Cuba — What Havana’s front doors and back courtyards can teach a model



Cuba AI white paper • 27 November 2026 · Revision 2

A photograph can show an intact façade while the household behind it still needs a repair. Use renovation, food supply and conservation cases to judge whether a system can accept observations made on the ground, correct its records and keep working when photographs or connections are missing.

The decision before local leaders

This paper proposes two starting points for Cuba. Before either begins, the service owner should agree on an existing comparison service, a way to challenge an error and the conditions for ending the trial.

Reconcile street photographs with household reports during a shadow trial in Old Havana.

Proposed lead. Local inspection supervisor and participating residents

What to measure. Missed interior damage, corrections to addresses and time to acknowledgement.

Test a grower’s short harvest forecast against sales records.

Proposed lead. Participating grower and market supervisor

What to measure. Forecast error in saleable units and minutes of rework.

Local evidence in context

Indicator	Value	Observation	Source
Population	10,937,203	2025	World Bank WDI
GDP per person, current US dollars	9,605	2020	World Bank WDI
Residents aged 65 and over	17.0%	2025	World Bank WDI
People using the internet	70.5%	2024	ITU / World Bank

The year and geographic coverage belong to each observation. These figures describe the jurisdiction as a whole. Collect service-level figures before setting a cost target, staff requirement or digital access threshold.

Economic and social needs

Check the crop at the point of sale

FAO describes an urban growing site in Havana’s Plaza de la Revolución municipality that both grows and sells food. A harvest forecast there should distinguish food ready to cut, food packed and food actually available to customers. A grower could test a paper tally against a forecast for one crop. Include discarded produce and time spent correcting the forecast when judging whether the new system saved work.

Policy response. Reconcile one day’s sales and losses against the morning forecast before extending the trial.

FAO Cuba, support for urban, suburban and family agriculture

Set the terms of a recording before it travels

UNESCO documents Tumba Francesa as a tradition of dance, singing and drumming rooted in eastern Cuba’s Haitian heritage. A catalogue assistant could help an archive find recordings, while an imitation voice or drum arrangement raises a different question about use. Invite performers or their designated representatives to decide whether a recording may be indexed, played publicly or used to train a model. Record the answer for each purpose.

Policy response. Publish the catalogue description only after checking its wording and permissions with contributors.

UNESCO, La Tumba Francesa

Public institutions and environmental needs

Name the custodian of each damage report

Cuba published Law 149 on personal data protection in its Official Gazette in August 2022. A housing inspection trial should identify who receives a resident’s report, whether photographs contain identifiable people and how to correct an entry attached to the wrong address. The office proposing the trial should review the applicable legal provisions before giving a supplier access to names, contact details or interior photographs.

Policy response. Give the resident the same case reference on the paper receipt and the electronic record.

Gaceta Oficial No. 90, Law 149/2022, archived issue

Keep gaps visible on the wetland map

UNESCO places the Ciénaga de Zapata Biosphere Reserve on Cuba’s southern coast in Matanzas. A map that suggests where wetland conditions have changed should distinguish a usable observation from a gap in coverage. A field team may reach one bank and have no safe route to the other. Record the date and route of the observation before using either a photograph or a predicted change to direct work.

Policy response. Show unverified locations separately and let field staff correct the mapped boundary.

UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, Ciénaga de Zapata

How the policy would change a decision

In a pilot for reporting service faults, have staff place a test call using an invented street address. Follow the audio and transcript from the call centre to the department handling the fault. Check whether the supplier retains another copy after the request closes.

- Record who authorised each use of the voice file and transcript. Where the service relies on an exception to consent, identify the provision and explain why it applies.
- Set a deletion date for each copy. Give the caller a way to access their record or correct the address without recording a second account of the fault.

The service director should examine the test-call record and a demonstration that staff can recover a misdirected request. If the supplier cannot account for its copy, withhold permission to send live recordings. If a routing error loses the request, return calls to staff until the recovery test succeeds.

Source: CAIA jurisdiction guide for Cuba. The worked example illustrates the proposal.

