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# 1 Impact of major hurricanes on electricity energy production

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#### 21 Abstract:

After major hurricanes, electricity production reduced owing to not only 22 electricity infrastructure destruction, but also the economic crisis associated with 23 damage to private and public activities. Here, we describe the electricity production 24 curves for the islands of Saint-Martin, Saint-Barthelemy and Puerto Rico in the 25 Caribbean, where two major hurricanes occurred in 2017. After the major hurricanes, 26 the electricity energy production was characterised by a slow recovery followed by a 27 stable phase during several months, corresponding to approximately 75% of the 28 initial electricity production. A resilience time of several months (1 month  $< t_s < 5$ 29 months) is necessary to attain the new electricity energy production equilibrium  $E_{is}$ , 30 which is lower than the initial electricity energy production E<sub>i</sub>. The reduction in 31 electricity energy consumption per capita is of 25%. In Saint-Martin, during the post-32 hurricane stable phase, the electricity production was only 60% of the initial 33 electricity energy production instead of 75%. The reduction of ~15% in the electricity 34 35 production of Saint-Martin after Hurricane Irma is attributed to the migration of approximately 8 000 inhabitants (approximately 23%) outside the island. This 36 approach makes it possible to anticipate the production of electricity during several 37 38 months after a major hurricane in the Caribbean islands and to evaluate population displacement. 39

40

## 41 Keywords: hurricane; electricity; resilience; Caribbean; risks; migration

42

## 43 1. Introduction

Major hurricanes can generate fatalities, damage transport infrastructures [1] and 44 electricity networks [2], destroy dwellings, and devastate natural areas [3]. Several 45 studies have suggested that climatic change could increase hurricane intensity [4]. 46 The increase in the destructive power of hurricanes during the coming decades may 47 have an impact on anthropic activities [5]. Urbanisation of the coast has increased the 48 vulnerability to marine submersion in Caribbean islands during the last decades 49 [6,7,8]. Consequently, there is a growing interest to better understand hurricanes 50 51 consequences in Caribbean islands, to mitigate dramatic effects and to anticipate reorganization of societies. 52

During major hurricanes, the destruction of buildings and infrastructures could 53 be due to wind, heavy rain, landslides, or marine submersion [9]. Winds >250 km/h 54 cause enormous damage, especially in cases where buildings and infrastructures 55 have not been constructed to resist to this risk. Hurricane-proof buildings can reduce 56 damage and increase the resilience [10]. The prevention of risks by adopting specific 57 construction techniques and avoiding the location of sensitive infrastructure in 58 59 coastal areas, evacuation of population, rescue organisation, and post-crisis management can accelerate the restoration of the initial conditions [1,11]. The ability 60 to return to a new equilibrium after a major devastation is of fundamental interest to 61 societies. The post-crisis period, spanning several months, is considered as a strategic 62 phase to reorganise territories [12] and is defined as short-term adaptation. In this 63

study, the considered duration is of several months after the hurricane occurred.Long-term adaptation is beyond the scope of this study [13,14,15].

Resilience (that is, the capacity of the system to return to a new stable state) after 66 a disaster is complex to observe [16]. Short-term resilience after a natural disaster can 67 be monitored using several indicators such as night-time lights [17], health records 68 (number of inhabitants affected by a specific disease), communication statistics 69 70 (phone calls, SMS, etc.), water consumption [18], and economic statistics (gross domestic product, sales of specific products). Economic statistics are generally 71 monitored on a monthly basis and may not be sufficiently accurate. The observation 72 of night-time lights using tele-detection methods for several months in areas where 73 hurricanes occur provides spatial information about their resilience and allow to 74 75 correlate spatial information with social arguments [17]. Nevertheless, many social and economic activities taking place in buildings, do not occur during the night (for 76 example, schools) and cannot be detected by this approach. Because many indicators 77 provide limited information, it may be interesting to introduce new indicators and 78 analyse them taking into account other data. For example, monthly or yearly 79 economic and/or demographic statistics (migration or displacement after hurricane) 80 can help interpret the evolution of other indicators with a daily or weekly acquisition 81 period. 82

The domain of energy, and in particular electricity, opens up important questions at the interface of social-environmental relations [19]. The destruction and reconstruction of the electricity network after major disasters have been documented

in several studies, making it possible to observe the challenges in rapidly processing 86 a solution to basic needs [17,2]. The destruction of the electricity network reduces the 87 electricity energy production. Numerous deaths occur indirectly after natural 88 disasters due to lengthy power outages and disruption of basic services [20]. Long 89 and recurrent electricity outage favour morbidity increases (related to, for example, 90 hospital dysfunction and reduced opportunities to communicate with doctors or 91 social services) [20]. The collapse of the electricity network considerably reduces 92 social and economic activities. This study focuses on Caribbean islands and 93 particularly on Saint-Martin, Saint-Barthelemy, and Puerto Rico, which were affected 94 by two major hurricanes, Irma and Maria, in 2017 [21,22,23]. No comparison and 95 mathematical description of electricity production after major hurricane in Caribbean 96 islands were conducted before this study to our knowledge. This study also use 97 electricity production as a potential indicator of resilience. 98

99 The presence of an intermediate, stable electricity energy production occurring a 100 few months after major hurricanes has been observed in at least three cases (in Saint-101 Martin and Saint-Barthelemy after Hurricane Irma [24,25,54] and also in Puerto Rico 102 after Hurricane Maria [26]) and is found to be intriguing. The origin and meaning of 103 this pattern have never been explained to our knowledge.

