



**MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY**

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June ^{6th}, 2023

Ms. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House
Office of the Parliament
Parliamentary Complex
Cabildo Building
St. Vincent Street
Port of Spain

Dear Ms Sampson-Meiguel

The Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on the implementation of the 2021 budget with emphasis on the "Green Economy"

Reference is made to your letter Parl.: 5/6/19 dated April 19, 2023 on the captioned subject. The Ministry of Planning and Development (MPD) requested an extension to submit its response by June 7 which was granted via email dated June 5, 2023.

Please find attached the Ministry's responses relating to the recommendations of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee (PAAC) contained in The Ninth Report of the PAAC on the implementation of the 2021 budget with emphasis on the "Green Economy".

The delay in submission is regretted.

Yours Respectfully,

**Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Planning and Development**

**PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT**

Enc.

Ministerial Response to The Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on the implementation of the 2021 budget with emphasis on the “Green Economy”

National Performance Framework (NPF) Hindrances

Recommendation:

The MPD should provide the following to Parliament by May 31, 2023:

- i. The achievement of the National Outputs and Outcomes as stated in the table above;
- ii. A status update on the Monitoring and Evaluation of the NPF and the findings;
- iii. A status update on data collection issue and challenges experienced in streamlining available data; and
- iv. The readjustments made to the NPF in fiscal 2023 and the benefits derived from those readjustments

Response:

i. Achievement of National Outputs and Outcomes

The following update on the achievement of the National Outputs and Outcomes as outlined in Table 1 of the Report is submitted hereunder:

Vision 2030 Goal – Carbon Footprint will be reduced

National Outcome	Performance Indicator	Baseline	Target to 2020	Actual Measure in 2020
Reduced Fossil Fuel Use	*Absolute carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2) *Revised	*21,860.55 equivalent CO2 (Power Generation and Transport) (2012)	Reduction of emissions by 1% from the baseline	Reduced by 11.78% (2018) ¹

¹ Source: Ministry of Planning and Development, Environmental, Policy Planning Division (EPPD).

National Outputs	Indicator	Baseline	Target to 2020	Actual Measure in 2020
Increased Use of Alternative Fuels in the Transportation Sector	% share of renewable energy power generation	<i>Not Available</i>	10% (by 2021)	-
	% change in CNG volumes	<i>Not Available</i>	<i>Not Available</i>	-
	No. of alternative fuels vehicle imports	<i>Not Available</i>	<i>Not Available</i>	-
	No. of CNG vehicle conversion	<i>Not Available</i>	<i>Not Available</i>	-
Increased Use of Clean and Renewable Energy (RE) Technologies	Uptake of RE incentives	<i>Not Available</i>	<i>Not Available</i>	-

As it relates to the achievement of National Outcome: Reduced Fossil Fuel Use, the target to reduce emissions by 1% from the baseline by 2020 was surpassed by 10.78% to 11.78% in 2018.

In measuring progress towards the National Output: Increased Use of Alternative Fuels in the Transportation Sector, a target of 10% renewable energy power generation by 2021 was established. However, in the absence of baseline data and data for the actual measure achieved in 2020, progress towards this result could not be determined.

Additionally, as it pertains to the performance indicators: *% change in CNG volumes; No. of alternative fuels vehicle imports; No. of CNG vehicle conversion; and Uptake of RE incentives*, no baseline data and targets were identified. Therefore, due to the absence of data, the MPD is unable to determine whether the National Outputs: Increased Use of Alternative Fuels in The Transportation Sector and Increased Use of Clean and Renewable Energy (RE) Technologies was achieved in 2020.

Vision 2030 Goal – Carbon Footprint will be Reduced (cont'd)

National Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	Target to 2020	Actual Measure in 2020
Improved Energy Efficiency	Electricity Consumption per capita	<i>Not Available</i>	<i>Not Available</i>	-
	Energy Intensity	<i>Not Available</i>	<i>Not Available</i>	-
National Outputs	Indicator	Baseline	Target to 2020	Actual Measure in 2020
Energy Efficiency Measures Implemented in Industries	No. of Industrial Energy audits conducted	<i>Not Available</i>	<i>Not Available</i>	-
	No. of Energy Efficient certification/ Labelling	<i>Not Available</i>	<i>Not Available</i>	-

Due to the absence of relevant data, the MPD is unable to determine whether the National Outcome: Improved Energy Efficiency and National Output: Energy Efficiency was achieved as no baseline data, nor targets to 2020 were provided for the respective performance indicators.

Vision 2030 Goal – Climate Vulnerability will be assessed

National Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	Target to 2020	Actual Measure in 2020
Increased Resilience of Climate Vulnerable Communities	Time and cost for communities to recover after climate change associated events	<i>Not Available</i>	Time and cost for recovery reduced by 20%	-
National Outputs	Indicator	Baseline	Target to 2020	Actual Measure in 2020
Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk Assessments Developed	No. of Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk Assessments conducted	0	8 sectors	8 sectors ²

² Source: Ministry of Planning and Development, EPPD.

	for all sectors in Trinidad and Tobago			
Adaptation Actions for Vulnerable Sectors Implemented	No. of adaptation projects implemented within vulnerable sectors to adapt to the impacts of climate change	0 (2015)	1	1 (2019) ³
Improved Integrated Disaster Management System	<i>Not Available</i>	<i>Not Available</i>	<i>Not Available</i>	-

Due to the unavailability of data to monitor and report on the progress of key indicators the MPD is unable to determine whether the National Outcome: Increased Resilience of Climate Vulnerable Communities and National Output: Improved Integrated Disaster Management System was achieved in 2020.

However, for the National Output: Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk Assessments Developed, the target of completing eight (8) sectors by 2020 was achieved as reported in the Vision 2030 Achievement Report 2018-2019. As such, climate vulnerability risk and capacity assessments in the following sectors were completed: Agriculture and Food Security, Water Resources, Biodiversity, Human Health, Coastal Resources and Fisheries, Infrastructure and Human Settlements, Finance (including insurance) and Tobago.

For the National Output: Adaptation Actions for Vulnerable Sectors Implemented, one (1) project was implemented in 2019, meeting the stated target one (1) year earlier.

**It should be noted that data collection mechanisms are currently being developed to capture and report on all relevant data pertaining to climate change. It is anticipated that the MPD will be able to report on the progress of performance indicators for climate change within the near future. This work is in progress under the Capacity Building Initiative Transparency (CBIT) which seeks to ensure compliance with reporting obligations under the Paris Agreement. This project is expected to be completed in August 2024.*

ii. Status Update on Evaluation of the NPF 2017-2020 and Key Findings

The Ministry of Planning and Development developed the NPF 2017-2020 to monitor, measure and report on the first planning horizon (2016-2020) of the Trinidad and Tobago National Development Strategy 2016-2030 or 'Vision 2030'. In preparation for the development of a 'new'

³ Source: Ministry of Planning and Development, EPPD.

NPF to monitor, measure and report on the implementation of Vision 2030 over the medium term period or second planning horizon (2021-2025), the MPD with the technical assistance of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) engaged an external consultant to conduct a Final Evaluation of the NPF 2017-2020.

The main objective of the Evaluation was to assess the overall effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the Framework to be used as a tool to monitor, measure and report on the implementation of Vision 2030 over the short term. In this regard, the evaluation commenced in November 2020 and was completed in March 2021.

Key Findings of the Final Evaluation of the NPF 2017-2020:

From an international development perspective, the NPF was aligned to results-based management (RBM) and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) practices and principles adopted by several multilateral development agencies such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank Group (WBG) and the IADB.

The NPF served as a key measurement tool for Vision 2030 and by extension the development landscape of Trinidad and Tobago. Moreover, the NPF was the only comprehensively packaged, appropriate and deliberate measurement tool to assess the implementation progress and performance within the context of Vision 2030;

The NPF supported Government's governance approach by providing links between national interventions and results to support improving accountability in the use of public funds and resources; and promoting learning and enhanced public sector efficiency and effectiveness;

The NPF allowed Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to have a clearer perspective on their contributions to Vision 2030 and offered a better understanding of the results that MDAs were working towards achieving; and

The NPF allowed MDAs to occupy a stronger position to make informed decisions for programming in the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP), as well as regional and international development project arrangements through the use of performance data outlined in the NPF.

