

# 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 National Environmental Policy 1998 & 2005.
- 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.**



## **NEP Part 3.4 (Continued)**

- 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.

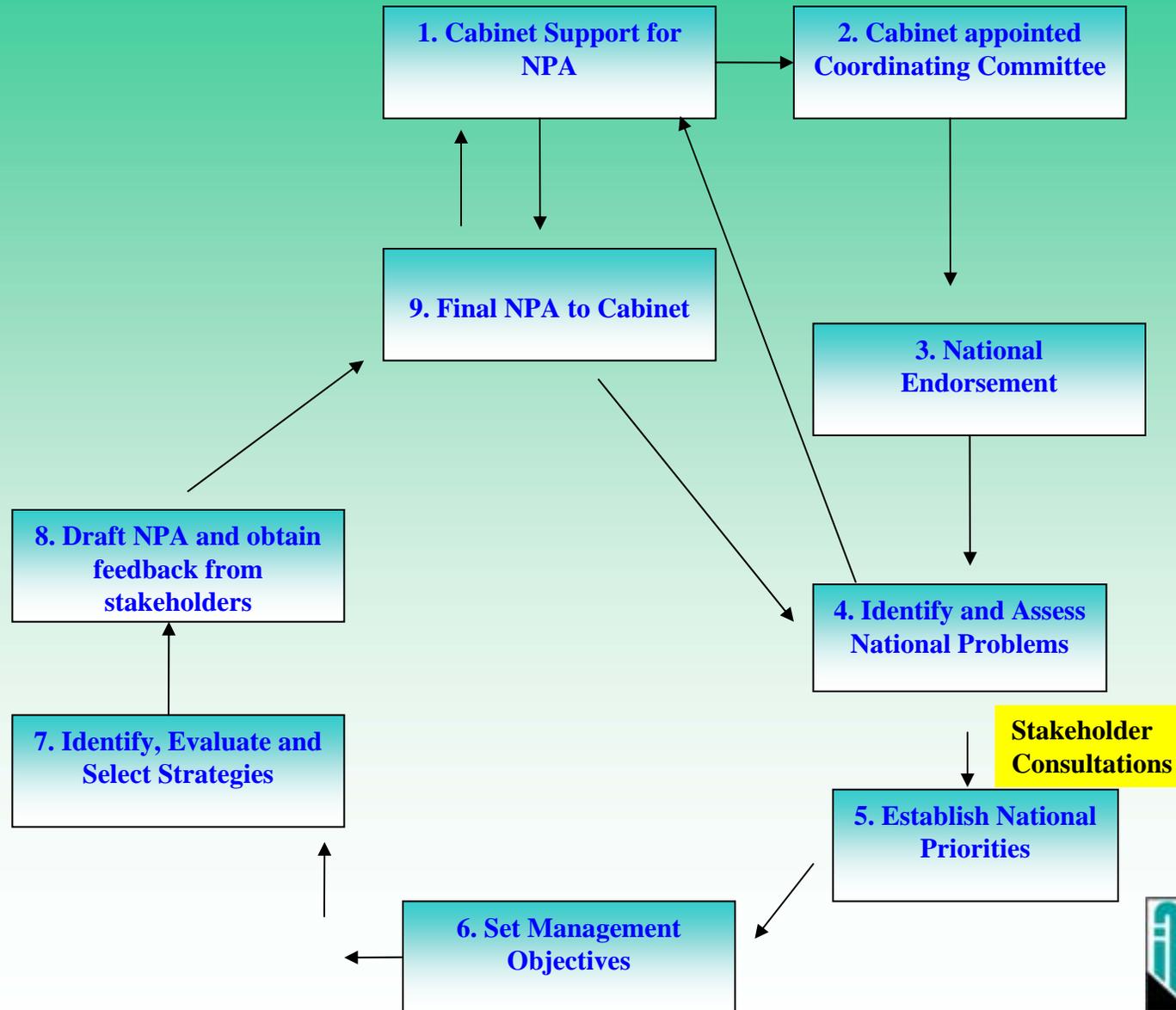


# Collaboration Areas with NOAA Node Office

- 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.



# NPA CYCLE – PHASE I – Nov.04 – Sept. 06



# 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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