# NORTH- EAST TOABGO UNESCO MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE MANAGEMENT PLAN
# RELEVANT LEGISLATIONS AND POLICIES

**Overview relevant key legislation and policies**

| KEY LEGISLATIONS | |
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| PRIMARY LEGISLATION | |
| Tobago House of Assembly Act | https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/25.03.pdf |
| Conservation of Wildlife Act Chap. 67:01 | https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/67.01.pdf |
| Environmental Management Act Chap. 35:05 | https://www.energy.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Environmental-Management-Act-35.05.pdf |
| Fisheries Act Chap. 67:51 | https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/67.51.pdf |
| Forest Act Chap. 66:01 | https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/66.01.pdf |
| Marine Preservation and Enhancement Act Chap. 37:02 | https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/37.02.pdf |
| National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago Act Chap. 40:53 | https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/40.53.pdf |
| Planning and Facilitation of Development Act | https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/The-Planning-and-Facilitation-of-Development-Act.pdf |
| Proposed Fisheries Management Bill (2023) | https://agriculture.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Fisheries-Management-Bill-2023-Revised-October-2023.pdf |
| SECONDARY LEGISLATION | |
| Agricultural Fires Act Chap. 63:02, Act 20 of 1965 | https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/63.02.pdf |
| Animal (Diseases and Importation) Act Chap. 67:02 | https://tradeind.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Animals-Diseases-and-Importation-Act-67.02.pdf |
| Continental Shelf Act Chap. 1:52 | https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/1.52.pdf |
| Land Acquisition Act Chap. 58:01 | https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/58.01.pdf |
| Litter Act Chap. 30:52 | https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/30.52.pdf |
| Sawmills Act Chap. 66:02 | https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/66.02.pdf |

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| State Lands Act Chap. 57:01 | https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/57.01.pdf |
| Summary Offences Act Chap. 11:02 | https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/11.02.pdf |
| Territorial Sea Act Chap. 1:51 | https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/1.51.pdf |
| Tourism Development Act Chap. 87:22 | https://tradeind.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Tourism-Development-Act-87.22.pdf |
| Town and Country Planning Act Chap 35:01 | https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/35.01.pdf |
| Water and Sewerage Act Chap. 54:40 | https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/54.40.pdf |
| Water Pollution Rules (2019) | http://parlcloud.ttparliament.org:8081/PapersLaidViewer/TempFiles/The%20Water%20Pollution%20Rules,%202019.pdf |
| **KEY POLICIES** | |
| Action Plan for Implementing the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (2012) | https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/gm/gm-nbsap-powpa-en.pdf |
| Comprehensive Economic Development Plan (CEDP) 2.0 | https://www.planning.gov.tt/OurTnTOurFuture/CEDP-2013-2017-Volume-1.pdf |
| National Action Programme (NAP) to Combat Land Degradation in Trinidad and Tobago 2006-2020 (2006) | https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/prais-legacy/Trinidad%20and%20Tobago/2007/Trinidad%20and%20Tobago%20-%20ACP%20-%202007%20eng%20summary.pdf |
| National Climate Change Policy (2019) | https://climate-laws.org/documents/national-climate-change-policy_a2e6?id=national-climate-change-policy_ae77 |
| National Forest Policy (2011) | https://agriculture.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/National-Forest-Policy-2011.pdf |
| National Integrated Water Resources Management Policy (2017) | https://www.mpu.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Final-Draft-NIWRMP.pdf |
| National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP, 2013) | https://www.energy.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/National-Oil-Spill-Contingency-Plan-2013-1.pdf |
| National Policy and Programmes on Wetland Conservation for Trinidad and Tobago, (2002) | https://agriculture.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/National-Wetland-Policies-2001.pdf |

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| National Protected Areas Systems Plan (2018) | https://rris.biopama.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/Protected%20Areas%20Systems%20Plan%202018%20update%20June_28June2018.pdf |
| National Wetlands Policy (2002) | https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/national_wetland_policies_-_trinidad_tobago.pdf |
| National Wildlife Policy (2013) | https://www.biodiversity.gov.tt/images/stories/pdf/final_nwp.pdf |
| Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture Land and Fisheries (2011-2015) | https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/tri180159.pdf |

## Legislations

The protected areas in North East Tobago are regulated via several specific (primary) national and numerous related (secondary) laws.

