

## Open Data in the Caribbean

Advocacy | Evidence | Capacity







### **\ Open·Government·Data \** *n. v.*

"The proactive release of Government **Data in a format** that can be **freely** used, **reused** and
redistributed by **anyone** for **any purpose**"



## Open Data for Development Network (OD4D Regional Hubs





#### **Collaborative OD4D Global Initiatives**









State of Open Data











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## Barriers to Open Data in the Caribbean

#### Cultural

In this setting, the open data narrative demands tangible returns on the investment of scarce resources, if it is to compete for political attention

Innovation and Problem-solving has become the dominant means of a resonant discourse

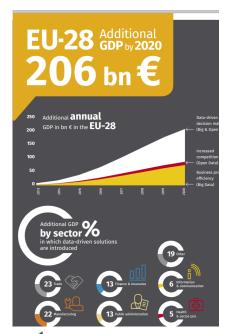
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The overarching research question is whether openness - the availability of public information in reusable formats - can create positive developmental effects in a given ecosystem within the Caribbean's cultural and institutional context

#### The Economic Opportunity of Open Data



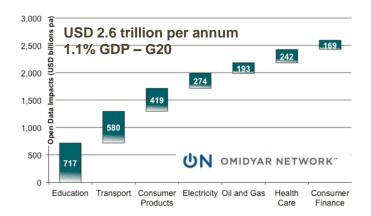




Open data

A new goldmine





## Economics of Caribbean Open Data eg. Tourism Levers/Drivers

#### **Efficiency & Effectiveness**

- Improved quality of service delivery in support services such as transportation entertainment and merchandising. eg. Open-Data-enabled mobile Apps
- Enhanced tourism product information and diversity of choices for discriminating visitors with niche interests
- Enhanced Market analysis and selective targeting through access to tourism origin data to stimulate Apps development, and enhance sector analysis and visualization

#### **Transparency**

 Increased transparency in the allocation and disposal of resources/funds for the development of the sector (i.e. Tourism Enhancement fund; JSIF – community-based tourism development

#### **Participation & Collaboration**

- Increased linkages between tourism and other sectors such as Agriculture, Manufacturing, arts & craft, self-employed service providers
- Empower Community Tourism interests and stakeholders with greater participation and collaboration in the development of the community tourism product; Open Data initiatives can impact positively on the visibility, inclusiveness and welfare of small operators

#### **New Services & Businesses**

- Increased visibility and clientele for smaller hotel properties, attractions
- Enable product development and market access for community-based tourism initiatives
- Innovation opportunities for software developers and other service entrepreneurs

## Agriculture Levers/Drivers

#### **Efficiency & Effectiveness**

- Improved logistics and coordination in the agricultural sector to mitigate spoilage, surplus and shortages
- Improved analysis of agricultural information to inform policy and planning
- Enhanced access and use of geospatial and meteorological data to inform farming practices for optimal yield and environmental preservation
- Greater efficiency in the delivery of Extension Services using Open Data combined with mobile Apps

#### **Transparency**

- Open access to business information to support farmers, retailers and consumers
- Livestock registration mechanisms (passport) the use of Open Data to enhance the oversight and traceability of products from the farms to the final consumer

#### **Participation & Collaboration**

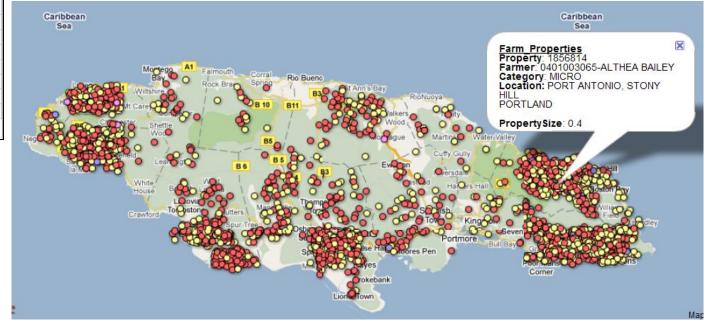
- Open Data and crowd-sourcing can lead to improved accuracy and currency of agriculture supply & demand data by mobilizing end users to assist in the collection and/or process
- crowd-sourced open data on incidences of praedial larceny can provide security forces with an improved detection and investigative capability

#### **New Services & Businesses**

- Open agriculture data creates the opportunity for the emergence of a variety of e-Agriculture Apps that can encourage a broad base of domain experts, technical developers, and innovators to participate in an Agriculture innovation ecosystem
- Published Agriculture Open Data becomes a catalyst for innovation opportunities for software developers and entrepreneurs

