



The Caribbean Digital Policy Landscape

Towards Regional Harmonization in Digital Governance

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Today's Topics...

1

State of Caribbean digital governance

Insights from:

Global Index for Responsible AI (GIRAI)

Global Data Barometer (GDB)

2

Digital Policy Landscape Survey

Introduction to a digital policy landscape tool that provides a searchable electronic repository of over 550 existing Caribbean policy / governance artifacts

3

World Digital Governance

Novel, Revolutionary Digital Policy Framework for a collaborative, coherent approach to unified Digital, AI and Data Governance



Global Index for Responsible AI (GIRAI) Global Data Barometer (GDB)

Brief History of AI

Ideation



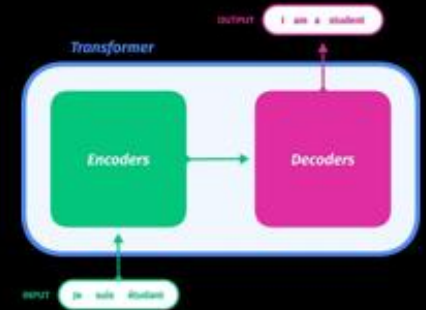
First Narrow AI success



First personal assistants



Deep learning breakthrough



1950
Turing Test

1997
Deepblue vs Kasparov

2011-14
Siri, Alexa, etc

2017
Transformers are invented

Dawn of AI	Advancements in Expert Systems	Rise of Machine Learning	Growth of Deep Learning	Generative AI Revolution
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GIRAI Launch – Caribbean Edition

Global Index on Responsible AI (GIRAI)

A multidimensional, globally-relevant measurement tool for responsible AI

What is GIRAI & Responsible AI?

- **GIRAI** is a multidimensional tool measuring progress towards **responsible AI** in 138 countries.
- Definition of **responsible AI**
 - “The *design, development, deployment and governance* of AI in a way that respects and protects all *human rights* and upholds the principles of *AI ethics* through every stage of the AI lifecycle and value chain.” (GIRAI)

DIMENSIONS

Responsible AI
Capacities

Human Rights

Responsible AI
Governance

Thematic Areas

Competitions Authority

Public Sector Skills
Development

International Cooperation

Gender Equality
Data Protection and Privacy
Public Participation and
Awareness

Bias and Unfair Discrimination
Children's Rights
Labour Protection and Right to
Work
Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

National AI Policy
Impact Assessments
Human Oversight and
Determination

Responsibility and Accountability
Proportionality and do no Harm
Public Procurement
Transparency and Explainability
Access to Remedy and Redress
Safety, Accuracy and Reliability

PILLARS

Government Frameworks
Government Actions
Non-State Actors

Global Findings: Top 10 Takeaways

AI governance does not translate into responsible AI

Mechanisms ensuring the protection of human rights in the context of AI are limited

International cooperation is an important cornerstone of current responsible AI practices

Gender equality remains a critical gap in efforts to advance responsible AI

Key issues of inclusion and equality in AI are not being addressed

Workers in AI economies are not adequately protected

Responsible AI must incorporate cultural and linguistic diversity

There are major gaps in ensuring the safety, security and reliability of AI systems










Universities and civil society are playing crucial roles in advancing responsible AI

There is still a long way to achieve adequate levels of responsible AI worldwide



Responsible AI progress is lagging far behind the development and adoption of AI

Global Rankings: Top 10 of 138 Countries

RANKINGS	COUNTRY	REGION	INDEX SCORE	PILLAR SCORE			DIMENSION SCORE		
				Government frameworks	Government actions	Non-state actors	Human rights and AI	Responsible AI capacities	Responsible AI governance
1	 Netherlands	Europe	86.16	74.33	95.46	91.23	78.74	88.59	91.12
2	 Germany	Europe	82.77	72.69	93.00	82.48	80.30	64.03	90.94
3	 Ireland	Europe	74.98	81.71	74.17	63.16	84.11	57.60	73.68
4	 United Kingdom	Europe	73.12	60.66	80.90	82.48	67.59	66.54	79.62
5	 USA	North America	72.81	62.41	79.19	80.87	65.37	84.34	74.75
6	 Estonia	Europe	67.61	65.58	81.52	43.86	65.85	58.54	72.01
7	 Italy	Europe	61.8	59.99	55.96	77.10	66.34	38.21	66.13
8	 France	Europe	57.62	56.23	58.92	57.81	39.84	55.17	72.27
9	 Canada	North America	57.39	37.80	80.84	49.68	55.37	57.06	59.07
10	 Australia	Asia and Oceania	56.22	34.69	72.44	66.82	71.31	31.62	52.67



Caribbean Findings: Country Scores



RANKINGS	COUNTRY	REGION	INDEX SCORE	PILLAR SCORE			DIMENSION SCORE		
				Government frameworks	Government actions	Non-state actors	Human rights and AI	Responsible AI capacities	Responsible AI governance
50	Dominican Republic	Caribbean	23.18	39.46	9.11	18.75	16.58	28.79	26.45
83	Jamaica	Caribbean	6.76	0.00	10.26	13.27	8.22	10.77	4.29
89	Guyana	Caribbean	5.42	0.00	2.76	21.56	4.50	13.29	3.50
91	Antigua and Barbuda	Caribbean	4.72	0.00	9.38	4.81	6.01	7.92	2.64
93	Trinidad and Tobago	Caribbean	4.65	0.00	5.67	11.90	4.61	9.33	3.11
100	Saint Lucia	Caribbean	3.34	0.00	6.62	3.43	0.00	21.12	0.00
102	Belize	Caribbean	3.22	0.00	8.05	0.00	2.91	6.80	2.27
112	Barbados	Caribbean	1.92	0.00	3.93	1.75	0.95	9.96	0.00
129	Haiti	Caribbean	0.71	0.00	1.29	0.99	0.00	4.53	0.00

Caribbean Region: The Way Forward

Governance

- Establish frameworks, policies and laws .
- If we do not keep pace with AI adoption, the democratic values and human rights of citizens could be adversely affected.

Capacity Building

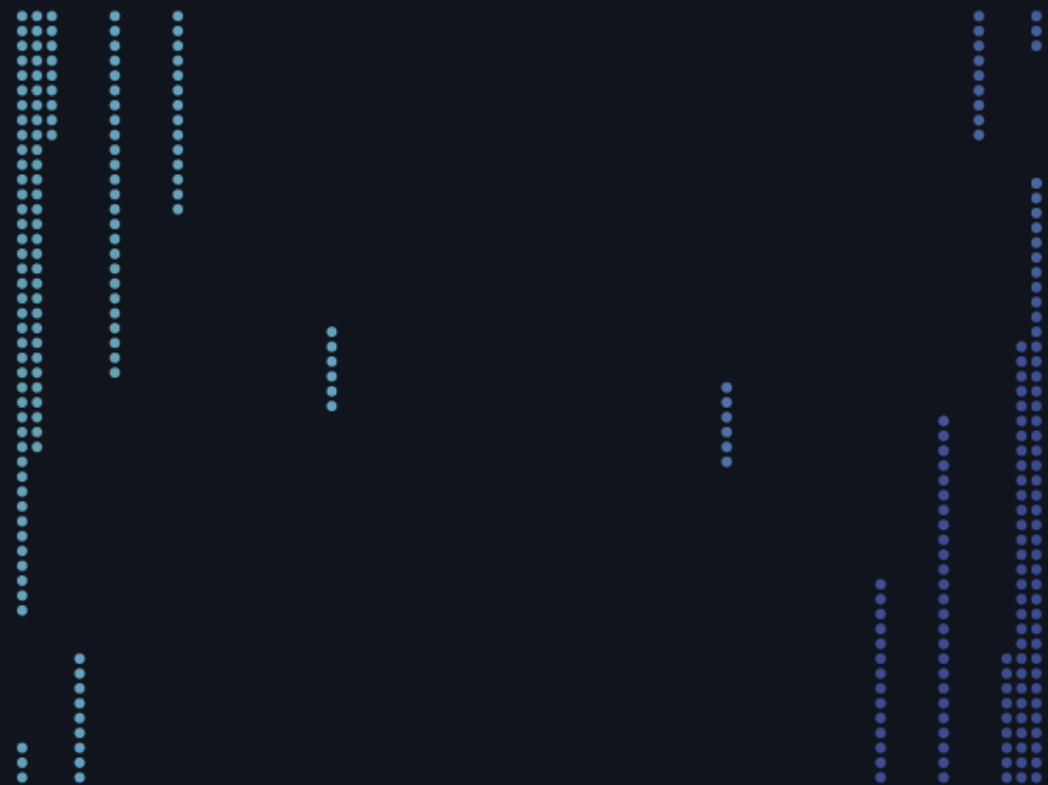
- Develop capacity to address the gaps e.g. data scientist.
- Build public awareness.
- Responsible AI advocacy.
- Understand links between the key thematic areas and AI e.g., children rights.
- More seamless to address responsible AI at the same time.

