REPORT ON THE STOCKHOLM+50 NATIONAL CONSULTATION TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
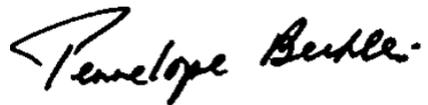
Final Version

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FOREWORD

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago recognises the increasing global environmental challenges we are experiencing, including climate instability, biodiversity loss, chemical pollution, and reduced and altered ecosystem goods and services. Trinidad and Tobago supports the vision of Stockholm+50 of a healthy planet for the prosperity of all, which can be achieved through equity and collective wellbeing, accelerated implementation of the sustainable development goals, a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and addressing the issue of intergenerational responsibility.

The multi-stakeholder Stockholm+50 National Consultation undertaken in Trinidad and Tobago engaged civil society, government agencies, youth groups, women's and indigenous peoples' organizations, trade unions, international partners, and the private sector. Stakeholders highlighted their concerns in the areas of nature, climate, energy and socioeconomic development and the cross-cutting linkages among them. This report documents stakeholder input and their proposed actions and solutions to deliver on the promise of Stockholm+50.

Trinidad and Tobago has committed to policies, frameworks, collaboration and action on both a national and international level to address these challenges by supporting long term sustainable and equitable development, and just transition pathways to a low carbon, circular, nature positive and resilient economy.

Honourable Pennelope Beckles
Minister of Planning and Development
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CANARI   Caribbean Natural Resources Institute

CSO   Civil Society Organization

CSR   Corporate Social Responsibility

GEF   Global Environment Facility

ICT   Information and Communications Technology

KAP   Knowledge, Awareness and Practices

MEA   Multilateral Environmental Agreement

NBSAP   National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

NCD   Non-Communicable Disease

NDC   Nationally Determined Contribution

NGC   The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago

NGO   Non-governmental Organization

NRWPTT   Network of Rural Women Producers of Trinidad and Tobago

UN   United Nations

UNDP   United Nations Development Programme

UNEP   United Nations Environment Programme

SDG   Sustainable Development Goal

SGP   Small Grants Programme

SIDS   Small Island Developing States

THA   Tobago House of Assembly

WASA   Water and Sewerage Authority

1. National Consultation at a Glance

Consultation dates	**Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) - April 19** **Trade Unions - April 26** **Youth - April 28** **Private Sector - May 5** **Women and Indigenous Peoples - May 12** **National Consultation - May 23**
Lead national partner(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Ministry of Planning and Development Department of the Environment, Tobago House of Assembly
Type(s) of consultation	Virtual, Hybrid
Geographic focus	National
Total number of hours in live sessions	20
Live streaming	Yes
Link to the recording	https://www.sparkblue.org/stockholm50/consultation-trinidad-and-tobago https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IqW40Td5zk0

Total number of participants	222

Number of participants by age range										
0-18	1	19-30	58	31-50	105	51-65	48	66-80	10	80+	

Number of participants by gender					
Male	86	Female	135	Other/prefer not to say	1

Number of participants from each stakeholder group			
Government – National	27	Science, Academia	15
Government - Local	6	Foundation, philanthropy	1
United Nations	19	Women and Women Groups	16
International Financial Institution		Youth	28
Bilateral / Foreign Governments	6	Local Community	6
NGO – International	10	Faith-based groups	3
NGO / CSO – national	41	Indigenous Peoples	2
Private sector (large)	15	People with disabilities	3
Small and Medium Business	13	Other	11

Number of participants from each sector					
Agriculture & Food	9	Forestry	2	Media	7
Cities	2	Government	19	Tourism	4
Education	19	Green energy	7	Traditional Energy	2
Environment	64	ICT	1	Trade & Commerce	3
Extractives	3	Industry	6	Transport	5
Finance & Investment	8	Infrastructure	2	Utilities	2
Fisheries & Aquaculture		Health	4	Other	53

Government participation			
Office of President / Prime Minister		Ministry of Planning & Development	4
Parliament	1	Ministry of Finance	1
Cabinet of Ministers	1	Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries	2
Ministry of Labour	3	Ministry of Agriculture, Land & Fisheries	4
Local Governments	3	Line Ministries (other)	2

SparkBlue Online Consultation

Launch date	April 15
Consultation length (total number of weeks)	4
Total number of participants	15
Number of thematic discussions supported	3
Total number of comments in the online discussion	1
Link to consultation page	https://www.sparkblue.org/stockholm50/consultation-trinidad-and-tobago

2. Consultation Process including Gender Responsiveness and Inclusivity

The whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach was the basis of the consultation process. The preparation phase for the consultation was from February to April during which the consultation structure was defined, stakeholders identified, and communications strategy prepared. The key government partners, UN-system entities and other national stakeholders were identified for collaboration. The Stockholm+50 international event and plans for the national consultation were presented to the national government, UN-system entities and funding partners.

UNDP conducted online meetings with internal partners including the Communications Team, Accelerator Lab, UNDP GEF SGP and other colleagues, and with the Ministry of Planning and Development and Department of the Environment of the Tobago House of Assembly. During this period, the requisite project personnel were also hired.

