



**ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES**  
**Regional Connectivity: Key to Sustainable  
Development**

**H.E. Rodolfo Sabonge - Secretary General**

**THE CONNECTIVITY CHALLENGE**

**THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE**

*“A way for improving connectivity in the Greater Caribbean”*

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# PHYSICAL CONNECTIVITY



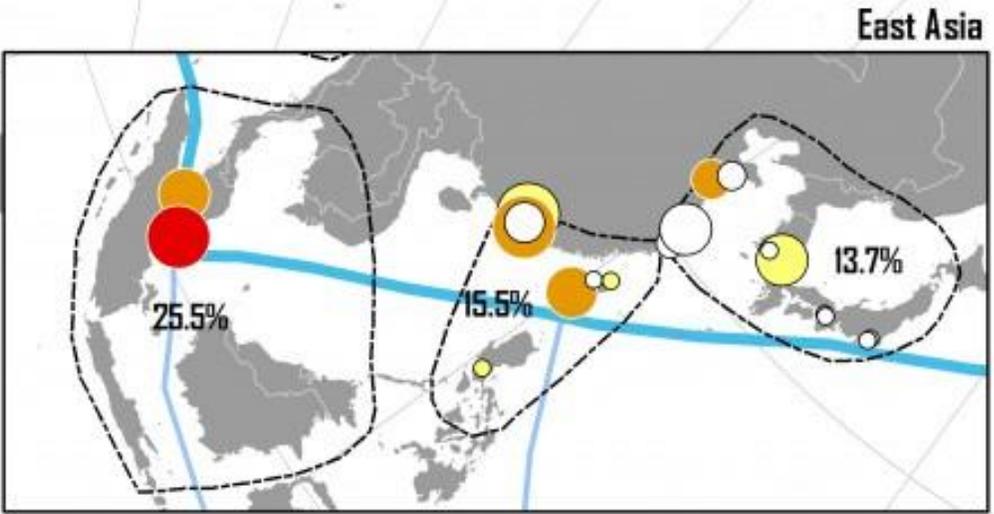
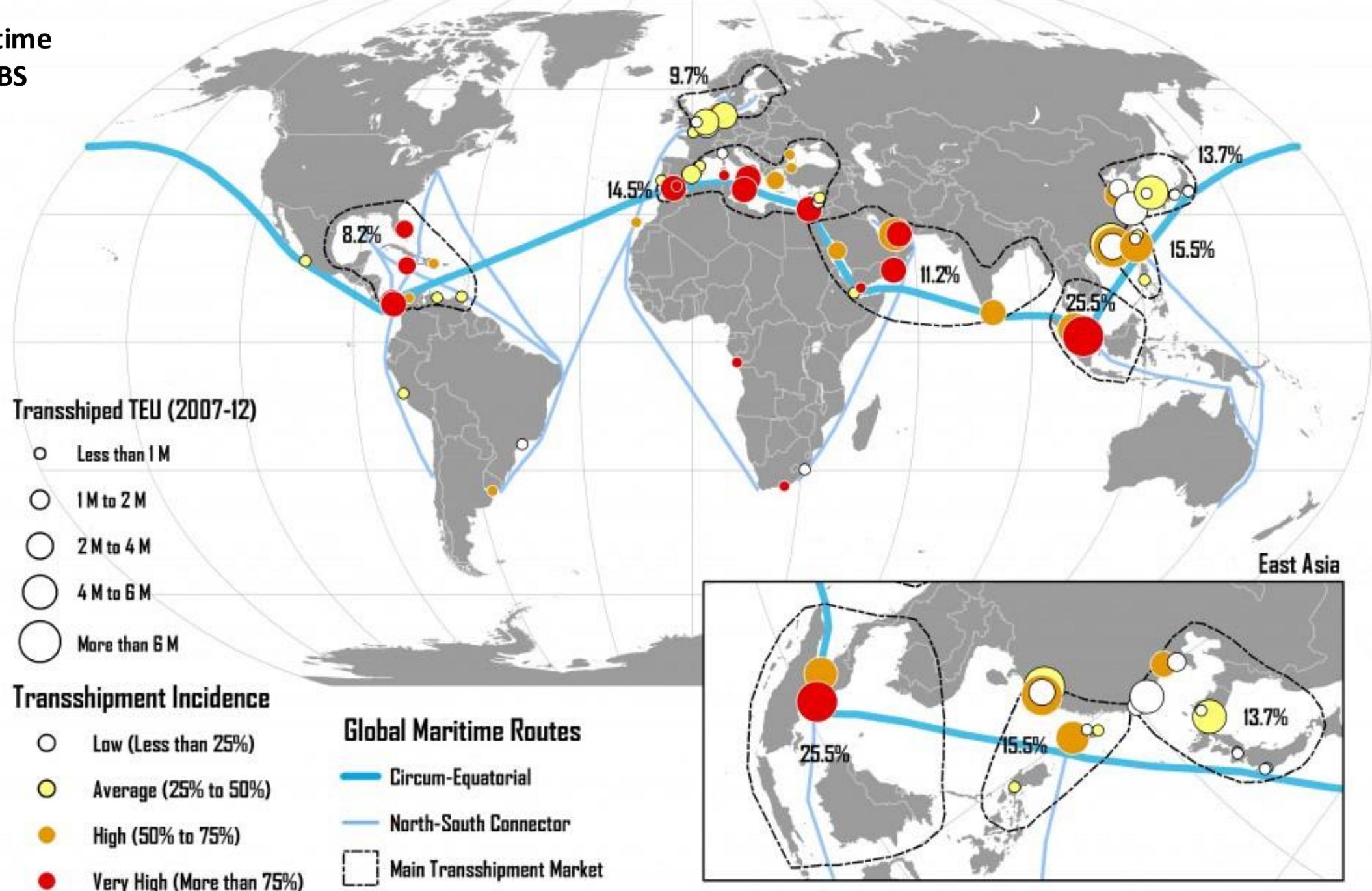
# DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY



# **INTEGRAL NEED: SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE PROVIDERS MASTER PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION, CAPACITY BUILDING, MAINTENANCE, SUPPORT**

