



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

Level 14, Eric Williams Financial Building, Independence Square, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, WI
Tel: 612 9700 ext. 2016/1329

PD: 11/4/111

May 28th, 2021

Ms. Carina Cockburn
Representative
Country Office of Trinidad and Tobago
Inter-American Development Bank
17 Alexandra Street, St. Clair
Port of Spain

Dear Ms. Cockburn

**Reaffirmation of Expression of Interest: Technical Assistance- Request for Assistance to
Develop a Tobago Blue Economy and Climate Change Policy and Roadmap**

I refer to the above captioned subject and the on-going communication with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Ministry of Planning and Development (MPD).

By letter dated March 03, 2020, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) sought the support of the IDB for technical assistance for the development of a Blue Economy and Climate Change Policy and Roadmap, for the Tobago House of Assembly (THA). Additionally, the GORTT requested that the Bank execute the proposed Technical Cooperation (TC) project to reduce implementation delays. The Bank has advised that the TC is in its final stages of approval. However, given the lapse of time, another letter is required from the MPD to move the process forward.

In this regard, the MPD commends the Bank for taking the necessary actions towards approving the TC. The GORTT wishes to reaffirm its interest in accessing the support of the IDB for technical assistance for the THA for the development of a Blue Economy and Climate Change Policy and Roadmap. Furthermore, the GORTT is requesting that the previously mentioned execution arrangement is maintained.

I look forward to a positive response to this request.

Sincerely


Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Planning and Development

**PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT**



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March 3rd, 2020

Ms. Rocío Medina Bolívar
Representative
Country Office of Trinidad and Tobago
Inter-American Development Bank
17 Alexandra Street, St. Clair
Port of Spain

Dear Ms. Bolívar

**Expression of Interest: Technical Assistance- Request for Assistance to Develop a Tobago
Blue Economy and Climate Change Policy and Roadmap**

The National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016-2030, Vision 2030 is centred on building the pathway to the future that will transform Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) into an advanced country, sustaining growth and development, and optimizing the quality of life of all citizens. To this end, the NDS defines several themes and initiatives. Among these is Theme III, *Building Globally Competitive Businesses*. The Government has identified seven (7) key national economic areas as strategic initiatives, one of which is maritime services, which includes providing opportunities for increasing exports and competitiveness. Furthermore, Theme V focuses on *Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development*. It aims to create a culture that engenders environmental consciousness, and envisages conservation and preservation of our national assets.

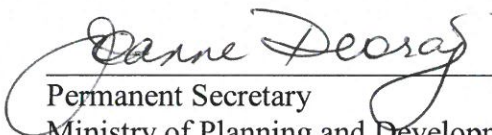

Vision 2030 identifies that our national challenges include transforming the existing economic growth model into one that is environmentally friendly while addressing climate change. To this end, protecting and sustainably using our environmental resources remains a major challenge. As such, building resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels and increasing temperature which can affect food production, biodiversity, and ecosystems especially in coastal, low lying, and flood prone communities become imperatives to achieving sustainable economic development.

As part of the national effort, the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) is seeking technical cooperation (TC) assistance from the Bank for the development of a Blue Economy and Climate Change Policy and Roadmap. The attached correspondence from the THA provides an outline of the scope of the initiative. The Ministry of Planning and Development and the Institute of Marine Affairs have reviewed the proposal. The scope of the initiative is aligned to the NDS and the National Climate Change Policy. It is recommended that any further development of the proposal must build on previous work that was done and funded by the Bank, and the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Policy Framework.

In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) is requesting the support of the Inter-American Development Bank for technical assistance for the THA for the development of a Blue Economy and Climate Change Policy and Roadmap. Furthermore, given the nature of the TC, the GORTT is also requesting that the Bank execute the TC on its behalf to minimize the risk of delays in implementation.

I look forward to a positive response to this request.

Sincerely


Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Planning and Development




Office of the Administrator
Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment
Tobago House of Assembly
Old Government Farm Road, Shaw Park
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November 22, 2019.

Mrs. Joanne Deoraj
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Planning and Development
Level 14, Eric Williams Financial Complex
Independence Square
Port-of-Spain,
Trinidad.

Request for Permission to Engage the Inter-American Development Bank for Technical Assistance in Developing a Tobago Blue Economy and Climate Change Policy and Roadmap

A Tobago contingent participated in the First Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, from November 26th to 28th 2018. The conference provided an opportunity to view a relatively novel concept and appreciate how Tobago could benefit from aligning its economy with proposed principles of the blue economy. A report entitled, *First Sustainable Blue Economy Conference*, was prepared and submitted to the Executive Council by the technical team that attended the conference. The executive council accepted the report and mandated that the recommendation be executed by an appropriately constituted committee.

The multisectoral Blue Economy Committee was established to execute this mandate. The committee's progress has been relatively slow in respect to the implementation of the recommendations of the Blue Economy Report. To date a draft mangrove rehabilitation project has been developed in conjunction with the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA).

The Blue Economy comprises of many components. These include but are not limited to mineral and energy, tourism and recreation, transport and trade, coastal protection, marine biotechnology and seafood. Due to the novelty of this approach and the enormity and complexity of the blue space, a streamlined and targeted approach is paramount. The Tobago House of Assembly (THA) does not have all the requisite technical or institutional capacity to fully develop the local



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policies and roadmap for developing a blue economy and will require external assistance to realize this objective.

Additionally, at the National Level, the climate change agenda is governed by the National **Climate Change Policy of 2011 and National Strategy for Reduction of Carbon Emission of 2015**. While the Comprehensive Development Economic Plan (CEDP 2.0), 2013 to 2017 outlines the general guidelines for treating with climate change in Tobago. At present the impacts of coastal erosion and sea level rise are crucial areas of concern for Tobago. In an attempt to address these issues the Assembly has established the Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU) within the Division of Infrastructure Quarries and the Environment (DIQE). Regrettably, climate change and its impacts are not limited to the coastal sphere. Taking climate change into consideration is vital and should be incorporated into Tobago's development framework as recommended in CEDP 2.0.

Limited local expertise has hindered the ability to mainstream climate change into the island's development framework. There is also a need to develop a local policy and roadmap that is aligned with the National Climate Change Policy but focus specifically to peculiarities of Tobago. This policy should consider the local circumstance (namely its small area and the importance of tourism and fisheries to the local economy), development aspirations and projections of the THA, and sectoral characteristics and cross-sectoral interactions.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), through the Sustainable Islands Platform (SIsP), has identified the Blue Economy and climate resilience as two of the pillars for promoting sustainability within territories. It is further noted that this initiative also provides needed technical expertise to assist countries in realizing their objectives

In a letter dated July 16th, 2019, Mr. Gerald Alleng, the IDB climate change senior specialist, indicated that a request for technical assistance from the IDB would have to be directed to a National Focal Point. In a subsequent discussion at the IDB Blue Financing Event on August 6th, 2019 it was further stated that the specific needs and scope should also be outlined.



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This letter therefore serves as a formal request for permission to engage the IBD on providing technical assistance to the THA as it pertains to the development of a Blue Economy policy and roadmap as well as a climate change policy and roadmap for Tobago. The nature of the requested technical assistance focuses on:

1. Identifying the most established sectors in Tobago that fall within the scope of the Blue Economy which may be initially targeted.
2. Identifying sectors which are not fully established or are nonexistent at present but have significant potential for Tobago.
3. Reviewing the existing structure of the Divisions in the THA and resident technical expertise, and make recommendations on the institutional requirements that will be needed to adequately develop recommended sectors associated with the Blue Economy.
4. Drafting a Blue Economy policy and roadmap for Tobago.
5. Drafting a climate change policy and roadmap for Tobago that is in harmony with the national policy.
6. Reviewing the existing structure of the Divisions in the THA and resident technical expertise, and make recommendations on the institutional requirements that will be needed to adequately implement a Tobago climate change roadmap and policy.

A prompt and favourable response is anticipated.

Respectfully,


Ritchie Toppin

Administrator, Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment