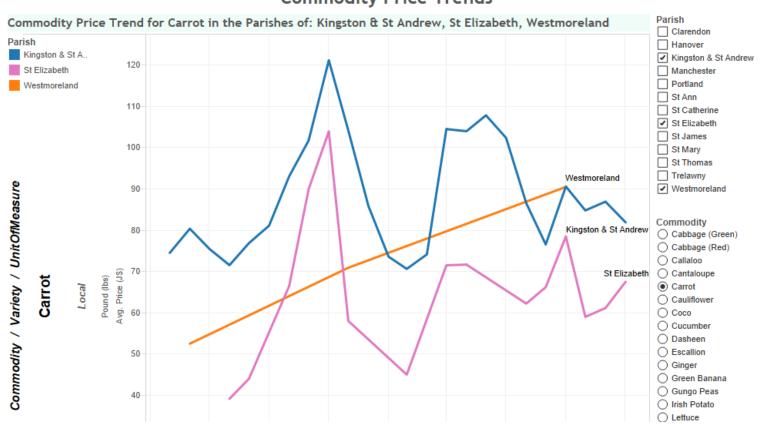
#### Data Visualizing vs Statistics Increases Utility

Farmer Registration Info.	
PARISH	#REGISTERED
ST.ANN	17,391
TRELAWNY	7,561
CLARENDON	18,976
ST.MARY	8,388
ST.CATHERINE	12,271
ST.JAMES	7,054
HANOVER	5,803
ST.THOMAS	8,931
MANCHESTER	17,892
WESTMORELAND	9,565
PORTLAND	7,841
ST.ANDREW	5,552
ST.ELIZABETH	21,360
Total Register	ed 148,585

