

# **Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN)**

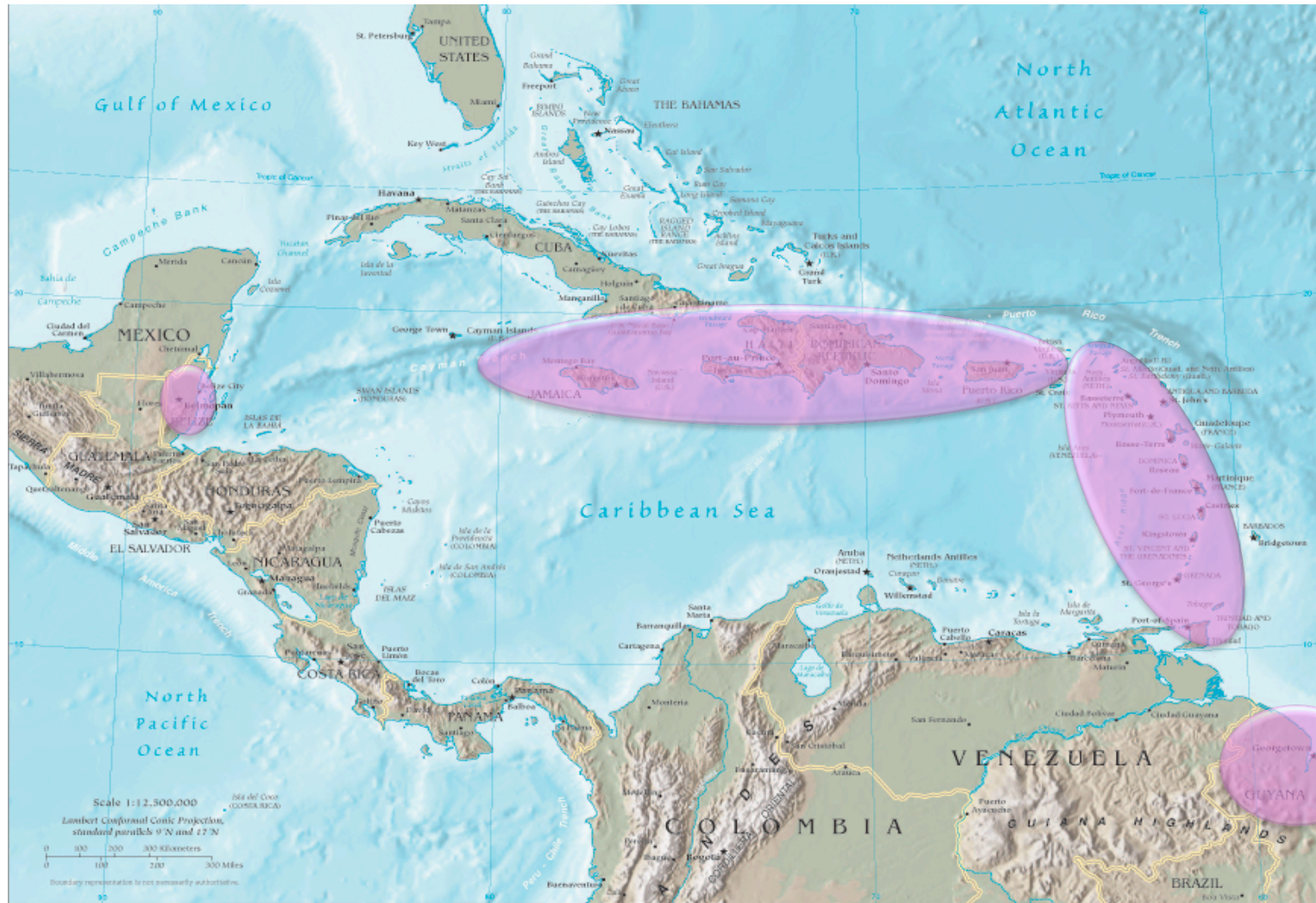
**Ken Sylvester  
Chief Executive Officer**



# AGENDA

1. Caribbean: Issues and Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
2. **C@ribNET**: The Caribbean Regional Research and Education Network, Opportunity for effecting Economic and Social Transformation

# Large Geographic Space With Small Island State





Sun, Sand and Sea...