There is no specific legislation regarding the North East Tobago UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserve.

To understand the relevance of existing legislation it is important to note that:

- there is currently no specific legislation in direct relation to the implementation of the UNESCO MAB Programme in NE Tobago or in Trinidad and Tobago in general; and
- the North-East Tobago UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserve is subdivided into three zones: Core, Buffer, and Transition. Only the Core Zones are, unrelated to the MAB designation, specifically legislated as protected areas under the laws of Trinidad and Tobago.

The management of Tobago's internal affairs, including natural- and cultural heritage and protected areas, is regulated through the **Tobago House of Assembly Act** Chap. 25:03, Act 40 of 1996 amended by 17 of 2006. This act grants the THA significant autonomy in the management of its internal

affairs within the twin-island state of Trinidad and Tobago, including the management authority over the terrestrial and marine parts of the UNESCO NE Tobago Man and the Biosphere Reserve and the already declared protected areas in NE Tobago.
Specifically, the act puts matters regarding the environment, fisheries, state lands (including a marine area of 11.11km around Tobago), and marine parks under the responsibility of the Assembly and notably provides THA with the capacity to declare policy and propose legislation regarding these matters.

It is important to note that a new Tobago Island Government Bill (2021) is currently being discussed to repeal the Tobago House of Assembly Act, which might, in its final form, change certain responsibilities and mandates of the THA.

As of October 2021, the following key legislation and policies apply to all three zones of the NETMABR:
The **Trinidad & Tobago Vision 2030 Development Agenda** is the national guideline policy document. It strongly emphasises sustainable development strategies such as:

- expanding exports and increasing foreign exchange earnings and employment,
- making Trinidad and Tobago more competitive and attractive to investors,
- transforming the existing economic growth model into one that is environmentally friendly while addressing climate change,
- protecting and sustainably using environmental resources, and
- institutional transformation by
    - strengthening the oversight, accountability, and the autonomy of independent institutions, and
    - improving public sector institutions through performance management, modernised structures and strengthened coordination, capacity-building, and devolution of certain powers of Central Government.

Furthermore, the guiding principles of Trinidad and Tobago's 2030 Development Agenda are fully aligned with the intentions outlined in the THA Executive Council Note regarding the establishment of the NETPAMT (now TOBIMA) and the establishment of the NE Tobago UNESCO MAB Reserve including:

- placing the environment at the centre of social and economic development,
- inclusiveness by institutionalising participation and consensus building, and

- accountability, guaranteeing that initiatives meet their stated objectives and respond to the needs of the communities they are meant to benefit, thereby contributing to improved governance.

THA Divisions and Departments operating within the NETMABR are furthermore guided by the **Green Government Policy** which is putting emphasis on the conservation of resources and the reduction of pollution thereby minimising the adverse effects of operations of governmental agencies and their contractors on the environment.

The following list includes other key legal documents specifically relevant for the management of protected areas as well as natural and cultural heritage in Tobago.

## Primary Legislation

- **Conservation of Wildlife Act Chap. 67:01**, Act 16 of 1958 amended by 31 of 1980; amended (No.2) (2020), an Act to make provision for the Conservation of Wild Animal Life in Trinidad and Tobago; The Act is only related to mammals, birds or reptiles and the eggs, carcases, meat, nest or young thereof.

- **Environmental Management Act** Chap. 35:05, Act 3 of 2000; The EMA Act is legislation with the goal of ensuring the protection, conservation, enhancement and wise use of the environment of Trinidad and Tobago. The EMA Act established the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) and provided for its composition, administration, financing and role; includes the **Environmentally Sensitive Species Rules** (2001); which enables the Environmental Management Authority to designate a species as an Environmentally Sensitive Species with high levels of protection if that throughout all or a part of its range is, or is likely to become, in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely (e.g., elasmobranchs listed by IUCN as endangered) if the factors jeopardising it continue to operate; and if that is required to be protected for the purpose of meeting the Government's international obligations under any of the International Conventions Trinidad and Tobago is party to including the Convention on Migratory Species and the SPAW Protocol. Under the same Act, the Environmental Management Authority may declare an area (e.g., parts of the UNESCO NE Tobago Man and the Biosphere Reserve) as Environmentally Sensitive Area if the area is (a) the actual or prospective habitat of any environmentally sensitive species; *(b)* required to be protected for the purpose of meeting the Government's international obligations under any of the International Conventions is party to, including the Convention on Migratory Species.

