Data Governance for Caribbean Use and Problem Solving

21st Caribbean Internet Governance Forum

Why Data Governance Matters

Data governance is crucial for Caribbean resilience as it ensures that data is managed effectively, securely, and transparently. This can help improve decision-making, enhance service delivery, and foster trust among stakeholders.

Data Colonialism, Tailored Problem- Solving, Collaboration

Barriers in Data Governance in the Caribbean

- **Fragmented ICT Infrastructure** – Unequal access to broadband, limited rural connectivity, and inconsistent digital infrastructure across islands make unified data systems difficult.

- **Siloed National Approaches** – Each country develops its own ICT policies and databases, with limited regional harmonization, leading to duplication and inefficiencies.

- **Capacity & Skills Gaps** – Shortage of trained data scientists, ICT professionals, and policy experts hinders effective governance and data management.

- **Trust & Data Sovereignty Concerns** – Citizens and governments are often wary of sharing sensitive data across borders due to privacy, security, and sovereignty issues.

- **Limited Financial & Institutional Resources** – Budget constraints and competing priorities

Solutions to our barriers

- **Strengthen regional ICT infrastructure** through IXPs, C@ribNET, and last-mile connectivity.

- **Harmonize policies across CARICOM** with a Single ICT Space and interoperability standards.

- **Invest in skills and capacity building** via UWI, CaribNOG, and regional training programs.

- **Build trust with secure, transparent governance** and harmonized data protection laws.

- **Leverage regional and multilateral funding** to sustainably finance data governance initiatives.
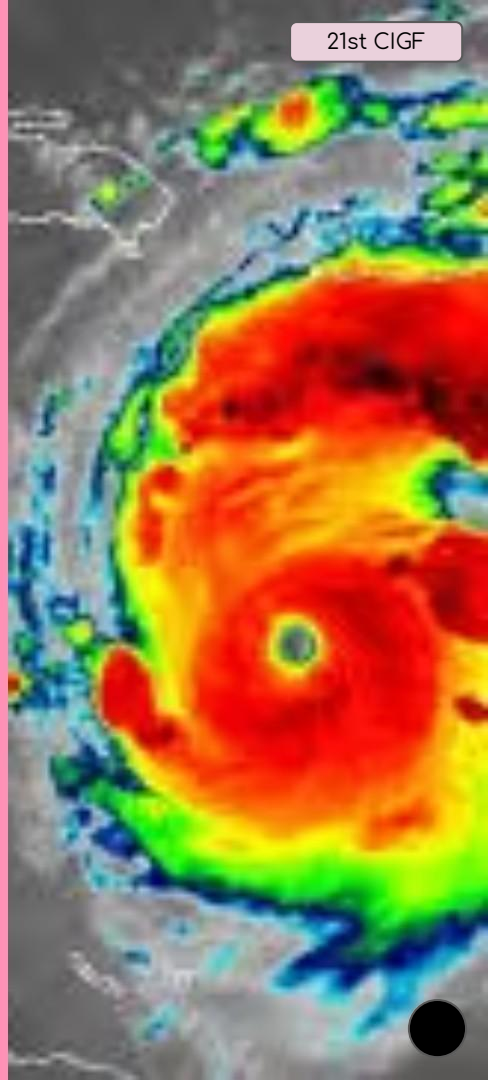
Current Challenges in ICT Infrastructure

- Limited access to reliable internet services
- Inadequate regional coordination efforts
- Lack of interoperability between systems
- Insufficient investment in data infrastructure

Issues we should prioritize as SIDS...

- **Climate Resilience**
- **Education**
- **Health**
- Economic Development

Encouraging Regional Data Generation

To foster effective data governance, we need to establish data hubs, promote interoperability, and ensure transparency in data usage. This can lead to better decision-making and resource allocation.

Global Case Studies

Examining global examples such as Kenya's health dashboards and France's clinical data warehouses can provide valuable insights on how these models can be adapted for the Caribbean context.

Proposed Solutions for the Caribbean

- Regional infrastructure sharing

- Standardized data platforms

- Governance frameworks for data usage

- Outcome dashboards for tracking progress

Possible Future Advances For Caribbean Use Cases

- **Trinidad & Tobago – Flood Management**
  Agentic AI predicts flooding using ODPM + shared hydrology data → faster disaster response.

- **Barbados – Tourism Resilience**
  AI-driven visitor flow + climate impact forecasting → sustainable tourism powered by shared environmental & economic data.

- **Jamaica – Healthcare Optimization**
  AI triage + patient data analytics → stronger healthcare delivery through interoperable health records.

- **Dominica – Hurricane Preparedness**
  AI early-warning systems simulate storm impact → success depends on transparent disaster + infrastructure data.

- **Haiti – Agriculture & Food Security**
  AI crop monitoring + climate models → better harvest outcomes with shared satellite + local farm data.

Q&A

Closing: Call to Action

- Establish a regional data governance framework

- Invest in ICT infrastructure improvements

- Foster collaboration among stakeholders

- Begin taking first steps by creating policies and standards

- Governments should incentivize stakeholders to leverage standards.