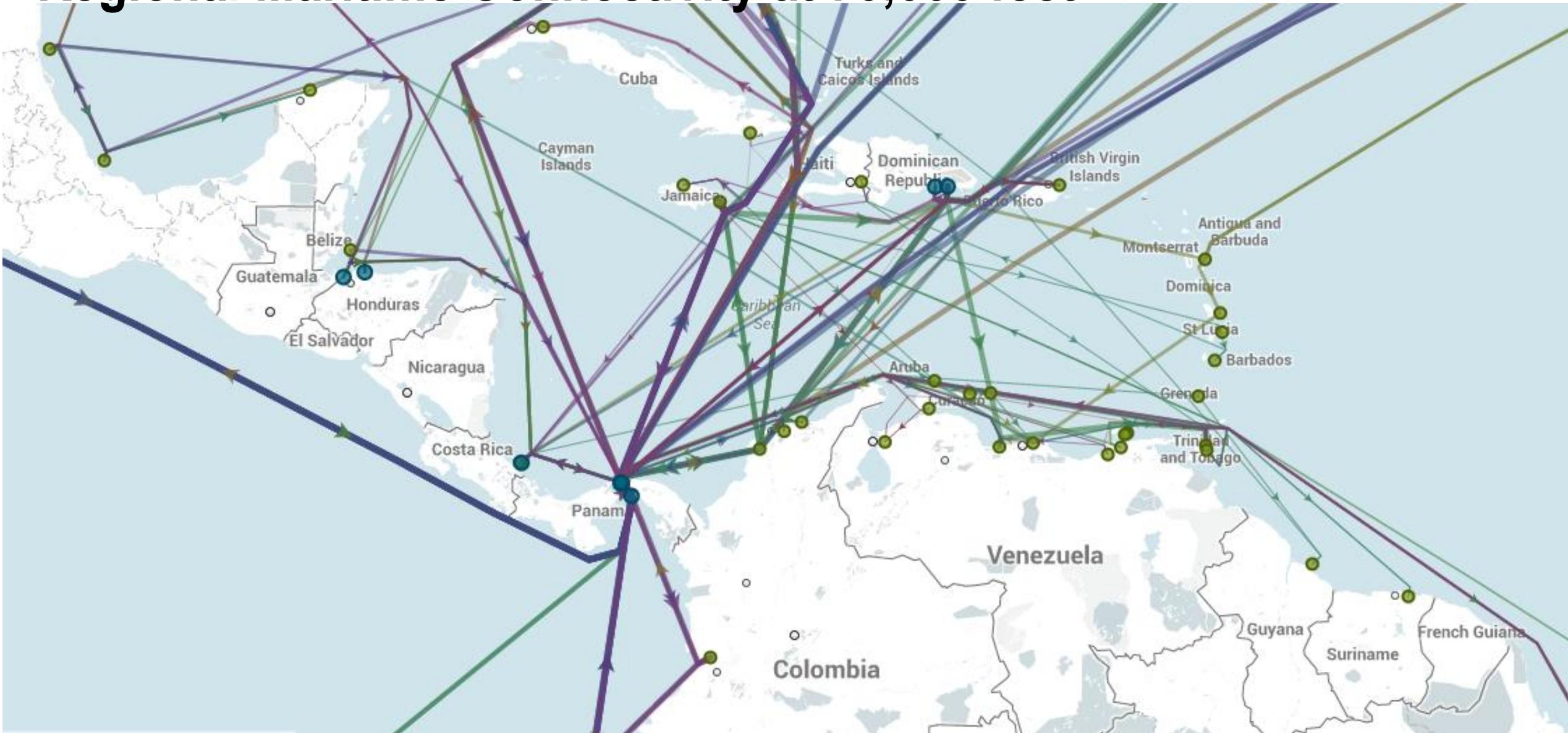


# Maritime HUBS





# Regional Maritime Connectivity at 70,000 feet

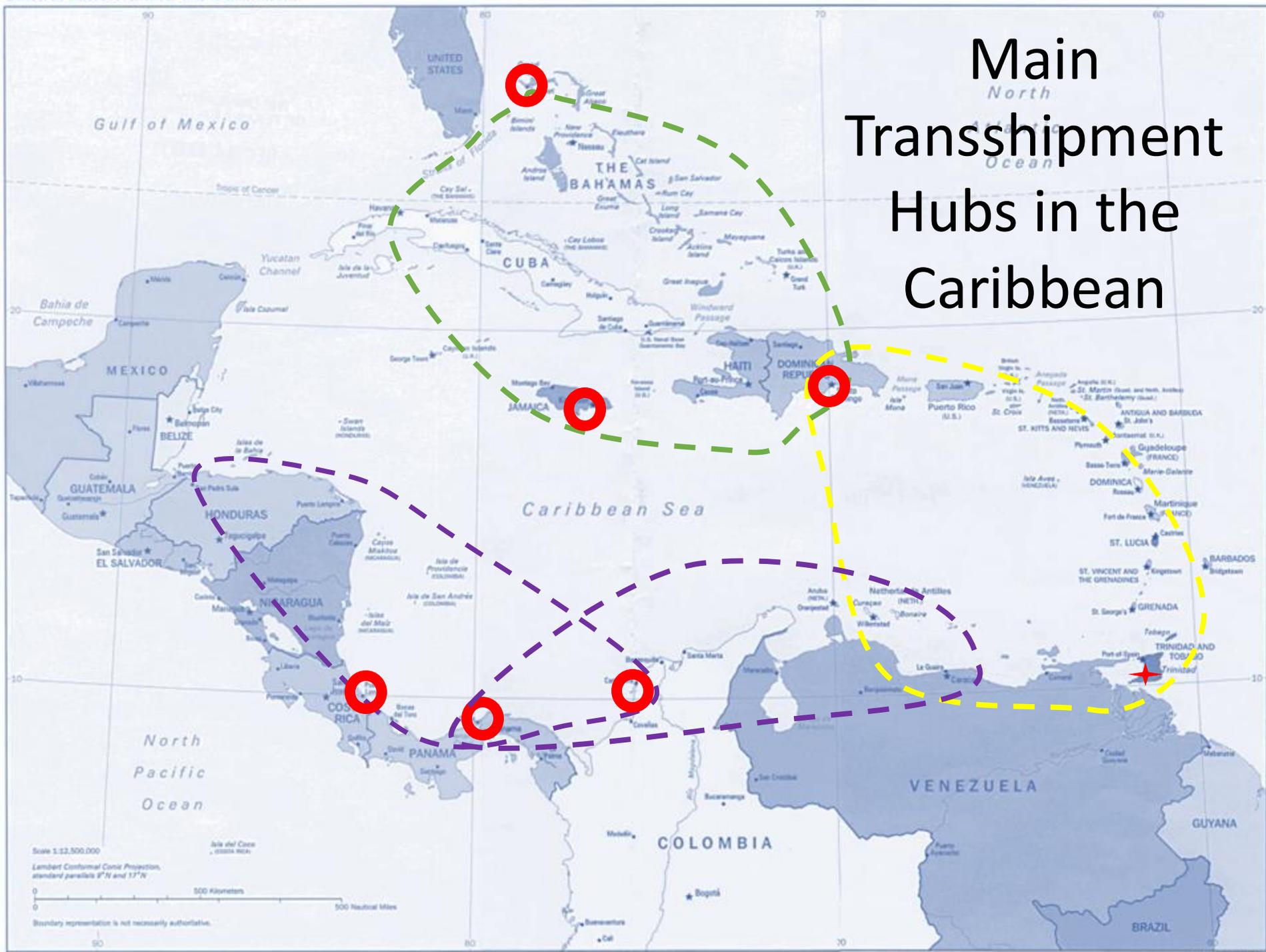


Liner Services

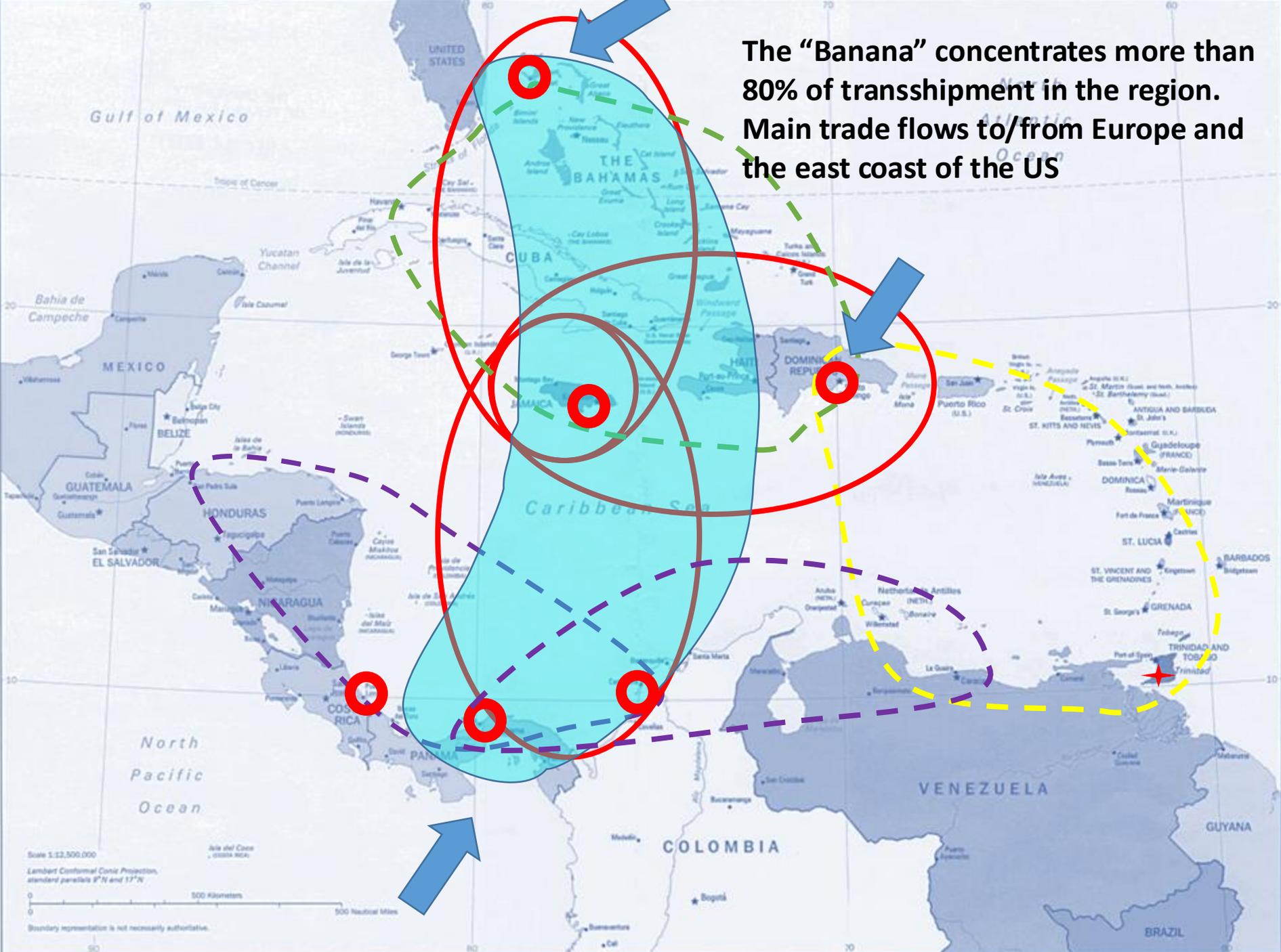
# Transport: A function of Geography, Population, and Economies of Scale

