



4TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
**Small Island
Developing States**
27-30 MAY, 2024
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

SIDS4 Conference Side Event

**Enhancing Caribbean Development Using Data, Geospatial
Information, and Environmental Monitoring: Building a Regional
Environmental Information ecoSystem (REIS)**

<https://oecs.int/en/sids4-conference-page>

**Tuesday, May 28, 2024; 8:00-9:30 a.m. (AST)
American University of Antigua [Room 7]
Jabberwock Rd, Osbourn, Antigua & Barbuda**

Organized by:

**The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), in collaboration with
the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), The University of
the West Indies (UWI), United Nations Environment Programme - Cartagena
Convention Secretariat (UNEP-CEP), The United Nations Economic
Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), and the
United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)
Americas through The Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative
(CARIGEO)**



Background on the event:

The objective of the event was to highlight the pivotal role of digital technologies, authoritative data, and geospatial information in advancing environmental and developmental initiatives and aiding sound decision making across the Caribbean. The session was in the form of a panel of partner representatives moderated by Valrie Grant, and featuring remarks from Dr. Didacus Jules, OECS Director General of the OECS Commission, who emphasized the OECS's commitment to leveraging digital technologies and data in decision-making, and a keynote address by Hon. Kerryne James, Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, and Renewable Energy of Grenada, who highlighted Grenada's successes and challenges in integrating digital and geospatial technologies.

Key Issues discussed:

- Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughn (IUCN) - The role of authoritative data and geospatial information in conservation efforts.
- Kate Wilson (Saint Lucia) - The importance of data in meeting the obligations of the Escazu Agreement and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).
- Christopher Corbin (UNEP-CEP) - The impact of the Regional Environmental Monitoring Data Portal on policy and decision-making.
- Simone Lloyd (UN-GGIM: CARIGEO) Americas Insights into the progress of the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) in the Caribbean and the significance of the Caribbean Geoportal for regional environmental management.
- Chamberlain Emmanuel (OECS) - The operational framework and collaborative mechanisms of the Regional Environmental Information System (REIS), including key initiatives of the OECS Commission and their contributions to environmental data availability and analysis.
- Julian Walcott (UWI) - The sustainability of the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG) through its transition and integration into the OECS REIS.

Key recommendations for action:

- Support and facilitate: Increased advocacy for geospatial, digital, and environmental matters; enhanced understanding of the importance of fit-for-purpose data, its availability, and accessibility; and greater appreciation for geospatial and environmental management activities in the region.
- A call to action for: Stakeholders to support and engage with the initiatives discussed, ensuring continued progress in leveraging digital and geospatial technologies for the betterment of the Caribbean region; and policymakers and practitioners acquiring actionable insights and best practices for integrating digital and geospatial technologies into their work, contributing to more informed decision-making and policy formulation.
- The OECS Commission, and its partners, to plan a follow-up virtual activity to continue discussions and insights on this critical topic, and to encourage/facilitate new partnerships and strengthening of existing ones among regional stakeholders, facilitating shared initiatives and collaborative projects.
- The OECS Commission to explore a partnership with Esri to implement a GIS in Schools Education Program in the region.
- The partnerships, initiative and insights showcased should be leveraged by the proposed SIDS Centre of Excellence hosted by Antigua and Barbuda, particularly the potential contribution to the Global Data Hub and the Innovation and Technological Mechanism.

Video Summary: https://youtu.be/ZF6ML-eE5o0?si=nZ-E3j1Tum9ic_g



Photo Gallery