- **Fisheries Act Chap. 67:51, Act 39 of 1916 amended by 23 of 1975.** This act enables the Minister, inter alia, to declare protected areas and make regulations to restrict the harvesting and sale of identified species. This Act is supposed to be replaced by the planned Fisheries Management Bill 2020.

- **Forest Act Chap. 66:01, Act 42 of 1915 amended by 23 of 1999**; an Act related to Forests and Forest Produce, stating the prohibition of extraction or removal of forest resources. This Act provides for various matters of miscellaneous character relating to forests, forest reserves, grazing in forests, the cutting of timber and other forest produce. Only the Minister may appoint Forest Officers for purposes of this Act and make provision for the extraction of forest produce, prohibits extraction on State lands but allows for extraction on private lands with a valid licence granted by a district officer. Removal, exportation, or transportation of gum or timber requires a valid permit from an authorised officer.

- **Marine Preservation and Enhancement Act Chap. 37:02**, Act 1 of 1970 amended by 37 of 1996; An Act respecting the Marine Areas of Trinidad and Tobago; which enables the responsible Minister to designate any portion of the marine areas of Trinidad and Tobago as a restricted area where he considers that special steps are necessary for (a) preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of such areas; (b) the protection of the flora and fauna of such areas (e.g. elasmobranchs listed by IUCN as endangered); (d) the promotion of scientific study and research in respect of such areas.

- **National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago Act Chap. 40:53**, Act 11 of 1991 amended by 6 of 2015; According to the National Trust Act of Trinidad and Tobago, a Natural National Heritage Site (a so-called “Property of Interest”) is described as a “place of natural beauty and national, historic, scientific, or archaeological interest”.
  These nationally important properties are protected under the National Trust Act of Trinidad and Tobago (11 of 1991; amended 6 of 2015) against unauthorised change, alterations, or against any person who damages, injures, or defaces the site. National Heritage Sites are important physical reminders of our nation’s past and what we hope to pass on to our future generations.

- **Planning and Facilitation of Development Act**, Act 10 of 2014; An Act relating to the planning and development of land and to repeal and replace the Town and Country Planning Act, Chap. 35:01.

- **Proposed Fisheries Management Bill (2020);** the Bill is currently under final review and provides all necessary tools, and instructs and mandates the decision-making parties to sustainably manage fisheries resources, including reefs, in Trinidad and Tobago.

## Secondary Legislation

- **Agricultural Fires Act Chap. 63:02, Act 20 of 1965**; An Act to make better provisions for the prevention and control of Agricultural Fires. The regulations of this Act implement provisions specifying qualifications for fire guardians to be appointed under section 7 of the Act, prescribe a form for the application for a fire permit, defines duties of the holder of a fire permit and of persons cooking outside and prescribe penalties. A holder of the fire permit shall light fires only at a given distance from uncleared land, control the fire and have at the place of the fire appropriate fire-fighting equipment of staff.

- **Animal (Diseases and Importation) Act Chap. 67:02**, Act 19 of 1954 amended by 17 of 1997 (some pages authorised in 2006); An Act to make further and better provisions for controlling the Importation of Animals, Birds, Reptiles and Insects, and for regulating the treatment and disposal of animals which are suffering or are suspected to be suffering from any disease, and for other matters related thereto or connected there with.

- **Continental Shelf Act Chap. 1:52**, Act 43 of 1969 amended by 23 of 2019; an Act to make provision as to the exploration and exploitation of the Continental Shelf; to enable effect to be given to certain provisions of the Conventions on the High Seas done in Geneva on 29th April 1958; and for matters connected with those purposes.

- **Land Acquisition Act Chap. 58:01**, Act 28 of 1994 amended by 73 of 2000; This Act This Act sets out provisions relative to the compulsory acquisition of land for public purposes by the state. The provisions concern, among other things: procedures for acquisition, compensation, registration of lands acquired and regulation-making powers of the Minister.

