MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Twin-island State of approx 5000 sq.km

Located north of Venezuela on the South American coast

Southernmost islands of the Caribbean archipelago.
Trinidad has a Total Land Area of 482,600 ha

- Total Forested Area: 232,093 ha (48%)
- Proclaimed Forest Reserves: 127,474 ha (26.4%)
- Unproclaim Forest Reserves: 11,652 ha (2.4%)
- Other Forested State Lands: 36,967 ha (7.6%)

Private Lands: 56,000 ha (11.6%)
Main Ridge Forest Reserve
Proclaimed 1765
“for the protection of the Rains”
POLICY FRAMEWORK

- First Forest Policy - 1942
- Convention on Biodiversity - 1996 (ratified by T&T)
- National Environmental Policy - 2006
- National Tourism Policy - 2010
- New National Forest Policy - 2011
- National Protected Areas Policy - 2011
- National Climate Change Policy - 2011
ROLES OF FORESTRY DIVISION

• Biodiversity Conservation
• Wildlife Conservation
• Watershed Management
• Ecosystem Services
• Control of Climate Change
• Recreation and Ecotourism
• Environmental Education
• Timber Production
• Non-timber Forest Products
• Community Forestry
• Enhanced Food Production
Biodiversity Of Trinidad And Tobago

• 3,100 species of plants (59 endemic)
• 433 species of birds
• 100 species of mammals
• 98 species of reptiles
• 38 species of amphibians
• 659 species of butterflies
• 1051 species of fish
• 523 species of marine invertebrates
National Biodiversity Strategy And Action Plan 2001

Having ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity the Government of Trinidad and Tobago drafted The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), in order to carry out the objectives of the Convention.

The five main focal areas of the NBSAP project are as follows:

- Education and Awareness
- Policy and Commitment
- Legislation and Enforcement
- Information and Research and
- Institutional Capacity
PRIORITY – LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Drafting of new law in progress - Protected Areas, Wildlife Conservation, and Forestry Bill 2012.

- Formulation of Wildlife Policy in progress

- Revision of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
Forest and Protected Area Management Authority is being developed to promote:

- flexibility in responding to forest management needs;
- development of the necessary multi-disciplinary capacity for forest management;
- human resource management that is suitable to the special demands of managing natural areas; and
- independent access to and management of funding
PRIORITIES -

GEF project on Protected Areas Management

Collaboration with Research Institutions to be encouraged

Mainstreaming approach for implementation of standards

Project for Ecosystem Services 2010-2014 in progress

National Forest Inventory to be conducted soon.
INFORMATION SHARING

• Clearing House Mechanism

• Program of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) under CBD

• National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

• National Reports

• Reports on Research Projects
Sharing and Incorporation of Data

- All the aforementioned policies and conventions are located on the aforementioned website.
- National Biodiversity Information System Initiative - Technical Assistance from CONABIO (Mexico).
  - [http://www.cbd.int/countries/?country=tt](http://www.cbd.int/countries/?country=tt)
CHALLENGES

Lack of Biodiversity baseline data

Insufficient applied research

No systematic monitoring and measurements

Insufficient dialogue amongst researchers

Weak science-policy interface

No evaluation of policy effectiveness
Requirements for successful management of Biodiversity in Trinidad and Tobago

• Strong Political Priority across sectors

• Sustainable Financing Mechanisms

• Capacity Building Initiatives – human and technological

• Effective Coordinating Mechanism
THANK YOU

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