



Government of the
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago



FOREWORD: THIS NEP & YOU

Wise use of the environment is compatible with economic and social development. It is the cornerstone for ensuring that the needs and interests of present and future generations are met. A healthy and sustainably managed environment enables foreign investment, job creation, and an improved standard of living. More so, maintaining a healthy environment is central to our health and well-being, security, and enjoyment of property.

This National Environmental Policy (NEP) articulates the priorities determined by the people of Trinidad and Tobago as critical to achieving environmental sustainability and ultimately, sustainable development. Its success depends on everyone understanding their roles and responsibilities regarding the environment while in pursuit of their interests. The relevance of this NEP to a person largely depends on his/her context but it is envisioned that:



For government entities, public officials and decision-makers, this NEP will serve as the primary declaration regarding Trinidad and Tobago's policy direction as it relates to the environmental pillar of sustainable development. As such, the principles contained within will be applied to the development, revision and/or execution of all sectoral policies and work programmes to ensure policy integration at all levels. Furthermore, government entities and decision-makers will use the reach of their powers to apply or support the undertaking of policy actions, or works complementary to the policy actions herein.



For entrepreneurs, industry and commerce, this NEP will be interpreted as a clear commitment by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT) to a greener development trajectory. As such, the policy actions contained should be used as a source of economic opportunities that can also yield social and environmental value. Furthermore, it sets out clear tools and anticipated roles of the business and commerce sectors for sound environmental management in Trinidad and Tobago.



For law enforcement, the judiciary and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) practitioners, this NEP can be used as a tool to effectively guide the resolution of environmental disputes. The principles herein will be used to inform interpretation of matters before the court pertaining, in whole or in part, to development activities and environmental management. ADR mechanisms used to remedy environmental conflicts should, where practicable, ensure that precipitating outcomes do not conflict with the principles and policy actions of this NEP.



For Community-based Organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations, this NEP will serve as a map of the various stakeholders and their anticipated roles regarding environmental management. As such, this document serves as a guide for developing strategic plans and programmes for promoting and achieving sustainable development. It also serves as a measuring stick for the performance of all public, private and non-governmental stakeholder groups in this context.



For members of the public, this NEP spells out the changes the GoRTT will undertake to ensure an improved quality of life for current and future generations of citizens. It also supports the important role of citizens in environmental management and sustainable development.

Furthermore, it is hoped that this NEP will serve as a focal point for dialogue and partnerships between groups across all sectors and strata of society. The GoRTT remains committed to adopting policies and measures that foster an enabling environment in which all stakeholders can actively contribute to the environmental sustainability of Trinidad and Tobago.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AF	Adaptation Fund
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species for Wild Fauna and Flora
CSME	Caribbean Single Market Economy
EMA	Environmental Management Authority
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoRTT	Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HCFC	Hydrochlorofluorocarbon
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LEDS	Low Emission Development Strategies
LMO	Living Modified Organism
MARPOL	Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
NAP	National Action Programme
NCS	National Council for Sustainable Development
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NEP	National Environmental Policy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substance
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
ToC	Theory of Change
T&T	Trinidad and Tobago
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WEEE	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment



**NATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
2018**





1.01 INTRODUCTION

The environment encompasses the air, water, land, biodiversity, human beings and all interactions between them. It provides the foundation for societal well-being, economic prosperity and political stability. This pivotal role in the society and economy stems from the various benefits derived from ecosystems, including but not limited to:

- **Provision of natural resources that form the basis of economic activity** such as food, water, energy, non-food plant and animal products, ornamental items, genetic resources, minerals and raw materials;
- **Regulation of critical life processes** such as air and water purification, pest and disease control, climate regulation and waste decomposition;
- **Non-material benefits** such as cultural, religious, spiritual, aesthetic and recreational experiences; and
- **Supporting services which sustain the other ecosystem services** such as nutrient cycling and soil formation.

The GoRTT recognises the inextricable relationships between environmental sustainability and:

1 Poverty & Hunger

The most economically-challenged often depend directly on ecosystem services for nourishment and financial gain and they suffer most when ecosystems are degraded.

2 Economic Prosperity

All economies are built upon the material resources or non-material services provided by the environment which when used unsustainably, undermine economic growth.

3 Human Health & Well being

Poorly managed human-environment interactions (water pollution, air pollution, noise pollution, waste management, and climate change) directly influence levels of disease, morbidity and mortality resulting in mental and emotional suffering.

4 Disaster Risk-reduction & Post-disaster Recovery

Ecosystems (such as wetlands, forests and coral reefs) buffer human settlements against extreme weather events (such as tropical storms, hurricanes, droughts) and disasters (such as flooding and landslides) through their capacity to absorb water, control erosion, reduce wind-speeds, sequester greenhouse gases and absorb pollutants. As ecosystems are degraded, the vulnerability of human settlements is increased.

5 Peace & Justice

Scarcity of natural resources, mismanagement of common-pool resources and the inequitable sharing of benefits derived from ecosystems are recognised drivers of non-violent and violent conflicts between stakeholders, within and between nations. Where these conflicts arise, marginalised groups (such as indigenous peoples, rural poor, children, youth, women, sick, disabled and the elderly) tend to suffer most.

6 Gender Equality

Socially constructed roles and existing inequalities disproportionately affect women more than men. Often, rural women are disproportionately dependent on ecosystem services yet are insufficiently involved in environmental decision-making, management and land ownership. As ecosystem services decline, the rights and opportunities of women are disproportionately affected. This simultaneously reinforces the drivers of poverty and conflict towards further environmental decline.

Thus, the GoRTT considers it a priority responsibility to judiciously manage the interactions between its citizens and the environment with aims of safeguarding human health, peace, prosperity and social justice, while yielding optimum sustainable benefits for present and future generations. The GoRTT remains steadfast on guiding the country along a sustainable development pathway that is aligned with the regional and global sustainability agenda as well as supported by leading edge environmental policies, practices and programmes that responsibly manage all aspects of the environment. To this end, the GoRTT is party to several Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and shall fulfil all commitments agreed to by signing these agreements. This NEP reflects and strengthens the environmental pillar of Trinidad and Tobago's sustainable development thrust – focusing on sustainable management of the country's environmental assets rather than on the narrower concept of environmental protection, which tends to bring into conflict the environment and development.

This NEP integrates the learning from the earlier versions (1998 and 2006), contemporary thinking on environmental issues and Trinidad and Tobago's present-day context to:

- a. Provide direction to public, private, non-governmental and other national actors regarding environmental sustainability;
- b. Clearly articulate national environmental

commitments and objectives in a transparent manner; and

- c. Provide a rational, practical and comprehensive framework for addressing the salient threats to environmental sustainability.

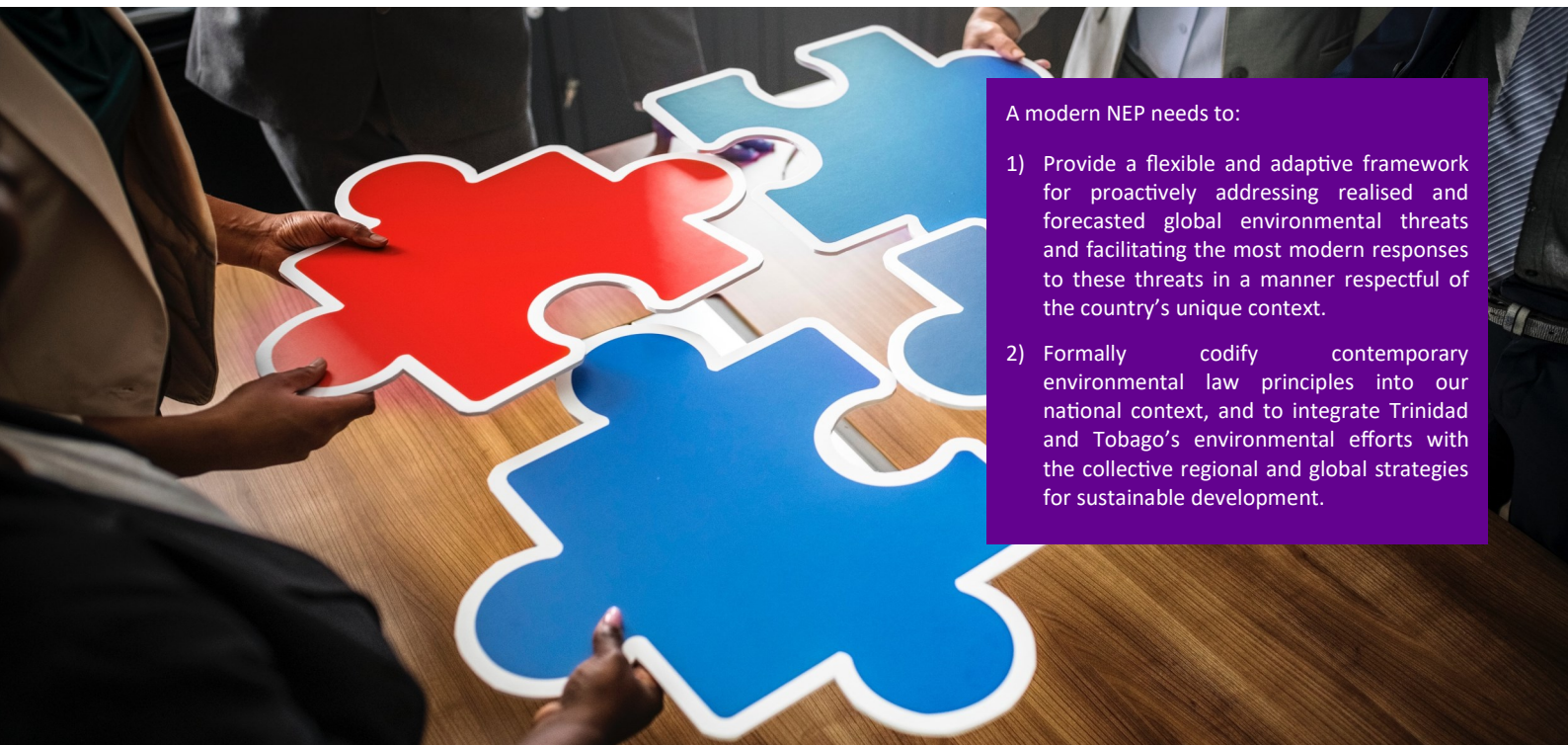
The NEP provides the overarching framework for environmental management. Subsequent national and sectoral policies with bearing on environmental or natural resource management; detailed procedures on environmental management; and concrete actions towards environmental sustainability in Trinidad and Tobago will therefore be grounded in the principles and broader approaches embodied in this NEP. Although the responsibility for monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the NEP resides with the Environmental Management Authority (EMA), the achievement of policy actions will be driven by the action of each citizen across the public, private, governmental, and non-governmental sectors. All stakeholders therefore have a critical role in ensuring a sustainable future for Trinidad and Tobago.

Chapter 1 of this NEP establishes the context within which it is to be used. Chapter 2 details six nationally appropriate environmental priority areas to be pursued by Trinidad and Tobago. Chapter 3 describes the facilitative actions required to achieve the six priority goals while Chapter 4 establishes the framework for monitoring and evaluating the policy.

1.02 THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The GoRTT recognises that since 2006 there have been significant changes to the prevailing environmental issues and responses to these issues at the supranational and national scales.

At the Supranational Scale...



A modern NEP needs to:

- 1) Provide a flexible and adaptive framework for proactively addressing realised and forecasted global environmental threats and facilitating the most modern responses to these threats in a manner respectful of the country's unique context.
- 2) Formally codify contemporary environmental law principles into our national context, and to integrate Trinidad and Tobago's environmental efforts with the collective regional and global strategies for sustainable development.

Anthropogenic contributions to climate change is near universally accepted and the adverse impacts of climate change are recognised as real, increasingly severe, and disproportionately distributed. Other phenomena, such as increasing aquatic and terrestrial contamination of engineered nanoparticles remain poorly understood and their burgeoning throughout the world promises a new era of environmental issues in decades to come¹. Similarly, advances in technology offer novel opportunities for environmental conservation². Small Island Developing States (SIDS), such as Trinidad and Tobago, are particularly vulnerable to global-scale threats due to their size, geography, and open economy. Additionally, they are constrained in the adoption of cutting edge responses due to their weak institutional capacity, high cost of infrastructure and unique socio-political milieu.

