

INAUGURAL CARIBBEAN DRONE SYMPOSIUM



Participants preparation note

Event Overview

To address the application of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle or System (UAV/UAS) [commonly known as drones] to environmental resilience issues and socio-economic development in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS), The University of the West Indies Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI-CERMES) with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the People of Japan, is pleased to be hosting the inaugural Caribbean Drone Symposium at the 3Ws Pavilion, The UWI Cave Hill Campus, Barbados from 10-12 February 2025. The main purpose of the Symposium is to facilitate a process of dialogue with regional stakeholders, aimed at creating awareness, identifying gaps and points of convergence in policies, laws and regulations related to drones and the low altitude economy. The theme of the symposium is **"Shifting Paradigms on Drones for Environmental Resilience"**.

This symposium will provide a forum for regional and national stakeholders - public institutions, the private sector, civil society organizations, academic and research institutions, and practitioners - to be exposed to and discuss the utility of drones in environmental resilience and the status of policies, laws, and regulations in the Caribbean and other countries. In a mixed format comprising keynote addresses, panel discussions, and technical presentations, the application of drones in diverse disciplines and areas will be presented. Applications in sargassum-related activities will feature prominently as a key regional environmental challenge, dispersed throughout the duration of the symposium.

As a forum, the participants will be exposed to and discuss policy, law and regulatory issues that require priority attention, as well as best practices to unleash the full potential of drones for environmental resilience and socio-economic development. Issues of certification, licensing, permitting, safety, and capacity development across the region will be priority areas for discussion. The Symposium will include drone flight demonstrations for data capture and environmental observation. Participants will have a chance to fly drones.

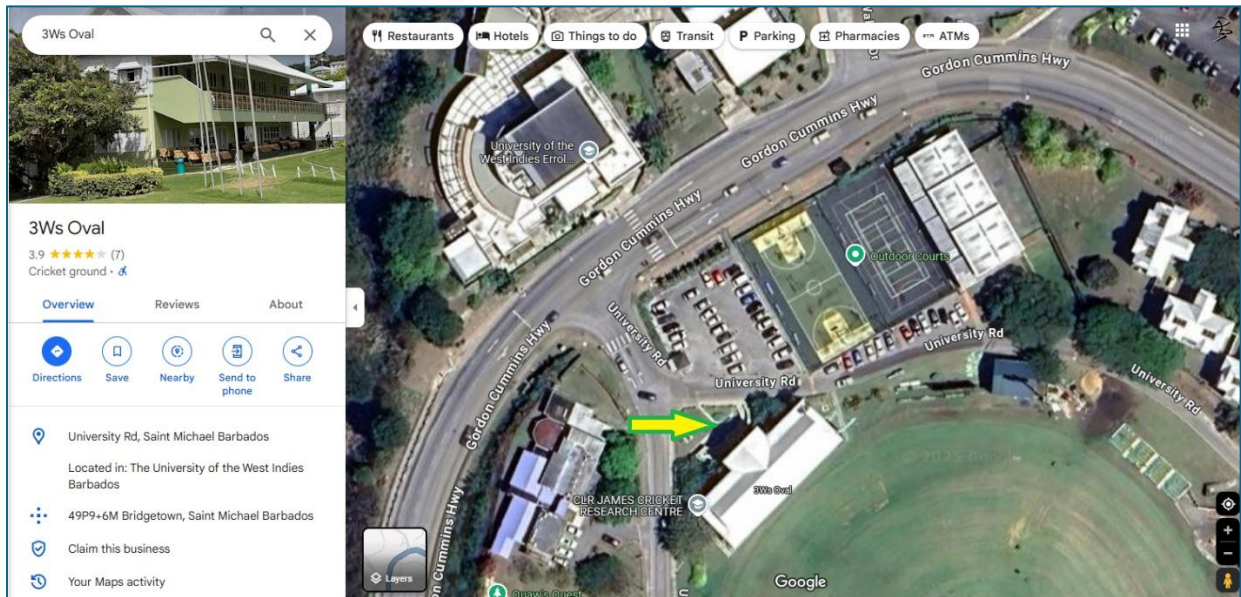
Aims	Objectives
1. Synthesize the state and challenges of drone policies, laws, regulations, applications, and practices in the region	1. Expose participants (especially policy makers and regulators) to the role of drones in environmental resilience
2. Serve as a basis for further dialogue and advocacy for addressing the challenges associated with civilian use of drones, and to unleash drone applications for environmental resilience and effective participation in the emerging low altitude economy	2. Introduce participants to regional and international best practices on policies, laws and regulations underpinning drone operations and related socio-economic activities 3. Identify priority levers of change to address policy and regulatory challenges related to drone operations in the region 4. Raise participant awareness of UNDP sargassum work 5. To present information on focal areas of applications and related practices in the region 6. To allow participants to share information and openly discuss national and context-specific experiences and expectations regarding drone policies, regulations, and operations.

