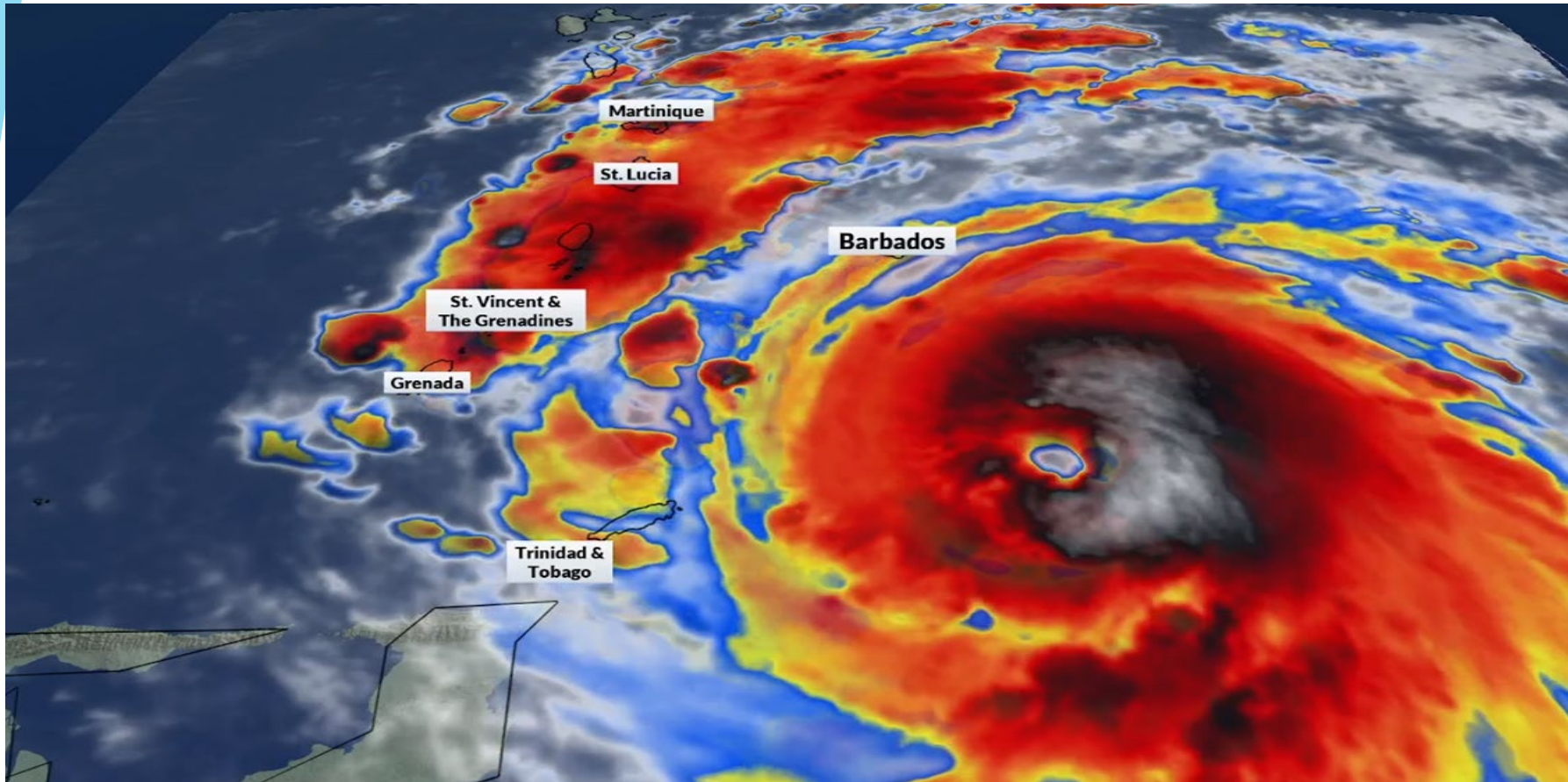




The Case of Barbados

Leveraging Trade for Climate Adaptation

Climate Impacts

- ▶ i) tourism through increasing damage to coastal tourism infrastructure, erosion of beaches and coral reefs degradation;
- ▶ ii) water scarcity due to a reduction of water resources through groundwater contamination from flooding (as a consequence of changing precipitation patterns, increasing frequency of natural disasters, and increased demand for extraction), as well as soil or pollutant infiltration and saline intrusion; a situation which is especially alarming for Barbados, given its ranking among the world's most water-scarce countries;
- ▶ iii) agricultural production through droughts, flooding, and storm damages; and
- ▶ iv) fisheries due to sea surface temperature increase and sedimentation.

Barbados 2035 - A Plan for Investment in Prosperity and Resilience

- ▶ THE BARBADOS PLAN IDENTIFIES A US\$11.6 BILLION OPPORTUNITY FOR PROSPERITY AND RESILIENCE BY 2035
- ▶ over US\$6.6 billion - would be an opportunity for private investors.
- ▶ Public funding requirements are estimated at US\$5 billion over the next 10 years.

What is it?

- ▶ allocation of financial and human resources;
- ▶ implementation of enabling conditions such as policy and legislation;
- ▶ development of strategic and operational partnerships;
- ▶ monitoring of progress at the highest level; and
- ▶ removal of bottlenecks

Roofs to Reefs Programme

- ▶ Direct public investment toward -
 - ▶ reinforcing home construction;
 - ▶ increasing sustainable land use;
 - ▶ improving freshwater storage capacity;
 - ▶ and restoring coral reefs, which help protect coastlines from waves, storms, and floods.

Physical Development Plan

- ▶ The 2021 Physical Development Plan (PDP) sets out policies and strategies to -
 - ▶ Guide transformational and foundational policy directions that can guide more sustainable investment, land use and infrastructure decisions in Barbados
 - ▶ Address the urgency of climate change and reframes planning for steady state growth by redefining the island's urban structure
 - ▶ Address infrastructure and environmental management
 - ▶ Addresses scarcity and irreplaceable resources, including through the shift from car-centric transportation to multi-modal mobility

It moves Barbados toward a green economy, including food self-sufficiency and a viable agriculture sector, investing in sustainable infrastructure, and greening tourism.

Responses - Laws, Policies and Initiatives

- ▶ In addition, Barbados has adopted, or is in the process of adopting and updating, several sector policies and regulations that include climate change adaptation considerations, including:
 - ▶ (i) the Water Reuse Policy;
 - ▶ (ii) the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan;
 - ▶ (iii) the Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Policy;
 - ▶ (iv) the Climate Change and Agriculture Policy;
 - ▶ (v) the Plumbing Act, which follows a rainwater harvesting strategy;
 - ▶ (vi) the Marine Pollution Control Act; and
 - ▶ (vii) the approved List of Pollutants with their Prohibited Concentration Levels.
- ▶ Insurance Stress tests
- ▶ Barbados is also operating a Catastrophe Fund, which is intended to provide financial aid to eligible persons and qualifying businesses in need of such aid as a result of, inter alia, climate-induced natural disasters.

Initiatives

- ▶ Sustainable Public Procurement Policy, and a Methodology for Budget Climate Tagging - allows the public service to orient expenses and better identify government spending in sustainability and assess its impact.
- ▶ Upgrade of the existing South Coast Sewage Treatment Plant - refurbish the existing influent lift pump station and interconnect piping to the new South Coast Water Reclamation and Re-use Facility for enhanced treatment. The main objective is to increase water resilience and options for agriculture irrigation, as well as enhance aquifer recharge.

Innovation in Agriculture

- ▶ Shade Houses
- ▶ Transitioning to more technology based, less water intense forms of agricultural production
- ▶ Drought resistant crops

Agriculture continued

- ▶ Strengthen ability of Barbadian farming communities to undertake concrete actions to adapt to water scarcity and drought
- ▶ Strengthen support for Barbadian farming communities with tools and materials to mitigate climate change-driven hazards;
- ▶ Strengthened Institutional capacity for water conservation



Initiatives

- ▶ Commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030
- ▶ Ban on single-use plastics.
- ▶ Substantial investments in climate-resilient infrastructure projects, including the construction of seawalls and drainage systems to limit rising sea levels, erosion and increased flooding.
- ▶ Launched a Marine Spatial Planning process to determine and establish new marine protected areas to preserve its ecosystems, including vital coral reefs and marine species that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change.
- ▶ Bridgetown Initiative, which has been a leading voice on the need for financial architecture reforms, urging for the need to address climate change challenges along with liquidity and debt solutions, with a clear focus on the demands from Small Island Developing States. Barbados advocates for increased financial support, disaster clauses in lending deals, technology transfer, capacity building, and debt relief.
- ▶ Decreasing dependence on fossil fuels by promoting sustainable energy practices, which in turn boosts the country's competitiveness.
- ▶ Public transportation fleet comprises a large number of electric vehicles
- ▶ Diversification of the energy matrix by enhancing grid capacity through battery storage options, thereby facilitating greater penetration of renewable energy.

- ▶ WE PLANTIN'™ project
- ▶ - ONE MILLION trees to contribute towards fighting climate change.
- ▶ - Intended to accomplish multiple goals, including: reducing carbon footprint and providing trees for: beautification, recreation, business and entrepreneurship, conservation and food.



Fisheries Management



- ▶ Barbados Draft Fisheries Policy is based on the broad vision for the Fisheries Sector over the next ten years, which is defined as a well-managed and developing sector with:
- ▶ Improved up to date knowledge of the fisheries resources in Barbados' Exclusive Economic Zone, for better rationalised exploitation of fishery resources, enhanced administration and fisheries management systems, use of Fisheries Management Plans that adopt the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries' principles, underpinned by human resources in the sector trained to required international standards, and operating within the commitments to relevant international agreements and national laws, verified by electronic monitoring, control and surveillance.

Private Sector

- ▶ Green Business Support Pilot Programme
- ▶ Under the umbrella of The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) and implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- ▶ Provide capacity building and compliance support for the ‘greening’ or environmental sustainability of businesses within the Wildey Business District with a special focus on youth engagement and awareness through-
 - ▶ increased focus and achievement in energy stewardship,
 - ▶ water conservation,
 - ▶ pollution prevention,
 - ▶ solid waste management,
 - ▶ corporate social responsibility,
 - ▶ beautification, ecological sensitivity,
 - ▶ and leadership through education and development

Tourism

- ▶ Approximately 13% of Barbados' GDP comes from tourism
- ▶ 60 miles of coastline, one-third is essential to the tourism product
- ▶ During the COVID-19 pandemic, participating tourism firms designed and implemented Greening and Digitization Investment Plans, which help to increase their resilience to climate change.
- ▶ The development of integrated coastal infrastructure at five priority sites, including offshore breakwaters, drainage channels, and boardwalks, with the primary objective of reducing coastal climate risks.



Closing Comments

- ▶ Mix of measures are required
- ▶ Whole of country approach
- ▶ Significant finances are required
- ▶ Cost of Implementation
- ▶ Access to Financing
- ▶ Human Resource Capacities
- ▶ Climate crisis continues to be unpredictable
- ▶ Opportunity for investment, innovation, partnerships and technology transfer
- ▶ Education
- ▶ DATA DRIVEN DECISION MAKING
- ▶ Reforms
- ▶ Dialogue