

REGIONAL PUBLIC GOODS INITIATIVE

2022 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

User Info

User Name

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Proposal ID

53

Title of the proposal

CaribData: Caribbean Data-Driven Resilience

Name of the institution submitting the proposal in the name of beneficiaries

The University of the West Indies

Participant Countries

- Belize
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- Trinidad and Tobago

Proposal Type

Amount requested to the RPG Initiative:

\$600,000

Commitment Letters

- [Commitment Letter Belize](#) - ([Annex 1](#))
- [Commitment Letter Guyana](#) - ([Annex 2](#))
- [Commitment Letter Jamaica](#) - ([Annex 3](#))
- [Commitment Letter Trinidad and Tobago](#) - ([Annex 4](#))

Type of Proposal Beneficiaries

Public Sectors Institutions

Previous funding by the RPG Initiative

No

Beneficiaries

o The following National Statistics Offices/Institutes will participate in the project and commit staff time, resources, and data sharing: Belize, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. o Partners include the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) which will provide support to the project in (i) the development of climate change, disaster preparedness, and health stories relevant to the region; (ii) input into data courses and guideline development; (iii) identification of regional data sources; and (iv) working closely with country partners to encourage data sharing.

Competence

o Public sector institutions include the National Statistical Offices (NSOs). NSOs across the Caribbean are mandated to provide accurate, timely and reliable statistical information of a high quality and broad scope, facilitating analysis and dissemination of such data, and promoting their use in effective and efficient decision making. The NSOs that will form the PSC thus have experience in producing national data and, under various initiatives such as the CARICOM Secretaria Regional Statistics, have cooperated at the regional level for good standards in providing statistics at the national level. This proposal seeks to strengthen NSOs in their work in open data, data privacy, data sharing, and to improve the relationship between NSOs, universities, researchers, firms, policymakers and other data users to achieve more open, interoperable and accessible regional data.

Thematic Area

Digitalization

Executing Agency

The University of the West Indies

Website of the proposed Executing Agency

<https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/home>

Executing Agency's Commitment Letter

[Executing Agency's Commitment Letter](#) - [\(Annex 5\)](#)

Execution time

36 months

Mission and prior experience of the proposed Executing Agency

o This initiative and commitment follows a December 2021 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IDB and The UWI, which envisions joint research, initiatives, and exchange of knowledge to help drive economic and social recovery and growth in the region. The MoU focuses particularly on areas that this project will be addressing, namely strategic initiatives linked to data and digital transformation, climate change and regional resilience. o The UWI is a regional institution that has executed regional IDB- financed projects such as RG-T1276 ("Regional Non-Communicable Diseases Surveillance System") and ATN/OC-14749-RG "Caribbean Regional Entrepreneurial Assets Commercialization Hub". Other recent IDB projects executed by the UWI include ATN/ME-13186-TT - Development and Implementation of a Local Economic Development (LED) Framework for Regions with Extractive Industries.

Number of employees of the proposed Executing Agency

965 employees

Annual institutional budget of the proposed Executing Agency

1060000000

Strategic partners

Two partners: (i) Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA); (ii) o Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) - [Partner Letter](#) - [\(Annex 6\)](#)