# The World Has Changed

- Globalisation
- Free Market
- End Of Preferential Trade Agreements

# The Caribbean Economic Landscape Today

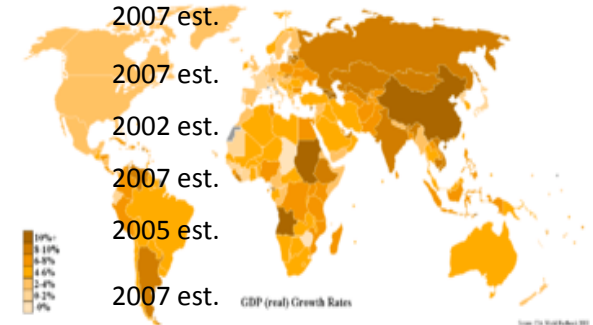
- Small Island States
- No economies of scale
- The demise of Agriculture
- Decline in Tourism
- Climate Change (Natural Disasters)
- Brain Drain



# Population and GDP



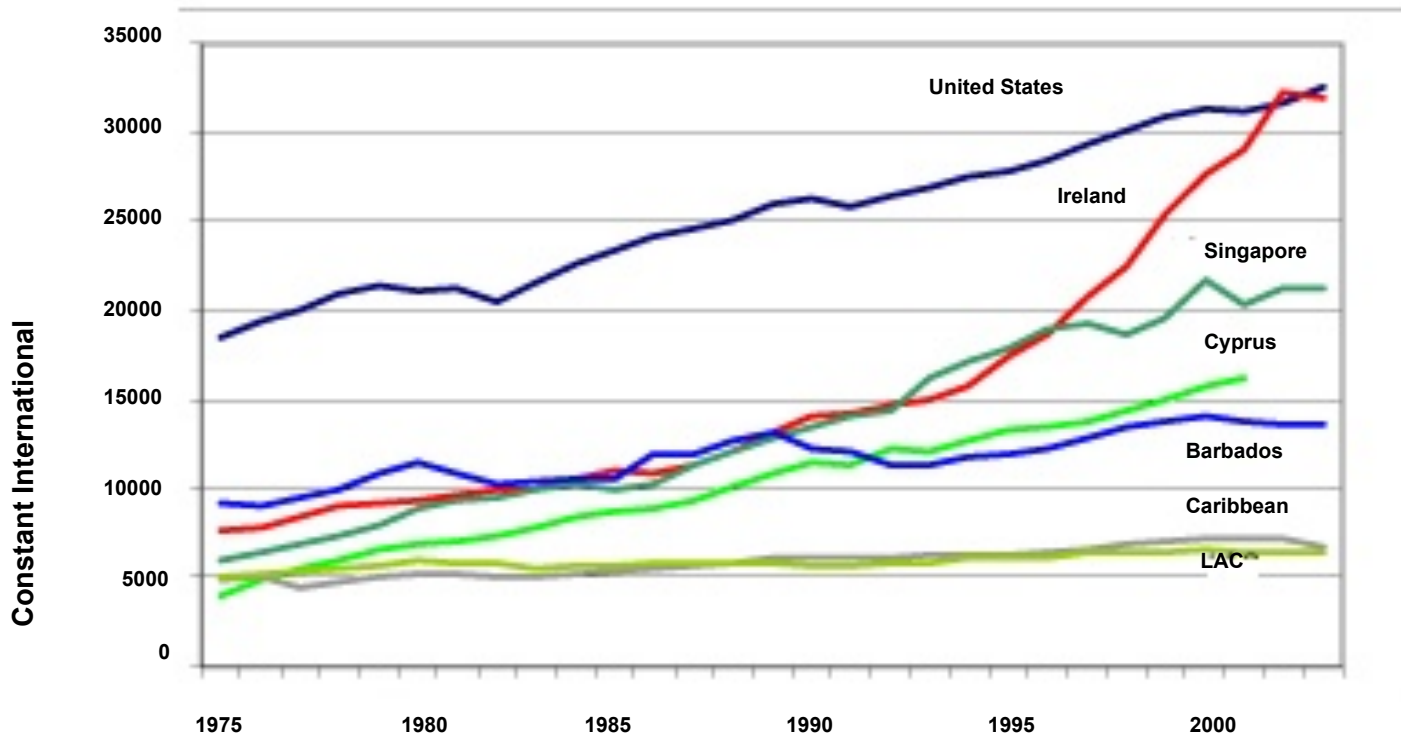
Country	Population October 2006	GDP (real) growth rate (%)	Year
Antigua and Barbuda	81,000	3.80	2007 est.
Bahamas	323,000	2.80	2007 est.
Barbados	279,000	4.00	2007 est.
Belize	288,000	3.00	2007 est.
Dominica	79,000	3.20	2007 est.
Grenada	103,000	0.90	2005 est.
Guyana	738,000	4.50	2007 est.
Haiti	8,528,000	3.50	2007 est.
Jamaica	2,651,000	1.50	2007 est.
Montserrat	4,000	-1.00	2002 est.
Saint Kitts and Nevis	43,000	6.00	2007 est.
Saint Lucia	161,000	5.10	2005 est.
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	119,000	4.40	2007 est.
Suriname	458,000	5.10	2007 est.
Trinidad and Tobago	1,305,000	5.80	2007 est.



Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Caribbean\\_island\\_countries\\_by\\_population](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Caribbean_island_countries_by_population)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_countries\\_by\\_GDP\\_\(real\)\\_growth\\_rate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(real)_growth_rate)

# Per Capita Income

Figure 1: Per Capita Incomes (PPP) 1975-2002

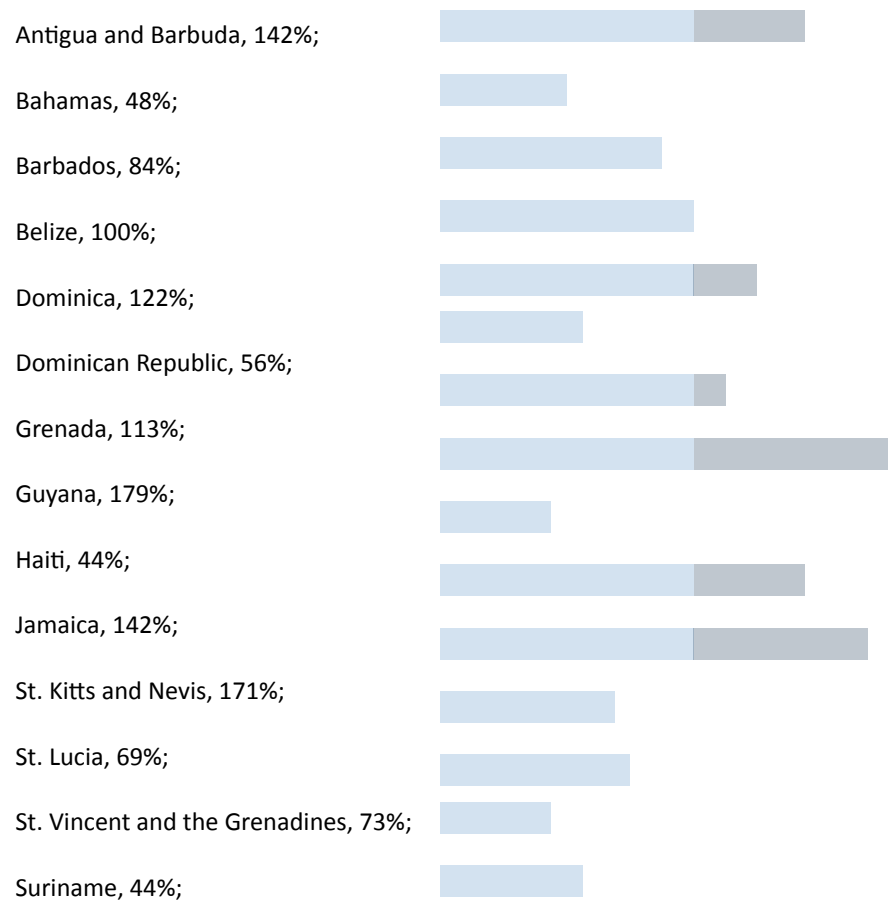


Source: World Development Indicators (WDI)



