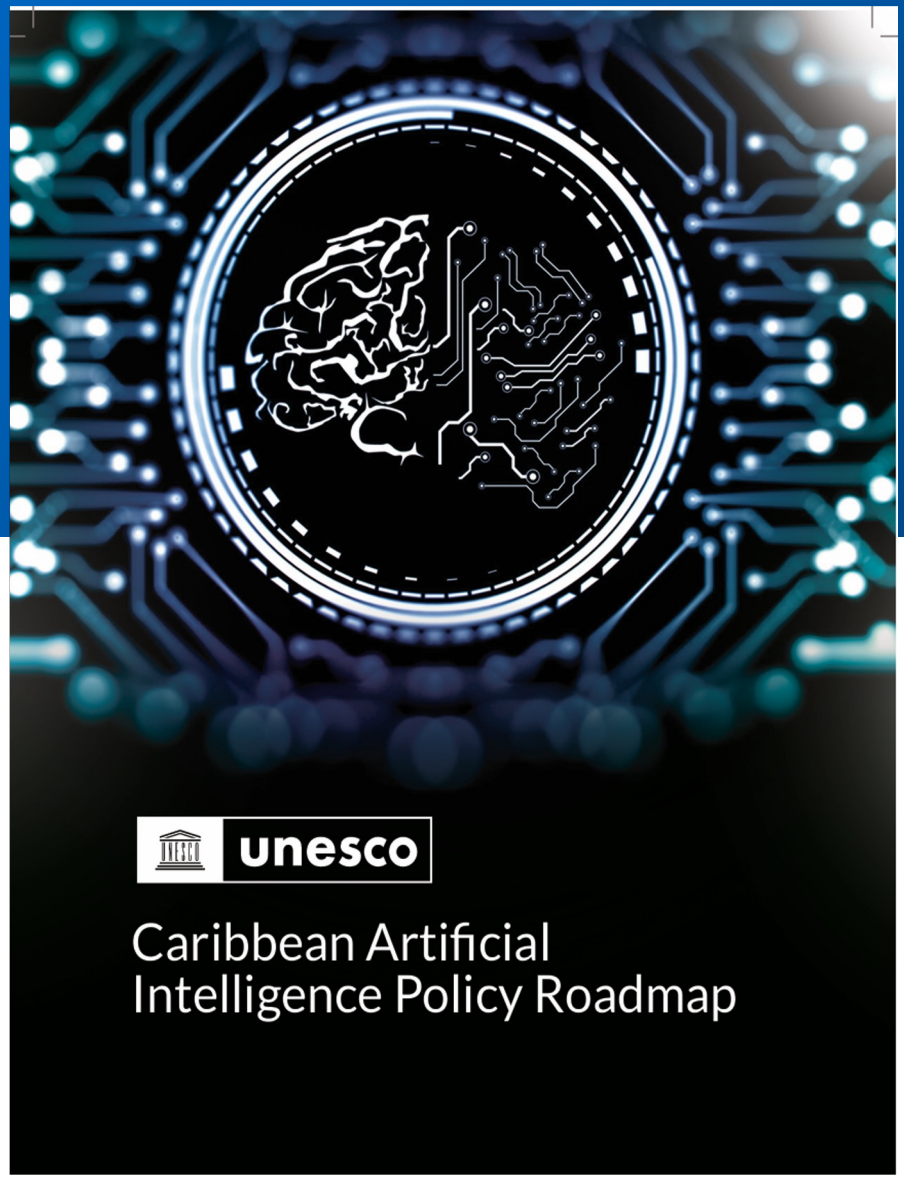
UNESCO Office for the Caribbean

Cluster Office for Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Montserrat, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

An A.I. Policy Roadmap for the Caribbean

Erica Simmons
Technologist
UNESCO Consultant

Dr. Paul Hector
Advisor for Communication and Information
UNESCO Office for the Caribbean



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Laboratory of ideas
Standard-setter
Clearing-house
Capacity builder
Catalyst for international cooperation

Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence

Standard Setting Instruments

Capacity Building

Seminars, Conferences and Consultations to Share Experiences

Research, Publications and Policy Resources

Overview of the UNESCO Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap

GOALS

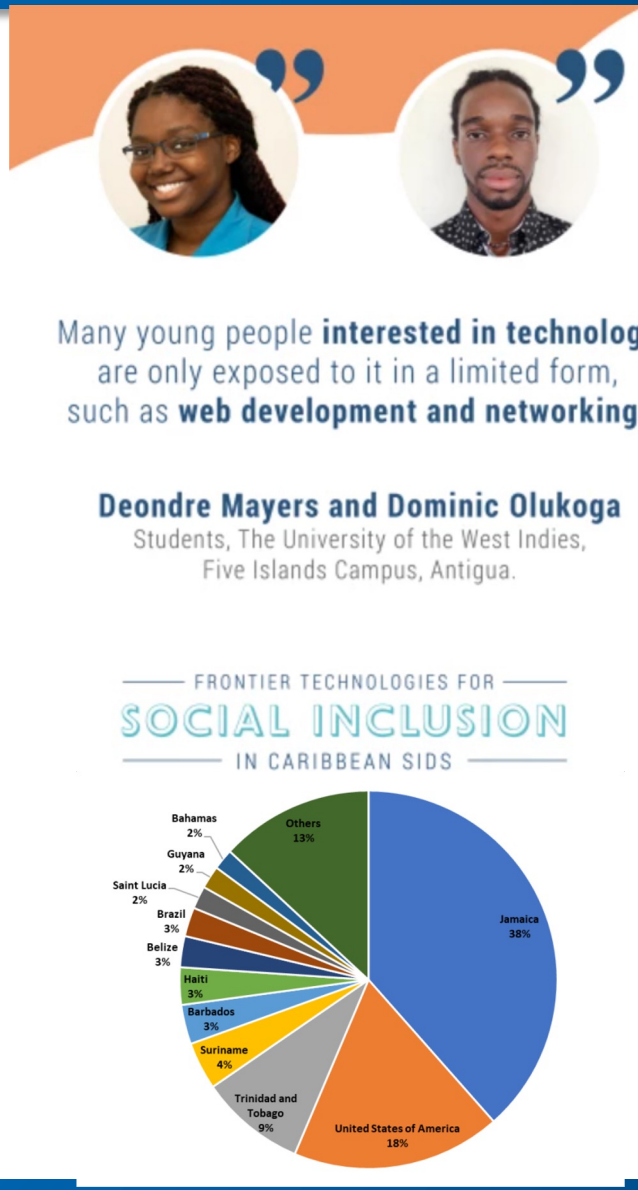
- **Raise awareness of Artificial Intelligence and its relevance, potential and challenges for the Caribbean**
- **Identify priorities and support the development of strategies for collaboration**
- **Leverage AI and digital transformation for the region's sustainable, social, economic and environmental development**

Some UNESCO AI initiatives for the Caribbean

- Survey - Needs Assessment for Artificial Intelligence, Digital transformation and Open Data for Small Island Developing States
- Survey -The animation and videogame industries: Collaboration, monetization and sustainable business opportunities
- Knowledge Series on Frontier Technologies for Social Inclusion in Caribbean SIDS
- Connecting Caribbean: Broadcasting diversity, streaming integration – use of AI, blockchain and other technologies in the Orange Economy
- Artificial Intelligence: A threat to journalism?
- Reimagine the world with Artificial Intelligence: Virtual link up for Caribbean youth