Collaboration

- Regional institutions should collectively address responsible AI, e.g. shared frameworks and capacity-building initiatives.
- Learn from previous collaborations on emerging technologies through regional inter-governmental agencies e.g. CTU, CARICOM
- International Partnerships
- EU, UN, OAS, will help in building capacity.
- Academia and government collaborations could be useful.



Global index ^[on] Responsible AI



2024

1st Edition Report

In Partnership

Get the Report at:
<http://global-index.ai>



2025 GDB REPORT

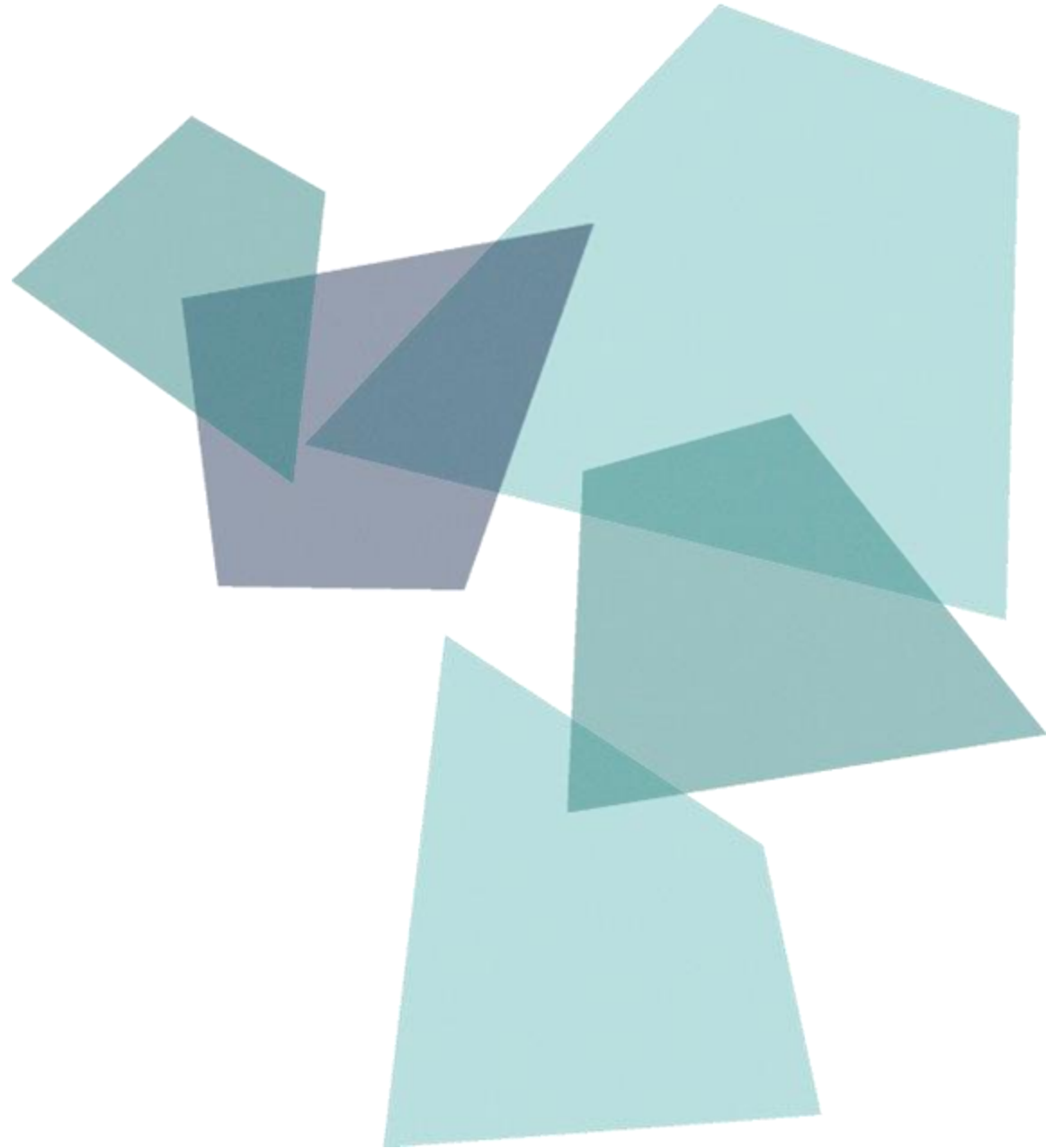
SECOND EDITION



Global Data Barometer



D4D.net
Data for Development



A comprehensive study assessing national data ecosystems and the ways in which data is governed, shared, and leveraged for the public good





Regional Partners

We carry out our research through a network of regional research hubs.