For the period April to May, a series of five (5) virtual sessions were held with special interest groups and sectors: youth, civil society organizations (CSOs), women, indigenous peoples, private sector, and trade unions. The national consultation was held on May 23 in a hybrid format. Every effort was made to be as inclusive as possible and to raise the profile of the online sessions and national consultation in traditional and social media.

The consultation utilized the three (3) Stockholm+50 leadership dialogues to establish cross-cutting linkages in the areas of nature, climate and energy in relationship to Trinidad and Tobago's existing policies in these sectors. The national topics highlighted were nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation, green recovery from COVID-19 in the national context and accelerated implementation of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) through policy and action. The NDCs, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and draft Just Transition Policy were referenced in discussions.

The participants included government and intergovernmental organizations; private sector entities, including small businesses and local entrepreneurs; academia; national civil society organizations (CSOs) and networks; UN agencies; interest groups (trade unions, employers' organizations etc.); youth; persons with disabilities; women and elderly. Participation was promoted and encouraged through traditional and social media as well as postings on the SparkBlue page. A media release announced the launch of the consultation process and subsequent posts and articles promoted the specific virtual and hybrid events. Existing networks were leveraged to ensure that a wide representation of stakeholders attended the events. All the stakeholders invited were provided with the themes and guiding questions, so that they could come prepared for the discussions.

Please summarize how various stakeholder groups that are not traditionally involved in these processes and may be under vulnerable conditions or marginalized, including women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, people with disabilities, and others, were engaged in and contributed to the consultation.

The key principles used to formulate the consultation events were those of inclusion of all stakeholders especially marginalized and under-represented groups, and accountability to provide access to relevant

information so stakeholders could provide feedback and influence the consultation. A ready network of stakeholders through partnerships established by implementing externally and internally funded projects and other initiatives, such as Climate Promise, were leveraged to promote effective and comprehensive participation in the consultation. In addition, focal points and partners within the UN system were communicated with about the national consultation and virtual sessions.

These networks and individuals provided a comprehensive list of participants as well as mechanisms for outreach about the events. Relationships with CSOs such as the Cropper Foundation who themselves have an established network of CSOs and engage in delivering workshops and training to fellow CSOs, collaborated on the virtual sessions and assisted in disseminating information and providing spaces for virtual engagement.

Communications were specifically targeted to marginalized and vulnerable groups and focused virtual sessions were held with these groups to ensure their participation and input in the consultation process. Sign language interpretation was offered to persons with disabilities at the sessions they attended, and the venue selected for the hybrid national consultation was equipped for wheelchair access if needed. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the national consultation was done using a hybrid format which allowed for broader engagement and participation

The Youth Forum was led by the three (3) local members of the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force. This session fully integrated youth participation as all speakers were youth stakeholders and UNDP's young members of staff were also fully engaged in the session. There was special emphasis on exposing youth in UNDP's programmes to the themes of the consultation. A young spoken word artist was also included in the agenda to communicate environmental messages in a creative form that would appeal specifically to youth.

3. Main Consultation Inputs, Insights and Innovations

Participants at the National Consultation

An overview of the main themes, challenges, opportunities, solutions and recommendations

Key themes and sectors discussed

Key themes discussed included enforcement of environmental legislation, green and blue economy, waste management, food security, renewable energy, protection of biodiversity, gender equality, youth participation, inclusion of local communities and the vulnerable, need for collaboration and cooperation locally and regionally, and environmental education. Sectors discussed include agriculture, tourism, finance, environment, energy, industry, transport, and utilities.

Challenges discussed

Key challenges include lack of financial resources and updated technologies, need for capacity building and behavioural change for sustainable development, lack of coordination and dialogue among stakeholders. Insufficient enforcement of environmental laws, food security concerns, siloed approaches to environmental action, vulnerability of marginalized groups to climate change and lack of inclusivity of vulnerable groups in decision making are also national challenges highlighted by stakeholders.

Opportunities discussed

Opportunity to convert the economy to greener and less fossil fuel dependent, promote sustainable agriculture and tourism, scale up green initiatives by entrepreneurs and small businesses, and ensure greater inclusivity for vulnerable groups. Youth are eager to be involved to a greater degree in decision making about environmental issues. Environmental education can be incorporated into all levels of the curricula to develop an understanding of the environment. Curricula can also be reviewed to include the skills needed for the green economy.

Solutions discussed

Environmental education was suggested by all groups when discussing the leadership dialogues. There should be new forms of education that revolve around hands-on experiences with the environment. Improved collaboration among stakeholders through structured mechanisms to increase involvement in decision making and cooperation on environmental projects. A centralized green knowledge and project exchange mechanism for data sharing and access to information on progress made on national and local environmental initiatives and to facilitate connection. Immediate retraining of those affected by the transition to a green economy and increased use of renewable energy.

Recommendations suggested

The main recommendations were:
- Promote sustainable agriculture through incentives and assistance to vulnerable groups.
- Continue discussions and updates on action taken with stakeholders.
- Communicate with stakeholders using different strategies to inform and increase awareness on environmental issues.
- Facilitate greater involvement of youth, women, CSOs and vulnerable groups in decision-making processes.

Summary of the discussions under each Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogue theme and their guiding questions.