The aim of this study is to characterise the influence of major hurricanes on electricity energy production from the moment of collapse until a new equilibrium was established and not to describe what occurred before. The evolution of electricity production after a major hurricane is described here to understand the main features 108 of the post-disaster evolution and anticipate the consequences on electricity 109 production. The capacity of territories to restore their activities after a major 110 hurricane have been observed using electricity production and modelling. A 111 quantification of the parameters and processes involved in the restoration is 112 conducted. The potential causes that can explain the delay in restoration of electricity 113 production are discussed.

114

## 115 2. Context and Materials

116 This study focuses on two major hurricanes (Irma and Maria) on three different islands (Saint-Martin, Saint-Barthelemy, and Puerto Rico), where a reduction in 117 electricity production of more than 90% occurred. In the latter case, the infrastructure 118 and social and economic activities were deeply impacted. There was significant 119 damage to the electricity network and destruction of private buildings [17,2]. The 120 121 selected hurricanes were classified as 5 [22] on the Saffir-Simpson scale [27,28]. Hurricane Irma affected Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthelemy on 5 and 6 September 122 2017 [22], whereas Hurricane Maria affected Puerto Rico on 20 September 2017. The 123 winds were associated with marine submersion and heavy rain. 124

There are approximately 35 000 inhabitants in Saint-Martin, 10 000 inhabitants in Saint-Barthelemy [29], and 3.1 million inhabitants in Puerto Rico. Saint-Martin (France) and Sint-Maarten (The Netherlands) are located on the same island. In this study, we focus only on the French side of the island because the electricity production is independent, and data were available only for the French side.
Tourism is the main economic activity in Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthelemy. Puerto
Rico has a more diversified economic activity.

There is a mean daily electricity production of 27.5 MW in Saint-Martin [24] and 132 16.5 MW in Saint-Barthelemy [25]. The electricity production capacity of Saint-Martin 133 is  $E_{max} = 56.6$  MW, but only 27.5 MW is produced [24]. In Saint-Martin, the ratio  $\varpi$ 134 between the electricity production capacity  $E_{max}$  and the effective electricity 135 production E (i.e., electricity energy really produced) was 0.48 before the hurricane 136 and 0.30 after. The electricity production capacity  $E_{max}$  of Saint-Barthelemy is  $E_{max}$  = 137 34.2 MW, but only 16.5 MW is produced [25]. In Saint-Barthelemy, the ratio  $\pi$ 138 between the electricity production capacity  $E_{max}$  and the effective electricity 139 production *E* was 0.48 before the hurricane and 0.35 after. The electricity production 140 capacity *E<sub>max</sub>* of Puerto Rico is approximately 6 000 MW [26], but only 400 MW were 141 produced before Hurricane Maria. In Puerto Rico, the ratio  $\bar{w}$  between the electricity 142 production capacity *E<sub>max</sub>* and the effective electricity production *E* was 0.06 before the 143 hurricane and 0.05 after. 144

The data on electricity production are available for Saint-Martin (French side) and Saint-Barthelemy from Electricité De France [24,25,54]. Daily electricity production is presented here, but the precision needed for the modelling can be less precise, especially during stable phases. Hurricane Irma had a significant impact on the electricity production of Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthelemy [24,25,54]. The electricity network was mainly aerial before the hurricane and most of it was destroyed by the wind. The electricity production of Saint-Martin was also impacted
by marine submersion because the production unit was located close to the sea [24].
However, no major destruction of the production units occurred in Saint-Martin and
Saint-Barthelemy.

The data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration were used to study 155 the influence of Hurricane Maria on electricity production in Puerto Rico [26]. 156 157 Hurricane Irma also influenced the electricity production of Puerto Rico over a few days, but with a moderate impact in comparison with that of Hurricane Maria. In 158 Puerto Rico, the daily electricity production [30] is superimposed with the 159 normalised monthly peak of electricity production to observe it over a longer period 160 of time. Some of the electricity production units were out of order in Puerto Rico 161 after Hurricane Maria [17]. The electricity production considered here takes into 162 account only that generated by electricity companies. Individual production of 163 electricity by small electricity generators or individual solar panels was not taken 164 165 into account.

166

# 167 3. Quantified description

168 3.1. Characteristic of electricity energy production after major hurricane

169 The pattern of the curves of electricity energy production can be characterised by170 a few parameters such as:

171 • Resilience time  $t_r$ 

- **172** Electricity resilience ratio  $ER_R = E_i / E_{is}$
- 173 Electricity production restoration rate  $E_{is} / t_r$ ,
- Offset resilience of the electricity production Ei-Eis
- 175

These parameters allow us to characterise the restoration of stable electricity energy production. Here, the resilience time  $t_r$  is not the time necessary to restore the initial state, but the time necessary to reach a new intermediate equilibrium. In this study, resilience time was reached when the electricity production became stable at  $E_{is}$ . The resilience time  $t_r$  of Saint-Barthelemy was smaller than that of Saint-Martin.

181 The resilience time  $t_r$  of Saint-Martin was smaller than that of Puerto Rico (Table 1).

The intermediate equilibrium of electricity production has been characterised by 182 several indicators. In Saint-Martin, the electricity resilience ratio was  $ER_R = E_{is} / E_i =$ 183 0.62 (Table 1). The higher the ERR ratio is, the more the system has restored the initial 184 electricity capacity. In Saint-Barthelemy,  $E_{is} = 12$  MW and  $E_i = 16.5$  MW. The 185 electricity resilience ratio was  $ER_R = E_{is} / E_i = 0.73$ . In Puerto Rico,  $E_{is} = 300$  MW and  $E_i$ 186 = 400 MW. The electricity resilience ratio was  $ER_R = E_{is} / E_i = 0.75$ . The resilience ratio 187 ERR of Puerto Rico and Saint-Barthelemy was higher than that of Saint-Martin (Table 188 189 1).