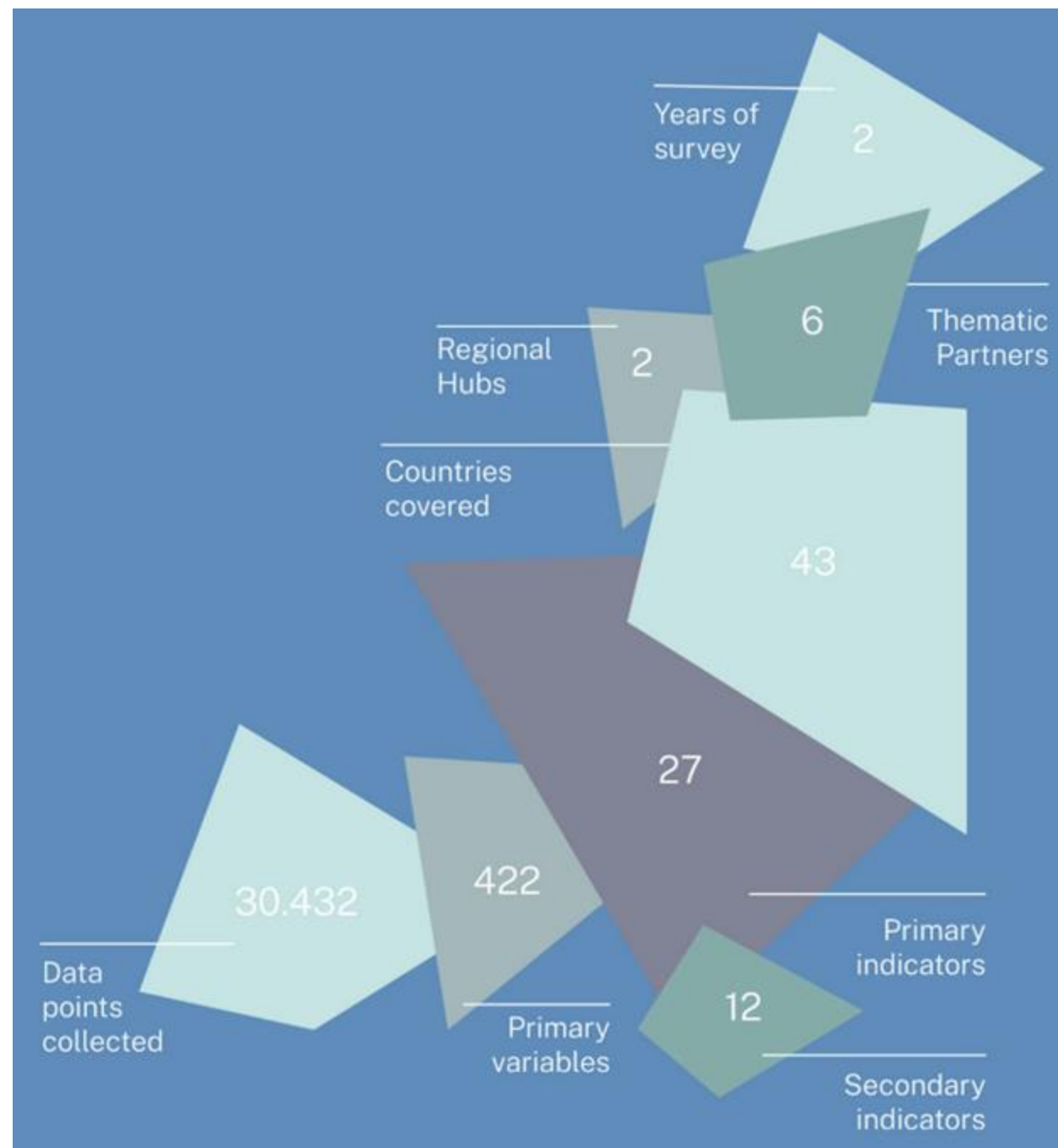


Thematic Partners

We collaborate with leading international organizations with deep expertise to design thematic clusters.



2nd Edition Numbers





Geographical Scope





Methodology

- *Study period: August 31st, 2022 - September 1st, 2024 (2 years).*
- *Expert survey: Developed in collaboration with thematic global partners.*
- *Pillars: All indicators area defined under one of these three pillars*

Governance

- Legislation
- Regulation
- Policies
- Guidelines

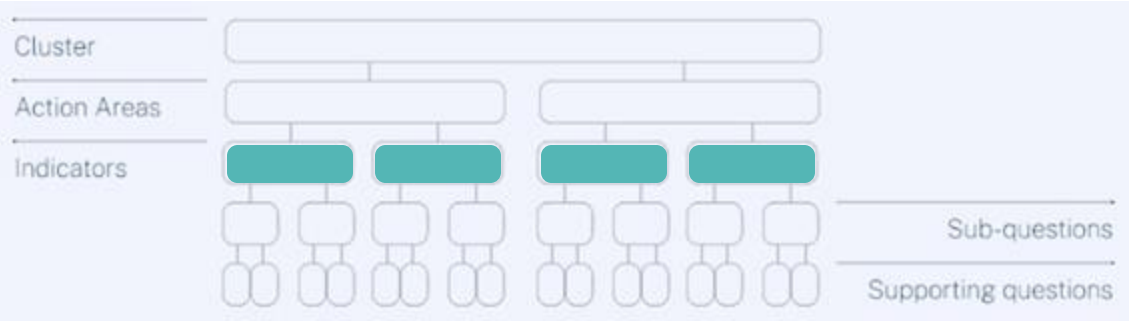
Capabilities

- Authorities, agencies, teams
- Skills, training
- Infrastructure

Availability

- Thematic areas
- Kinds, fields, and access
- Standards
- Implementation gaps
- Interoperability

Structure

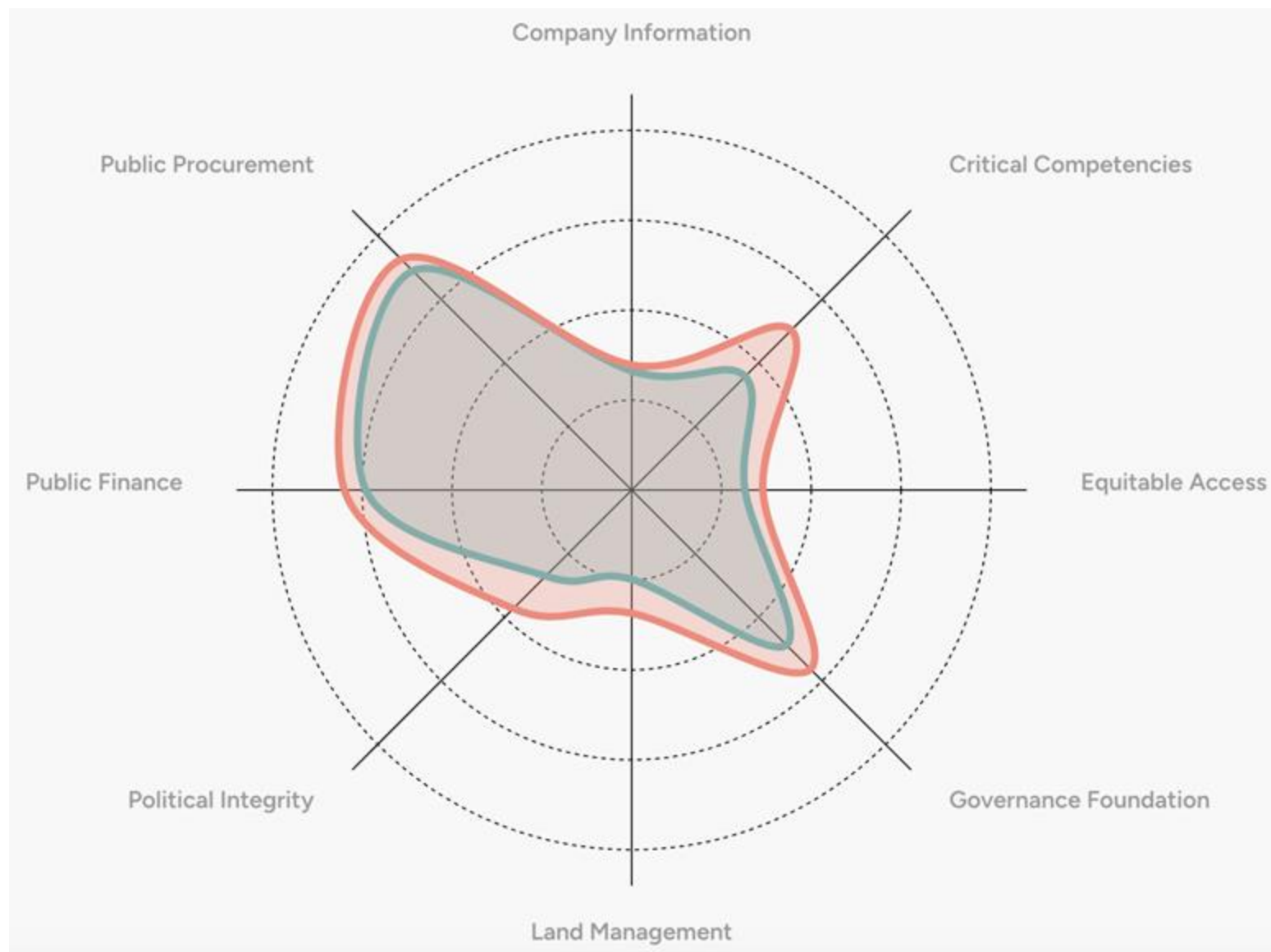
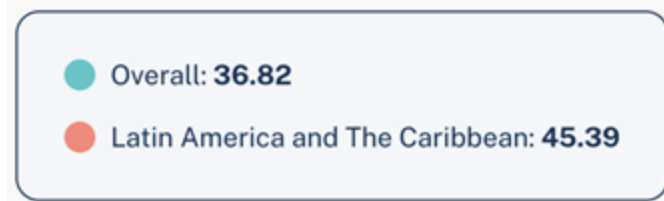