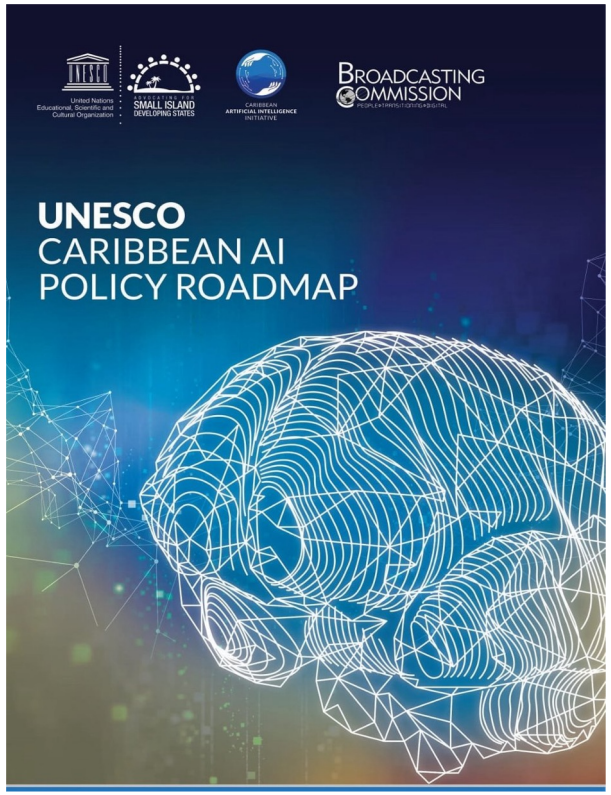
Supporting national and regional actions

- ***CARICOM Digital Skills Taskforce***
- ***National Digital Transformation Framework for Antigua & Barbuda***



Erica Simmons

- 25 Years in Software (Oracle, JD, Siemens, ServiceNow)
- Researcher & Expert on Future of Work, AI in the Caribbean
- Member UNESCO Information For All Programme (IFAP) Working Group on Information Accessibility (WGIA)
- Member, UNESCO Expert Group on Implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of AI
- Member, AI Ethics Experts Without Borders (AIEB)
- 2020-2022 Chair, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Jamaica



Research began in 2020 for the Caribbean AI Initiative, Broadcasting Commision of Jamaica and UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean

UNESCO Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap
(E. Simmons | A. Davis)
September 2021

Updating the Roadmap in 2024

UNESCO Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap 2024
(E. Simmons | A. Davis)

Background & Methodology

What is Artificial Intelligence?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a branch of computer science that aims to create systems capable of **performing tasks** that would normally r**equire human intelligence**. These tasks include learning from experience, understanding natural language, recognizing patterns, solving problems, and making decisions.

AI operates using algorithms and uses data to learn and improve

AI can aid in solving complex problems and provide valuable insights

Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach (4th ed.). Hoboken: Pearson

Global AI Opportunity

2023 - Global AI Market size - $515B USD

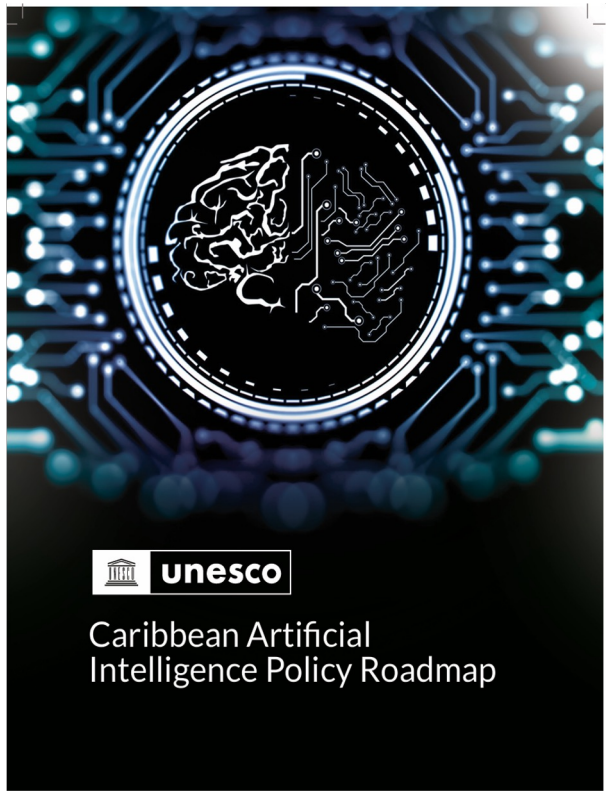
By 2023 - Global AI Market Size - $2.7T USD

20% - 40% Growth Rates

Accelerate the Adoption of AI to Help Create Limitless Opportunities for Caribbean People

Artificial Intelligence Market Size, Share, Growth Report 2032 (fortunebusinessinsights.com)

