



Development Programmes in Trinidad and Tobago

Environment and Climate Change

Climate Change

Human activity such as burning fossil fuels, cutting down rainforests and farming livestock is a major cause of global warming and changing weather patterns. Climate change has led to many devastating consequences including, but not limited to:

- Rising sea levels and coastal flooding,
- More frequent hurricanes and storms
- Increased drought and decreases in the length of the rainy season.

Extreme weather phenomena can be particularly damaging to small island states such as Trinidad and Tobago. As such, the EU is leading efforts to tackle climate change by, not only implementing robust policies and establishing aggressive targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Europe, but also by assisting countries like Trinidad and Tobago to implement activities to arrest climate change via development cooperation.

As an industrial country with heavy reliance on oil and gas exploration, extraction and refining and chemical and industrial manufacturing, Trinidad and Tobago is particularly susceptible to pollution in all of its forms. The European Union plays [a key role](#) as a proponent of international environmental action and co-operation. It has been an active advocate of environmental protection and sustainability using a mix of financial support, dialogue with the Government and communications outreach to civil society institutions, private sector businesses and the public at large.

Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (2019 – 2023)

The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) is a European Union flagship initiative which is helping the world's most vulnerable countries to address climate change. The programme is designed to assist Trinidad and Tobago in the achievement of its commitments to the global community under the Paris Agreement and its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) as well as in the achievement of its national policy target of 10% of total electricity generated from renewable energy sources by 2021.

This funding is foreseen for two projects:



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1. To facilitate the installation of solar energy systems: small scale systems in public utilities and remote communities as well as a larger scale solar park with an annual generation capacity of 1,443,830 kWh at the Piarco International Airport;
2. To provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries for the implementation of a Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Conducive Policy and Regulatory Framework, as well as to support the design and implementation of a public awareness raising campaign on energy efficiency, on correct pricing of energy and on the benefits of using renewable energy.

The two projects, with total funding of €4 million are designed to support implementation of Vision 2030 - National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016 – 2030: T&T's overarching development policy. The NDS aims to address the current challenges that the country is facing due to falling energy prices and – as a consequence - decreasing public revenues, which threaten T&T's actual standard of living. The initiative is also characterised by a strong alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). The NDS sets a goal of energy supply using renewables to 10 per cent by 2021 by developing & implementing appropriate policy instruments for renewable energy including feed-in tariffs.

The projects are implemented by United Nations Development Programme and Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago.



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11th EDF TECHNICAL COOPERATION FACILITY

11th EDF TCF allocation is being utilised to provide technical assistance to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the following areas:

- Technical Assistance to Install Solar Panel Park at Piarco International Airport
- Support for Communication and Visibility Activities of the EU/Government of Trinidad and Tobago Partnership
- Technical Assistance to Evaluate Proposals for the Utility Scale Renewable Energy Projects – Wind and Solar in Trinidad and Tobago
- Capacity Building for Key Government Development Cooperation Agencies
- Technical Cooperation Facility to Improve Exports and Trade
- Technical Assistance for Capacity Building in Procurement and Technical Editing - OPR
- Technical Assistance to Auditor General's Department



Civil Society

Civil Society Strengthening

Democratic governance, which refers to the mechanism that allows for a more open relationship between Government and society at large, with emphasis on strengthening citizen's participation is a key concern of the Trinidad and Tobago Government. Civil society organizations (CSOs) are seen as central to ensure the voice of the citizenry is heard. Acknowledging the need for a closer collaboration with civil society the TT Government established the Open Government Action Plan; however donor, civil society and private sector organizations have identified the need for other avenues for dialogue and for CSOs to assume a greater role as a watchdog, in order to improve government functioning and to ensure public institutions work effectively.

Although there are challenges related to their capacity, there is keen interest among the CSOs in Trinidad and Tobago to engage in governance and policy dialogue in terms of the delivery of services at both the national and local government levels. This includes the issue of developing an effective open government, with better dissemination and disclosure of information.

