

Information on National CHM

Trinidad and Tobago

(Updated on 2013-09-12 by Mr. David Persaud)

National CHM	
Web address (URL)	http://www.biodiversity.gov.tt/
Title	Government of Trinidad and Tobago Clearing House Mechanism
Brief description	The website has information on Trinidad and Tobago's biodiversity, protected areas and species, organisations involved in biodiversity management, legislation, policy, national plans and reports on biodiversity and information for school children related to biodiversity on the school curriculum.
Responsible organization	Environmental Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources
Webmaster name	Anastasia Gordon
Webmaster email	anastasia.gordon@gov.tt
Content management system (CMS)	Joomla
Database system	mySQL
Search engine	Built-in search engine
Available human resources for maintenance and development	Two technical staff, including IT personnel
Other comments	

Other national websites on biodiversity		
Web address (URL) & title	Brief description	Responsible organization
http://www.ema.co.tt/	Information on environmental policy, legislation, projects and environmentally sensitive areas and species.	The Environmental Management Authority
http://www.ima.gov.tt/	Information on marine biodiversity	The Institute of marine Affairs
http://torchids.net/index.php	Database on Native Orchids	Trinidad and Tobago Orchid Society

Other national websites on biodiversity		
Web address (URL) & title	Brief description	Responsible organization
http://zstt.org/	Management of the Emperor Valley Zoo which has established programme for the captive breeding of native wildlife	Zoological Society of Trinidad and Tobago
http://sta.uwi.edu/herbarium/	Database on native plants	Trinidad and Tobago National Herbarium
http://www.agriculture.gov.tt/divisions-and-units/divisions/horticultural-services-division.html	Ex-situ conservation, protection and survival of the plant biodiversity	Horticultural Services Division
http://ttfnc.org/index.php	Variety of information on the biodiversity of the islands.	Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalist Club
http://sta.uwi.edu/fst/	Biodiversity research and training	Faculties of Food and Agriculture and Science and Technology, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Campus

Major national organizations involved in biodiversity		
Acronym	Full name	Role
	Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources which includes its Divisions and Agencies (Forestry Division, Environmental Management Authority, Institute of Marine Affairs)	Management of wildlife, wetlands, forest and protected areas.
	Ministry of Food Production which includes its Divisions and Agencies (Fisheries Division, Horticultural Services Division, Animal Production and Health, Plant Quarantine)	Management of marine species, agricultural biodiversity and invasive species.
	Tobago House of Assembly and its Division and Departments	Management of Biodiversity on the island of Tobago
	Various Civil Society Organizations (Orchid Society, Horticultural Society, Zoological Society, Field Naturalist Club, Caribbean Forestry Conservation Association, The Cropper Foundation, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute etc.)	Various aspects of the management of biodiversity.

Comments on national situation
<p>Much information on local biodiversity is in hard copy and dispersed among many institutions. Public access to biodiversity information related to ecosystems in Trinidad and Tobago is often not easily available. Government agencies requiring specific, detailed information on biodiversity to facilitate planning or decision making, usually rely on consultants to extract data from studies housed at the University of the West Indies, University of Trinidad and Tobago, Institute of Marine Affairs, the Environmental Management Authority, the Forestry Division or from foreign sources. This is a lengthy and costly process which may sometimes require new studies or field assessments.</p> <p>There is a need to upgrade the CHM to expand its biodiversity information management capability and to provide the platform for linkages with all of the national institutions that use or collect biodiversity information.</p>

Strategic Vision

An upgraded and expanded CHM as a National Biodiversity Information System (NBIS) will be established by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the purpose of gathering and managing biodiversity data and information in order to share it efficiently with all stakeholders, so as to ensure better decision making.

Roadmap

Priority	Objective	Activity	Responsible	Requirements
1	a. To get an understanding of the infrastructural and administrative requirements for establishing a National Biodiversity Information System.	Arrange technical mission to an agency that has a well established biodiversity information management system.	Environmental Policy and Planning Division	OK
2	b. To get advice on the procedure for the repatriation of information from foreign museums, herbaria, universities and other institutions that conducted scientific work in Trinidad and Tobago.	Arrange for technical guidance on process and procedures for repatriation of foreign held biodiversity information.	Environmental Policy and Planning Division	CR
1	c. To identify and obtain a suitable database for the management of the various data and information types.	Arrange for technical guidance on selection of appropriate database.	Environmental Policy and Planning Division	CR
1	d. To train staff in use of the database and data entry.	Arrange for training of staff in biodiversity database use and information management.	Environmental Policy and Planning Division	ARR / CR
2	e. Information and data sourcing, development of catalogues, data verification etc.	Arrange for additional human resources for information/data acquisition, data entry and cataloguing, etc.	Environmental Policy and Planning Division	ARR / CR

Notes:

- Priority: 1=urgent, 2=high, 3=medium, 4=low; 5=very low
- Objective: challenge, issue, problem to resolve
- Responsible: organization or person in charge
- Requirements: Code + text
 - OK: Can be done with existing resources
 - DR: Decision required
 - CR: Collaboration required
 - ARR: Additional resources required (support, cooperation)

Comments on roadmap

The National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) in Mexico has over the past 20 years developed and managed its national biodiversity information system. This institution has indicated its interest in sharing its expertise to help Trinidad and Tobago develop its National Biodiversity Information System.

Cooperation opportunities / Type of support needed

Technical experts from CONABIO will visit Trinidad and Tobago in November 2013 to adapt a database they had developed (Biotica) for our use. They will also provide training in use of the database and the management of biodiversity information.

Additional support in terms of human resources will be needed in the sourcing of all local biodiversity information, data verification, data entry, preparation of catalogues of authorities, etc.

Thank you!