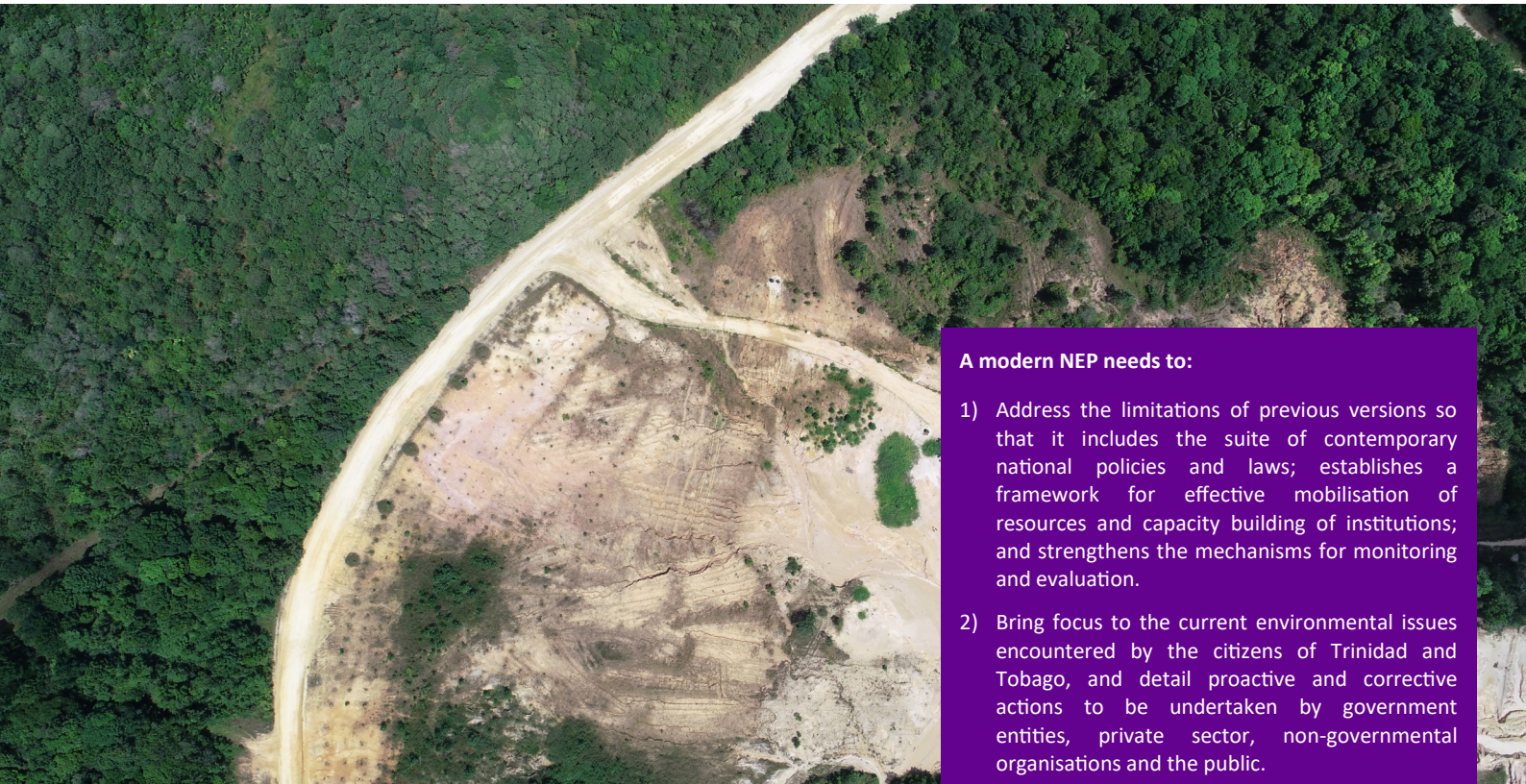
In the past decade, there have also been changes in the collective response to environmental issues. Environmental law principles which guide humankind's collective response to environmental issues have been advanced, refined and firmly planted into the corpus of international law. These principles

also underpin several recently established MEAs adopted by the GoRTT in pursuit of integrating environmental development with economic and social development. These include the *United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the *Paris Agreement* to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Additionally, the *Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) including the Caribbean Single Market Economy (CSME)*, enjoins Trinidad and Tobago to several regional policies developed by CARICOM to achieve sustainable development. Since 2006, established regional policies have included the *CARICOM Common Environmental and Natural Resource Policy*, *CARICOM Common Agricultural Policy*, *CARICOM Common Fisheries Policy*, and *CARICOM Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change*.

¹Sutherland, W. J., et al. (2015). A Horizon Scan of Global Conservation Issues for 2016. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, 29 (1), 15-22

²Sutherland, W. J., et al. (2017). A Horizon Scan of Global Conservation Issues for 2017. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, 32 (1), 31-40

At the National Scale...



A modern NEP needs to:

- 1) Address the limitations of previous versions so that it includes the suite of contemporary national policies and laws; establishes a framework for effective mobilisation of resources and capacity building of institutions; and strengthens the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation.
- 2) Bring focus to the current environmental issues encountered by the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, and detail proactive and corrective actions to be undertaken by government entities, private sector, non-governmental organisations and the public.

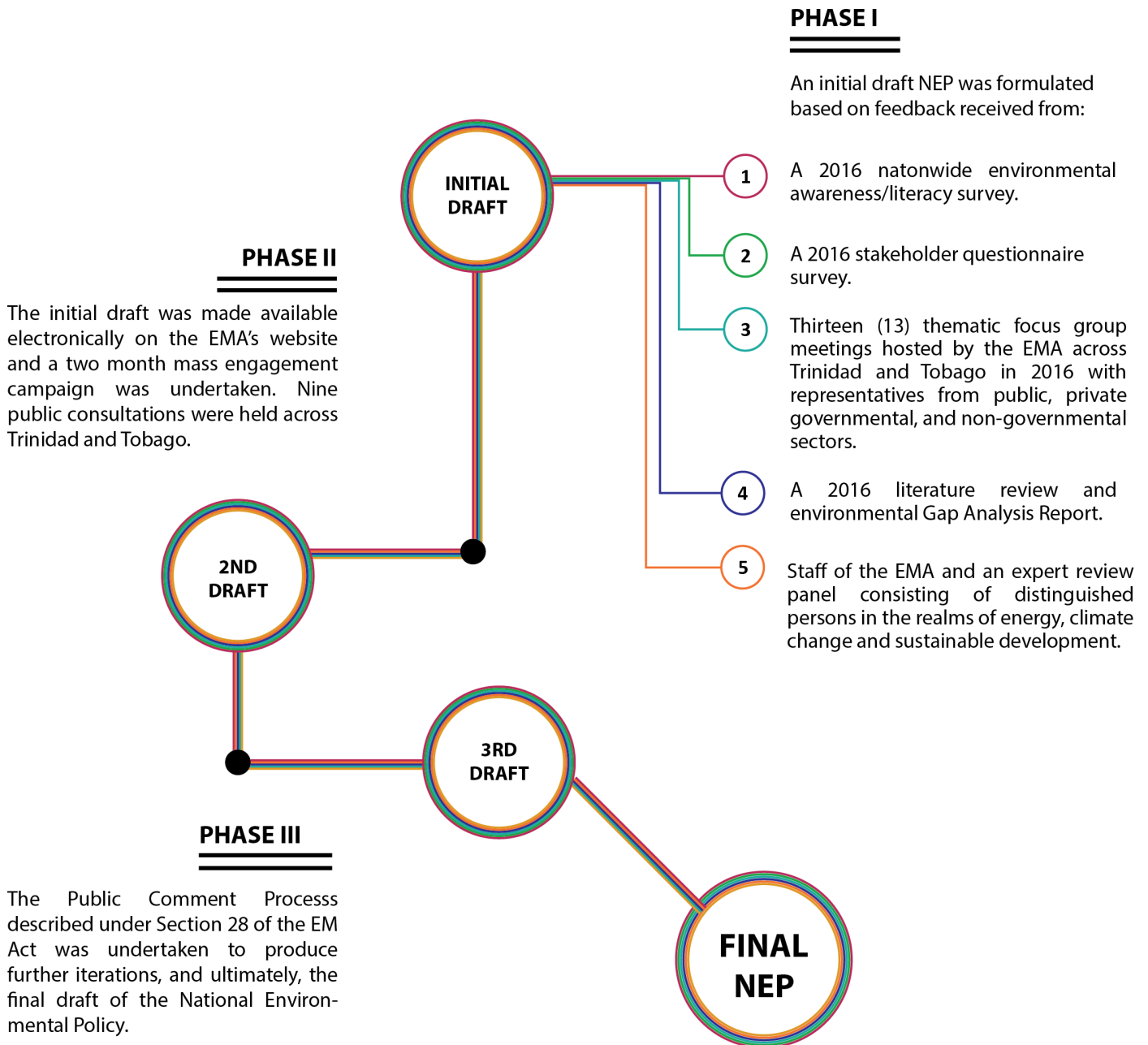
Trinidad and Tobago is perceived to be progressively above average with respect to environmental management; moving from the 90th position to the 62nd position among 180 countries measured on the Yale Environmental Performance Index over the period 2006 - 2016. In the decade following the 2006 NEP, several environmental policy instruments have been established, including, but not limited to, national policies for forests, wildlife, protected areas, recycling, and climate change; a green tax levy and a national green fund; and the enactment of Water Pollution and Air Pollution Rules.

Yet despite these policy responses, periodic assessments taken over the past decade indicate that the country's ecosystems and natural resources remain encumbered by the impacts of urban expansion and industrial development. Furthermore, a precise measurement of trends in the state of the environment of Trinidad and Tobago has been difficult to attain due to institutional constraints and gaps in the 2006 NEP regarding monitoring and reporting on indicators.

A review of the EMA's Complaints Database revealed that for the period 2014 – 2016 complaints related to development activities comprised the majority (28%) followed closely by noise from events and recreational venues (26%); air quality due to open burning, odours and dust (15%); and petrochemical spills and releases (8%). This stands in contrast to the characterisation of complaints in 2006 which were predominantly centred on agricultural practices, construction activities and small-scale commercial endeavours.

1.03 DRAFTING THIS NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

In consideration of the burgeoning threats to environmental sustainability at all levels, the GoRTT sought unprecedented action to develop a robust, inclusive and comprehensive environmental policy. While a process for revising the NEP is provided for under Section 18 of the Environmental Management Act, Chapter 35:05 (EM Act), the drafting of this NEP utilised stakeholder engagement strategies inclusive of, but far exceeding, the statutory process defined in the Act.



Thus, this NEP stands as a testament to inclusive governance; a policy made for the people of Trinidad and Tobago, by the people of Trinidad and Tobago. The final product represents the concerns, knowledge and solutions derived from unparalleled collaboration aimed at elevating environmental consciousness and advancing sustainable development in Trinidad and Tobago.

WE, the people of Trinidad and Tobago aspire to make our country a place where we can enjoy a high quality of life within a safe and healthy environment where natural resources are safeguarded and used sustainably.

WE foresee a future where all stakeholders from individual citizens to political and non-political, formal and informal groups are actively involved in the management of their national and local environments based on strong environmental ethics.

WE envisage a country where food security is achieved through sustainable agricultural practices. Our desire is for our villages, towns and cities to benefit from green architecture and infrastructure, increased energy efficiency, and are powered by renewable resources.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago envisions a country in which all stakeholders take an active role in protecting the environment and assume individual responsibility for maintaining and enhancing the quality of the environment.



Environmental challenges are usually difficult and complex, for which easy solutions may not exist and suitable responses may sometimes be constrained by the limitations of the legislative and institutional structures. The unwavering pursuit of environmental sustainability within an ever-changing socio-economic paradigm requires clear, yet adaptable guidance. Hence, the GoRTT commits that all environmental, or environment-related laws, policies, programmes, actions and institutions shall be guided by the following principles and concepts:

Sustainable Development, Integration & Interdependence

Sustainable development, defined in the Brundtland Report as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”³, is recognised as the overarching model for improving the quality of life for the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. It is understood that economic development, social development and environmental management are interdependent, indivisible and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development. Moreover, the attainment of peace and sustainability can only be done when environmental concerns are integrated across all spheres, at the policy, planning, programme and project levels. Thus, development and the pursuit of peace, justice and strong institutions in Trinidad and Tobago must be done in a manner that strives to balance social, economic and environmental considerations.

Inter-Generational & Intra-Generational Equity

Equity is the cornerstone of achieving sustainable development. It is recognised that all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago within the current generation have the right of fair access to their generation’s entitlement of natural resources. In addition, future generations are entitled to enjoy a fair level of the common patrimony. Thus, each generation has the duty of ensuring that pursuit of development does not impede the ability of each citizen, or successive generations of citizens, from meeting their needs. In addition, the GoRTT assumes responsibility for fairly allocating and regulating scarce resources to ensure that all benefits and burdens are equitably shared amongst all members of society.

Responsibility to Avoid Transboundary Harm

The exercise of Trinidad and Tobago’s sovereign right to exploit its natural resources in accordance with its environmental and developmental policies shall not cause damage to the environment or impact human

health of neighbouring States or areas beyond the limits of its national jurisdiction. As such, the GoRTT and entities operating within the boundaries of Trinidad and Tobago accept the responsibility to prevent damage to neighbouring environments.

Prevention

The concept of prevention of environmental harm, irrespective of whether there is transboundary harm, is a well-established concept for economic and ecological reasons. Often environmental ills create irreversible ecological or human health impacts, or where remedies exist the costs are prohibitive. Thus, comprehensive prior assessment of environmental harm and measures to avoid/mitigate significant environmental or human health impacts shall be utilised whenever there exists a risk of environmental damage.

Transparency, Public Participation & Access to Information and Remedies

Public participation is critical to sustainable development and is a prerequisite for responsive, transparent and accountable governmental entities and civil society organisations. It is also acknowledged that meaningful public participation can only be attained where there are transparent public processes, and access to appropriate, timely and comprehensible information concerning the environment held by public authorities. Such information must be made widely available without imposing undue financial burdens on the applicant and with adequate protection of privacy and business confidentiality. Consequently, all governmental entities of Trinidad and Tobago shall, in accordance with Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation in environmental and developmental matters by making information widely available, and ensuring effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy.

³World Commission on Environment and Development. (1987) *Our common future*. Oxford: Oxford University Press



Polluters Pay Principle

The cost of preventing pollution, minimising environmental damage due to pollution, and/or compensation for damages due to pollution, shall be borne by those responsible for the pollution. This principle may be applied through command-and-control measures (E.g. Pollution Standards) or market-based measures (E.g. Taxes). Important elements of the application of this principle using pollution standards are:

- a** Charges are levied as:
 - i. An application or processing fee proportional to the cost of processing a license or permit;
 - ii. A licence or permit operating fee proportional to: (1) the quantities/ concentration/ amount of pollutants which the holder is permitted to generate, or (2) to the best approximate of the total cost to society due to polluting activities undertaken.
- b** Charges are levied for compensation and damages associated with pollution of the environment.
- c** Money collected will be used to correct environmental damages and improve pollution management.

Precautionary Principle

The finite nature of the earth's systems and processes dictate that there are limits to the amount of human activity tolerable before there is a risk of abrupt and irreversible environmental changes. The GoRTT will adhere to the principle that if there are threats of serious irreversible damage to humans or the environment, lack of full scientific certainty will not be used as a reason for postponing social and environmental safeguards. Furthermore, the GoRTT affirms:

1. Scientific uncertainty will not be used as a reason not to act in respect to environmental concerns;
2. Action will affirmatively be taken with respect to environmental concerns;
3. Those engaging in potentially damaging activities will shoulder the burden of establishing the absence of significant environmental harm; and
4. It may restrict imports based on a standard involving less than full scientific certainty of environmental harm.

Co-operation and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities

The GoRTT as well as all sub-national and trans-national entities operating within its boundaries shall, in the spirit of global partnership, co-operate towards the conservation, protection and restoration of the Earth's ecosystem integrity. Given that different actors contribute differently to environmental problems in the pursuit of sustainable development, all actors bear common but differentiated responsibilities for addressing environmental challenges proportional to their contribution.

Rights of Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities

Indigenous peoples and local communities shall have a right to participate in the decision-making process, and share in managing the resources upon which their cultural identity and livelihoods depend. All development activities shall recognise and include safeguards to respect, preserve and maintain the identity, culture and interest of indigenous peoples and local communities likely to be impacted. The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities shall be respected and promoted for wider application given the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of those knowledge systems. Benefits arising from the utilisation of such knowledge, innovations and practices shall be equitably shared among holders of those knowledge systems.

Common Heritage and Common Concern of Humankind

The GoRTT recognises that the management of the climate system and biodiversity of the Earth are common concerns for humankind. Moreover, resources of outer space, celestial bodies, the sea-bed, ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction are considered the common heritage of humankind.

The GoRTT, sub-national actors, and transnational organisations within its boundaries shall share responsibility for addressing common concerns, minimising harm to issues of common concern and safeguarding the common heritage of humankind.

Good Governance

It is recognized that sustainable development can only be achieved where public, private and non-governmental institutions are transparent, accountable and honest in their governance of human, financial, environmental and natural resources. Good governance is a function of mutual trust and reciprocal relations between governmental agencies, civil society, and non-state actors including businesses and NGOs. This must be based on the fulfilment of constitutional, legislative and executive functions and the acceptance of authority, probity, transparency and accountability. It necessitates that appropriate institutions, institutional relationships and common targets are established and supported. In the pursuit of good governance, the GoRTT reaffirms its responsibility to respect the health and well-being of all citizens. Furthermore, the GoRTT, all sub-national actors and international actors operating within the State's boundaries shall adopt/maintain, where appropriate, the features of good governance required to galvanize environmental sustainability,

including but not limited to:

- 1 Internal democratic and transparent decision-making procedures and financial accountability;
- 2 Effective measures to combat official or other corruption;
- 3 Respect for due process and observance of the rule of law;
- 4 Protection of human rights as enshrined in the Constitution;
- 5 Transparent and non-corrupt public procurement procedures;
- 6 Meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making;
- 7 Meaningful engagement and involvement of Trinidad and Tobago's youth;
- 8 Respect for all forms of knowledge systems inclusive of traditional knowledge held by indigenous and local communities;
- 9 Equitable representation and meaningful participation of the poor and other marginalised groups in decision-making;
- 10 A culture of accountability in their responsibilities pertaining to the development and implementation of environmental and development policies, laws and policy instruments;
- 11 Effective process to redress past and present environmental justice;
- 12 Corporate social responsibility and socially responsible investments towards the equitable distribution of wealth and benefits within communities;
- 13 The right of workers to refuse work that is injurious to human health or the environment; and
- 14 The right of every citizen to expose any environmental or health hazard without fear of reprisal.

“The GoRTT considers it a priority responsibility to judiciously manage the interactions between its citizens and the environment with aims of safeguarding human health, peace, prosperity and social justice, while yielding optimum sustainable benefits for present and future generations.” - page 2.



2

ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES FOR TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

The goal of this NEP is to improve and maintain a high level of environmental quality for current and future generations while ensuring that the health, interests and development of the people of Trinidad and Tobago are not compromised. This chapter details the six environmental priorities identified through extensive stakeholder consultation as being critical to achieving sustainable development. These priorities are:



The concerns described in Section 1.02 must be given increased priority, in recognition that long-term economic growth, social transformation, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability are inter-linked. These priorities are also aligned with the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda that will be described in the sections below.

The discussion of each priority will identify the significance of each issue, link the issue to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (see Annex IV) and list policy actions to address each issue.

PRIORITY ONE



PROTECTING ENVIRONMENTAL & HUMAN HEALTH THROUGH POLLUTION CONTROL

OVERVIEW

2.01 Water Pollution

2.02 Air Pollution

2.03 Noise Pollution

2.04 Solid & Hazardous Wastes

2.05 Light Pollution





Protecting Environmental & Human Health through Pollution Control

The production and consumption of goods and services invariably yield by-products that, if improperly managed, negatively impact the environment, human health, and the economy. Therefore, managing pollution is a critical priority for the GoRTT while pursuing its development agenda. This section highlights the core commitments of the GoRTT for addressing pollution so that Trinidad and Tobago maintains a healthy environment suitable for all human uses and maintaining ecosystem functions.

2.01 WATER POLLUTION

The GoRTT recognises that the quality of water determines its suitability for drinking, recreation, commercial and industrial use, and sustaining aquatic ecosystems. The quality of water is impaired by social and economic activity that introduce biological, chemical and physical pollution. Safeguarding water quality is a national imperative. To this end, the GoRTT reaffirms its commitment to the *Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Area*, the *Land-Based Sources Protocol of the Cartagena Convention*, *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)*, and SDGs 6, 12 and 14 which speak to water quality management. Accordingly, the GoRTT will:

- a. Manage the water resources of the country for long-term sustainability by ensuring that the water quality in any area does not fall below that which is required to protect the uses of the water by humans;
- b. Manage the water resources in the country such that water quality in any area does not fall below that necessary to avoid diminishing the quality of the environment by preventing the discharging or depositing of pollutants in waters which may cause any of the following:
 - i. Loss of native aquatic vegetation;
 - ii. A reduction in numbers of any native species of aquatic animal or insect;
 - iii. An increase in the numbers of any non-native species of aquatic animal or insect;
 - iv. A reduction in numbers of aquatic organisms necessary for a healthy aquatic ecosystem;
 - v. An increase in algal or aquatic plant growth;
 - vi. The water to become toxic to vegetation on land;
 - vii. The water to become harmful or offensive to humans, livestock, or native animals; and
 - viii. An increase in turbidity or sediment levels.
- c. Ensure that waters designated as protected or significant to species protected by law are maintained in a pristine state;
- d. Establish ambient water quality guidelines consistent with use as well as standards and limits on concentrations of substances in point source discharges;
- e. Ensure that for waters with multiple uses, the water quality criteria support the most sensitive use;
- f. Amend existing legislation or develop new legislation, as appropriate, to enable the comprehensive protection of water bodies from point source and non-point source pollution;
- g. Encourage the sustainable management of water bodies by way of cleaner technologies, and cost-effective and reasonable environmental management practices;

- h** Limit, as far as practicably possible, point source discharge of pollution into near-shore or fresh surface waters;
- i** Empower agencies with the responsibility for water quality, and water pollution management to fully undertake their mandate by providing financial, technical and institutional capacity building;
- j** Encourage partnerships between governmental entities, private sector and nongovernmental organisations towards the monitoring and mitigation of water pollution;
- k** Ensure abstracted drinking water is given adequate treatment and meets national standards prior to distribution to the public;
- l** Ensure that for waters whose existing quality is less than the quality specified in the established ambient water quality guidelines and standards shall be made to comply with these, wherever possible; and
- m** Protect existing or planned ground and surface water sources of public drinking water from direct or indirect contact with sewage or other waste;
- n** Ensure that there is not direct or indirect discharges of hazardous substances into surface water and ground water aquifers;
- o** Ensure that sewage, waste water and produced water receive the degree of treatment necessary to protect the quality of waters of Trinidad and Tobago prior to being discharged;
- p** Ensure that in cases where the water quality falls below that which is necessary to protect human health, the person responsible for the pollution shall pay any cost necessary to inform the public of the risk involved, and restore quality in order to protect human health; and
- q** Develop guidelines and policies, as appropriate, to reduce impacts to water quality due to the activities of marinas, boatyards, and/or vessels.

2.02 AIR POLLUTION

Air emissions in Trinidad and Tobago come from a wide range of sources, representing diverse economic activities and personal lifestyles. Given that our atmosphere is all pervasive, contaminated air affects everyone's health as well as that of plants, animals and non-living components of the environment. Furthermore, certain pollutants may impact the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect, undermining global environmental sustainability. Thus, to abate the threats of air pollution, in alignment with SDG 3, SDG 13, and the objectives of the *Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer*, *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* and the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, the GoRTT will undertake proactive measures to address the sources and forms of air pollution within its national boundaries.

Open Burning

It is Government's policy that open burning of waste without consent from designated national authorities governing waste management is strictly prohibited. Nevertheless, the GoRTT recognises that open burning and agricultural fires persist throughout the year, and commits that it will:

- a** Empower agencies with responsibility for the management of agricultural or other waste, or for fire management to detect and respond to incidents of open burning;
- b** Amend or develop additional policies and legislation, as appropriate, to improve the regulation of open burning and agricultural fires; and

- c Undertake sensitisation campaigns regarding the national policy and laws regarding open burning, and the impacts of open burning on human health and the environment.

Air Emissions from Land Use Change, Commercial & Industrial Activities

Trinidad and Tobago is one of the most industrialised countries in CARICOM. To address the air pollution emitted by land-use changes, commercial activity or industrial processes, the GoRTT will:

- d Prevent avoidable emissions to the atmosphere and, where emissions are unavoidable, take all reasonable and practicable measures to minimise their impact on ambient air quality;
- e Encourage the utilisation technologies and techniques that minimise emissions, including odours, from land-use changes, commercial activities, and industrial processes;
- f Mobilise resources, and seek global partnerships to secure resources, for the development of a national network of ambient air quality monitoring stations to provide accurate, real-time assessments of ambient air quality throughout Trinidad and Tobago;
- g Empower government entities and non-governmental institutions to effectively monitor point source emissions by means of enhanced technical, financial and human-resource capacity development;
- h Amend or develop additional policies and legislation, as appropriate, to improve the regulation of air pollutants arising from land-use changes, commercial activities, and industrial processes; and
- i Encourage the use of cleaner fuels as inputs into commercial and industrial activities.

Air Emissions from Motor Vehicles, Vessels & Aircrafts

Mobile sources powered by combustion engines represent a growing source of emissions in Trinidad and Tobago. In response, the GoRTT will:

- j Amend or develop additional policies, legislation, standards, or regulations, as appropriate, to reduce emissions related to mobile sources including but, not limited to, motor vehicles, vessels and aircraft;
- k Amend or develop additional policies legislation, standards, or regulations, as appropriate, to ensure timely vehicular maintenance and avoidance of 'black smoke';
- l Encourage the public to utilise mass transit systems;
- m Ensure the development, access to, and use of cleaner and/or alternative forms of fuel for vehicles, vessels and aircraft;
- n Empower government entities to better undertake their mandates with respect to the control of air pollution from mobile sources by way of enhanced technical, financial and human-resource capacity development; and
- o Implement cost-effective measures to minimize vehicular traffic congestion, particularly in major urban centers.

Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)

Substances that deplete the ozone layer continue to be used in air conditioning and refrigeration, fumigation, and foam blowing. Although Trinidad and Tobago has successfully phased out the import of some ozone depleting substances (ODS) such as chlorofluorocarbons, halons and carbon tetrachloride, efforts are still required to phase out additional substances found to be damaging to the ozone layer as well as those substances used as alternatives that contribute to global warming. To this end, the GoRTT will:

- p** Amend or develop legislation as appropriate, to give effect to Trinidad and Tobago's obligations under MEAs related to ozone depleting substances, as well as alternatives to these substances;
- q** Implement a system to control the import and export of all ozone depleting substances and their alternatives;
- r** Develop and implement standards and guidelines as appropriate, for relevant sectors that utilise ozone depleting substances, as well as alternatives to these substances;
- s** Ensure that all developmental activities utilize ozone friendly technologies;
- t** Ensure that climate and energy efficient considerations are taken into account when choosing ODS alternatives;
- u** Ensure that refrigerant used in air conditioning and refrigeration equipment are recovered (if practical) for destruction, recycling or reclamation during servicing and maintenance of equipment prior to equipment dismantling for disposal;
- v** Develop incentive and disincentive mechanisms towards reduction or use of ozone depleting substances and promotion of alternatives; and
- w** Encourage the meaningful participation of all stakeholders in the monitoring of ozone depleting substances and promote their alternatives.

2.03 NOISE POLLUTION

It is Government's policy that noise, from all sources, will be managed to ensure that the health and well-being of all citizens will be respected. Additionally, noise generated on land and at sea, shall be managed to avoid significant impact to biodiversity, human health and community peace. To these ends, the GoRTT will:

- a** Amend existing legislation or develop new legislation and standards, as appropriate, to ensure that all sources and types of noise are appropriately managed to minimise nuisance, and danger to the health and welfare of sensitive receptors;
- b** Revise spatial and temporal zones for the management of noise, taking into consideration sensitive species and sensitive receptors, and establish noise management plans for each zone;
- c** Empower government entities to better undertake their mandates with respect to the control of noise pollution from all sources by way of enhanced technical, financial and human-resource capacity development;
- d** Encourage the responsible management of noise from all sources through education and awareness programmes with an emphasis on sources neighbouring sensitive communities and environmental receptors;
- e** Develop incentive and disincentive programmes towards the responsible management of noise from all sources with an emphasis on sources neighbouring sensitive communities and environmental receptors;

- f** Develop national regulations, standards and guidelines for managing human-induced noise in the marine environment with an aim to prevent acute and chronic impacts to marine species; and
- g** Encourage the use of noise-quieting technology, and the use of spatial or temporal exclusion of noise to minimise contact with marine life.