Cluster	Action Area
Governance Foundations	Data Protection
	Data Management
	Data Sharing
	Data Infrastructure
Critical Competencies	Data Literacy
	Data Reuse
Political Integrity	Political Finance
	Interest and Asset Declarations
	Lobbying
	Right to Access Information Performance
	Political Integrity Interoperability
Land Management	Land Tenure
	Land Use
Company Information	Beneficial Ownership of Companies
	Company Register
Public Procurement	Public Procurement
Public Finance	Budget and Spending
Equitable Access	Accessibility
	Language





General Results



Core Areas of Analysis

Governance Foundations
Critical Competencies



Global Data Barometer



Governance Foundations

This cluster includes several action areas, such as data protection, data management, and data sharing -fundamental components that support responsible data ecosystems

	Caribbean	Central America	South America
Governance Foundation	47.71	49.14	66.73
It assesses a number of foundational frameworks key for a healthy data ecosystem.			
Action areas ^			
Data Management ▾	33.20	31.86	65.89 ●
Data Protection ▾	63.33 ●	48.38 ●	63.77
Data Sharing ▾	3.80 ●	27.14 ●	38.70 ●
Data Infrastructure ▾	65.35	65.66	79.86

- Region’s weakest primary indicator
- Region’s strongest primary indicator

Critical Competencies



This cluster focuses on the skills and practices required to leverage data effectively.

	Caribbean	Central America	South America
Critical Competencies	40.56	41.57	62.58
It evaluates the capabilities and steps to support effective data production, storage, publication, and use.			
Action areas ^			
Data Literacy ^	63.94	50.73	60.45
Capability (C): Civil service training	62.98	44.88	53.10
Capability (C): Digital skills*	51.23	52.14	52.68
Capability (C): Human capital*	73.29	61.40	79.46
Data Reuse ^	29.71	37.32	63.57
Capability (C): AI Adoption by Business*	41.49	41.42	42.20
Capability (C): Data use by international organizations*	76.00	87.14	95.93
Capability (C): Government support for re-use	10.73	13.60	43.45
Capability (C): Knowledge-intensive employment*	34.98	24.38	29.78
Capability (C): Open data initiative	32.45	40.73	83.63
Governance (G): Open data policy	27.00	45.37	70.44



Key Insights

- Several of the Global GDB key Findings resonate strongly with the Caribbean
 - **Data Skills and Competencies are Essential** - Without foundational digital infrastructure, skilled public officials, and robust institutions, even well-designed governance frameworks remain aspirational.
 - **AI Readiness Remains Fragmented and Underdeveloped** - While AI is increasingly part of national development strategies, most data governance frameworks still lack explicit guidance on the use of data for AI development. AI is only as good as the data it is trained on.
 - **Open Data Is at a Crossroads** - Governments have made progress in adopting open data policies, but active, government-led initiatives are largely in decline.

Thematic Areas of Analysis



Global Data Barometer

More información at
<https://globaldatabarometer.org/>



Global Data Barometer

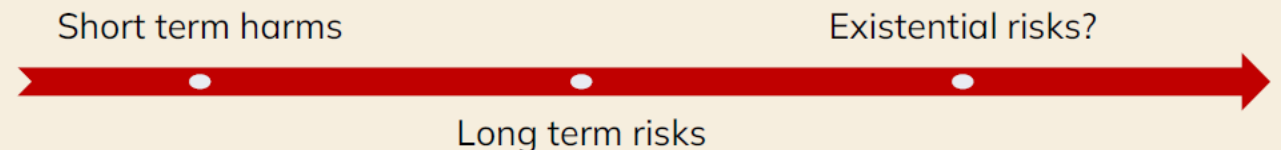
Data and AI Governance

Interdependence & Coherence between Data and AI Governance

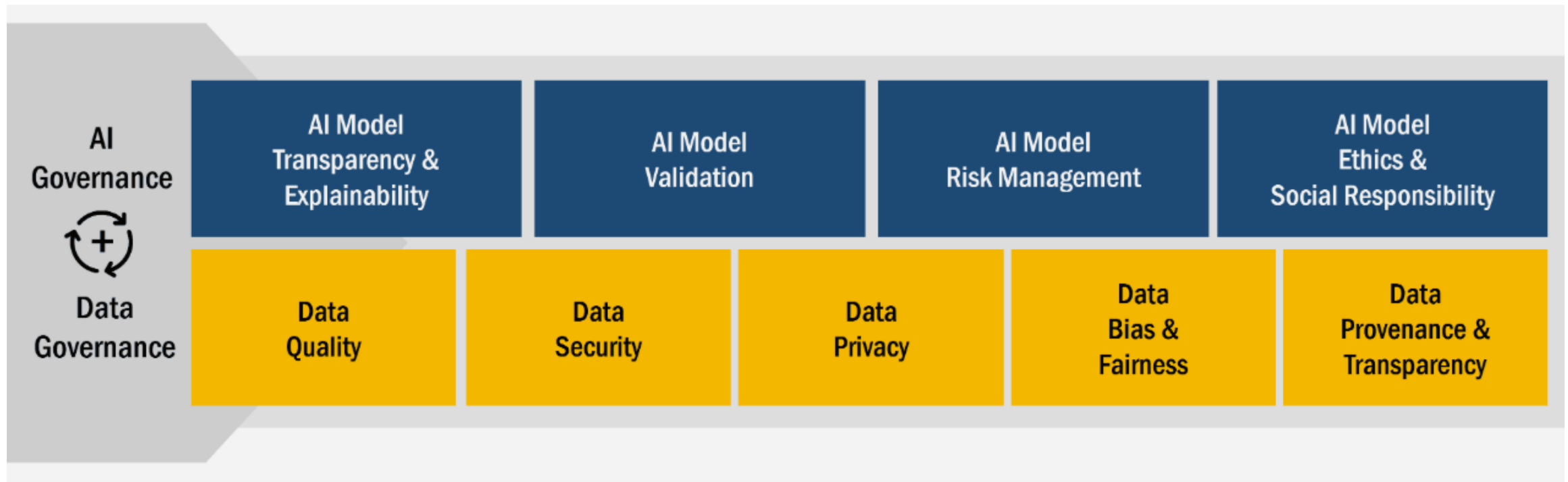
AI is only as good as the data it is trained on
(AI = algorithms + data + compute)

