



European Union

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 which plays [a key role](#) as a proponent of international environmental action and co-operation 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.

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

The €8 million of financial support from the EU is being used 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;



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

The goals of the programme are 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.



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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 are being 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 gives support to the Government's strategy to increase domestic food production.

Technical Assistance

The AMSP programme also delivers 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 has a variety of impacts on the environment on a macro and micro level, positive and negative. The main recommendations provide 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 will be used to establish an irrigation system in the wider farming areas.

Downstream Activities

EU support also targets 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 progress in the restructuring programme includes:

- 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;



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



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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.

EU Development Cooperation

In this regard the EU has allocated €2 million to Trinidad and Tobago (under the 11th European Development Fund or EDF) for engaging civil society. This funding will be apportioned under the already existing areas of development cooperation such as the environment and business and under the new 11th EDF cooperation programme on innovation.

In addition to €2 million available under the 11th EDF, a little over €1 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 -2017.

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.

Civil Society Organizations in Trinidad and Tobago

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.

Strengthening Caribbean Fisherfolk to Participate in Governance

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) has been 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.



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The project spans 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 is being 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 is set to end in 2017.

Calls for Proposals

The EU will support 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.



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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 €400,000 to support the work of human rights in Trinidad and Tobago. A recent Call for Proposals yielded two projects to receive funding:

- [Gender Equality and Fatherhood](#) – Emancipation Support Committee
- [Elevating Human Rights to International Standards](#) – University of the West Indies, St Augustine Faculty of Law

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

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 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.

Policies developed and awaiting approval include:

- the Green Enterprise Development Policy which supports viable environmentally conscious businesses that bolster sustainable development;
- A National Corporate Social Responsibility Policy (NCSR) 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



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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.

InvestTT 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.

Innovation

Under the 11th EDF 2014 -2020, €9.7 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.



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Crime and Security

CARIFORUM Crime and Security Cooperation Regional Programme

The EU has granted €12.2 million to this regional programme which continues and follows the 9th EDF programme. The programme 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 will be engaged to implement specific components of the project:

- CARICOM Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) will be supported to bring into operation the Regional Crime and Security Agenda. Activities will include 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.
- The Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) will be 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 will be able to identify the existence of hidden sources of income, quantify illegal enrichment and gather evidence necessary to prosecute money laundering cases.