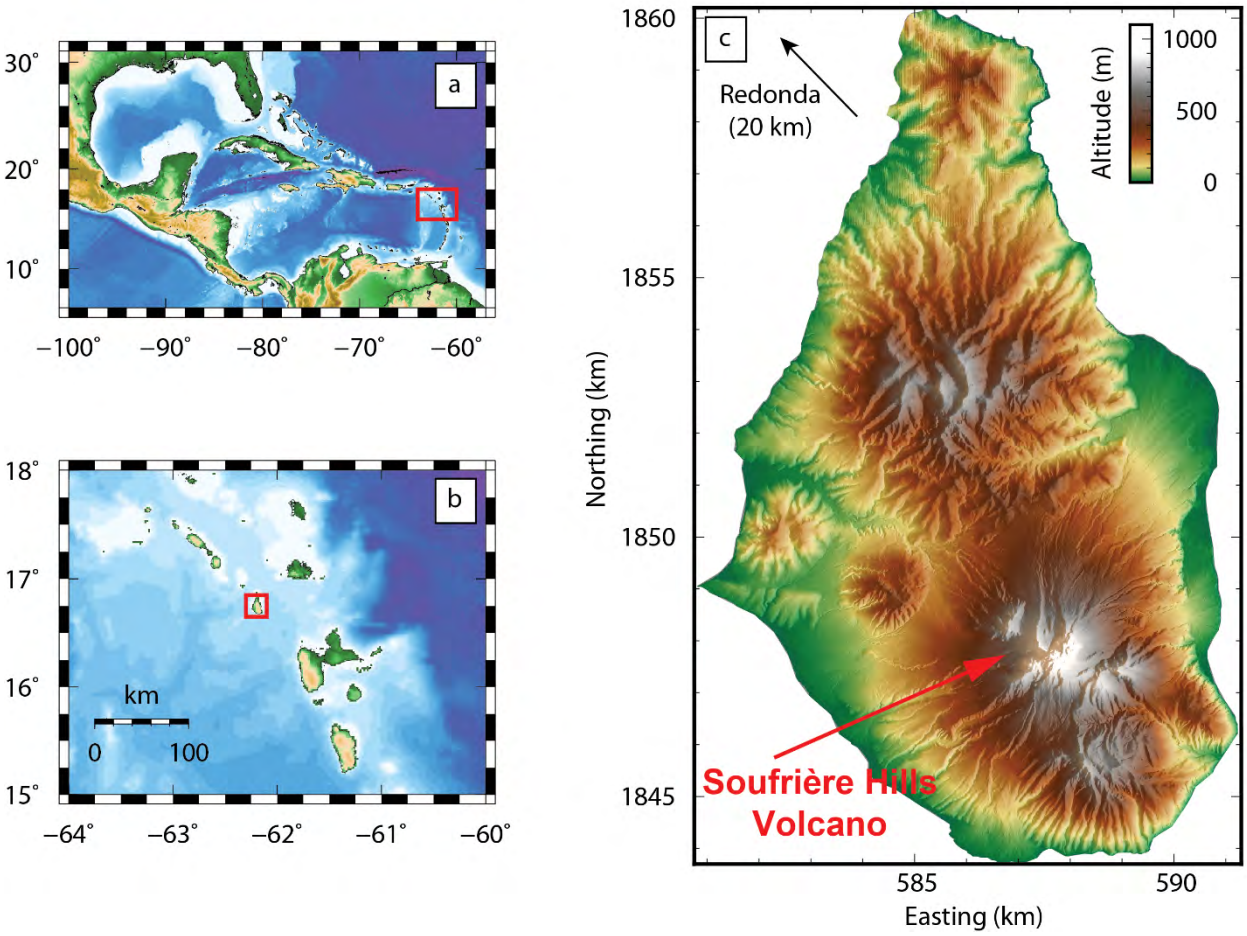
Montserrat is known as the *Emerald Isle of the Caribbean*, its lush green peaks of volcanic origin, fresh pure water that you can drink straight from the mountain and friendly community feel make it the perfect location to get away from the usual distractions of life. The island of Montserrat will welcome you to experience the rich island life whilst enjoying the conference activities. Visit a little, stay a while, either way Montserrat will remain in your heart.

Sincerely,

Dr. Victoria Miller
Conference Chair - Soufrière Hills Volcano 25 Years On
Research Fellow – Volcanology
The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre – Montserrat Volcano Observatory

MONTSERRAT

Montserrat is a small UK overseas territory (104 km2), located in the northern half of the Lesser Antilles. Montserrat, like the other islands in the arc, was formed by the subduction of the American plate below the Caribbean plate. The island comprises 4 magmatic centres, with the southern part dominated by the Soufrière Hills volcano. After three centuries of dormancy, the Soufrière Hills volcano eruption commenced on the 18th July 1995, while the island was just recovering from the devastating effects of Hurricane Hugo (1989). Between July 1995 and February 2010, five phases of dome growth occurred, associated with dome collapses, explosive activity, pyroclastic flows, ash falls, rockfalls and lahars.



