



CARIBBEAN DIGITAL RESILIENCE

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Joint EC/GC Meeting • CTU ICT Week 2026
21 Sep 2026



Why Resilience Matters for the Caribbean



A Region Exposed to Disruption

Hurricanes, earthquakes, submarine cable faults, cyberattacks and power outages threaten the availability and continuity of critical telecoms infra.



Connectivity Underpins Essential Services

Government, finance, healthcare, education, tourism and emergency response depend on reliable national and international communications.



The Cost of Disconnection is Far-Reaching

Network disruptions can isolate communities, interrupt economic activity, delay disaster response and undermine public safety.



Resilience is a Strategic Imperative

The Caribbean must ensure that its networks can anticipate, withstand, adapt to and rapidly recover from disruptions.

Submarine Cables

Part 1

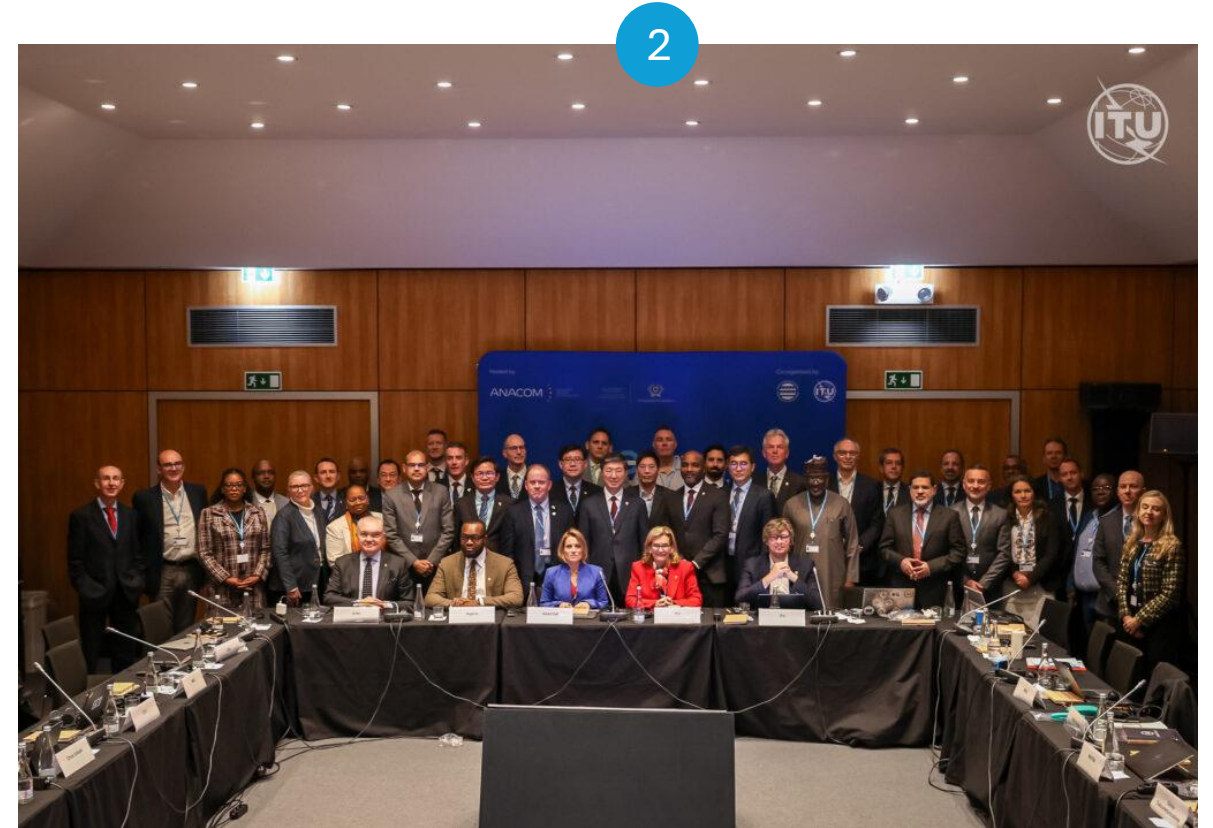
CTU's Work in Submarine Cables



CARCIP (SLU, VCT, GRD)
Funded by World Bank



3
**Science Monitoring And Reliable
Telecommunications (SMART)**
Subsea Cables CARIBE



