Trinidad and Tobago — Keep the shift record, the pan recording and the warning accountable



Trinidad and Tobago AI white paper • 27 November 2026 · Revision 2

A model might summarise an energy-sector report in Trinidad, catalogue a pan recording or draft visitor advice for Tobago. Each use depends on a different source of authority. This framework sets separate tests for operating evidence, cultural permission and island-level approval, then joins them through one regional requirement: a person must be able to trace the output to its source and correct it.

The decision before local leaders

This paper proposes two starting points for Trinidad and Tobago. 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.

Run an archive permission test on a catalogue entry, a public excerpt and a request to reuse the recording.

Proposed lead. Participating panyard representatives and archive curator

What to measure. Record mismatches between agreed and actual use, and verify the withdrawal process before release.

Run a visitor-information correction exercise with one contact from each island.

Proposed lead. Participating tourism information editors

What to measure. Measure the time until the correct island, source and revision appear on every participating channel.

Local evidence in context

Indicator	Value	Observation	Source
Population	1,367,764	2025	World Bank WDI
GDP per person, current US dollars	18,967	2025	World Bank WDI
Residents aged 65 and over	12.9%	2025	World Bank WDI
People using the internet	82.2%	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

Read a production figure with its unit

The Central Bank’s 2023 Annual Economic Survey reports natural gas and petrochemical production in its review of the energy sector. An assistant preparing an economic briefing needs the product, period and unit behind every figure. An apparent rise could come from comparing monthly output with a daily rate. A reviewer should be able to recreate the sentence from the table and see where an estimate was subsequently revised.

Policy response. Select a sample of briefing sentences and require a second analyst to reproduce every comparison from the published series.

Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, Annual Economic Survey 2023

Ask the panyard what was agreed

The National Musical Instrument Act 2024 declares the steelpan Trinidad and Tobago’s national musical instrument. That recognition does not tell an archive which uses a particular performer or arranger has authorised. A catalogue entry, a listening exhibition and model training are separate decisions. A participating panyard could set out permitted uses in everyday language and have the archive demonstrate what happens when a recording is withdrawn.

Policy response. Keep a permission record alongside each recording and test that withdrawn material disappears from future releases under the agreement.

National Musical Instrument Act 2024, Act No. 13

Public institutions and environmental needs

Let the Tobago office approve Tobago advice

Tourism is among the areas assigned to the Tobago House of Assembly in the Fifth Schedule to its Act. A national visitor assistant could borrow an answer from one island and display it on the other without identifying who checked the local information. A participating Tobago office should be able to amend its own entry and see where the correction travelled, including copies issued to tour operators.

Policy response. Assign an approving office and a review date to each island-specific visitor answer before the two catalogues are combined.

Tobago House of Assembly Act, Fifth Schedule

Say where the flood report came from

The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management describes several forms of flooding, including flash flooding and coastal inundation. A word such as “flooded” does not tell a resident which road, coast or period an observation concerns. A public alert draft should distinguish a witness report from an official instruction. A duty editor should confirm the location and time even when several messages repeat the same photograph.

Policy response. Test whether a forwarded image from an earlier event can enter a current notice. Hold the draft until the duty editor checks its origin.

Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management, Floods

How the policy would change a decision

A regulated institution wants an overseas transcription service to turn customer calls into searchable notes. Quality checks find that the system reverses the meaning of a caller’s instruction when the audio is poor.

- Record where the provider sends recordings, transcripts and backups and how the receiving jurisdiction safeguards them.
- Require a staff member to verify money-movement instructions against the call record. Test Trinidadian and Tobagonian speech samples with permission.
- Classify the outsourcing arrangement, check the applicable supervisory process and test a manual call-handling procedure before launch.

The operations manager owns the decision to act on call notes. Keep the original instruction and its verified meaning according to the applicable retention rules. If a transcript changes a payment instruction, disable that use, trace transactions that relied on similar calls and follow the institution’s correction procedure.

Source: CAIA jurisdiction guide for Trinidad and Tobago. The worked example illustrates the proposal.

Ask who controls the recording

Ask the band, the arranger and the performers what rights they hold. Check who owns the recording. Before collecting audio, agree on credit, payment and how a contributor can withdraw permission.

The local pilot connects to Culture and creative rights · Industry and workforce. Review R07 · R02 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.	Participating panyard representatives and archive curator
During shadow testing	Record mismatches between agreed and actual use, and verify the withdrawal process before release. Compare the same cases through both routes and record every override.	Participating panyard representatives and archive curator
At the local decision	Measure the time until the correct island, source and revision appear on every participating channel. Record whether the result justifies a live trial and identify the person who can stop it.	Participating tourism information editors
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 archives could share a rights checklist and pay regional musicians to review it. An archive’s participation would not license its recordings. Each rights holder would decide separately.

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

Run an archive permission test on a catalogue entry, a public excerpt and a request to reuse the recording.

Proposed pilot lead. Participating panyard representatives and archive curator

An archive permission for a recording reaches the wrong use

Failure to test. A catalogue tool treats agreed preservation or listening as permission for a public excerpt or new reuse.

Evidence to retain. Keep the approved permissions for each use, credit and the confirmed withdrawal procedure.

Pause condition. A recording or excerpt can leave the archive without permission for that use.

When	Proposed action and evidence
Days 1–30	Participating panyard representatives and archive curator 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.
Days 31–60	Run the original and proposed routes on the same sample. Record mismatches between agreed and actual use, and verify the withdrawal process before release. 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 · National Musical Instrument Act 2024, Act No. 13 · 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. Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, Annual Economic Survey 2023
2. National Musical Instrument Act 2024, Act No. 13
3. Tobago House of Assembly Act, Fifth Schedule
4. Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management, Floods
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. Trinidad and Tobago jurisdiction guide, Caribbean AI Association
10. Trinidad and Tobago pilot note, Caribbean AI Association
11. Caribbean AI Framework, consultation edition, 27 November 2026

Suggested citation: Caribbean AI Association, AI Framework Committee (2026). Trinidad and Tobago — Keep the shift record, the pan recording and the warning accountable. Country white paper, consultation edition, 27 November 2026. Publication page.