



CHALLENGE

Hurricane Maria, a Category 5 storm that struck the Caribbean in September 2017, damaged or destroyed ninety-five percent of the homes in the Kalinago Territory on the Island of Dominica, along with the Territory’s central electrical grid. As the poorest indigenous community in the Caribbean, the Kalinago are fully aware that they will face more negative outcomes from climate change if they cannot retool their society to be more resilient and sustainable. They recognize that it is crucial to rethink core mission-critical functions (e.g., housing, energy, water systems, emergency shelters, communications, agriculture, forestry, fishing) and transform them in order to survive with full control of their environment. Dominica has pledged to become the first sustainable country in the Caribbean.



Illya’s sensitivity and appreciation for our indigenous way of life was felt by all who interacted with him. He found many strengths and value in our construction techniques and incorporated them into his modern scientifically based methods.

- Nichie Abo Hill, Acting Chief Kalinago Council

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included leading efforts toward a common collaborative goal.

Michael D. McDonald, Dr.P.H.
Executive Director, Health Initiatives Foundation
Chairman, OVIAR Global Resilience Systems

ROLE

As a citizen architect responding to immediate post-disaster needs, Illya deployed to Dominica via Oviar Global Resilient Systems and coordinated with Engineers without Borders as well. He first worked with island communities on the recovery process, training seven building crews to assess damage and rebuild properly. He also expanded the focus to assess capacity as a founding member of the Kalinago Institute for Global Resilience and Regeneration (KIGRR), working with community members and historians to identify a DNA of resilience embedded in Kalinago culture, eventually designing a network of resilience hubs based on historic cultural practices.

To move this initiative forward, Illya coordinated with island governmental entities on grant writing, further advancing the cause at the Clinton Global Initiative conference in San Juan in 2019. He and his team, along with Common Earth Climate Resilience and Regeneration, presented the outcomes as ideas for regeneration through culture at the Commonwealth of Nations meeting in London of October 2019.



↑ Community meetings amongst the devastation, Kalinago Territory



↓ Damage assessment across the territory



↑ Chief Fredrick and Azaroff in council on future of Kalinago



↑ Azaroff working with building crews

↓ Azaroff training building crews



EXHIBIT 3.7 | Kalinago Resilience Hub Initiative - Kalinago Territory, Dominica

OUTCOME

The Kalinago people wished to create a network of resilient community centers, or resilience hubs, connected by a multi-modal mesh network of collectively intelligent distributed energy, communication, and innovation systems. The first of these centers is located on a site in the hamlet of Salybia and is the pilot project for future centers in St. Cyr, Bataka, Gullet River, Mahaut River, and Sineku, all situated along the east coast of the island.

Illya collaborated with tribal elders and community members to develop the Salybia Center through a community-centered planning process. After studying the Kalinago's existing and future assets, the group developed a complex framework organized around the cultural, physical, social, economic, organizational, and educational domains of community life unique to these first people of Dominica.

Each Kalinago Resilience Hub encompasses four parts:

- A central community resilience hub with shelter capacity
- Suitable, affordable, and resilient housing with a minimum one-acre contiguous permaculture garden, or a multi-acre shared community garden
- An agroforestry landscape linked to a circular timber and homebuilding economy
- A scalable, distributed multi-modal mesh network infrastructure, including Internet, communications, transportation, banking, and village-based green trade that supports a sustainable circular economy.

Currently, this work is moving forward with the involvement of the Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica (CREAD), the World Bank, and the United Nations.



↑ Community resilience hub design influenced by cultural and historical factors and proposed as part of a network across the territory



↑ Calabash masks: traditional crafts at risk of dying out



The Kalinago community has benefited immensely in our construction methods, planning and land-use, emergency preparedness and technical assistance with grant writing from our collaboration with Illya. His work has been invaluable to our community and we are eternally great full to him.

- Nichie Abo Hill, Acting Chief Kalinago Council



↑ Clinton Global Initiative, Dominica presentation, Puerto Rico 2019



↑ Miranda, a cultural elder, keeper of history, meeting Azaroff



↑ Azaroff, Nichie Abo Hill, Kalinago Council, Dr. Michael McDonald, OVIAR