CHAPTER 15

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIONS, INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS

15 ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION, CONVENTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOLS

A. Legislation

Introduction

One of the emerging dimensions to the environmental debate is the need to understand the magnitude of acts of environmental degradation and the impact of such degradation on human society, both in terms of economic welfare and human health.

Curbing environmental abuse and reversing decades of poor environmental practices are severe challenges. Many tools are required to achieve the objective of environmental restoration and environmental sustainability. These primarily include education and legislation.

The Environmental Management Authority (EMA) during 1998 and 1999 conducted an extensive survey into the legislative and institutional landscape to determine in the first instance the extent of existing laws relating to environmental protection, and secondly, how those laws impact on enforcement, effectiveness, behavior and interaction among agencies.

This challenging exercise reviewed a cross section of the legal framework spanning some fifty (50) agencies of government to determine the extent of the legislative authority they possess, the effectiveness of their laws, their interpretation and specific use with respect to environmental protection for Trinidad and Tobago.

What was discovered is that despite the general malaise attendant with developing countries towards protection of the environment and the lack in most instances of proper safe guards and regulations for that purpose, Trinidad and Tobago in this regard has on its statute books over one hundred (100) pieces of legislation (reference is made to these acts in Appendix 15.1).

An analysis of the activities and problems faced by the enforcement agencies endowed with the responsibility for protection of different aspects of the environment, displays certain interesting trends. The most pressing problem has been that of resources – financial, human, technical, mechanical and research resources. The second important hindrance to the effective

enforcement of environmental laws is the presence of multiple agencies with overlapping jurisdiction and inadequate co-ordination.

This chapter takes a look at the legislative mechanisms towards the environmental protection of the country's natural resources: air, water, and land as a tool used to fight against the destruction of our beautiful environment.

15.1 Air

Air Pollution is caused by the release of substances into the atmosphere which, based on technical, scientific or medical evidence, is determined to cause or to be likely to cause harm to human health or the environment. (EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report)

Presently there is no legislation that refers pointedly to air pollutants and their control. There is, though, legislation that addresses non-specific air pollution. Table 15.1 below illustrates a few laws pertaining to air pollution and the area addressed.

TABLE 15.1 - MAIN LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO AIR POLLUTION

LAW	AREA ADDRESSED
Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Regulations, made pursuant to the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act Chap. 48:50(rev. 1980), Regulation 38, Rule 13	Visible emissions
Public Health Ordinance Chap. 12:04(1950), Sections 69 and 70	Nuisance
Environmental Management Act (2000) Sections 49-51	Authorizes the EMA to develop a legal regime for management of air pollution.
Draft Air Pollution Rules	Establishes the regime for dealing with air pollution.

Source: EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report

The Public Health Ordinance Chap. 12:04 (1950), Section 69 imposes a duty on the part of local authorities to initiate action to abate nuisances. There have been several amendments to the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Regulations including Regulation 38(13) which stipulates that a person in charge of a motor vehicle should not allow the emission of a visible vapour and Section 100 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act Chapter 48:50 as amended by Section 38 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Act No. 25 of 1997 which adds

authority for the Minister to make regulations for "(q) health, safety or environmental matters... including the prescribed vehicle emissions, use of unleaded fuels.. .".
The Draft Air Pollution Rules seek to make provisions for the management of air pollution, which includes the registration, and further characterization of significant sources of any ongoing or intermittent releases of air pollutants into the environment.

15.2 Biological Resources

Biological resources include: Genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, populations, or any other biotic component of ecosystems with actual or potential use or value for humanity. (EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report)

These resources can be segregated into several sections such as fauna, flora, ecosystems (including forests and wetlands), marine ecosystems and fisheries. Table 15.2 below illustrates a few laws pertaining to protection of the biological resources in Trinidad and Tobago.

TABLE 15.2 - MAIN LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

LAW	AREA ADDRESSED
Conservation of Wildlife Act Chap. 67:01(Rev. 1980)	Makes provisions for the Conservation of wildlife by the use of measures such as regulation of hunting.
Section 3 (I) of the Plant Protection Act (1975) Act No. 13 of 1975	Makes provision for the control of the diseases and pests injurious to plants by regulation of the importation of plants.
Section 17 (I) of the Agricultural Fires Act Chap. 63:50 (Rev. 1980)	Control of fires
Forests Act Chap. 66:01 (Rev. 1980)	Protection and preservation of forested areas and floral species
Section 16 of the Petroleum Act Chap. 62:01(Rev. 1980) Section 29(I)(j) of the Petroleum Act Chap. 62:01(Rev. 1980) 42(2)(c) of the Petroleum Regulations (Rev. 1980)	Restoration of area subject to petroleum operations. Empowers the President to make regulations for the prevention of pollution of land. Confers an obligation on holders of petroleum licences to avoid pollution of tidal areas.
Marine Areas (Preservation and Enhancement) Act Chap. 37:02(Rev. 1980)	Designation of marine areas for protection and preservation.
Fisheries Act Chap. 67:51(Rev. 1980)	Regulates fishing in the waters of Trinidad and Tobago.
	This Act regulates activities in the Archipelagic

Archipelagic Waters and Exclusive Economic Zone Act No. 24 of 1986	Waters and Exclusive Economic Zone.
Municipal Corporations Act Chap. 25:05(1990) Section 232(f)	Municipal Corporations are responsible for the maintenance of parks, beaches, water fronts, swamps, forests, game sanctuaries etc.
Environmentally Sensitive Areas Rules (ESA) 2001	Designation of sensitive areas by the EMA.
Environmentally Sensitive Species Rules (ESS) 2001	Designation of sensitive species by the EMA.

Source: EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report

15.2.1 Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) and Environmentally Sensitive Species (ESS)

According to Section 42 of the EM Act, the notice of declaration of an ESS or ESA should include:

a) a comprehensive description of the area or species to be so designated;
b) the reasons for such designation; and
c) The specific limitations on use of or activities within such areas or with regard to such species which are required to adequately protect the identified environmental concerns.