The Regional Public Good

Justification

- COVID-19 radically expanded engagement in the digital economy and accelerated

data creation. Total global data storage is projected to exceed 200 zettabytes by 2025. This data is enabling the function of several emerging digital technologies – such as AI, IOT, and blockchain. Digital data has become a multibillion-dollar industry with immense growth opportunities, and open data is recognized as a critical tool for social and environmental good. Despite the importance of data, there has been insufficient efforts to design and integrate data infrastructure and open data sharing policies to contribute to resiliency at the regional level. Furthermore, privacy concerns, digital technology and capacity remain significant obstacles to the generation and use of quality data in the Caribbean. • International organizations continue to call for improved data infrastructures to facilitate regional development. According to the Open Data Watch, the Caribbean’s performance in the availability of data averages at 43%. The paucity of data in the Caribbean has an impact on everything from disaster risk reduction to climate resiliency to business development to citizen health and security. Data in the Caribbean region is hard to access, lacks adequate data infrastructure, is in multiple places with weak data sharing protocols, and suffers from quality issues due to inadequate data handling. Finally, cloud storage is costly, there are weak incentives for data sharing, and regulatory protocols gate-keep sensitive data without offering avenues for controlled access. Public institutions are regularly unable to meet the data security demands of recent national data security regulations, which share many similarities with the European Union General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). • Prioritizing data infrastructure and data handling training will increase the availability and quality of data for monitoring and measuring progress on development targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDG Tracker reported minimal to no data for CARICOM countries in 2017. Governments lack data for designing regional resiliency interventions that address risks stemming from disasters, climate change, and health. Open data can support wider data strategies for resilient sustainable urban planning and development in Caribbean countries, especially as some countries are piloting moves towards smart cities. Open data modelling, data analytics and open data driven applications can drive public engagement in the development process. Improved data infrastructures can strengthen the innovation ecosystem by engaging the public and giving companies and researchers access to quality public data, facilitating research and innovation that supports growth. Finally, much government data, particularly in health, has been created but remains inaccessible because of privacy concerns. A robust and trusted data security infrastructure would allow the secure sharing of such resources, providing much needed additional evidence for regional development. • Data infrastructure is an important development issue aligned to the CCB’s infrastructure for development initiative. The proposed activities support the IDB’s Vision 2025 as it relates to: (i) the digital economy for improving data infrastructure and data quality as critical inputs for operating in the digital economy; and (ii) climate change given that the pilot will focus on climate change data.

The Regional Public Good

Given that NSOs utilize public funds to create data for use as a public good, the key public goods created by this project include the following: (i) regionally shared data infrastructure to improve access to data; (ii) regional open data, data privacy, and data sharing policies; (iii) increased capacity of a network of NSOs and other interested contributors incentivized to implement data handling and best practices for accurate, quality data; and (iv) a regional roadmap for increasing investment in data infrastructure and expanding data themes. Finally, the project will pilot a cutting edge blockchain digital solution for incentivizing regional actors for collective action in data science, including its use to document data provenance and quality for trusted data re-use and its use as a governance system for sustainable transparent coordination of regional data stakeholders.

Regional Value-Added

• Ultimately, this project will bring added value to how data providers (and other existing open data efforts) coordinate and are incentivized to collaborate. These collaborations will deliver high quality data to the region that will in turn support open innovation, multi-sectoral research, more effective intervention and policy designs, more accurate measuring and reporting on international commitments, and improved technology related business models. • Given the critical importance of data for growth and resilience, this project will pilot blockchain-based digital solutions in data science for coordinating and incentivizing regional actors to implement and sustain a public good centered on data-driven resilience. Blockchain solutions can enhance data transparency, and foster collaborative working among data stakeholders. Its use to record the journey of datasets from creation to re-use offers a powerful method for assuring data provenance and increasing the confidence in regional data. Its use as a system for transparent coordination of public goods is known as a Decentralised Autonomous Organisation (DAO). This structure provides efficient group governance among geographically distributed stakeholders based on tokens and smart contracts. Used innovatively, it can be used – for example – to guide project activities such as understanding the collective determination of regional priorities, training needs, and resource allocation. • This project will offer a local best-practice alternative to data providers and researchers, allowing increased data resources and ensuring data sovereignty for the long term. Through trainings and data hackathons, this project will also transfer blockchain technology, machine and deep learning, and big data analytics knowledge to NSOs and other beneficiaries of the project. The pilot will focus on climate change data related to disaster risk management and health and, based on lessons learned, develop a roadmap for how to scale the solution to wider data themes.