Let residents report what the photographs miss

Ask residents and conservators to check images and local street names. Record whether a person can report damage in Spanish without uploading a photograph, disclosing a neighbour’s name or having reliable mobile data.

The local pilot connects to Transport, logistics and disaster response. Review R11 · R18 in the regional risk register.

Implementation and public review

Stage	Evidence or decision	Proposed responsibility
Before the trial	Define a completed case and sample the current process. Include people who use the phone, desk or an offline route.	Local inspection supervisor and participating residents
During shadow testing	Missed interior damage, corrections to addresses and time to acknowledgement. Compare the same cases through both routes and record every override.	Local inspection supervisor and participating residents
At the local decision	Forecast error in saleable units and minutes of rework. Record whether the result justifies a live trial and identify the person who can stop it.	Participating grower and market supervisor
After six months	Publish results by channel, the correction time, unresolved complaints and the decision to continue, revise or stop.	Local service owner

What partners can share

Caribbean conservation offices could share a building-condition checklist. Keep household images, identifiable calls and decisions about occupancy with the authorities responsible in Cuba.

Record the local approval, correction route and stop authority before exchanging results. Other jurisdictions can reuse the method and run their own tests. Regional recommendation 5.

Where to draw the boundary

An office adopting this proposal would still need to check its own powers, contracts and data permissions. Organisations named as possible reviewers or leads have not been appointed by this publication. Publish any accepted role and its date with the local trial record.

A 90-day plan for the first service

Reconcile street photographs with household reports during a shadow trial in Old Havana.

Proposed pilot lead. Local inspection supervisor and participating residents

Street images conceal housing damage on the inside

Failure to test. A draft inspection list skips an Old Havana household whose report gives credible evidence of damage unseen from the road.

Evidence to retain. Keep the resident’s recorded report, the officer’s comparison and the revised inspection status.

Pause condition. A resident with a reported hazard loses review priority based on images alone.

When	Proposed action and evidence
Days 1–30	Local inspection supervisor and participating residents agrees the eligible cases, existing service measures, staffed alternative and authorised decision owner. Record reviewers and a cost estimate in local currency for staff time, testing, access and recovery. Identify the funding source and who would approve it.

When	Proposed action and evidence
Days 31–60	Run the original and proposed routes on the same sample. Missed interior damage, corrections to addresses and time to acknowledgement. Report counted errors and eligible cases by channel and language where lawful, plus the time from error report to correction.
Days 61–90	Witness the fallback, correction and restart before asking the accountable officer for a decision. Pause on the condition above. Record affected cases, unresolved issues, costs and the date for the next check.
Six months after live launch	Publish a lawful comparison with the baseline, including corrections, open complaints and the decision to continue, change or end the use.

Sponsorship, funding and the proposed lead’s acceptance require a recorded local decision. Share test methods with Caribbean partners using the local data permissions.

Sector guide · Gaceta Oficial No. 90, Law 149/2022, archived issue · Local evidence and sources · Regional high-impact use rules · Local risk scenario

Sources and method

The committee used published local evidence to select the four priorities and compared them with the Caribbean AI Framework's requirements for access, data, skills, oversight and adoption. Recommendations and stories are editorial proposals. This edition reports no results from a completed local pilot.

1. FAO Cuba, support for urban, suburban and family agriculture
2. UNESCO, La Tumba Francesa
3. Gaceta Oficial No. 90, Law 149/2022, archived issue
4. UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, Ciénaga de Zapata
5. World Bank WDI — Population
6. World Bank WDI — GDP per person, current US dollars
7. World Bank WDI — Residents aged 65 and over
8. ITU / World Bank — People using the internet
9. Cuba jurisdiction guide, Caribbean AI Association
10. Cuba pilot note, Caribbean AI Association
11. Caribbean AI Framework, consultation edition, 27 November 2026

Suggested citation: Caribbean AI Association, AI Framework Committee (2026). Cuba — What Havana's front doors and back courtyards can teach a model. Country white paper, consultation edition, 27 November 2026. Publication page.