190 The electricity production restoration rate is estimated using the ratio between 191 the intermediate electricity production (E<sub>is</sub>) and resilience time (t<sub>r</sub>). This rate 192 represents the velocity of the system to reach a new equilibrium. Puerto Rico and 193 Saint-Barthelemy have a higher rate of restoration of electricity energy production than Saint-Martin (Table 1). The electricity production restoration rate is not strictly
proportional to the electricity power capacity (i.e., the initial electricity production *Ei*)
of the territory, as shown by the comparison between Saint-Barthelemy and SaintMartin (Table 1). Saint-Martin has a lower electricity production restoration rate,
whereas the electricity power capacity of Saint-Martin is higher than that of SaintBarthelemy.

200

201

202 hurricane. Intermediate Electricity Electricity Offset Resilience Resilience Production Resilience Stable Initial Time Electricity Ratio Restoration of Electricity Caribbean Production Rate Eis/tr Electricity Production tr Ei/Eis Island Eis (MW) Production (month) Ei (MW/month) (MW) Ei-Eis (MW) Saint-Barth. 0.73 1 16.5 12 12 4.5 Saint-Martin 2 27.5 17 0.62 8.5 10.5 Puerto Rico 5 400 300 0.75 60 100

Table 1. Main characteristics of electricity production resilience after a major

203

However, the offset of the electricity energy production from the initial state  $E_{i}$ - $E_{is}$ 204 was higher for Puerto Rico and Saint-Martin than for Saint-Barthelemy (Table 1). This 205 parameter is related to the initial electricity power capacity (i.e., initial electricity 206 energy production,  $E_i$ ). In the three cases studied, the resilience time,  $t_r$ , is 207 proportional to the system size (initial power capacity) but is not correlated to the 208 electricity resilience ratio E<sub>i</sub> / E<sub>is</sub>. However, not all the parameters investigated are 209 proportional to the system size. For example, the electricity resilience ratio is not 210 211 related to the system size. The electricity resilience ratio is higher in Saint-Barthelemy and Puerto Rico than in Saint-Martin, whereas the initial electricity energy
production *E<sub>i</sub>* is higher in Saint-Martin than in Saint-Barthelemy.

The intermediate equilibrium of the electricity production is significantly lower than that before the major hurricane occurrence in the three Caribbean islands studied. This reduction ranges between 25% and 38%. The decrease in electricity production (i.e., the offset resilience of electricity production  $E_i$ - $E_{is}$ ) is proportional to the initial electricity production  $E_i$  (Table 1).

219

220 3.2 Theoretical description

First, a theoretical model was developed. The model intends to estimate the electricity production at various times based on several parameters.

The model assumes a competition between the accumulation and consumption 223 of electricity energy. More precisely, the rate of the electricity energy production  $V^a$ 224 (in MWh/h) is counterbalanced by the rate of electricity energy consumption  $V_0^b$  (in 225 226 MWh/h). The electricity system is considered at equilibrium (i.e., the ratio  $V^a / V_{0^b}$  is constant) until the collapse generated by the hurricane generates an abrupt decrease 227 in the electricity energy production. Starting from a low value, the electricity energy 228 229 production is constrained by the rate of electricity energy production. The rate of the electricity energy production  $V^a$  changed after the hurricane occurrence and reached 230 a new value, lower than the previous one. 231

The electricity production curve shows a stable plateau after several months. This specific pattern must be reproduced as well as the trajectory of the electricity 234 production from the main blackout until the stable plateau. These patterns can be235 described by a mathematical function.

236 The electricity production can be described by :

237 
$$E = [\tau_0 + a \times ln (V/V_0) + b \times ln(V_0 \times \theta/L)] \times E_{max},$$
(1)

where  $E_{max}$  is the maximum electricity power capacity of the system (in MW),  $V^a$  is the 238 rate of the electricity energy production,  $V_{0^{b}}$  is the rate of the electricity energy 239 240 consumption, and  $\pi$  is the ratio between the effective electricity energy production and the maximum electricity energy production capacity of the system Eeffective / Emax. L 241 is the characteristic electricity power (in MWh) of the system. The smaller the value 242 of *L* is, the better the resilience of the electricity production. Parameters *a* and *b* are 243 constants with 0 > a > b. The amplitude of the combined parameter a + b influences 244 the loss of energy from the initial stable condition until the new equilibrium, after 245 which the electricity production collapses. *t* represents time, and  $\theta$  is a characteristic 246 time and a state variable (a state variable can be used to describe the state of a 247 dynamical system; see for example in [31]) of the system defined by : 248

- $\Delta\theta/dt = 1 V \times \theta/L \tag{2}$
- 250 First, at the equilibrium  $\Delta \theta / dt = 0$ , and thus  $1 V \times \theta / L = 0$

251 
$$\Leftrightarrow V = L / \theta$$

252 Including it in Equation (1), the electricity production at the equilibrium becomes

253  $E_{effective} = [\pi + a \times ln(V/V_0) + b \times ln(V_0/V)] \times E_{max}$ 

254 
$$\Leftrightarrow E_{effective}/E_{max} = \tau_0 + (a-b) \times ln(V/V_0)$$

255  $\Leftrightarrow E_{effective}/E_{max} - \tau_0 = 0 = (a-b) \times ln(V/V_0)$ , by definition of  $\tau_0$ 

