

Development of National  
Biodiversity Targets  
for the implementation of the  
Kunming-Montreal Global  
Biodiversity Framework

**GORTT OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**



# A commitment to biodiversity conservation

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is signatory to a number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements or MEAs.

One such MEA is the Convention on Biological Diversity or CBD which was first opened for signature in 1992 at the Rio “Earth Summit” in Brazil and entered into force in 1993.

The main thrusts of the Convention are the conservation of the world’s biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.



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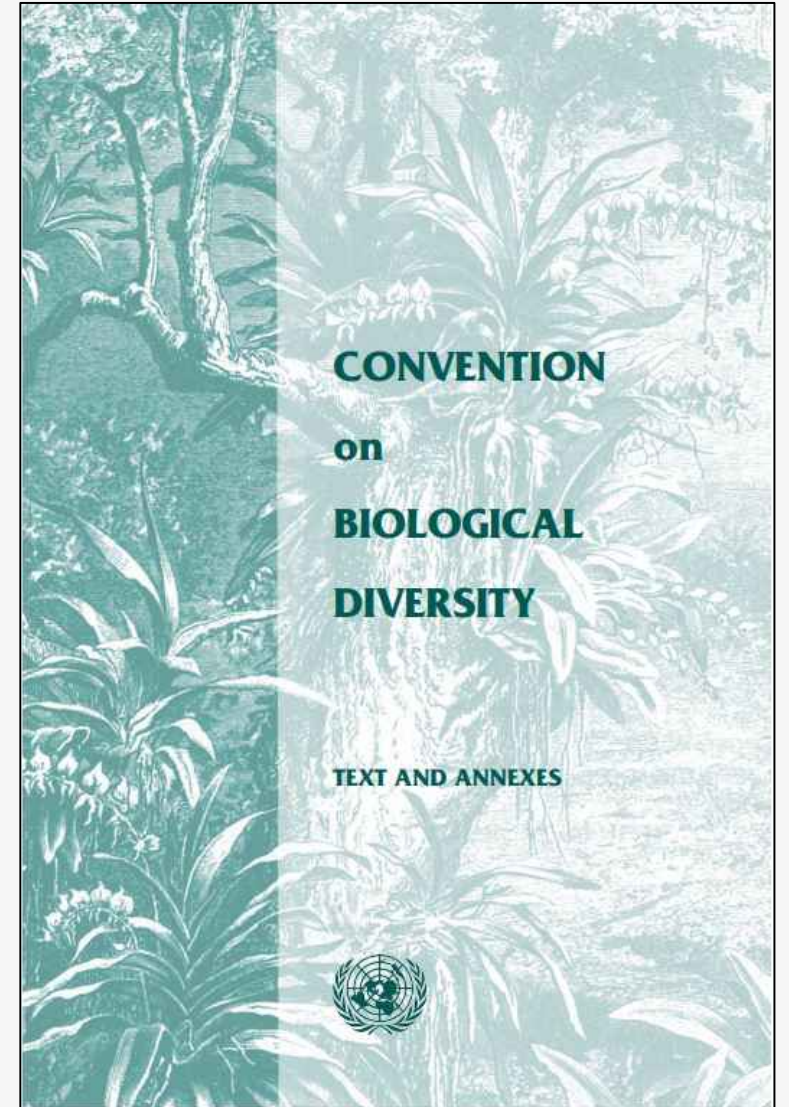
# Convention on Biological Diversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity is “a legally binding commitment to **conserve biological diversity**, to sustainably use its components and to share equitably the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources” (CDB, 2000).

The full text and annexes of the Convention can be found at this link:

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf>

Government obligations are outlined in the Articles of the Convention.



# Articles of the Convention

- Article 1: Objectives
  - The Convention on Biological Diversity aims to conserve biological diversity, make sustainable use of its components and, equitably share the benefits of the use of genetic resources.
- Article 2: Use of terms
- Article 3: Principle

States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

# Articles of the Convention

- Article 4: Jurisdictional scope
- Article 5: Cooperation
- **Article 6:** General measures for conservation and sustainable use

Each Contracting Party shall develop or adapt **national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity** which shall reflect the measures set out in this Convention and **integrate**, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity **into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies**.

