THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Third National Report on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Implementation Process

Submitted to the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Interim National Co-ordinating Committee

December, 2007

The Third National Report on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Implementation Process

Trinidad and Tobago

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SUMMARY

1. FOCAL POINT INSTITUTION

The National Focal Point Institution for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Trinidad and Tobago is the Ministry of Planning, Housing and the Environment (MPHE). Contact information is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Focal Point Institution

Name of Focal Point	**Ministry of the Public Utilities and the Environment** Name: Ms. Esmé Rawlins-Charles Designation: Permanent Secretary
Address Including E-Mail Address	Address: #44-46 South Quay, P.O. Box 834, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, West Indies Telephone: +(868) 623 4663 Facsimile: +(868) 625 2793 Email: charlese@housing.gov.tt
Country-Specific Websites Relating to Desertification	trinbagobiodiversity.gov.tt;

2. STATUS OF NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME

The development of the National Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation (NAP) was completed in 2006, after review and incorporation of stakeholder's comments and has been approved by the Cabinet. The Ministry of Planning, Housing and the Environment (MPHE) is in the process of formally establishing the National Coordinating Committee which will include members of the Interim Coordinating Committee and other representatives from other government and non-government institutions as proposed in the NAP. Some of the projects included under the programme are already underway. Information on the status of the NAP process is provided below:

Table 2: Status of the NAP

NAP Process	Status to Date
Date of Validation	The draft NAP was approved by the Trinidad and Tobago Cabinet in 2006 prior to the NAP public review process. The final NAP was submitted to the Cabinet in January, 2007 for approval.

NAP Process	Status to Date
NAP Review(s)	The draft NAP was reviewed by the public during the period January 2006 to May 2006.
NAP has been integrated into the Poverty Reduction Strategy/Plan (PRSP)	No. There is no formal National Poverty Reduction Strategy in Trinidad and Tobago. However, there is a Poverty Reduction Unit housed in the Ministry of Social Development which undertakes the implementation of poverty reduction measures. Currently, the Unit is conducting a comprehensive assessment of poverty in Trinidad and Tobago, which will enable Poverty Reduction Recommendations/Plans to be developed which can form the basis for the preparation of a PRS/P. The MPHE proposes to hold discussions with the Poverty Reduction Unit on integration of the NAP into their work programme.
NAP has been integrated into the National Development Strategy (NDS)	The Vision 2020 Secretariat established in 2003 to oversee the preparation and implementation of the NDS and the draft Vision 2020 NDS was completed and adopted in 2005. During the development of the NAP, members of the Vision 2020 Secretariat were actively engaged in the consultation process. Discussions will be held with the Secretariat on the integration of the NAP into the NDS process.
NAP implementation has started with or without the conclusions of partnership agreements	Yes
Expected NAP validation	May, 2007
Final draft of a NAP exists	Yes
Formulation of a draft NAP is under way	No – NR
Basic guidelines for a NAP have been established	Yes – NR
Process has only been initiated	No
Process has not yet started	No

NR – Not relevant

3. MEMBER OF SUB-REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES (SRAP)/ REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES (RAP)

Under the Framework of the UNCCD, Trinidad and Tobago is a member of the Regional Group for Latin America and Caribbean Countries (GLACC) and the UNCCD

Caribbean Sub-regional Group. Trinidad and Tobago is the current Chair of the Caribbean Sub-regional Group. A Caribbean SRAP is to be formulated. Table 3 lists the involvement of Trinidad and Tobago in the SRAP/RAP.

Table 3: Involvement in the SRAP/RAP

Name of Sub-regional and Regional Cooperation Framework		Involvement in SRAP/RAP
1.	LAC RAP (2003-2007)	-
2.	SRAP -	No plan has been prepared to date. However, activities and cooperation centre on the issues of protection and conservation of biodiversity, actions and assessment of land degradation, partnership building and public awareness.

4. COMPOSITION OF THE INTERIM NAP COORDINATING COMMITTEE (NAPCC)

The Interim UNCCD National Coordinating Committee is made up of representatives of 11 Government agencies, four statutory authorities and one NGO of which 41% (seven members) are women.

Table 4: Composition of the Interim NAPCC

Name of Institution		Government (√)	Statutory Agency	NGO (√)	Male	Female
1.	Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD)			√		√
2.	Environmental Management Authority		√			√
3.	Environmental Unit, MPHE	√			√	
4.	Forestry Division, MALMR	√			√	
5.	Horticultural Division, MALMR	√				√
6.	Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA)		√		√	
7.	Meteorological Services Division (MPU)	√				√
8.	Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (MALMR)	√			√	

Name of Institution		Government (√)	Statutory Agency	NGO (√)	Male	Female
9.	Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs (MCDCGA)	√			√	
10.	Ministry of Local Government	√			√	
11.	Ministry of Works and Transport	√			√	
12.	Solid Waste Management Company Limited (SWMCOL)		√		√	
13.	Tobago House of Assembly	√				√
14.	Town and Country Planning Division, Ministry of Planning and Development (TCPD)	√				√
15.	Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA)		√			√
16.	National Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation Programme (NRWRP), (MALMR)	√			√	