TABLE 15.2.1: EXISTING AND PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE SPECIES

YEAR	SPECIES
2004	Manatee (declared in 2005)
	White tail Sabre Wing (declared in 2005)
	Pawi (declared in 2005)

Source: Environment Management Authority

Objective under the ESS strategic plan is to increase the protection of endangered species via a declaration of 10 species by the year 2008.

TABLE 15.2.2: EXISTING AND PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

YEAR	AREAS
2004	Aripo Savannah
	Buccoo Reef
	Matura (declared in 2004)
	Nariva Swamp

Source: Environment Management Authority

15.2.2 Fauna

Fauna is a collective reference for the animals of any given geographical region or geographical epoch. (EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report)

In a bid to preserve our rich heritage several laws have been enacted. The principal pillar of environmental legislation that provides the legislative authority for several activities aimed at protecting wild fauna is the Conservation of Wildlife Act Chap. 67:01(rev. 1980). Additionally, another piece of legislation as contained in Section 26 of the Environmental Management Act (2000) stipulates that the Minister may in accordance with Section 27 formulate guidelines on the designation and protection of "environmentally sensitive species". The EMA is thus duty bound in its bid to establish a system that will ensure the protection of the fauna for generations to come.

To maintain the survival of indigenous species, Section 14(I) of the Animals (Diseases and Importation) Act Chap 67:02 (rev. I 980) was enacted so as to ensure that the importation of any alien species (bird, reptile or insect) would not occur without the prior approval of the Chief Technical Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (MALMR). In so doing the delicate balance, which may have otherwise been disturbed, will be protected. Section 2(1) of the Control of Importation of Live Fish Act Chap. 67:52 (Rev. 1980) seeks to impose the same safeguards and permission requirements to protect our local fish stocks.

15.2.3 Flora

Flora refers to the plants native to a certain geographical region or geographical period.
(EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report)

Like the legislation that protects fauna, the Plant Protection Act (1975) attempts to ensure that no person imports any type of animal, plant or insect that would adversely impact the presence of indigenous plant species.

The Forest Act Chap. 66:01 (Rev. 1980) and Environmental Management Act No. 3 of 2000 state that rules may be made so as to ensure that only safe environmental methods are practiced that will preserve sensitive species.

15.2.4 Forests

Although there has been rapid urbanization and industrialization, half of Trinidad and Tobago is still under forest, three-quarters of which are controlled by the State.
Illegal logging, squatting and fire have been the main causes of deforestation. The dry season, which has been particularly severe in recent years, has seen a sharp rise in the number of reported fires. The Agricultural Fires Act Chap. 63:02 (Rev. 1980) seeks to define the fire season as the period from the 1st December to 30th June the next succeeding year during which no fire can be set without the authorisation of the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Services.

For State lands the laws are more stringent and afford the forested areas even more comprehensive protection. There are various sections of the Forests Act (rev 1980), which prohibit the cutting, or firing of forested areas without authority. The Act also prevents anyone from removing, transporting or subjecting any forest produce to any manufacturing process. There is also appropriate legislation affecting squatting as contained in the State Lands Act Chap 57:01 (Rev. 1980) which clearly states that squatting is an illegal encroachment onto State lands and could cause spoil and injury to the woods and forests of such lands.

The Petroleum Act Chap 62:01 (Rev 1980) by virtue of Section 16 provides that all land subject to petroleum activities must be restored as near as possible to the original condition after the determination of an Exploration and Production (Public Petroleum Rights) Licence. The Act

goes on to provide for the making of regulations that will prevent land pollution and offer compensation. These regulations confer an obligation on licence holders to avoid the pollution of seas, beaches or tidal rivers.

15.2.5 Wetlands

"Wetlands," includes soils that are formed and conditioned by standing water or water logging and adapted to anoxic biochemical processes including mangroves, peats, bog, fens, marshes and swamps. (EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report)

Unfortunately, none of the current legislation specifically addresses the issue of wetlands. The major piece of legislation that may perhaps be used to protect wetlands, is the Marine Areas (Preservation and Enhancement) Act Chap 37:02 which authorizes the Minister to designate any portion of the marine area of Trinidad and Tobago as a restricted area if he feels special steps are necessary for:

a) Preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of such areas
b) The protection of flora and fauna of such areas
c) The promotion of the enjoyment by the public of such areas
d) The promotion of scientific study and research in respect of such areas

There are also several other general pieces of legislation that may provide some aid in the protection of our wetlands. Section 26 of the Environmental Management Act, No. 3 of 2000 attempts to do just that by empowering the Authority to make rules to designate and protect environmentally sensitive areas. This is an important tool in the protection of wetlands. The Forest Act Chap. 66:01 as well, makes it an offence for anyone to enter protected/prohibited areas. Under this Act, a prohibited area is defined as a specified area being part of a Forest Reserve or State lands declared by the Minister by Order to be a prohibited area.

15.2.6 Marine Ecosystems and Fisheries

There are three hundred and fifty four (354) known species of fish off the shores of Trinidad and Tobago. Several levels of legislation currently exist. General ocean management is addressed through:

a) The Archipelagic Waters and Exclusive Zone Act No. 24 of 1986 holds that any ship passing within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Trinidad and Tobago must not engage in any act of willful and serious pollution, or in any fishing activities without the consent of the Minister.

b) Section 7 (1) of the Continental Shelf Act Chapter 1:52 makes it an offence for a person to discharge oil into designated areas of the sea.

c) The Territorial Sea (Amendment) Act No.22 of 1986 empowers an authorized officer to stop any vessel where he reasonably believes certain laws of the country are being infringed upon.

The management of marine resources is dealt with through:

a) The Fisheries Act which has jurisdiction over all rivers and to the Territorial Sea of Trinidad and Tobago: seeks to regulate the country's marine resources by prescribing the size and dimensions of nets or similar implements; determining the size of various catch caught; prohibiting the sale of undersized catch as outlined in the regulations; declaring any area to be prohibited; prohibiting the killing, harpooning, taking, removing, catching or any other forms of taking possession of fish or variety thereof either absolutely or at such times and within such areas as may be prescribed.

b) The Petroleum Regulations made under the Petroleum Act Chap. 62:01 is one such piece of legislation, as oil pollution is perceived as the greatest threat to marine areas. It places an obligation on a petroleum and exploration license to ensure that in the case of operation in submarine areas, pollution of the seas, beaches or tidal rivers does not occur and to ensure that navigation, agriculture, fishing, authorized scientific researches and conservation of living organisms of the sea are not unjustifiably hindered.

15.3 Water Pollution

Water Pollution is caused by the discharge of substances into or which otherwise have an impact on the surface water, sea, groundwater, wetlands or marine areas within the environment and which, based on technical, scientific or medical evidence is determined to cause or to be likely to cause harm to human health or the environment. (EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report)

Because water is so much a part of our society at various levels, the laws pertaining to its pollution are similarly varied. The table below illustrates some of these laws.

TABLE 15.3 - MAIN LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO WATER POLLUTION

LAW	AREA ADDRESSED
Section 18 (I) of the Waterworks and Water Conservation Act Chap. 54:41(Rev. 1980)	Prohibits pollution of watercourses.
Section 73 of the Summary Offence Act Chap. 11:02 (Rev. 1980)	Pollution generally of rivers.
Section 53 of the Water and Sewerage Act Chap. 54:40 (Rev. 1980)	Prohibits pollution of waters.
Sections 60F, G, H, I of the Public Health Ordinance Chap. 12:04 (Rev. 1980)	Provision for the protection of the public from polluted water.
Environmental Management Act (2000) Sections 52-54	Authority to establish legal regime for management of water pollution. Sets our regime for dealing with water pollution.
Section 29(1)(1) of the Petroleum Act Chap. 62:01(Rev. 1980)	Water pollution regulations for the petroleum industry.
Draft Water Pollution Rules	Establishes the regime for dealing with water pollution.

Source: EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report

Watercourse protection is afforded in Section 18 (I) of the Waterworks and Water Conservation Act Chap. 54:41, which prohibits the throwing or depositing of any tree, log, branches, brushwood, stone, gravel, soil or other refuse in any watercourse or in any channel, drain or out fall for water constructed or maintained by or on behalf of the State.

As part of its mandate WASA, as contained in Section 42 of the Water and Sewerage Act Chap. 54:40, is charged with the responsibility for maintaining and developing waterworks,

administering and providing a reliable supply, promoting conservation techniques and proper use of water resources. WASA's power, as seen in Section 5 I (I), can extend to supporting the necessary regulations that will seek to protect water resources from pollutants.

It is an offence, as explained in Section 73(I) of the Summary Offences Act Chap. 11:02, to bathe, wash clothes or deposit any filth or dirt into any stream or pond of water, and, owners of land who cause water pollution that affect other lands may be liable for an offence.

Additionally, one of the most important pieces of legislation pertaining to water pollution is the Public Health Ordinance Chap. 12:04 (1950), which comprehensively addresses water pollution. Section 54(1) (c) vests power in local authorities by allowing them to make regulations for the keeping of clean drains and good repair. Specific references to water pollution may be found in Section 57(1) which broadly speaks of the disposal of different types of refuse in the city sewers and drains.

The other major body vested with responsibility for water pollution is the EMA. The Authority has been given a mandate to address water pollution and based on authority derived from the legislation, is perhaps the organization with the greatest responsibility over water pollution. Not only shall the EMA, as spelled out in Section 52(I) of the Environmental Management Act No. 3 of 2000 have the authority to investigate the environment generally and such premises and vehicles as it thinks necessary to ascertain the extent of water pollution, Draft Water Pollution Rules makes provisions for a register that will contain very specific information including the identification of water pollutants, the conditions that will lead to its occurrence and the level of concentrations that exist. Through the development and regular updating of this register the EMA will be better able to manage, monitor and record any additional releases of water pollution into the environment.

15.4 Noise Pollution

Noise pollution may be defined as any audible acoustic energy or vibration that will disturb, cause the annoyance or discomfort to the physiological and/or psychological well being of living things. (EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report)

Noise, although not as visible as many of the other types of pollution, is no less invasive or destructive. Table 15.4 below lists some laws, which govern the control of noise pollution.

TABLE 15.4 - MAIN LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO NOISE POLLUTION

LAW	AREA ADDRESSED
Regulations 38, 43 and 49 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Regulations Chap. 48:50(Rev. 1980)	Provide for the regulation of noise from motor vehicles.
Section 51 of the Environmental Management Act (2000)	Provides the EMA with the authority to address noise pollution.
Section 12A of the Maxi Taxi Act Chap. 48:53	Prohibits music in maxi taxis.
Noise Pollution Control Rules (NPCR) 2001	The EMA is provided with the authority to address noise pollution.