However, despite the many positive findings of the evaluation on the NPF it was also found that there was limited utilization of the NPF by MDAs; poor data collection and management; a weak reporting culture around performance; and low M&E capacity and insufficient M&E Units,

systems and structures in MDAs. These factors would have had a significant impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of the NPF.

iii. Status update on addressing data collection issues and challenges in streamlining available data

The predictability and confidence of securing quality data remains a significant challenge. In the case of greenhouse gas data for tracking low carbon development and fulfilling international reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement of our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), a Cabinet Note entailing technical drafting instructions for legislating the voluntary mitigation measurement, reporting, and verification system has been prepared and submitted to Cabinet.

In addition, the MPD through the National Transformation Unit (NTU) has been working closely with MDAs to provide support and assistance in building their data collection capacity to address the data collection issues and challenges. This support has taken the form of one-on-one consultations and training in data collection methods and analysis.

iv. Readjustments to NPF in Fiscal 2023 and Benefits derived

In response to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, instead of developing a new NPF to track the implementation of Vision 2030 during the medium term, the MPD was instead mandated by Cabinet to develop a M&E Framework for the Roadmap to Recovery (R2R) Phase II Report and the Community Recovery Report (CRR) to monitor, measure and report on the implementation of the key recommendations contained in the Reports for the period 2022-2025.

The M&E Framework for the R2R Phase II Report and CRR is a mechanism by which Government can measure its performance towards ‘recovery’ and ‘transformation’ post the COVID-19 pandemic as it translates the R2R Phase II Report and the CRR into tangible and measureable results, and outlines expected results and targets to be achieved by 2025. Currently, a Draft M&E Framework for the R2R Phase II Report and CRR 2022-2025 has been developed.

Strategies implemented to ensure economic activity begins with an environmentally sustainable lens

Recommendation:

The MPD should provide a status update to Parliament by May 31, 2023 on the successes and failures of the strategies employed to address the interconnected environmental issues and the actions to be taken by the Ministry to remedy any failures that may be identified.

Response:

A number of strategies were employed to address the interconnected environmental issues and the actions that were taken by the Ministry. Some of these include:

1. Establishment of blueprints for green growth;
2. Building Climate and Environment Resilience;
3. Beverage Container Deposit Refund Policy;
4. National Cooling Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago;
5. National Guidelines for the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Sector in Trinidad and Tobago;

Implementation of these strategies, including enforcement of policy and legislation, has been undertaken in the following areas:

1. Implementation and Expansion of the Green Government Policy

The Green Government Policy of Trinidad and Tobago was approved in 2011 with the provision that the implementation of the Policy be rolled out at the former Ministry of Housing and the Environment with the intent of determining its practicality and feasibility before its implementation in the wider public sector.

The Green Government Policy implementation was initiated at the former Ministry of Housing and the Environment and subsequently at the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources with the transfer of the environment portfolio to the latter Ministry. The roll out of the policy was successful and in 2018, under the MPD, the Green Government Policy Expansion commenced, inviting Ministries and associated Agencies across the Government to participate in the implementation of the Green Government Policy at their respective offices. The Green Committee of the MPD provided the requisite technical information and guidance to ensure successful policy implementation.

In February 2018 the Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company Ltd. (SWMCOL) launched the Public Sector Recycling Programme (PSRP) which aims to inculcate a recycling culture throughout all Government Ministries and state entities under the tagline “Leading by Example”. The programme, currently targets waste paper and post-consumer beverage containers. As at end-February 2021, 50 Government ministries and agencies were actively participating in the PSRP. This has further aided in the implementation of the Green Government Policy.

2. Climate Change Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment for Trinidad and Tobago

The climate change vulnerability and capacity assessment for Trinidad and Tobago is expected to be integrated into the portfolios of MDAs and local government bodies. To this end, a climate risk training programme is currently being developed in collaboration with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre for training MDAs and local government bodies through the use of a climate risk tool Caribbean Climate Online Risk and Adaptation tool (CCORAL) and is scheduled

for July-Aug 2023. The training would also include a “train-the-trainer” module to ensure continuity and sustainability for capacity building and continuous integration in strategic plans. The objective would be for entities in each sector to use the tool to assess climate risks and develop response strategies within the context of respective remits and legal mandates, as appropriate.

