

## Strengthening Geospatial Data Ecosystems in the Caribbean: A Role for Academic Institutions

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**Abstract:** *Developing and implementing strategies to achieve, monitor, and measure progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires robust and functional national geospatial data ecosystems (NGDE). However, most countries in the Caribbean region are yet to achieve a high level of geospatial data ecosystem readiness. Several factors account for this situation including a lack of resources, infrastructure, policies, and standards, and an absence of clear and consistent leadership. In this study, we examined the state of readiness of geospatial data ecosystems in the region, identify the major challenges in achieving functional systems, and propose intervention strategies that can be developed and successfully implemented with indigenous support from academic institutions such as The University of the West Indies.*

**Keywords:** *Geospatial Data Ecosystems, Caribbean Data Ecosystem Readiness*