In this regard the EU has allocated €1 million to Trinidad and Tobago (under the 11th European Development Fund or EDF) for engaging civil society. This funding was allocated to two organisations following a successful Call for Proposals in 2016

- Enhancing Civil Society Capacity for Governance of Environmental Transparency and Accountability in Trinidad and Tobago's Extractive Industries – The Cropper Foundation
- Capacity Building and Development of Civil Society Organisations for Business in Trinidad and Tobago - Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business

In addition to €1 million available under the 11th EDF, a little over €2 million was allocated to Trinidad and Tobago under the thematic budget lines of Civil Society Organizations-Local Authorities (CSO-LA) and European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) for the period 2014 -2020.

These funds will be used to build CSOs' capacity in the areas of human rights and governance. It will increase the ability of civil society organizations to participate in national development by boosting their internal processes and the skills of their members. Existing projects include:

- Strengthening Civil Society engagement in a more environmentally sustainable, socially just, inclusive, accountable and resilient model of development and governance in Trinidad and Tobago – The United Way of Trinidad and Tobago



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- Lifting the veil on Secret Company Ownership: A public Sensitisation Campaign on Beneficial Ownership Disclosure – Trinidad and Tobago Transparency International

Calls for Proposals

The EU supports Partnerships among CSOs; Partnerships between CSOs and the Private Sector; and Partnerships between CSOs and Academia through action grants via Calls for Proposals. This CSO support programme will include:

- Specific technical assistance and training activities targeting local CSOs;
- Launching of innovative framework for policy dialogue and governance actions (i.e. advocacy campaigns, conflict management and setting of resource management mechanisms).

The actions will also necessarily include knowledge sharing activities/consultations among national and local organisations and a communication outreach programme targeted to public authorities and the general public.

Active Calls for Proposal

There are currently no calls for proposal. Interested organizations are invited to check the [Grants](#) page intermittently for updates.



Human Rights

The EU believes that human rights are 'universal and indivisible' and is firmly committed to defending and protecting Human Rights, not only within its borders but around the world.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the EU actively supports the work of human rights defenders. While the country has a good human rights record when compared to the rest of the world, there are particular areas of concern and therefore EU focus, including:

- Abolition Death Penalty
- Gender Equality
- Prevention of violence against women and children
- LGBTI Rights
- Prison Reform

Under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights budget line, the EU has earmarked funds to support the work of human rights in Trinidad and Tobago. Since 2015, the Delegation has launched three Calls for Proposals. Seven projects were awarded grants:

- [Gender Equality and Fatherhood](#) – Emancipation Support Committee
- [Elevating Human Rights to International Standards](#) – University of the West Indies, St Augustine Faculty of Law
- Cultural Rights to foster respect for Human Rights and freedoms against gender based violence and LGBTI discrimination – DECIDES Trinidad and Tobago – INTERARTS
- A Sexual Culture of Justice: Strengthening LGBTIQI& GBV Partnerships, Capacity& Efficacy to Promote& protect Rights in Trinidad and Tobago - University of the West Indies, St Augustine, IGDS
- Addressing Human Rights Abuses of Remand Prisoners with Special Emphasis on Domestic Violence Murder Cases - University of the West Indies, St Augustine Faculty of Law
- Prisoner Release and Resettlement Programme – Vision on Mission
- Prison Outreach Masterclass Programme- Brown Cotton



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The EU also uses UN International Days to organize events or engage the public on critical human rights issues. By continually engaging with various audiences from youth to government leaders and academia, the EU contributes to bringing clarity and consensus on those HR challenges still facing the country.



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Diversification and Innovation

Innovation

Under the 11th EDF 2014 -2020, €8 million in funding has been earmarked for Trinidad and Tobago to make use of innovation as the tool to support competitiveness, diversification and a knowledge-driven economy. Civil society organisations will also be supported to expand their roles as partners in development.

This program is currently under preparation together with the Government and other beneficiaries and stakeholders.



Crime and Security

CARIFORUM Crime and Security Cooperation Regional Programme

The EU has granted €12.2 million to this regional programme. It is geared towards boosting the region's institutional capacity and response to reduce drug demand, prevent crime and violence and combat illicit drug trafficking including all related transnational criminal activity and financial crime.

