TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO’S NPA
Progress and Lessons Learned

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STATUS OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO’S NPA

Lead Agency: Institute of Marine Affairs - engaged by UNEP-CAR/RCU which is responsible for the administration of both the LBS Protocol and the GPA.

Coordinated by a Cabinet-appointed Inter-Ministerial Committee – In 2004, Cabinet authorized the appointment of the Committee, whose members were duly appointed by the Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment.

Formal endorsement at the national level, thereby conferring legitimacy on the process and providing solid political, institutional and financial support from relevant Government Ministries and Agencies.
GOV’T MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES ON COORDINATING COMMITTEE

• Institute of Marine Affairs
• Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment
• Ministry of Planning and Development- Town and Country Planning Division
• Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries
• Ministry of Works and Transport
• Ministry of Health
• Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources
• Ministry of Trade and Industry
• Environmental Management Authority
• Water Resources Agency
• Tobago House of Assembly
• Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company Limited
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO NPA

Goal:
- to develop an NPA for Trinidad and Tobago which when implemented, will ensure the health and sustainable use of the coastal and marine resources.

Objectives:
- to develop strategic and feasible responses, to address sustained and short-term pressures caused by human activities on land, which will impact on the marine environment.

- to support existing efforts to develop and implement a comprehensive coastal zone policy.
APPROACH

• Political approval and buy-in to the NPA process at the beginning of cycle.

• Cabinet-appointed Committee to Coordinate the Development of a National Programme of Action

• Committee guided by GPA document

• Participatory process – local organizations and institutions, stakeholders

• Phased Approach (guided by GPA/NOAA agreement)
PHASED APPROACH

PHASE I:

- **National Review** – Existing Policy Framework; State of the Marine Environment; Background Paper; Summary of Impacts
- **Trinidad Stakeholders’ Consultation** (21-22 February 2006)
- **Tobago Stakeholders’ Consultation** (11 – 12 April 2006)
- **Development of the NPA** –
  - Setting priorities for action
  - Determining management objectives for priority problems
  - Identifying, evaluating and selecting strategies and measures to achieve the objectives
  - DRAFT NPA for review by stakeholders
  - Final NPA
PHASED APPROACH

PHASE II:

Following the recommendation by the GPA that countries launch their national programme of action process by developing one or more pilot projects that have a clear demonstration value, high visibility, and are viable and financially feasible, the development of two Pilot Projects:

- Trinidad
- Tobago
STATUS

Completed so far:

• **Initial identification of issues** — early work of the Committee focused on identifying specific causes of environmental degradation/habitat destruction in T&T.

• **An assessment of the adequacy of existing environmental management policy and legislation and other relevant policies and plans to address land-based sources of pollution.**

• **Public Consultations**— IMA’s 11th Annual Research Symposium, 2004, panel discussion; Trinidad Stakeholders’ Consultation, February 2006.

• **Background Paper on LBS and identified land-based activities.**
EXISTING NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

Adequacy of existing policy assessed by examining two things:


• The extent to which T&T has implemented the actions, policies and measures to be taken at the national level recommended in the GPA for the protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.
National Environmental Policy on coastal and marine areas – Part 3.4

a) Conserve representative examples of all coastal and marine ecosystems by including them in a system of protected areas (1998) and the establishment of a coastal management and zoning system that would stipulate what types of activities can be conducted along specific coastal zones to ensure the sustainable management of the environment (2005).

b) Avoid promoting industrial, tourism, recreational or other types of developmental activities which contribute to the degradation of sensitive coastal ecosystems such as coral reefs and sea-grass beds.
c) Reduce pollution of the marine environment from land-based, ship based or fixed marine platform sources

d) Enforce measures to restrict sand-mining on sandy beaches

e) Establish building setbacks from the shoreline

f) Encourage stakeholder participation in solving problems related to multi-user conflicts in coastal areas in keeping with sound integrated coastal zone management principles and philosophies
Comment on NEP Part 3.4

- Except for the commitment to encouraging stakeholder participation, the NEP codifies long-standing policies.

- Progress in policy implementation between 1998 and 2005 has been uneven.

- Significant progress has been made in conserving critical ecosystems and avoiding development projects that cause coastal and marine degradation.

- The commitment made in 2005 to establishing a coastal zone management and zoning system is a major policy shift with legal and institutional ramifications.
Existing Policy Framework - Conclusions

- Review found that actions, policies and measures being taken at the national level to address the impact of contaminants (particularly oil) and physical alterations of the marine environment are inadequate.

- Both the National Environmental Policy and the GPA favour the development of an integrated coastal management programme.

- A new agency need not be created; an existing agency can be given this function.
STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION – Process

• Identification of key activity sectors for T&T
• Identification of stakeholders in each island – institutional, private sector, NGOs, CBOs, etc.
• Separate Stakeholder Consultations for each island:
  - briefing
  - discussions
  - reporting
  - feeding into the Draft NPA
  - time for review of NPA and comments by stakeholders
  - revision of NPA following above
STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION
- major issues identified

• Need to develop an institutional framework that would effectively treat with the problems.

• Lack of enforcement of existing legislation.

• Absence of monitoring and surveillance capability.

• ‘Top-down’ approach to decision-making and powerlessness of wider population.

• Need to empower NGOs, CBOs and the general public.

• Inadequate public education and awareness on the issues.

• Difficulties with information – availability, quality and sharing.

• Absence of effective penalties for violations of the law.
Collaboration Areas with NOAA Node Office

• NOAA – provision of expertise, guidance, information on other countrys’ approaches and experiences in developing NPAs.

• NOAA – provision of funds to enable hiring of a consultant to work with the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee.

• IMA – feedback and provision of information re. local context, process, approach, and experiences.
1. Cabinet Support for NPA

2. Cabinet appointed Coordinating Committee

3. National Endorsement

4. Identify and Assess National Problems

5. Establish National Priorities

6. Set Management Objectives

7. Identify, Evaluate and Select Strategies

8. Draft NPA and obtain feedback from stakeholders

9. Final NPA to Cabinet

Stakeholder Consultations
Lessons Learned So Far

• Early endorsement has both advantages and disadvantages.

• Consultative process requires much time and effort and must be flexible to be authentic and effective.

• Inter-agency communication and cooperation is essential.

• Public education, institutional sensitization and the education of decision-makers is key to successful development and implementation of NPA – re. decision-makers: important to consider and stress impacts on human health.

• Important that NPA be developed with reference to other national plans being developed e.g. National Integrated Waste Management Plan; National Plan of Action to Address Land Degradation; the National Wetland Policy.
Thank You

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