Multi-stakeholder Discussion on the Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogues

Leadership Dialogue 1. Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all

1.   How can we restore and regenerate a positive relationship with nature? List 2 or 3 good practices and pathways that your partners would like to see scaled up to enable a move to a healthy planet.

Re-establishing people's direct contact with the natural environment is the basis of positive practices. This includes exposure to the environment through accessible green spaces especially in urban areas. Both formal and informal education on the environment and anthropogenic effects is needed, starting with the very young through to tertiary level, using hands-on experiences with the environment, and including indigenous knowledge and techniques.

The media needs to better highlight the environment, including benefits, value, and impacts. Awareness building through media and other mechanisms can act as a catalyst for behavioural change. Increased awareness is also needed for policy makers, people within the government and for the population at large.

Pathways that should be scaled up are increased recycling in the context of holistic waste management; incentivization of positive behaviours possibly through a points system for rewards; building capacity of all stakeholders; stricter enforcement of environmental laws; and partnerships to bring about new

solutions and opportunities, such as take-back programmes for e-waste and collaboration with funding organizations.

2.   What are the actions that your country/partners would take to scale up the change towards a healthy planet? What policies/structures need to be in place for you to take such action?

Funding mechanisms are the chief recommendation for scaling up projects. Suggestions are (a) improving funding for environmental projects, (b) cultural change related to creating a society that is more supportive of such projects by engaging community leaders, and (c) adjusting the approach to national accounting to include natural capital and externalities.

A hub/nexus for environmental action to help create synergies among projects and help them scale up through partnerships and sharing of resources is another recommendation made in all dialogues. Similarly, more inter-ministerial planning is needed to avoid a siloed approach, and advocating to local government for community programmes, such as recycling. Incorporating cultural arts, music etc. to spread the message towards a healthy planet is also important.

Policies and structures suggested are communal gardens in communities and schools, rethinking urban development that includes sustainable principles and green space, cultural sensitization, public utilities/Infrastructural reform, such as the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA).

3.   How could marginalized and vulnerable groups benefit from policies and initiatives designed to restore a more sustainable and resilient relationship with nature (that mitigates nature risks)?

Governments and partner agencies should offer financing, expertise, visibility, or some other resource. Suggestions are:

1. Targeting and identifying community influencers to facilitate the required conversations within communities.

2. A bottom-up approach so that communities determine their project targets and objectives from the ground up.

3. Existing community projects that are inclusive and that have scaled up need to be highlighted to inspire other groups, communities, and vulnerable populations.

4. Partnership approaches between government and grassroots agents of change to create the framework for simultaneous top-down and bottom-up approaches.

The cost (both absolute price and opportunity cost) for marginalized groups to adapt and change are higher, so government needs to subsidize and assist with this change. Buy-in is needed based on demonstration of benefits outweighing costs of environmental initiatives such as recycling. Marginalised groups need job opportunities from these initiatives as earning a living is a priority. Women and LGBTQI+ persons require greater inclusion in decision-making and recognizing their pivotal role in society,

educating them to make the best green decisions. Government initiatives whereby solar power is made available to the indigent/poor provides cheaper power and increases overall green output. Capacity building of marginalized youth with tangible, green skills is also necessary.

4. How can we safeguard the rights of people and nature, including among others, indigenous peoples and local communities, environmental defenders, women, youth, future generations?

Government plays an important role in protecting nature reserves through policy and legislation, such as the Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Environmentally Sensitive Species designations, and National Protected Areas Policy. Advocates within the environmental community are needed along with awareness and education to make people aware of their rights. Collaboration is needed among CSOs, and communities and groups traditionally not considered when making legislation, policy and other key decisions related to the environment, need to be active stakeholders in decision making.

Social and environmental assessments for projects should be more rigorous so that cultural values and biodiversity are fully considered and analysed. NGOs need to participate in projects that have a major environmental and/or social impact. Environmental decisions should be made with greater transparency, response-time, and should include young people and other marginalised groups. These groups should be provided with the information needed to safeguard themselves, nature and their rights through accessible platforms and resources. These resources would originate from government and other NGOs.

5. What are the new or prioritized set of metrics and indicators needed for tracking our progress towards a healthier and more prosperous planet?

The metrics and indicators identified are:

- Knowledge, Awareness and Practices (KAP) - Opinions, awareness and sentiments collected through a KAP survey, livelihoods and quality of life index
- Carbon pricing and environmental tax - such measurement will require an independent oversight agency, like a watchdog group to ensure neutrality/objectivity
- Public engagement - measured by people involved, giving from the public as under a coordinated giving approach
- Corruption Perception Index
- Happiness Index
- Rate of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)/Lifestyle diseases
- Achievement level of SDGs relevant to SIDS - monitor SDG gaps and progress e.g., poverty eradication, climate change, food security, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy and energy efficiency, education, gender equality among many others
- Disaster Risk Index
- Percentage of Natural Forest Cover
- Proportion of the population that has access to clean water

- Construction materials used
- Carbon Footprint
- Solar Power Use.

These indicators and metrics would be interconnected so a composite index could be developed using several of the suggested metrics/indicators.

Leadership Dialogue 2. Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

1. What are the most promising sustainable and inclusive recovery practices currently being applied by public, private and civil society groups at individual, community, city, regional, country level? And how could we scale them up?