Two regional agencies based in Trinidad and Tobago are being engaged to implement specific components of the project:

- CARICOM Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) was supported to bring into operation the Regional Crime and Security Agenda. Activities included establishing border control, building regional and national information and intelligence collection capacity; establishing standardised systems of training and certification in the area of ballistic examinations; and fostering collaboration and intelligence sharing between Latin American and CARICOM member states.

Outcomes included:

- Assessment of the region's forensic institutions; training in standardized reporting tools, intelligence and precursor chemicals; upgrade of intelligence equipment; and an assessment of the region's Human Resource Development/Training Capacity
- Strengthening border security through expansion of the Advanced Passenger Information System to all CARICOM member states and the introduction of Advanced Cargo Information System across CARICOM member states. It is hoped that these systems will allow for the enhanced capacity of officials to identify and intercept persons, goods or vessels travelling across borders by illicit means or with illicit intent.
- Training of over 455 border security officials, from 15 member states using standardized curricula. This training was intended to support harmonization and standardization of practices, policies and procedures.
- Enhancing forensic capacity was achieved through the upgrade and expansion of RIBIN - Regional Ballistic Experts and Firearms Examiners were trained in double casting and open case file management. Double Casting Kits were also provided
- The Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) was assisted to strengthen the capacity of its evaluators to monitor member countries' anti money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism efforts. Through these efforts it is anticipated that Financial Intelligence Units/Bureaus



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will be able to identify the existence of hidden sources of income, quantify illegal enrichment and gather evidence necessary to prosecute money laundering cases.

Outcomes included:

Over 152 financial intelligence investigators and analysts were trained to undertake anti-money laundering interventions aimed at combating the financing of terrorism. In addition, the region for the first time has 9 trainers who have the skills and experience at conducting analysts' training in accordance with the Egmont approved strategic and operational analysis training modules. Support continues to increase the level of compliance with international financial regulation, including asset recovery



PAST PROGRAMMES

Environment and Climate Change

Sector Policy Support Programme to the Environment Sector in Trinidad and Tobago (2013-2018)

The €8 million of financial support from the EU was made available to Trinidad and Tobago to assist the country to develop a low carbon emissions path via the development and implementation of sound policies to govern the sector, including:

- the National Environment Policy;
- the Forest Policy;
- the Protected Areas Policy; and,
- the National Climate Change Policy.

The goals of the programme were to assist Trinidad and Tobago to:

- Become an Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) compliant country;
- Modernize the management of protected areas;
- Introduce clean emission technologies in the public transportation system;
- Strengthen carbon sequestration capacity; and
- Promote environmental awareness at the grass roots level.

Agriculture

Agricultural Diversification and Food Security

When the Government of Trinidad and Tobago took the decision to end subsidies to the sugar industry in 2003, the European Union allocated more than €75 million to Trinidad and Tobago, under the Accompanying Measures for Sugar Protocol Countries (AMSP). The funds were used to support diversification away from sugar and into other value-added agricultural production and downstream activities and to reduce the social, economic and environmental impacts of the restructuring process. Additionally, this funding supported the Government's strategy to increase domestic food production.



Technical Assistance

The AMSP programme also delivered technical assistance in the form of research and training:

In 2009, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the restructuring measures was conducted. The SEA concluded that the restructuring of the sugar sector had a variety of impacts on the environment on a macro and micro level, positive and negative. The main recommendations provided for:

- An integrated water management plan,
- A climate change adaptation strategy, and,
- A socio-economic assessment, focusing on labour availability.

Additionally, in 2013, a team of experts assessed the water management and irrigation systems on one of the former sugar sites in Central Trinidad now allocated for agricultural use. The recommendations arising from this report was used to establish an irrigation system in the wider farming areas.

Downstream Activities

EU support also targeted the complete food value chain. In this context, key service providers in the area of food processing were provided with training in the areas of business and standard attainment (Food safety standards based on HACCP; notably private voluntary standards, labelling standards especially EU and U.S. standards), and market strategies for local, regional and international market penetration.