Key Governance Issues

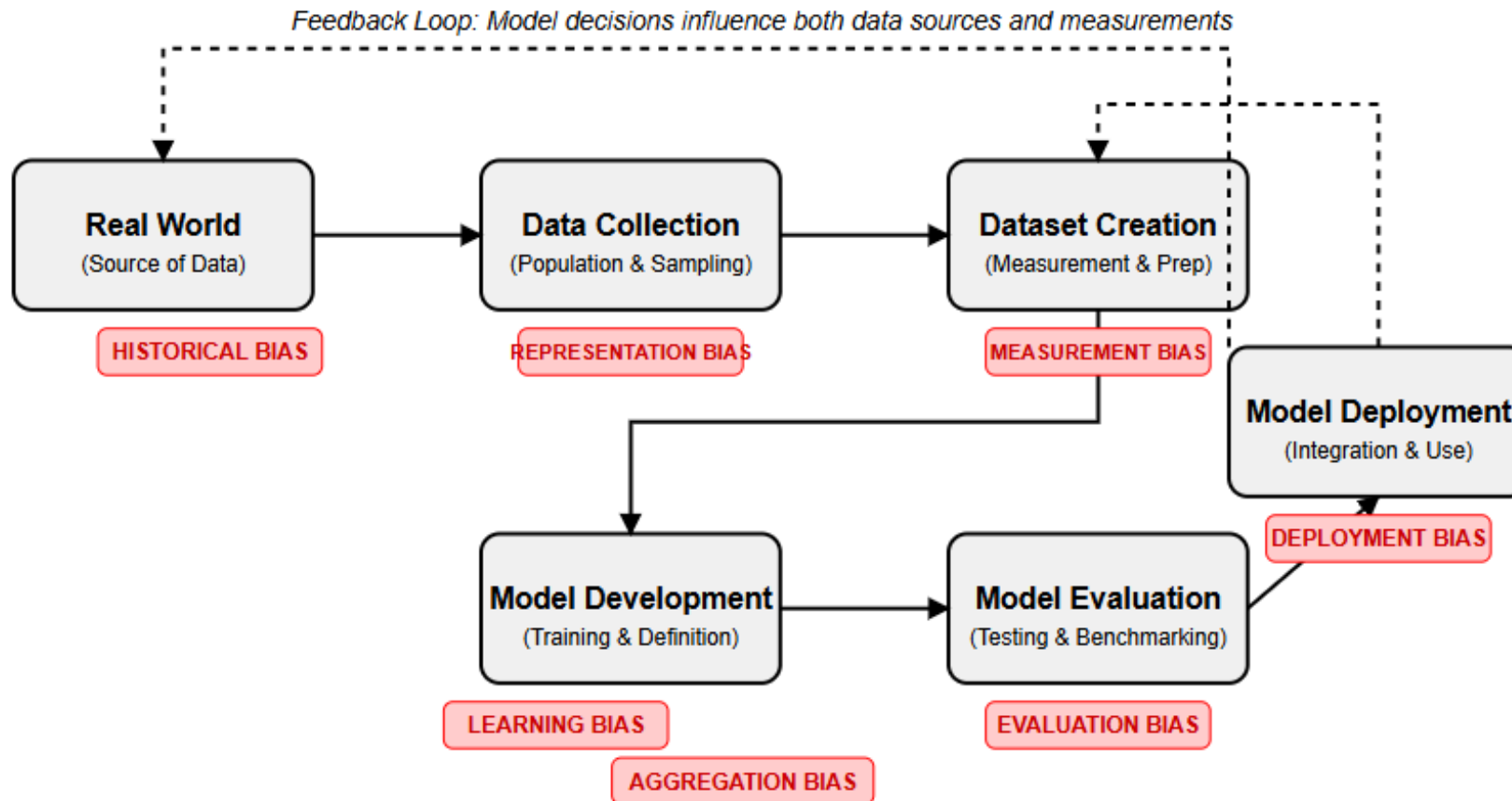
- Making data representative; fostering open and accessible data systems
- Developing interoperable standards for data quality and data integration
- Empowering people to control their personal data > principles for data protection



Data and AI Governance



Fairness in AI models

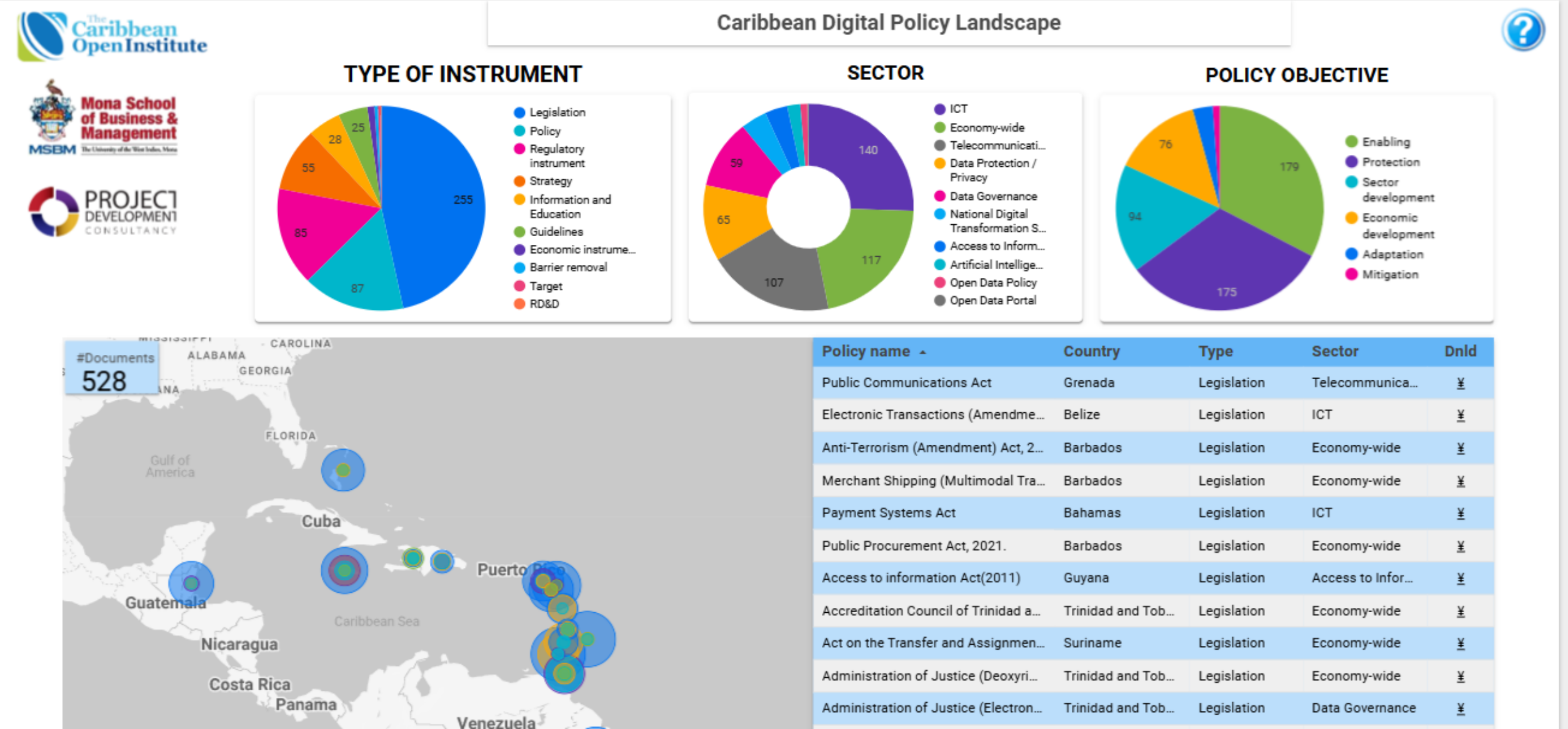


Fairness risks may arise from every step in the AI Life Cycle.

Caribbean Digital Policy Landscape Tool

Caribbean Digital Policy Landscape

- The Caribbean Digital Policy Landscape Repository is a comprehensive digital toolkit that maps the existing laws, regulations, policies, and key institutional actors shaping the ICT, Data, and AI governance ecosystem across the Caribbean.
 - Comprehensive Policy Mapping
 - Evaluate regulatory coherence across national boundaries
 - Identify gaps and opportunities in the regional digital policy landscape
 - Support regional policy coordination and harmonisation efforts