The unusually long-lived eruption of the Soufrière Hills volcano has had a tremendous socio-economic impact on Montserrat, and has been a life-changing experience for the population. In 1997, the pre-eruption population of ~11,000 people had dropped by ~70%, following several

evacuations of the unsafe zone surrounding the volcano. The destruction of many communities in the southern part of the island, including the capital city of Plymouth and most of the island's infrastructure, the death of 19 people on 25th June 1997, the lack of housing, food, employment, and the closure of schools (in order to be used as shelters) all contributed to the distressing situation. A parallel challenge, as families were torn apart, has been for Montserrat and its population, to adapt to the influx of new cultures and ideas that come with the changing demography of the island. The return of Montserratians after years of living overseas combined with the arrival of new immigrants to the island (from other parts of the Caribbean and beyond) has allowed the population to grow to approximately 4500 inhabitants.

Plymouth August 1995 - Cynthia Gardner

December 1997 - Peter Francis

Since the beginning of the eruption, traditional Montserratian arts, such as storytelling, poetry, drama and song-writing, have helped the population to cope with the loss of their references and stability, in front of an unrecognizable landscape and uncertain tomorrow, and under the constant shadow of the Soufrière Hills volcano. Having lost their roots, the Montserrat population and the Montserratian diaspora have slowly been building themselves a new life, in Montserrat or abroad. With the financial assistance of the UK, multiple projects have been contributing to the birth of a new society in the northern half of the island. With the Soufrière Hills volcano being continuously watched by state-of-the-art monitoring and a low level of activity since 2010, it seems that the time is upon us for finding ways to maximize the benefits of the Soufrière Hills volcano, its products and its extraordinary beauty.

October 2009 - NASA

VENUE

The Montserrat Cultural Centre (MCC), a prominent landmark in Little Bay, was built by Sir George Martin in 2006 as a gift to Montserratians. This building located in the developing Little Bay Area is popular for hosting performances, local and international conferences. The MCC overlooks the Little Bay Public Market and indoor Basketball Auditorium.

CONFERENCE WEBSITE AND EMAIL

www.shv25.com

For more information contact:
info@shv25.com

REGISTRATION FEE

To be announced in the Second Circular

COMING TO MONTSERRAT

The most common way to get to Montserrat by air is by flying from the island of Antigua in Antigua and Barbuda. Two commercial airlines fly the route from Antigua to Montserrat, FlyMontserrat and SVG Air and you would need to book directly:
www.flymontserrat.com

http://antigua-flights.com/

There is also an option to get to Montserrat by sea:

https://ferry.mniaccess.com/

ACCOMMODATION

Rather than chain hotels, Montserrat boasts accommodations like bed and breakfasts and villas. See more here:

http://www.visitmontserrat.com/

SCIENTIFIC ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Jenni Barclay
Eliza Calder
Erouscilla Joseph
Victoria Miller (chair)
Richard Robertson
Dike Rostant

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Sharon Charles
Marlon Fergus
Angela Greenaway
Gunjan Jeswani
Victoria Miller (chair)
Karen Pascal
Dike Rostant
Carlisle 'Pyiko' Williams

IMPORTANT DATES

ITEM	DATE
1st Circular	July 24, 2019
2nd Circular	January 20, 2020
Abstract Deadline	March 20, 2020
Pre-registration Deadline	April 30, 2020
Conference Programme Available	May 20, 2020
SHV25 Conference	July 20-24, 2020

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

Sunday 19th July*	Monday 20th July	Tuesday 21st July	Wednesday 22nd July	Thursday 23rd July	Friday 24th July
Evening: Welcome Reception	Theme: Science into disaster risk reduction	Theme: Learning from the past	Field Trip Day	Theme: Cultures of communication	Theme: Resources for future resilience Evening: Dinner and Cultural Evening

*For participants arriving early, be sure to check out the annual Calabash Festival which will be held the week before the conference www.montserratcalabashfestival.com

CONFERENCE THEMES

The overarching theme for the conference will be *Opportunities from Disaster: Lessons from 25 years living with the volcano*. Each day will have a sub-theme to reflect several topics that will have a multi-disciplinary contribution, the four day-themes will be:

1. **Science into disaster risk reduction** – to include both the physical sciences of volcanology and also the practical aspects of implementing the science into reducing the risk from volcanic activity
2. **Learning from the past** – for instance geoheritage, archaeology, geoparks, how we learn from the past and how we can promote learning in the future and for generations to come
3. **Cultures of communication** – communication can be through words, pictures and sound, so how do we communicate about volcanoes and volcanic hazard both for hazard mitigation and more generally, how does living with a volcano impact culture and what are the short and long term cultural responses to the eruption
4. **Resources for future resilience** – volcanoes are a natural resource, the mineral rich soil influences the flora and fauna and they produce materials that can be utilised for economic purposes, the knowledge that we gain through learning about a volcano, its products and its impact is also a resource that we can use to promote future resilience

FIELD TRIPS

There will be a field trip day in the middle of the schedule. A range of options will be available for all interests and levels of fitness. Details to be announced in the Second Circular.