# Public Debt

In 2003, the average debt for Caribbean countries was 96% of their respective GDP

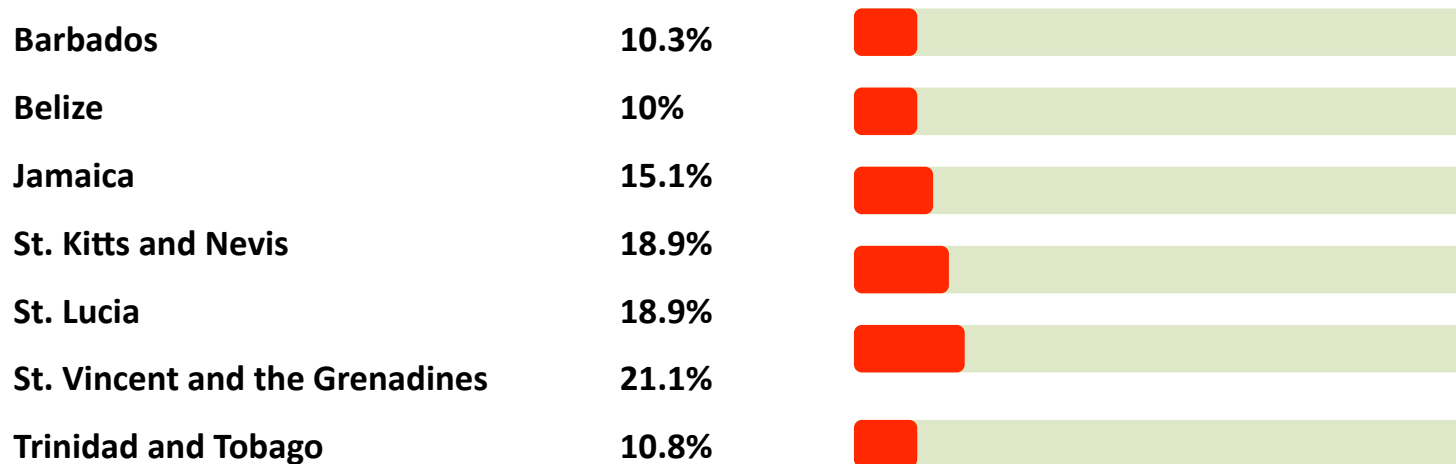


- The very high debt has placed seven Caribbean countries among the 10 most indebted countries in the world, and 14 among the top 30, which exacts a toll on sustainable growth and worsens expectations about macro stability.
- Improvement of the debt profile will have significant payoffs, especially for Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, and Belize.

Source: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

# Unemployment

Despite some decline over the last decade, unemployment rates in most countries tend to be high



High levels of open urban unemployment prevail in the larger countries while rural unemployment and underemployment exist in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

# Migration and Remittances

**Migration** in the Caribbean plays a major role in economic and social development. Most of the migrants are generally in the most productive **age group 20-45** and generally have a high level of education.

- Haitians **63%**,
- Dominicans **53%** and
- Jamaicans **48%**

**Remittances:**

**US\$400 million** per year - early **1990s**  **US\$4 billion** per year- **2002**.

Representing an average of 6% of regional GDP over 1998-2003, remittance flows now exceed both FDI inflows as well as official development assistance.