Policy name Country Instrument Sector Search Policy description

#Policies 528 Legislation 255 Regulation 85 Policy 87 Strategy 55 Guidelines 25

Source Ref

Caribbean Digital Policy Landscape - Policies

Policy name	Country	Responsible institution(s)	Effective....	Policy description	Sector coverage	Instrument
				provides for remedies such as damages and retractions. It modernizes defamation laws to address both traditional and digital media.		
Digital Agenda 2016-2020	Dominican Republic	Ministry of the Presidency (MINPRE); Dominican Telecommunications Institute (INDOTEL); Ministry of Education; Ministry of Public Administration	1905-07-08	The Digital Agenda 2016-2020 established guidelines for ICT development, e-government services, broadband expansion, and digital literacy in the Dominican Republic.	National Digital Transformation Strategy	Strategy
Digital Agenda 2030	Dominican Republic	Ministry of the Presidency (MINPRE); Government Office of Information and Communication Technologies (OGTIC); Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Development (MEPyD)	2021-06-01	The Digital Agenda 2030 promotes digital transformation in the Dominican Republic. It aims to transform the Dominican Republic into a digital leader by 2030. It focuses on bridging the digital divide, enhancing and expanding ICT infrastructure, promoting innovation, improving governance, building a competitive digital economy, and improving citizens' quality of life through accessible technology.	National Digital Transformation Strategy	Policy
Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2026)	Regional	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Organization of American States (OAS), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and regional member governments	1905-07-13	A comprehensive digital transformation agenda aimed at fostering digital inclusion, expanding digital infrastructure, promoting innovation and digital government services, and driving socio-economic development across the region, with a target horizon of 2026.	ICT	Strategy
Digital Assets Business (Amendment) Act, 2020	Antigua and Barbuda	Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance	2021-05-01	The Digital Assets Business (Amendment) Act, 2020 of Antigua and Barbuda amends the original Digital Assets Business Act, 2018. It provides a legal framework for the regulation of digital assets businesses, such as those dealing with cryptocurrencies, and offers enhanced oversight of these activities. This Act aims to strengthen the regulatory environment for digital	Data Governance	Legislation



Caribbean Digital Policy Library

Home

Chatbot

About

Chatbot Help

Example Questions

→ What are the elements of the Guyana National Strategy and Action Plan?

→ Describe the key components of the AI National Strategy for Dominican Republic

→ Describe the scope and contents of any existing ICT policies relating to Agriculture

↻ Reset Conversation

Assistant

Hello! I'm your Policy AI assistant. You can ask me questions in two ways:

- Content Queries: Ask about policy content, comparisons, and analyses.
- CSV Metadata Queries: Ask about the datasets themselves - statistics, trends, and data structure.

Content Queries



Ask a question about Caribbean Policy Data...



- Link: <https://digitalpolicies.caribbeanopeninstitute.org/>



World Digital Governance (WDG) Unified Digital Policy Initiative

WDG Digital Policy — Executive Summary

Executive Readout for WDG Digital Policy Initiative



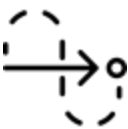
Background

- Due to **Rapid Digital Tech Expansion**, there is an **urgent need** for a **Unified Global Digital Policy, Regulation, Ontology, Standards, and Ethics (P.R.O.S.E.)**
- To begin addressing **critical questions** regarding **AI & Data Ownership**, we want to start by creating the **Unified Global Digital Policy for the World**
- We aim to establish a **Global Digital Policy framework** ensuring **Individual Data Ownership, Ethical AI Practices, and Trusted Virtual Assets**



Key Objectives

- Establish a **globally harmonized digital policy framework** to streamline governance across jurisdictions
- To **research, collect and categorize** global policy documents, **extracting table of content** to **build a comprehensive policy corpus** and **searchable repository**
- To **convert policy table of content** into **clear, standardized policy language** aligned with WDG principles, **producing draft policy documents** (v1 & beyond)
- Coordinate **external communication, manage stakeholder outreach and feedback, expand the expert network** and **maintain a log of policy feedback**



What Exists Today

- The current global digital policy landscape is marked by **fragmentation and inconsistency**. The following are what our policy aims to address:
- **Fragmented global digital policies** create gaps in data, AI, and virtual asset governance, leading to **inefficiencies and vulnerabilities**
- GDPR and UNESCO's AI Ethics Set Standards but **lack universal integration**
- **No single policy** comprehensively tackles **data sovereignty, transparency, or trust** across **all digital domains**, which limits innovation and cooperation



What is Different in Our Approach

- Unlike **existing efforts that address** digital governance **in silos**, we **integrate Data Sovereignty, Ethical AI, & Virtual Asset Management into a Single Policy**
- Ensuring the we take a **Principle over Policy approach to resolve conflicts** between GDPR, UNESCO, & other Global Standards
- Plan to **engage 20,000+ Authors and 500+ Experts for feedback** on the Policy before is it proposed for Implementation with Ministers



What's Next

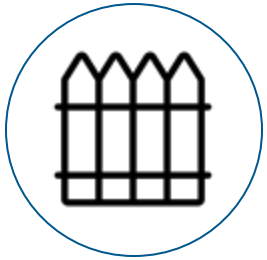
- **Unified Policy Database & Table of Contents for Draft Policy** will be completed **by April 2025**
- Authors will **Review & Provide Feedback** to improve the policy draft **in May-June 2025**
- The Policy will be **Presented at the CTU Summit in September 2025 & adopted** by several nations **by the End of the Year**

WDG Digital Policy — Principles



Ensure **Digital Sovereignty** for All

- Individual's Digital Sovereignty above all. You have ultimate right to your data.
- Shared Data has Shared Ownership and hence requires multi-party consent.
- Organizations and Governments Digital Sovereignty honor their legal framework



Accelerate **AI** with Clear **Guardrails**

- Guardrails on what Data can be fed to an AI Model for its Training
- Guardrails on what People can or cannot use AI Models for
- Guardrails on what Decisions can be made by AI (without human intervention)



Principle over Policy for any Arbitration

- AI Disputes are resolved by the a common WDG Arbitration Framework
- Arbitration Framework is based on the core idea that Principles trump Policy
- Arbitrations Primary Goal is to resolve conflicts in Digital Sovereignty (Free Will)

UWI's Caribbean Policy Database Initiative

UWI has already put in a large effort to consolidate Data on Digital Policy for the Caribbean



UWI's Contribution

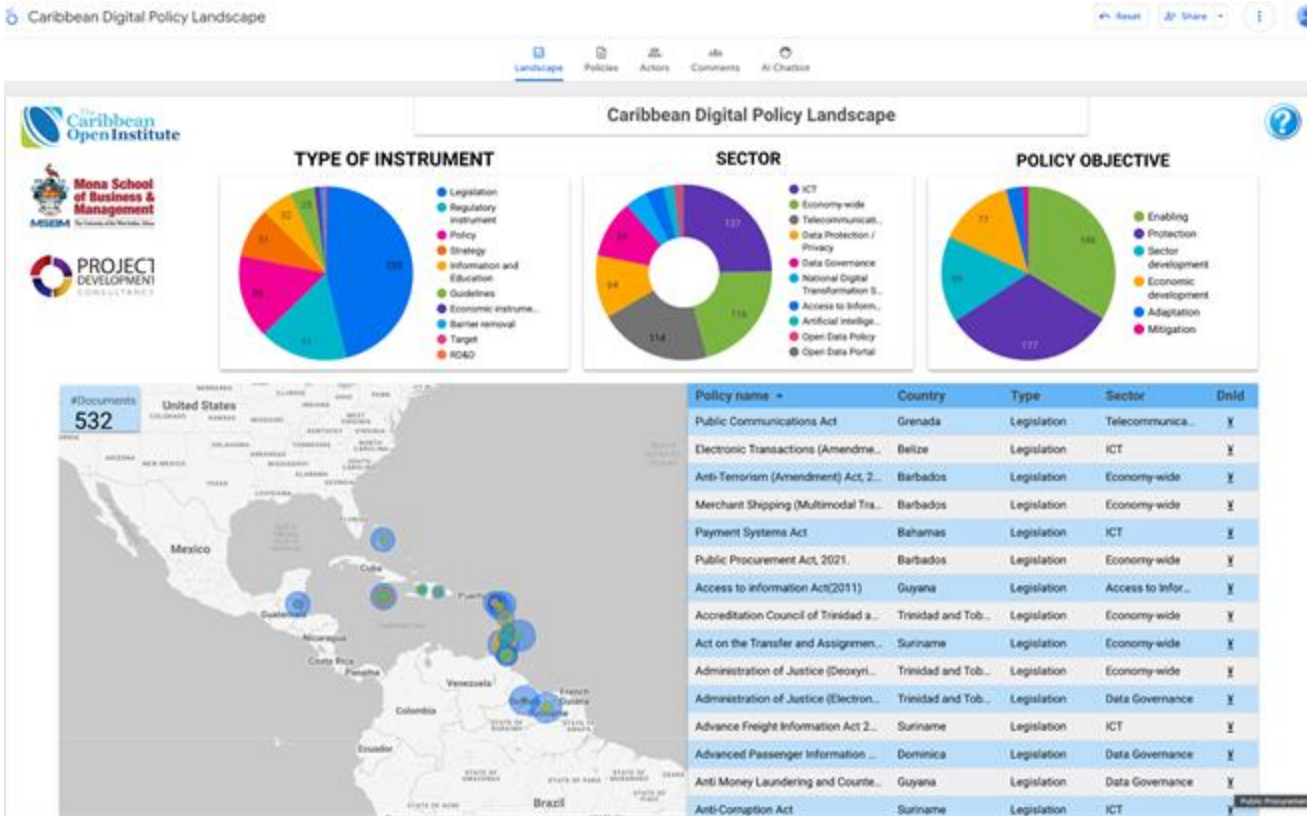
The **University of the West Indies (UWI)** has developed a **Database of 532 Caribbean Policies**, providing a critical foundation for **Regional Digital Governance Research**.