3. Beverage Container Deposit Refund Policy

Waste recycling and waste management is under the remit of the Ministry of Public Utilities. The Ministry of Public Utilities is currently reviewing the policy framework for the introduction of a deposit refund system on beverage containers. In this regard, the MPD and the Environmental Management Authority (EMA), as critical stakeholders in relation to this issue, have been consulted by the Ministry of Public Utilities with regard to the review of the policy framework. The Ministry of Planning and Development has not received any update from the Ministry of Public Utilities with regard to this review process.

4. National Cooling Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago

Implementation of the National Cooling Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago is ongoing. Key outputs have included the completion of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) through the Energy Labelling - Air Conditioners – Requirements (TTS/CRS 59:2021) and TTS/CRS 57:2021- Energy Labelling - Refrigerating Appliances in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards, as well as the revision of the Import and Export Negative Lists in 2022 to include additional refrigerant controlled under the Montreal Protocol (Legal Notices 212 and 213 of 2022).

5. National Guidelines for the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Sector in Trinidad and Tobago

These guidelines have been incorporated into the Professional Certification Scheme for Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technicians. It has also been distributed and incorporated as a training resource for technical/vocational schools for refrigeration and air conditioning.

Recommendation:

The MPD in collaboration with the MOF should craft a Green Budgeting Framework with specific plans and measurable to encourage MDAs to simultaneously gather evidence on how budget measures impact environmental and climate objectives and submit a copy to Parliament by May 31, 2023.

Response:

The MPD is in agreement with the above recommendation and is prepared to take the necessary actions towards the development of a Green Budgeting Framework, with specific and measurable

plans, to encourage MDAs to simultaneously gather evidence on how budget measures impact environmental and climate objectives.

Challenges faced during implementation of Vision 2030 Theme V: Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development

Recommendation:

The MPD should submit to Parliament by May 31, 2023 the steps taken to overcome the challenges faced in the implementation of projects and monitoring and evaluation of Theme V.

Response:

The MPD embarked on the following key initiatives to address the challenges faced in the effective implementation of projects and M&E of Theme V:

Development of a National M&E Policy for the Public Sector of Trinidad and Tobago.

The primary purpose of the Policy is to support the utilization of M&E skills, tools, and practices to increase evidence-based decision making, and further strengthen the institutionalization of a culture of performance measurement across the public sector of Trinidad and Tobago. The Policy will support improved project design, planning and delivery of results; and build institutional capacity in MDAs to conduct various M&E activities to improve the performance of projects under Theme V.

Implementation of the Policy will include sensitization exercises with MDAs on the standardized use and application of M&E in the public sector of Trinidad and Tobago.

Development of an M&E Framework for R2R Phase II Report and CRR

In 2021, Cabinet agreed to the development of an M&E Framework for the R2R Phase II Report and CRR to monitor, measure and report on Government's performance during the medium term (2022-2025). Since the R2R Phase II Report and the CRR was adopted as part of Government's medium term strategy, the development of an M&E Framework is a critical step to addressing the challenges of implementation and M&E under Theme V.

Therefore, to support effective implementation and tracking of projects under Theme V, the MPD in the development of the M&E Framework conducted extensive cluster stakeholder consultations to ensure alignment of projects to national results; agreement on key measurement information such as performance indicators, baselines and set targets to be achieved by 2025; and development of a performance reporting mechanism to report on achievements of performance indicators and key projects and programmes, including those related to Theme V. It should also be noted, that the

M&E Framework's reporting mechanism will encourage MDAs to collect data to track progress and inform national reporting to the public.

Engagement of a Consultant to Conduct a Diagnostic of the National M&E Ecosystem in the Public Sector of Trinidad and Tobago

The MPD is currently preparing a TOR to engage the services of a consultant to undertake a diagnosis of the public sector's M&E Ecosystem. This project will obtain information on the gaps and opportunities within the current M&E ecosystem and will seek to examine the organisational/institutional systems, processes and capacities for monitoring and reporting, evaluation and data collection. It is expected that the findings of the diagnostic will inform the development of a National M&E Plan to further strengthen M&E capacity and capabilities in the public sector, and inform the development of a focused strategy for improving data collection and management systems in all MDAs.

