

CLIMATE ACTION IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Country context

Trinidad and Tobago is a country heavily dependent on oil and gas, which represent 40 percent of GDP and 80 percent of exports. Oil and gas is cheap and traditionally has been heavily subsidized. When the Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) project started activities in 2014, significant policy instruments were already in place in the country, such as the National Environment Policy (2006), which committed the government to conduct regular greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, and to seek and implement technologies to reduce, prevent and control GHG emissions and protect natural ecosystems, among others.

In 2011 the government produced its National Climate Change Policy and started to develop a Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRS) for the power generation, transportation and industry sectors. The main objective of the strategy was to develop a business-as-usual baseline projection of emissions and analyse the socio-economic efficacy of options to reduce or avoid emissions. UNDP supported the development of the CRS (eventually finalized in 2015), providing finance for the GHG inventory and for the Second National Communication under previous funding arrangements.

In addition, Trinidad and Tobago is a signatory of the regional project SIDS DOCK (Small Island Developing States Sustainable Energy Initiative), the objectives of which include increasing energy efficiency, increasing the renewable energy component of energy sources and reducing the use of liquid petroleum in the transport sector.

The role of LECB was to serve mainly to complement and supplement the outputs and results from these established initiatives. Since there was already significant existing information about the national context, the LECB project was able to fit seamlessly into national plans and priorities. Given that the CRS already focused on the main carbon emitting sources, the power generation, transportation and industry sectors, it made sense for LECB to also focus on these sectors.



LECB TRINIDAD & TOBAGO at a glance



Total financing
US \$781,100

3

Timeframe
3 years (2014-2017)



Sectors
Energy, transport, industry



Counterparts
Ministry of Environment and Water Resources (MEWR), Ministry of Planning and Development (MPD)



Thematic areas

- Institutional frameworks
- GHG inventory systems
- NAMAs
- LEDS
- INDC support
- MRV systems
- Private sector involvement
- Climate finance

LECB LATIN AMERICA

Identification and development of 4 NAMAS

With support from the LECB project, Trinidad and Tobago was able to define the elements of its Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRS) via the identification and development of four NAMAs, in the transport sector, power generation, oil and gas (flaring and venting) sectors and a further NAMA in financial incentives for the petrochemical sector. In addition, various policy alternatives were tested through a consultation process. LECB support to the CRS took the form of sectoral evaluations and overviews, reviews of business-as-usual GHG emission scenarios, elaboration of a NAMA prioritization system, assessments of co-benefit evaluations and financial needs, development of MRV frameworks, and recommendations on policy options that could drive mitigation under the sector NAMAs.

4 NAMAs developed

in transport, power generation, oil and gas and petro-chemical

Design of a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system

LECB facilitated the design of a MRV system to support the implementation of the National Climate Change Policy and low carbon plans for the sectors chosen. The objective of the system is to track GHG emission reduction efforts and the resources allocated. This represented progress on emissions quantification and reductions, and was particularly significant since prior to the LECB project the government had no formal structure to quantify emissions or a framework against which to measure performance.

4 sectoral low carbon development action plans completed

NDC Implementation Plan drafted

Through LECB a NDC Implementation Plan was drafted and a set of policies and strategies were designed which are currently undergoing the approval process before entering the implementation phase. This was carried out in a process involving stakeholder consultation which led to the final draft of the Implementation Plan. The second phase of LECB, the UNDP NDC Support Programme, which began at the end of 2017 is to move into NDC implementation and the identification of financing options.

1 NDC roadmap and implementation plan prepared

RESULTS

IMPACTS



Consideration of fiscal incentives in aligning with national climate planning

As part of the alignment with national and sector strategies and policies considered within the NAMAs and regarding fiscal incentives in particular, the government is now taking into account the cost of power to the general population and the subject of feed-in tariffs and tax incentives for renewable energy such as wind and solar energy.



Increased awareness and knowledge about climate change

This includes a more holistic understanding of the subject at both the national and international levels, through significant private sector participation in workshops and training sessions.



Political will for low emission development in Trinidad and Tobago strengthened

The LECB project provided significant backing to the existing political will by enabling translating this into action plans via work on the NAMAs and MRV system, and technical assistance to the development of the NDC Implementation Plan, the first of its kind in the Caribbean.



General overview of the UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building Programme

Since its inception, the UNDP LECB programme has paved the way for effective and lasting climate action by building capacities of government staff to develop policies, strategies and tools that help implement their climate change goals. Focusing specifically on essential building blocks such as strengthening GHG inventory data and systems; formalization of institutional arrangement for climate actions; development and alignment of low emission development strategies (LEDS); and the creation of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), LECB provided much of the enabling environment necessary for countries to respond quickly to emerging needs, such as the submission of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and socialization of the Paris Agreement. Given its flexible nature and strong country ownership, often the originally-envisaged and measurable LECB outputs have been exceeded, leading to some unplanned but highly welcomed additional impacts.

CASE STUDY

SECURING AND PROMOTING PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION

From the outset, private sector collaboration, particularly with industry stakeholders, was an integral component of the LECB project in Trinidad and Tobago. Technical Working Groups for each of the main emitting sectors were established in November 2015. One of the world's largest producers of liquefied natural gas, Atlantic LNG Company of Trinidad and Tobago (Atlantic), is a member of the TWG for the energy sector.

Atlantic has monitored its GHG emissions since 2006 and achieved various internal reductions goals. The LECB project, in raising awareness about the impacts of climate change and the

Paris Agreement, gave context to the Nationally Determined Contributions and provided new impetus to the company to search for ways to further reduce its emissions, through its Greenhouse Gas & Energy Management Plan. The project involved Atlantic in meetings and workshops that included cross functional teams involving government/municipal officials, private companies from various sectors, and universities among others. Meetings and workshops were informative and focused on strategy, mitigation efforts and peer-to-peer exchange with counterparts from other energy, power and transport companies, and both governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Atlantic's 2017 Sustainability Report reflects on this journey: "We bolstered our approach to managing environmental risk in line with the increased global urgency to address climate change and transition to a low carbon future. Atlantic recognizes the ambition to limit average global temperature rise to below 2°C compared to preindustrial levels, as outlined in the UN Paris Agreement."



In the workshops we received information about climate change relating to our country, and identified our major emissions sources that we previously did not know. We learned about current regulations and laws and the gaps that need legislating.



Najila Elias Samlalsingh
Team Lead Environment and leader of Atlantic's Environmental Department

The UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme was launched in January 2011 as part of a joint collaboration between the European Union, the Governments of Germany and Australia and UNDP. It is a global programme that helps countries build the public and private sector capacities needed to scale up country-driven mitigation actions.

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