2.04 SOLID & HAZARDOUS WASTES

Solid Waste

The GoRTT recognises major drivers of solid waste generation to be unsustainable consumption patterns and the inefficient use of resources in the production of goods and services. Thus, in keeping with SDG 12 which aims to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns through the environmentally sound management of all wastes, the GoRTT's policy will be to give priority in the order of prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery whilst recognising that the timeframe for establishment of systems to undertake such actions will require that waste be disposed of in a manner that does not negatively impact on human health and the environment. To this end, the GoRTT will:

- a** Harmonise national policies that relate to waste management including, but not limited to the *National Waste Recycling Policy* and the *Integrated Solid Waste/Resource Management Policy*;
- b** Amend existing legislation or develop new legislation, policies or programmes, as appropriate, to:
 - i. Facilitate action towards the objectives of the *United Nations' 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns*;
 - ii. Facilitate the proper handling, storage and disposal of waste;
 - iii. Facilitate the reduction of food waste at the retail and consumer levels, and reduce food losses along the production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses;
 - iv. Combat marine litter, inclusive of marine debris and micro-plastics, in accordance with the most current resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly; and
 - v. Promote closed-loop production of goods to minimise the overall waste load.
- c** Promote the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) whereby manufacturers/generators play a role in the treatment and disposal of products at the end-of-life;
- d** Facilitate the management of emerging waste streams;
- e** Ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of without using processes or methods that can endanger human health, cause significant harm to the environment, and/or significant nuisance through noise, odour or loss of aesthetic appeal;
- f** Encourage the private sector to phase-out the import, manufacture and use of synthetic, non-biodegradable materials such as polystyrene and plastics through market-based economic instruments;
- g** Encourage the public, private and non-governmental sectors, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and integrate sustainability into their operations and reporting cycle;
- h** Encourage and support partnership with regional and international organisations to support technical and institutional capacity development of sustainable patterns of consumption and production;

- i Encourage and support partnership with educational institutions, non-governmental organisations and the private sector to undertake research and programmes to improve waste management; and
- j Empower governmental entities to better undertake their mandates with respect to the management of solid waste by way of enhanced technical, financial and human-resource capacity development.

Recycling, Recovery & Reuse

The GoRTT believes that efforts to recycle (including up-cycling), recover materials, and reuse discarded products will provide co-benefits beyond environmental sustainability. These include (i) delaying or avoiding new waste disposal infrastructure to meet growing waste generation, (ii) development of new local industries, (iii) access to new international markets, and (iv) divert waste from landfills. Thus, it is Government's policy to mainstream the minimisation of waste and practice of recycling, recovery and reuse into the culture of Trinidad and Tobago. Accordingly, the GoRTT will:

- k Amend existing legislation or develop new legislation, as appropriate, to facilitate the efficient coordination and implementation of a national waste recycling system;
- l Support non-governmental organisations, private sector, and/or community-based efforts to prevent, reduce, reuse, recover, or recycle waste, including the use of waste as an energy source;
- m Encourage and support the development of market-based economic instruments for the prevention, reduction, reuse and recycling of waste, including the use of waste as an energy source; and
- n Collaborate with non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, the private sector and other governmental entities to build sustainable public education and awareness campaigns that highlight the consequences of improper waste disposal and encourage the prevention, reduction, reuse and recycling of waste.

Hazardous Substances & Waste

The GoRTT will continue to take decisive action regarding the generation, handling, use, transboundary movement, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous substances and hazardous wastes. As a responsible global citizen, the GoRTT stands with the international community in the collective effort to address, among others, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), pesticides, toxic chemicals, waste oils, and radioactive materials. Accordingly, the GoRTT will:

- o Amend existing legislation or develop new legislation, as appropriate, to give effect to the enforcement of MEAs on hazardous substances and hazardous waste including, but not limited to: the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal*, the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*, and the *Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade*;
- p Monitor implementation of Chemical and Waste related MEAs to ensure adherence of all national obligations;
- q Enforce existing legislation and as required, amend existing legislation or develop new legislation to ensure the proper handling, transport, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous substances and hazardous waste through permitting and licensing systems;
- r Further develop and maintain lists and inventories of hazardous waste;

- s Prevent the import of hazardous waste if there is reason to believe that the waste in question will not be managed in an environmentally sound manner and thereby pose a threat to human health and the environment;
- t Strengthen enforcement of the ban on open burning of hazardous substances and hazardous waste;
- u Empower governmental entities to better undertake their mandates with respect to the management of hazardous waste and hazardous substances by way of enhanced technical, financial and human-resource capacity development;
- v Encourage access to technical assistance, technology transfer, training and capacity-building opportunities and other resources established under the Chemical and Waste related MEAs including the strengthening of partnerships with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean region, and similar regional and international entities; and
- w Explore market-based mechanisms, regulations and alternative incentives for the replacement of toxic and persistent industrial and agricultural chemicals with less toxic and biodegradable alternatives

Furthermore, it is Government's policy that:

- x Manufacturers and distributors will ensure that they supply materials and substances which are approved for local use by the relevant regulatory authorities concerned, which includes, but is not limited to, the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board and the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards; and
- y The consent of the Environmental Management Authority be sought for the transboundary movement (export, import and transit) of hazardous waste and other waste controlled under the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal*.

2.05 LIGHT POLLUTION

Photopollution is caused by the inappropriate, or excessive, use of artificial light for lighting or advertising in the night environment. The GoRTT recognises that the inefficient use of artificial light negatively impacts local amenity, the national carbon footprint, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation. It also acknowledges that the adverse impacts of artificial light to nocturnal pollinators threatens agricultural productivity and ecosystems. It is government's policy that sky glow, light trespass, light clutter, over-lighting and glare from outdoor sources of artificial light will be judiciously managed. To this end, the GoRTT will:

- a Amend existing legislation or develop new legislation and standards, as appropriate, to ensure that all sources and types of artificial light are appropriately managed to minimise nuisance, aesthetic impact, and danger to the health and welfare of sensitive receptors which include, but are not limited to, vulnerable members of society, intrinsically dark landscapes and nocturnal species;
- b Ensure, through existing environmental/planning legislation and processes, that development involving outdoor lighting schemes:
 - i. Uses the minimum amount of lighting required for security or work purposes;
 - ii. Minimises light spillage and glare, particularly in areas of open countryside or on the edge of settlements; and
 - iii. Minimises impact to local amenity, road safety or to sites of conservation value.

- c** Develop incentive and disincentive programmes towards the responsible management of artificial light with an emphasis on sources neighbouring sensitive communities, intrinsically dark landscapes, or environmentally sensitive areas;
- d** Retrofit all state-owned outdoor lighting fixtures (including street lights) with appropriate shields and energy efficient bulbs;
- e** Encourage private-sector entities to retro-fit outdoor lighting fixtures (including street lights) with appropriate shields and energy-efficient bulbs.
- f** Encourage the responsible management of artificial light from all sources through education and awareness programmes with an emphasis on sources neighbouring sensitive communities and environmental receptors; and
- g** Empower government entities to better undertake their mandates with respect to the control of light pollution from artificial sources by way of enhanced technical, financial and human-resource capacity development.



PRIORITY TWO



SUSTAINABLY MANAGING NATURAL ASSETS

OVERVIEW

- 2.06** Water Resource Management
- 2.07** Soil / Land Management
- 2.08** Biodiversity Management
- 2.09** Coastal & Marine Management
- 2.10** Fisheries Management
- 2.11** Agriculture Management
- 2.12** Mineral & Hydrocarbon Resource Management





Sustainably Managing Natural Assets

Trinidad and Tobago is enriched with an abundance of ecosystems and natural resources which provide the foundation of economic activity and social well-being. As such, the management and wise use of these finite, natural assets are of paramount importance. This section highlights the GoRTT's commitments to sustainably managing the quality and quantity of the country's natural assets

2.06 WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Trinidad and Tobago produces potable water from a system of wells, from surface impoundments, from river extraction and more recently from desalination. However, continuous access to potable water by all citizens is constrained by climate variability and infrastructure capacity. With these water supply systems, several pieces of laws and policies were prepared to regulate the abstraction of water, protect water supplies from pollution and manage use of water in an efficient and effective manner. In keeping with SDGs 3 and 6, which aim to ensuring healthy lives and the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, respectively, the GoRTT will:

- a Pursue an integrated water resource management approach in accordance with the national *Integrated Water Resource Management Policy* to ensure optimal protection of and use of the country's water resources;
- b Expand opportunities for private sector, non-governmental, and public participation and collaboration in the development and implementation of water management programmes;
- c Increase administrative effectiveness by the elimination of fragmentation and duplication in responsibilities and consolidating programmes wherever possible;
- d Minimise potable water losses in transmission and distribution systems;
- e Encourage water conservation through recycling and waste water reuse, especially during the Dry Season;
- f Encourage water-use efficiency across all economic sectors;
- g Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes;
- h Encourage the use of advanced technology systems such as desalination, waste water reuse, storm water reuse, and rainwater harvesting to supplement fresh water demand where it is economically, technically and environmentally feasible;

- i. Ensure that environmental authorisation for applications that involve the construction of waste water storage lagoons adhere to the appropriate setbacks by the national planning agency and other regulatory bodies, and are considerate of:
 - i. Known flood plains or any flood plain that is subject to flooding that occurs, on average, more often than once every 100 years;
 - ii. Bodies of water in environmentally sensitive areas or areas that support environmentally sensitive species;
 - iii. Public roads or road reserves;
 - iv. Banks of water courses;
 - v. Residences built in the vicinity;
 - vi. The high-water mark; and
 - vii. Areas where the base of the lagoon would be below a seasonal water table.
- j. Review and, if necessary update legislation on management of water resources;
- k. Encourage educational campaigns and research into water management strategies; and
- l. Utilise market-based measures and other policy instruments to achieve these water management objectives.

2.07 SOIL / LAND MANAGEMENT

The GoRTT recognises that land and soil are finite resources that provide critical supporting and regulatory ecosystem functions including, but not limited to: the growth of crops, regulation of water quality and quantity, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation and provision of space for human settlement. The availability of land and soil resources to support rapid population growth is limited. Therefore, their management is important to ensure that the needs for both the human and natural environments are met. In recognising this, Trinidad and Tobago has become a partner of the Global Soil Partnership to improve governance of soil resources. Furthermore, in continued efforts to uphold SDGs 2, 3 and 15, which aim to promote sustainable agriculture, promote well-being for all at all ages and reverse land degradation, respectively, the GoRTT will:

- a. Mobilise resources for the implementation of the *National Action Program to Combat Land Degradation in Trinidad and Tobago* to ensure that critical issues regarding land degradation are identified, corrected, mitigated or eliminated;
- b. Amend existing legislation or develop new legislation, as appropriate, to improve soil/land conservation, fertility, and management;
- c. Empower government entities to better undertake their mandates with respect to the conservation and management of soil/land by way of enhanced technical, financial and human-resource capacity development;
- d. Encourage educational institutions, non-governmental organisations and private sector entities to engage in research regarding soil conservation, and soil fertility augmentation; and
- e. Continue efforts to prevent soil loss through the development and implementation of programs to afforest, reforest, or otherwise re-vegetate slopes vulnerable to erosion.

2.08 BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

Trinidad and Tobago has some of the highest levels of biodiversity globally, being home to a diverse array of ecosystems and native species. The GoRTT recognises its responsibility to be diligent stewards of all forms of life based on intrinsic value. Further, it recognises that halting the loss and degradation of biodiversity will yield compounded benefits to biodiversity-related industries, such as ecotourism, and the general well-being of all citizens. Thus, in continuing its efforts to achieve SDG 14 and 15, which aim to protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of biological resources and halt biodiversity loss, the GoRTT, will:

- a Amend existing legislation or develop new legislation, as appropriate, to:
 - i. Facilitate action towards the objectives of MEAs related to biodiversity conservation including, but not limited to the: *Convention on Biological Diversity* and its precipitating Protocols, *Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Area* and its precipitating Protocols, *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*, *Ramsar Convention on Wetlands* and *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*;
 - ii. Facilitate the coordination and management of a system to govern forest, protected areas and wildlife in accordance with *the National Forest Policy*, *National Protected Areas Policy* and *National Wildlife Policy*.
- b Periodically update the *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan* and *National Biodiversity Targets* to ensure harmonisation with national development policy, biodiversity-related MEAs and regional efforts at biodiversity conservation including, but not limited to the: *CARICOM Biodiversity Strategy*, *CARICOM Environmental and Natural Resources Action Plan*, and the *Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol to the Cartagena*;
- c Mainstream the *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan* across all economic sectors, and biodiversity issues into all national and sectoral policies, plans and programmes;
- d Continue the conservation of biodiversity through the development and implementation of programmes to address drivers of biodiversity loss including, but not limited to: deforestation, fires, erosion, illegal development activity, illegal exotic pet trade, invasive species and over-hunting;
- e Conserve representative examples of all terrestrial and marine ecosystems through their designation, and effective management of protected areas under national legislation;
- f Maintain total areas of land zoned for forest reserves and prevent conversion of lands best-suited for forest to other land use types;
- g Ensure sustainable use of forest including extraction of timber and wild meat;
- h Continue the protection and *in-situ* conservation of threatened, vulnerable, rare or endangered species through the designation, and effective management, of protected areas under national legislation;
- i Encourage the meaningful participation of non-governmental organisations and community-groups, especially those involving youth, in the conservation, management, monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity;
- j Encourage through market-based mechanisms and alternative incentive programmes the conservation, and wise use of biodiversity;
- k Establish mechanisms to ensure the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the conservation or utilisation of biodiversity, and/or intellectual property associated with the conservation or utilisation of biodiversity;

- l** Continue the *ex-situ* conservation of biodiversity and genetic resources, as a complement to in-situ conservation programmes;
- m** Support global partnerships that enhance opportunities and build capacity in local educational institutions towards biodiversity research, conservation and outreach;
- n** Encourage the economic and social valuation of ecosystem services to inform conservation and ecosystem management efforts; and
- o** Undertake, in collaboration with non-governmental organisations, private sector and community groups sustained public education and awareness campaigns that encourage the conservation, and wise use of biodiversity; and
- p** Empower governmental entities to better undertake their mandates with respect to the management of biodiversity by way of enhanced technical, financial and human-resource capacity development.