256	$\Leftrightarrow ln (V/V_0) = 0$				
257	$\Leftrightarrow V = V_0$				
258	$\Leftrightarrow$	$V^a$	=	$V_0^a =$	$(Vo^b)^{a/b}$ ,
259	(3)				
260	Consequently, at equ	uilibrium, the	competition	between the rate	of electricity
261	production V <sup>a</sup> and the	e rate of electri	city energy o	consumption V <sub>0</sub> <sup>b</sup> is	described by a
262	power law (Equation	3). Post-cyclon	ic-electricity-	energy production	is a non-linear
263	process that can be des	scribed by equa	tion 1 and 2.		
264	Second, when the	hurricane occui	s and the ele	ectricity system colla	pses, there is a
265	discrepancy between	the electricity	energy p	roduction and elec	ctricity energy
266	consumption. The con	dition necessary	v to restore tl	ne electricity system	is that the rate
267	of the electricity pro	duction V <sup>a</sup> be	greater that	an the rate of ele	ctricity energy
268	consumption Vo <sup>b</sup> . Acco	rding to Equati	on (1), the fo	llowing can be writt	en:
269	$E/E_{max}$ - $\tau_0 = a \times ln(V)$	$V_0$ )+ $b \times ln(V_0 \times \theta / \theta)$	L )		(4)
270	During the collap	ose, the electric	city energy	is not at equilibriu	ım. There is a
271	relaxation of the syste	m. After the co	ollapse, durir	ng the restoration of	f the electricity
272	energy production, an	intermediate pl	hase of equil	ibrium is observed (	for example, in
273	Figure 2). During this	s phase, the rat	io between	the electricity prod	uction and the
274	maximum capacity of	the electricity e	nergy produ	ction E / Emax is cons	stant and equal
275	to $\varpi$ .				
276	Concontinution for	m Equation (	4)	n during the rest	

276 Consequently, from Equation (4) we obtain during the restoration of the277 electricity energy production:

278 
$$a \times ln(V/V_0) + b \times ln(V_0 \times \theta/L) = 0.$$

279 We can deduce that  $exp[a \times ln (V/V_0)] = exp[-b \times ln(V_0 \times \theta/L)]$ .

280 Thus, during the restoration of the electricity energy production, the rate of the281 electricity energy production is equivalent to

(5)

282 
$$V^{a} = (V_{0}^{b})^{a/b} \cdot 1 \times [\theta/L]^{-b},$$

Let us describe some basic consequences of Equation (5). First, the rate of the 283 284 electricity energy production  $V^a$  and the rate of electricity energy consumption  $V_{ab}^{b}$  are generally not equal. Second, if  $\theta / L > 1$ , then the rate of the electricity energy 285 production  $V^a$  is greater than the rate of the electricity energy consumption  $V_{0^b}$ 286 because a / b < 1. Under these conditions, the electricity system will have no risk of 287 collapse during the restoration of the system. Conversely, if  $0 < \theta / L < 1$ , the rate of 288 electricity energy consumption  $V_{0^{b}}$  will be greater than the rate of electricity energy 289 production  $V^a$ , and a blackout can be expected. Third, in our model, the values of  $V^a$ 290 and  $V_{0}^{b}$  are relative to each other, as given in Equation (5). In this approach, only the 291 292 relative values between  $V^a$  and  $V_{0^b}$  play a role. From Equation (3), it is possible to estimate the value of the rate of the electricity energy consumption Vob at 293 equilibrium. In the transient state, it is necessary to use Equation (5). 294

A numerical code was developed in Fortran to solve Equations (1) and (2) using a finite-difference method. The electricity production is relaxed by a change in the rate of electricity production. For example, in Saint-Martin, the rate of the electricity production  $V^a$  before the hurricane was 1.65 MWh/h, whereas the rate of electricity

299	production V <sup>a</sup> after the hurricane was 1.08 MWh/h. An abrupt change in the rate of
300	the electricity production is necessary to simulate the observed trend.
301	

302

303

# 304 4. Numerical simulations

The daily electricity production of Saint-Martin, Saint-Barthelemy, and Puerto Rico has been simulated before and after the occurrence of a major hurricane during a period of time of 8 months.

308 4.1. Saint-Martin electricity production



311	Figure 1. Influence of Hurricane Irma on the daily electricity production of Saint-
312	Martin. Two stable states can be observed for the daily electricity production. The
313	<i>first one is approximately</i> $E_i$ = 27.5 MW <i>and the second one is approximately</i> $E_{is}$ = 17
314	MW. The second intermediate stable plateau can be observed 2 months after the
315	blackout due to the collapse of the electricity network. The progressive restoration of
316	the electricity network is simulated with $E_{max} = 56.6$ MW, $\varpi = 0.30$ , $V = 0.25$
317	$(MWh/h)^{1/a}$ , $V_0 = 0.025 (MWh/h)^{1/b}$ , $a = -0.054$ , $b = -0.063$ , and $L = 0.09 MWh$ . At t
318	$=0, \ \theta = 1 \ h.$

319

For Saint-Martin, the simulation of the daily electricity production was 320 performed using Equation (1), considering that the electricity production capacity is 321  $E_{max}$  = 56.6 MW. A value of effective electricity production ratio  $\pi$  of 0.30 was 322 323 considered. In the modelling of Saint-Martin, the rate of electricity energy production was  $V^a$  = 1.65 MWh/h, the rate of electricity consumption was  $V_0^b$  = 1.08 MWh/h, and 324 the electricity power was L= 0.09 MWh. Using these parameters, the model could fit 325 the electricity production for 8 months before and after the impact of Hurricane Irma 326 (Figure 1). 327

## 328 4.2. Saint-Barthelemy electricity production

Even in the island of Saint-Barthelemy, located approximately 10–15 km east of Saint-Martin, the electricity network was damaged by Hurricane Irma. The general trend of daily electricity production shows the same pattern in Saint-Barthelemy than that in Saint-Martin. Two stable periods can be observed in the daily electricity production of Saint-Barthelemy, the first before the blackout and the second one month after the main blackout (Figure 2). The resilience time is approximately 1 month from the blackout until the new stable equilibrium is reached. The first initial stable daily electricity production  $E_i$  is approximately 16.5 MW. The second intermediate stable equilibrium of the daily electricity production  $E_{is}$  is of 12 MW for at least 3 months.



