

A Publication of the Trinidad and Tobago Country Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries participate in a Long-term Development Planning Seminar

UNDP supports Long-term Development Planning

UNDP hosted a two-day seminar on *Long-term Development Planning for Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries* on Thursday 20 August and Thursday 27 August. The Seminar contributed to the ongoing capacity building of senior officials in the public sector. UNDP's objective was to support long-term development planning across the respective Ministries, thereby strengthening the role of the Public Sector.

The seminar highlighted the importance of long term planning in the execution of a coherent, development agenda for Trinidad and Tobago. "The Seminar was in keeping with UNDP's mandate to strengthen the good governance and systems for development effectiveness," stated UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Richard Blewitt.

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UNDP Staff commemorating the Sustainable Development Goals

Transitioning from the MDGs to the SDGs

The year 2015 is a significant year as the global development community transitions from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the 70th United Nations General Assembly, States adopted the Sustainable Development Goals which frames the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The MDGs, comprising eight (8) goals, formed the development agenda from 2000 to 2015. Though much has been achieved, its success eluded many persons, particularly with respect to poverty. By looking at Goal #1 (to end all poverty) through the lens of income, the rigidity of the measure does not fully capture the various deprivations experienced by poor people. There is a large number of persons across the globe who are living in poverty or are vulnerable to poverty and this was not captured by the MDGs.

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GEF SGP's Country Programme Strategy Consultations 2015

The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by UNDP is in the process of preparing its Country Programme Strategy (CPS) for GEF's 6th Operational Phase (OP6) of funding. The CPS is a strategic document which helps countries outline the expected development results to be achieved through the implementation of the Small Grant Programme. The objective of OP6 is "to support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action".

The development of this CPS required multi-stakeholder consultations to achieve broad consensus on the country programme approach for the next four years. These consultations were conducted with a range of stakeholders such as current Grant Recipients, Environmental Groups, Private Sector, Government

Agencies, Bilateral and Multilateral Organisations, Embassies, and the National Steering Committee. A session was also held with Tobago Stakeholders comprising mixed groups. These consultations took place over the period 12th – 27th August, 2015. The consultations were significant, and many stakeholders were of the view that the new CPS focused on important initiatives that addressed major environmental, economic and social issues in Trinidad and Tobago.

As SGP moves into a new phase of funding from the 5th to 6th Operational Phase, there is a shift from the previous six GEF Focal Areas to seven more specific Strategic Initiatives with mandatory cross-cutting themes. With this change, a new CPS is produced to align the country goals to that of the international framework so that funding is utilised in the most effective way through grant projects.

Giving Voice to Youth Perspectives

UNDP hosted a Youth Development Dialogue on Friday 21 August at the Malick Youth Facility, Barataria. The dialogue facilitated the congregation of young persons to share their views, discuss the challenges and provide recommendations for the future they want in Trinidad and Tobago. Their recommendations will help shape UNDPs work in T&T. Attendees represented young persons across Trinidad and Tobago who work in or support the development of youth, and those who advocate for and on behalf of youth. The event was organized in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development.

Also in attendance were youth led groups such as the Trinidad Youth Council, Caribbean Environment Youth Network, and Youth Business TT, to name a few. Other participants came from the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development's Youth Division. Additionally UN OJT Global Trainees and Interns attached to UN Agencies in Trinidad and Tobago also participated in the Dialogue.

Participants actively engaged in discussions around promoting youth empowerment through a human rights based approach by looking at multiple aspects such as Governance, Poverty and Social Policy, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, Citizen Security and Youth Development. [Continue reading](#)



Youth Development Activists, Advocates and Leaders share their views on youth development in Trinidad and Tobago

Setting the Stage for Climate Change

Trinidad and Tobago recently submitted its climate pledge or Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This pledge is one of many being submitted by participating countries ahead of negotiations to take place at the UN Climate Conference in Paris, in December of this year. A new universal climate change agreement will be reached at the conference. This agreement will come into effect in 2020, empowering all countries to act to prevent average global temperatures rising above 2 degrees Celsius and to reap the many opportunities that arise from a necessary global transformation to clean and sustainable development.

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National Youth Award for GEF SGP Grantee

The North-East Sea Turtles (NEST), operating out of Charlotteville, is a small-scale environmental, community based organisation aspiring to protect the natural environment of the sea turtles in the northern area of Tobago. The group's mission is to monitor and protect the sea turtles while simultaneously striving to encourage the ecological and economic wealth that the turtles bring to the local community. In 2012, NEST was grant recipient by the UNDP managed GEF Small Grants Programme valued at US\$ 50,000 for a project proposal. Congratulations to NEST for their outstanding work and for receiving a National Youth Award 2015 by the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development.

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Highlighting the UNV Programme And a National UN Volunteer

The United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Programme works through various modalities, international volunteers, online volunteers, youth volunteers and national volunteers. National UN volunteers are an integral component and an increasing modality for UNV. National UN volunteers are volunteers who work in collaboration with UNV and other UN agencies on specific projects and programmes. They are individuals who are citizens and volunteer within their own countries. They are 22 years of age and older and have at least their first degree and a minimum of 2 years of experience. They are energetic, ambitious and hardworking individuals who really go above and beyond their work requirements to achieve their objectives and the objectives of the organizations/agency to which assigned.

One national UN Volunteer who we are proud to highlight is Benedict Bryan. Ben, fondly referred to, by team members was a national UN Volunteer with the UNV Caribbean Regional Sub-Hub Programme and UNDP

Trinidad and Tobago since August 2014. He worked as a programme associate, supporting UNV and UNDP on various projects. One such project was the Primary Health Care initiative, which worked in a three way partnership UNV-UNDP and Ministry of Health to bring in 30 international UN volunteer doctors to work in the regional health centres. Ben was instrumental in ensuring the logistical and administrative procedures of all 30 volunteers. He attended interviews and supported their recruitment, he ensured their safe arrivals and it wasn't uncommon for Ben to receive phone calls in the middle of the night and on weekends to deal with volunteer situations. [Continue reading](#)



Benedict Bryan: National UN Volunteer