- **Litter Act Chap. 30:52**, Act 27 of 1973 amended by 4 of 2014; This Act prohibits the deposit of waste in public places other than those that are designated for such deposit, defines various offences in relation with littering and provides for the appointment of litter prevention wardens by public authority and powers of appointed wardens. Litter prevention wardens may issue litter removal orders or

litter clean-up orders in the form as set out in the Schedule to this Act. An offender may be ordered by a local authority to clean up the area or to pay for the costs of removal of litter;

- **Sawmills Act Chap. 66:02**, Act 35 of 1943 amended by 24 of 1999; An Act relating to sawmills, stating that no sawmill shall be operated except by persons duly licensed under this Act.

- **State Lands Act Chap. 57:01**, Act 32 of 1918 amended by 25 of 2006; This Act provides for the administration, management and protection of state lands. It also provides that the dominion of the seashore lying between the high-water mark and the low water mark belongs to and is vested in the State. The President may grant (a licence for) part of such land, and land reclaimed from the sea shall belong to and be vested in the State or the grantee. The Act, among other things: defines powers of the President in respect of state land; creates the office of Deputy Commissioner of State Lands; provides with respect to grants and leases in state lands; provides with respect to survey of state lands; protects state lands from squatting and illegal extraction of materials on state lands.

- **Summary Offences Act Chap. 11:02**, Act 31 of 1921 amended by 85 of 2000; An Act relating to offences punishable on summary conviction; Includes the offence of Sunday trading or employment violation of which is punishable by a fine of $200 as well as a number of offences concerning public demonstrations.

- **Territorial Sea Act Chap. 1:51**, Act 38 of 1969 amended by 22 of 1986; An Act to make provision with respect to the Territorial Sea of Trinidad and Tobago; this Act provides for a new definition of "Contiguous Zone" (sect. 2), "Internal Waters" (sect. 4), "closing lines" (sect. 4), "low-water line" (sect. 7(1)), and for new measurement and definition of the baselines (sect. 5). A new section 6A on enforcement measures in the Contiguous Zone is added after section 6. "Internal waters" shall now include all archipelagic waters on the landward side of the closing lines. The baselines in this Act shall be measured conform the straight archipelagic baselines as prescribed in Act No. 24 of 1986. Low-tide elevations that lie wholly or in part within the breadth of the sea which would be territorial sea if all low-tide elevations were disregarded for the purpose of the measurement of the breadth thereof, shall be treated as an island (sec.5). Section 6a deals with powers of control of officers in the contiguous zone.

- **Tourism Development Act Chap. 87:22**, Act 9 of 2000 amended by 16 of 2006; This Act creates a legal framework for the development of the tourist industry of Trinidad and Tobago and makes provision for matters related to tourism such as protection of the environment. The application for the approval of a tourism project shall include a statement on environmental effects.

- **Town and Country Planning Act (Chap 35:01)**, makes provision for the orderly and progressive development of land in both urban and rural areas and to preserve and improve the amenities thereof; for the grant of permission to develop land and for other powers of control over the use of land.

- **Water and Sewerage Act Chap. 54:40**, Act 16 of 1965 amended by 28 of 1994 and through the Prevention of Water Pollution (Courland Water Works) Byelaws, 1980; an Act to provide for the development and control of water supply and sewerage facilities in Trinidad and Tobago and matters of sanitation incidental thereto; the promotion of the conservation and proper use of water resources; and for the establishment of an Authority to administer the several purposes aforesaid and matter connected therewith.

- **Water Pollution Rules (2019),** Provide an integrated approach to watershed management which aligns with the National Environmental Policy, 2018 the draft revised Integrated Water Resource Management Policy, 2017 the National Development Strategy of Trinidad and Tobago 2016–2030 (Vision 2030), the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the general obligations of the Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources.