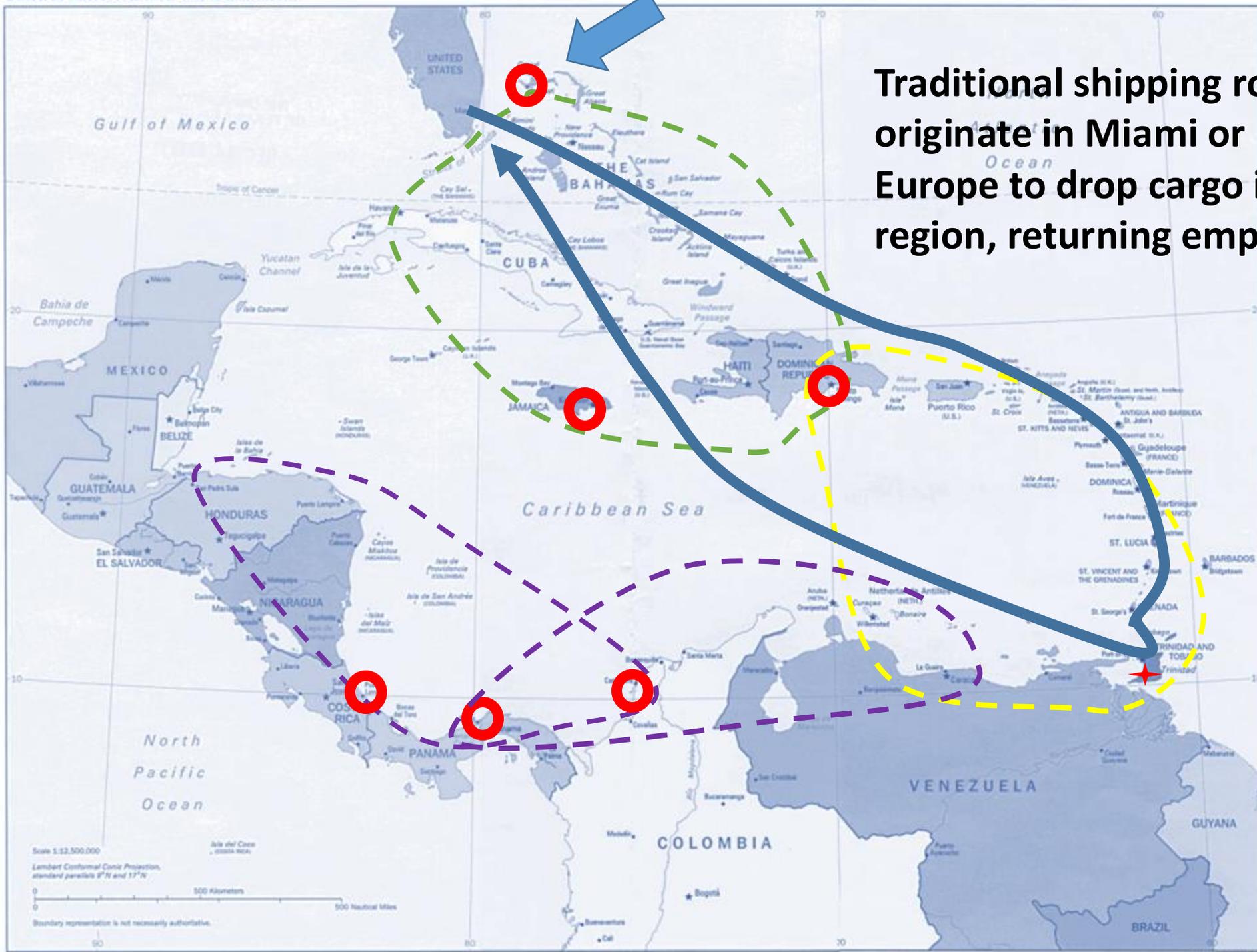


# Main Transshipment Hubs in the Caribbean



The "Banana" concentrates more than 80% of transshipment in the region. Main trade flows to/from Europe and the east coast of the US





**Traditional shipping routes originate in Miami or Europe to drop cargo in the region, returning empty**

Scale 1:12,500,000  
Lambert Conformal Conic Projection,  
standard parallels 8°N and 13°N  
0 500 Kilometers 500 Nautical Miles  
Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.

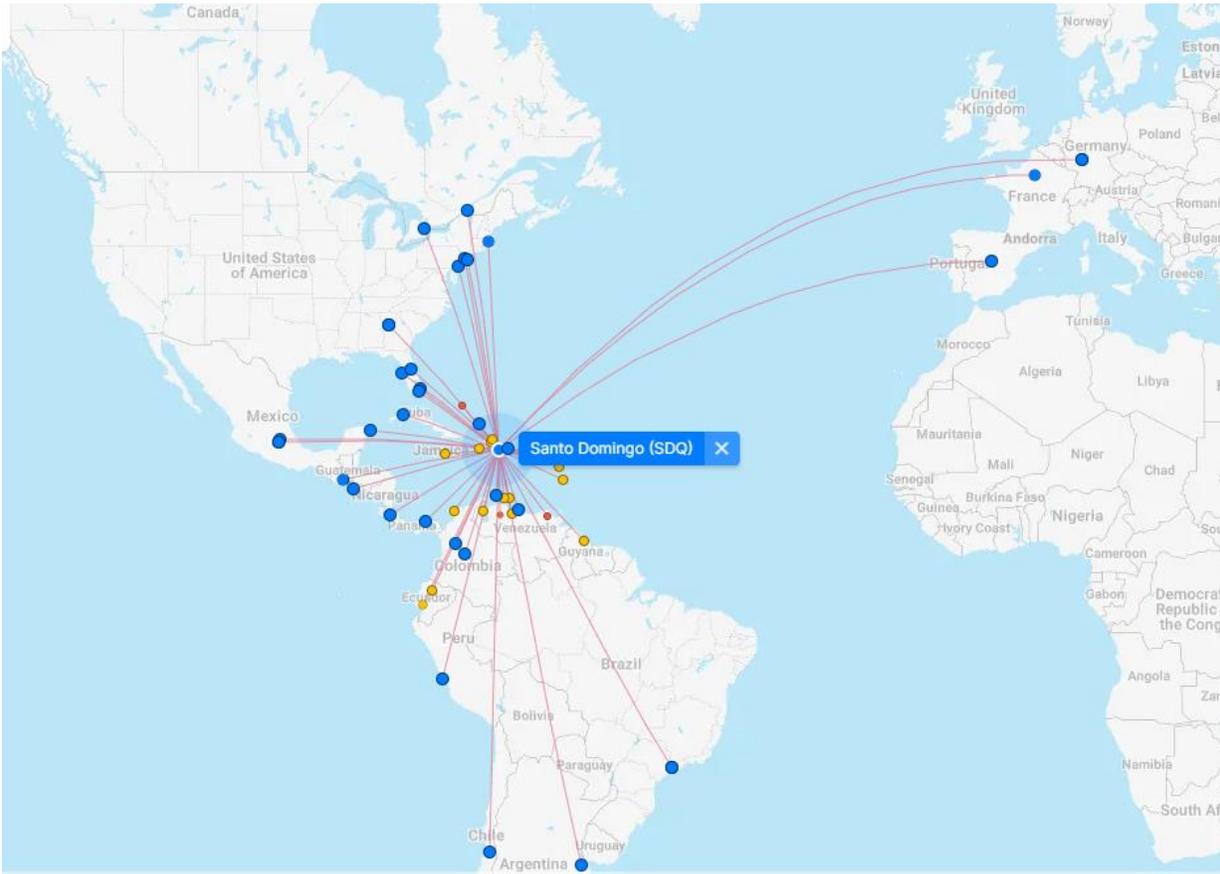


**Need to create incentives to reverse the flows to be able to have intra-regional trade.**  
**The market will not provide this.**

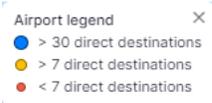
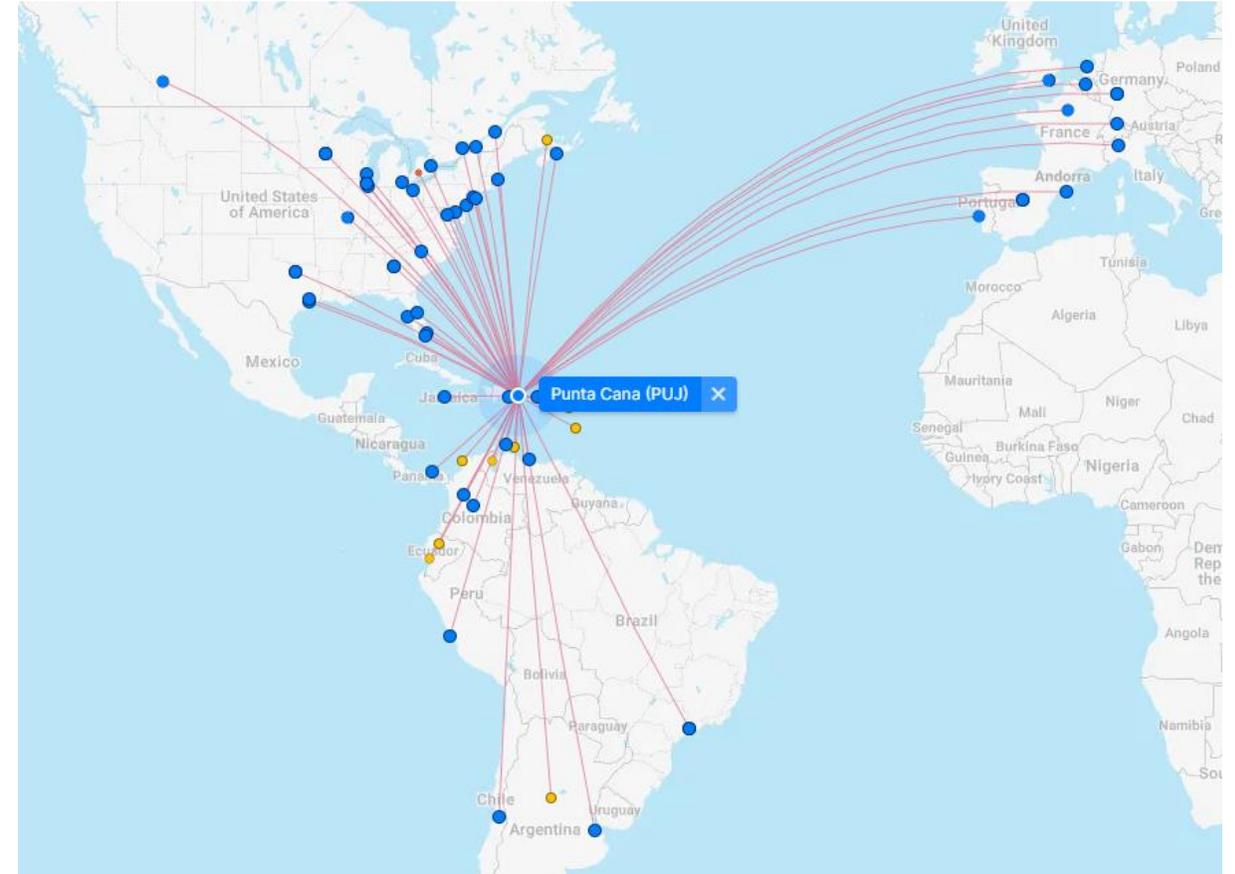
# AIRLINE HUBS



