



**DEGREE OF INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION  
– TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

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# AGENDA

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# INTRODUCTION

## What is IWRM

*IWRM is defined, according to the Global Water Partnership (GWP, 2006), as a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystem.*

## The Water Resources Management Organization

In Trinidad and Tobago, the main unit responsible for water resources management is the Water Resources Agency (WRA), a department of the Water and Sewerage Authority - the provider of potable water and wastewater services for Trinidad and Tobago.

Some of the functions of water management are vested in other sectors without an appropriate coordinating functional relationship and enabling legislation.

# INTRODUCTION

Trinidad and Tobago Water Sector Goal is to

- support the socio-economic development of Trinidad and Tobago through integrated management of the water resources and the water environment (land, air, flora and fauna)
- satisfy and manage the growing demands for all water users in a sustainable, efficient and effective manner, while maintaining and/or enhancing the quality of the environment and the integrity of ecosystems, and
- minimize losses to life and damage to property due to water related disasters.



# ISSUES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Issues to be addressed for improving integrated water resources management in Trinidad and Tobago

- Appropriate implementation of the IWRM approach to achieve sustainable use and development of the country's water resources
- The need to establish an effective institutional and legislative framework that would facilitate efficient water management
- Meeting the growing demand for public water supply and wastewater services
- Protection of environmental quality and ecological systems
- Development of human resources capacity and tools within the Water Resources Management Organization to support an effective decision support system

# ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

- The National Integrated Water Resources Policy 2018 for Trinidad and Tobago is awaiting approval by government.

More than 25 national policies and plans have direct bearing on the National IWRM Policy and must be consistent.

- The Water Resources Management (WRM) Act which is necessary to give authority to implementing and enforcing actions in the water sector - this has not been established.
- A comprehensive Water Resources Management Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago developed in 1999. However, fundamental recommendations to facilitate implementation of IWRM have not been undertaken.

# INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- Institutional arrangements for water resources management must be built around the IWRM functions.
- A number of agencies and institutions are involved in the water sector and in the execution of water resources management functions.
- A National Cross Sector Coordination Mechanism is lacking and no official mechanism for stakeholder collaboration exists apart from stakeholder committees
- The main unit for water resources management is the Water Resources Agency, a department of the Water and Sewerage Authority, the provider of potable water and wastewater services for Trinidad and Tobago.

Mission of the Water Resources Agency is 'to effectively manage the country's water resources and promote conservation, development and protection of these resources for sustainable use, in a cost effective and integrated manner to support socio-economic growth.'

- Capacity building in water resources specializations is required for appropriate staffing.

# MANAGEMENT INSTRUMENTS

Actions include:

- Water Resources Assessment,
- Master Planning and Water allocation,
- Water Supply,
- Water Demand Management,
- Water Conservation,
- Wastewater Management,
- Watershed Management,
- Flood Management
- Climate Change Adaptation.

Water resources assessment which is fundamental to proper data and information, and decision making is inadequate.



# IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG-6

- Overall progress of implementation of SDG-6 “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” of the 2030 Agenda, using the indicator SDG-6.5.1, improved from 25 in the baseline survey in 2017 to 34 in 2020 on a scale of 0 to 100.
- The survey consisted of four sections namely the Enabling Environment, Institutions and Participation, Management Instruments, and Financing. Improvement was most significant in the Institution and Participation component, which increased from “29” to “42”.
- Limitations were primarily attributed to the lack of approval and implementation of the 2018 National IWRM Policy. More attention also needs to be placed on data collection, water quality, and water availability in order to progress.
- The smallest scores were in Financing.

## WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR COVID-19 PANDEMIC



A COVID-19 Response Plan developed by the Water and Sewerage Authority addresses



- how to ensure continuity of the water and wastewater services



- how to ensure that WASA is a safe place for employees and customers



- both general and specific actions to ensure that the functions for the delivery of its services are not affected and at the same time employees operate under safe conditions



- Policy decisions that there will be no disconnections and that persons will receive no less than the minimum level of service provided to them.

# SUCCESSSES WITH IMPLEMENTING IWRM

Successes with Implementing IWRM as identified by stakeholders include:

- Adopt a River Programme - A WRA led project involving community groups and corporate entities in the protection and conservation of water resources.
- Drainage Studies performed in the Caparo River Basin and Caroni River Basin to both reduce flooding and harness water for water supply.
- Partnering with Solid Waste Management Company to implement risk mitigation and pollution controls for the protection of water resources surrounding solid waste management operations.
- Completing many coastal defence measures that have increased communities' resilience to natural hazards and climate change by the Coastal Zone Management Unit of the Ministry of Works

# CHALLENGES/GAPS IN IMPLEMENTING IWRM IN T&T

- Absence of an independent organization and effective institutional structure to manage water resources
- Inter-sectoral and intra-sectoral fragmentation
- Approval of the 2018 National Integrated Water Resources Policy
- Lack of a legal instrument to implement Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- Financing for IWRM
- Lack of a formalized Stakeholder Coordination and Participatory Mechanism
- Lack of knowledge and understanding of Integrated Water Resources Management
- Lack of a coordinated and effective Public Education and Awareness Programme
- Limited capacity building in water resources management and organizations with water responsibilities
- Need to Increase monitoring and data collection, whilst ensuring appropriate quality care and quality control mechanisms
- Lack of a National Integrated Water Resources Management database and Information System

The ECLAC may consider interventions in many of the areas of challenges/gaps to assist in advancing the implementation of IWRM in Trinidad and Tobago

# THANK YOU

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