All NETMABR **Core Zones**: The Main Ridge Forest Reserve (MRFR), Little Tobago, and St Giles are legally protected areas under the Conservation of Wildlife Act (Chap. 67:01), the Forest Act (Chap. 66:01), the National Forest Policy (2011) and the Forest (Prohibited Areas) Order. The management of these three PAs is also supported by the State Lands Act (Chap. 57:01).
Since late 2019, the MRFR is listed as a Natural National Heritage Site and hence additionally protected under the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago Act.
Notably, in late 2021, the Department of the Environment submitted the required documentation to the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago to consider listing the islets and reefs of NE Tobago as Natural National Heritage Sites; should this be the case, the Core Zone of the NETMABR could be increased by adding the proposed coastal fringe reefs, Goat Island (Speyside) and the Sisters Islets (Parlatuvier).

## Policies

**Action Plan for Implementing the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (2012)**

The Action Plan for the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) was formulated for the primary reason of establishing protected areas (PAs) in Trinidad and Tobago for the conservation of genetic diversity, species, ecosystems and natural habitats. It will also be a tool for the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of rare or threatened species in their natural environment. Furthermore, the elaboration of this Plan supports the national implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) under the CBD.

The PoWPA Action Plan thus seeks to create an integrated system of PAs that ensures conservation of the full diversity of natural ecosystems in Trinidad and Tobago whilst allowing for the sustainable use of these resources and providing equitable access to opportunities for their recreational, educational, research, cultural, spiritual/religious and sustainable livelihoods.

In Tobago, the lead agency is the Tobago House of Assembly (THA).

The **Comprehensive Economic Development Plan (CEDP) 2.0 (2012)** is the current guiding policy document for Tobago that that focuses on sustainable development in Tobago. At the heart of CEDP 2.0 is diversification of the economy, preservation of the environment and a better standard of living for its people. A specific objective is the institutional strengthening of agencies (such as NETMAPT) with responsibility for the environment.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Plan of 2006 (updated in 2012) is the policy document in effect for the development of Tobago and this puts sustainability at the centre of its development goals and desired key policy outcomes.

**National Action Programme (NAP) to Combat Land Degradation in Trinidad and Tobago 2006-2020 (2006)**

The NAP the principal instrument for implementing the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at the national level. It is an integrated framework for mitigating the physical, biological and socio-economic impacts of land degradation. The plan integrates strategies for poverty reduction, sustainable land management and community action, promotes and strengthen institutional collaboration and cooperation, avoids duplication of institutional mechanisms and promotes the use of existing funding mechanisms in combating land degradation/desertification and drought. It is therefore, a comprehensive framework for implementing the country's obligations under the UNCCD to which it acceded on August 6, 2000.

**National Climate Change Policy (2019)**

The National Climate Change Policy provides policy guidance to develop administrative and legislative framework for the pursuance of the country's low carbon development through suitable and relevant climate strategies including sectoral and cross sectoral adaptation and mitigation

measures. The Policy is constructed to achieve, inter alia, the following key objectives:

- to reduce or avoid GHG emission from all emitting sectors;
- to enhance carbon sinks;
- to protect the natural environment and human health;
- to conserve and build resilience of human and natural systems to adapt to impacts of climate change (including capacity building, application of clean technologies, R&D);
- to enhance agricultural production and food security;
- to educate the public on climate change impacts and adaptation strategies; and
- to conserve and guarantee a sustainable supply of potable water.

**National Forest Policy (2011)**

This National Forest Policy is not an isolated statement, and it builds on the existing policy framework for forest management and it supplements and enhances other public policies and plans. The overall purpose of the policy is to ensure the maintenance of biodiversity, forest management for optimum combinations of productive, protective, recreational, aesthetic, scientific and educational benefits, and to contribute to the national economy and livelihoods. In terms of national parks and other protected areas, the policy requires the protection in perpetuity of those areas of the country which represent significant examples of the country's natural heritage and encourage public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the heritage in ways which leave it unimpaired for future generations. The strategies identified include:

- provision of recreational and educational opportunities in forest areas,
- construct amenity facilities to enhance the recreational experience,
- enactment of legislation for parks and other protected areas,
- conservation of unique and representative flora, fauna, geology, landscapes, archaeology and other intrinsic features, and
- promote participatory management of parks with local communities and interest groups.

In terms of wildlife management, the policy prescribes the facilitation of the development and adoption of appropriate wildlife habitat and species management plans to produce stable ecosystems and populations. The strategies identified include:

- conservation of natural habitats,
- recover to a secure status all wildlife species threatened with extinction, and
- manage habitats and migratory wildlife species for their intrinsic, scientific and recreational value.