Sustainability

• This proposal is novel in presenting a cutting-edge digital solution for managing public goods and for incentivizing sustained collective action. These incentives are driven by economies of scale afforded by the proposed shared data infrastructure, associated data governance model, training, and capacity building efforts of the project. The project addresses the need for multi-sectoral working through the establishment of an ecosystem comprising a range of academic and non-academic data stakeholders. This ecosystem will foster collaborations and enable data users to input to and share stories from the quality data produced, as well as gain support by sharing experiences, lessons learned, and new digital solutions for improving their work. • Active participation in the network permits a collective and more decentralized path for governing the direction and management of the network of Caribbean based repositories. Orphan-datasets - data collected once and not updated - is useful but limited when monitoring SDG and climate change progress. The data network will incentivize repeated data production for sustained climate and health monitoring. A roadmap will be developed that incorporates lessons from the pilot and a sustainability strategy for revenue and resource mobilization. • The RPG incorporates partners that have implemented previous data projects and builds on lessons learned by these projects, such as the UWI led “Caribbean Open Institute” (COI) which focuses on open development approaches to inclusion, participation and innovation within the Caribbean, using open data as a catalyst. Other areas of sustainability built into the project include: training in data handling and data analytics and data policies/guidelines that participating countries can use at the national level. • Finally, the RPG comprises activities that can be used for future revenue generation to ensure financial sustainability, such as data audits, fee-for-service analytics, and customised training.

Expected Results

This project will improve access to quality data through a centralized portal (data repository) that will connect a network of quality-controlled repositories. This project will improve the coordination efforts for creating and managing quality data at the regional level. It will improve the capabilities of data producers, such as the NSOs, to handle, analyse, and communicate data. It will incentivize the demand for the generation and sharing of quality data by promoting the regionally overlooked benefits of data sharing. Expected Outcomes include the following:

- o Increased regional capacity for data handling, data analytics, and data sharing
- o Increase availability of quality data in the Caribbean region
- o Improved data governance systems (actors are coordinating)
- o Increased commitment to investment in data infrastructure

Expected Outputs include the following:

- **COMPONENT 1. Data Infrastructure. Blockchain Pilot.** Roadmap for Data Resiliency: (i) Design of an infrastructure for regional sharing of data resources; (ii) Data sharing infrastructure implemented (this includes the launch of the digital solution for a network of repositories, purchase of cloud based infrastructure, platform design, and engineering expertise); (iii) pilot design of a digital solution for blockchain data provenance and governance and incentive mechanisms; (iv) blockchain pilot implemented; (v) training workshops to guide NSOs and other eligible entities on how to participate in the network; and (vi) roadmap strategy for the regional network which will incorporate lessons learned for guiding its expansion.
- **COMPONENT 2. Training, Knowledge Generation, and Analytics:** (i) at least 10 individuals trained in data handling, data analytics, and data security using training bootcamp; (ii) 2 data hackathons and 2 regional policy dialogues/workshops held; and (iii) a curated series of data stories on priority issues in climate change and health, hosted online.
- **COMPONENT 3. Data Guidelines and Policies:** (i) data policy and guidelines gap analysis conducted for

Spillover potential

- The proposed data infrastructure can be extended to countries throughout the Caribbean region and to other subject matters with minimal additional costs thereby supporting the small territories of the Caribbean to benefit from economies of scale. The more subject matter/datasets and the greater the geographical cover of the data resources, the more beneficial the collective resource becomes to emerging technologies. It would represent a critical and unique Caribbean resource, with the potential to guide the rapidly expanding markets in artificial intelligence and machine learning, and in doing so would offer regionally representative data, free from the AI biases introduced by data from unrepresentative populations in the US and Europe.
- The complex nature of climate change and therefore the hoped-for solutions for SIDS, must draw from a wide cross-section of specialist subjects (such as environmental science, health, engineering, social science). The data infrastructure – as it builds its data repository – will offer these multisectoral synergies.
- It is expected that additional countries will join the regional data governance effort and will implement regional best practices for data privacy, data sharing, and open data policies, ensuring quality data, and improving data accessibility.
- The data impact stories on climate change and health developed through the project will act as a demonstration effect of the benefits of collaborative multi-sectoral research and partnerships between data producers (such as NSOs and universities) and data users (such as researcher and businesses).
- Finally, overarching spillover will be the project's support to open innovation,