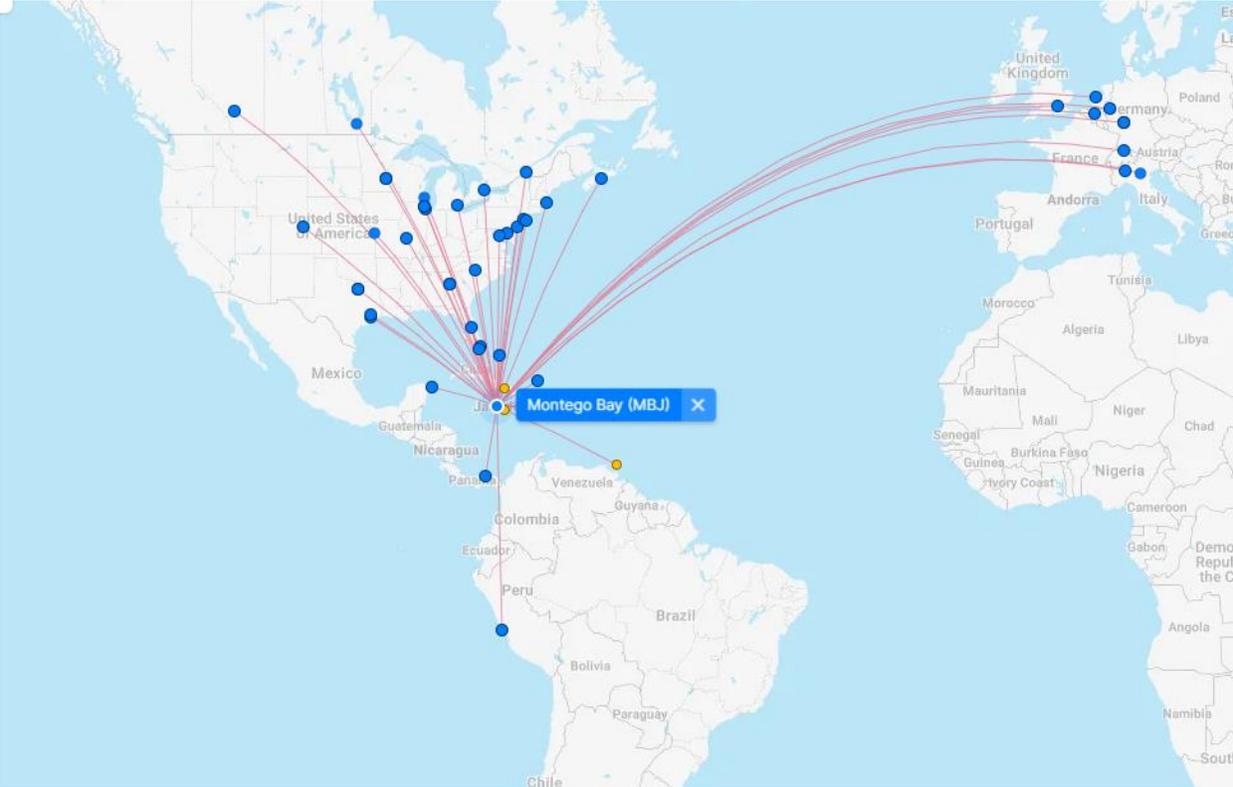
## AIR CONNECTIONS TO SANTO DOMINGO



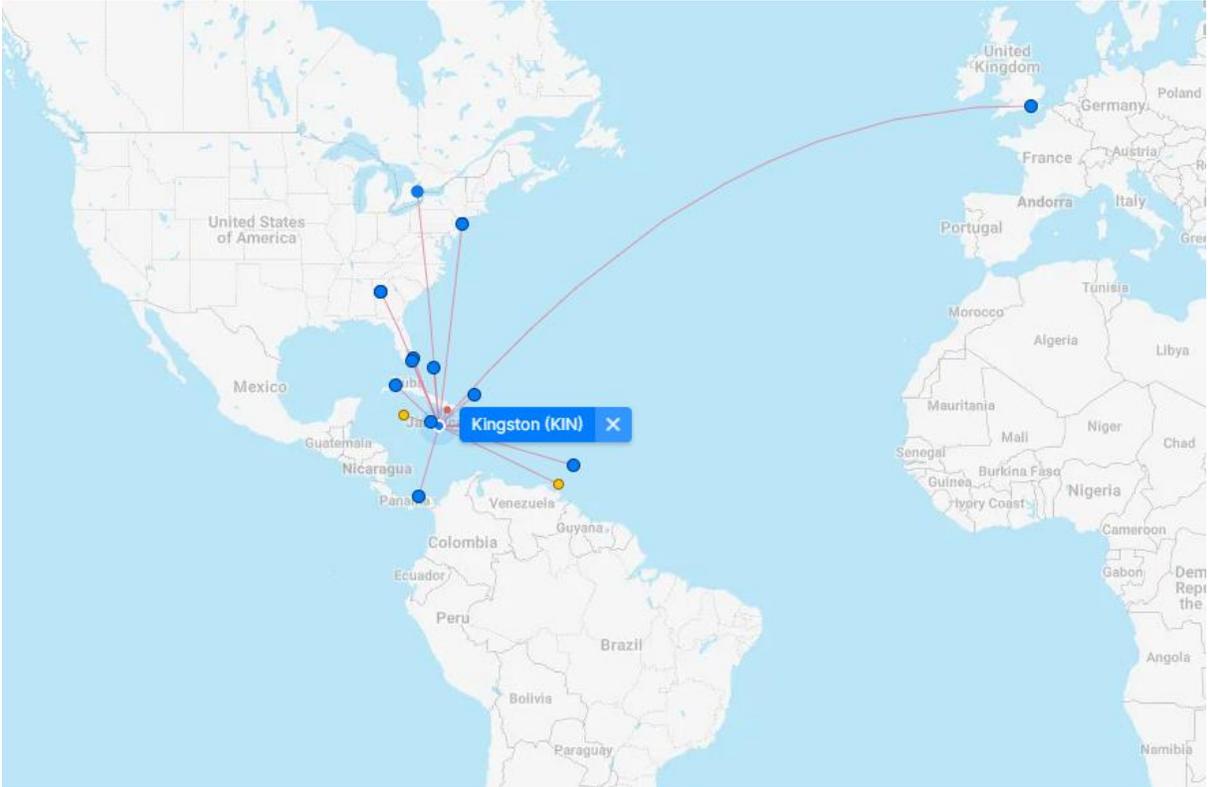
## AIR CONNECTIONS TO PUNTA CANA



# AIR CONNECTIONS TO MONTEGO BAY

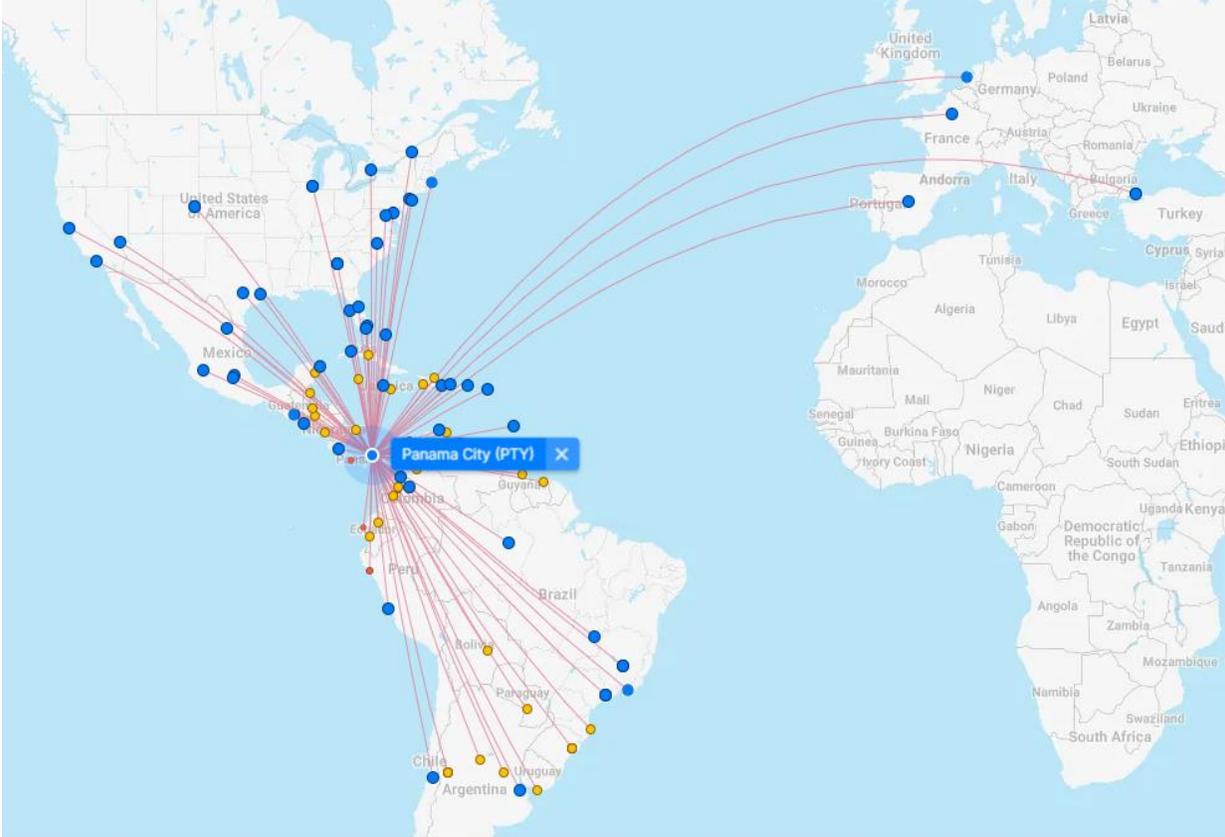


# AIR CONNECTIONS TO KINGSTON

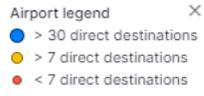