**National Integrated Water Resources Management Policy (2017)**

The National Integrated Water Resources Management Policy is a national policy with a cross-sectoral approach. The objectives of this IWRM Policy are (I) integrated management of water resources and wastewater, with a special emphasis on planning, environmental management, pollution control and adaptation to the impacts of climate change and variability, (II) sustainable management and protection of watersheds, wetlands as well as forests, (III) water security and resilience, (IV) mitigation of the impacts of flood, drought, and other water-related emergencies, (V) fair and efficient allocation of water among all water users, (VI) efficient water services within the principles of equity and affordability, (VII) increased quality and quantity of water, (VIII) capacity building and data collection to facilitate the planning, engineering design, research and development, (IX) public awareness-raising on sustainable and rational use of water resources, (X) collective responsibility, joint ownership and partnerships in water resources management at the national level, (XI) technology advancement in sustainable water resources management, and (XII) strengthened governance for the water sector. The participation of small farmers, local communities and farmers' organizations will be encouraged in the planning, implementation, and operation and maintenance stages of water management infrastructure.

**National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP, 2013)**

The NOSCP is designed to mitigate the impact of all oil spills on the environment by setting specific standards for oil spill equipment stockpiles, establishing time frames for oil spill response and increasing collaboration among partner agencies. Measures under the NOSCP include the acquisition and deployment of surveillance and monitoring technologies to ascertain liability in the event of a spill. Training exercises recommended under the NOSCP also provide opportunities for more frequent interaction between first responder agencies such as the Environmental Management Authority (EMA), the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA), the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard and Trinidad and Tobago Air Guard (TTAG).

**National Policy and Programmes on Wetland Conservation for Trinidad and Tobago, (2002)**

The National Wetlands Policy was developed to help manage the threats to wetlands and requires that the government protect, manage and restore wetlands in order to sustain and enhance their ecological and socio-economic values and function for current and future generations.

The major objectives related to protected areas include the:

- encouragement of public protection of outstanding examples of wetlands in private ownership;
- inclusion of outstanding examples of each type of wetland in the national system of national parks and other protected areas;
- encouragement of the management of all privately owned wetlands to promote the protection of their functions;
- promotion of the use of publicly protected wetlands as demonstration examples for science, education and awareness; and
- integration of management of wetlands with watershed and catchment area management.

The **National Protected Areas Systems Plan (2018)**, which was developed under the IFPAM Project, NPASP, was approved by Cabinet in early 2019. The NPASP lists one Terrestrial Scientific Reserve, one Terrestrial Special Conservation Reserve, one Terrestrial National Park, one Terrestrial Natural Landmark, five Terrestrial Natural Habitat or Species Management Reserves, two Coastal and Marine National Parks, eight Coastal and Marine Habitat or Species Management Reserves, and one Coastal and Marine Seascapes within the NETMABR.

Only four of the above-mentioned areas are already legally protected: South- and North MRFR, Little Tobago and St Giles Islet Complex, all of which are in the NETMABR Core Zone.

While cabinet-approved, the other listed areas are not legally protected as yet and mainly situated in the Buffer Zone. Once they achieve legal protection, shifting them into the Core Zone might be considered.

The NPASP is supporting the NETMABR zoning and conflicts are not foreseen.

**Proposed conservation status of protected areas in NE Tobago (NPASP)**

| Type | Name | IUCN Equivalent | Comment |
|---|---|---|---|
| Terrestrial Scientific Reserve | Southern MRFR | Ia Strict Nature Reserve | NETMABR Core Zone |
| Terrestrial Special Conservation Reserve | Goldsborough Watershed | Ib Wilderness Area | Adjacent to Core and Buffer Zone |