5. TOTAL NUMBER OF NGOS ACCREDITED TO THE PROCESS

The formation of the NGO National Coordinating Committee is in its infancy. The CNIRD, the RIOD (Reseau International des ONGS pour la Desertification (International Network of NGOS for Desertification) Focal Point for the Caribbean, is also the National RIOD Focal Point for Trinidad and Tobago. To date, eight organisations form part of the local RIOD and CNIRD has invited others to be a part of the NGO Network which is expected to work alongside the National Coordinating Committee in the implementation of the NAP. Table 5 provides further information.

Table 5: NGO Involvement in the NAP Process

Has a NGO National Coordinating Committee on desertification been established; if yes, how many NGOs or civil society organizations participate in it?	Yes and has been led by the CNIRD. To date the local RIOD consists of eight member organisations

6. TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTS AND LAWS PASSED RELATING TO THE UNCCD

The six laws of relevance to the UNCCD are listed below in Table 6.

Table 6: Relevant Acts/Laws and/or Regulations Relating to the UNCCD

Name of Relevant Acts/Laws and/or Regulations		Date of Adoption
1.	Environmental Management Act and its Subsidiary legislation including the Certificate of Environmental Clearance Rules, the Environmentally Sensitive Areas Rules and Water Pollution Rules	Environment Management Act , 2000 Certificate of Environmental Clearance, 2001 Environmentally Sensitive Areas Rules, 2001 Water Pollution Rules (Pending in 2007)
2.	Forests Act (Chapter 66:01)	Amended in 1980
3.	Minerals Act (Act 61)	Enacted in 2000
4.	Administration of Land Acts which include: Land Adjudication Act (Act 14) Land Tribunal Act (Act 15) Registration of Titles to Land Act (Act 16)	 Enacted in 2000 Enacted in 2000 Enacted in 2000
5.	Agricultural Fires Act (Chapter 63:02)	Amended in 1965
6.	Town and Country Planning Act (Chapter 35:01)	Enacted in 1969

7. THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

There is no information on the partnership agreements initiated within the framework of the UNCCD involving collaboration between Trinidad and Tobago and other parties.

The Interim NAPCC supervised the preparation of the NAP and elaborated a process for public participation. As such, apart from meetings held with individuals from public sector, private sector agencies and members of the NGO community, a series of meetings was held during the preparation, review, and finalisation of the NAP.

Additional meetings were held also with the UNCCD Secretariat and the Interim NAPCC in December 2006 to discuss the implementation of the NAP. Table 7(b) provides a list of consultative meetings on UNCCD implementation.

Table 7(a): Partnership Initiated within the UNCCD Framework

Title of Partnership		Agencies Involved in the Partnership	Date of (expected) Conclusion
1.	-	-	-

Table 7(b): List of consultative meetings on UNCCD implementation

	Name of Consultative Meeting	Date	International Organisations/ UN Agencies Involved
1.	Trinidad and Tobago National Awareness Seminar for the Development of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UNCCD (North Consultation)	November 17, 2004	UNDP
2.	Trinidad and Tobago National Awareness Seminar for the Development of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UNCCD (South Consultation)	December 1, 2004	UNDP
3.	Trinidad and Tobago National Awareness Seminar for the Development of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UNCCD (Central Consultation)	December 17, 2004	UNDP
4.	Trinidad and Tobago National Awareness Seminar for the Development of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UNCCD (Tobago Consultation)	December 14, 2004	UNDP
5.	Working Session of the Interim NAPCC of the UNCCD	Session I: March 23, 2005 Session II: April 20, 2005	
6.	Public Consultations to Finalise the NAP (Trinidad)	March 6, 2006	
7.	Public Consultations to Finalise the NAP (Tobago)	March 27, 2006	

8. PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDER IMPLEMENTATION WHICH ARE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RELATED TO THE UNCCD

Table 8 shows 10 projects under various stages of implementation which relate to the UNCCD.

Table 8: Projects under Implementation the Related to the UNCCD

Name of Project		Project Implemented within the Framework of the NAP/ SRAP/ RAP? (Yes/No)	Timeframe	Partners Involved	Overall Budget US$/Fiscal year
1.	Operationalisation of the Green Fund (Green Fund)	NAP/Yes	One year	MPHE, MF	254,000 (approx.)/ 2007
2.	National Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation Programme (NRWRP)	NAP/Yes	10 years	MPU	6,984,000 (approx.)/ 2007
3.	Community Environmental Protection and Enhancement Project (CEPEP)	NAP/Yes	Ongoing	Solid Waste Management Company Ltd (SWMCOL)	52,063,000 (approx.)/ 2007
4.	Preparation of the National Physical Development Plan (NPDP)	NAP/Yes	Two years	TCPD	238,000 (approx.)/ 2007
5.	Preparation of a Hillside Development Policy	NAP/Yes	Two years	TCPD	Na
6.	Regularisation of Squatter Residential Communities	NAP/Yes	Ongoing		9,524,000 (approx.)/ 2007
7.	Preparation of a New Quarries Policy for Trinidad and Tobago	NAP/Yes	Two years	MEEI	Na