UNESCO Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap 2024
Survey Summary



The survey respondents highlighted the need for increased efforts to promote AI adoption regionally as –

- 91% were unfamiliar with any existing regional AI-related regulations or policies
- 98% believe that there is a need for increased education and awareness among citizens in the Caribbean about AI and its implications
- 79% believe AI has the potential to bring significant opportunities to the Caribbean
- 68% think the Caribbean region DOES NOT have sufficient legal frameworks in place to govern the use of AI
- 67% are aware of the potential risks associated with the use of AI

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Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Policy Roadmap

UNESCO CARIBBEAN AI POLICY ROADMAP 2024 SUMMARY

Policy Roadmap
Pillars
1. Culture & Creativity
2. Governance & Transformation
3. Upskilling & Education
4. Resiliency & Sustainability
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UNESCO CARIBBEAN AI POLICY ROADMAP

PILLAR 1

Culture & Creativity

SAFEGUARDING THE CARIBBEAN IDENTITY

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PILLAR 2

Governance & Transformation

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UNESCO CARIBBEAN AI POLICY ROADMAP 2024

PILLAR 3

Upskilling & Education

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PILLAR 4

Resiliency & Sustainability

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UNESCO CARIBBEAN AI POLICY ROADMAP 2024

AREAS OF STARTING FOCUS

Assess Current AI Landscapes

Conduct UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology

Establish Caribbean AI Strategy

Develop Ethical and Regulatory Frameworks

Enhance Data Strategies Governance and Privacy Protection

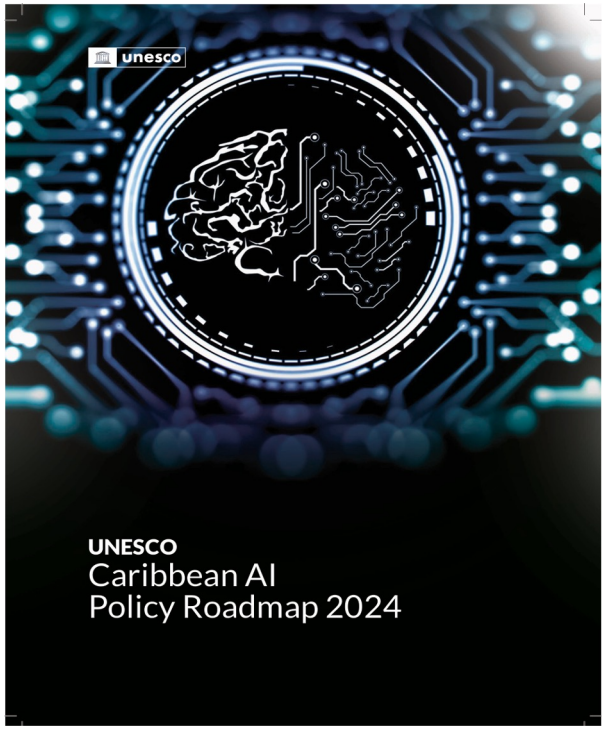
Promote AI Research, Innovation and Centres of Excellence

Start AI Literacy Campaigns, Education and Skill Development

Ways to get involved

Townhall Meetings - September

- **Government**
- **Industry**
- **Civil Society**
- **Youth**



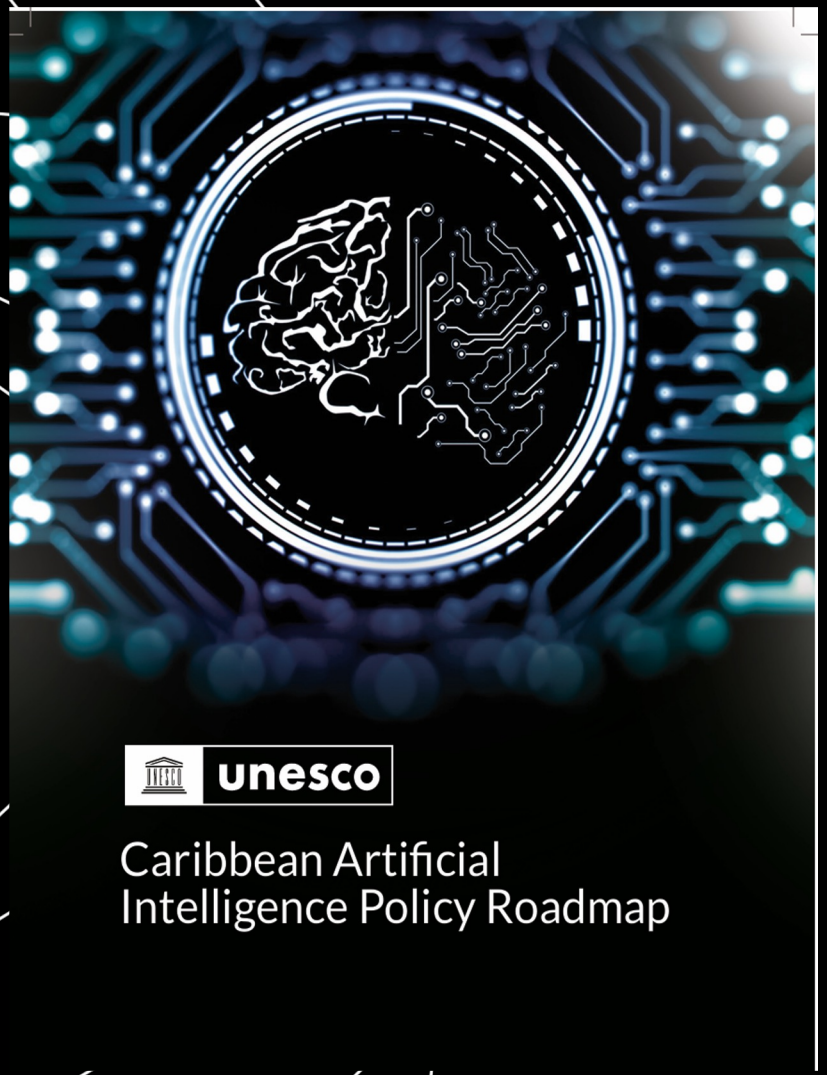
UNESCO Caribbean AI Roadmap LAUNCH

International Day for Universal Access to Information

September 28, 2024

Join our Mailing List:

EMAIL: AIROADMAP@unesco.org

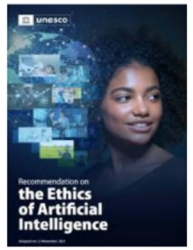


Take the Survey

Share Your Feedback!

POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND GUIDELINES

Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence



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Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation Competencies for Civil Servants

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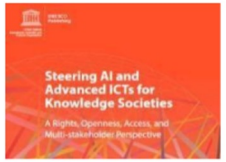
Steering AI and advanced ICTs for knowledge societies: a Rights, Openness, Access, and Multi-stakeholder Perspective



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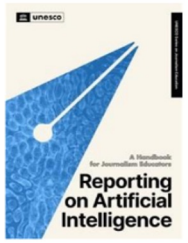
Reporting on artificial intelligence: a handbook for journalism educators



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Multistakeholder AI development: 10 building blocks for inclusive policy design

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Missing links in AI governance

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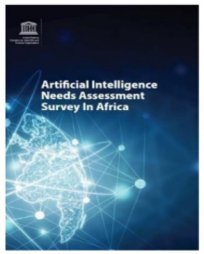
CAPACITY BUILDING PROGS AND TOOLS

Artificial Intelligence needs assessment survey in Africa



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Artificial Intelligence and the Rule of Law MOOC

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Defending Human Rights in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

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Destination AI: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

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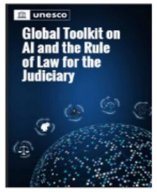
Global Toolkit on AI and the Rule of Law for the Judiciary



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UNESCO's Webinar Series on Artificial Intelligence and the Rule of Law (2023)

AI and the Rule of Law: Capacity Building for Judicial Systems

bit.ly/47kD0To

MOOC on Freedom of Expression, Artificial Intelligence & Elections

bit.ly /3yRPGEu

UNESCO Resources

Thank you for your attention

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