Other outcomes of the restructuring programme included:

- Training for 2400 former employees of Caroni as well as former cane farmers;
- Development of 17 agricultural estates, 30 residential estates and 10 industrial estates on the lands formerly under sugar cultivation;
- Offers of agricultural leases to former employees,
- Implementation of a comprehensive pension plan for former daily and monthly-paid Caroni employees;
- Financial compensation (TT\$ 82 million) for private farmers;
- Upgrade of agricultural access roads on former sugar lands;
- Establishment of large scale farms on lands formerly owned by Caroni (1975) Limited;



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- Adoption by the Government of the action plan to combat praedial larceny and the revised agricultural incentive programme.

Related Documents

[SEA Final Report pdf - \[3 MB\]](#)

[SRA Socioeconomic Baseline pdf - \[7 MB\]](#)

Water Management & Irrigation Assessment & Development - Final Report pdf - [5 M

Civil Society Strengthening

Strengthening Caribbean Fisher folk to Participate in Governance

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) was funded to the tune of €1.2 million to improve regional food security by strengthening fisherfolk organisations, to participate in decision-making about small scale fisheries management and governance at a local, national and regional level.

The project spanned a number of Caribbean countries, including Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos Islands.

It was implemented in partnership with the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies of the University of the West Indies, Panos Caribbean, Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism.

The programme started in January 2013 and ended in 2017.

Diversification and Innovation

Enabling Competitive Business

In 2011 the European Union supported Trinidad and Tobago with funding to improve its economic and business climate and foster greater innovation, competitiveness and economic stability. In 2011, with EU assistance of €16 million, the Ministry of Trade, Industry Investment and Communications (MTIIC), the Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development (MOLSMED) and their relevant



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Government agencies, in collaboration with academia and the private sector, jointly developed and began implementation of the Enabling Competitive Business Strategy (ECB Strategy).

The main thrust of this Strategy was to:

- Provide support to expanding the small and micro business sectors;
- Encourage a broader diversification away from non-renewable resources, and,
- Foster a greater spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation in Trinidad and Tobago.

Policy Development

Achievements under the programme include the development of policies to improve trade and competitiveness. Policies already approved by the Government include:

- The Trade Policy and Strategy, Trinidad and Tobago 2013-2017;
- The Micro and Small Enterprise (MSE) Development Policy aimed at strengthening MSE development (2013 – 2016)
- The Scrap Metal Policy.

Other policies developed included:

- the Green Enterprise Development Policy which supports viable environmentally conscious businesses that bolster sustainable development;
- A National Corporate Social Responsibility Policy (NCSRP) designed to optimize the contributions of the business sector to social and economic development through universally accepted principles including human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

Capacity Building

Under the ECB programme, agencies involved in trade and business development were restructured and capabilities enhanced. The National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited (NEDCO) was refocused and given the responsibility to improve its client services through the implementation of its new strategic plan approved by Cabinet in 2013.

Cabinet also approved the streamlining of the Evolving TecKnologies and Enterprise Development (eTeck) in February 2013. The agency was mandated to manage and develop the economic zones of T&T.



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InvesTT was made the sole investment promotion agency; the national “one-stop-shop” for investors and a wholly owned Government enterprise under the Ministry of Trade, Investment, Industry and Communications.

Ease of Doing Business Improvement

The ease of doing business in T&T was improved with enhancements made to the Single Electronic Window (SEW) for trade and business facilitation. SEW allows transactions such as business clearance, import and export transactions to be completed electronically and in an efficient and seamless manner.

FairShare and the National Integrated Business Incubator Programme (IBIS), both of which aim to increase business opportunities for small and micro enterprises have also been improved. Additionally, to facilitate the ease of doing business with other countries, trade agreements, which now give T&T companies access to approximately 18 million potential buyers were signed with the Republic of Guatemala and the Republic of Panama.

Technical Assistance

Stakeholder ministries and agencies also in received assistance with Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation and Communications in a bid to enhance transparency and accountability. As such, these ministries now have fully functional project management and monitoring and evaluation units.

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