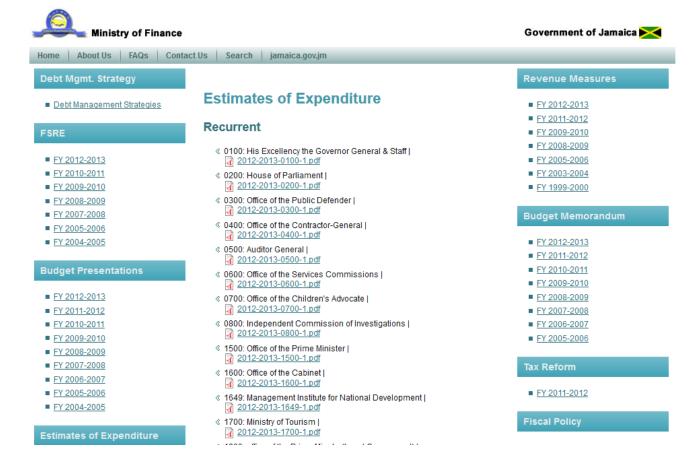


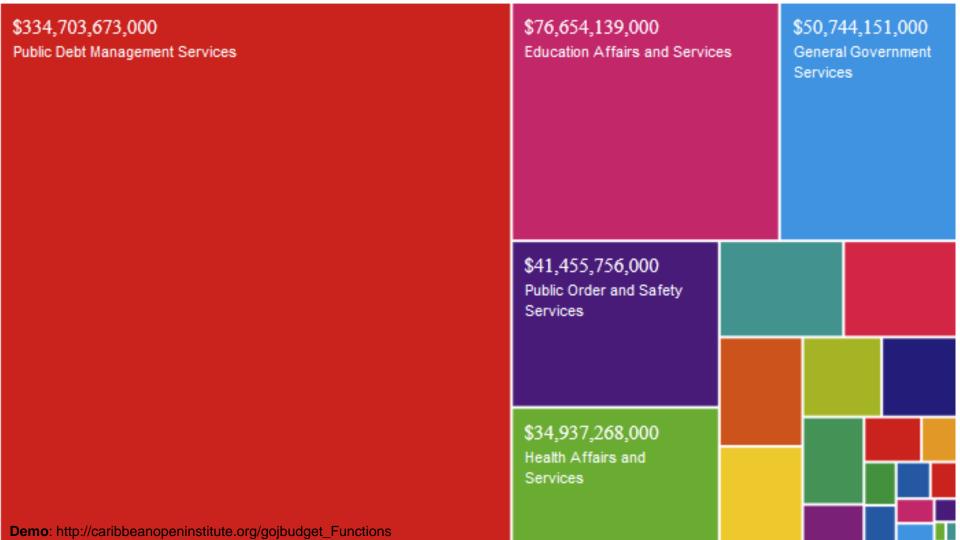
### Caribbean Open Data Use-Cases

**Commodity Price Trends** 



## GOJ/MOF publish GOJ 2012 Budget





## Open Data And Interactive Community Mapping



A Strategy for Empowering Local Communities





#### Three Target Comunities



August Town community, a cultural & heritage Mecca





The Rastafarian Indigenous Village, Montego River Gardens, St James

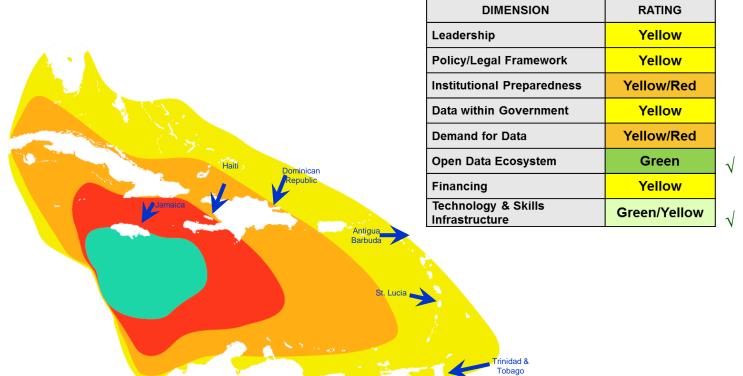


Beeston Spring, Westmoreland, near Sandals "Villages as Business" -Community development



#### Key Initiatives so far... Support to Governments



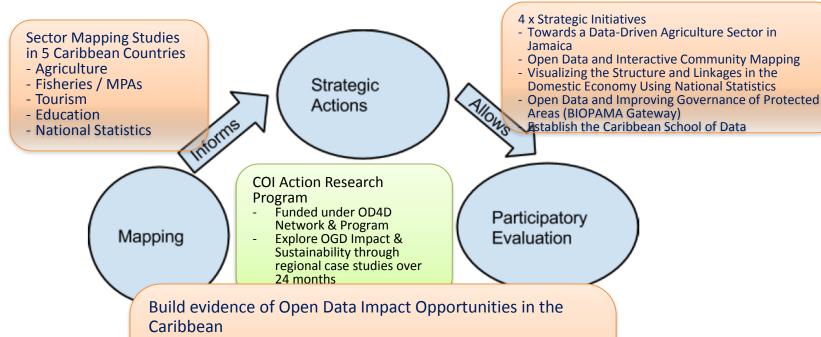








### Open Data Action Research



- Catalyst for collaboration and co-production of public service delivery
- Adoption of technical standards can contribute to the scaling up, sustainability and impact of open data initiatives
- Build capacities of data entrepreneurs and public sector
- Identification of key policy issues in open data



### Open Data Strategic Initiatives

Towards an Agriculture Digital Services Model for Data-Driven Agriculture Sector in Jamaica	Open Data and Interactive Community Mapping: Empowering Local Community Tourism
Sector: Agriculture Target Impact: Explore the potential of emergent best practice in government digital services to address challenges in data accessibility, quality and data gaps	Sector: Community Tourism  Target Impact: effective engagement, capacity-building & empowerment of local community participants
Visualizing the structure and linkages in the Jamaican economy using Official Statistics (Administrative Data)	Open Data and the BIOPAMA Gateway: Towards Improved Governance and Decision- Making of the Caribbean's Protected Areas
Sector: National Statistics  Target Impact: increase the accessibility, understandability & re-usability of national statistics	Sector: Marine Protected Areas  Target Impact: Greater alignment of data (biodiversity, livelihoods, governance) to enhance governance and