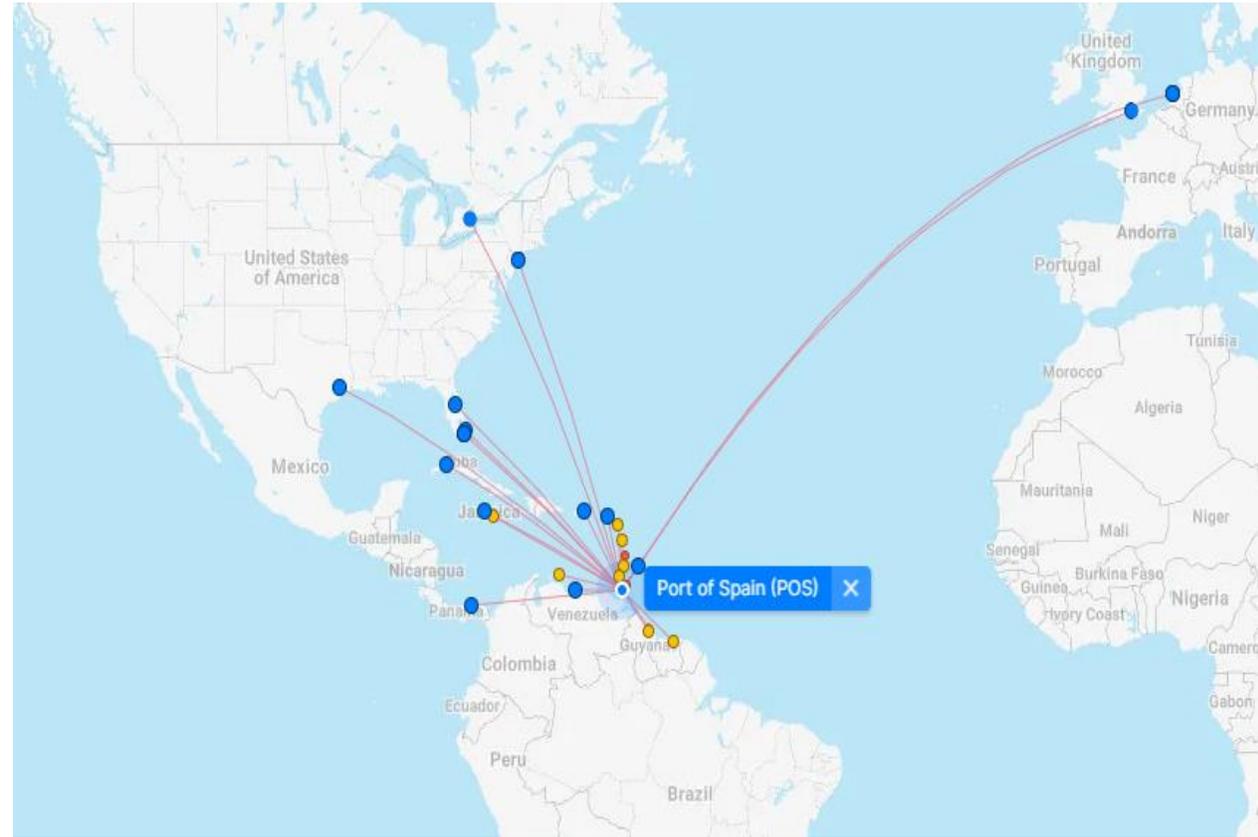


Airport legend  
● > 30 direct destinations  
● > 7 direct destinations  
● < 7 direct destinations

## AIR CONNECTIONS TO PANAMÁ

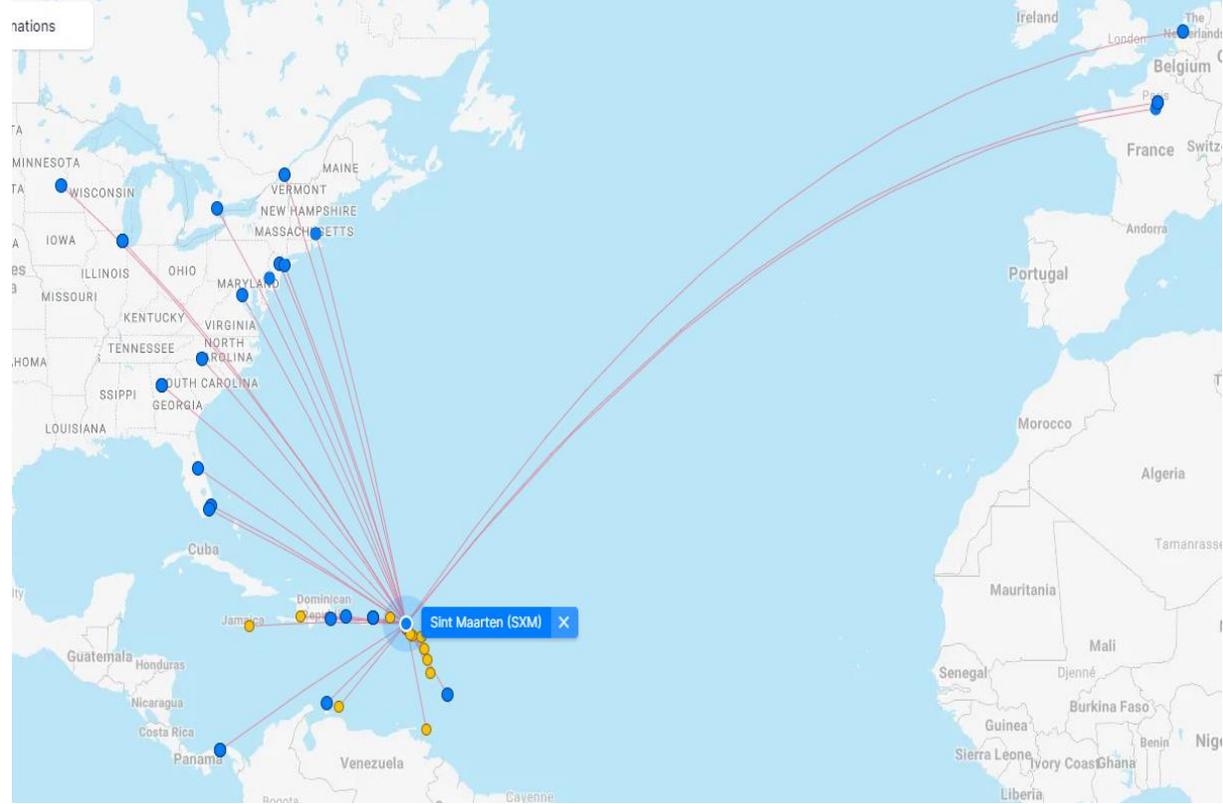
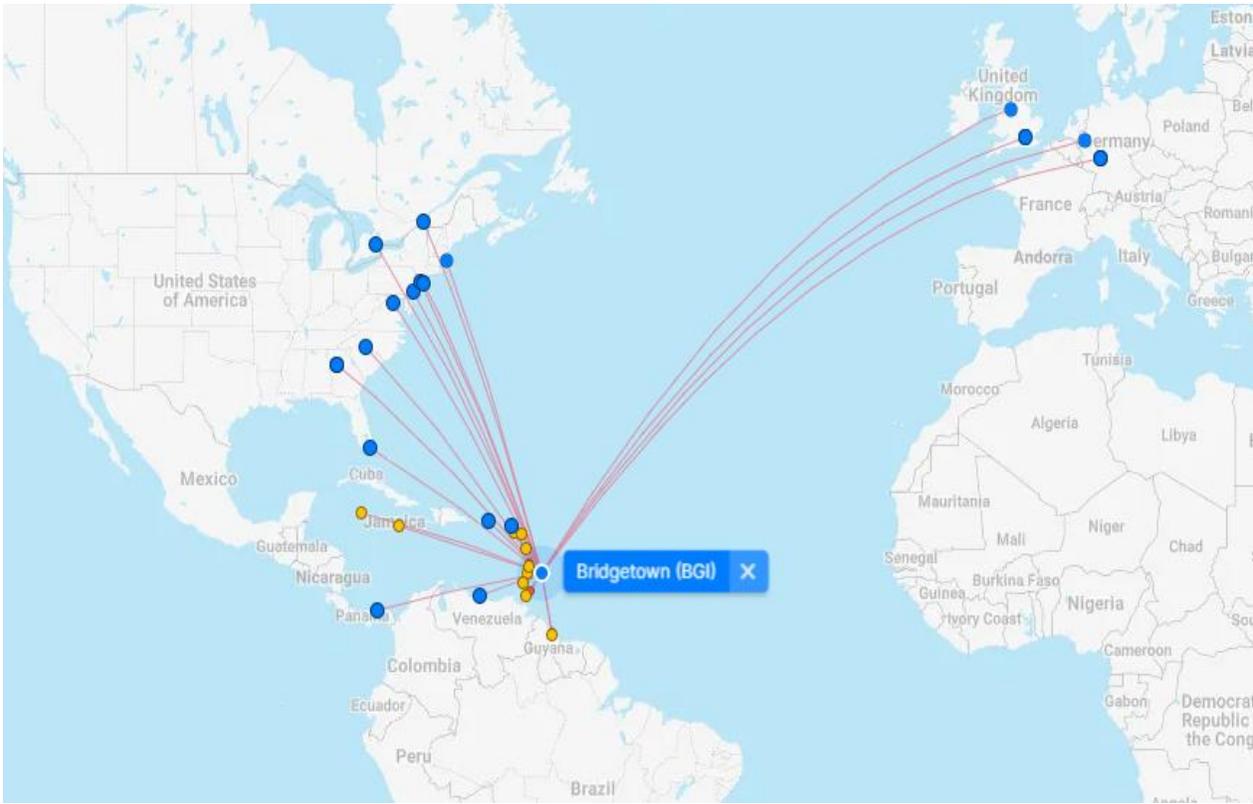