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Management

The GoRTT recognises that Trinidad and Tobago is vulnerable to the impact of invasive alien species (IAS) by nature of being a SIDS. Furthermore, its vulnerability will be increased as it pursues measures to enhance trade, sectoral growth in the maritime services and tourism sectors, and the regional and international movement of people. To mitigate the risk IAS pose to biodiversity, biodiversity-based economies and human-health, the Government remains committed to regional and international efforts aimed at controlling the spread of invasive species through prevention, early detection and control – with eradication sought as a last resort. Accordingly, the GoRTT will:

- q** Amend existing legislation or develop new legislation, as appropriate, to give effect to Trinidad and Tobago's MEA obligations related to IAS;
- r** Finalise a national strategy and action plan for addressing IAS which includes:
 - i. Coherence with national, regional and international efforts at managing IAS;
 - ii. Strategies for preventing the introduction of IAS;
 - iii. Strengthening of the national surveillance system for IAS;
 - iv. Strategies for mitigating the spread and impacts of IAS;
 - v. Strategies for restoring species and ecosystems impacted by IAS; and
 - vi. Strategies for mobilising national, bilateral and multilateral resources for implementation of the national strategy and action plan.
- s** Ensure the effective implementation of programmes and projects that give effect to the national strategies for addressing IAS, including but not limited to the *National Strategy for Ballast Water Management for Trinidad and Tobago*;
- t** Maintain a catalogue of existing flora and fauna to properly identify species that are indigenous to Trinidad and Tobago and species that have been introduced and have either become naturalised or
- u** Foster partnerships between national, regional and international organisations with an aim to undertaking national, regional and sub-regional efforts addressing IAS;
- v** Encourage the meaningful participation of private sector, governmental entities, non-governmental organisations and the public in the management of IAS; and
- w** Empower government entities, by way of enhanced technical, financial and human-resource capacity development, to better undertake their mandates with respect to the management of IAS in accordance with MEAs, including but not limited to, the *Convention on Biological Diversity, International Plant Protection Convention, World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Organization des Epizooties, International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, and International Maritime Organization standard.*

The GoRTT acknowledges that, as a SIDS, management of the coastal and marine area is critical as they form the nexus of human settlement, economic activity and some of the most productive ecosystems in the world. Coastal resources such as beaches, sea-grass beds, mangrove forests and coral reefs contribute to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP), protect coastal communities and provide non-material benefits to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. However, these areas remain highly vulnerable to the projected impacts of climate change, natural disasters and unsustainable development. Therefore, the GoRTT is committed to sustainably managing these resources in keeping with integrated coastal zone management principles and philosophies. It is Government's policy that there will be no net loss of wetlands and their function on publicly owned wetlands and waters. In its continued efforts to uphold SDG 14, which aims to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources, the GoRTT will:

- a Conserve representative examples of all coastal and marine ecosystems by including them in a system of protected areas;
- b Establish an *Integrated Coastal Zone Management Policy, Strategies and Action Plan* to guide management and restoration of the coastal zone;
- c Amend existing legislation or develop new legislation, as appropriate, to establish and enforce building set-backs from shorelines and coastal wetlands;
- d Mobilise resources to enable the activities prescribed in the *National Wetlands Policy*;
- e Empower government entities to better undertake their mandates with respect to the management of the coastal zone by way of enhanced technical, financial and human-resource capacity development;
- f Develop capacity in Government agencies towards the development and use of marine spatial planning to better manage ocean space;
- g Encourage educational institutions, non-governmental organisations and private sector entities to engage in research regarding coastal ecosystems and their use; and
- h Implement regulations, incentive schemes and/or awareness programmes to encourage the wise use of privately-owned wetlands.

Fisheries resources exploited in Trinidad and Tobago include finfish, shrimp, lobster, crab and shellfish (oysters, conch, mussels, and chip chip). The sustainable management of these resources is hampered by a number of factors including outdated legislation; an open access regime, high by-catch discards, illegal fishing, fishing subsidies, inadequate monitoring and enforcement of regulations and the lack of accurate data on fisheries. The development of the fisheries sector, inclusive of ornamental fish trade and aquaculture, has an important role to play in long term food security, employment and economic development. It is also recognised that for many coastal communities that depend on fisheries and marine resources, a thriving fishery is a core component to their livelihoods, traditions, and cultural identity. Government's policy is therefore that all fisheries will be managed in a sustainable manner. Accordingly, in keeping with SDGs 12 and 14, the GoRTT will:

- a Develop a *National Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Policy* aligned with internationally accepted principles, guidelines and the *CARICOM Common Fisheries Policy*, to guide the strategic development and growth of this sector;

- b** Review and amend existing legislation, regulations and guidelines, as appropriate, to improve data collection and facilitate the implementation of appropriate technical measures for sustainable fisheries management;
- c** Develop and execute, in collaboration with national stakeholders, programmes to give effect to the *CARICOM Common Fisheries Policy*;
- d** Promote participatory governance by strengthening the capacity of coastal communities for community-based management of fisheries resources;
- e** Utilise market-based and alternative incentive programmes to integrate more sustainable practices into the fisheries sector;
- f** Encourage the development of the aquaculture sub-sector;
- g** Mobilise resources, or seek global partnership for the mobilisation of resources, towards pollution prevention and coastal ecosystem protection measures likely to safeguard critical fish stocks;
- h** Empower government entities to better undertake their mandates with respect to the management of fisheries and aquaculture by way of enhanced technical, financial and human-resource capacity development;
- i** Encourage educational institutions, non-governmental organisations and private sector entities to engage in research relevant to fisheries and aquaculture; and
- j** Encourage the use of ecosystem based approaches for enhancing the resilience of the fisheries sector to the effects of climate change, pests and diseases.

2.11 AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT

Agricultural food systems can contribute to water, soil and biodiversity conservation in addition to other nationally significant benefits that include, but are not limited to (i) enhanced food security, (ii) increased food sovereignty, (iii) wealth creation among rural communities, (iv) economic growth and diversification, and (v) significant reductions in food import expenditure. Thus, the growth of a sustainable agricultural sector is of national importance. The GoRTT also acknowledges that the agricultural sector is among the most dependent on the quality of the environment, and most vulnerable to environmental catastrophe. Accordingly, the GoRTT will:

- a** Ensure that lands best suited for crop production are prioritised for agricultural purposes;
- b** Encourage, by way of market-based mechanisms, standards or alternative incentives, sustainable agricultural practices, agricultural processing and food production;
- c** Encourage partnerships at the national, regional and international scale to develop a sustainable food production system that:
 - i. Increases productivity and production;
 - ii. Increases resilience to the impacts of climate change;
 - iii. Maintains ecosystems; and
 - iv. Improves the land and quality of soil.
- d** Empower government entities to better undertake their mandates with respect to the development of a sustainable food production system by way of enhanced technical, financial and human-resource capacity development;
- e** Undertake, in collaboration with stakeholders, programmes towards the objectives of the *CARICOM Common Agriculture Policy*

- f Empower small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, and family farmers, through improving secure and equal access to: land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment; and
- g Undertake, in collaboration with non-governmental organisations, private sector and community groups sustained public education and awareness campaigns that encourage sustainable agricultural practices, and the consumption of locally-produced agricultural goods.

2.12 MINERAL & HYDROCARBON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The GoRTT recognises the need to diversify the economy from its reliance on finite hydrocarbon resources. However, the prudent use of these resources remains a critical component for economic growth and social development in Trinidad and Tobago. Acknowledging that the exploration, extraction and processing of non-renewable resources in the form of minerals (e.g. sand, asphalt, and gravel) or hydrocarbons (e.g. petroleum or natural gas) can potentially negatively impact society and the environment, the Government's policy is that these activities shall be undertaken in a manner as to minimise the impacts to human health, livelihoods, cultural assets and the environment.

In this regard, the GoRTT will:

- a Encourage and support research and academic institutions, non-governmental and governmental organisations and private sector entities in undertaking a systematic assessment into the true cost of mineral and hydrocarbon exploitation for the purposes of selecting ventures that are most socially, environmentally and economically sustainable;
- b Strengthen existent, or develop new institutional and regulatory regimes, as appropriate, to support the wise use of primary energy resources for sustainable development based on Full Cost Accounting Practices that will support the establishment of fees/funding consistent with the Polluter Pays Principle;
- c Utilise Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), and cost-benefit analysis to:
 - i. Inform the decision-making process regarding projects that may have significant environmental impacts or where there is great uncertainty regarding potential impacts; and
 - ii. Inform mitigation measures for projects that receive approval.
- d Ensure that all stakeholders likely to be impacted by the exploitation of minerals and hydrocarbon resources have meaningful participation in the process of developing social and environmental safeguards;
- e Ensure all extractive projects employ the best available technologies and mitigation strategies not exceeding excessive cost that have been historically effective at minimising environmental impact in Trinidad and Tobago or similar jurisdictions;
- f Ensure the use of progressive rehabilitation at mining sites;
- g Amend existing legislation or develop new legislation, as appropriate, to:
 - i. Modernise fiduciary instruments and fees associated with site rehabilitation; and
 - ii. Mainstream the use of asset integrity management systems in extractive industries.
- h Empower government entities to better undertake their mandates with respect to the regulation, monitoring and evaluation of mineral and hydrocarbon exploitation projects by way of enhanced technical, financial and human-resource capacity development; and
- i Ensure that industries responsible for environmental disasters or significant impact to human health bear the complete cost of reconciliatory action, rehabilitation and restoration.

PRIORITY THREE



IMPROVING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

OVERVIEW

- 2.13** Planning & Human Settlements
- 2.14** Green Architecture & Infrastructure
- 2.15** Heritage, Cultural & Architectural Sites
- 2.16** National Festival & Events Management
- 2.17** Mass Transit Solutions





Improving The Local Environment

The importance of ensuring that urban and rural communities live within cities, towns and villages that meet their needs and provide a safe environment must not be minimised, as settlement features can impact the environment, human health, and the economy. Communities must be safe, inclusive, and resilient; maintain their distinct cultural flair; and enhance human health and well-being. Thus, this section features the GoRTT's commitment to strategically-planned settlement patterns and design, as well as sustainable and resilient infrastructure.

2.13 PLANNING & HUMAN SETTLEMENT

The GoRTT believes that modern and sustainably planned human settlement is essential for achieving environmental sustainability. Moreover, properly designed and managed human settlements reduce the vulnerability of the community to social and environmental threats. Thus, in keeping with SDG 11, the GoRTT will:

- a. Take urgent action, as appropriate, to address and monitor unplanned, unregulated, and illegal settlement of state lands, particularly in areas of high environmental sensitivity, historical or cultural significance;
- b. Empower government entities with the responsibility for planning and development to effectively implement their mandate through the provision of additional financial, technical and institutional capacity-building;
- c. Ensure meaningful participation of private sector, non-governmental entities and the public in planning and development of human settlements;
- d. Revise, as appropriate, and enforce guidelines on land use and human settlement as to minimise the impact of economic activity on human health and comfort;
- e. Review and amend, as appropriate, legislation to promote sustainable human settlement planning;
- f. Ensure that all planned human settlements are designed to:
 - i. Incorporate 'green spaces', with particular emphasis on areas of high hydrological significance;
 - ii. Include community spaces that encourage healthy lifestyles;
 - iii. Minimise the fragmentation of forests and enhance the connectivity of parks, forests and green spaces; and
 - iv. Withstand and alleviate the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.

g

Ensure that all planned human settlements, as far as practicably possible, are not

- i. Placed on hillsides, within flood plains, or other areas highly vulnerable to natural disaster;
- ii. Placed within environmentally sensitive areas where development may threaten environmentally sensitive or endangered species;
- iii. Placed within hydrological significant areas where development may threaten the quality or quantity of critical water supplies;
- iv. Placed on land determined to be best suited for agricultural production.

2.14

GREEN ARCHITECTURE & INFRASTRUCTURE

It is Government's policy that all of its buildings and development projects will minimise, as far as practicably possible, its carbon and ecological footprint. The operations of governmental agencies will be in accordance with the national *Green Government Policy*. Promoting green architecture and infrastructure will be used as a key strategy for sustainable development. It will lead to reductions in the environmental impacts associated with Trinidad and Tobago's built environment while providing economic, ecological and social benefits. This sustainable and resource efficient development process is in keeping with Government's development plans as well as SDG 9, which seeks to build resilient infrastructure. Measures to encourage green architecture and infrastructure into Trinidad and Tobago's built environment include:

a

Establish national building codes, aligned to regional standards and international best practice, and which emphasise energy efficiency and climate resilience;

b

Enhance or develop additional incentive programmes, as appropriate, that promote green architecture and infrastructure;

c

Encourage private sector entities and the public to utilise infrastructure designs that minimise, as far as practicably possible, the ecological footprint and carbon footprint of development;

d

Support the development of non-governmental and private sector specialisation and expertise in the areas of green architecture and design suitable for the Caribbean environment; and

e

Encourage educational institutions, non-governmental organisations and private sector entities to engage in research relevant to green architecture and green infrastructure.

2.15

HERITAGE, CULTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

SDG 11 aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage. Heritage sites may include natural or built monuments or sceneries that offer outstanding beauty, in addition to material and non-material ecosystem services. Local sites of historical, cultural or natural significance need to be identified and listed before they are destroyed or eliminated. In keeping with this goal, the GoRTT believes a sustainable approach is necessary for the protection and enhancement of the historic environment. It will improve well-being and create vibrant communities, while sustaining local economies, particularly through tourism. To sustainably manage Trinidad and Tobago's historic sites, the GoRTT will:

a

Amend or develop additional policies and legislation and standards, as appropriate, to enhance the number and management of heritage, cultural, and archaeological sites;

b

Consider the protection of heritage, cultural, and archaeological sites as priority in national planning and development permitting processes;

c

Empower government entities, non-governmental organisations and private sector entities to undertake actions, as appropriate, for the conservation and preservation of heritage, cultural and archaeological

- d Improve the quality of heritage, cultural and archaeological sites with an aim of achieving World Heritage status;
- e Develop and promote Trinidad and Tobago’s heritage, cultural and archaeological sites as tourist attractions; and
- f Utilise market-based and alternative incentive programmes to ensure the maintenance and preservation of privately owned heritage sites.

2.16 NATIONAL FESTIVAL & EVENTS MANAGEMENT

Improving the quality of human settlements also entails adjusting the use of human settlements to ensure the maintenance of environmental integrity and human health. Trinidad and Tobago is a multicultural society with many celebrations. The execution of these events is often characterised by large volumes of solid waste, water contamination and frequent complaints about excessive noise. It is the GoRTT’s policy that all national events will be conducted in a manner that ensures minimal impact to human health and the environment while respecting the well-being of all citizens. Additionally, the GoRTT will:

- a Develop a national policy to guide the promotion, execution and management of national festivals and events that is inclusive of environmental and human health;
- b Amend or develop additional policies, legislation and standards, as appropriate, to address events and festivals which may negatively impact human health and the environment; and
- c Encourage environmentally responsible behaviour and practices in the management of national festivals and events.