Projects under Vision 2030 Theme V

The key projects under Theme V in the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP), are listed in the table below. These projects are in progress and experienced delays due to restrictions instituted to mitigate the spread of COVID 19, and capacity and procurement issues. The table provides the actions taken to alleviate these challenges.

Ministry	Project name	Challenges	Steps taken to Overcome the Challenges
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries	Reforestation of Denuded Northern Range Hillside	Weak Project Management Capacity	The MPD worked with the Ministry to provide advice and guidance and to build their project management capacity, through training and sensitisation in the preparation of the Project Screening Brief. The projects are ongoing.
	Commercial Repository		
	Improvement of Forest Fire Protection Capability		
	Improved Management to the Natural Forest of South East Conservancy		
	Wetlands Management Project		
	Forestry Access Roads		
	National Parks and Watershed Management Project		
	Production of Nautical Charts of the Gulf of Paria		
	Sustainable Management of Wildlife Resources in Trinidad and Tobago		

Ministry	Project name	Challenges	Steps taken to Overcome the Challenges
Ministry of Planning and Development – Environmental Management Authority	Establishment of an Ambient Air Quality Management Programme	Procurement delays were experienced which impacted construction due to the restrictions put in place following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.	Works recommenced following the easing of restrictions and are currently ongoing.
	Development of Ambient Water Quality Standards	Delays were encountered in the procurement process as no bidder met the criteria for the consultancy to perform the Water Quality Assessment and the Rapid Biological Assessment components of the project.	The works have been re-tendered.
Ministry of Public Utilities	Procurement of a Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-16) Receiving System	Procurement delays were encountered due to the restrictions put in place following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.	The procurement process is now ongoing.

Recommendation:

The MPD should provide a status update on measures taken to deal with the weak data collection systems to collect reliable and credible data to track performance in MDAs as it relates to Theme V.

Response:

Measures taken by the MPD to address the challenge of weak data collection systems to collect reliable and credible data to track the performance of MDAs under Theme V include:

Conduct of Training on Data Collection and Management with MDAs

The Ministry has conducted several training sessions with MDAs on the importance of data collection and setting up of a Data Collection mechanism to support the collection of data to track project and programme performance over the implementation period. This training was conducted as part of the MPD's overall strategy to improve the submission of Project Screening Briefs (PSBs) for projects and programmes to be funded under the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP). Furthermore, the Ministry has undertaken to give consideration to requests for funding from

MDAs, as part of their PSIP submissions, to establish and strengthen their own data collection and management systems.

Conduct of Basic M&E Training for MDAs with a Component on Data Collection and Management

In collaboration with the Public Service Academy of the Ministry of Public Administration (MPA), the MPD through the NTU trained over 40 public officers in the basics of M&E from 20 MDAs. A key feature of the training programme was Data Collection and Analysis which sought to highlight the importance of data collection and build capacity within MDAs to develop their own data collection systems. As such, MDAs were trained in several areas including data collection methods, data quality and data analysis.

Legislation of the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) System

In respect of data collection for greenhouse gas emissions, a Draft Cabinet Note entailing technical drafting instructions for legislating the voluntary mitigation measurement, reporting, and verification system has been prepared and submitted to Cabinet. Additionally, a draft Cabinet Note seeking approval for MDAs to report on integration of climate change policies and strategies within their respective remits has been prepared.

Additionally, the Central Statistical Office (CSO) has recommended the setting up of an environmental data sharing coordinating committee comprising relevant stakeholders to establish formal data sharing arrangements and to address data issues. This could include the establishment of Memoranda of Understanding between the MPD and any external agencies. The CSO has participated in preliminary discussions with the Ministry of Digital Transformation.

Recommendation:

The MPD should liaise with the MOF to address the untimely release of funding to pay outstanding bills and purchase materials and submit an update to Parliament by May 31, 2023.

Response:

Although the Ministry of Finance (MOF) has overall responsibility for the preparation and administration of the National Budget and the release of funding, the MPD continues to work closely with the MOF and MDAs to ensure that adequate project documentation and other pertinent information are submitted in order to improve the rate of release of funding.