## AIR CONNECTIONS TO A TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO



# AIR CONNECTIONS TO BARBADOS

# AIR CONNECTIONS TO SINT MAARTEN

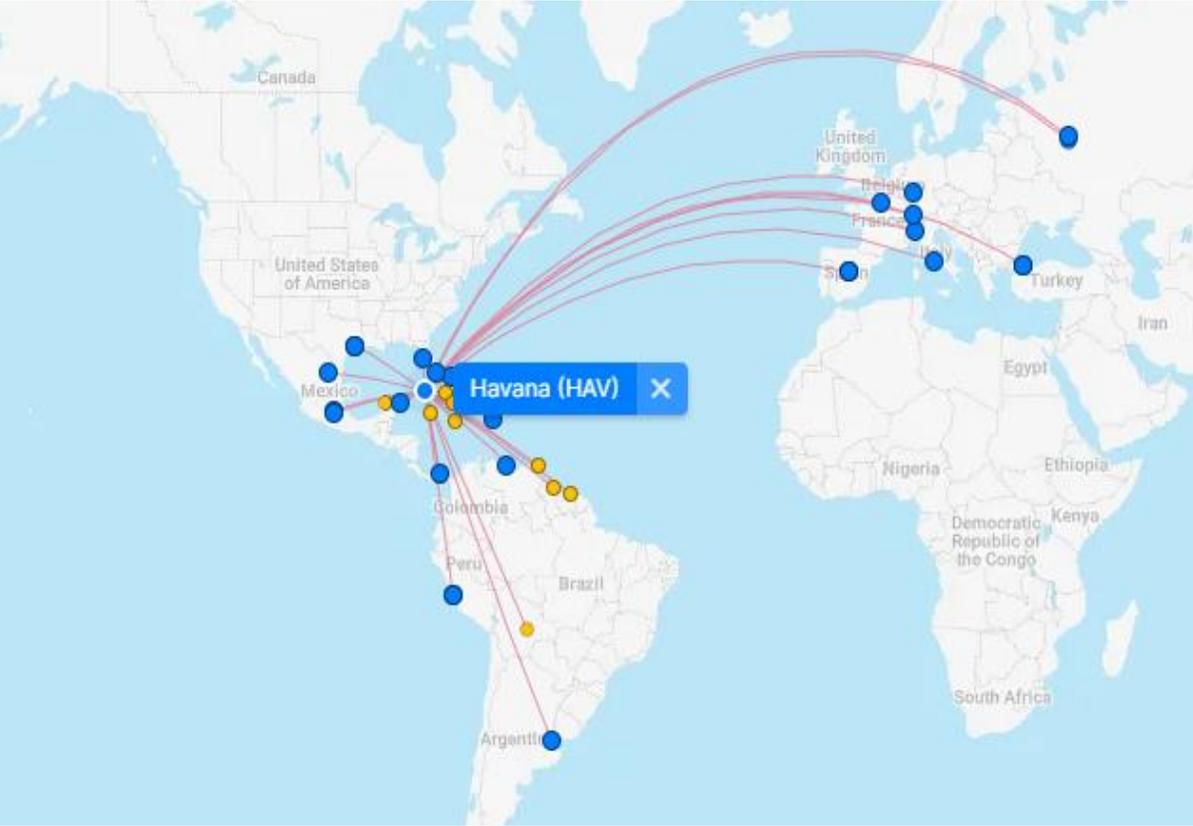


**Airport legend** X

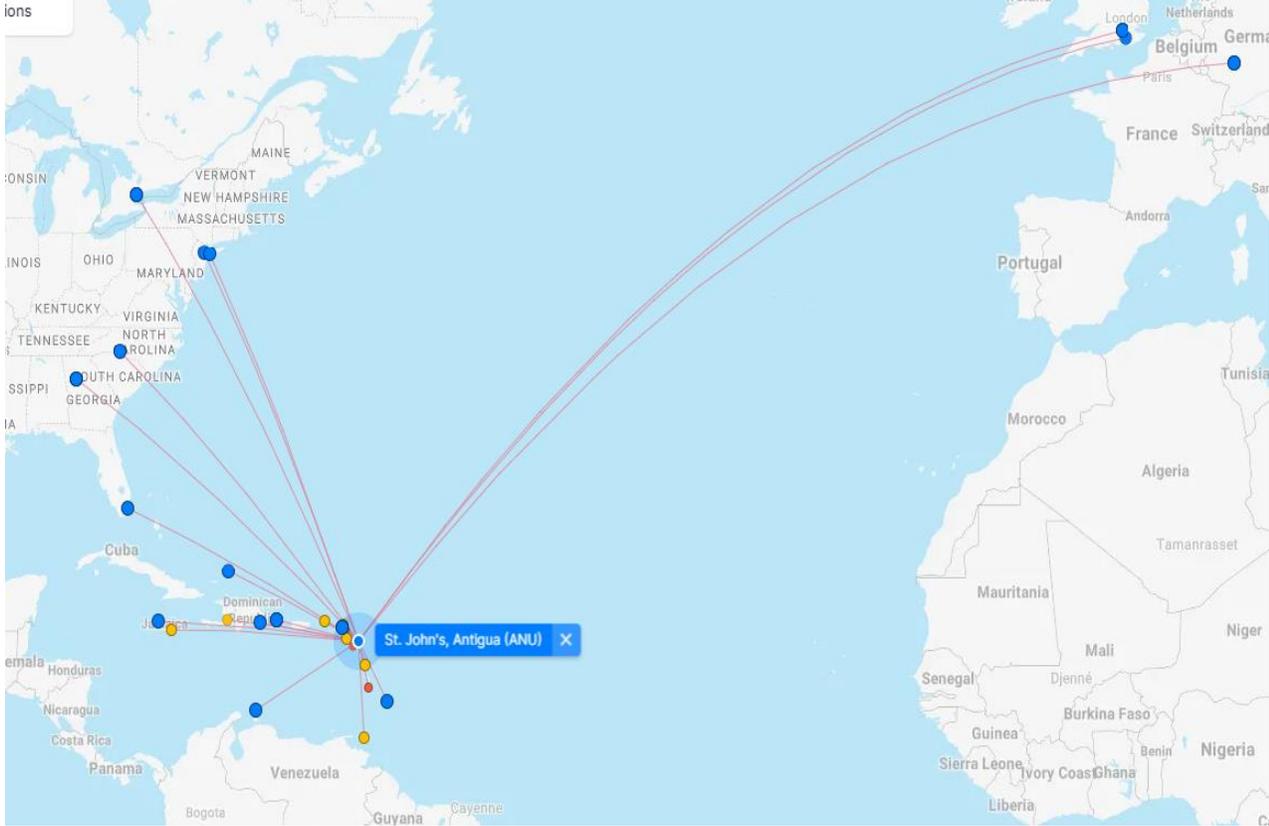
- > 30 direct destinations
- > 7 direct destinations
- < 7 direct destinations