2.17 MASS TRANSIT SOLUTIONS

The GoRTT recognises that a safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport system has an important role in addressing environmental sustainability. The mainstreaming of mass transit solutions can profoundly shape and improve the quality of human settlements, yielding multiple benefits including (i) reduced localised air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, (ii) reduction in accidents and accident-related deaths and injuries, and (iii) improved productivity and quality of life of citizens, due to reduced commute times. In keeping with SDG 11, the GoRTT will:

- a Collaborate with private and non-governmental institutions, at the national, regional and international scales to advance mass transit systems;
- b Amend existing legislation or develop new legislation, as appropriate, to enable the utilisation of mass transit systems;
- c Ensure that development planning and development approvals consider favourable efforts to incorporate mass transit systems;
- d Improve transport infrastructure with an aim of encouraging mass transit; and
- e Encourage the use of mass transit solutions including public transportation, and car-pooling through various policy instruments.

PRIORITY FOUR



EVOLVING A GREENER ECONOMY

OVERVIEW

2.18 Economic Transformation





Evolving A Greener Economy


2.18 ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION


The GoRTT recognises that the growth of a greener economy shares parity with environmental conservation and fosters an environmentally responsible society. Integrating environmental considerations into the way business is conducted reduces economic vulnerability and drives economic growth. Greening the economy is therefore a means to strengthen the country's economic performance through the introduction of new value added economic activities, increased efficiency across all sectors, reduction of waste, and the generation of green jobs. Towards this end, the GoRTT will:

- a Mainstream the policy targets of this NEP and Action Plan into codes of conduct, voluntary agreements and codes of practice;
- b Develop responsive and accessible financial support programmes for the private and non-governmental sector;
- c Improve the national system of market-based economic instruments through measures that include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Phasing out perverse economic incentives which result in unintentional impacts to the environment;
 - ii. Internalising the negative environmental externalities in the production of goods and services by way of taxes and levies;
 - iii. Developing markets based on the trading of pollution/emission licenses or credits;
 - iv. Providing conditional payments for the voluntary protection of ecosystems and their services;
 - v. Developing deposit-refund systems that reward behaviours that abate pollution; and
 - vi. Developing subsidies and tax-breaks for environmentally responsible behaviours.
- d Enhance the existing legislation and body of standards for goods, services and activities in Trinidad and Tobago;
- e Invest in human resources through education and skills training to facilitate the shift from 'brown' to 'green' jobs;
- f Develop incentives to attract foreign direct investment as well as investment from the Caribbean diaspora;
- g Encourage the growth and development of a circular economy in which waste is revalued and resources are recirculated locally as much as possible;
- h Support the growth and development of alternative economies compatible with a greener economy including but not limited to:
 - i. A "Blue Economy" based on the sustainable use of ocean resources; and ii. A "Silver Economy" based on leveraging ageing populations and their needs to stimulate sustainable economic growth.; and
 - ii. A "Silver Economy" based on leveraging ageing populations and their needs to stimulate sustainable economic growth.

To catalyse the growth of a greener economy, the GoRTT further commits to harmonising the regulations of the national environmental fund⁴ with this NEP by 2020 to enable the timely financial support of activities related to the NEP policy statements and strategic priorities identified in the Action Plan. Special emphasis will be given to programmes and projects that advance low-emissions development and enhance community resilience to natural disasters. Additional focus will be on those projects where private capital can be raised, with additional public financial support.

The revitalized economy will generate economic prosperity across Trinidad and Tobago, especially in communities where income is generated through the direct or facilitated use of the environment. Whereas government's actions will create the enabling environment for economic transformation, the private sector will be the innovator and leader for creating socially-just and environmentally responsible employment opportunities. The GORTT will:

-  Ensure that multi-national corporations operating in rural and/or coastal communities to exercise corporate-social responsibility through:
 - i. The provision of employment opportunities for suitably qualified members of the community; and
 - ii. The provision of training, internship or mentoring opportunities aimed at improving the skills and qualifications of members of the community for future employment or entrepreneurship.

-  Support entrepreneurial efforts aimed to address environmental issues, or foster economic prosperity in an environmentally responsible manner.

⁴The Green Fund established under the Finance Act 2000 through the Miscellaneous Taxes Act, Chapter 77:01 (as amended) and as regulated by Green Fund Regulations, 2007 and the Green Fund (Amendment) Regulations 2011



PRIORITY FIVE



FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE SOCIETY

OVERVIEW

2.19 Availability of & Public Access to Information

2.20 Communication, Education & Public Participation

2.21 Research

2.22 Access to & Implementation of Environmental Justice





Fostering An Environmentally Responsible Society

The National Environmental Literacy Survey⁵ conducted in 2016 revealed that the people of Trinidad and Tobago generally hold above average pro-environmental attitudes. However, these attitudes were neither matched by their degree of environmental knowledge nor lifestyle practices. To achieve a society in which all people take an active role in protecting, maintaining and enhancing the quality of the environment, the GoRTT will create enabling conditions for the growth and normalisation of environmental attitudes, knowledge and practices. Such action is in line with SDGs 4 and 16 which emphasise the need to acquire knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development. The following sections highlight the need for information to be accessible to the public; the importance of sustained public education and awareness campaigns; the need for research; and a framework for how citizens can access environmental justice.

2.19 AVAILABILITY OF & PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

GoRTT's policy is that public authorities holding information on the environment must make it available to anyone requesting it, subject to certain exclusions. Reasons for exclusion must be in accordance with the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act Chap. 22:02* or parent/primary legislation of the public authority. In keeping with the environmental principles enshrined in this policy, the GoRTT will:

- a Increase the capacity of government and non-governmental entities to maintain and provide accurate and legible environmental information of interest to the public via physical and digital media;
- b Promote mechanisms for accessing environmental information, data and processes used to inform decisions with bearing on development activity; and
- c Empower public and non-governmental organisations to utilise the provisions under the *Freedom of Information Act Chap 22:02* to access environmental information.

2.20 COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The GoRTT recognises that empowering individuals to undertake environmentally responsible behaviour also requires systemic reinforcement of pro-environmental behaviours and knowledge. This entails continuous environmental education and public participation in environmental decision-making. It is the Government's policy that all environmental education in Trinidad and Tobago is in keeping with the goals, objectives and characterisations contained in the *Belgrade Charter (1975)*, the *Tbilisi Declaration (1977)* and *Chapter 36 or Agenda 21 (1992)*. To this end, and in keeping with SDG 4, the GoRTT will:

- a Continue to introduce environmental education from pre-school school age to adulthood, for both formal and informal sectors, with the goal of providing knowledge of both local and global environmental issues as well as the skills required to enable effective public participation, decision-making and action;
- b Further the integration of sustainable development concepts and the principles of this NEP into all education programmes and curricula;
- c Mobilise resources and encourage partnerships among national, regional and international entities towards building public awareness and behavioural change;

⁵EMA (2016) National Environmental Literacy Survey

- d Coordinate environmental education and awareness programmes initiated by the public, private and non-governmental sectors at the national level;
- e Empower public agencies to undertake environmental communication, awareness and education programmes based on local environmental issues in a manner appropriate for the target community;
- f Support the development and promotion of mechanisms that provide viable solutions to environmental problems in communities;
- g Ensure that mechanisms established for meaningful participation in decision-making regarding environmental and/or development issues are appropriately promoted, and made available to the public; and
- h Ensure that all efforts at education, awareness-building and meaningful participation in decision-making regarding environmental and/or development issues encourage and facilitate the inclusion of marginalised groups such as indigenous peoples, the rural poor, children, youth, women, sick, disabled and elderly.

2.21 RESEARCH

Scientifically-sound research and local knowledge will underpin environmental decision-making in Trinidad and Tobago and support the achievement of this NEP's policy statements. Furthermore, the GoRTT recognises that participation in the generation and advancement of scientific and socio-ecological research provides a significant opportunity for fostering environmental stewardship and responsibility among individuals. Thus, in keeping with SDG 9, the GoRTT will:

- a Through inter-agency collaboration, develop a framework for research opportunities in areas identified as a priority for progressing this NEP and attendant Action Plan;
- b Encourage, by way of funding mechanisms, government, private and non-governmental entities to engage in projects that incorporate 'citizen science' and public participatory methods of gathering data; and
- c Establish a knowledge management platform to maintain and disseminate updates on research activities between government, private and non-governmental entities to minimise duplication of effort.

2.22 ACCESS TO & IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The GoRTT understands that the meaningful involvement of all persons in the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and policies fosters a society of environmental stewards. More so, providing access to effective redress for environmental disputes and issues empowers individuals to take personal responsibility for an environmentally sustainable future. Accordingly, the GoRTT will:

- a Encourage public participation in the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, policies, management plans and programmes as far as practicably possible;
- b Empower government entities with responsibility for the environment to adopt proactive measures for discovering and responding to environmental issues in a timely manner;
- c Support the development of ADR mechanisms for addressing environmental and natural resource conflicts;
- d Amend or develop new legislation, as appropriate, to facilitate expedient civil action on environmental issues;

- e Empower community groups and non-governmental organisations to seek redress through litigative or ADR mechanisms;
- f Support education and awareness campaigns that promote avenues for environmental redress and remedies;
- g Encourage the mainstreaming of environmental laws, regulations and policies among all stakeholders with critical roles in dispensing environmental justice including but not limited to, the police service and the judiciary;
- h Amend or develop new legislation, as appropriate, to establish courts dedicated to addressing environmental issues across Trinidad and Tobago; and
- i Revise, as appropriate, environmental regulations to maintain effective financial disincentives and mechanisms for appropriate financial compensation for environmental losses.

PRIORITY SIX



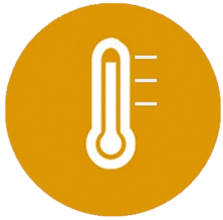
ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL DISASTERS

OVERVIEW

2.23 Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation

2.24 Comprehensive Environmental & Natural
Disaster Management





Addressing Climate Change & Environmental and Natural Disasters

Climate Change presents urgent threats to ecosystems and built environments with likely irreparable damage to societies and the planet. Small Island Developing States (SIDS), such as Trinidad and Tobago, are among those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to their unique political, social and cultural milieu; character, geography, size and state of economic development⁶. The effects of climate change include shifts in climate variability towards higher average daily and nightly temperatures, reduced rainfall volumes and increased rainfall intensity; more frequent and intense extreme weather events such as droughts, floods and tropical storms; and increased ocean acidification, sea level rise, and distribution of disease-carrying vectors⁷. These effects may exacerbate human-made disasters, or result in increased incidence of natural disasters with detrimental impact across all sectors and strata of society. The economic cost of damage to society is conservatively estimated to be in the magnitude of billions of USD towards the end of the 21st century for Trinidad and Tobago⁸.

In keeping with the provisions of SDG 13 as well as the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)* and its instruments including the *Paris Agreement* and the *Kyoto Protocol*, Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to urgently addressing the drivers and impacts of climate change. This section details the GoRTT's commitments towards climate change mitigation, adaptation as well as managing climate risks. It also details the GoRTT's planned initiatives towards comprehensive environmental and natural disaster management.

2.23 CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION

Climate Change Mitigation

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced from human activity is recognised by the GoRTT as the dominant driver of global climate change. Thus, the GoRTT is committed to reducing the country's GHG emissions through source reduction, avoidance and improved sequestration of GHGs. In its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, the GoRTT has committed itself to:

- i. An overall reduction of emissions from the industrial, power generation and transport sectors by 15% of cumulative emissions by 2030 relative to a business-as-usual baseline, conditional on external financial support; and
- ii. An unconditional reduction of cumulative emissions from the public transportation sector by 30% baseline by December 31st 2030 relative to a business-as-usual baseline, and which forms part of the overall emissions reductions from the three sectors.

Towards achieving current and future commitments to the Paris Agreement, and the reduction, avoidance or sequestration of emissions across all sectors, the GoRTT will:

- a Conduct regular inventories of GHGs;
- b Cooperate with relevant local, regional and international agencies to implement technologies that will sequester, reduce, prevent or control man-made emissions of GHGs across all sectors;

⁶Everest-Phillip, M. 2014. "Small, So Simple? Complexity in Small Island Developing States" UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence.

⁷IPCC. 2014. "Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability" IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland.

⁸Bueno, R., C. Herzfeld, E.A. Stanton and F. Ackerman. 2008. "The Caribbean and Climate Change: The Cost of Inaction" Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University.

- c Conserve and enhance natural ecosystems that serve as sinks or reservoirs of GHGs such as forests, coastal and marine wetland ecosystems;
- d Utilise mechanisms under the UNFCCC including, but not limited to: Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA), Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), REDD+ and market mechanisms;
- e Establish and strengthen the institutional arrangements, including the designation of focal points, national authorities, and other entities, for the purpose of utilising financial mechanisms related to climate change including, but not limited to the: Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the Adaptation Fund (AF);
- f Mobilise resources, and seek global partnerships to secure resources, to support the implementation of the mitigation measures contained in the:
 - i. *National Strategy for the Reduction of Carbon Emissions in Trinidad and Tobago, 2040*;
 - ii. *National Climate Change Policy* and other national policies related to climate change; and
 - iii. *Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement*
- g Amend existing legislation or develop new legislation, as appropriate, to give effect to Trinidad and Tobago's commitments under MEAs related to climate change;
- h Explore market-based mechanisms that give effect to Trinidad and Tobago's commitments under MEAs related to climate change;
- i Establish a national monitoring, reporting and verification system for GHG emission inventorying, reduction, avoidance or sequestration; and
- j Support institutional capacity building in the public, private and non-governmental sector towards emissions reductions, monitoring, verification and reporting.

Energy Efficiency & Conservation

The GoRTT is cognisant that pursuing energy efficiency and energy conservation will aid in the reduction of the country's carbon footprint while simultaneously yielding additional social and economic benefits. These include: (i) delaying or avoiding new energy generation infrastructure to match growing demand; (ii) increased fuel availability for industrial use; (iii) enhanced energy security for all; (iv) significant macro-economic savings in the amount required for household energy subsidies. As such, in alignment with SDG 7 (affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), the GoRTT is committed to improving supply-side and demand-side energy efficiency and energy conservation. The GoRTT will:

- k Create an enabling fiscal, legislative and institutional environment that encourages and supports the use of cogeneration systems with an emphasis on the power generation sector;
- l Develop a regulatory framework to promote energy efficiency in buildings, equipment and appliances, that is aligned with regional and international standards and best practice;
- m Strengthen the capacity of public, private and non-governmental actors to undertake energy efficiency interventions including, but not limited to, energy audits, energy-efficient design, and other energy services;
- n Strengthen existing or further develop, as appropriate, appropriate financial and market-based mechanisms to encourage energy efficiency and energy conservation across all sectors;
- o Continue to develop and implement demand-side management programmes to encourage energy efficiency and energy conservation practices in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors;
- p Adjust, as appropriate, electricity tariffs and pricing mechanisms to encourage more efficient and responsible consumption of energy.

