



FACT SHEET

Towards a Circular Economy *A Workshop for Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Staff of Trinidad and Tobago*

The following fact sheet on Trinidad and Tobago will be used to provide context to the exercise that will be conducted during the "Words into action" section of the [agenda](#), in which participants will be separated into breakout groups to discuss the opportunities and challenges of integrating a circular economy in Trinidad and Tobago, by using a SWOT analysis to apply a legislative approach and intersectional lens. This can also be a useful tool to help guide any future legislative work on circular economy, along with the [background document](#) on circular economy. The sources for each of the statistics can be found cited as footnotes, as well as the year the statistics were collected can be found in brackets, where applicable and available.

Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total: 1.403 million (2021)ⁱ• Urban: 744, 725 (2020)ⁱⁱ• Rural: 654, 766 (2020)ⁱⁱⁱ• Youth (ages of 12-29): ~34% of total population (2013)^{iv}
Economy^v	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GDP per capita (current US\$): 23,209 (2021)• Main sectors of employment (2021)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Services: 58.1%• Industry: 40.8%<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The oil and gas sector represent 80% of exports^{vi}• Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing: 1%
Waste generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Average citizen produces 1.5 kg of waste daily (2010)^{vii}<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organic waste: 27%• Plastics: 19%• Paper: 19%• Glass: 10%• Textiles/clothing: 8%• Plastic pollution^{viii}<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 6th highest plastic polluter within the Latin America and Caribbean region.• 48% of the landfilled plastic comes from plastic packaging for imported products rather than intentional domestic use.• Has at least 20 beverage companies that import PET plastics for their packaging.• It is estimated that it produces nearly 200,000 tonnes in plastic annually of which, 26,000 tonnes are PET plastic containers.• Marine litter^{ix}<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the Wider Caribbean region, up to 80% of marine litter comes from land-based sources of solid waste and approximately 65%

of that waste is disposed of in open dumps, inland waterways, coastal water bodies, or directly into the Caribbean Sea.

- **E-waste generated^x**
 - 22kt of E-waste generated in a year (2019)

Main pressures and drivers of change to biodiversity^{xi}

- Land use and land cover changes are the main driving forces contributing to biodiversity loss in all biomes in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Deforestation and conversion of land principally for agriculture and housing have been the main drivers, and these have resulted in the reduction in forest cover and coastal ecosystems, as well as greater fragmentation of remaining natural systems.
- Industrial development in Trinidad, largely driven by the growing petrochemical sector over the last several years, has resulted in the conversion of significant tracts of coastal ecosystems, principally mangroves along the western coast of Trinidad, to industrial estates.

Environmental targets

- **Nationally Determined Contribution target^{xii}**
 - Reduction in overall emissions from the power generation, transportation, and industry sectors by 15% by 2030 from BAU and to unconditionally reduce emissions in the public transportation sector by 30% by 2030.
- **Four Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)** were designed in 2016 for the highest emitting sectors:
 - Renewable energy promotion; integrated public transport; reduction of flaring and venting for the oil and gas sub-sector; and financial incentives for emission reductions in the petrochemical and heavy industry sub-sector.
- **National Environment Policy**
 - “Considers it a priority responsibility to judiciously manage the interactions between its citizens and the environment with aims of safeguarding human health, peace, prosperity, and social justice, while yielding optimum sustainable benefits for present and future generations.”^{xiii}
 - Protecting environmental and human through pollution control
 - Sustainably Managing Natural Assets
 - Improving the Local Environment
 - Evolving a greener economy
 - Fostering an environmentally responsible society
 - Addressing climate change and environmental and disasters as a result of natural hazards

Other hazards to the environment

- Has the **highest motorization (vehicles per capita) level** in Latin America and the Caribbean results in the transportation sector having a significant impact on air quality.^{xiv}
- **Climate change impacts:** More intense tropical storm activity, sea level rise, increased temperature, loss of coastal habitat, as well as other direct and indirect impacts on important socio-economic sectors (e.g., agriculture, food security, human health).^{xv}

CITATIONS

- ⁱ <http://data.un.org/en/iso/tt.html>
- ⁱⁱ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL?locations=TT>
- ⁱⁱⁱ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL?locations=TT>
- ^{iv} https://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Trinidad_Tobago_2012_National_Youth_Policy.pdf
- ^v <http://data.un.org/en/iso/tt.html>
- ^{vi} https://transparency-partnership.net/system/files/document/200114_GPD_Trinidad_and_Tobago_RZ.pdf
- ^{vii} <https://swmcol.co.tt/FAQs/Waste-Generation>
- ^{viii} https://www.tt.undp.org/content/dam/trinidad_tobago/docs/Industrial%20Symbiosis%20in%20Plastics%20-%20CWWA%202020.pdf
- ^{ix} <https://www.unep.org/cep/story/marine-litter-ocean>
- ^x <https://globalewaste.org/statistics/country/trinidad-and-tobago/2019/>
- ^{xi} <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=tt>
- ^{xii} <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Trinidad%20and%20Tobago%20First/Trinidad%20and%20Tobago%20Final%20INDC.pdf>
- ^{xiii} <https://www.planning.gov.tt/sites/default/files/National%20Environmental%20Policy%20%28NEP%29%20T%26T%202018.pdf>
- ^{xiv} <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/9197/-Trinidad%20and%20Tornado%20State%20of%20the%20Environment%20Report%202000%20-%20Air%20Pollution-2000Trinidad%20and%20Tobago%20EMA%20SOE%20Report%202000.pdf?sequence=3&%3BisAllowed=>
- ^{xv} https://transparency-partnership.net/system/files/document/200114_GPD_Trinidad_and_Tobago_RZ.pdf