FUENTE: <https://www.flightconnections.com/>

# AIR CONNECTIONS TO CUBA



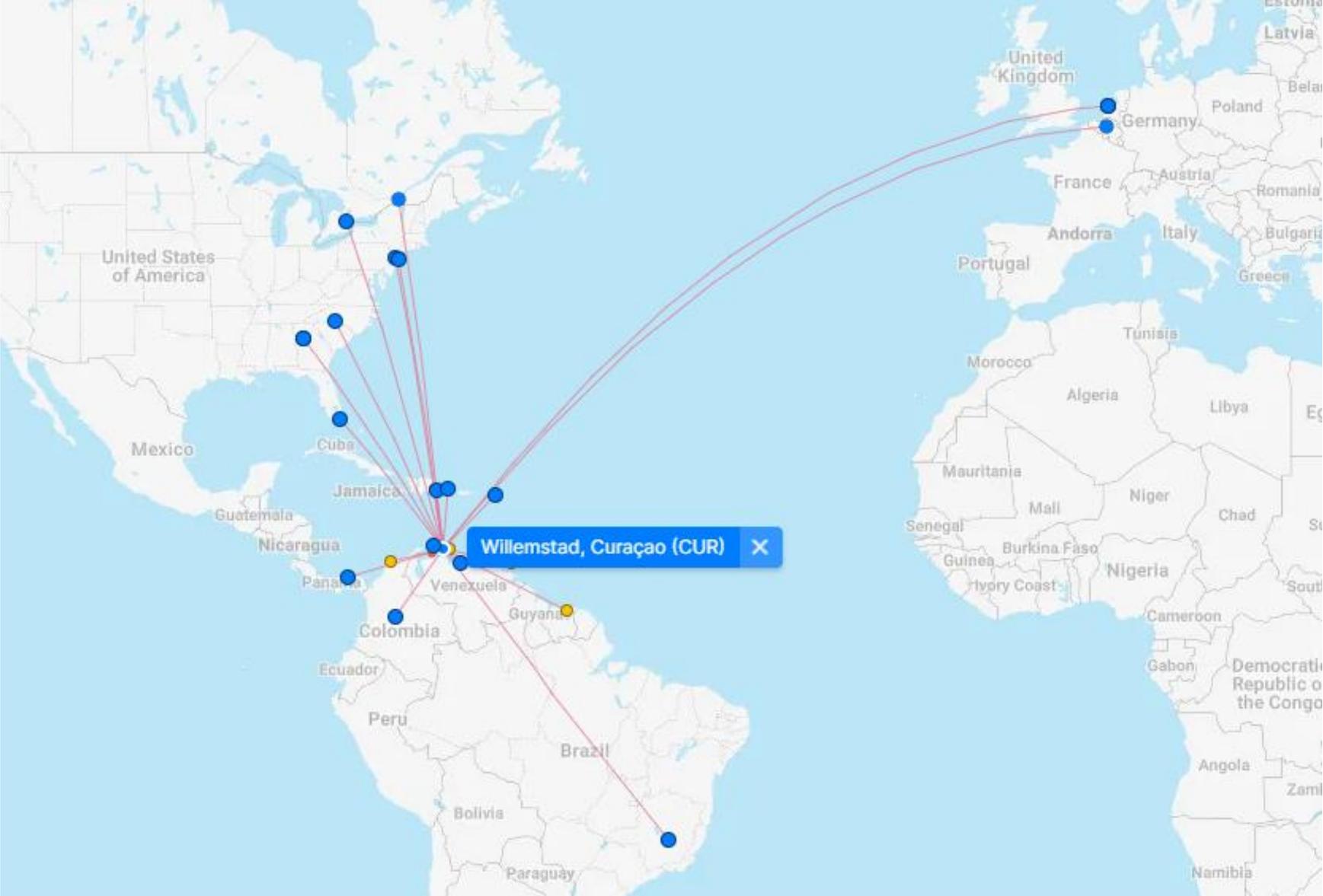
# AIR CONNECTIONS TO ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA



Airport legend X

- > 30 direct destinations
- > 7 direct destinations
- < 7 direct destinations

# AIR CONNECTIONS TO CURAZAO



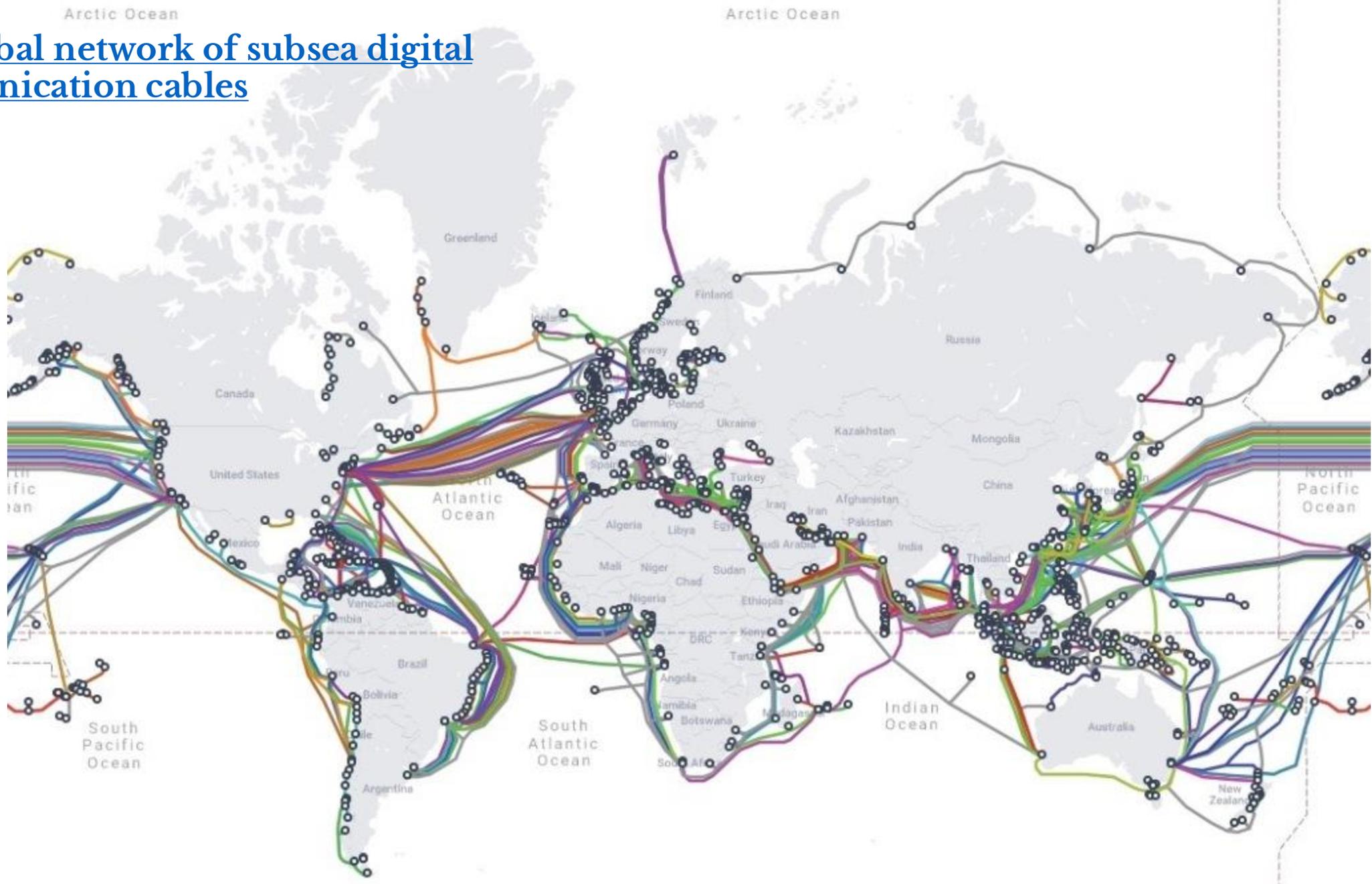
## Air Arrivals/Stopover Visitor/Tourist Arrivals Caribbean: Latest Statistics YTD 2024