**Country Variation:** Haiti receiving 14% of GDP *in remittances* and  
Trinidad and Tobago receiving around 1% of GDP.

**Brain Drain:** An extreme case in point is Guyana where the country has been losing teachers and nurses at high, unsustainable rates. In Jamaica, roughly **80%** of the potential number of tertiary graduates has left the country.

# Fixing the Problem (The Strategic Objective)

To enhance global competitiveness of the Region by upgrading and diversifying the skills and knowledge of human resources in the region through greater regional collaboration and connectivity.

# Competitiveness

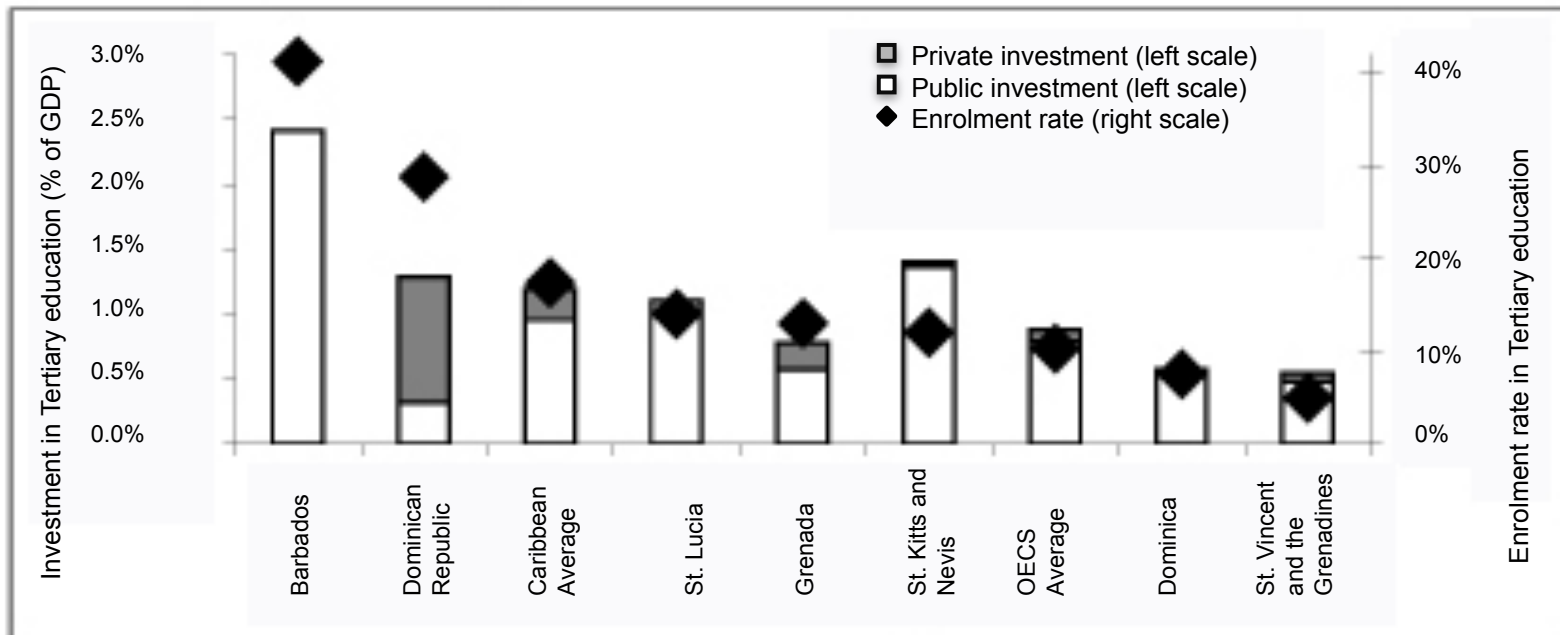
- Competitiveness of the Caribbean states will have to be strengthened through strategies which emphasize economic diversification, development of new competences, **and the better exploitation of available economies of scale.**
- Will require a skilled, flexible and mobile labor force and the continued reinvestment of capital.
- Development of high quality human resources and **knowledge-based services**