Renewable Energy

The GoRTT recognises the importance of utilising low-emission and zero-emission technologies to close the gap between energy supply and demand. Therefore, the GoRTT has set a target of 10% power generation from renewable sources of energy by 2021 to catalyse the transition to a low-emission development pathway. In alignment with SDG 7, the Government will achieve this target through actions including, but not limited to:

- q Revise existing legislation or develop new legislation and policies, as appropriate, to facilitate the deployment and integration of renewable energy technology into the residential, commercial and industrial sectors;
- r Strengthen existing or further develop financial and market-based mechanisms, as appropriate, to encourage the use of renewable energy across all sectors;
- s Partner with local, regional and international entities to create an enabling environment for investment into renewable energy research, support services, and projects, including feasibility studies;
- t Develop and implement programmes aimed at enhancing public awareness and education on renewable energy;
- u Develop and implement, as appropriate, capacity building programmes in collaboration with private and non-governmental actors to enhance renewable energy integration and deployment; and
- v Develop and adopt, as appropriate, standards and codes for the buildings sector in order to enable the development and integration of renewable energy technologies, and are harmonised with international and regional standards, codes and best practice.

Climate Change Adaptation

The GoRTT acknowledges that projected global climate change will have adverse impacts on physical, biophysical and socio-economic sectors in Trinidad and Tobago. Accordingly, and in accordance with SDG 13, the GoRTT will:

- w Mobilise resources, and seek global partnerships to secure resources, for the implementation of the adaptation measures contained in the *National Climate Change Policy* and other national policies related to climate change adaptation and resilience building;
- x Conduct assessments of the climate risk and/or vulnerability of communities and/or sectors to the impacts of climate change, including the development of GIS-based climate risk maps;
- y Establish early warning systems for climate risks in vulnerable sectors;
- z Revise existing legislation, or develop new legislation, standards, codes and policies, as appropriate, to ensure that climate change vulnerability and adaptation are integrated into national and sectoral development planning to enhance and maintain climate resilience;
- aa Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, ecosystems that provide climate resilience services that minimize the adverse impacts of climate change and/or which minimise climate risk;
- bb Strengthen institutional arrangements within and among public, private and non-governmental sectors for conducting systematic observations, vulnerability assessments, research and climate modelling;
- cc Support community-based adaptation and resilience building efforts led by governmental entities, private sector and/or non-governmental organisations; and
- dd Encourage the use of infrastructure designs and land use plans that include elements to adapt to the effects of climate change such as enhanced storm water conveyance and detention capacity.

Environmental disasters encompass both human impact on the environment and the environment's impact on humans. Human health, the environment and the economy can be impacted by unintended human activity, such as, industrial accidents, spills and releases. Additionally, human health and environmental quality can also be severely impacted by natural occurrences, such as hurricanes, drought and earthquakes. Over a 25-year period, disasters in the Caribbean region claimed more than 240,000 lives and inflicted more than US\$39 billion in damage⁹. In keeping with the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030*, and the *Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the CARICOM and the CSME*, the GoRTT is committed to collaborating, at all scales, to ensure that environmental disasters are comprehensively managed through prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and rehabilitation. Accordingly, the GoRTT will:

- a Mobilise resources to strengthen national institutions and institutional arrangements among national and regional actors to give effect to the directives and strategies contained in national policies, laws and plans aimed at disaster risk reduction and emergency response which include, but are not limited to the:
 - i. Comprehensive Disaster Management Policy Framework
 - ii. Critical Infrastructure Policy Framework
 - iii. National Climate Change Policy
 - iv. Hazard Mitigation Policy
 - v. National Relief Policy
 - vi. Shelter Management Policy
 - vii. Volunteer Policy
 - viii. Disasters Measures Act Chap. 16:50
- b Increase administrative effectiveness by the elimination of fragmentation and duplication in emergency response responsibilities, updating legislation governing disaster management, and consolidating policies and programmes wherever possible;
- c Further strengthen measures to prevent the occurrence of environmental incidents including but not limited to: fail-safe systems, environmental management systems, GIS-based resource inventories, early -warning systems, inspection and maintenance programmes, and operating procedures;
- d Update existing or develop, as appropriate, new local, bi-lateral, and multi-lateral plans for pre-emergency contingency plans with clearly identified roles and responsibilities of the required public, private and non-governmental inputs of the State(s) involved;
- e Conduct periodical assessment of hazards, risks and vulnerability, using methodologies appropriate for SIDS with an aim to estimate emergency response demands;
- f Enhance the framework for accessing local and international funds for, *inter alia*, the establishment and maintenance of early warning systems, emergency response systems, and programmes for infrastructural rehabilitation and environmental remediation;
- g Further develop post-emergency response systems including containment of hydrocarbon and chemical spills or discharges, and remediation of contaminated and/or disturbed sites;
- h Support government, private, and non-governmental efforts to enhance community resilience and preparedness for environmental disasters;
- i Revise existing, or develop new, legislation or regulations, as appropriate, to ensure entities responsible for man-made environmental disasters bear the cost of compensation for loss and damages, as well as the cost of any restoration or remediation works; and
- j Enhance ecosystem-based measures to alleviate the impacts of natural disasters and climate change including, but not limited to the establishment, conservation and/or restoration of forests and coastal ecosystems.

⁹UN ECLAC. (2015) The Caribbean and the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda

3 IMPLEMENTATION & ACHIEVING POLICY ACTIONS

3.01 CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

Several challenges have limited the successful implementation of previous environmental policies. The GoRTT recognises that these barriers must be surmounted to ensure environmental sustainability is achieved. Thus, the GoRTT commits to:

Strengthening mechanisms for compliance with the NEP and environmental legislation

For environmental sustainability to be achieved, the environmental governance principles of Trinidad and Tobago need to be internalised by all interest groups. Furthermore, there needs to be improved compliance with existing legislation pertaining to development and environment. Towards this goal, the GoRTT shall:

- a Empower regulators and government agencies to undertake programmes geared towards proactive outreach for voluntary compliance with the NEP and environmental legislation;
- b Enhance the capacity of government organisations to operationalise this NEP and undertake works related to the Action Plan;
- c Support projects and programmes led by private sector and non-governmental organisations that are geared towards environmental education and compliance with environmental legislation; and
- d Formalise the National Environmental Code within one year of this NEP coming into effect.

Strengthening institutional arrangements & collaboration among stakeholders

There are many stakeholders with roles to play in environmental management and sustainable development. Effective implementation of the NEP requires the cooperation of all agencies and interest groups. To this end, the GoRTT will:

- e Ensure that all government entities are conducting operations in accordance with the NEP and National Environmental Code;
- f Enhance the existing coordination and collaboration framework with the establishment of a multi-sectoral oversight committee; and

- g Empower government organisations to engage in meaningful collaboration with non-governmental and private sector organisations towards sustainability.

Building the capacity of stakeholders towards enhancing environmental resilience

The GoRTT acknowledges that there may be challenges with respect to institutional capacity for achieving policy objectives. The GoRTT therefore makes the commitment to:

- h Provide resources for improving the financial, institutional and technological capacities of stakeholder organisations.

Improving national environmental data/ information management

Timely access to accurate environmental information is a pre-requisite to sound planning and decision-making. Effective data management is therefore critical for the implementation of this NEP. The GoRTT shall therefore:

- i Establish a suite of baseline indicators aligned with the SDGs to be monitored;
- j Empower government organisations and other stakeholders to collect and report on environmental indicators to the EMA; and
- k Establish a National Environmental Information Management System that serves as a clearing house for all forms of environmental information.

Mobilising resources for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this National Environmental Policy

The GoRTT will:

- l** Ensure that the NEP and Action Plan are considered in the determination of budgetary allocations;
- m** Enhance the framework for stakeholders to access new and existing sources of funding to aid in achieving policy objectives; and
- n** Take all appropriate actions towards securing bi-lateral and multilateral funding to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this NEP.

Participating in cross boundary strategies & global partnership

Global sustainability depends on a firm alliance among all countries and collective effort in addressing pressing environmental issues. The GoRTT shall continue to:

- o** Subscribe to, and enforce, regional and international environmental treaties aimed at advancing environmental sustainability in the region and globally;
- p** Contribute to the development of future treaties and programmes that promote the ethics of care for shared resources and the common concern of humankind; and
- q** Participate in multi-country programmes that enhance environmental sustainability and comprehensive environmental disaster management at the regional and global scale.



3.02 IMPLEMENTATION & MAINSTREAMING FRAMEWORK

Implementation

It is envisioned that the implementation of this NEP will be achieved through a combination of top-down and bottom-up efforts, across all sectors driven by governmental, non-governmental and private sector organisations. To this end, an NEP Action Plan will be developed by the EMA, in collaboration with key interest groups, within one year of this NEP coming into effect. This Action Plan will give effect to the policy statements contained within this NEP and will identify discrete time frames, responsible and supporting agencies, monitoring indicators and targets.

The Action Plan will serve as the pathway to an environmentally sustainable future for Trinidad and Tobago; reflect strategic efforts for integrating sustainable development into sectoral development and poverty alleviation, and contribute to the transformation of the unsustainable trajectory of global development through nationally appropriate effort.

To further the implementation of this policy, a National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSO) will be established within one year of this NEP coming into effect. The NCSO will provide a forum for Government, business and civil society to have ongoing oversight with advisory functions to the Action Plan. The composition of the NCSO will, at all times, also reflect the tenets of the principle of Good Governance; ensuring, inter alia, the meaningful involvement of women and youth.

It is envisioned that members of the NCSO will utilise the auspices of their respective positions to facilitate the implementation of the NEP into their sectors.

Mainstreaming & Coordination

The EMA is vested with the responsibility for coordinating the mainstreaming of the NEP across all sectoral activity. To this end, the EMA will have the responsibility for:

- i. Serving as the Secretariat to the NCSO;
- ii. Coordinating and supporting the mainstreaming of the NEP into the work plans of all divisions of government agencies;
- iii. Leading the public education and awareness programmes on the NEP and Action Plan; and
- iv. Providing technical and other support to actors with assigned responsibilities under the Action Plan.



4

MONITORING & EVALUATION

4.01 MONITORING & EVALUATION OF THE NEP & ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan will provide performance indicators, for the short, medium and long-term action items, which are necessary for the achievement of the policy statements contained within the NEP. It will also identify the lead and supporting agencies responsible for tracking and reporting performance metrics.

To ensure that continuous progress is being made towards environmental sustainability, this NEP and attendant Action Plan will be monitored and evaluated by the EMA as prescribed under the EM Act. Annual reporting of the overall progress made shall be done via the Assessment of the State of the Environment Reports. Through the assessment of the barriers, constraints and degree of progress made towards policy statements, the strategies and actions can be modified to suit evolving needs and conditions.

4.02 REVISION OF THE NEP & ACTION PLAN

To maintain relevance and cohesion with an ever-changing national and supranational context, this NEP shall be reviewed and revised as appropriate, but not exceeding 10 years. The process of undertaking this revision shall, at the minimum, entail the process as prescribed under Section 18 of the EM Act.

The NCS D shall review the Action Plan at a frequency determined as appropriate, but not exceeding two years. Revision of the document will be made to ensure that action items are aligned with national obligations and the socio-economic context of the time.



ANNEXES

ANNEX I: INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT

NAME OF TREATY/ CONVENTION	FOCAL POINTS	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS/ COMMITMENTS
Biodiversity		
The United Nations Convention on the Conservation of Biological Diversity (1975)	Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 6 requires each Party develop strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity by using the guiding principles of the CBD - conserve biodiversity, promote sustainable use, and share benefits arising from genetic resources. • Article 18 requires Parties to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, where necessary, through the appropriate international and national institutions. • Article 26 requires Parties to report on their biodiversity goals.
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2003) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity	Permanent Secretary of Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a National Biosafety Framework. • Each Party shall monitor the implementation of its obligations and report to the Convention on the measures that it has taken to implement the Protocol. • Facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on and experience with Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).
Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA Protocol) (1990) to the Cartagena Convention	Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly increase the number, and improve the management of, national protected areas in the wider Caribbean region, including support to national and regional conservation management strategies and plans • Support the conservation of threatened and endangered species and sustainable use of natural resources to prevent them from becoming threatened or endangered • Develop strong regional capability for the coordination of information exchange, training and assistance, in support of national biodiversity conservation efforts • Coordinate activities, and develop strategies, with the Secretariat to the CBD, as well as other biodiversity-related treaties and initiatives, e.g. CITES and the Ramsar Convention.
Environmentally Sensitive Area		
Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere (1942)	Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, Forestry Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote research and field study to further the objectives of the Convention. • Impose controls on trade in protected fauna and flora and any part thereof through a system of trade certificates.