ITU/ICPC International Advisory Body
on Submarine Cable Resilience

IAB Submarine Cable Resilience

- Launched by ITU/ICPC in 2025
- 3 working groups
- WG3: CTU x World Bank
- Key recommendations agreed in Porto, 2026 (*Porto Declaration*)

Submarine Cable Investment Breakfast

Summary

- **February 3, 7:30am-9:30am** on the sidelines of the **International Submarine Cable Resilience Summit** in Porto, Portugal
- **76 Participants**, 5 Speakers, 6 Roundtables

Main Takeaways

- **Innovative financing models** are essential – including blended finance, PPPs, de-risking tools, and anchor tenancy to boost bankability
- **Regional project opportunities** were discussed – covering Asia, Africa, and a potential Caribbean-wide cable drawing lessons from the Pacific
- Encouraging **investment through open, competitive markets** is critical – supported by policies driving demand across data centers, backhaul, networks, and towers
- **Optimization of existing assets** can accelerate impact – e.g., by leveraging underused terrestrial fiber and extending the life of aging submarine systems
- **Repair and maintenance financing** should be built into design – via repair reserves, pre-arranged tenders, or insurance for quick response and resilience

Summit Documents*

- [Porto Summit Declaration](#)
- Working Group 1, Timely Deployment & Repair: [Recommendations](#)
- Working Group 2, Risk Identification, Monitoring & Mitigation: [Recommendations](#)
- Working Group 3, Fostering Connectivity & Geographic Diversity: [Recommendations](#)

*<https://www.itu.int/digital-resilience/submarine-cables/events/about-porto-summit/>



**International Submarine
Cable Resilience
Summit 2026**

2–3 February 2026, Porto, Portugal

Hosted by:

ANACOM



Co-organized by:

Co-organized by:



The Porto Declaration on Submarine Cable Resilience (affirmed by the International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience, on 3 February 2026) Porto, Portugal

IAB Submarine Cable Resilience: Key Recommendations

Working Group 1 Recommendations

Timely Deployment & Repair

Streamline Permitting, Approval and Regulation	
1	Encourage governments¹ to streamline permitting and regulatory processes to reduce cable deployment and repair timelines, including: (a) establishing transparent and predictable permitting frameworks (e.g., by publishing i. clear guidelines on permitting requirements and permitting timelines, and ii. Information on the regulatory bodies and application/permitting documents necessary for installation and repair); (b) reducing regulatory barriers (e.g., by, where permitted by national laws, facilitating customs clearance and cabotage procedures, removing or exempting customs duties, allowing pre-clearance of ship and crew, ensuring emergency repairs can proceed expeditiously, etc.); and (c) designating a government body to be the Single Point of Contact ("SPOC"), where permitted by national laws, to facilitate coordination across government agencies.
...	...
Strengthen Global Repair Architecture	
4	Encourage the creation or expansion of incentives to expand repair assets from a diversity of companies and countries (that consider vessels and spare parts) which may also help address needs in high-risk or remote areas and to reduce mobilization time for emergency repairs. This could include removal of regulatory barriers as referenced in recommendation.
...	...
Strengthen Public-Private Partnership and Regional Cooperation	
10	Encourage voluntary data sharing: Encourage governments, industry and regional organizations to share best practices. This should leverage existing mechanisms where possible, e.g. existing ICPC efforts for data sharing between industry and governments.
...	...

Working Group 2 Recommendations

Risk Identification, Monitoring & Mitigation

National, Regional ¹ and Global Cooperation, Coordination and Collaboration	
1	Encourage governments to develop National level strategies based on data evidencing the risks: encourage relevant national authorities to collaborate with cable landing licensees to enhance visibility and oversight of submarine cable faults and vulnerabilities within and beyond their waters, taking into account considerations for storage, sharing, and security of such data.
...	...
Cable Protection Legislation and Enforcement	
4	Jurisdiction and Authority: Encourage national governments to establish clear legal and operational frameworks that are consistent with international law for the management of submarine cables in their waters, including critical national infrastructure designation where appropriate.
...	...
Co-existence with other Maritime Sectors	
7	Include navigating in proximity to submarine cables within the standard syllabus for the Basic Safety Training mandated by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) under their International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW).
...	...
Strengthening Security & Resilience	
11	Audits and Stress Tests: Encourage relevant entities to conduct routine stress tests to verify submarine cable system robustness, assess network risks from choke points and/or route congestion/clustered landings, and disaster response. Regularly audit cable resilience and maintenance provisions to ensure adequate spares, repair agreements, and test the robustness of cable station and digital access security.
...	...

IAB Submarine Cable Resilience: Key Recommendations

Working Group 3: Fostering Geographic Diversity & Connectivity

#	Recommendation
1	Promote the establishment of blended-finance platforms and initiatives for submarine cable investments, with emphasis on SIDS, LLDCs, and underserved remote coastal regions, de-risking projects which may deliver high development impact but may not be commercially viable.
2	Encourage engagement among financing institutions, governments ¹ and operators early in the submarine cable design process to promote potential investments benefiting SIDS, LLDCs and other underserved regions.
3	Support the design and implementation of partnership structures, including public-private partnerships, for marine cables to underserved regions, enabling routes that would not achieve commercial viability through purely private consortiums alone.
4	Encourage the development of insurance mechanisms to 1) improve project bankability for SIDS, LDCs and other underserved regions and (2) reduce insurance costs for all systems.
5	Encourage governments to develop clear, predictable policy and regulatory frameworks for submarine cable licensing and permitting to reduce costs and project implementation delays resulting from uncertain regulatory environments, and improve project bankability.
6	Encourage non-discriminatory access to cable landing stations, consistent with national regulations and national security requirements, in underserved regions, enabling competing carriers to secure capacity for domestic and international terrestrial service driving wholesale price reductions benefiting end-users, digital economy development and landlocked neighbouring countries.
7	Promote the integration of branching units into the initial design of major trunk submarine cable routes, creating opportunities for concessional financing to promote cost-effective connectivity for SIDS, LDCs and other underserved regions.
8	Encourage governments to consider options to develop anchor-tenancy on systems designed for underserved regions by purchasing minimum bandwidth capacity on new submarine cable systems de-risking private sector and public investment.
9	Support the implementation of good practices from new and existing toolkits, where feasible, with the intention to enable rapid national submarine cable project deployments, with emphasis on SIDS, LDCs and other underserved regions, to reduce costs and time to develop and deploy submarine cable systems and backup arrangements.
10	Encourage, through industry best practice, the use of guidelines for assessing and fulfilling route diversity and resiliency needs of SIDS, LDCs and other underserved regions, to prevent disruptions resulting from environmental and human-made hazards.
11	Support capacity-building and technical assistance for regulators and policy makers in developing countries, to enable countries to adopt good practices for submarine cable deployment, adapted to local contexts.
12	Encourage comprehensive hazard vulnerability assessments for new submarine cable deployments and recommissioning projects to SIDS, LDCs and underserved regions to mitigate identified hazards when possible.
13	Encourage the implementation of regulatory frameworks which incentivize shared landing infrastructure in underserved regions, reducing duplication of vulnerable facilities while maintaining the benefits of competition and diverse routing.
14	Develop and adopt, where feasible, technical and operational protocols enabling seamless failover to satellite, microwave, or other backup systems during extended submarine cable outage.