Executing Structure

The Executing Agency (EA) will be the University of the West Indies. This initiative and commitment follows a December 2021 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IDB and The UWI, which envisions joint research, initiatives, and exchange of knowledge to help drive economic and social recovery and growth in the region. The MoU focuses particularly on strategic initiatives linked to data and digital transformation, climate change and regional resilience, and so aligns well with the

CaribData program of work. The UWI sees the CaribData initiative as a significant opportunity to strengthen ties with the IDB Group and also for contributing to the #BIDAcademy learning hub through the CaribData training development initiative. The EA will contract a Project Manager and part-time Administrative Support. Each beneficiary country will appoint one representative (National Focal Point) from the NSOs to form the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The focal points will be responsible, at a national level, for facilitating project execution, and helping build consensus with stakeholders. Representatives from the IDB and other project partners will act in an advisory role. The EA will be a Secretary to the PSC. The PSC will meet regularly to set the agenda of the project based on the plan of operations, decide on strategic matters and the direction of the project, and provide technical inputs. Decentralized and transparent governance will be assessed through the blockchain pilot. The PSC will select a Chair and Vice-Chair.

Evaluation

- The theory of change proposes that if data producers coordinate to share data and data storage infrastructure, that if data producers (NSOs) are equipped with data handling and data analytics expertise, and if data producers communicate new stories and findings from climate related data; then the following benefits will accrue: (i) an improved data governance ecosystem and increased commitment to investment in data infrastructure; (ii) increased regional capacity for data handling, data analytics, and data sharing as well as increased availability of quality data; (iii) increased demand for quality data and national/regional level data sharing policies. The aforementioned will support open innovation, collaborative research, more effective intervention and policy designs, more accurate measuring and reporting on international climate commitments, and improved technology related business models that address climate related challenges.
- The final evaluation will assess the program's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency levels, and sustainability, and identify lessons learned and opportunities for improvement. The evaluation will inform mechanisms for improving the incentives for coordinating action around creating, managing, and sharing quality data. Both quantitative and qualitative data will be collected throughout the project to feed into the evaluation. Baseline data will be collected for key project indicators. Ethical standards will be set and maintained for data collection, analysis, management, and communication, with ethical review by regional ethics committees. The evaluation will follow the RE-AIM framework, with systematic assessment of the project's Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, and Maintenance .

Activities and Costs

Activity 1: Component 1: Data Infrastructure. Blockchain Pilot. Roadmap for Data Resiliency

This component will finance the following activities expected to contribute to the stimulation of increased investment in an improved data governance ecosystem: (i) the design and implementation of a cloud-based infrastructure and associated governance for regional data sharing; (ii) the design and implementation of blockchain pilot for assessing the usefulness of blockchain technology for data provenance and for a governance and incentive mechanism; (iii) training on how to participate in the proposed digital frameworks; and (iv) design of a roadmap to increase investment in

expanding data infrastructure (public good) for the Caribbean by incorporating lessons learned from the pilot. The roadmap will recommend the expansion of data themes and a resource mobilization strategy for generating revenue that will support the future acquisition of hardware and software, a strategy for maintenance of said equipment, training, and a human resource strategy.

Activity 2: Component 2: Training, Knowledge Generation, and Analytics

Data handling is the process of collecting, organizing and presenting data and ensuring that data is stored, curated, archived, and re-used in a safe and secure manner. It is a fast moving and increasingly complex field and requires persons skilled in communicating complex findings to target audiences. This component will finance the following activities that will build regional capacity for managing and communicating data: (i) the design of two digital skills bootcamp courses that will train at least 10 competitively selected persons in data-handling, advanced data analytics, and data security. The UWI will incorporate the digital skills bootcamp into its certification program, offering a mix of online and in-person training. Selection criteria will include location, gender, and expertise; (ii) generating new knowledge from data through specific challenges and events such as data hackathons that will create data impact stories (which captures the impact of the data on policies, society, the environment, and the economy) around the topics of climate change as it relates to disaster risk preparedness, management and resiliency and health. One event will include a regional policy dialogue for disseminating knowledge to policymakers. (iii) Information created via data hackathons, and other mechanisms will be hosted online as a curated series of data stories on priority issues in climate change and health.