- 339
- 340

Figure 2. Influence of Hurricane Irma on the daily electricity production in SaintBarthelemy. Two stable states can be observed for the daily electricity production.
The first one is approximately E<sub>i</sub> = 16.5 MW and the second one is approximately E<sub>i</sub>s

344 = 12 MW. The second intermediate stable plateau can be observed 2 months after the 345 blackout due to the collapse of the electricity network. The progressive resilience of 346 the electricity network is simulated with  $E_{max} = 34,2$  MW,  $\varpi = 0.35$ , V = 0.25347  $(MWh/h)^{1/a}$ ,  $V_0 = 0.025$   $(MWh/h)^{1/b}$ ,  $\theta_i = 1$  h, a = -0.054, b = -0.07, and L = 0.05348 MWh.

349

# 350 4.3. Modelling Puerto Rico electricity production

In Puerto Rico, the transient state between Hurricane Maria and the new equilibrium extended over 5 months. Equations (1) and (2) provide the estimates of electricity production before and after the hurricane at each time step (Figure 3). Before Hurricane Maria, the daily electricity production was approximately 400 MW, whereas the daily electricity production after the hurricane was 300 MW in the stable state.





357

Figure 3. Influence of Hurricane Maria on the daily electricity production of Puerto 359 Rico. Two stables states can be observed for the daily electricity production. The first 360 one is approximately  $E_i = 400$  MW and the second one is approximately  $E_{is} = 300$ 361 MW. The second intermediate stable plateau can be observed 5 months after the 362 collapse of the electricity network due to Hurricane Maria. The progressive resilience 363 of the electricity network is modelled with  $E_{max} = 6\ 000\ MW$ ,  $\tau_0 = 0.05$ , V = 0.5364  $(MWh/h)^{1/a}$ ,  $V_0 = 0.055$   $(MWh/h)^{1/b}$ ,  $\theta_i = 1$  h, a = -0.008, b = -0.019, and L = 0.6365 MWh. The monthly electricity production was divided by 30 to obtain the equivalent 366 daily electricity production data. 367

369 4.4. Influence of a, b, L, V, and V<sub>0</sub>

The parameters *a*, *b*, *L*, *V*, and *V*<sup>0</sup> of Equations (1) and (2) influence the electricity 370 energy production. Simulations show that the electricity power L has a strong 371 influence on the electricity production (Figure 4). The higher the electricity power L 372 is, the higher the offset between the two stables "plateaus" of electricity production  $E_i$ 373 and *E*<sub>*i*</sub>. Furthermore, the higher the electricity power *L* is, the longer the resilience 374 time  $t_r$  (Figure 4). A value of effective electricity power L = 0.05 MWh was used to 375 376 simulate the electricity production in Saint-Barthelemy, of 0.09 MWh in Saint-Martin, and of 0.6 MWh in Puerto Rico (Table 2). The higher the system (i.e., initial electricity 377 378 production), the higher the electricity power L (see Tables 1 and 2). Even if the 379 effective electricity power *L* is not strictly linearly proportional to the initial system capacity (or to the number of inhabitants), a link may exist that it could be interesting 380 to investigate in further studies with more data (Tables 1 and 2). 381



Figure 4. Influence of electricity power L on electricity energy production E. Other parameters used in the modelling:  $E_{max} = 56.6 \text{ MW}, \ \tau_0 = 0.30, V = 0.25 (MWh/h)^{1/a},$  $V_0 = 0.025 (MWh/h)^{1/b}, \ \theta_i = 1 \ h, \ a = -0.054, \ b = -0.063.$ 

The dimensionless constants *a* and *b* also play a significant role in the result of Equation (1). The constants *a* and *b* are negatives. The smaller the value of |b| is, the higher the offset between the two stable values of the electricity production  $E_i$  and  $E_{is}$ (Figure 5A, Table 1). In this study, |b| is equal to 0.070 in Saint-Barthelemy (Figure 2), 0.063 in Saint-Martin (Figure 1), and 0.019 in Puerto Rico (Figure 3). The smaller the system size (i.e., initial energy distribution) is, the higher is |b|. There is an effect of |b| on the increase in the electricity production rate after the collapse. The higher

|b| is, the higher will be the increase in electricity production after the hurricane. The higher |a| is, the higher will be the offset between the two stable values of the electricity production  $E_i$  and  $E_{is}$  (Figure 5B).



398

Figure 5. Influence of the adimensional constants b and a on the electricity energy
production. (A) Influence of the adimensional constant b on the electricity

401	production, $a = -0.054$ , (B) Influence of the adimensional constant b on the
402	electricity production, $b = -0.063$ . The other parameters used in the modelling are
403	$E_{max} = 56.6 \text{ MW}, \ \tau_0 = 0.30, \ V = 0.25 \ (MWh/h)^{1/a}, \ V_0 = 0.025 \ (MWh/h)^{1/b}, \ \theta_i = 1 \ h, \ and$
404	L= 0.09 MWh.

The higher the parameter V is, the faster the electricity production reaches the 405 intermediate stable electricity production E<sub>is</sub> (Figure 6A). The resilience time of the 406 system increases when V increases. In the calculation, V = 0.25 (MWh/h)<sup>1/a</sup>. However, 407 the absolute value of V is less important in the model than the ratio between V and 408 Vo. There is an analytic relation between these two parameters at equilibrium, or 409 410 when  $\tau_0 = E / E_{max}$  is constant.  $V_0$  is always smaller than V in the three cases studied, and the ratio V / V<sub>0</sub> ranges from 9.1 to 10 (Table 2). The variation in V<sub>0</sub> generates a 411 translation of the electricity production. The higher the value of  $V_0$  is, the higher will 412 413 be the electricity production E (Figure 6B). The influence of this parameter can apparently be counterintuitive. However, this can be interpreted considering that a 414 bigger country with a higher electricity production *E* has a higher rate of electricity 415 416 consumption as well.

Table 2. Main characteristics of the territories and parameters used

Caribbean island	Inhabitants	Gross Domestic Product (Euro/ capita)	Characteristic Electricity Production L (MWh)	Plateau Combined Parameter <i>a</i> +b	Electricity Prod./Consum. Rate Ratio <i>V</i> /V <sub>0</sub>	Electricity Production Ratio (effect./max.) <i>T</i> o
Saint-	10.000	40.000	0.05	-0.124	10	0.35
Barth.	10 000	40 000				
Saint-	25,000	25,000 17,700		-0.117	10	0.3
Martin	33 000	10 000				



422Figure 6. Influence of parameters V and Vo on electricity energy production. (A)423Influence of parameter V on electricity production in Saint-Martin, Vo = 0.025424 $(MWh/h)^{1/b}$ . (B) Influence of electricity energy consumption Vo on electricity425production, V = 0.25  $(MWh/h)^{1/a}$ . Other parameters in the simulation:  $E_{max} = 56.6$ 426MW,  $\tau_0 = 0.30$ ,  $\theta = 1$  h, a = -0.054, b = -0.063, and L = 0.09 MWh.

427

# 428 5. Discussion

#### 429 5.1. Hurricane destructive power and resilience of electricity production

In Puerto Rico, the influence of two hurricanes was observed in 2017 (Figure 3). 430 431 The electricity production was reduced by 30% of the initial electricity capacity of Puerto Rico after Hurricane Irma (6 September) and it appeared to return 432 "elastically" (i.e., linearly and rapidly) to the initial state (Figure 3). The electricity 433 network and economic activities were not completely destroyed by the first 434 hurricane Irma. This could explain why two weeks after the first hurricane, the 435 electricity production was at the same level of 400 MW as the initial one (Figure 3). 436 This was not the case following Hurricane Maria. The electricity production was 437

reduced by more than 90% in this second case and the restoration was slower. The
electricity production was not impacted in the same way by the two hurricanes. The
higher the lowering of the electricity production during the hurricane, the longer the
time required to reach the new equilibrium. The electricity production restoration is

expected to depend on (1) the electrical network system rebuilding, i.e. the 442 production capacities, (2) the restoration of social and economic activities, i.e. 443 consumption/demand. During crisis, anticipating production and consumption of 444 electricity is complex and is a conundrum. The restoration rate of the electricity 445 production depends on the electricity production capacity as well as the rate of 446 electricity production and consumption (see Equation 1 and Figures 4 to 6). The 447 448 results suggest that the restoration of the electricity production is not linear and that the restoration rate of the electricity production depends on the amount of initial 449 destruction. Furthermore, it depends on the adaptation and coping capacities as well 450 [32]. In Puerto-Rico, the restoration of the electricity production was of 75% of pre-451 hurricane electricity production, 4-5 months after Maria hurricane. Simultaneously, 452 night-time lights data in Puerto-Rico were only 55-60% of those observed before 453 Maria hurricane suggesting that electricity was not fully restored [17]. Water 454 distribution or communication networks depends from electricity network causing 455 456 significant disagreement when outage or network collapse occurred. Consequently, health, social and economic activities could be significantly affected by outage or 457 electricity network collapse [e.g. 2,17]. Social and economic activities decrease could 458 also cause electricity production decrease as observed during COVID-19 pandemic 459 [55]. After one year of Hurricane Maria, electricity production of Puerto Rico attained 460 the same values of approximately 400 MW. Nevertheless, the gross domestic product 461 (GDP) of Puerto Rico was slightly lower in 2017 and 2018 than in 2016, suggesting 462

that economic activity was not fully re-established to the level before HurricaneMaria [33], even if the electricity production was almost completely restored.

465

## 466 5.2. *Electricity production equilibrium*

A decrease of approximately 25% of the electricity production was observed in 467 Saint-Barthelemy and Puerto Rico, from the initial stable phase when  $E = E_i$  until the 468 new equilibrium phase after the collapse when  $E = E_{is}$  (Figure 2 and 3; Table 1). In 469 both cases, there was an approximate constant number of inhabitants before and 470 471 after the hurricane. This reduction can be explained by a reduction in the activity of restaurants and shops, along with other social and individual activities (schools, 472 administration, etc.). Buildings where these activities take place had been damaged 473 [34,1,35]. 474

475 In Saint-Martin, the decrease of 38% in electricity production from  $E = E_i$  to  $E = E_{is}$ was higher than that in Puerto Rico and Saint-Barthelemy (Figure 1 and Table 1). The 476 electrical network was almost completely restored after 1.5 months. Nevertheless, the 477 restoration of electricity production took longer (Figure 1), suggesting that other 478 processes played a role. The remarkable reduction in electricity production was also 479 due to the reduction in economic activities. Unemployment increased by 18.5% in 480 2017 [36]. The number of hotels, guest houses, and apartments was limited in Saint-481 Martin because owing to their damage. There was a decrease of 25.9% in the number 482 of tourists visiting the island from 2016 to 2017 [36]. By comparison, the number of 483

tourists decreased by approximately 13% from 2016 to 2017 in Saint-Barthelemy [34].
The reconstruction of touristic infrastructures of Saint-Martin was not completed, to
allow increases of tourism in 2018 and 2019. The tourism industry represents
approximately 55% of the economic activity in Saint-Martin [36]. Furthermore,
Puerto Rico has a more diversified economy than Saint-Martin.

489

### 490 5.3. *Migration and electricity production*

It has been estimated that approximately 7 000 to 8 000 inhabitants left Saint-Martin after the hurricane [18,37]. The reduction of 20–23% of the children in public schools of Saint-Martin corresponds to the reduction of between 7 000 and 8 000 inhabitants on a population of 35 000 [36,37]. The cause of this migration is mainly related to unemployment and difficulties of housing after the destruction caused by Irma.

Analogous to Saint-Barthelemy and Puerto Rico, where a decrease of 20–25% of the electricity production was observed after the hurricane (Table 1), a decrease of approximately 20–25% of the electricity production in Saint-Martin could be expected. Taking into account the global reduction of 38% of the electricity production in Saint-Martin, it can be expected that the 13–18% of the electricity production decrease is attributed to the migration of 7 000 to 8 000 inhabitants.

503 Historically, migration has been observed to occur in the Caribbean islands 504 following environmental disasters (hurricanes, earthquakes) and economic or social crises (wars, dictatorships) [38,39]. Haiti experienced various migration phases
during the last decades [40]. Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthelemy experienced various
migrations in or out of their territories during the last two centuries [41] as well.
During the 1986–1990 period, there was an increase in the population of Saint-Martin
from 8 000 to 28 000, which was mainly due to the influx from France after a new tax
law was enacted in France, along with that from Haiti and the Dominican Republic
[42,29,8].

The abrupt decrease in electricity energy production is not specific to hurricanes 512 and may also be caused by earthquakes or other natural hazards (floods). The 513 intensity of the reduction depends on the amplitude of the catastrophe. The pattern 514 515 of the electricity production curves can be interpreted with Equations (1) and (2). The 516 time between the catastrophe and the new equilibrium depends on (i) the time to 517 rebuild the electricity network, (ii) the time to reconstruct the infrastructures that consume the electricity, (iii) the time necessary for people who leave, to return, and 518 519 (4) the time required to restore the economy. These times shown to be mixed in the electricity production curves. 520

- 521
- 522

523 5.4. Economy resilience and electricity energy production

If the undercapacity of electricity production can limit the development of economic activity, the slowdown of socio-economic activities can slowdown electricity production restoration after major hurricanes. In Saint-Martin, the 527 electricity production capacity of the production units was re-established after 528 approximately 25 days–1 month. Saint-Martin electricity production has a smaller 529 restoration rate E<sub>is</sub> / tr than that of Saint-Barthelemy and Puerto Rico (Table 1). The 530 slow rate of restoration of electricity energy production was not limited only by 531 public electricity infrastructure.

Additionally, the electricity resilience ratio was higher in Saint-Barthelemy than 532 in Saint-Martin (Table 1). This is in agreement with previous studies that observed 533 that electricity energy recovery rates were slower for low-income populations than 534 for other groups (moderate-income to high-income) in Puerto Rico [17]. Indeed, 535 Saint-Martin has a smaller GDP per capita than that of Saint-Barthelemy and Puerto 536 Rico (Table 2). The correlation between wealth (GDP per capita) and resilience 537 indicators (resilience ratio) suggests that the capacity of a territory to restore 538 electricity production is not independent of its wealth. This could depend on the 539 difference in initial resistance of buildings and infrastructure, but also on the funding 540 541 available for reconstruction (credit, insurances, solidarity funds, etc.) [43,44]. The correlation between wealth and adaptation to natural hazard has been suggested by 542 several studies [45,46]. Collective organization and education could also play a role 543 independently of wealth [47,48]. Build back better get mobilized in the recovery 544 effort after Maria and Irma in the Caribbean [2,19,49] but some difficulties can be 545 observe during the reconstruction phase [7]. 546

547 Nevertheless, the discrepancy in electricity production per inhabitant between548 Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthelemy has not increased after the hurricane. Prior to the

hurricane, there was an electricity production of 1.65 kW/inhabitant in Saint-549 Barthelemy, higher than the 0.78 kW/inhabitant in Saint-Martin. Electricity 550 production per inhabitant is higher when the gross domestic product (GDP) is higher 551 (Table 2). After Hurricane Irma, the electricity production was of 1.2 kW/inhabitant 552 in Saint-Barthelemy for 10 000 inhabitants, whereas in Saint-Martin it was of 0.63 553 kW/inhabitant, considering a population of approximately 27 000 inhabitants (after 554 the displacement of 8 000 inhabitants outside of Saint-Martin). The electricity 555 production per capita was 2.1 times higher in Saint-Barthelemy than in Saint-Martin 556 prior to the hurricane, and it was approximately 1.9 times higher after the hurricane. 557 Evidently, the hurricane did not change the gap in electricity production per capita 558 between Saint-Barthelemy and Saint-Martin. The small decrease from 2.1 to 1.9 is due 559 to uncertainties in the real number of inhabitants present after the hurricane: 560 temporary displacement from Saint-Barthelemy could also have occurred [50] and 561 the real number of inhabitants in Saint-Martin could be difficult to quantify due to 562 563 the porous frontier with Sint-Maarten [39].