E-Learning resources for environmental education have been very successful during the pandemic and can be rapidly scaled up. Home gardening and community gardening techniques were also successful and these could be readily applied on a national level. Collaboration was increased among groups during COVID-19 and these partnerships such as between local government and the police youth clubs, which in just one community impacted 150 youth and women, can contribute significantly to the recovery process.

Capacity building support is being provided by CANARI, a regional NGO, to local Green-Blue Enterprises to increase sustainability and climate-proof their activities. Increased support for small and micro-enterprises would promote inclusive recovery through implementing measures such as the Tobago Blue Economy Strategy. CZITT, a local NGO, hosted climate education on their online platform, which became a more comprehensive environmental science curriculum during COVID-19. Their platform now offers sustainable agriculture information for farmers, including practical exercises such as planting trees as a carbon offset and an overall integrated farming model.

Other initiatives that will contribute to recovery at the community and national level are: solar PV installation, training in entrepreneurial and digital skills, Caribbean Tree Planting Programme, Nitrogen Hydrogen Project which aims at decarbonization through the production of hydrogen as a fuel, Massy Foundation's NUDGE Entrepreneurship Programme which encourages green, women-led small businesses, CSOs for Good Environmental Governance Project, and the Tobago Reforestation and Watershed Management programme which encourages the cultivation of sustainable crops such as breadfruit as well as local agro-processing businesses.

2. What recovery and pre-existing practises need to be changed to ensure an inclusive and sustainable recovery?

The enabling framework needs to include greening the economy as a requirement of all national initiatives. Government needs to establish policies to engage stakeholders in a systematic manner in the

implementation of sustainable development. Incentives are also needed to stimulate investment in green energy. Sustainability reports from both government and the private sector are needed, and transparency must be embedded in government institutions and processes.

Low-income communities require access to devices and training to be included in the digital transformations towards a sustainable future. Computers are being refurbished and donated by NGOs and e-waste can be redirected to these groups for reuse. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and community projects must provide people with the right skills for the future, for example a current NGC training programme provides digital skills for workers who need it. Workers who are unemployed due to the effects of COVID-19 on the economy, need assistance to be retrained and reemployed. Micro and small enterprises require additional financial, technological, and capacity building support, as they account for a large proportion of economic activity, and often operate informally.

Other recovery practices include community gardens in rural communities, reduced use of single use plastics, and application of energy efficient practices in the home, such as installing solar water heaters and solar PV systems. Increased application of rainwater harvesting would ensure a sustainable water supply in homes with limited water resources. Greater collaboration is needed among all stakeholders toward achieving sustainability objectives. Organizations such as the Massy Foundation can act as a conduit for information sharing, promoting SDGs, and collaboration to increase the impact of CSOs' activities and encourage synergy among organizations.

3. How do we ensure that all countries/communities can benefit from opportunities stemming from a sustainable and just transition?

Retooling and reskilling of the labour force is an urgent need to support green economic activities. Public awareness and outreach are also critical to reduce misconceptions associated with adoption of green alternatives to traditional commodities and activities. A communication strategy is required to reach all of society and should include a centralized portal for access to key information. For example, specific tailored communication channels and messaging for the elderly would differ from the approach for youth. Trade Unions need to be included in outreach activities, as their members are most likely to be displaced by any interventions, and they need to be informed and trained on how to adapt to the changes and capitalize on the opportunities that are created.

As the country works towards increased adoption of Electric Vehicles and Renewable Energy generation, local mechanics and technicians need to be trained on how to repair and maintain EVs, install solar panels etc. In Tobago, certification programmes to recognize skillsets that were developed informally, through apprenticeships etc., need to be established. Co-operative societies need to provide educational resources to their members by allocating a portion of their budget to reach the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of society. Communities will need technical and personnel support, as well as mentorship in order to adapt to this transition. Programmes should cater to the realities of the vulnerable groups they are trying to help for e.g., if an organization is holding a basket weaving training session for local women, they also need to provide access to childcare, transport, or ensure that they have technology to access online sessions.

4.   How can we create better performing industries and supply chains for a just transition to more sustainable economies? which sectors are most critical?

The initial key step is conversion of our energy supply to renewable energy, such as solar. Existing systems as well as new designs need to be assessed for sustainability. Retrofitting of existing supply chains and systems will also be necessary. Alternative suppliers and raw materials are required that are more sustainable than those currently used. People, including supply chain managers need to be trained in the "new" skills needed to adapt to the greener economy. Data collection and management needs to be addressed with improved access to reliable data to support more sustainable decision making.

The educational curriculum needs to include basic supply chain issues, financial literacy, and home economics, in order to teach people how these are linked to sustainability. One of the sectors that should be included in sustainability and emissions assessments is the maritime sector which is not currently included in the NDCs. Maritime has opportunities to be more efficient and reduce their carbon footprint.

Policies and frameworks such as work from home policy (remote work policy) is needed as this will prevent traffic congestion, needless energy consumption etc. The transportation sector has a major role to play in meeting our NDC by greening their operations through a transportation policy. In addition, an efficient public transportation system that uses CNG and electric vehicles will greatly reduce the use of single occupant vehicles.

5.   What are some of the commitments and "responsible" principles that need to be made by key industry sectors and by finance and investment institutions?

