

# Issues in Information Poverty and Decision-Making in the Caribbean – A Way Forward

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## **Abstract**

Several major external (global climate change, global economics and geopolitics) and internal (regional governments' national land policies, population growth and illegal settlements) factors are expected to significantly impact the Caribbean islands in the next few decades. If the Caribbean region is to manage the environmental, social and economic effects of these changes, it needs to develop appropriate mitigation strategies to address their likely consequences. However, planning and decision-making in this regard is seriously compromised due to the lack of data as well as the failure to understand the influencing factors and other processes on a regional basis. The lack of effective and reliable information base for decision-making is termed **information poverty**. This paper advances and evaluates the concept that a way forward is to endure **information poverty** is to utilize available, and reliable cutting edge technology such as satellite remote sensing, global positioning systems and geographic information systems to originate, develop, supplement, manage and analyse the necessary data sets. Furthermore, this technology can be used to develop plausible scenarios, which does not require detailed data sets and extensive knowledge, to evaluate the necessary mitigation strategies for addressing possible impacts on the region.