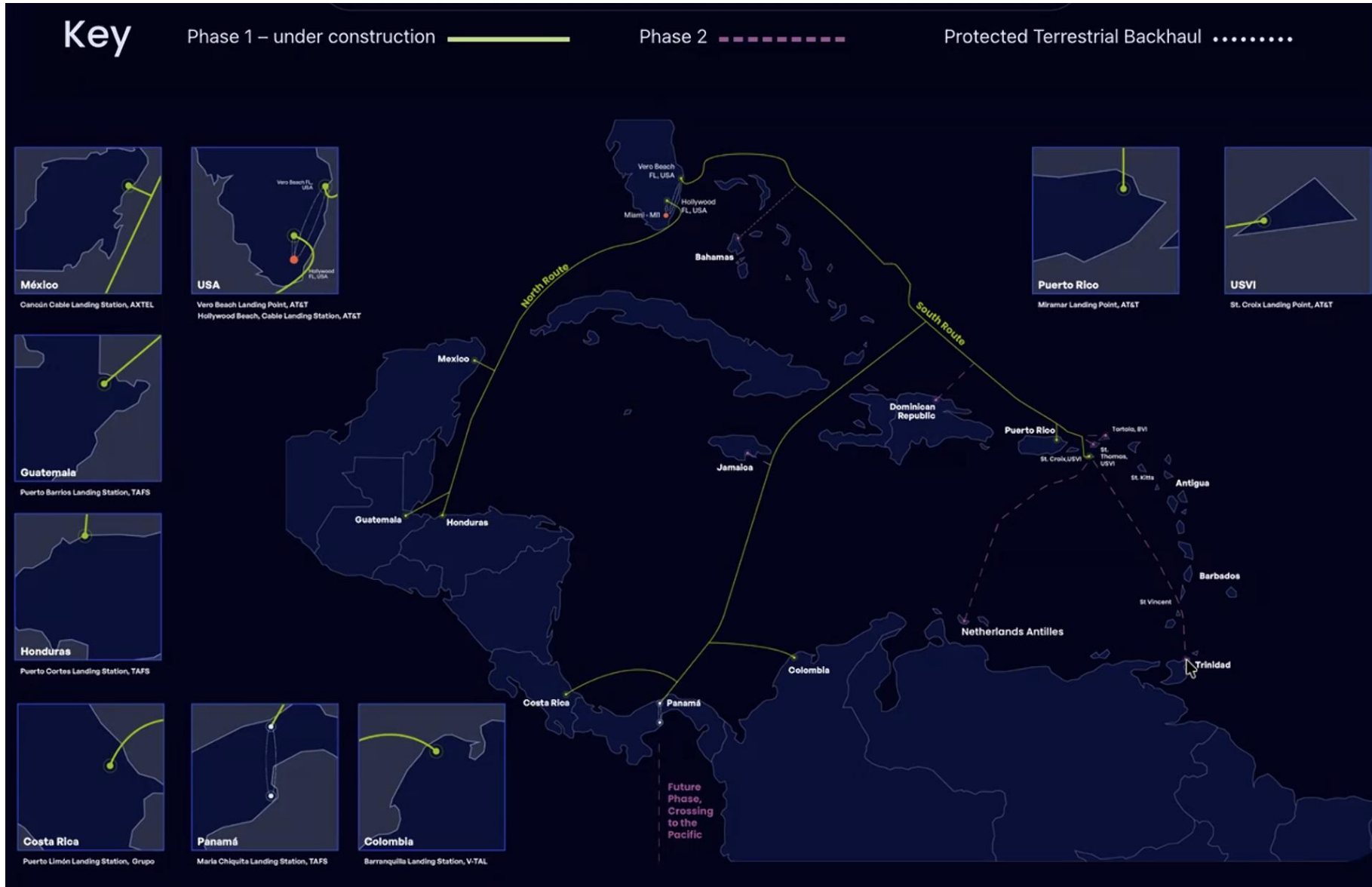
Key:

Financing & Risk Mitigation for Inclusive Connectivity

Policy & Regulatory Frameworks

Geographic Diversity & Network Resilience

Opportunity: TAM-1 Cable ...collab with Simon Everett Ltd

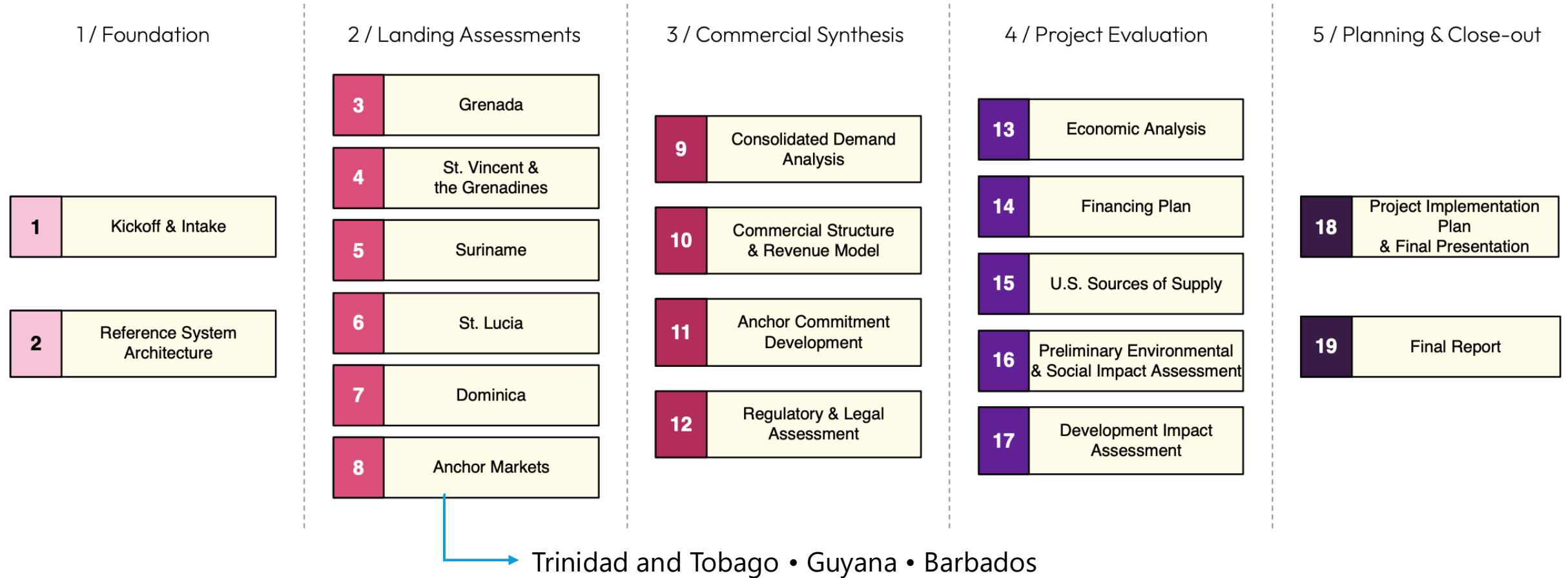


Under the Trans Americas Fiber System (TAFS)

Open access: available to multiple user groups (governments, ISPs, regulators, universities, enterprise, etc.)

Carrier-neutral: not tied to any one provider

Proposed Study ...to be funded by the USTDA



Status:

- 1. letters of support from Grenada, St. Vincent & the Grenadines • *August 2026*
- 2. consultation/sensitization • *Thursday 24 Sep 2026*
- 3. moving from concept note to TORs • *Q4 2026/Q1 2027*