Businesses need to give back through incentive programmes that link to community development initiatives. Financial institutions also need to contribute, possibly by adapting their fees, implementing grant programmes, or adopting a community programme. Industries and institutions need to invest in green initiatives and clean energy, while transitioning out of fossil fuel-based activities. Lending practices should consider longer periods for returns to allow time for scaling up green enterprises. Education systems should include financial literacy especially for entrepreneurs.

Sustainable tourism in SIDS is necessary for transitioning to a blue and/or green economy. Sustainable tourism would promote local entrepreneurship and help reduce unemployment rates, particularly in rural areas. Sustainable agriculture would be interlinked with tourism by providing local food to tourists and supplying local produce to the larger hotel chains. The Farm View App by the Cropper Foundation helps farmers ensure they are meeting certain standards to give increased legitimacy to their produce.

Industries should conduct independent assessments to identify how their operations need to change for a green, sustainable future. Existing industries such as the oil and gas industry need to invest in human capital by retooling, educating, and upskilling their existing employees on alternative forms of energy to help with the just transition to a greener economy. Green businesses and entrepreneurial activities must be scaled up to be ecologically and commercially sustainable.

6.   What are the decent green jobs of the future? What are the new skills needed, what is needed from business? from government? from academia?

Government and private sector need to inform the younger population on what green jobs are, how to get into them and the avenue to transition out of careers in traditional energy. Green jobs include those in sustainable tourism, agri-business, sustainable agriculture, hydroponics, sustainable fisheries, soil science and the technical and scientific sides of agriculture as well as research, development and technology, renewable energy, water conservation, food production and digital information systems.

Jobs in the environmental sector that focus on biodiversity and understanding it are important as the appreciation of biodiversity and the environment can have a spill over effect on the population irrespective of what field you are in. Green influencers that can speak to the public on green energy and environmental issues is another new job that will be needed for the future.

Skills required are digital skills, agricultural skills, energy auditing, water conservation (Rainwater Harvesting) and adaptation to scarcity (making more with less, reuse and repurpose). Retooling, retraining, and re-education need to start immediately. The population needs to be educated on new skills and be assured that just transition does not mean a loss of all jobs but that different jobs will be available in the green economy.

Leadership Dialogue 3. Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

1.   What are the biggest challenges we are facing in implementing the commitments to the 2030 Agenda and other environmental commitments (MEAs)? How do we create an enabling environment for delivery on the ground?

Challenges include financial constraints due to delays in receiving funding, lack of data availability and data sharing and minimal communication among stakeholders. There are also gaps in legislation that lead to a lack of environmental commitment. To create an enabling environment, there should be reformation of legislation, giving power to national environmental bodies ensuring equity and accountability measures to all stakeholders.

Communication of environmental information should be tailored to the target audience which in turn can increase stakeholder advocacy and available human resources. There is a need for improvement in the collection and publication of environmental data and documents. The creation of a national and international network of youth champions and youth governance and involvement in daily operations is an important step to foster delivery on the ground.

Networking among all stakeholders will allow for an exchange of technical expertise and engagement that is sustained. Education and training beyond traditional education systems to include sustainable practices through arts, culture, and use of indigenous knowledge and methods would facilitate knowledge transfer and capacity building. There is a need to build awareness of our agreements and commitments and how each person can contribute by converting them to relatable pieces of information. Monitoring and evaluation of environmental projects is needed post-implementation to assess long term change.

2.   What are the good practices and pathways that you would like to see scaled up to accelerate the implementation of the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development in the context, of the Decade of Action?

Awareness and educational practices can be scaled up by using theatre and the visual arts to generate momentum and public interest with youth. Context-based co-production can be achieved by involving communities for cultural transformations to ensure messaging reaches all of society.

Identifying how practices and projects align with NDCs and wider environmental national goals and vision would contribute to accelerating SDG implementation. There is also a need to include the various mandates from the 2030 Agenda into all projects to ensure alignment and cohesion of the National Development Framework. The application of the Sendai Framework on a national level is important to foster greater attention and inclusion of resilience as we build better and leave no one behind. It is important to have participatory resource management to engage stakeholders in using resources sustainably. Sustainable development is difficult to achieve when a person's basic needs are not being met, such as having an income to provide for themselves.

Strengthening the ICT, environmental, social, and economic governance is important for more coordinated inclusivity. There is a need for planning that considers nature and the environment. This includes the use of nature-based solutions as an alternative to traditional engineering and livelihoods, conserving protected areas, using eco-friendly and plant-based alternatives as well as phasing out of fossil fuels and transitioning to renewable energy. Additionally, there needs to be a more structured approach to youth and the environment with the development of an umbrella organization for this effort.

3.   How to transform governance and legal systems that maintain long-term economic stability and ecological and social wellbeing for all?

Governance systems need to integrate youth and marginalized groups in an ongoing and sustained basis and include restorative justice and practices. Governance can be improved through instilling the principles of integrity, accountability, and fairness. There is a need for the review of existing legislation to be more inclusive by ensuring the involvement of all major stakeholders so that they regulate human activities and identifies the intrinsic value of nature. CSOs with a collective voice can better inform legal system and policies. Greater accountability is also needed, which can be done through the media and civil society. More effective advocacy and alignment with global movements can also improve governance systems.