Source: EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report

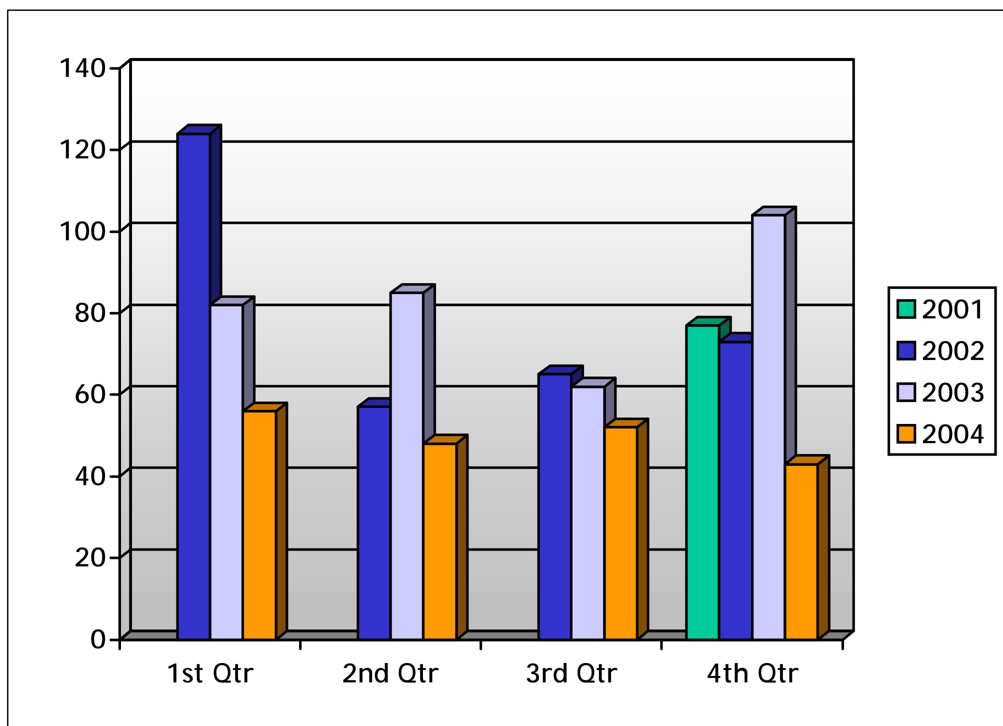
Vehicles are one of the main sources of noise pollution. Various regulations of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Regulations Chap. 48:50 (Rev. 1980) address not only the level of noise and the control of that noise through silencers fitted onto vehicles (Reg. 28(j)) but speak of the control in the use of horns and musical stereo systems (Reg. 38(12) and 49). Maxi Taxis were particularly targeted since it was commonplace to hear maxis referred to as types of moving discos or "boom boxes" on wheels. Consequently stringent rules were enacted to protect the traveling public. The Chapter 48:53 as amended by the Maxi Taxi (Amendment) Act No. 6 of 1994 prohibits the use of televisions, videos, radios, tape decks, compact disc players, amplifiers, equalizers, speakers or other electrical or electronic equipment for the purpose of playing music or other electrically or electronically transmitted sounds in a maxi-taxi. The Maxi Taxi (Radio) Order 1994 regulates the types of radios and speakers that an owner of a maxi taxi can install.

In the case of noise pollution, the EMA under the Environmental Management Act No. 3 of 2000 Section 49(l) has been given full authority to investigate premises or vehicles that it thinks

necessary for the purpose of ascertaining the extent of noise pollution that these may cause. Like water pollution, its mandate goes further by requiring the EMA to develop a register of noise polluting sources and to implement a programme to manage such pollution.

With respect to noise pollution, the Noise Pollution Control Rules, 2001 divides Trinidad and Tobago into 'noise zones' and sets a maximum permissible sound level for each zone. In accordance with the Noise Pollution Control Rules, 2001 where a person wishes to have an event, which may generate noise that will exceed the sound level permissible for that area, that person must apply for a variation.

FIGURE 15.1: NOISE VARIATION APPLICATIONS, 2001-2004



Source: EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report

The graph indicates a marked increase of the number of noise variation applications received since the inception of the NPCR 2001. It should be noted that the NPRC was introduced in the middle half of 2001.

This is an indication of the increase in environmental awareness

15.5 Chemical Pollution

"Chemical Pollution" is essentially pollution caused by a material whether by itself or in a mixture or in a finished product, whether manufactured or acquired from the natural environment, that contains substances used as industrial and domestic chemicals and pesticides which when released into the environment have proven to cause harm to human health sometimes resulting in fatality. The varying causes of harm to humans and the environment have been either medically and or scientifically proven over several decades of research. (EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report)

Table 15.4 below lists some legislation that addresses chemical usage as it pertains to the environment.

TABLE 15.5: MAIN LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO CHEMICAL POLLUTION

LAW	AREA ADDRESSED
Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Act (1979), as amended by the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals (Amendment) Act (1986)	Establishes the legal regime for regulation of toxic chemicals and pesticides in Trinidad and Tobago
Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs Act Chap. 63:55 (Rev. 1980).	Controls the sale and composition of fertilizers and feeding stuff
Explosives Act Chap. 16:02 (Rev. 1980) Section 4(1).	Prescribes the rules for the appointment of explosive magazines and the power to expand such rules
Section 4 (2) of the Trade Ordinance No. 19 of 1958	Creates the legal authority to ban importation of chemicals
Sections 59 and 60 of the Environmental Management Act (2000).	These sections authorize the EMA to establish a legal regime over hazardous substances.

Source: EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report

In Trinidad and Tobago the principal legislation for addressing the control, use, abuse and misuse of harmful chemicals is the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals (Amendment) Act of 1986, which supplements the 1979 Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Act. The primary purpose of strengthening the previous Act was to address the issue of the dangers posed to the society by improper regulatory controls over the use of harmful chemical pollutants such as pesticides.

Notwithstanding the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Act of 1986, there exists other pieces of legislation that empower other agencies of Government to have further control and regulatory authority over the use and disposal of harmful and toxic chemicals. One such authority is the

EMA. Section 26 of the Environmental Management Act gives the Minister the power to make rules for procedures required for the registration of sources from which pollutants may be released into the environment; characterization of such sources; and the quantity, condition and or concentration of pollutants or substances containing pollutants that may be released into the environment, either generally or by specific sources or categories of sources.

Section 59 of the Environmental Management Act (2000) also empowers the agency to develop a programme for the designation of specific hazardous substances and performance standards and procedures for the safe handling of such hazardous substances. The Act is not specifically related to chemicals only, but to the wider issue of harmful pollutants.

