

The Trinidad and Tobago Sustainable Development Network

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

1. NAME

Trinidad and Tobago Sustainable Development Network

2. OVERALL PURPOSE AND GOAL

The purpose of this Network is to create a mechanism through which civic society would seek to influence the process for planning for sustainable development and its implementation in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as to contribute to the approach and content of particular development proposals. The goal of the Network is to achieve an approach to planning for the economic, environmental and social development of Trinidad and Tobago, that is holistic, inter-sectoral, inter-disciplinary, participatory and inclusive of a wide range of citizen interests.

In its pursuit of this purpose and goal, the Network will seek to maintain an 'institutional' memory about, and to contribute to continuity in, policy analysis and implementation within the country, and will emphasise accountability, consultation and transparency in the conduct of planning, design and implementation of development activities.

This overall purpose and goal will be pursued by Members of the Network through the kinds of activities indicated below, in conjunction with other individuals and entities who may collaborate.

3. GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

The scope of interest of the Network will be Trinidad and Tobago. However, the perspectives advocated and applied will be considered in the context of, and with the purpose of contributing to, the building of the Caribbean Community of nations of which Trinidad and Tobago is a member state.

4. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of The Trinidad and Tobago Sustainable Development Network are:

1. To influence approaches to planning for development so that they are consistent with the Overall Purpose and Goal stated above;
2. To inculcate in national and local level planning frameworks the tenets of economic viability and sustainability; environmental protection, resource conservation, and sustainability; and social equity as underlying principles as well as primary outcomes of Development;
3. To create mechanisms and opportunities that would lead to coalition of interests and pooling of resources with other individuals and entities in pursuit of the Goal;
4. To undertake research and policy analysis, and to make policy and programme recommendations, pertaining to development issues and needs;
5. To arrange public events for obtaining widespread participation and inputs into discussion about such research, analysis and recommendations;

6. To disseminate research results, to advocate and represent policy and programme recommendations of the Network;
7. To engage in collaborative work that would generally strengthen the operation, performance and impact of civic society organizations engaged in this field;
8. To identify and influence priorities for planning for sustainable development;
9. To influence establishment of monitoring mechanisms;
10. To undertake socio-economic and ecological assessments.

5. INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES

Activities might include:

- originating ideas and proposals for development to counterpoint those of government e.g. analysis of proposed development scenarios;
- critiquing ideas, proposals and activities of others (corporate, special interest groups) consistent with the above objectives e.g. proposal for development of Las Cuevas;
- making contributions to development discourse and policy analysis e.g. commentary on the annual budget or occasional official Development Plan;
- creating opportunity for civic society reflections on and inputs into specific proposals emanating from government eg. Public consultation on the recent Planning and Development Bill;
- reaching out to unrepresented and under-represented groups and interests and seeking to involve them or reflect their interests and concerns in inputs and in discourse e.g. people of Charlotteville;
- reflecting such activities and inputs in materials for building public understanding e.g. development pamphlets or other publications;
- organizing public fora for discussion, analysis, synthesis, representation, outreach e.g. consultation organised for the PoS Development Plan;
- raising funds to carry out the above.

6. COMPOSITION

The Trinidad and Tobago Sustainable Development Network will consist of individuals operating in their personal capacity. The Network will comprise those who have already expressed and demonstrated an interest in attending and working voluntarily towards the Overall Purpose and Goal. The Network will expand to accommodate more persons over time. These persons will be called Members of the Trinidad and Tobago Sustainable Development Network.

Members of the Trinidad and Tobago Sustainable Development Network will be expected to volunteer their services and time for the activities agreed to be undertaken by the Network. Arrangements with other groups collaborating with the Network will be made in the context of each joint undertaking.

Members will be required to pay an annual membership fee to cover routine incidental expenditures on behalf of the group.

7. STRUCTURE

The Trinidad and Tobago Sustainable Development Network will have the following officers: Chairperson; Deputy Chairperson; Secretary; Financial Secretary; Communication Officer; Projects Coordinator and three other non-assigned officers.

The Group will designate and organize committees as necessary to oversee and coordinate various aspects of its operation or activities.

The Cropper Foundation will, in the early stages, provide the Secretariat to the Trinidad and Tobago Sustainable Development Network.

Agreed upon 08 April 2002
at The Cropper Foundation
2, Mt. Anne Drive, Second Avenue, Cascade
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Current address for The Cropper Foundation:
Building #7,
Fernandes Industrial Centre,
Laventille, Port-of-Spain,
Trinidad & Tobago, W.I.