PESTLE

# POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, LEGAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

of the
North-east Tobago UNESCO
Man and the Biosphere Reserve
Management Plan

## POLITICAL

- Two-party system
- Strong political support by governing party 2022-2026
- Internal self-government
- Four THA electoral districts within the NETMABR
- One national electoral district
- Social divisions along party lines
- Stable political system
- Signatory to several relevant multilateral agreements
- Relatively low tax regime

## ECONOMIC

- Strongly dependent on government subventions and unemployment relief programmes
- THA main employer
- Major, private sectors economic drivers are tourism, fisheries, retail
- No significant manufacturing or other industries
- Poverty mostly related to social co-factors
- High cost of living
- Agriculture not a significant income generator
- Most people own a house or live in family-owned dwellings
- Decline in fish and shell fish landings over the last 20 years
- Last census data questionable
- Very limited disaggregated data
- Fixed US-TTD exchange rate approximately 1USD = 6.8TTD
- Very limited availability of foreign exchange
- Unemployment rate and GDP for Tobago not available
- Insufficient banking and insurance environment
- Inflation rate between 1% and 5% over the last decade
- High dependency on import
- Unskilled labourer daily wage 250TTD to 300TTD
- Skilled labourer 350TTD to 450TTD
- Labourer monthly wage 2,800TTD to 5,000TTD
- Monthly wages with tertiary degree starting from 7,000TTD
- Minimum wage is 17.50TTD per hour
- Relatively low level of long-term economic planning on the family and individual level
- Annual budget allocation to the THA no less than 4.03% of national budget
- THA highly dependent on national budget allocations which are linked to oil and gas prices

## SOCIAL

- Under resourced protected area and natural resource management authorities
- Strong socio-cultural identity and cohesion
- Cultural identity linked to African heritage and influenced by colonial history
- Mainly conservative society, strongly influenced by Christian faith
- Weak primary, secondary and tertiary educational vocational system
- Weak social welfare
- Brain drain
- 12 communities, approximately 12.000 residents, mainly of African heritage
- Last census data questionable
- Very limited disaggregated social data
- Relatively young society
- Young males vulnerable to social and economic risks
- Females achieve higher educational levels

## TECHNOLOGICAL

- Deficient in application of sustainable innovative technologies
- Traditional technologies require documentation, knowledge sharing and amalgamated with modern technologies
- Relatively well-developed infrastructure
- Low level of knowledge exchange

## TECHNOLOGICAL

- Fragmented management
- Outdated, overlapping legislation
- Relatively strong legal and policy environment
- Pieces of legislation are insufficient or missing
- Weak law and policy enforcement

- No specific laws or policies regarding the UNESCO MAB reserve
- Breeching environmental laws is often socially accepted
- Corruption and nepotism are not perceived as serious crime
- Relatively strong labour laws

## ENVIRONMENTAL

- Relatively intact ridge-to-reef-to-ocean ecosystem
- Landscape dominated by MRFR and abandoned agricultural estates
- Seascape: coral-sponge co-dominated reefs, islets and open ocean
- Ecoregions:
- NT 0171 moist forests
- NT 0231 dry forests

- Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem
- Annual sargassum landfalls
- Climate change impact on human- and eco-systems
- Coral bleaching events 2005/2010
- MRFR oldest protected tropical forest globally
- Marine hydrocarbon (gas) extraction close to BR
- Very limited continuous ecosystem health monitoring programmes
- Relatively high level of scientific research
- Research and environmental background information not easily available
- Very limited recycling started in 2019
- Local CSR underdeveloped
- No ethical sourcing of products
- Risk of larger oil spills