Activity 3: Component 3: Data Guidelines and Policies

This component will finance the following: (i) a gap analysis of data handling, data sharing, data privacy, data security, and open data policies of the project's beneficiary countries; (ii) based on the results of the gap analysis, the design of data handling, open data, data privacy and data sharing policies and guidelines for selected beneficiary countries. The project team will coordinate with regional bodies in exploring the potential for regional data standards, especially as it relates to compliance to existing global measures (i.e. GDPR).

Activity 4: Component 4: Project Management and Communication.

This component will finance the following: (i) project management support of the RPG program; (ii) communication strategy designed and implemented (which would include communication products such as videos, design materials, etc.) to raise awareness and stimulate demand; and (iii) knowledge product to share lessons learned.

Activities costs

Activity	IDB	Counterpart	Other source	Total
Evaluation and Audit	\$30,000			\$30,000

Activity	IDB	Counterpart	Other source	Total
Component 1: Data Infrastructure. Blockchain Pilot. Roadmap for Data Resiliency	\$270,000	\$0	\$0	\$270,000
Component 2: Training, Knowledge Generation, and Analytics	\$120,000	\$65,000	\$0	\$185,000
Component 3: Data Guidelines and Policies	\$80,000	\$40,000	\$0	\$120,000
Component 4: Project Management and Communication.	\$100,000	\$60,000	\$0	\$160,000
Totals	600,000	165,000	0	765,000



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April 26th, 2022

Strategic Eligibility Committee
Regional Public Goods Initiative
Vice-presidency for Sectors and Knowledge
Inter-American Development Bank
BPR@iadb.org

Dear Members of the Committee:


The Statistical Institute of Belize is committed to fully support and participate in the execution of the regional project “CaribData: developing an ecosystem for data-driven resilience” as proposed for financing under the Initiative for the Promotion of Regional Public Goods (RPG). The organization provides its non-objection and support to the University of the West Indies to undertake the responsibility to perform the role of the Executing Agency of the project.

To that end, the Statistical Institute of Belize will contribute resources in-kind for the equivalent of US \$11,000 per year. These contributions will include staff time in meeting participation, reviewing technical documents and data sharing protocols as well as working with the project team to create data stories based on institutional data.

The RPG that the proposal promotes is a priority given the current Open Government Action Plan that orients the actions of stakeholders in Belize to accomplish seven open government commitments that were established in 2020. Additionally, the RPG will build on the activities that took place from 2018 - 2019 as part of the “Promoting an Open Government Ecosystem in Belize” project.

Considering the above, this organization pledges, once the objectives of the project have been accomplished, to continue promoting and supporting the development of the RPG.

Sincerely,


Diana Castillo-Trejo
Acting Director General



The PDF format is bad in this process, you can view it in:

<https://convocatoriabpr.iadb.org/system/files/rpg/6285/commiten-letter/14/Guyana-Letter%20of%20Committment.pdf>



STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA

7 Cecelio Avenue Kingston 10 Jamaica
Tel.: (876) 630-1600 Fax (876) 926-1138
Email: info@statinja.gov.jm

April 28,, 2022

Strategic Eligibility Committee

Regional Public Goods Initiative

Vice-presidency for Sectors and Knowledge

Inter-American Development Bank

BPR@iadb.org

Dear Members of the Committee:

The Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) is committed to fully support and participate in the execution of the regional project “CaribData: developing an ecosystem for data-driven resilience” as proposed for financing under the Initiative for the Promotion of Regional Public Goods (RPG). The organization provides its non-objection and support to the University of the West Indies to undertake the responsibility to perform the role of the Executing Agency of the project.

To that end, STATIN will contribute resources One Hundred Thousand dollars (US\$100,000) in-kind. These contributions will include staff time in meeting participation as well as reviewing technical documents and data sharing protocols.

The RPG that the proposal promotes is a priority for our organization given that the organization has identified the availability of data in open format as one of its strategic priorities in its 2020 -2025 Strategic Plan.

Considering the above, this organization pledges, once the objectives of the project have been accomplished, to continue promoting and supporting the development of the RPG.

