

# The Environmental Management Authority (EMA)

The Environmental Management Authority, situated in Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, is a statutory body established by the government of Trinidad and Tobago to address the country's environmental problems.



# Environmental Management Act

- The EMA was established in June 1995 under the Environmental Management Act, No. 3 of 1995.
- Under the Environmental Management Act, the EMA is mandated to educate the public about the nation's environmental issues through awareness programmes.



# Our Environmental Education Goals

Trinidad and Tobago's National Environmental Policy states that:

- If the ethic for sustainable development is to be widely adopted, people must re-examine their values and alter their behaviour.
- Information must be widely disseminated through formal and informal education sectors so that the required actions are widely understood.
- Environmental education for children and adults must be integrated into education at all levels.

# Climate Change initiatives in Trinidad and Tobago



The Republic of  
Trinidad and Tobago  
signed and ratified  
the UNFCCC in 1994  
and is committed to  
play an integrated  
role in helping to  
achieve ... the  
ultimate objective of  
the Convention ...

(Initial National Communication of  
the Republic of T & T under the  
UNFCCC)



Lecture to the Salybia community which is situated on the north-east coast of Trinidad.





**An EMA official conducts a lecture on Climate Change to secondary school students.**





**Using games to communicate Climate Change to young children from a rural community.**

The background features a blue gradient that transitions from a lighter blue on the left to a darker blue on the right. A thin, white, curved line starts from the top left and arcs across the upper portion of the image. A bright, white, triangular light beam originates from the right side and points towards the word 'GLOBE'.

**GLOBE**

**ACTIVITIES**





**A student from Couva Government Secondary School records temperature readings.**



**A Stephenson Screen at Iere High School in south Trinidad.**

2002. 2. 28





**Students testing water quality of the Couva River in Central Trinidad.**





**Distributing information on Wetlands and Climate Change in our sister isle, Tobago.**

## Effects of Global Climate Change on Wetlands

Global Climate Change may lead to changes in sea level, sea-surface temperatures, rainfall, and wind and ocean currents.

Increases in temperature, sea-level rise and changes in rainfall patterns can reduce the ability of wetlands to perform their vital functions of protecting reefs, coastal fisheries and providing for erosion control.

In addition, if wetlands are unable to effectively adapt to climate change, their productivity, upon which many other species depend, will be affected. All of these changes may have far reaching social, economic and ecological effects.

As part of the efforts to conserve wetlands, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago's National Wetland Policy promotes the protection, management and restoration of wetlands.

This will sustain and enhance the ecological and socio-economic values and functions of wetlands for the current and future generations.



Environmental Management Authority  
8 Elizabeth Street, 3rd Floor, Port of Spain  
Mailing Address: PO Box 5071, Port of Spain  
Phone: 828-8041; 8044/5 • Fax: 828-7122  
e-mail: [ema@ema.tt](mailto:ema@ema.tt) • website: [www.ema.tt](http://www.ema.tt)

## VULNERABILITY OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Vulnerability may be defined as the extent to which climate change may damage or harm a system (a system can refer to a country or to a sector such as agriculture or tourism).

It depends not only on a system's sensitivity but also on its ability to adapt to new climatic conditions.

Climate models predict that global temperature will rise by about 1.0 to 3.5°C and the mean sea level rise is expected to be between 15 and 95 cm.

It is accepted that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as the Caribbean Islands are vulnerable to the impacts of Global Climate Change due to ...

- ① Small land area and position within the annual path of tropical cyclones and hurricanes.
- ② The concentration of economic activity and infrastructure in the coastal areas, making them highly vulnerable to storm events and sea-level rise.
- ③ Direct and indirect dependence on natural resources such as forests and coral reefs for maintaining vital socio-economic sectors and services, including agriculture, tourism and fisheries.
- ④ Limited technical, human and financial resources and limited capacity for natural resource management.
- ⑤ Lack of relatively diversified economic bases due to limited human and natural resources and dependence on agriculture and tourism as primary industries through concessionary arrangements with other countries.



ADAPTATION TO...



# GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Global Climate Change could lead to changes in sea level, an increase in sea surface temperature and changes in rainfall, wind and ocean currents. Coping with these anticipated changes is known as adaptation.

It is possible that the effects of climate change such as less rainfall, hotter temperatures and the movement of sea water (which is salty) inland can affect our fresh water resources.

*Increasing sea levels can result in the flooding and erosion of low-lying coastal areas.*



*Roads and bridges near the coast would be adversely affected by increases in sea level.*



*Climate Change can also have a negative impact on the agricultural and fisheries sectors.*

*Movement of sea water inland is known as salt water intrusion and may occur as a result of sea level rise.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_  
CLASS \_\_\_\_\_  
SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_





Thank you for your time.

Any questions?