

Hurricane Symposium: Response & Resilience to Hurricanes in the Caribbean in a Changing Climate  
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# Background



- Since January 2020 the Cayman Islands has experienced a number of events:
  - 7.7 Earthquake 2020
  - Tropical Storm Eta 2020
  - Tropical Storm Grace 2021
  - Nor’wester 2024
  - June floods 2024
  - Hurricane Beryl 2024
  - Tropical Storm Helene 2024
- National Resilience
  - IoT flood sensor network
  - Storm water plan development
  - Social Vulnerability Index
  - Building codes



# Background



- National Resilience
  - Early warning systems (Phase 1,2 & 3)
  - Revision of coastal development : Coastal Setback
  - Draft Climate Change Policy
    - Effective land use planning to conserve, restore or enhance green infrastructure
    - Reducing impervious surfaces through design standards and greening programmes, especially in underserved communities
    - Collaborating with the private sector to promote climate-resilient retrofits that facilitate in-home sheltering and incentivize building weatherization and remediation programmes
- Community Resilience
  - Community Emergency Response Teams

# Resilient Development



- There is a need for approved legislation to drive resilient development
- Development of comprehensive hazard maps
- Continued research to identify local critical infrastructure and effective resilient measures
- Holistic approach from Private & Public Sector
- Cultural change

# Challenges & Opportunities



- Challenges
  - Inadequate funding for risk reduction initiatives
  - High resolution geospatial datasets
  - Lack of advanced specialised skills within agencies (eg Climate Change specialist or Hydrologist)
- Opportunities
  - Greater collaboration due to shared experiences
  - Create citizen centred service delivery
  - Current events have provided the opportunity to build back better



# THANK YOU!

## ANY QUESTIONS?



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