Expected outputs

1. A register of drone experts and practitioners, showing affiliation, services, skills and expertise.
2. Increased visibility for UNDP sargassum and drone work.
3. A published Symposium proceedings.
4. List of national/government contacts and their responsibilities.

Symposium venue and information

The Symposium will be held at the 3Ws Pavilion overlooking the beautiful 3Ws Oval on the Cave Hill Campus of The University of the West Indies. The 3Ws Pavilion is at the entrance to The UWI. If you are driving, please use the assigned car park to the front of building and to the left of the Security checkpoint. Campus Security will provide the necessary guidance. Link to map at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/WxFQ2ZobACHkbDT1A>



Agenda

Visit the Symposium website at <https://caridronehub.org/> to download a copy of the agenda. Start time is 8:00 am AST through to 5 pm on Days 1 and 2. On Day 3 the Symposium ends at 4:20 pm.

Symposium attire

The attire for the event is business casual. Drone demonstrations are included as activities for Days 1 and 2 in the afternoon so please bring hats, sunscreen, sunglasses and anything else needed to keep cool and comfortable. Demonstrations will occur on the 3Ws Oval and, potentially, at an off-campus site.

Meals

Morning and afternoon liquid breaks and lunch will be covered by the Symposium. Should you need additional sustenance, walk with provisions.

Overseas participant information

Those of you joining us from overseas, welcome to Barbados, the undisputed gem of the Caribbean! We hope you enjoy your stay here.

Travel entry requirements: To facilitate the immigration process, you can complete the Immigration and Customs Form online up to 72 hours prior to arriving on the Customs and Immigration Portal at <https://www.travelform.gov.bb/>

If you are unable to complete the form online, don't worry. You will do so on the biometric-enabled kiosk (computers) at the Grantley Adams International Airport just before approaching the Immigration Officers' booths.

Barbados visa entry requirements: All visitors to Barbados must have a passport and valid return ticket to be allowed entry. The passport must be valid for the duration of your stay here. Most countries do not require a visa to visit Barbados, so please check [here](#) to see if one is required of your country.

Airport transfers: Taxis may be easily acquired from the airport on arrival.

Public transport: It's quite easy to get around Barbados by public transport, as there is a well-established public transportation system, as well as private buses and vans. The standard bus fare in Barbados is BDS\$3.50. This is the equivalent of US\$1.75, but please use local currency; no foreign coins are accepted on the government operated Transport Board buses. These buses are easily recognized by their blue color with yellow stripe. They traverse most of the island and have 3 terminals - 2 in the capital city of [Bridgetown](#) (at Fairchild Street and Princess Alice Highway) and 1 in the northern town of [Speightstown](#).

Private transport options: In addition to the government's buses, there are many privately run Barbados transport options. Minibuses are painted yellow with a blue stripe. These are about the same size as the smaller Transport Board buses.

Another option are the **ZR (pronounced Zed-R) vans**, which are painted white with a maroon stripe. These vans are much smaller than the minibuses and buses and typically run shorter routes concentrated in highly trafficked and highly populated areas. They are a great choice for travelling along the island's south coast. Travelling by ZR van is quite an experience, as they are known for their high speed, loud music, sudden stops and packing in as many passengers as possible!

Electricity: In Barbados, the standard voltage is 115V and 50Hz, and the plug types used are primarily Type A and Type B, which are the same as those used in North America.

Water: Drinking water is safe from the tap but bottled mineral/distilled water is also available.

Emergency telephone numbers:

Police: 211

Fire: 311

Ambulance: 511