15.6 Waste and Pollution

"Waste" is defined as garbage, refuse, sludge and any other discarded material including solid, liquid, gaseous or energy sources generated by industrial, commercial, agricultural, community or mining activities. (EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report)

The continued expansion of our economy and the attendant expansion of our population have increased our output of hazardous and non-hazardous waste. The control of hazardous and non-hazardous waste is addressed by some of the laws as outlined in Table 15.6.

Dumping of rubbish by the public despite the legal notice

TABLE 15.6 - MAIN LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO WASTE POLLUTION

LAW	AREA ADRESSED
Regulation 4(I) of the Pesticides (Registration and Import Licensing) Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Regulations (1986) made pursuant to Section 12 of the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Act (1979)	Regulates the registration and import of pesticides.
Environmental Management Act (2000), Sections 55-57	These sections vest responsibility in the EMA for developing a legal regime for waste management in Trinidad and Tobago.
Litter Act, Ch. 30:52 (rev. 1980), as amended by the Litter (Amendment) Public Authorities Act (1981)	Provides the legal framework for controlling littering of public places.
Sections 136 and 232(j) of the Municipal Corporations Act (1990)	Assigns responsibility for municipal wastes to corporations.
Section 62 of the Water and Sewerage Act Chap. 54:40 (Rev. 1980)	These vests in WASA responsibility for public sewerage systems.
Beverage Container's Bill	Regulates sale of beverages in sealable containers

Source: EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report

15.6.1 Hazardous Waste

Hazardous Waste means, "waste or combination of wastes, which because of its concentration, quantity or physical, chemical or infectious distinctiveness may inter alia-

(a) cause, or significantly contribute to any increase in mortality or increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating illness; or

(b) pose a substantial present or potential threat to human health, or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or other wise managed.

(EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report)

Section 12(I) of the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Act 1979 gives the Minister responsible the authority to make regulations respecting the types of packages in which controlled products may be imported transported or sold, and as to the disposal of such packages after use. The Minister may also make regulations pertaining to the disposal of unwanted stocks of controlled products and or chemical pollutants.

Under the Environmental Management Act (2000) the management of waste is provided for under the following Sections:

a) Section 55 (I) gives the EMA the authority to investigate the environment and such premises and vehicles, as it deems necessary to ascertain the nature of waste, and the manner in which it is handled. Under Section 55(2), the Authority is required to develop and implement a programme for the management of such waste, which may include registration, and further characterization of significant sources of wastes being disposed into the environment.

b) Section 56 states that the EMA is required to submit to the Minister (as part of its management function) a programme to define those wastes and to establish appropriate standards and design criteria for hazardous waste handling and disposal facilities and to establish licensing and permitting requirements with respect to such wastes.

c) Section 57 empowers the EMA to grant permits authorizing any person's waste disposal activities, or licences for the operation of any waste handling facility subject to such terms and conditions as it deems fit.

15.6.2 Non-Hazardous Waste

Non Hazardous waste consists of waste that is not by nature or design toxic or not captured by the definition "Hazardous Waste", meaning that anything that is not considered to be a hazard as contained in the interpretation of hazardous waste but is considered waste is categorized as "Non-Hazardous Waste". (EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report)

There currently exist several pieces of legislation on the statute books dealing with non-hazardous waste as follows:

a) Litter Act, Ch. 30:52. This Act makes it an offence to deposit without reasonable excuse any litter in a public place other than in a receptacle placed for the purpose of collecting refuse.

b) Local Government Authorities are also vested with the power under Sections 67 and 141 of the Public Health Ordinance Chap. 12:04 to create regulations to deal with non-hazardous wastes. Under Section 64(I) these authorities are responsible for the removal of household refuse and other rubbish from premises within its respective jurisdictions. Under Section 64(2) local authorities are made responsible for the disposal of all collected refuse.

c) By virtue of Section 55, the EMA has the Authority to ascertain the volume and nature of waste and to develop and implement a programme for the management of such waste.

d) Other agencies charged with the management and maintenance of sewage are the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) which has responsibility under Section 62 of the Water and Sewerage Act Chap. 54:40 , for maintaining and developing the existing sewerage system and for administering the sewerage services thereby established and providing such services in Trinidad and Tobago.

e) Further management of sewage is also provided for under the Public Health Ordinance Chap. 12:04, which gives local authorities the power to make regulations for sanitary arrangements and convenience

f) of any public or other building. The Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) also has similar responsibility as indicated above.

g) The Beverage Containers Bill provides for the regulation of the sale of beverages in sealable containers, the payment of a deposit on prescribed classes of beverage containers, the refund of the deposit on the return of reusable and recyclable

containers, and other administrative and fiscal measures to encourage the reuse and recycling of beverage containers and reduce the disposal of beverage containers into the environment, and for matters incidental thereto.

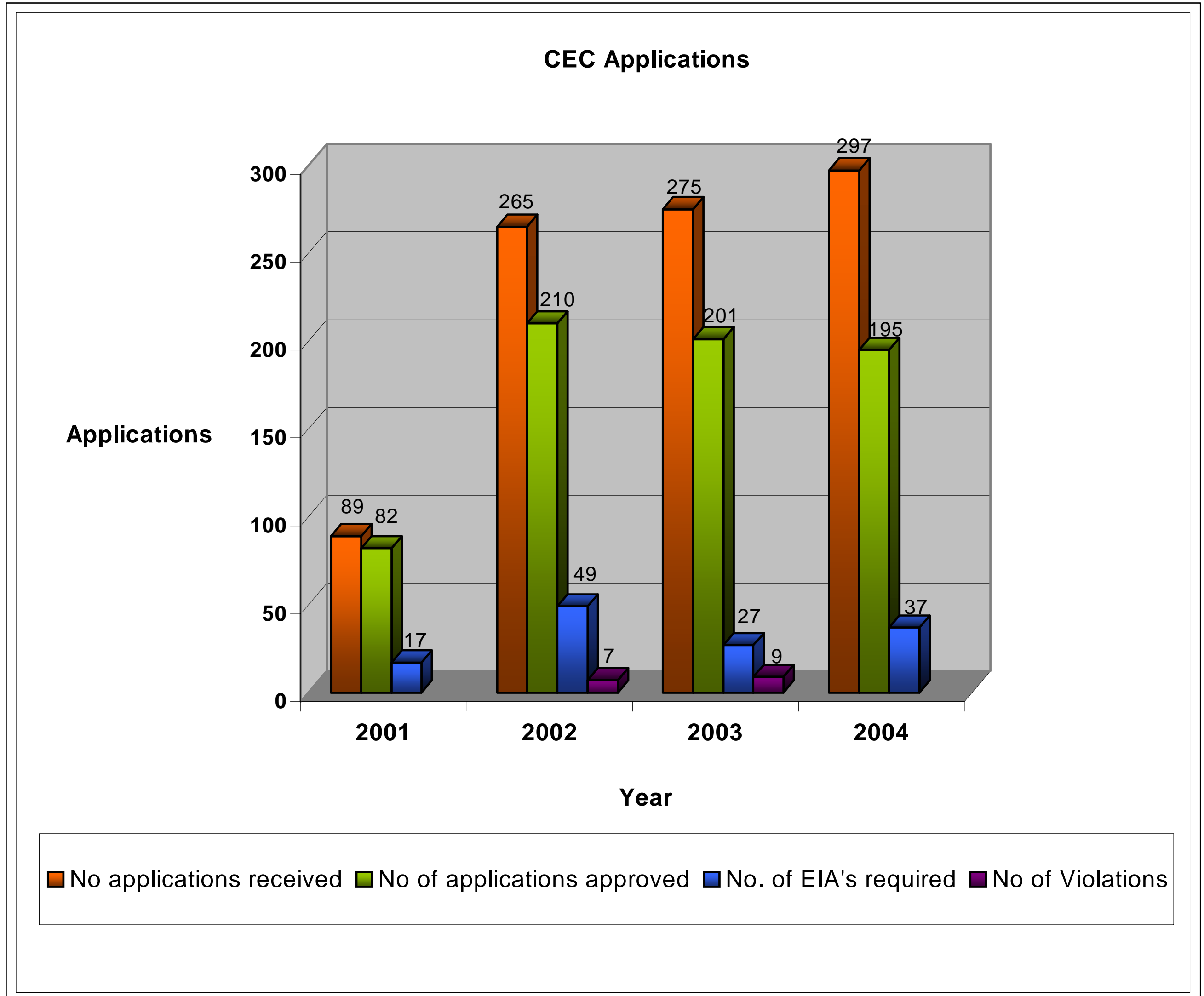
TABLE 15.6.1: POLLUTION FROM DESIGNATED ACTIVITIES

LAW	AREA ADRESSED
Certificate of Environmental Clearance Rules (CEC) 2001	The EMA is vested with the authority to regulate the conduct of designated activities so as to minimize environmental impact.

Source: EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report

Section 35(1) of the EM Act states “for the purpose of determining the environmental impact which might arise out of any new or significantly modified construction, process, works other activity, the Minister may by order subject to negative resolution of Parliament, designate a list of activities requiring a certificate of environmental clearance.” A certificate of environmental clearance is issued under section 36(1) of the EM Act 2000 which states “After considering all relevant matters, including the comments or representations made during the public comment period, the Authority may issue a Certificate subject to such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, including the requirement to undertake appropriate mitigation measures.

CHART 15.2: CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE APPLICATIONS, 2001-2004



Source: EMA 1999 State of the Environment Report

The graph indicates a marked increase of the number of applications received since the inception of the CEC Rules 2001. This is an indication of the increase in environmental awareness.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOLS

Introduction

Environmental issues often transcend national boundaries, making them a global concern. The release of carbon dioxide and ozone depleting substances into the atmosphere, the international trade in wild flora and fauna and the transboundary movement of hazardous waste are but a few examples of how the actions of one country can impact on other countries.

Trinidad and Tobago acceded to its first Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) on 19 January 1984 the auspicious convention was the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

The MEAs provide the basis for international co-operation in the management of the environment on a global scale. MEAs also provide opportunities for small island developing states like Trinidad and Tobago to obtain recognition of their special needs and vulnerabilities as we attempt to move toward developed nation status in a sustainable manner. The international meetings that are associated with MEAs provide invaluable fora for the exchange of ideas, solutions and opportunities for networking.

15.7 Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971(RAMSAR Convention)

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971(RAMSAR Convention) also know as the Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty adopted on 2 February 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar. Ramsar is the first of the modern global intergovernmental treaties on the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. The original emphasis of the Convention was upon the conservation and wise use of wetlands primarily as habitat for waterbirds. Over the years, however, the Convention has broadened its scope to cover all aspects of wetland conservation and wise use, recognizing wetlands as ecosystems that are extremely important for biodiversity conservation and for the well-being of human communities.

Parties to the Ramsar Convention have four basic obligations to fulfill:

Obligation 1: Listed sites

The first obligation under the Convention is to designate at least one wetland for inclusion in the **List of Wetlands of International Importance** (the "Ramsar List") and to promote its conservation, including, where appropriate, its wise use. Selection for the Ramsar List should be based on the wetland's significance in terms of ecology, botany, zoology, limnology, or hydrology. The Contracting Parties have adopted specific criteria and guidelines for identifying sites that qualify for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Obligation 2: Wise use

Under the Convention there is a general obligation for the Contracting Parties to include wetland conservation considerations in their national land-use planning. They have undertaken to formulate and implement this planning so as to promote, as far as possible, "**the wise use of wetlands in their territory**" (Article 3.1 of the treaty). The Conference of the Contracting Parties has approved guidelines and additional guidance on how to achieve "wise use", which has been interpreted as being synonymous with "sustainable use".

Obligation 3: Reserves and training

Contracting Parties have also undertaken to establish nature reserves in wetlands, whether or not they are included in the Ramsar List, and they are also expected to promote training in the fields of wetland research, management and wardening.