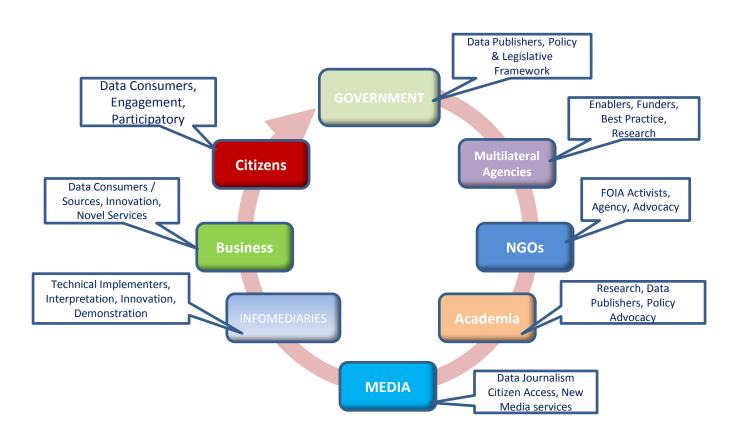
decision-making affecting PAs

#### **Establish the Caribbean School of Data**

Sector: All

**Target Impact**: In general, building data literacy capacity will increase the impact of the various open data initiatives across sectors. The emphasis of this initiative will be on sustainability through established regional capacity-building institutions

## Open Data Ecosystem / Actors





# DevCA is a Multi-Country Open Data Conference & Codesprint

**DevCA** has had 4 Editions (2012, 2013, 2015, 2016)

- Conference Sites: Jamaica, Trinidad, Dominican Republic
- Codesprint sites: Barbados, Guyana, Cuba, St.Kitts

**Thematic Areas**: Agriculture, Tourism, Education, Data Journalism, Census 2010, Consumer Prices, Elections, Zika

**Outcomes**: Awareness, Advocacy, Engagement, Experimentation, Entrepreneurship



## **DevCA Engages with Caribbean Leaders...**



## **DevCA Engages with International Experts...**



## Academics...



## Technologists...



## Community



Calling all

## Coders Designers Engineers

Come and

## HACK ZIKA

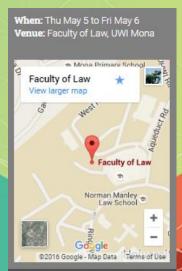
# DevCa ZIKA Hackathon

#### **Institutional Partners**

- CARPHA, PAHO, MOH-Jamaica
- Specific Problem statements

#### DevCA Cuba Hackathon

- 83 Developers
- 10 Prototypes developed







#### Big Opportunities for Collaboration

- Integrating / Harmonizing the Data Ecosystem
  - Official Statistics, Open Data, Big Data for Development & SDG Reporting & Monitoring

National SDG Reporting Platform for Jamaica







## Emerging Insights...

- Innovation fellowships provide an important mechanism for collaborative government-civil society co-creation in key developmental areas
- Governments' role will require active participation on supply and demand sides of the Caribbean open data ecosystem
- Scale limits and resource deficits will require a common set of technology platforms, tools, standards and code repositories for shared use i.e. the Caribbean Digital Commons
- The value sustainability of the open data initiatives in the region will ultimately rely on the emergence of a vibrant Caribbean open data ecosystem of actors and investment in individual and community capacity-building across the whole open data value-chain



## Key challenges



- Country leadership apathy: The persistent apathy of political leadership in the Caribbean towards the open data/open government agenda continues to be disappointing
- Scalability: The challenge of getting to scale remains a perennial development challenge that limits the transformational impact that the open data innovations explored through this project can have on the peoples of the Caribbean
- Capacity-Building: Building sustainable open data infrastructures and enabling the effective use of open data in the Caribbean, requires that actors from all sectors (public, private, media, civil society) invest in individual and community capacity across the whole open data value-chain
- Regional Collaboration: Not enough Organic Collaboration / "Network Effects"

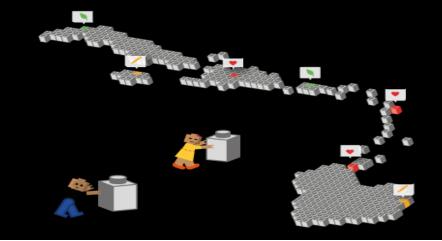
"[Open Data] is one of the few resources that is defined by abundance rather than scarcity. Making the best possible use of an existing and increasing resource is not just common sense, it is the closest we can get to generating economic winners without losers. It is not just an economic and social opportunity but a political one."

- Nigel Shadbolt, Co-Founder of the Open Data Institute









## The Caribbean Digital Commons

#### Imagining the Future Digital Caribbean

- Regional Open Data Portal: Open Caribbean Datasets for Entrepreneurs and Innovators, including Geospatial Data
- Caribbean School of Data: Building Data literacy and Digital Competency across the Caribbean
- **Evolving DevCA:** A Platform (Open Space) for convening multiple stakeholders around Digital Services-enabled problem-solving & Innovation
- Caribbean Apps Ecosystem: Technology platforms, tools, standards and code repositories for Shared Indigenous Solutions

