

# ALUMNI

## Spotlight

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

#### ★ Boréa Malnoury-Erdös

MESPOM  
B17



**STAY CURIOUS  
& DON'T PANIC!**

*SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTING &  
CONSERVATION PROJECT  
MANAGEMENT*

PARIS, FRANCE

#### Cherisse Braithwaite-Joseph ★

**THINKING IN SYSTEMS: HOW TO  
GET THE BIGGER PICTURE**

*OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF  
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, SUSTAINABLE  
TOURISM, CARRIBEAN SEA AND THE ENVIRONMENT,  
ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES*

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



B17



↓ READ MORE ABOUT THE ALUMNI'S INSIGHTS

## Boréa Malnoury-Erdös

Which advice would you give to an EMP(/MESPOM) graduate for a career in sustainability?

Still a fairly recent graduate myself, I might only be able to give you some tips regarding the first few years after graduation. First of all, don't panic. Your career is like a marathon (or more like an ultra trail?). **It might take you some time to find your own pace, industry, job style, work-life balance and more and that is OK.** Don't have the expectation of your first job having to fulfill all of your criteria, it most probably won't. Instead, focus very pragmatically on which skills and knowledge gaps you want the next job to fill. What do you want to learn more of or become better at? I also believe curiosity to be the most important factor to consider: your passion and curiosity will guide you to the right topics, projects and, thereby, organizations and companies. It will also give you the drive to dig deeper, learn continuously, work those (sometimes) tough hours and still, always want more. In my experience and opinion, if you don't have that fire inside you, you will burn out very quickly. Don't let prestige, salary (if you can afford not to) and expectations take the first seat, especially in the first few years, really focus on building experience, knowledge and expertise which will all allow you to land or grow into a great job.

### Must-check-out Podcast

**Outrage+Optimism - Christiana Figueres is an absolute legend and must-know figure in sustainability.** Bold and opinionated, she steers great debates and conversations on the most important topics of sustainability with some of the greatest minds, from scientists to conservationists and policy experts.

MESPOM  
B17**MESPOM Graduate 2023** *Conservation Project Management* **Paris, France**

How does the work you currently do relate to the EMP programme?

At **Nexio Projects**, a sustainability consultancy based in the Netherlands, I was focusing on **advising companies through the complex EU and global regulatory landscape**, accompanying them on their sustainability journeys. This included looking at the value chain, suppliers, impact assessments, certifications to strategy and more. The various classes on the policy and regulatory landscape were incredibly useful - not many stakeholders actually understand the policy jargon. The different company visits and consultancy projects within the private sector in Sweden were really useful in preparing us for the real-life challenges the sector has to face. Even the **case study on certifications** was incredibly useful, as most companies are looking for ways to accredit their sustainability efforts and use them as a competitive advantage on the market.

## Cherisse Braithwaite-Joseph

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Which advice would you give to an EMP graduate for a career in sustainability?

My advice to an EMP graduate would be to focus on **developing a broad skill set that includes project management, strategic communication, and stakeholder engagement.** It's essential to understand how to navigate different political and cultural landscapes because sustainability issues often involve international cooperation. Also, **always be open to learning** – sustainability is a constantly evolving field, so staying up to date on the latest trends and policies is key.

What are the essential skills/personality traits for your current job?

For my job, it's crucial to have **strong project management and strategic planning skills.** You need to be able to juggle multiple tasks while staying organized and focused. **Diplomatic communication and relationship building** is also key because I work with a lot of international stakeholders. On a personal level, **being adaptable, detail-oriented, and proactive** are really important traits. Staying calm under pressure helps too, especially when deadlines are tight or when dealing with sensitive issues.



**EMP Graduate 2012**

*Officer in Charge of the Directorate of Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Tourism, Caribbean Sea & the Environment at the Association of Caribbean States (ACS)*

Trinidad, Trinidad and Tobago

What has been the most valuable learning you took from EMP for your current work?

The most valuable learning I took from the EMP program is the **ability to approach complex environmental challenges with a systems-thinking mindset.** My current work at the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) involves managing projects that are deeply interconnected. EMP taught me how to consider not only physical and environmental factors but also the social, economic, and political dimensions that influence project outcomes. This holistic approach has been critical in my role, where I often collaborate with diverse stakeholders and navigate competing interests. Understanding the bigger picture allows me to create more sustainable interventions.