Using international standards on governance such as ISO 37000, ISO 37100, and Sphere standards, systems can be adopted to help promote and maintain standards, to help strengthen local government, measure achievements, and improve governance. Ecological and social wellbeing can be encouraged by business frameworks that include compulsory contributions to the environment as their commitment to national development. Transitioning to investment frameworks that promote environment and discourage carbon-heavy products should be encouraged. A national action plan is needed to collectively address key priorities for the country and roles for stakeholders, to move towards the success of national goals.

4.   What measures are needed to align public, private and development finance with existing commitments and priorities?

Measures suggested are:

- Establish a coordination mechanism/framework that brings together public and private financing, especially in the context of aligning this mechanism with wider national and international commitments such as the Paris Agreement, SDGs, Escazu Agreement etc. to ensure equity in resource distribution.
- Use an opportunity-based approach, and not the traditional risk-based approach to investments and financing. Explore the benefits of investing in risk reduction and prevention and how mitigation can be funded. Financial institutions need to see investments in innovation as progressive and support environmental practices while facilitating innovative business practices as a viable business option.
- Green bonds can be used to finance environmental projects across public-private partnerships.
- Map financial flows and value the resources of the community to maximize resources for sustainable practices. Link green processes and the value of natural resources directly to the economy so engines of growth are green and sustainable. Improve connectivity among community groups so that they can be better positioned for funding opportunities for their specific mandates.
- Strengthen existing mechanisms and build capacity by including a capacity building option in the Green Fund before applying for funding for larger projects.
- Incentivize and foster creative, service-based sustainable, green, and eco-conscious businesses, that can export to foreign markets with the availability of business development incubators.

5.   What type of partnerships from the UN and beyond are needed to accelerate a green and sustainable economic transformation that leaves no one behind?

Partnerships recommended are:

- Partnerships on design, execution, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes, and local partnerships.
- Partnerships on documenting indigenous knowledge and indigenous ways of life and livelihoods.
- Move from partnership to collaboration and engage widely across all sectors.

- Partnerships for co-production, co-learning, and co-improvement. In the co-production model, all persons engaged in the discussion are decision-makers.
- Implement stronger monitoring mechanisms at the community level.
- Collaborative partnerships in which information is shared with the UN agencies about CSOs and their projects and mandates.
- Knowledge partnerships, such as CANARI's highlight the work that is done to advance implementation of CSOs activities under SDGs.
- Re-engage with the Open Government initiative.

6. What capacities and technologies are needed to improve human wellbeing in harmony with nature, including digital technologies?

Technologies used should be small island specific based on a Technology Needs Assessments and implemented in a phased approach through demonstration/pilot projects. Projects should consider their social and environmental impact during the design phase, have documentation of best practices, a scaling up strategy and allow room for redesign.

A shift toward nature-based solutions or indigenous technology with a focus on health, wellness, the environment, and sustainability nexus. With an increase in technology, there also needs to be relevant training and greater internet connectivity and stability.

Continuous education inclusive of resource conservation practices, waste management information (recycling facilities and reuse techniques) and plant-based diets will also be helpful to facilitate behavioural changes and sustainability mindsets.

Transformation to sustainable food systems, reducing the importation of meat and implementing sustainable fishing (catch quotas, closed fishing seasons, improved fishing licenses etc.) are also recommended.

Stronger data collection and data sharing policies are needed which facilitate sharing but ensure the protection of the individual and data.

Communication and working together as a team in the region on cross cutting themes are needed to support a comprehensive, harmonised approach to improved human wellbeing with due consideration of nature.

Country-specific agenda of the national consultation

Panelists at the National Consultation

A summary of the discussions relevant to country-specific themes including links to NDCs, NAPS, NBSAPS, and other national/sectoral frameworks: challenges, opportunities, solutions, recommendations.

The national themes discussed were nature-based solutions for adaptation to climate change; national policies that lead to key actions to ensure a green, sustainable recovery from COVID-19; and policies and actions needed to achieve our environmental commitments including our National Determined Contribution (NDC).

Nature-based solutions include a need for more accessible green spaces, such as living walls, green areas in parking lots and urban areas, to reduce solar gain. There needs to be reforestation of degraded land in a targeted way, with a small-scale project-based approach within a strategic framework of a national reforestation effort. It is important to present the economic benefits of nature-based solutions that will lead to buy-in by necessary stakeholders and achieve conservation of the natural environment. Organizations that are currently working on conservation need help to monetize their activities and ensure long-term financial sustainability.

A priority list of projects for achieving our environmental commitments is needed that is publicized using multiple channels of communication for all stakeholders to align their projects with national obligations. Rehabilitation of quarries should be high on the list along with priority given to enforcement of laws regarding land degradation. An important project highlighted was the quarrying on the Toco stretch which

has left huge craters of scarred earth. Implementation of more enforcement frameworks for compliance at all levels is also needed. Funding needs to be enhanced for the environmental police to address this and other environmental issues.

All aspects of waste recycling and composting, inclusive of public education needs to be promoted. A national composting project should be a priority, with schools having composting plots and home gardens being established along with requisite education on recyclables, including jobs and employment opportunities. All approaches should link the "coalition of the willing" to economic benefits.