Caribbean Stopover Visitors YTD 2024				
Ranked in order of % change				
	2024	2023	% change	Period
Montserrat	4,213	3,188	32.2%	Jan-Apr
St Vincent	17,537	13,506	29.8%	Jan-Feb
Curacao	346,774	272,871	27.1%	Jan-Jun
USVI	457,297	361,567	26.5%	Jan-May
British Virgin Islands	100,319	79,925	25.5%	Jan-Mar
Aruba	737,691	619,719	19.0%	Jan-Jun
Grenada	103,027	86,642	18.9%	Jan-Jun
Barbados	332,681	287,278	15.8%	Jan-May
St Kitts & Nevis	21,000	18,481	13.6%	Jan-Feb
Guyana	112,751	100,348	12.4%	Jan-Apr
Anguilla	47,097	42,354	11.2%	Jan-Apr
Turks & Caicos	336,053	303,162	10.8%	Jan-May
Antigua & Barbuda	151,055	136,285	10.8%	Jan-May
Saint Lucia	194,224	175,900	10.4%	Jan-May
San Juan Airport*	6,731,260	6,105,897	10.2%	Jan-Jun
Trinidad & Tobago	168,670	153,956	9.6%	Jan-Jun
Dominican Republic	4,475,133	4,086,637	9.5%	Jan-Jun
Cayman Islands	209,135	194,901	7.3%	Jan-May
Bonaire	94,047	88,798	5.9%	Jan-Jun
Dominica	25,732	24,458	5.2%	Jan-Apr
Jamaica	1,031,821	987,672	4.5%	Jan-Apr
Bermuda	25,761	24,667	4.4%	Jan-Mar
Sint Maarten	166,732	161,287	3.4%	Jan-Apr
Montego Bay Airport*	2,742,400	2,656,800	3.2%	Jan-Jun
Cancun Airport**	11,373,638	11,035,502	3.1%	Jan-Jun
Cuba	1,174,888	1,143,934	2.7%	Jan-May
The Bahamas	650,371	669,161	-2.8%	Jan-Apr
* Total Passenger Movements				
** Total International Passenger Movements				

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Caribbean Stopover Visitors YTD 2023				
Ranked in order of % change				
	2023	2022	% change	Period
Montserrat	8,344	4,613	80.9%	Jan-Dec
Cayman Islands	429,284	284,274	51.0%	Jan-Dec
Cuba	2,436,980	1,614,087	51.0%	Jan-Dec
British Virgin Islands	261,445	173,213	50.9%	Jan-Dec
Trinidad & Tobago	310,237	227,403	36.4%	Jan-Dec
Saint Vincent	78,359	58,081	34.9%	Jan-Dec
Grenada	178,020	133,162	33.7%	Jan-Dec
St Kitts & Nevis	104,463	79,767	31.0%	Jan-Dec
Anguilla	95,944	74,053	29.6%	Jan-Dec
Bermuda	185,334	145,865	27.1%	Jan-Dec
The Bahamas	1,801,999	1,452,520	24.1%	Jan-Dec
Montego Bay*	5,211,900	4,356,100	19.6%	Jan-Dec
Curacao	582,409	489,559	19.0%	Jan-Dec
San Juan Airport*	12,197,553	10,310,990	18.3%	Jan-Dec
Barbados	636,540	539,746	17.9%	Jan-Dec
Jamaica	2,886,064	2,478,386	16.4%	Jan-Dec
Aruba	1,243,554	1,100,997	12.9%	Jan-Dec
Dominican Republic	8,058,673	7,163,394	12.5%	Jan-Dec
Dominica	67,764	60,422	12.2%	Jan-Dec
Guyana	319,056	288,487	10.6%	Jan-Dec
Los Cabos**	4,749,700	4,441,700	6.9%	Jan-Dec
Saint Lucia	380,791	356,237	6.9%	Jan-Dec
Turks and Caicos	662,707	621,910	6.6%	Jan-Dec
Cancun**	20,908,196	19,637,064	6.5%	Jan-Dec
Antigua & Barbuda	281,896	265,119	6.3%	Jan-Dec
St. Maarten	395,053	372,808	6.0%	Jan-Dec
Bonaire	169,706	168,882	0.5%	Jan-Dec
USVI	782,022	792,008	-1.3%	Jan-Dec
* Total Passenger Movements				
** Total International Passenger Movements				

# The global network of subsea digital communication cables



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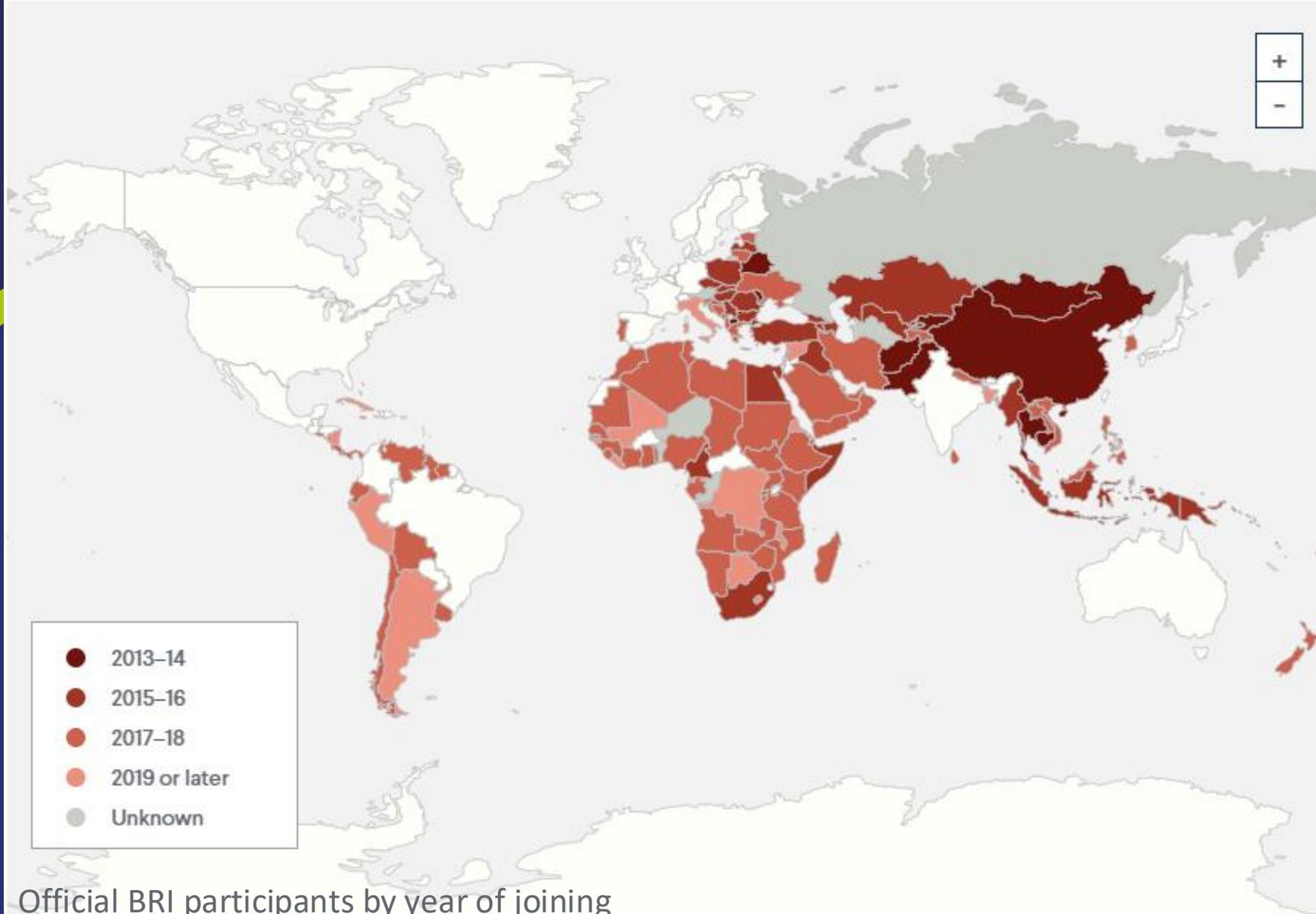
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- The Belt and Road Initiative is a massive China-led infrastructure project that aims to stretch around the globe.
- **It seeks to connect Asia with Africa, Europe, and America via land, maritime, and air networks with the aim of improving regional integration, increasing trade and stimulating economic growth.**
- Sometimes referred to as the New Silk Road, is one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects ever conceived. Launched in 2013 by President Xi Jinping.
- The BRI included creating a vast network of railways, energy pipelines, highways, and streamlined border crossings, both westward—through the mountainous former Soviet republics—and southward, to Pakistan, India, and the rest of Southeast Asia.
- China’s overall ambition for the BRI is staggering. To date, 147 countries —accounting for two-thirds of the world’s population and 40 percent of global GDP have signed on to projects or indicated an interest in doing so.



Official BRI participants by year of joining

Note: Publicly available information for countries marked unknown is unclear or contradictory.

Sources: Green Finance and Development Center; Green Belt and Road Initiative Center; Belt and Road Portal.



Energy projects financed by state-owned Chinese banks in BRI countries since the initiative's launch in 2013

**THE CONNECTIVITY CHALLENGE**

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**The Question is:  
“in a region like the Greater  
Caribbean, are infrastructure  
projects the solution?”**



**The issue of connectivity cannot be addressed with infrastructure projects alone.**

**“Build it and they will come” without a regional master plan can result in several “White Elephants” in the región.**



**We need to put the horse in front of the cart.  
Master Planning for the Region, develop  
transport services in parallel with infrastructure.  
Develop digital connectivity.**

**Multilateral organisations, such as the ACS and  
SELA were created for this.**



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**THANK YOU VERY MUCH  
MUCHAS GRACIAS  
MERCI BEAUCOUP**

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