# Articles of the Convention

- **Article 7: Identification and monitoring**

(In particular for the purposes of Articles 8 to 10):

- **Identify components of biodiversity important for conservation and sustainable use;**
- **Monitor** the components of biodiversity identified, particularly those **requiring urgent conservation measures** and those which offer the **greatest potential for sustainable use;**
- **Identify processes and categories of activities** which **have or are likely to have significant adverse impacts** on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and **monitor their effects** through sampling and other techniques; and
- **Maintain and organize data**, derived from identification and monitoring activities.



# Articles of the Convention

- Article 8: In-situ conservation
  - **Establish a system of protected areas (PAs)** where special measures are taken to conserve biodiversity and **develop guidelines for the selection, establishment and management** of these areas;
  - **Regulate/manage biological resources** within/outside PA, for conservation and sustainable use;
  - **Promote protection** of ecosystems, natural habitats and viable populations of species in natural surroundings; environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to PAs to further protect PAs;
  - **Rehabilitate and restore** degraded ecosystems; promote recovery of threatened species, through development and implementation of plans or other management strategies;



# Articles of the Convention

- Article 8: In-situ conservation
- Establish/maintain means to **regulate/manage/control the risks associated with use and release of living modified organisms** resulting from biotechnology which are likely to have adverse environmental impacts that could affect biodiversity and risks to human health;
- **Prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate** those **alien species** which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species;
- Provide conditions needed for **compatibility between present uses and conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use** of its components;





# Articles of the Convention

- Article 8: In-situ conservation
- **Respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities** embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; promote wider application with approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations, practices and **encourage equitable sharing of benefits arising from utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices;**
- Develop/maintain necessary **legislation and/or regulatory provisions for protection of threatened species/populations;**
- Where there has been significant adverse effect on biodiversity, regulate/manage relevant processes and categories of activities; and
- Cooperate in providing financial and other support for in-situ conservation.



# Articles of the Convention

- Article 9: Ex-situ conservation

Predominantly for the purpose of complementing in-situ measures:

- **Adopt measures for ex-situ conservation of components of biodiversity, preferably in country of origin;** establish and maintain facilities for such and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms, preferably in the country of origin of genetic resources;
- **Adopt measures for recovery/rehabilitation of threatened species and reintroduction into natural habitats under appropriate conditions;**
- **Regulate/manage collection of biological resources from natural habitats for ex-situ conservation** so as not to threaten ecosystems and in-situ populations, except where temporary ex-situ measures are required; and
- Cooperate in providing financial and other support for ex-situ conservation and in establishment and maintenance of ex-situ conservation facilities.



# Articles of the Convention

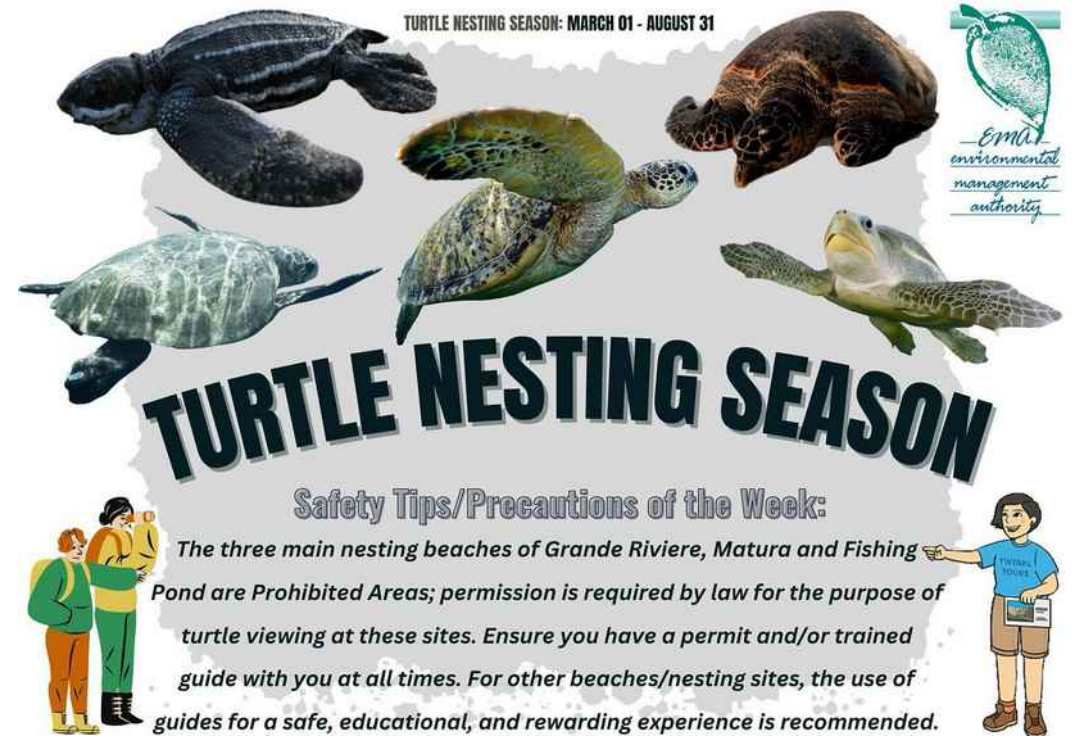
- Article 10: Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity
  - **Integrate** consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources **into national decision-making**;
  - **Protect and encourage customary use** of biological resources in accordance with **traditional cultural practices** that are **compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements**;
  - **Support local populations to develop and implement remedial action** in degraded areas where biodiversity has been reduced; and
  - **Encourage cooperation** between **governmental authorities and private sector** in developing methods for sustainable use of biological resources.



# Articles of the Convention

- Article 11: Incentive measures

Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, adopt **economically and socially sound measures** that act as **incentives** for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biodiversity.



# Articles of the Convention

- Article 12: Research and training
- Establish and maintain **programmes for scientific and technical education and training** in measures for identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components;
- Promote and encourage **research** which contributes to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with recommendations of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;
- **Promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biodiversity research** in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.



# Articles of the Convention

- Article 13: Public education and awareness
- **Promote and encourage understanding** of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity, its propagation through media, and inclusion of these topics in **educational programmes**; and
- Cooperate with other States and international organizations in developing **educational and public awareness programmes**, with respect to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The image shows a social media post from the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) and a promotional graphic for an 'Environmental Talk Radio Series'. The post, dated 6 days ago, announces an interview with Marcia Tinto, Senior Environmental Education Officer, on Friday 12 July at 3:30pm on 95.5fm. The graphic features the EMA logo, the text 'ENVIRONMENTAL TALK RADIO SERIES', the radio station logo '95.5 FM', and the broadcast details '95.5fm FRIDAY 12 JULY 3:30 PM'. A large microphone icon is also present. At the bottom right, there are logos for ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and ANAB.

Environmental Management Authority  
6 days ago

The EMA's Marcia Tinto, Senior Environmental Education Officer, will be interviewed on Friday 12 July at 3:30pm on 95.5fm as we sensitise the public on noise pollution, the Noise Pollution Control Rules, and the various roles of agencies in managing noise.

Tune in!  
[#environment](#) [#radio](#) [#interviews](#)

**ENVIRONMENTAL TALK RADIO SERIES**

95.5 FM

95.5fm  
FRIDAY 12 JULY  
3:30 PM

ISO 9001  
ISO 14001  
ANAB

# Articles of the Convention

- Article 14: Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts
- Appropriate procedures requiring **environmental impact assessment** of proposed projects likely to have significant adverse effects on biodiversity with a view to avoiding or minimizing these and, where appropriate, **allow for public participation in such procedures**;
- Appropriate arrangements to ensure that environmental consequences of programmes and policies likely to have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity are taken into account;
- Promote, on the basis of **reciprocity, notification, exchange of information and consultation** on activities likely to significantly affect adversely the **biodiversity of other States**, by encouraging the conclusion of bilateral, regional or multilateral arrangements;
- In the case of imminent or grave danger or damage, originating under its control to biodiversity within the area under jurisdiction of other States, give immediate notification and initiate action to prevent or minimize such danger or damage

# Articles of the Convention

- Article 14: Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts
- Promote **national arrangements for emergency responses** to activities or events (natural or otherwise), which present a grave and imminent danger to biodiversity and **encourage international cooperation** to supplement national efforts and, where appropriate to **establish joint contingency plans**.