Inter-sectoral collaboration needs to be emphasized and encouraged as well as collaboration among government agencies. These collaborations will be able to utilize economies of scale, align policies and chart a path forward to achieve shared objectives at a national level. Policies need to include proper consideration and understanding of the specific local audience in order to be effective for which stakeholder engagement at all levels is critical.

At the same time, there is a need to move from simply developing policies, towards a focus on implementation by linking policy to outcomes, outcomes tied to implementation plans, plans aligned to funding sources, and a focus on monitoring and evaluation. The move from policy to implementation requires funding, which could be accessed from international and national sources. Government agencies need to submit clearly articulated plans and estimates to access the appropriate funding to achieve their policy objectives.

Currently, renewable energy is perceived nationally as not financially feasible. More fiscal incentives are needed to compete with the traditional fossil fuel electricity to be able to meet our NDC. There needs to be strengthened partnerships among CSOs, as well as public-private partnership with organizations with existing relationships with the communities to support enforcement of regulations and provisions, to achieve NDC goals and commitments. Trinidad and Tobago needs to establish a mechanism where electricity can be purchased by the national entity from private companies and residential clients with excess solar electricity, promoting a greater incentive for use of solar.

Toolkits should be developed to support the involvement of CSOs in all the identified national priorities. There are also many young persons who are involved in environmental projects, but left out of the conversations, discussions and policy making. They need to be considered a valuable human resource and should be given a voice in decision making.

What were the priorities, needs, key messages and solutions raised by women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, people with disabilities, and other stakeholder groups under vulnerable conditions or marginalized?

Advocacy for women and Indigenous peoples who have done a lot for the environment and have a strong relationship with it is lacking. Indigenous utilization of land and the role of indigenous people in agriculture need to be highlighted nationally. This wealth of traditional knowledge that they are willing to share can

be leveraged for both medicinal and agricultural applications. Women should be encouraged/incentivized to leverage their networking skills and partner with others such as government and other organizations.

Vulnerable groups were particularly affected by COVID-19 through loss of jobs, inability to work due to the need to care for children and loss of traditional earnings. Single mothers and stay at home mothers are particularly vulnerable as they are often unable to access programmes due to their age and employment status. In many instances, these vulnerable groups want to be empowered to participate in sustainable agriculture but lack the land and other resources to do so. They require assistance from government and other organizations to get started in sustainable agricultural activity, which is the preferred solution for protecting the future. Providing material for persons to plant for food security, fruit and vegetable trees, etc. is needed along with a programme of incentives specific to vulnerable groups. Innovative urban agricultural solutions such as wall gardens, urban composting, community gardens (for housing projects) owned and managed by women/female headed households are another potential solution that was suggested.

Benefits from projects and financing accrue to certain groups only and marginalised people continue to be disregarded. Groups want to be included in decision-making on environmental and social issues in a structured, meaningful way and not an ad-hoc manner. There must be recognition of their place in the natural ecosystem and a greater investment in vulnerable people as they will be most affected by climate change. CSOs can lobby for safety, security of land and scaling up of businesses for vulnerable groups in agriculture so that they can become self-supporting while contributing to the national economy.

There is a need to make the environment central, not just the economy and identify our productive systems and how people fit into this system. Nature based solutions were also identified as underpinning our human wellbeing and a healthy planet. The need for healthy resources, healthy bodies, waters, and seas, to support our planet was expressed. Other needs included improved communication and awareness, reducing our carbon footprint, encouraging food security, partnering with ministries, organizations, NGOs, a change in general lifestyle where there is a movement away from consumerism that is not sustainable, and the need for a more circular economy so that anything we produce can have multiple uses, for example, upcycling.

How did various stakeholder groups in your country express their expectations from the Stockholm+50 international meeting? What changes do they expect in the international environmental cooperation, policies, and investment frameworks as a follow up to the Stockholm+50? How do they think that Stockholm+50 can help your country better position itself for advancing integrated solutions across national climate, biodiversity, green recovery, sectoral, and SDG policy frameworks?

Stakeholders want increased collaboration and funding for local and regional projects. Continuous dialogue held every quarter with the same key stakeholders who were assembled for the Stockholm+50 consultation, to share data, progress, status and updates on green economy transformation, chart

implementation activities, update, or review policies is also expected. Government/public stakeholder meetings based around the outcomes of Stockholm+50 and proposed projects should be implemented.

Greater collaboration and cooperation within the Caribbean region on environmental conservation activities is a desired outcome. Implementation challenges or competitions should be encouraged to foster innovation and develop solutions to pressing current challenges. More accountability and transparency are needed with regards to monitoring progress towards achieving national environmental conservation goals. Local community projects should include in their design considerations for training of community members to transfer knowledge, manage the intervention and ensure long term sustainability. A comprehensive database of ideas to build on each other's work is a recurring suggestion by all stakeholders.

Greater focus on inclusivity to ensure that all outputs can be equitably utilized by all stakeholders and beneficiaries is expected. Easier access to international and national funding for these activities and groups/ removal of barriers to funding is a key suggestion that was expressed in all dialogues. Technical training on how to access aid and funding and reduction in bureaucracy/red tape is another expectation by stakeholders. Increased calls for proposals which would create a connection between policy and action items and create engagement from a multi-stakeholder perspective would support integrated efforts towards environmental solutions.