Relevance to WDG

This Existing Work serves as a **Starting Point** for the WDG Policy Project's Goal of creating a **Unified Global Policy Repository for the World**

Looker Studio Dashboard of UWI Caribbean Policy Database

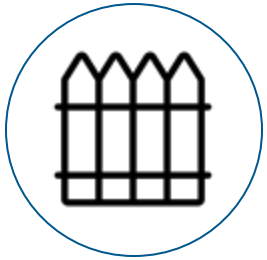


WDG Digital Policy — Scope



Research

- Collect & Categorize Global Policy Organizations, Documents, & People
- Create a Searchable Repository of all Data in Unified Policy Database
- Extract & Compile Full ToC of all Digital Policy Documents



Draft

- Rationalized Full ToC into Consolidated ToC with a Max of 20 Level 1 Bullets
- Expand on the Consolidated ToC to Create an Initial Policy Draft
- Work on Adjustments to Drafts based on Feedback from Working Groups



Outreach

- Communicate w/ People in Policy DB to add them to Working Groups
- Engage Key Stakeholders & Influencers for Advocacy
- Compile & Manage Feedback from Working Groups

WDG Digital Policy — Visual Plan

The following plan covers the outcomes for WDG Digital Policy from Week of April 19th till Sept 2025

April '25

Create Unified Policy Database

May '25

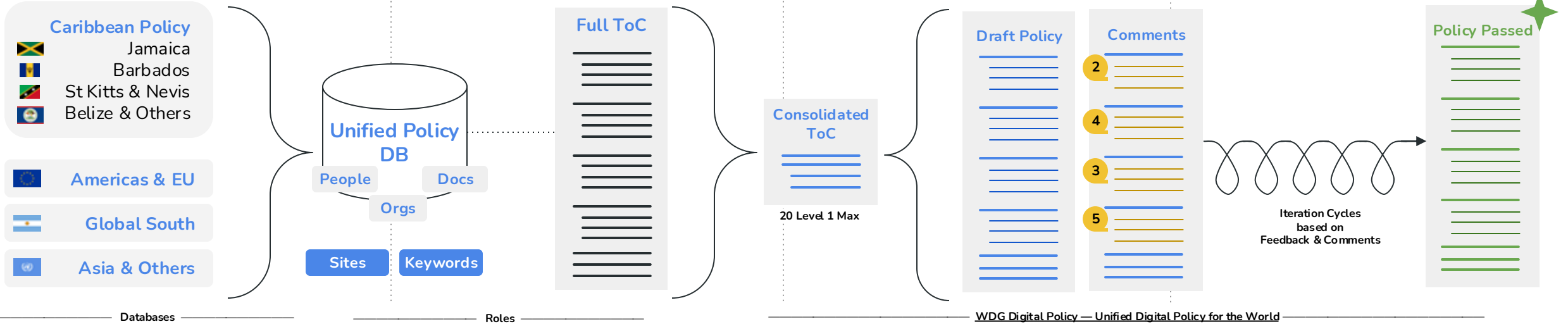
Create Consolidated Table of Contents

June '25

Distribute Draft Policy for Comment

July to Sept '25

Iterate & Push for Policy Implementation



People



Database of named individuals from policy documents with affiliations and roles

Organizations



Database of involved institutions linked to each document and individual

Documents



Repository of all global policy/regulatory documents related to AI, Data, and Virtual Assets



Drafting Specialists

Convert policy TOCs into clear policy language; align with WDG principles



Outreach Specialists

Coordinate external communications; manage stakeholder outreach and feedback



Policy Researchers

Collect and categorize global policy documents; extract Table of Contents



Lead

Track timelines, manage backlog and sprints; ensure milestones are met

Philosophy — A unified global digital policy is seen as the best approach as it's inclusive, globally harmonized design fosters trust and drives innovation effectively.



Today

Global digital policies today are fragmented and inconsistent. No single policy fully addresses data sovereignty, transparency, or trust. This creates gaps in data, AI, and virtual asset governance.



Problem

The problem is the lack of a unified global digital policy. This leads to fragmented digital governance, compromised data sovereignty, unethical and irresponsible governance of virtual assets and AI, and disempowerment of people and countries.



Solution & Benefit

World Digital Governance aims to solve the problem of fragmented and unequal regulation of digital technologies by creating a unified, inclusive, and accountable global framework for managing the digital space.

Data Sovereignty: Empowering Individuals and Nations to control their Data.

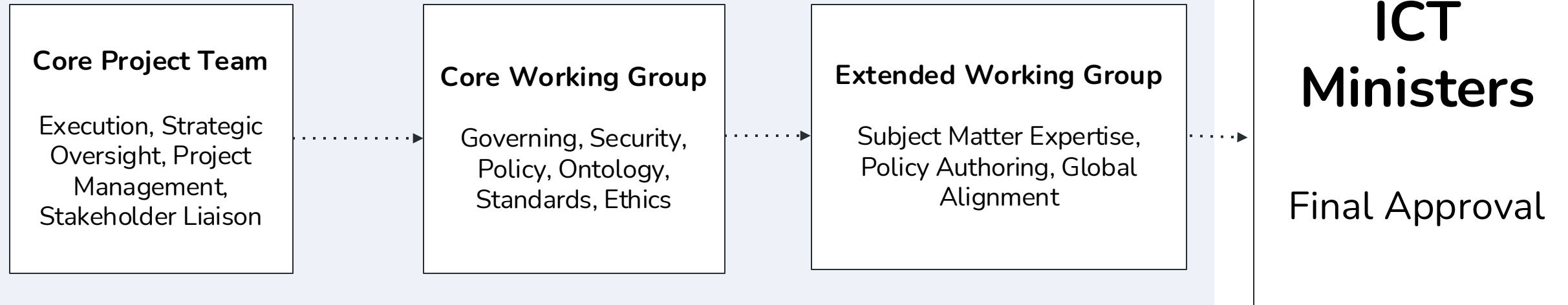
Ethical AI: governance: Ensuring transparent responsible and nights - respecting AI.

