



THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES
CAVE HILL CAMPUS



OFFICE OF THE PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR & PRINCIPAL

CAVE HILL CAMPUS, P.O. BOX 64, BRIDGETOWN BB11000, BARBADOS

Telephone: (246) 417-4030/1/9 • Fax: (246) 417-0246 • Email: principal@cavehill.uwi.edu

November 11, 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

- Project leadership (this includes a 40% time commitment by the project focal point)
- 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 website 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 UWI researchers across the Sustainable Development Goal categories, and supports the effectiveness of The UWI's global partnering strategies.

The Cave Hill Campus of The UWI is committed to project sustainability on two (2) fronts. First, it plans to use CaribData as an advocacy vehicle for regional data accessibility, making its own research data resources more accessible as part of this process. Second, it plans to build the training resources developed in this RPG into an ongoing and regular training initiative for regional data professionals.

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, email: ian.hambleton@cavehill.uwi.edu.

Yours sincerely



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