Sincerely yours,

Statistical Institute of Jamaica

Carol Coy (Ms)

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Letter of Commitment

Central Statistical Office
30 Park Street,
Scott Building,
Port of Spain,
Trinidad and Tobago

29th April, 2022

Strategic Eligibility Committee

Regional Public Goods Initiative

Vice-presidency for Sectors and Knowledge

Inter-American Development Bank

BPR@iadb.org

Dear Members of the Committee:

The Central Statistical Office is committed to fully support and participate in the execution of the regional project “CaribData: developing an ecosystem for data-driven resilience” as proposed for financing under the Initiative for the Promotion of Regional Public Goods (RPG). The organization provides its non-objection and support to the University of the West Indies to undertake the responsibility to perform the role of the Executing Agency of the project.

To that end, the Central Statistical Office will contribute resources in-kind for the equivalent of US\$ [amount]. These contributions will include staff time in meeting participation as well as reviewing technical documents and data sharing protocols.

The RPG that the proposal promotes is a priority for our country given Trinidad and Tobago was the first CARICOM state to join the Open Government Partnership (OGP). Open Government is a demand of citizens and an aspiration that has been an important drive for the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago since 2012. The OGP seeks to strengthen public sector governance in two key ways: improving openness, transparency and accountability in government; and promoting greater citizen participation and collaboration in public affairs. This RPG aligns with the first goal and can support new, and complement existing activities in this area.

Sincerely,



Andre Blanchard
Acting Director of Statistics
Central Statistical Office



THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES
CAVE HILL CAMPUS



OFFICE OF THE PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR & PRINCIPAL

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May 13, 2022

Strategic Eligibility Committee
Regional Public Goods Initiative
Vice-Presidency for Sectors and Knowledge
Inter-American Development Bank
BPR@iadb.org

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Letter of Commitment – Partnership for “Caribdata: Developing An Ecosystem for Caribbean Data-Driven Resilience”

As one of the main agents of change for the peoples of the Caribbean, The University of the West Indies (The UWI) Cave Hill Campus is pleased to commit to this initiative to lead the execution of the development of a regional infrastructure to enable and champion the CaribData regional public good project.

This initiative and commitment follows the December 2021 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and The UWI, which envisions joint research, initiatives, and exchange of knowledge to help drive economic and social recovery and growth in the region. The MoU focuses particularly on strategic initiatives linked to data and digital transformation, climate change and regional resilience, and thus directly aligns to the proposed CaribData project. In his remarks at the MoU signing ceremony, IDB President Mauricio Claver-Carone stated, *“This new phase of the IDB’s cooperation with The University West Indies is a big step forward to strengthen our ties with the Caribbean, which is a top personal and institutional priority for the Inter-American Development Bank.”*

The Cave Hill Campus sees the CaribData initiative as a significant opportunity to strengthen ties with IDB Invest through the CaribData sustainability programme, and also for contributing to the #BIDAcademy learning hub through the CaribData training development initiative.

The UWI Cave Hill Campus hereby commits to providing counterpart in-kind contribution up to the amount of 165,000 US dollars over three years. This in-kind contribution will provide high-level project leadership, technical input, and physical resources, as well as influence and access to its regional network and infrastructure for the effective implementation of the activities outlined in the CaribData proposal. More specifically, support will include:

.../2

May 13, 2022

Strategic Eligibility Committee
Regional Public Goods Initiative

RE: Letter of Commitment – Partnership for “Caribdata: Developing An Ecosystem for Caribbean Data-Driven Resilience” - Cont’d

- Project leadership
- Use of conference and teleconferencing facilities
- Use of data analytics software
- Technical expertise from University specialists as needed

In addition to the support from the Cave Hill Campus, the CaribData project will build on relationships with key departments from the Mona and St. Augustine campuses:

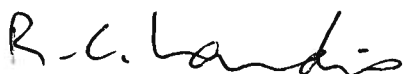
- **St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad & Tobago**, Department of Computing and Information Technology. The department hosts and manages various data-related platforms. *data.tt* is used for collecting and sharing open data, *maps.tt* is used for sharing spatial data, *ml.lab.tt* is a GPU powered server used for Machine Learning and Data Science research and *lab.tt* is a web site containing research and publications performed in many areas including Data Science.
- **Mona Campus, Jamaica**, The Mona School of Business and Management. The department is the lead partner in the Caribbean Open Institute (COI) and the Caribbean School of Data. These initiatives have been instrumental in the early promotion of Caribbean open data, and the development of digital and data literacy, particularly in underserved Caribbean populations.