The Conference of the Parties shall examine the issue of liability and redress, including restoration and compensation, for damage to biodiversity, except where liability is a purely internal matter.





# Articles of the Convention

- Article 15: Access to genetic resources
- Authority to determine **access to genetic resources** rests with government and is subject to national legislation. It is encouraged to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Contracting Parties on mutually agreed terms.
- Each Contracting Party shall endeavour to develop and carry out scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Contracting Parties with the full participation of, and where possible in, such Contracting Parties.
- Each Contracting Party shall take legislative, administrative or policy measures with the aim of **sharing in a fair and equitable way the results of research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources.**

# Articles of the Convention

- Article 16: Access to and transfer of technology
- Each Contracting Party, undertakes to **provide and/or facilitate access for and transfer to other Contracting Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity** and do not cause significant damage to the environment.
- In the case of technology subject to patents and other intellectual property rights, such access and transfer shall be provided on terms which recognize and are consistent with the adequate and **effective protection of intellectual property rights**.
- Legislative and administrative frameworks, across sectors, should be established to enable this sharing of information.

# Articles of the Convention

- Article 17: Exchange of information
- Contracting Parties shall **facilitate the exchange of information**, from all publicly available sources, relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account the special needs of developing countries.
- Exchange of information shall include exchange of **results of technical, scientific and socio-economic research, information on training and surviving programmes, specialized knowledge, indigenous and traditional knowledge**. It shall also, where feasible, **include repatriation of information**.



# Articles of the Convention

- Article 18: Technical and scientific cooperation
- Contracting Parties shall **promote international technical and scientific cooperation** in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use through appropriate international and national institutions and cooperation with other Contracting Parties, through the development and implementation of national policies.
- Special attention should be given to the **development and strengthening of national capabilities, by means of human resources development and institution building.**
- Contracting Parties shall encourage and develop **methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies** and shall promote cooperation in **training of personnel, exchange of experts, establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures** for development of technologies.

# Articles of the Convention

- Article 19: Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits
  - Legal and administrative measures should enable **effective participation in biotechnological research activities** by those countries that provide the genetic resources for such research.
  - Measures should be taken to ensure **access** by Contracting Parties, especially developing countries, **to the results and benefits arising from research** on genetic resources provided by those Parties.
  - Anyone distributing a living modified organism must provide information regarding the handling, nature and potential effects of such threats to the receiving country.

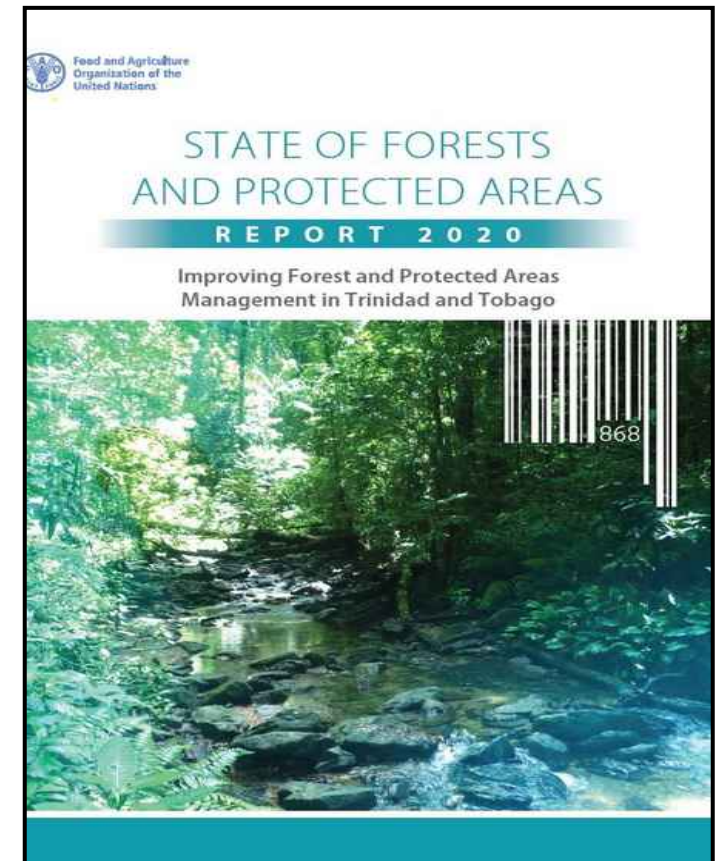
# Articles of the Convention

- Article 20: Financial resources

Each Contracting Party undertakes to provide, in accordance with its capabilities, **financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives** of this Convention, in accordance with its national plans, priorities and programmes.

- **Article 26:** Reports

The Government must present to the Conference of the Parties **reports on measures that it has taken for the implementation** of this Convention and their **effectiveness in meeting its objectives**.



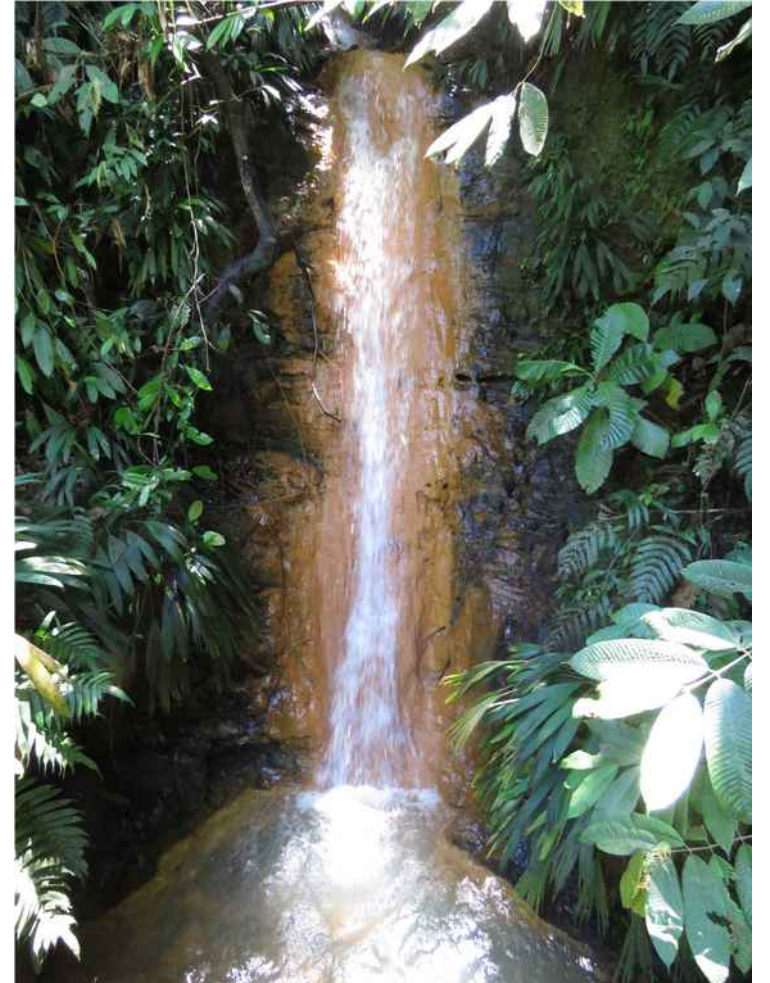
# Key actions

## – reporting and updates

Being signatory to the Convention, Trinidad and Tobago contributes to a global effort and at the same time, demonstrate a commitment to securing its national biodiverse heritage.

The country's **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan** first iteration was approved by Cabinet in 2001.

Regular reporting to the Convention on progress of the NBSAP is required. TT has submitted 5 national reports, the most recent in 2017. A revised NBSAP was submitted in 2018 covering the period 2017-2022.



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# The importance of multi-stakeholder consultation

- Government provides the role of leadership, in setting the rules to guide the wise use of natural resources. It has the responsibility of developing a national biodiversity strategy action plan and plans for environment and development.
- Private companies, landowners and natural resource users and extractors have a strong interface with biodiversity and take actions which impact biodiversity.
- The CBD underscores the joint stewardship of all national components; these consultations provide an avenue for contributions from all parties in setting and working towards key targets.