ANNEX I: INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT

NAME OF TREATY/ CONVENTION	FOCAL POINTS	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS/ COMMITMENTS
Environmentally Sensitive Species		
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (1973)	Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, not the Forestry Division.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit trade in specimens in violation of the Convention. • Designate one or more scientific authorities to advise on the issue of permits and one or more management authorities to grant permits and certificates.
Coastal & Marine Areas		
Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas (1958)	To be identified	Adopt, or cooperate with other States in adopting, measures necessary for the conservation of the living resources of the high seas.
Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Area (1983) [“Cartagena Convention”]	Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Development	Requires the individual or joint undertaking of appropriate measures to reduce and control pollution of the Convention Area, and ensure sound environmental management of the wider Caribbean region. It speaks specifically to taking action to reduce marine pollution from: ships, dumping of wastes at sea, land-based sources, and sea-bed activities. It also requires action on airborne pollution and biodiversity protection.
Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf (1958)	Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs	Exploration or exploitation of the continental shelf must not cause unjustifiable interference with navigation, fishing or the conservation of the living resources of the sea, or with oceanographic or other scientific research.
Convention on the High Seas (1958)		Draw up regulations to prevent pollution of the seas by the discharge of oil from ships or pipelines resulting from the exploitation and exploration of the seabed and its subsoil, as well as pollution from radioactive wastes.
Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone (1958)		Define limits of the territorial sea and contiguous zone.
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea- Montego Bay (1982)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General obligations for safeguarding the marine environment and protecting freedom of scientific research on the high seas. • Legal regime for controlling mineral resource exploitation in deep seabed areas beyond national jurisdiction.
Land Management		
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (1994)	Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate in implementing the convention at all levels particularly the areas of collection, analysis and exchange of information, research, technology transfer, capacity building and awareness building, the promotion of an integrated approach in developing national strategies for combatting desertification, and assistance in ensuring that adequate financial resources are available to programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

ANNEX I: INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT

NAME OF TREATY/ CONVENTION	FOCAL POINTS	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS/ COMMITMENTS
Land Management (continued)		
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (1994)	Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare National Action Programmes (NAPs) for addressing land degradation. • Harmonise NAPs with the Convention's 10-year strategy such that Sustainable Land Management (SLM) concepts and principles are integrated into the national development agenda, and into the public consciousness. • Report on measures undertaken to implement the NAPs and achieve the objectives of the Convention.
Forests		
International Tropical Timber Agreement (2006)	Permanent Secretary of Forestry Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries	Undertake to accept and carry out the decisions of the International Tropical Timber Council and refrain from implementing measures that would have the effect of limiting or running counter to such decisions.
International Plant Protection Convention (1951)	Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture Land and Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make provision for an official plant protection organisation for inspection, disinfection and the issuing of certificates relating to phytosanitary condition of plants and plant products. • Reports of outbreaks and existence of pests, import requirements, methods of control, to be made to the FAO.
Wetlands		
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971)	National Wetland Committee under Forestry Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards the wise use of all wetlands. • Designate suitable wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management. • Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.
Ozone Depleting Substances		
Vienna Convention Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985)	National Ozone Unit, Environmental Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate in research concerning substances and processes that modify the ozone layer on human health and environmental effects of such modifications, on alternative substances and technologies and in the systematic observation of the state of the ozone layer. • Cooperate in controlling activities that cause adverse effects through modification of the ozone layer, and, particularly, in the development of protocols for such purposes. • Exchange scientific, technical, socio-economic, commercial and legal information relevant to the Convention, and cooperate in the development and transfer of technology and knowledge.

ANNEX I: INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT

NAME OF TREATY/ CONVENTION	FOCAL POINTS	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS/ COMMITMENTS
Ozone Depleting Substances (continued)		
Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987) to the Vienna Convention	Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement a Phase out Schedule for Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), with the complete phase out of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) by 2030.
Greenhouse Gases		
Paris Climate Change Agreement (2016)	Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish binding commitments to make Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and to pursue domestic measures aimed at achieving them. ● Regularly report on emissions and the progress made in implementing and achieving NDCs, and undergo international review. ● Submit new NDCs every 5 years, with the clear expectation that they will be more ambitious than the previous submission.
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1994)	Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions. ● Develop a Programme of Action containing measures to mitigate the effects of climate change. ● Promote and cooperate in the development, application and diffusion of technologies. ● Promote sustainable management. ● Cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change. ● Employ appropriate methods to minimise adverse effects. ● Promote and cooperate in scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and other research. ● Promote and cooperate in the full, open and prompt exchange of relevant scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and legal information. ● Promote and cooperate in education, training and public awareness.
Kyoto Protocol (2005)	Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monitor actual emissions and keep records of any trades - Create a Registry System that tracks and records transactions under the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol. ● Reporting via the submission of annual emission inventories and national reports. ● Formulate cost-effective national programmes to improve the quality of local emission factors, activity data and/or models which reflect the socio-economic conditions for the preparation and periodic updating of national inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases. ● Formulate, implement, publish and regularly update national programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change and measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change.

ANNEX I: INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT

NAME OF TREATY/ CONVENTION	FOCAL POINTS	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS/ COMMITMENTS
Hazardous Waste		
<p>Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1992)</p>	<p>Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Planning and Development (Focal Point) Managing Director of the Environmental Management Authority (Competent Authority)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit the export or import of hazardous and other wastes in or out of a State which is not Party to the Convention, unless a bilateral, multilateral or regional agreement for the movement of waste is made between Parties and Non-parties. • Prohibit the export of hazardous and other wastes if the State of Import does not consent in writing to the specific import. • Ensure that information on the effects of a proposed transboundary movement on human health and the environment is clearly stated and provided to the States concerned. • Limit the generation of hazardous and other wastes to a minimum, taking into account social, technological and economic aspects. • Ensure necessary steps are taken by persons involved in the management of hazardous and other wastes to prevent pollution, if such pollution occurs, ensure the necessary steps are taken to reduce the consequences thereof for human health and the environment. • Limit the transboundary movement of hazardous and other wastes to minimum consistent with the environmentally safe and efficient management of such wastes, and ensure any planned movements of wastes will have no adverse effect on human health and environment. • Prevent the import of hazardous and other wastes if believed that the waste will not be managed in an environmentally safe manner. • Report any accidents which have occurred. • Submit yearly reports. • Ensure that hazardous and other wastes subject to a transboundary movement are packaged, labelled, and transported in conformity with generally accepted and recognized international rules and standards and recognized practices in the field of packaging, labelling, and transport.
Hazardous Substances and Spills		
<p>Oil Spills Protocol (1983) to the Cartagena Convention</p>	<p>Director of the Institute of Marine Affairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake to exchange information regarding competent national authorities for combating pollution and on laws, institutions and procedures aimed at combating marine pollution by oil. • Take appropriate measures to combat pollution, inform other States of the measures taken or intended, assess the nature and extent of the marine emergency and determine the necessary and appropriate action to be taken.

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NAME OF TREATY/ CONVENTION	FOCAL POINTS	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS/ COMMITMENTS
Hazardous Substances and Spills (continued)		
Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land Based Sources and Activities (1999) to the Cartagena Convention	Director of the Institute of Marine Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt measures with a view to preventing, reducing and controlling pollution from land-based sources and activities, through the development and implementation of national and/or sub regional or regional plans and programmes. • Monitor and assess the effectiveness of the measures taken to implement the Protocol, develop environmental impact assessments, develop information systems and networks for the exchange of information, and consult each other when pollution from land-based sources and activities originating from any Party is likely to affect adversely the coastal or marine environment of one or more other Party. • Submit reports containing information on measures adopted, results obtained and any difficulties experienced in the implementation of this Protocol.
Lome IV Convention Control of Hazardous Wastes (1989)	To be identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit all direct or indirect export and import of hazardous and radioactive waste. • Provide technical information on pesticides and other chemical products, with a view to helping develop or reinforce suitable and safe use of these products.
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2004)	Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 15 requires Parties to report on measures taken to implement provisions of the measures and the effectiveness of those measures (schedule of reporting). • Article 3 requires that each Party take legal and administrative measures necessary to restrict the production and use of the chemicals listed in Annex B. • Article 4 sets up a register of specific exemptions. The only exemption invoked by T&T relates to the importation of Mirex-S, when this is de-registered, this exemption will no longer be used by T&T. • Article 5 requires Parties to undertake measures to reduce or eliminate the releases of POPs from unintentional production. • Article 6 requires that Parties take appropriate measures to ensure that POPs materials are handled, collected, transported and stored in an environmentally sound manner; and disposed of in such a way that the POPs Content is destroyed or irreversibly transformed • Article 9 requires each Party to facilitate or undertake the exchange of information with the Secretariat and other Parties. • Article 10 seeks to encourage education and public awareness. • Article 16 requires a periodic review of the Convention to ensure its effectiveness.

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NAME OF TREATY/ CONVENTION	FOCAL POINTS	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS/ COMMITMENTS
Hazardous Substances and Spills (continued)		
Rotterdam Convention for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (1998)	Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of regulatory actions taken to ban or severely restrict a chemical. • Summaries of proposals of severely hazardous pesticide formulations. • Export notifications. • Information to accompany export (labelling, safety data sheets).
Sustainable Development		
United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)	Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Planning and Development and UNDP TT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop ambitious national responses to the overall implementation of the Agenda. • Conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels which are country-led and country driven.

ANNEX II: ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES (TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO)

FINAL POLICIES
National Waste Policy 2015
National Policy and Programmes on Wetland Conservation for Trinidad and Tobago (2002)
National Forest Policy (2011)
National Protected Areas Policy (2011)
National Climate Change Policy (2011)
National Policy on Imported Used Goods (2015)
National Wildlife Policy (2013)
National Tourism Policy (2010)
Northern Range Hillside Development Policy
National Integrated Water Resources Management Policy (2005)
Municipal Waste Policy (2008)
Green Government Policy (2011)
National Minerals Policy <i>White Paper</i> (2015)
Yachting Policy (2016 – 2021)
Integrated Solid Waste/Resource Management Policy (2012)
DRAFT POLICIES
Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Policy (Draft)
Ecotourism Policy (Draft)
Renewable Energy Policy (Draft)
Green Enterprise Development Policy for Micro And Small Enterprises And Cooperatives (Draft)
Comprehensive Disaster Management Policy (Framework) (Draft)
Critical Facilities Protection Policy Framework for Trinidad and Tobago (2010) (Draft)
Hazard Mitigation Policy (Draft)
National Relief Policy (Draft)
Shelter Management Policy (2012) (Draft)
Volunteer Policy (Draft)

ANNEX III: FRAMEWORK FOR THE NEP ACTION PLAN

It is envisioned that the NEP Action Plan will consist of two major parts:

- i. Strategic Approach
- ii. Implementation Plan

STRATEGIC APPROACH

This part of the NEP Action Plan will comprise the following:

1 | Identification of Stakeholders & Donor Entities

- a For each priority area of the NEP a list of potential stakeholders will be identified based on their interest, rights, or responsibility in that area.
- b For each Priority Area of the NEP a list of potential domestic, bi-lateral or multi-lateral funding sources will be identified.

2 | Strategic Focus of the Action Plan

- a This section of the NEP Action Plan will identify the specific policy statements of the NEP that require priority focus in the short term, medium term and long term.
- b The prioritisation of policy statements will be done in consideration of:
 - i. Discrete timeframes stated in the NEP for achievement of policy statement;
 - ii. Potential to create an enabling context for achievement of future policy statements;
 - iii. Alignment with objectives of the GoRTT's national development strategy for the period in which the NEP Action Plan is developed;
 - iv. Environmental, social and economic issues identified as requiring critical attention through national surveys/consultation; and
 - v. Potential to achieve obligations to any regional/ international agreements to which Trinidad and Tobago is a part.
- c The selection of focus areas will be determined by the EMA under the oversight of the NCSD.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The development of this portion of the NEP Action Plan requires extensive stakeholder collaboration. This part of the NEP Action plan will contain, at a minimum, the following:

1 | Strategic Actions

- a Potential actions may be drawn from:
 - i. Consultation with stakeholders who have an interest, responsibility or technical expertise in the focus area;
 - ii. Identification of actions listed as priority in the Government's national development strategy for the period in which the Action Plan is being developed;
 - iii. The outputs of national studies, consultations and surveys related to environmental management and sustainable development.

- b** Working groups, comprised of stakeholders from the public, private and non-governmental sectors, will be established to determine, implement and monitor actions towards strategically identified policy statements.
- c** Strategic actions towards the achievement of the policy statements of the NEP Action Plan will be determined in consideration of:
 - i. An evaluation of the likelihood of success using a “Theory of Change” (ToC) approach;
 - ii. Alignment with sectoral and national implementation plans;
 - iii. Alignment with national and supra-national target; and
 - iv. Linkages with other policy statements contained within the NEP.

2 | Resource Needs

- a** This section will identify the various inputs required to undertake each determined action. As far as possible, cost for conducting actions will be estimated.

3 | Financial Support Plan

- a** Sources of financial support will be identified.
- b** Responsible entity/entities for pursuing this support will be identified.

4 | Leading & Supporting Entity/Entities

- a** A lead entity will be identified as having the primary responsibility for executing the selected action. This entity will also have the responsibility of monitoring and reporting the progress of the action to the EMA.
- b** The lead entity will be determined by considering:
 - i. Legislative mandate granting responsibility for the undertaking of such tasks;
 - ii. In the absence of legislated mandate, the technical capacity to undertake the tasks.
- c** Entities which may provide technical support, data, human resources, or inputs necessary as ‘needs’ etc. will also be identified as supporting entities.

5 | Output & Targets

- a** Direct outputs from the actions will be identified along with estimated timeframes for the achievement of these outputs.

6 | Indicators of Success

- a** Indicators will be developed to reflect the outcome of the direct outputs.
- b** Indicators selected will be:
 - i. Specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound.
 - ii. Aligned with nationally determined indicators for monitoring the environment and development as far as practicably possible.
- c** The entity/entities responsible for monitoring these indicators will also be identified.

7 | Monitoring & Evaluation Schedule

- a Monitoring will be done throughout the project in accordance with the *National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy of Trinidad and Tobago* to ensure that potential barriers are addressed in a timely manner.
- b Lead agencies will be required to keep track of the progress of the actions for which they are responsible and report to the EMA/ working groups established for implementation.
- c Post-deliverable evaluation will be done by comparing the status of indicators. This section will contain a schedule for conducting this evaluation.
- d Evaluation will also entail the updating of the ToC model at the mid-term and end of the NEP Action Plan. These reconstructed models will show changes in the assumptions and drivers over time – enabling effective decision-making regarding implementation and future iterations of the NEP Action Plans.

8 | Risk Assessment & Management

- a This section will identify, for each strategic action, perceived risks to the success of the strategic action. These risks may include, but are not limited to: critical assumptions, conditional resources, or potential changes to the social or economic dimensions surrounding the action that may delay or halt progress.
- b This section will also contain a description of measures that will be taken to minimise risks to the successful achievement of strategic actions.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals¹⁰

¹⁰United Nations, (2017). Sustainable Development Goals. Retrieved on 10 August, 2017 from: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>