| Type | Name | IUCN Equivalent | Comment |
|---|---|---|---|
| Terrestrial National Park | Northern MRFR | II National Park | NETMABR Core Zone |
| Terrestrial Natural Landmark / Monument | Flagstaff Hill | III Natural Monument or Feature | NETMABR Buffer Zone |
| Terrestrial Natural Habitat or Species Management Reserve | L'Anse Fourmi Habitat Management Reserve | IV Habitat or Species Management Area | NETMABR Transition and Buffer Zone |
| | Merchiston Habitat Management Reserve | IV Habitat or Species Management Area | NETMABR Transition and Buffer Zone |
| | Starwood Habitat Management Reserve | IV Habitat or Species Management Area | NETMABR Transition and Buffer Zone |
| | Louis D'or Conservation Area | IV Habitat or Species Management Area | NETMABR Transition and Buffer Zone |
| | Hillsborough Dam Watershed | IV Habitat or Species Management Area | Adjacent to Core and Buffer Zone |
| Coastal and Marine National Parks (Marine Protected Areas) | Englishman's Bay | II National Park | Buffer Zone |
| | Charlotteville MPA | II National Park | Buffer Zone |
| Coastal and Marine Habitat or Species Management Reserves | Little Tobago and Goat Island | IV Habitat or Species Management Area | Core and Buffer Zone |
| | Lucy Vale | IV Habitat or Species Management Area | Buffer Zone |
| | Queens Island | IV Habitat or Species Management Area | Buffer Zone |
| | Richmond Island | IV Habitat or Species Management Area | Buffer Zone |

| Type | Name | IUCN Equivalent | Comment |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Sisters Rocks | IV Habitat or Species Management Area | Buffer Zone |
| | St Giles Islet Complex | IV Habitat or Species Management Area | Core Zone |
| | L'Anse Fourmi Bay | IV Habitat or Species Management Area | Buffer Zone |
| | Hermitage Bay | IV Habitat or Species Management Area | Buffer Zone |
| Coastal and Marine Seascapes | NETMPA | V Protected Seascape | Buffer Zone |

The **National Wetlands Policy (NWP, 2002)** was developed to help manage the threats to wetlands and requires that the government protect, manage and restore wetlands (including reefs) in order to sustain and enhance their ecological and socio-economic values and function for current and future generations. An important objective of the wetlands policies contained in the NWP is to "commit all levels of government to a goal of no net loss of wetlands and their values and function, on publicly-owned lands and waters".

The NWP provides a rational framework through which the wise use of our wetlands can be achieved. These principles are also consistent with fulfilling our obligations under the Convention on Wetlands of international Importance especially as waterfowl habitat (Ramsar). The NWP sets out the wetland policies of the government of Trinidad and Tobago as follows: the GoRTT will

i) promote awareness and understanding of the wetland resources in Trinidad and Tobago and actively encourage participation of landowners, non-governmental organizations and institutions in wetland conservation;
ii) develop exemplary practices in support of wetland conservation and sustainable wetland use when it designs and implements government programmes on publicly owned land and waters;
iii) preserve outstanding examples of all wetland types in Trinidad and Tobago by including them in a system of national parks and other protected natural areas;
iv) be an active partner in cooperative activities, which promote wetland conservation in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean region;

v) support and promote the development within Trinidad and Tobago of the scientific and technological expertise needed for wetland conservation and ensure that this expertise is accessible to planners, managers, regulators and other decision-makers; and
vi) identify weaknesses in the present institutional and organisational structures relevant to wetland conservation and will develop activities for their improvement.

The **National Wildlife Policy (2013)** provides guidance on the sustainable management of undomesticated animals and plants, whether introduced, resident or migratory, their parts or derivatives, and their habitats. It addresses issues related to endangerment and provides guidance on the management of threatened species. It also addresses key policy issues on the management of game species, wildlife habitat and the engagement of civil society in the management of wildlife.

The, latest, yet outdated, **Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture Land and Fisheries (2011-2015)** aims to fostering the sustainable use and conservation of agriculture and fisheries resources through appropriate science and technologies, knowledge management and economic integration that enables producers to realise profits and consumers to secure food and nutrition requirements.
The Strategic Plan outlines the following goals:

- Respect for agriculture and the environment, empowerment of stakeholders and building of social capital for sustainable agriculture and rural development.
- Expanded opportunities for productive employment and improved social conditions for small-scale producers, including women and youth.
- Efficient, profitable and competitive agri-business enterprise and industries.
- Transparent, coordinated and result-driven agricultural institutional framework.
- Securing the interest of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Production.




**Development goals (green) and key outcomes (blue) of Tobago according to the Comprehensive Economic Development Plan**