Name of Project		Project Implemented within the Framework of the NAP/ SRAP/ RAP? (Yes/No)	Timeframe	Partners Involved	Overall Budget US$/Fiscal year
8.	Implementation of the National Water Resources Management Policy (NWRMP)	NAP/Yes	Two years	MPHE	103,000 (approx.)/ 2007
9.	Adoption and Implementation of Water Pollution Rules	NAP/Yes	One year	EMA	Na
10.	Preparation and Implementation of a National Integrated Solid Waste Management Strategic Plan	NAP/Yes	Ongoing	EMA/SWMCOL	Na

* pending approval by the Cabinet: Na – not available

COUNTRY PROFILE

This UNCCD country profile has been provided by:

Ministry of the Planning, Housing and the Environment

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Also see Annex 1. State of Land Resources Report

Biophysical Indicators Relating to Desertification and Drought

1. Climate

1.1. Index of aridity[1] na

1.2. Normal rainfall 1,870 millimetres

1.3. Rainfall standard deviation na

Island	Mean Annual Rainfall Amount (in mm) for the Period 1975-2005	
	Dry Season Average	Wet Season Average
Trinidad	328.6	1,557.6
Tobago	261.4	1,190.2

2. Vegetation and Land use

2.1 NDVI (normalised difference vegetation index) na

2.2 Vegetation cover (% of total land area) 48%

[1] The index of aridity is the ratio P/PET; P=precipitation, PET=potential evapo-transpiration. Climatic zone maps to be annexed if available in a scale of 1/million.

2.3 Land use (percent of total land = 512,800 ha)

Land Use		1990 – 1999	2000 – 2005
Arable crop land		--	11.6%
	Irrigated	--	1.4%
	Rainfed	--	0.0%
Pasture		--	1.2%
Forest and Woodland		--	48.4%
Other Land		--	37.5%

2.4 Surface albedo[2] not available

3. Water Resources

3.1 Fresh water availability (million m^3) 230.0

3.2 Fresh water resources per capita (m^3) 25.0

3.3 Agricultural water use (million m^3) 10.0

3.4 Industrial water use (million m^3) 54.0

4. Energy

Consumption

4.1 Energy use per capita (kg oil equivalent) 11,096

4.2 Agricultural energy use per hectare (millions of BTU) na

Production

4.3 Energy from renewables excluding combustible renewables and waste (% of total supply) 0.2

Renewables - Consumption by sector

4.4 Industry (% of total renewable consumption) - -

4.5 Residential (% of total renewable consumption) - -

4.6 Agriculture (% of total renewable consumption) - -

[2] Surface albedo map to be annexed if available.

5. Types of Land Degradation

Type of degradation	1990 – 1999		2000 – 2005	
	million ha	Percent of Total area	million ha	Percent of Total area
No information available				

6. Rehabilitation

Lands under Rehabilitation	1990 - 1999	2000 - 2005
Rehabilitation of degraded crop land (km^2)		No information available
Rehabilitation of degraded rangeland (km^2)		No information available
Rehabilitation of degraded forest (km^2)		No information available

Socio-Economic Indicators Related to Desertification and Drought

7. People and Economy

7.1 Population (total)	1,290,646
• Population: urban (percent of total)	75%
• Population: rural (percent of total)	25%
7.2 Population growth (annual %)	0.3%
7.3 Life expectancy (years)	69.8
7.4 Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	18.0
7.5 GDP (current US$)	14.358 billion
7.6 GNI per capita (current US$)	69.8
7.7 National poverty rate (% of population) - 1997/98 figure	24%

7.8 Crop production (metric tonnes)

- Rice Paddy: 1,166.7
- Cocoa: 888.3
- Coffee: 307.2
- Sugar: 33,200
- Citrus: 3.9
- Copra: 0.6

7.9 Livestock production (metric tonnes)

- Poultry: 31,400
- Dairy: 1.6
- Beef (2006): 415

8. Human Development

8.1 Primary education completion rate (% age group): 100

8.2 Number of women in rural development (total number): - -

8.3 Unemployment (% of total) (2005): 16.7

8.4 Youth unemployment rate (age 15-24) (2005): 18.5

8.5 Illiteracy total (% age 15 and above) (2003): 1.4

8.6 Illiteracy male (% age 15 and above) (2003): 0.9

8.7 Illiteracy female (% age 15 and above) (2003): 2

9. Science and Technology

9.1 Number of scientific institutions engaged in desertification-related work (total number) Two

10. Please specify the data sources

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ANNEX ONE:

STATE OF LAND RESOURCES OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO