Introducing Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) to Trinidad and Tobago

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What is Integrated Coastal Zone Management?

A strategy for an integrated approach to planning in and management of the coastal zone, in which all policies, sectors and to the highest possible extent, individual interests are properly taken into account, with proper consideration given to the full range of temporal and spatial scales, involving all coastal stakeholders in a participative way (International Ocean Institute, 2006)
In a nutshell-

• Continuous and dynamic process

• Integrates policies, sectors and interests (multi-sectoral approach)

• Participatory process that demands good communication and co-ordination between governmental tiers (governance)

• Addresses all three dimensions of sustainability (multi-disciplinary approach)

• Manages human activities within the coastal zone, and addresses conflicts amongst different resource users and uses
Why the need for ICZM in T&T?

- Heavily dependent on resources and activities associated with the coastal zone for socio-economic well-being

- Some coastal resources are heavily depleted, degraded or destroyed

- Vulnerable to natural hazards because of small land mass and high population densities and growth rates along the coast.

- Need to mitigate the effects of climate change and to build resilience of coastal ecosystems

- Increasing conflict amongst resource users and between uses
Multi-sectoral Steering Committee appointed to develop an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Policy Framework, Strategies, and Action Plan for Trinidad and Tobago

The Steering Committee comprised the following representatives:

- Institute of Marine Affairs
- Ministry of Environment and Water Resources
- Environmental Management Authority
- Town and Country Planning Division
- Forestry Division
- Fisheries Division
- Maritime Services Division
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Works and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries
- Tobago House of Assembly
- Council of Presidents of the Environment (COPE)
Terms of Reference

➢ To establish ICZM working groups for the thematic areas

➢ Review and analyze all existing policies, strategies, legislation and institutional arrangements related to ICZM

➢ To co-ordinate, manage and implement a public consultation process for the formulation of the ICZM Policy

➢ Formulate an ICZM Policy taking into consideration aspects of sustainability and policy, legislative and institutional arrangements for coastal zone management

➢ To solicit oral and written comments from all stakeholders and the general public on the ICZM Policy

➢ To ensure that the ICZM Policy addresses the concerns of the stakeholders and the general public as indicated at the public consultations
ICZM Cycle Steps

(Adapted from Olsen, Lowry, Tobey, 1999)
Goals of ICZM policy

1. Reduce and control pollution in the coastal and marine environment

2. Establish ecosystem based approaches to curb biodiversity loss and rehabilitate/restore degraded environments

3. Apply adaptive management and spatial planning approaches to address land and water use conflicts

4. Encourage viable socio-economic activities within the coastal zone that do not compromise environmental integrity

5. Incorporate climate change considerations into developmental planning

6. Continuous meaningful engagement of the public in the ICZM process
Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)

- Economic and Social Development
- Natural Resource Assessment
- Public Awareness, Education and Outreach
- Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts
- Legal and Institutional Analysis
TWG - Economic and Social Development

- Assess all current and proposed development plans and programmes in the coastal zone to identify synergies and conflicts
- Evaluate the sustainability of coastal and marine dependent industries (blue economy)
- Identify potentially sustainable livelihood options within the coastal zone
- Provide recommendations as to type of economic and social activities that should be encouraged in the coastal zone
TWG - Natural Resources Assessment

• Assess the current state of the coastal and marine environment/resources and identify data gaps

• Provide recommendations with regard to areas for development, conservation and rehabilitation

• Provide recommendations for mitigating negative impacts and for building resilience of coastal/marine ecosystems and communities

• Engage with resource users to promote sustainable utilization and conservation of biodiversity
TWG - Public Awareness, Education and Outreach

• Establish the baseline level of public knowledge on ICZM

• Prepare video, audio and print materials in collaboration with the other agencies to disseminate information on the ICZM process

• Design a multi-media public communication program that would promote buy-in to the ICZM process and build awareness of environmental issues

• Recommend a programme that would allow for continuous engagement of stakeholders throughout the ICZM process

• Evaluate the effectiveness of public awareness material
TWG - Vulnerability Assessment / Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts

- Identify all natural and human induced hazards in the coastal zone including impacts due to climate change
- Conduct socio-economic and environmental vulnerability and risk assessments
- Consult with key stakeholders on disaster risk reduction and management strategies
- Map vulnerable coastal areas / coastal communities
- Provide strategic guidelines to integrate climate change adaptation and hazard mitigation into the ICZM policy framework
Legal and Institutional Analysis

• Review the policy, legislative and institutional arrangements related to management of coastal zone activities and the environment

• Identify existing gaps, synergies and conflicts

• Devise a legal and institutional framework that will enable effective regulation and co-ordination of activities in the coastal zone
THOUSANDS of leatherback hatchlings were crushed to death at the weekend as the Ministry of Works used excavators to redirect the Grande Riviere River at the north coast.

The Ministry had been called in when the Fredrick Wint was eroded most of the beach front, threatening the stability of several homes and hotels.

The community was horrified, though, when excavation work began Saturday without their knowledge on what is the most intact part of the beach.

Among those buildings under threat was the Mt Flacour Estate Restaurant and Hotel, the most popular tourist accommodation during turtle nesting season.

"This is the worst set of devastation I have ever seen by humans on turtles," one was among those in the community who began a rescue mission early Sunday and by evening had saved about 500 hatchlings.

The hatchlings were kept in a cool, dugout area behind Mt Flacour hotel, to be released last night.

Among them could be seen those who had been badly injured and would clearly not make it.

On the beach, hundreds of eggs could be seen, some crushed and some rolling in the surf. Here and there, hatchlings could be seen fighting for life, some still partially in the shell.

Excavation work went on all day in what is called by conservationists as one of the best nesting grounds, which is just over a kilometre long.

"Exteriorly pipeline pollutes Gulf "

"Two men die in 'Diego' mudslides"
Thank You!