Virtual Asset Regulation: Creating trust frameworks for decentralized and digital economies

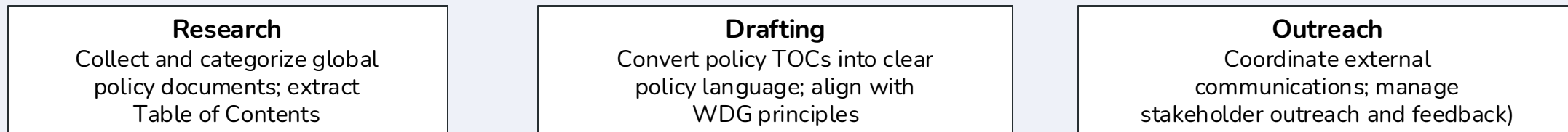
WDG Digital Policy — Operating Model

Structure of the Different Groups involved in the WDG Digital Policy Initiative and their Roles

Working Groups — Enabling the Policy Shaping and Approval



WDG — Core Functions for Policy Enablement



Who's involved

A few people who are already at the forefront of of this

Extended Working Group (500+ People across 11 Key Areas)

Virtual Assets Regulation — Expertise in tokenized assets, blockchain governance, DeFi, and CBDC legal implications

Global Data Protection Law — GDPR, CCPA, African Data Protection Acts, cross-border data transfer regimes

Cybersecurity & Digital Identity — Zero-knowledge proofs, privacy tech, national ID frameworks, authentication protocols

Financial Inclusion & Digital Payments — Experience with low-cost fintech, inclusive banking models, mobile money

Ontology & Knowledge Engineering — Formal modeling of entities, activities, transactions; semantic standards (e.g., OWL)

Open Standards & Protocol Design — OASIS, W3C, ISO contributors; cross-compatibility of systems and infrastructure

Human Rights & Ethics in AI — Global south advocacy, algorithmic bias, data colonialism, participatory governance

Indigenous & Linguistic Inclusion — Legal frameworks that respect local customs, language adaptation of digital policy

AI Systems Architecture — Technical infrastructure, federated systems, agentic platforms, LLM deployment models

Public Sector Transformation — How digital policy can modernize and integrate into government systems and workflows

Global Trade & Digital Economy — WTO rules, trade data governance, cross-border e-commerce policy

Caribbean Digital Policy — Steps

Major steps in the process



Gathering of Data (UWI)

- **Collection** of all Caribbean policies available.
- **Major** start point to the process.



Gathering Files (WDG Core Project Team)

- **Extracted** PDF'S from all provided links.
- PDF's stored to a drive.



Scoring Model (WDG Core Project Team)

- **Scoring criteria** defined for the documents.
- **Documents scored** for relevance to WDG Digital Policy



Extracting TOC from Documents

- TOC **retrieved from all policy** documents.
- TOC **Extracts are stored with references** Docs



Scoring TOC

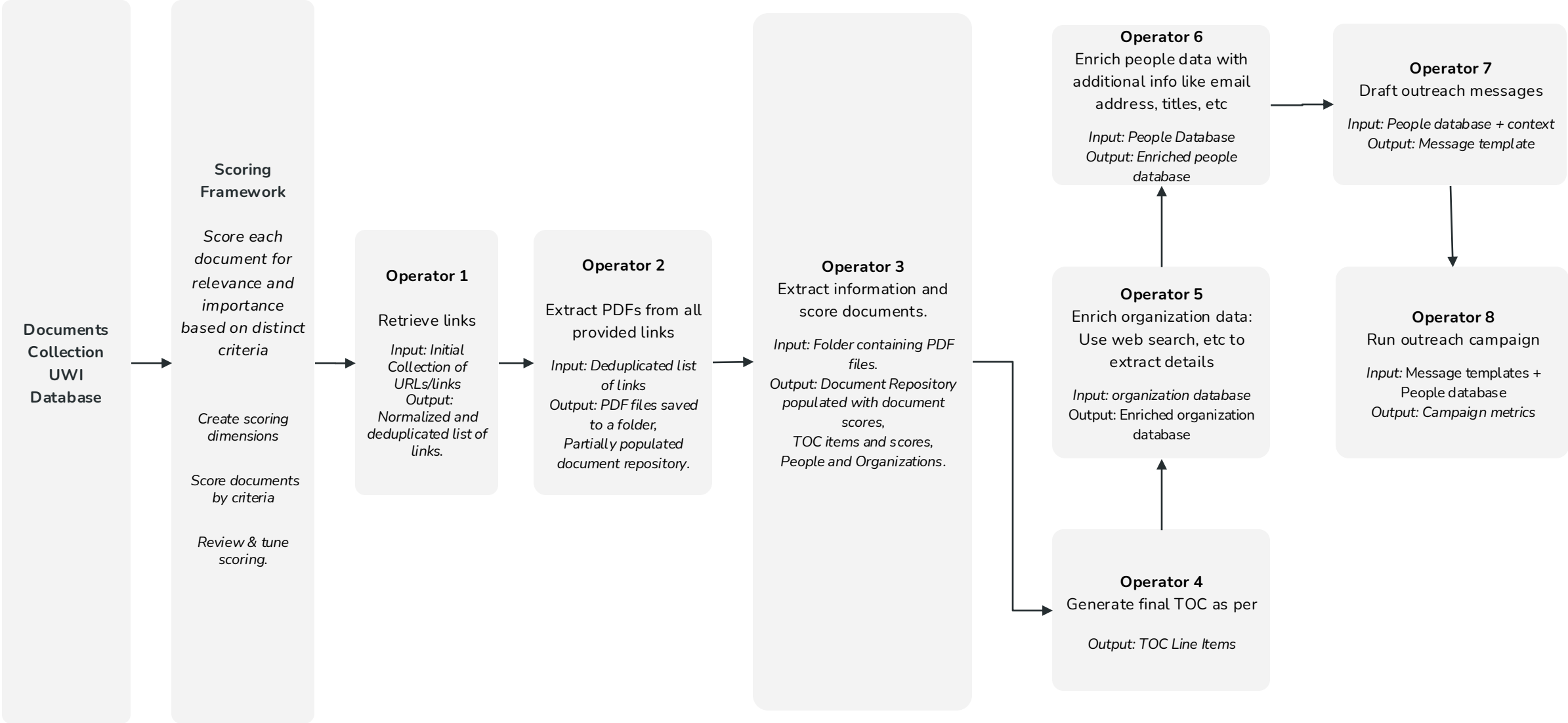
- **Scoring criteria** defined for the TOC
- TOC **scored** for relevance to WDG Digital Policy



Creating Final TOC (Core Project Team)

- **Final Table of Contents Constraints Defined (20)**
- **Final TOC Generated for Human Review**

End to End Process Workflow



Scoring Logic

Dimension	Description	Scoring Logic	Weight
Entity Match (Topic)	Identifies AI, Virtual Assets, and Data Ownership/Privacy entities via OpenAI.	entityCount (total): >2 = 3, 1-2 = 2, 0 = 1 (per topic: AI, VA, Data)	25%
Policy Keywords	Counts policy-related terms (e.g., bill, act) in text, non-overlapping.	keywordCount: >3 = 3, 1-3 = 2, 0 = 1	15%
Country/Region Mention	Detects Caribbean country, regional, or subregional mentions via OpenAI.	countryRegionMentions: >0 = 2, 0 = 1 (includes countries, CARICOM, OECS, etc.)	10%
Source Credibility	Assesses URL for authoritative markers (e.g., .gov, .int, Caribbean TLDs).	isCredible: true = 3, false = 1	15%
Document Type	Prioritizes primary sources (laws, regulations) over secondary.	typeScore: Law/Regulation = 3, Policy/Strategy = 2, Secondary = 1	10%
Recency	Scores based on publication year, with decay for older documents.	recencyScore: 2023-2025 = 3, 2020-2022 = 2, <2020 = 1	10%
Metadata Richness	Bonus for official citations, detailed summaries (>6 words inferred).	metadataScore: +1 per criterion (citation, summary), max 2	10%
Translation/Summary Availability	Bonus for official translations or detailed summaries (>6 words) regardless of language.	translationScore: Available = 1, Not available = 0	5%
Topic Coverage	Bonus for covering all three core topics (AI, VA, Data).	topicCoverage: 3 = 2, <3 = 0	10%