



STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN NPA TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Session 5: Public and Stakeholder Involvement Planning and Tools

Regional Workshop on Public Participation in
Transboundary Waters Management in Latin
America and the Caribbean

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IWCAM Project

Wider Caribbean Area



BACKGROUND

Trinidad and Tobago:

- **A Small Island Developing State – Trinidad: 4,828 km² ; Tobago: 300 km²; total population: 1.3 million. Small, fragile, heavily dependent upon coastal and marine resources**
- **Economy based upon exploitation of oil and large gas reserves – fuel and feedstock for energy-based industries of a mega-scale.**

CAUSES OF DEGRADATION / HABITAT DESTRUCTION

- **Urban development including planned and unplanned settlements**
- **Industrial development**
- **Resort development**
- **Deforestation of watersheds**
- **Solid and hazardous wastes**
- **Wetlands loss**
- **Reclamation of inter-tidal areas**
- **Dredging of marine areas**
- **Quarrying**





IMPACTS

- **Pollution**
- **Environmental Degradation**
- **Declining stream and river water quality**
- **Declining marine water quality**
- **Negative effects upon public health (bacteriological contamination of sources of potable water, recreational waters, shellfish; heavy metal contamination of shellfish/finfish, petroleum hydrocarbon contamination of shellfish/finfish)**

T&T NPA APPROACH

- **Political approval and buy-in to the NPA process at the beginning of cycle.**
- **Cabinet-appointed Committee to Coordinate the Development of a National Programme of Action**
- **Committee guided by GPA document**
- **Participatory process – local organizations and institutions, stakeholders**
- **Phased Approach (guided by GPA/NOAA agreement)**



THE NPA PARTNERS

- **Government of Trinidad and Tobago endorsed: Cabinet-appointed Inter-Ministerial Committee**
- **Lead agency: Institute of Marine Affairs**
- **Stakeholders: public and private sector; NGOs, CBOs**
- **UNEP: MOU to develop demonstration NPA**
- **NOAA: technical and funding assistance**

GOV'T MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES ON COORDINATING COMMITTEE

- **Institute of Marine Affairs**
- **Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment**
- **Ministry of Planning and Development- Town and Country Planning Division**
- **Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries**
- **Ministry of Works and Transport**
- **Ministry of Health**
- **Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources**
- **Ministry of Trade and Industry**
- **Environmental Management Authority**
- **Water Resources Agency**
- **Tobago House of Assembly**
- **Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company Limited**
- **Ministry of Community Development**
- **Council of Presidents for the Environment (COPE)**

NPA STATUS

completed so far...

- **An assessment of the adequacy of existing environmental management policy and legislation and other relevant policies**
- **Background Paper on LBS including situational analysis**
- **Stakeholder Consultations for both Trinidad and Tobago**
- **First Draft NPA – inc. Identification of major problems and constraints, opportunities and capacity-building needs, formulation of realistic Strategies and Actions, implementing agencies, timelines and financing strategies.**

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

- Identification of stakeholders
- Communication
- Briefing
- Scheduling of consultations
- Structure/Content of consultations
- Level of Participation
- Reporting back

The background of the slide is a photograph of a harbor scene. In the foreground, a small, narrow boat with several people on board is visible. In the middle ground, several larger sailboats are anchored. The background shows a hazy coastline with hills. The text is overlaid on this image.

IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

- Consultation with Inter-ministerial Coordinating Cte.
- Consultation with other agencies
- Guided by experience – other projects
- Umbrella NGO: Council of Presidents for the Environment (COPE)

COMMUNICATION

- Correspondence
- Telephone contact followed by correspondence
- E-mail
- Public notice (advertisement) – press, radio
- Media release
- Web site announcement/b'ground documents

BRIEFING STAKEHOLDERS

- Preparation of Background Document and Summary Tables
- GPA Handbook (process)
- Dissemination (Library, Website, e-mail, hard copy upon request)

SCHEDULING CONSULTATIONS

- Trinidad : 21 – 22 February 2006
- Tobago : 11 – 12 April 2006



STRUCTURE/CONTENT OF CONSULTATIONS

- Formal Opening
- Introduction to NPAs and Status of T&T's
- NPA Development in Caribbean and Central America
- Background:
 - Contaminants and other impacts
 - Resources at risk
 - Existing national policy framework
 - Development pressures
 - Summary/linkages

STRUCTURE OF CONSULTATIONS

cont'd

- Working Group Sessions
 - Agriculture and Fisheries
 - Tourism
 - Extractive Industries (inc. Oil and Gas, Quarrying)
 - Manufacturing, Industry, Port and Urban Development

Plenary

Way Forward

PARTICIPATION

- Public Sector – Ministries, Agencies of GOTT
- Private Sector
- NGOs
- Research
- CBOs
- Trinidad – 53; Tobago - 40






REPORTING BACK

- Stakeholders' Consultation Reports sent to participants (e-mail, posted, hand-delivered)
- Reports published on website
- Some follow-up calls

