

# LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

## SURINAME

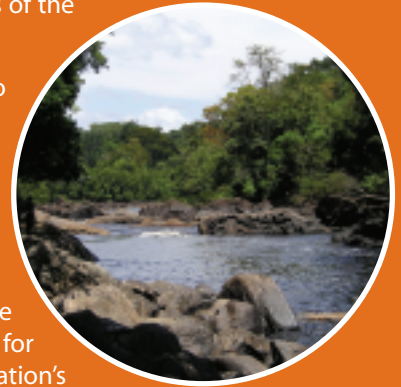
### SPOTLIGHT

#### Eco-tourism Fosters Eco-friendly Development<sup>1</sup>

The Toco region of the island of Trinidad has been one of the poorest in Trinidad and Tobago with high unemployment and a lack of income-generating opportunities. It has also been experiencing increased degradation of its forest and freshwater ecosystems since the 1990s. The region does not have an extensive tourism industry, but its natural beauty gives it the potential to develop a vibrant, lucrative and eco-sustainable industry for the region's inhabitants. Toco's forest ecosystem falls within the local habitat of the endangered Piping Guan or Pawi (Pipile pipile). Significant nesting beaches of the endangered leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) also occur in this region.

Beginning in 1996, in partnership with the GEF Small Grants Programme, the Toco Foundation, a local multicultural foundation for integrated development, began implementing a plan to develop the county of St. David through an ecotourism project. The project established a pilot community revolving fund to provide community members with soft financing for development of small enterprises in support of an eco-tourism programme. In addition, it assisted in capacity building in areas such as acquisition of equipment and material for starting up project activities, establishment of nature trails, visitor facilities and sites for tour activities, identification of community members knowledgeable about the area's biodiversity, and providing technical expertise. Although forest removal for agriculture, lumber and building is still evident, it is declining thanks to the Toco Foundation's efforts as the main vehicle for community activities and ideas to bring about the desired changes.

The project has gained national attention as an alternative model for economic and social development. It has been successful in raising community awareness to counter development activities causing ecosystem degradation and has established alternatives, through ecotourism opportunities, for skills building, employment and funding.



# BIODIVERSITY

## QUICK FACTS

### CURRENT PORTFOLIO BUDGET – TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

<b>Total UNDP-GEF and Co-Finance:</b>	\$445,870
<b>Total UNDP and Co-Finance:</b>	\$377,250
<b>Total MPU and Bilateral:</b>	\$514,270
<b>Total:</b>	\$1,337,390

**Cumulative Total ODS Phased-Out:** 79.4 ODP tonnes



## QUICK FACTS

### CURRENT PORTFOLIO BUDGET – SURINAME

<b>Total UNDP-GEF and Co-Finance:</b>	\$18,972,000
<b>Total UNDP and Co-Finance:</b>	\$6,040,964
<b>Total MPU and Bilateral:</b>	\$353,180
<b>Total:</b>	\$25,366,144

**Cumulative Total ODS Phased-Out:** 16.0 ODP tonnes



Some of the development challenges facing Trinidad and Tobago include approaching development in a manner that minimizes disaster risks and reduces vulnerability of the population to hazards, and addressing environmental issues such as pollution of water from industrial sources and sewage, oil pollution of beaches, deforestation and soil erosion. UNDP's focus on policy development in Suriname's Energy and Environment programme is crucial, given the country's increasingly higher international profile as a country of outstanding natural assets and cultural heritage, as well as its global interests related to sound management of the natural environment. UNDP is supporting the Government's approach to management of this sector and seeks to ensure that natural ecosystems are managed based on the principles of sustainable development so that they maintain their capacity for supporting human life, food gathering and production, social progress and economic activity.

**Inyang Ebong-Harstrup, Resident Representative**

## PORTFOLIO

**FSSD\*** UNDP is supporting the governments of Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname to integrate environmental considerations into national planning. For example, GEF-funded National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSA) projects in both countries are evaluating existing environmental strategy documents to ensure consistency and integration, and will enable the identification of each country's particular national capacity priorities and requirements to meet their global environmental management objectives and commitments. The NCSA process is highly participatory, involving wide-ranging stakeholder consultations. In addition, in Trinidad and Tobago, UNDP is funding a project to collect data and analyse environmental statistics to enhance reporting on the MDGs.

**ENERGY** In Trinidad and Tobago, UNDP is assisting the country to comply with its commitments to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), for example UNDP is providing funding to prepare the country's self-assessment for the UNFCCC, while GEF-funding is supporting strengthening of national capacity to address climate change issues.

In Suriname, UNDP is similarly assisting the country to prepare its First National Communication to the UNFCCC, with funding from GEF. The project includes a GHG inventory, an analysis of potential measures to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change an assessment of potential impacts of climate change, and the preparation of a national action plan to address these findings.

**BIODIVERSITY** In Suriname, UNDP is assisting the Government to integrate biodiversity concerns into national development and sector planning, through the development of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, with funding from GEF. Projects to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity on the ground include the "Conservation of Globally Significant Forest Ecosystems in Suriname's Guiana Shield" project, funded by the GEF, which supports management planning for the reserves and capacity building for conservation professionals, strengthens controls over the wildlife trade, and promotes progressive policy development.

**CHEMICALS** Under the Montreal Protocol, UNDP is providing continuous support towards institutional strengthening that has enabled the Government to develop and implement policies and programmes in a coordinated fashion. The implementation of the terminal phase-out management plan, which is a performance-based programme that contains specific phase-out targets, will result in a complete phase-out of CFCs by 1 January 2008. It ensures this sustainable and cost-effective outcome by employing a combination of technology transfer, training, technical and policy support tools.

### CONTACTS

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### PARTNERS

**Some of our Partners working with UNDP and the Government in Trinidad & Tobago**

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