**(SLIDE 2)**

Our project is called CaribData, and this is broadly is what we’re planning. And we’ve divided the work into 4 themes or work packages that run through our project.

Infrastructure. Training. Analytics & Communication. And Collaborative working

**(SLIDE 3)**

Broadly, we’ll be building a set of resources to enable and champion Caribbean data sharing and data re-use. But that’s a very broad goal, and more specifically, we want to be a data handling resource for those who want support in any aspects of data handling – from data collection, to data analytics, to data sharing.

So here are some of our plans, grouped into the same 4 work packages:

* **NEXT**. We’ll be setting up an online infrastructure to enable easier data sharing and re-use,
* **NEXT**. We’ll be developing training programs and longer term mentoring to help increase the regional capacity for data handling and data analytics.
* **NEXT**. We’ll be performing centralized analytics along with a communication program to showcase existing data, champion data re-use, and to actively communicate the stories around the data we all produce.
* **NEXT**. And through workshops and conferencing, we want to start building more collaborations that could lead to more data use across disciplines – more data linkages.

**(SLIDE 4)**

Before I go into the nuts and bolts of our work, I wanted to step back and think about the philosophy of the project. First of all, this is not an academic research project.

Most of all, we want to be a resource for Caribbean data producers like yourself, and that’s why we want to link closely and find out from each of you how we can help.

And we also hope to be a resource for data users wanting to find and access Caribbean data.

And its very important to us that we complement not compete with the many ongoing data initiatives in the region. So real efforts on our part to discover and work with other projects.

**NEXT**. The project is for 3 years in the first instance, but sustainability is key.

This sustainability is anchored on our University commitment to the region and its commitment to open-data and open-science. We want to build lasting synergies with the wider community of data producers. Nothing’s certain of course, but we’re committed to making this a long-term solution.

**NEXT**. Here are our current partners, and we are actively looking to expand the CaribData partnerships.

**(SLIDE 5)**

Now let’s now look more closely at each work package

We first have two packages of work that are essentially information gathering.

First, we want to better understand the data policy environment across the Caribbean – partly to learn who has legislation and who does not, but also to understand differences between countries that might hinder regional data sharing.

At the same time, we will be starting a series of data audits to better understand what data resources exist and whether they are open access and easily accessible. This will be a very big job, and to start we’ll limit ourselves to your countries and to the areas of health and climate. And in time we will expand.

**(SLIDE 6)**

Next, a major piece of work will be to develop an IT infrastructure for data collection and data sharing. There are more details in the full ToR, but broadly, there will be:

* An online data collection platform
* An online platform for sharing data
* An active online infrastructure for data communication
* And a CaribData website to tie together these elements.

**(SLIDE 7)**

Last, and perhaps most importantly, we’ll be developing a data training and data communication infrastructure, with different ways of learning that will hopefully appeal to different audiences.

* So we’ll have short course on areas of data handling that we want your help to define.
* Its important to us that short courses are backed up with longer term mentoring, perhaps for younger data analysts. And again we want to work with you to define this.
* And we want at least some of our resources to be online for self-guided learning.
* We want to start a data communication / data journalism program to start analysing and telling stories around the Caribbean data we all produce.
* And for more academic audiences we will be producing articles on aspects of data re-use, and we will be organizing a regional conference on data sharing.

**NEXT**. And we think its right that this training and communication package is where we also think carefully about integrating a meaningful sustainability program.

So, there are many strands to this work, and we’ll have a very active web presence to keep everyone up to date on progress.

**(SLIDE 8)**

So let me stop here, and open the floor for questions, and for comments.