# The Birth of the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN)

A Network of Tertiary Education Institutions Collaborating and Partnering to significantly increase Access to Tertiary Education to Caribbean Citizens wherever they may live

# Issues facing Tertiary Education in the Caribbean

Figure 7.7: Tertiary Education: How Investment and Enrollment relate



Source: Authors' own calculation based on UNESCO and country sources

# Issues Facing Tertiary Institutions (TEI) in the Region

- Small National Tertiary Institutions
- Mismatch between needs of the new and emerging labor market and what is being delivered by TEIs
- Lack of partnership among TEIs, limits regional integration and leads to duplication
- Scarce financing capacity and ability to attract and retain skilled teachers, limits expansion of tertiary education and adoption of innovative approaches



# Issues Facing Tertiary Institutions (TEI) in the Region

- Adherence to traditional academic models, restricts access to Tertiary Education to a significant percentage of High School graduates
- High cost of connectivity constrains knowledge sharing and the development of ICT enabled enterprises and services

# We Are Not Connected



THE INTERNATIONAL REACH OF THE INTERNET2 NETWORK

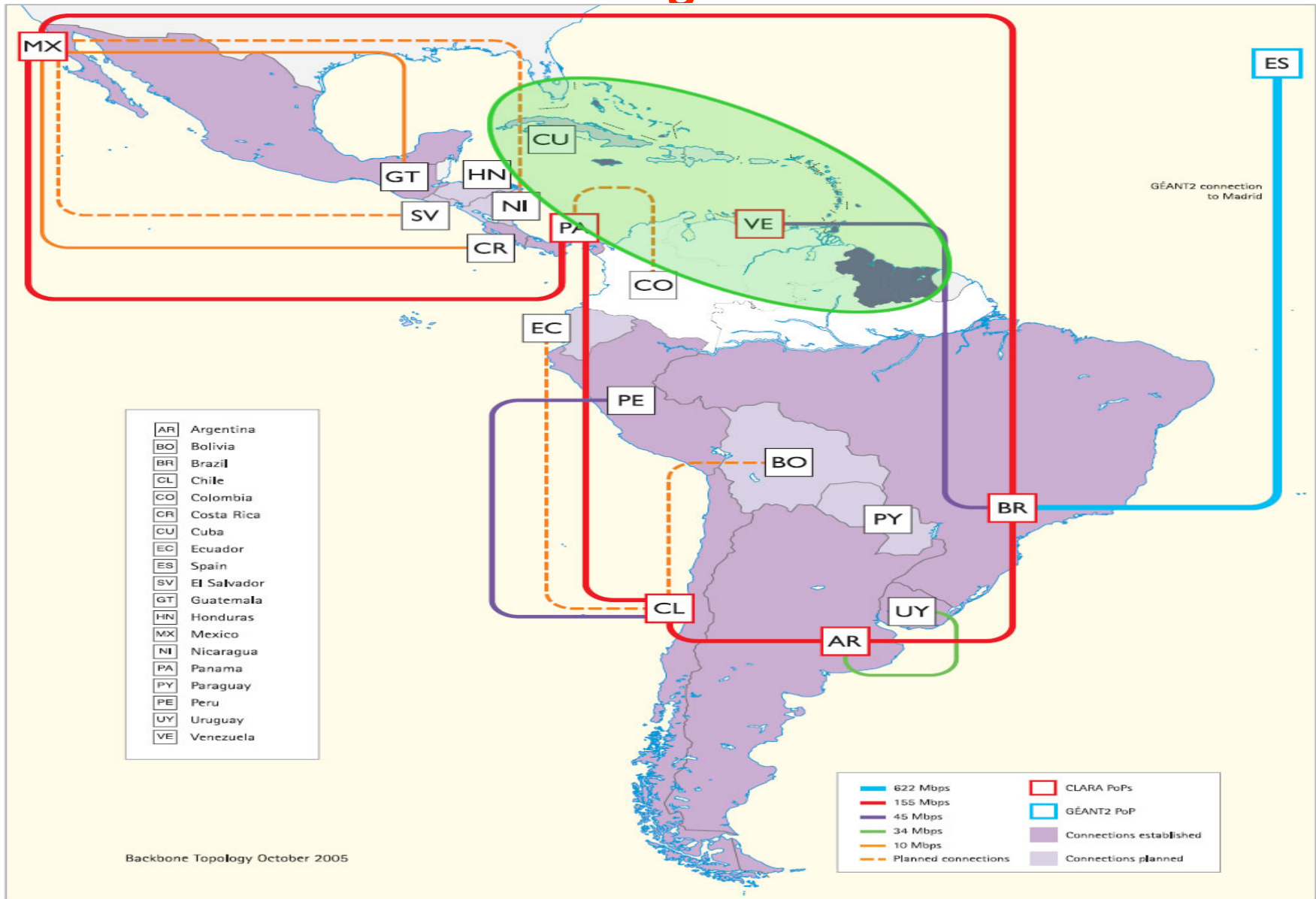


— NSF IRNC-sponsored connections  
— Other international connections

- U.S. Exchange Points
- PacificWave
  - PacificWave-North
  - PacificWave-Bay Area
  - PacificWave-South
  - StarLight
  - AtlanticWave
  - MANLAN
  - NGIX-East
  - AMPATH

For further information regarding the international programs of Internet2, visit <http://international.internet2.edu/> or contact Heather Boyles, International Relations Director, [heather@internet2.edu](mailto:heather@internet2.edu).  
A listing of networks reachable via the Internet2 Network is found on the back of this page.

# The Digital Hole



# The Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN)

A Regional Mechanism, Created by the Prime Ministers of CARICOM to:

1. Work with all Tertiary Education Institutions in the Caribbean to strengthen their capacity to develop and deliver e-learning programmes and courses at a distance to Caribbean nationals wherever they may live.
3. To provide a Regional Education and Research Network (**C@ribNET**)

# C@ribNET Functionality (The Big Vision)

- Enable Collaboration and Partnering amongst Tertiary Education Institutions in the Caribbean in the development and delivery of online and Distance Education and Research
- Commercial Internet for Schools and other educational Institutions????
- Connectivity to other Regional and Global Research and Education Networks
- Facilitate collaborative research in relevant areas such as: Tropical Medicine, Agriculture etc.

# C@ribNET Functionality (The Big Vision)

- Facilitate inclusion of the Diaspora in the Caribbean development Agenda
- The Catalyst for development of NERNS and National Backbone
- Facilitate Regional Integration and the Caribbean Single Market and Economy through **Functional Cooperation** amongst CARICOM Member States and its Regional institutions
  - E-Government
  - E-Health
  - Disaster Management
  - Regional Security
  - E-Inclusion (Bridging the Digital Divide)

# Proposed Caribbean Educational Knowledge and Research Network (C@ribNET)







# C@ribNET Implementation Process (Thinking Strategically)

1. Situation Analysis and Needs Assessment of Member States, National and Regional Institutions: (October 2008)
  - National Network Infrastructure
  - Human Resource and Management capacity
  
2. Engagement, Awareness and Mobilisation of National and Regional Institutions and the wider public (January 2009)

# C@ribNET Implementation Process

3. Development of Strategic Business Plan for C@ribNET (March 2009)
  - Development an appropriate Business Model for C@ribNET
  - Design of Membership model
  - Development of Operational Plan for C@ribNET
  - Support for the development of Institutional and National Networks
  - Development of strategic links and partnerships

## C@ribNET Implementation Process

4. Network Design and procurement (March 2009)
5. Commence Network Implementation (September 2009)

# Project Grant Funding

**Total Project Budget: US\$20.00 Million**

World Bank:

Organisation of American States

European Union

CIDA

Caribbean Development Bank

EC-ACP

IADB

**CARICOM Governments**

**US\$950, 000 (Admin and Operations)**

# Challenges

1. Absence of National Networks
3. Applications
3. Politics and Sovereignty

THANK YOU !!!!