National Environmental Policy

Recommendation:

The EMA should submit a status update to Parliament by May 31, 2023 on:

- i. the benefits derived from the workshops held in Trinidad and Tobago in November and December 2019 and the actions to be taken going forward;**
- ii. the results of the workshops scheduled for 2021 and the timeline for future workshops in Trinidad and Tobago; and**
- iii. the engagement of the private and financial sectors in 2021 and the way forward post engagement.**

Response:

- i. Benefits derived from the workshops held in Trinidad and Tobago in November and December 2019 and the actions to be taken going forward.**

The workshops held in 2019 were targeted to government stakeholders and following these workshops, the EMA, through its Environmental Officers Programme, is collaborating with many of these stakeholders to share information on work being conducted by the various entities and the linkages to the 2018 National Environmental Policy (NEP).

Plans for 2023 will include continued collaboration with government stakeholders, including the Ministry of Finance to discuss and share information on issues such as project financing, linkages between environmental and financial risks, and loss and damage assessment as it relates to climate change.

- ii. Results of the workshops scheduled for 2021 and the timeline for future workshops in Trinidad and Tobago**

The workshops that were scheduled to take place in 2021 were put on hold as the EMA decided to conduct a basic survey to determine the knowledge of the public, and more specifically business and entrepreneurial stakeholders, in relation to the NEP Priority Area “Evolving A Greener Economy”. It also captured information about the respondents’ interest in learning more about the concepts of a Greener Economy. The survey was conducted from October to December 2021 and was supported by a three-month online social media campaign as well as targeted emails to stakeholders inclusive of chambers, associations, private sector entities and civil society organisations.

Under the Working Groups for the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD), public engagement activities are being considered for 2023-2024 under the NEP Priority Areas

“Protecting Environmental & Human Health through Pollution Control” - Thematic Area 2.04 (Solid & Hazardous Waste), “Sustainably Managing Natural Assets” - Thematic Area 2.09 (Coastal & Marine Area Management) and Thematic Area 2.11 (Agriculture Management), and “Evolving a Greener Economy” - Thematic Area 2.18 (Economic Transformation).

iii. Engagement of the private and financial sectors in 2021 and the way forward post engagement.

The EMA continued to engage the private and financial sector through the following initiatives:

- a) Assessment of the State of the Environment, a component of the EMA’s Annual Report - Selected projects that closely align to the 2018 NEP were highlighted. For example, the Republic Bank Climate Finance Fund was highlighted in the 2021 Annual Report. The EMA also highlighted in its 2022 Annual Report, the following:
 - TT Agri-Investment Forum and Expo II (Transforming Agriculture Through Innovation and Investment);
 - The Caribbean Natural Capital Hub, a regional programme launched in 2022 by the Cropper Foundation and ANSA Merchant Bank Limited (Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados); and
 - The ‘Strengthening Financing for Caribbean Local Green-Blue Enterprises’ project, which is a regional initiative launched in 2020 by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), in collaboration with the Green Economy Coalition (GEC).

It should be noted that the 2022 Annual Report is not yet publicly available as it has been submitted to the Minister of Planning and Development to be laid before Parliament as per Section 14 of the Environmental Management Act, Chapter 35:05.

- b) The 2021 virtual Green Leaf Awards (GLA) – the GLA included a specific category for the private sector and Caribbean Bottlers T&T Limited won a Green Leaf Award. The GLA programme provides an opportunity for business entrepreneurs to be recognised for significant and positive contributions to the environment.
- c) Outreach to external stakeholders – the EMA facilitated sessions on various environmental topics as well as participated in exhibitions/conferences. For example, the EMA participated in the Health, Safety and Environment Conference hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago (AMCHAM).

For the period 2023-2024, under the Working Groups for the NCSD, stakeholders in the private and financial sectors will be engaged under NEP Priority Areas, “Sustainably Managing Natural Assets - Thematic Area 2.09 (Coastal & Marine Area Management) and Thematic Area 2.11 (Agriculture Management) and “Evolving a Greener Economy” - Thematic Area 2.18 (Economic

Transformation) through open-ended surveys which will inform the identification of short/medium/long term projects that are in alignment with the Priority Areas. The information collected will lead to the identification of challenges as they relate to the successful implementation of government policies and other initiatives that contribute to achieving the policy statements under the relevant Priority Areas.