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

- major issues identified

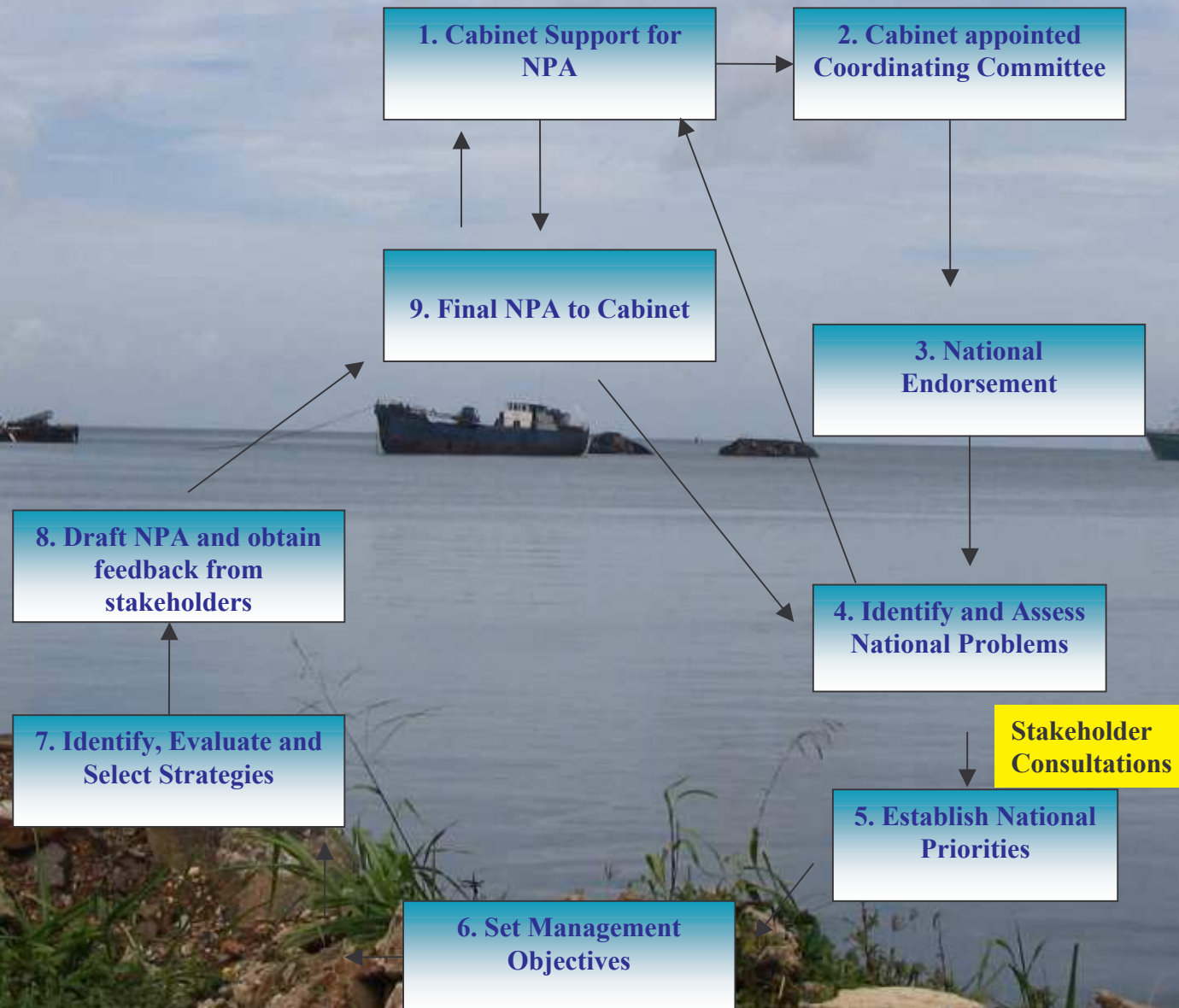
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- **Need to develop an institutional framework that would effectively treat with the problems.**
 - **Lack of enforcement of existing legislation.**
 - **Absence of monitoring and surveillance capability.**
 - **‘Top-down’ approach to decision-making and powerlessness of wider population.**
 - **Need to empower NGOs, CBOs and the general public.**
 - **Inadequate public education and awareness on the issues.**
 - **Difficulties with information – availability, quality and sharing.**
 - **Absence of effective penalties for violations of the law.**



FUNDAMENTAL NEEDS IDENTIFIED

- **To adopt an integrated, ongoing programmatic approach to environmental management, including development of a coordinated legislative programme to remedy shortcomings of existing laws, regulations and standards.**
- **To enhance public education and awareness of pollution and environmental degradation, including the public's role in mitigating impacts.**

NPA CYCLE — PHASE I — Nov.04 — Sept. 06



LESSONS LEARNED...

- **Early endorsement has both advantages and disadvantages.**
- **Public education, institutional sensitization and the education of decision-makers are key to successful development and implementation of the NPA.**
- **Important to stress economic and health impacts to decision-makers when providing information.**

A tropical beach scene with a sandy shore, turquoise water, and a dense line of palm trees and lush greenery under a blue sky with white clouds.

...LESSONS LEARNED

- **Consultative process requires much time and effort and must be flexible to be authentic and effective.**
- **NGOs and CBOs must be empowered to contribute more meaningfully to both development and implementation of the NPA through:**
 - **Provision of information**
 - **Capacity building**
 - **Consultation / participation**



...LESSONS LEARNED

- **Inter-agency communication and cooperation is essential.**
- **Important to communicate and interface effectively with all parties.**
- **The creation of a national database, including an inventory of projects, plans, programmes and research, would be useful.**



THANK YOU

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