An initiative is needed to engage the performing arts as champions to get the message of sustainability out to a wider public that is currently not engaged, for example, Trinibad artistes. Re-packaging existing expertise and information for dissemination on the ground is important, economic benefits must be tied to sustainable solutions to encourage public participation and contribution

An Action Plan with implementable actions to tap into the energy of our youth is also important. Decision makers need to be at the table to implement recommended actions. More youth forums with the inclusion of decision makers to highlight youth concerns in all aspects of decision making as well as the involvement of youth with policy papers and youth focused capacity building exercises is an important follow-up to Stockholm+50. Stakeholders would like further collaboration between UNEP/UNDP and governments on fast tracking initiatives that aid in environmental sustainability and UNEP finance and guidance support of youth projects that address the outcomes of Stockholm+50.

4. Consultation Follow-up, Next Steps and Links to National Policies

Possible follow-up and next steps including the design and implementation of socially inclusive and gender-responsive national and sectoral polices, NDCs, NBSAPs, INFFs, SDG Strategies, Green/Blue Economy and Green Recovery Plans, etc.

Key results from the virtual sessions and national consultation will be shared through UNDP and national communication channels as well as the SparkBlue page. In addition, results and data from the international Stockholm+50 conference will be shared with stakeholders through these channels and targeted communication. The SparkBlue virtual platform and discussion fora will be utilised to garner post-National Consultation and post-Stockholm+50 comments, discussion and feedback from stakeholders. The outcomes and data will be widely shared and may be of interest to and inspire participants, as well as those not able to attend, to take further action.

Capacity building, awareness raising, and environmental education are all identified as measures needed for improved and integrated environmental action. Avenues for these initiatives will be explored to initiate the process by sharing information and identifying existing platforms that provide these needs. Information on networks and collaborative platforms such as CSO GO and the MEA Focal Point Network will be shared with stakeholders to address the need for cooperation and networking that was expressed.

The National Climate Change Policy will be undergoing a revision process in the coming months, through which the Stockholm+50 outcomes can be integrated. Post-consultation discussions will be held with stakeholders to build on the relationships established and strengthened during the national consultation process. These discussions will facilitate sharing of information and experiences gained at Stockholm+50, as well as collaboration on the way forward for implementing the actions suggested by stakeholders during the national consultation.

How has coordination with other national/subnational processes benefited/been improved?

Environmental education was a common thread in all discussions and an opportunity exists to review existing curricula at all levels for inclusion of environmental issues and concerns. Awareness campaigns conducted on an individual project level can be better coordinated to make them more effective in delivering environmental messages, building awareness and effecting behaviour change.

Greater inclusion in decision making and policy development was a concern expressed by stakeholders, especially youth and women. The implementation of this measure would lead to a fundamental change in current policy making processes. The role of the private sector was also discussed with respect to their corporate social responsibility and development of environmental, social and governance frameworks, which includes funding for environmental projects.

Other effects on national/subnational processes will not be immediately apparent but will occur after stakeholders have access to this report once approved by the national government.

How will stakeholder dialogue on these topics be maintained and continued? What platforms or mechanisms are in place for stakeholders to provide their feedback and follow up recommendations, including the use of virtual dialogues and digital technologies?

Stakeholders expressed the need for continuous dialogue amongst themselves and with government partners. Digital technology will be used to communicate with stakeholders and provide them with data and other relevant information from Stockholm+50. Feedback will be facilitated by dialogues through the virtual space on SparkBlue and social media to discuss the outcomes of the national consultation and the international Stockholm+50 meeting.

Online platforms hosted by the national partners, other government agencies and CSOs will link to the post-consultation and post-Stockholm+50 communications material. Existing networks such as the MEA Focal Point Network will be used to share key messages and data. A feedback mechanism will be established using digital tools to facilitate stakeholder feedback and input on the national consultation material and process as well as the post-consultation phase of Stockholm+50.

What other initiatives have been triggered/inspired/informed by the National Consultation?

Stakeholders, including vulnerable and marginalized groups, want greater collaboration and partnerships to share information and resources. This would also enable groups to cooperate on projects and access funding opportunities through submission of joint proposals.

Sustainable agriculture was discussed in detail as a means of self-supporting livelihoods for vulnerable groups. There are plans in place by a CSO for a programme to be conducted in June for schoolgirls and women to reacquaint them with soil and agricultural concepts and techniques. Programmes by government agencies were also identified that could be accessed by youth and women stakeholders who participated in the discussions.

Linkages were made with the private sector organizations from which opportunities for funding and collaboration on projects exist. For example, Republic Bank Limited has met with the UNDP Accelerator Lab to initiate discussions on how lab participants can access loans and/or grants. This would facilitate the scale up by green entrepreneurs and implementation of projects by CSOs.

5.   Annexes

Annexes are contained in a separate volume:

- Agendas of the national consultation
- List of participants disaggregated by stakeholder group, public/private/civil society, national/international
- Notes on the consultation
- Presentations
- Consultation photos and videos
- Summary of traditional and social media coverage with links
- Communication materials or assets prepared in support of the consultation