The UWI has been consistently ranked among the top universities globally by a leading ranking agency, the Times Higher Education (THE). In the current global field of some 30,000 universities and research institutes, The UWI stands among the top 1.5% following ranking results for 2022 and shows a continued year-on-year ranking improvement. This ranking is a confirmation of the robust strategic leadership and stewardship of The UWI, reflects the excellence of The UWI researchers across the Sustainable Development Goal categories, and supports the effectiveness of The UWI's global partnering strategies.

The UWI Cave Hill Campus is well placed to act as the Executing Agency for this initiative. The campus in particular has tailored its administrative, financial, and procurement processes to facilitate the demands of international funding bodies such as the European Union, the National Institutes for Health, and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, amongst others.

The focal point for this initiative will be Dr Ian Hambleton, Professor of Biostatistics and Informatics at the Caribbean Institute for Health Research, The UWI, email address: ian.hambleton@cavehill.uwi.edu.

Yours sincerely,



R Clive Landis, PhD
Professor of Cardiovascular Research, and
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal

Our reference: Admin/11199/22

12 May 2022

Strategic Eligibility Committee
Regional Public Goods Initiative
Vice-presidency for Sectors and Knowledge
Inter-American Development Bank
BPR@iadb.org

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Letter of Commitment – Partnership for “CaribData: Developing an ecosystem for Caribbean data-driven resilience”

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) is pleased to partner with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and The University of the West Indies on the development of the project entitled “CaribData: developing an ecosystem for data-driven resilience”.

The aims of the CaribData project align with those of the 2014-2024 Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy and Results Framework of CDEMA, which highlights the importance of evidence-driven decision making, and the need for robust ICT infrastructures to facilitate data sharing.

At CDEMA, we believe that our expertise and experience in data source identification, successful and transparent management of international donor funds, and our strong relationships with countries and territories across the region make us an ideal collaborating Agency. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the CaribData initiative on the use of regional data to generate timely evidence related to climate change and disaster preparedness. We appreciate and support the CaribData focus on capacity building for National Statistical Offices as major data producers across the region.

We have worked closely with The University of the West Indies since early 2020, using open data to monitor COVID-19 outbreaks across the region, and using this evidence to help coordinate country and regional disaster response. We welcome the opportunity to continue and expand this collaboration.

Should the project be funded we are fully committed to ensuring that the programme is successfully executed with maximum benefit to disaster preparedness across the Caribbean. CDEMA is prepared to commit in-kind resources, in particular including activities in the following areas:

- Identification of a CDEMA focal point for all future contact regarding the project,
- CDEMA representation at CaribData regional meetings,
- CDEMA liaison for the development of climate change and disaster preparedness data stories relevant to the region,
- CDEMA input into CaribData course and guideline development, especially as it relates to disaster preparedness data,
- Identification of regional data sources and working with country partners to encourage data sharing.

Finally, CDEMA is committed to collaborating with CaribData to facilitate the expansion of a data sharing *network* – a grouping of quality-assured data repositories committed to expanding the availability of regional open data.

Your sincerely

CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

J. Elizabeth Riley
Executive Director

PARTICIPATING STATES:

ANGUILLA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE BAHAMAS
BARBADOS
BELIZE
THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
THE COMMONWEALTH
OF DOMINICA
GRENADA
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA
REPUBLIC OF HAITI
JAMAICA
MONTserrat
ST KITTS AND NEVIS
SAINT LUCIA
SINT MAARTEN
ST. VINCENT AND
THE GRENADINES
SURINAME
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO
TURKS AND CAICOS
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