Satellite Communications

Part 2

CTU's Work in Satellite Communications



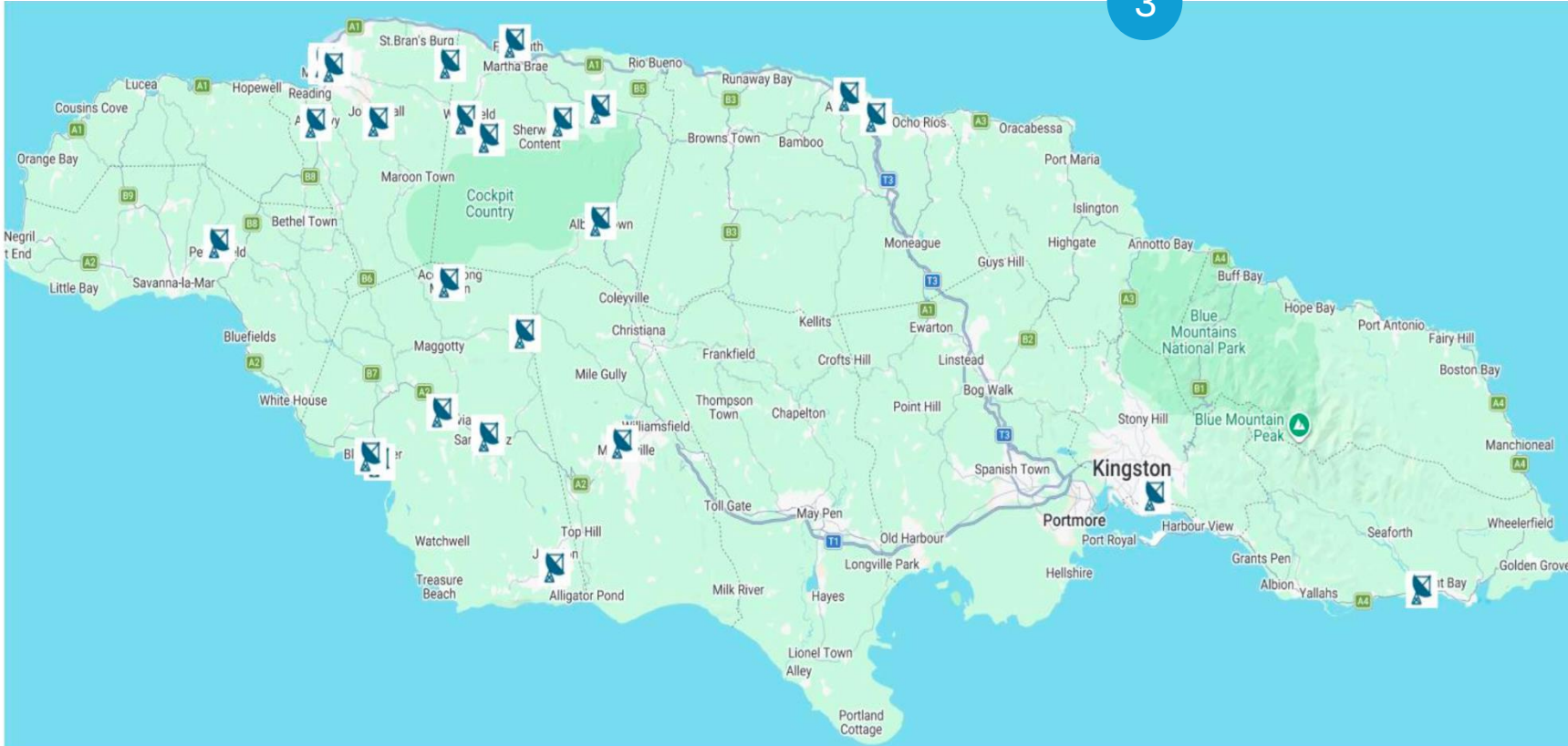
CTU-HISPASAT MOU Signing
Exploring market entry in the region



CTU-CDEMA-GSOA Workshop
Emcomms • Spectrum mgmt

CTU's Work in Satellite Communications

3



Approximate locations where satellite antennas have been deployed



Installing portable antenna on the field



Fixed antenna installation training

Port-hurricane Melissa support • Jamaica • 55 terminals • capacity building for JCF & JDF
6 months free service (financed by EU through UNICEF).....

Tampere Convention!

But..

We must look beyond desperate projects and think strategically:

How can we, as Caribbean SIDS, consolidate our efforts and support regional connectivity, resilience and development?



Regional Vision: CARISAT

Three-phased approach

1

Preparatory

2026

- Develop rgn'l ecosystem map
- Conduct regional assessment
- Engage key stakeholders
- Model use cases
- Develop imp. roadmap
- Draft multi-country agreement

2

Resource Mobil'zn & Implementation

2027-2030

- Develop procurement strategy
- Establish steering committee
- Establish financing arrangements
- Initiate phased deployment

3

Operations & Sustainability

2030+ +

- Monitoring & evaluation
- Ongoing capacity building
- Ongoing technical support, management & optimization

Status:

1. letter of support Prime Minister of Barbados
2. request for financing sent to Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
3. still awaiting feedback/funding support from CDB

Outlook

Building a resilient Caribbean requires **coordinated action**, **shared investment** and a **unified regional vision**.

Let's work together to:

1. Support CTU-Led Regional Initiatives
2. Harmonize Policies and Regulatory Frameworks
3. Mobilize Partnerships and Investment
4. Build Regional Resilience by Design



THANK YOU

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