Electricity energy production is a short-term indicator of destruction and reconstruction of the electricity network, but also of social and economic activities. The restoration of electricity production is not influenced only by the reconstruction of the electricity network. It indicate also the resilience of social and economic activities. The reduction in social and economic activities generates a reduction in electricity production several months after the electricity network has been reconstructed. A growth of social and economic activities during months after major

hurricane cause an increase of electricity energy production. A composite indicator of 571 economic and social activity ESA= E/E<sub>i</sub> (from equation 1) could permit to compare 572 the short-term resilience between different islands after major hurricanes. Long-term 573 resilience after a disaster, adaptation [15,51], mal-development [49] or mis-adaptation 574 [52] of societies to their environment are probably not entirely independent from 575 energy production evolution, but their relations are more complex that for short-term 576 resilience. The role of sustainability [19], of social and technological evolution [52,53] 577 must be taken into account for long-term evolution. The development of renewable 578 energy (geothermal energy, eolian energy, solar energy) in Caribbean islands after 579 2017 disasters offer a possibility to progressively increase resilience [19,54]. 580 Nevertheless, "Build back better" and reorganization after disasters could also 581 reinforce existing patterns of mal-development favouring inequality [49,44]. 582

During past decades, reduction in the electricity production in the Caribbean 583 islands has been correlated with economic or social events, suggesting a causal link. 584 585 For example, a reduction in the electricity production and a decrease of tourism in the Caribbean islands occurred (i) after the subprime mortgage crisis in 2008, (ii) after 586 the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001, and (iii) during the coronavirus epidemic 587 (Covid-19) in 2020. Nevertheless, these three events did not impact the infrastructure 588 in the Caribbean islands (no destruction of electricity networks, hotels, houses, cars, 589 or boats), and they differ from major hurricane impacts on electricity production. A 590 specific pattern, different from the one after major hurricane, is observed. 591

592 5.5. Anticipating electricity production

Mathematical modelling and parameters calibration allow us to predict 593 electricity production in three Caribbean islands after a major hurricane. New major 594 hurricane impact on electricity production in these three islands could be anticipate 595 few days after electrical network collapse to predict how will evolve electricity 596 production considering almost similar parameters to those used for Irma and Maria 597 hurricanes. In case of storm or class 1-4 hurricanes on Saffir-Simpson scale, the 598 efficiency of the model has not been demonstrated. Interaction between electrical 599 network restoration on one side, with economic and social activities growth in the other side 600 601 could be different after major hurricanes. Limitation to use this model is also related to 602 potential evolution of social and technical change. After Irma hurricane, part of the 603 aerial electricity network of Saint-Martin has been buried (underground power lines). Vulnerability of the electrical network has been reduced by this way. Growth of 604 individual electricity generator and development of individual photovoltaic panel 605 could change electricity consumption after major hurricanes favouring resilience of 606 specific groups and potentially hiding part of electricity consumption that occurred 607 outside of the electrical network. 608

Prediction of electricity production of others Caribbean islands after a major hurricane depends to the information available about local electricity network  $(E_{max}, \tau_0)$ , but also to our ability to estimate parameter a, b, *V*, *V*<sub>0</sub>, and *L* and their uncertainty. These later parameters depends of economic (GDP) and demographic (number of inhabitants) indicators as suggested by preliminary results, but further studies are necessary and uncertainty is still very high. The ability of the model to predict electricity production out of islandic context is not demonstrated. For non-insular electrical network, restoration of electricity production should depend to better interconnections and transport facilities. Consequently, the model presented in this study is probably not efficient.

#### 619 6. Conclusions

We investigated the evolution of electricity energy production after major 620 hurricanes occurred in 2017 in three Caribbean islands: Saint-Martin, Saint-621 Barthelemy, and Puerto Rico. Following these hurricanes, the electricity energy 622 623 production decreased abruptly. The full restoration of electricity production depends from the full restoration of the electricity infrastructure as well as from the full 624 restoration of social and economic activities. A resilience time of several months (1 625 month  $< t_s < 5$  months) was necessary to attain a new electricity energy production 626 627 equilibrium  $E_{is}$  that was lower than the initial electricity energy production  $E_i$ . The 628 resilience time  $t_r$  appeared to be proportional to the electricity energy production capacities before the collapse, whereas the other resilience indicators were 629 proportional to the wealth (GDP). The new stable electricity production *E*<sub>is</sub> ranged 630 between 25 and 38% less than the initial electricity production. This reduction in 631 electricity production is mainly due to a decrease in the electricity consumption per 632 capita. The reduction in electricity energy consumption per capita was 20-25%, 633 suggesting a decrease in the social and economic activities of approximately 20-25% 634 during the post-disaster equilibrium phase. Nevertheless, in the case of Saint-Martin, 635

part of the reduction in the electricity energy production was due to a reduction of 636 the population owing to their migration outside the islands. The migration of 637 approximately 8000 inhabitants from Saint-Martin reduced the electricity energy 638 production *E* by 13–18%. The electricity production can be used as an indicator of the 639 resilience of social and economic activities, as well as to evaluate the migration that 640 could hard to evaluate. Mathematical modelling of electricity production could be a 641 642 useful tool to predict electricity restauration and resilience in Caribbean islands after major hurricanes. 643 644 Declaration of interest: none 645 Acknowledgement: This work was supported by French National Agency for 646 Research [ANR RELEV]. The funding source had no involvement in the design and 647 interpretation of the data in the writing of the report. 648 649 References 650 [1] Kim K., Bui L., 2019. Learning from Hurricane Maria: Island ports and supply chain resilience. International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction 39, 101244. [2] Der Sarkissian, R., Dabaj, A., Diab, Y., Vuillet M., 2021. Evaluating the 651

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