

Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on

**Climate Change Adaptation for  
International Transport:  
Preparing for the Future**

16 to 17 April 2019

**Climate Change Adaptation for International  
Transport- Preparing for the Future:  
Perspective from Caribbean SIDS**

Presentation by

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# Climate Change Adaptation for International Transport -Preparing for the Future: Perspectives from Caribbean SIDS



Presented by  
Willard Phillips  
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to the

UNCTAD Ad Hoc Expert Meeting, Geneva  
April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

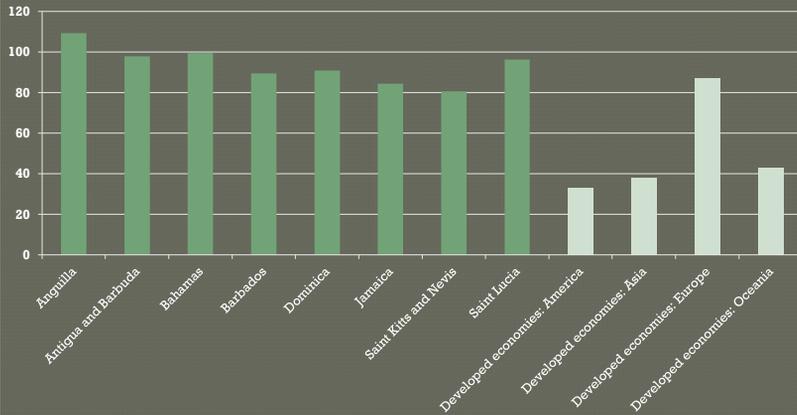
## Four Issues...

- Criticality of Transportation Infrastructure for SIDS
- Vulnerability of Transportation Infrastructure
- Transportation Infrastructure (mainly ports) handle large numbers of passengers relative to commercial cargo
- Impacts of natural events on transportation infrastructure



## Transportation Infrastructure is Critical in SIDS

Indicator of Trade Openness: Total Value of Trade as a Percentage of GDP (2013)



Source: UNCTAD

## Vulnerability of Transportation Infrastructure



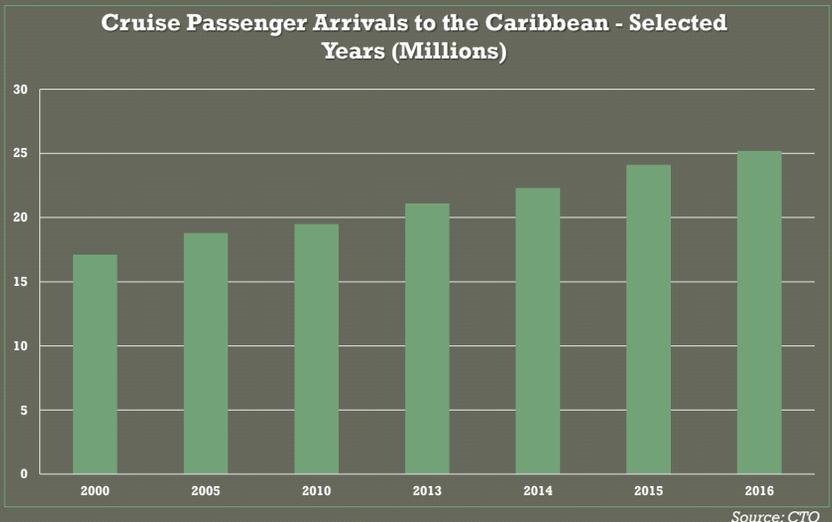
Most Caribbean Airports are Located on the  
Coast...



Critical for Cruisers – Large Share of  
Passengers



# Cruise Passenger Arrivals to the Caribbean



# Impacts of Natural Events on Transportation Infrastructure



..And impacts can be severe



## Impacts from Natural Hazards - 2017

- One of the most devastating hurricane seasons
- Seventeen (17) named storms, six (6) of which affected 10 states
- Damage and losses exceeding \$15 Billion
- Disruption of Trade and Passenger Flows
- Destruction to tourism infrastructure, agricultural crops, roads and bridges, electricity and telecommunications
- Loss of life – more than 200 deaths

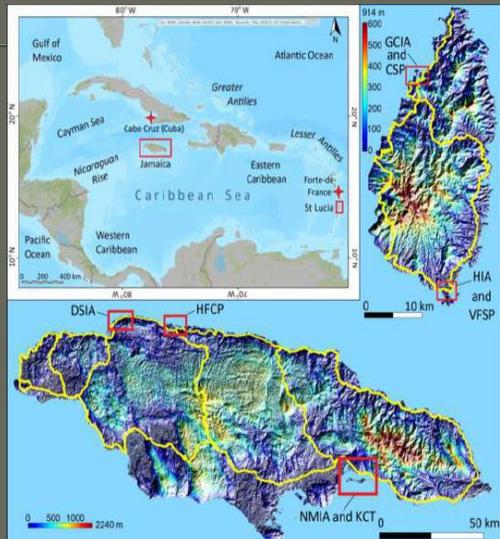
## Climate Change Implications

- Adaptation needed to threats from sea level rise
- Need to build in domestic and regional redundancy in transportation



## Adaptation Efforts

UNCTAD's  
Regional Initiative:  
- Climate Change  
Impacts and  
Adaptation for  
Coastal Transport  
Infrastructure in  
the Caribbean



Source: Monioudi I.N. et al, 2017

## Conclusions

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- The peculiarities of the sub-region make transportation infrastructure extremely critical for Caribbean SIDS
- Strategies for reducing vulnerabilities, enhancing resilience, and improving economic efficiency are necessary for sustaining economic and social gains.

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**THANK YOU**