Obligation 4: International cooperation

Contracting Parties have also agreed to consult with other Contracting Parties about implementation of the Convention, especially in regard to transfrontier wetlands, shared water systems, and shared species.

Trinidad and Tobago currently has three designated Ramsar sites:

- Nariva Swamp – December 21, 1992
- Caroni Swamp – July 8, 2005
- Buccoo Reef/Bon Accord Lagoon Complex–July 8, 2005

For more information on the Ramsar Convention please refer to:
http://www.ramsar.org/about/about_infopack_2e.htm

15.8 Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) 1973

CITES was born out of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union) and eventually entered in force on 1 July 1975. The aim of CITES is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Because the trade in wild animals and plants crosses borders between countries, the effort to regulate it requires international cooperation to safeguard certain species from over-exploitation.

CITES was conceived in the spirit of such cooperation. Today, it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 30,000 species of animals and plants, whether they are traded as live specimens, fur coats or dried herbs.

Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties – in other words they have to implement the Convention – it does not take the place of national laws. Like many other Conventions, it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that the Convention is implemented at the national level.

For more information on CITES please refer to: http://www.cites.org/

15.9 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MarPol Convention) 1973

The MARPOL Convention is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes. It is a combination of two treaties adopted in 1973 and 1978 respectively and updated by amendments throughout the years.

The Convention was adopted on 2 November 1973 and covers pollution by oil, chemicals, harmful substances in packaged form, sewage and garbage. The Protocol of 1978 (1978 MARPOL Protocol) relating to the 1973 Convention was adopted at a Conference on Tanker Safety and Pollution Prevention in February 1978 held in response to a spate of tanker accidents in 1976-1977.

As the 1973 MARPOL Convention had not yet entered into force, the 1978 MARPOL Protocol absorbed the parent Convention. The combined instrument is referred to as the International Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78), and it entered into force on 2 October 1983 (Annexes I and II).

The Convention includes regulations aimed at preventing and minimizing pollution from ships - both accidental pollution and that from routine operations - and currently includes six technical Annexes:

Annex I Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Oil

Annex II Regulations for the Control of Pollution by Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk

Annex III Prevention of Pollution by Harmful Substances Carried by Sea in Packaged Form
Annex IV Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Ships

Annex V Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships

Annex VI Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships (entry into force 19 May 2005)

States Parties must accept Annexes I and II, but the other Annexes are voluntary.

For more information on the Marpol Convention please refer to:
http://www.imo.org/Conventions/contents.asp?doc_id=678&topic_id=258

15.10 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) 1983

The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region was adopted in Cartagena, Colombia on 24 March 1983 and entered into force on 11 October 1986, for the legal implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme. The Cartagena Convention has been ratified by 21 United Nations Member States in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR). Its area of application comprises the marine environment of the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and the areas of the Atlantic Ocean adjacent thereto, south of 30 ^{0} north latitude and within 200 nautical miles of the Atlantic Coasts of the States.

The legal structure of the Convention is such that it covers the various aspects of marine pollution for which the Contracting Parties must adopt measures. Thus, the Convention requires the adoption of measures aimed at preventing, reducing and controlling pollution of the following areas:

- pollution from ships
- pollution caused by dumping
- pollution from sea-bed activities
- airborne pollution
- pollution from land-based sources and activities.

In addition, the Parties are required to take appropriate measures to protect and preserve rare or fragile ecosystems, as well as the habitat of depleted, threatened or endangered species and to develop technical and other guidelines for the planning and environmental impact assessments of important development projects in order to prevent or reduce harmful impacts on the area of application.

The Convention has been supplemented by three Protocols:

15.10.1 A Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region which was also adopted in 1983 and entered into force on 11 October 1986. The Protocol Concerning Co-operation and Development in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region (the Oil Spills Protocol) was drafted and adopted concurrently with the

Cartagena Convention in 1983. The objective of the Protocol is to strengthen national and regional preparedness and response capacity of the nations and territories of the region. The Protocol also serves to foster and facilitate co-operation and mutual assistance among the nations and territories in cases of emergency in order to prevent and control major oil spill incidents.

15.10.2 A Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region which was adopted on 18 January 1990 and entered into force on 18 June 2000. The Protocol has been internationally recognised as the most comprehensive treaty of its kind and preceded other international environmental agreements in utilizing an ecosystem approach to conservation. The Protocol acts as a vehicle to assist with regional implementation of the broader and more demanding global Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The objective of the Protocol is to protect rare and fragile ecosystems and habitats, thereby protecting the endangered and threatened species residing therein. The Caribbean Regional Co-ordinating Unit pursues this objective by assisting with the establishment and proper management of protected areas, by promoting sustainable management (and use) of species to prevent their endangerment and by providing assistance to the governments of the region in conserving their coastal ecosystems.

15.10.3 A Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS).

The Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention decided in 1987 at a meeting in Guadeloupe to give priority to this Protocol which was adopted on 6 October 1999 in Aruba. This Protocol is the first regional environmental agreement where effluent limitations and other obligations are required within a given time frame for specific sources of pollution and may serve as a model to others. Annex I of the Protocol establishes a list of the sources, activities, and contaminants of specific concern for the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) as a whole. Annex II establishes the process for developing regional source-specific controls for the sources and activities identified in Annex I or other sources as determined by the Contracting Parties. Annexes proceeding from Annex II provide source-specific control measures in the form of regional effluent limitations and best management practices. Such annexes also contain timetables for achieving the effluent limitations and management practices. The LBS Protocol is an important instrument to assist States in the WCR to achieve the goals and obligations of two

other international agreements as well. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea calls upon States to adopt laws and regulations to prevent, reduce, and control, pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA), adopted in Washington in 1995, also highlights the need for action to reduce the pollutant load to the seas from land-based sources and activities. Both of these instruments emphasize the need to act at the regional level to address this problem.

For more information on the Cartagena Convention and its associated Protocols please refer to: http://www.cep.unep.org/law/cartnut.html

15.11 Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna Convention) 1985

In 1985, nations agreed in Vienna to take "appropriate measures...to protect human health and the environment against adverse effects resulting or likely to result from human activities which modify or are likely to modify the Ozone Layer", thus the Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer was born.

The main thrust of the Convention was to encourage research and overall cooperation among countries and exchange of information. Even so it took four years to prepare and agree. Twenty nations signed it in Vienna, but most did not rush to ratify it. The Convention provided for future protocols and specified procedures for Amendment and dispute settlement.

The Vienna Convention set an important precedent. For the first time nations agreed in principle to address a global environmental problem before its effects were felt, or even scientifically proven.

As the experts began to explore for specific measures to be taken, the journal 'Nature' published a paper in May 1985 by British scientists - led by Dr. Joe Farman - about severe ozone depletion in the Antarctic. The paper's findings were confirmed by American satellite observations and offered the first proof of severe ozone depletion and making the need for definite measures more urgent. As a result, In September 1987, agreement was reached on specific measures to be taken and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed.

For more information please see:
http://ozone.unep.org/Treaties_and_Ratification/2A_vienna_convention.asp

15.12 Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal Protocol) 1987

Following the discovery of the Antarctic ozone hole in late 1985, governments recognized the need for stronger measures to reduce the production and consumption of a number of CFCs (CFC 11, 12, 113, 114, and 115) and several Halons (1211, 1301, and 2402). The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was adopted on 16 September 1987 at the Headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal. The Protocol came into force on 1st January 1989, when it was ratified by 29 countries and the EEC. Since then several other countries have ratified it.

The Protocol was designed so that the phase out schedules could be revised on the basis of periodic scientific and technological assessments. Following such assessments, the Protocol was adjusted to accelerate the phase out schedules. It has also been amended to introduce other kinds of control measures and to add new controlled substances to the list.

For more information please refer to:
http://ozone.unep.org/Treaties_and_Ratification/2B_montreal_protocol.asp

15.13 Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention) 1989

The Basel Convention addresses the problems and challenges posed by hazardous waste. When hazardous waste is dumped indiscriminately, spilled accidentally or managed improperly, it can cause severe health problems, even death, and poison water and land for decades. The Basel Convention addresses wastes that are toxic, poisonous, explosive, corrosive, flammable, ecotoxic and infectious.

The need for the Convention arose in the late 1980s, when a tightening of environmental regulations in industrialized countries led to a dramatic rise in the cost of hazardous waste disposal. Searching for cheaper ways to get rid of the wastes, “toxic traders” began shipping

hazardous waste to developing countries and to Eastern Europe. When this activity was revealed, international outrage led to the drafting and adoption of the Basel Convention.

During its first decade (1989-1999), the Convention was principally devoted to setting up a framework for controlling the “transboundary” movements of hazardous wastes, that is, the movement of hazardous wastes across international frontiers. It was during this decade that a central goal of the Basel Convention, “environmentally sound management” (ESM), was developed. The aim of “environmentally sound management” is to protect human health and the environment by minimizing hazardous waste production whenever possible. ESM means addressing the issue through an “integrated life-cycle approach”, which involves strong controls from the generation of a hazardous waste to its storage, transport, treatment, reuse, recycling, recovery and final disposal.

During the present decade (2000-2010), the Convention will build on this framework by emphasizing full implementation and enforcement of treaty commitments. The other area of focus will be the minimization of hazardous waste generation. Recognizing that the long-term solution to the stockpiling of hazardous wastes is a reduction in the generation of those wastes - both in terms of quantity and hazardousness - Ministers meeting in December of 1999 set out guidelines for the Convention’s activities during the next decade, including:

- active promotion and use of cleaner technologies and production methods;
- further reduction of the movement of hazardous and other wastes;
- the prevention and monitoring of illegal traffic;
- improvement of institutional and technical capabilities -through technology when appropriate - especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- further development of regional and subregional centres for training and technology transfer.

One of these controls consisted of the development of a control system which is based on prior written notification. Because hazardous wastes pose such a potential threat to human health and the environment, one of the guiding principles of the Basel Convention is that, in order to minimize the threat, hazardous wastes should be dealt with as close to where they are produced as possible. Therefore, under the Convention, transboundary movements of

hazardous wastes or other wastes can take place only upon prior written notification by the State of export to the competent authorities of the States of import and transit (if appropriate). Each shipment of hazardous waste or other waste must be accompanied by a movement document from the point at which a transboundary movement begins to the point of disposal. Hazardous waste shipments made without such documents are illegal. In addition, there are outright bans on the export of these wastes to certain countries. Transboundary movements can take place, however, if the state of export does not have the capability of managing or disposing of the hazardous waste in an environmentally sound manner.

The key objectives of the Basel Convention are:

- to minimize the generation of hazardous wastes in terms of quantity and hazardousness;
- to dispose of them as close to the source of generation as possible; and
- to reduce the movement of hazardous wastes.

For more information on the Basel Convention please refer to:
http://www.basel.int/pub/basics.html

15.14 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 1992

The Convention on Climate Change sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to address the challenge posed by climate change. It recognizes that the climate system is a shared resource whose stability can be affected by industrial and other emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The Convention enjoys near universal membership, with 189 countries having ratified.

Under the Convention, governments:

- gather and share information on greenhouse gas emissions, national policies and best practices
- launch national strategies for addressing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to expected impacts, including the provision of financial and technological support to developing countries
- cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

The Convention entered into force on 21 March 1994.

For more information on the UNFCCC please see:
http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/items/2627.php

15.15 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1992

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is one of the two Conventions signed by the international community during the Earth Summit, at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992. The other convention is the Convention on Climate Change. The three objectives of the CBD are:

- the conservation of biological diversity,
- the sustainable use of its components,
- the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

The CBD is the first agreement to address all aspects of biological diversity (species, ecosystems and genetic resources) and has become one of the most widely ratified international treaties on environmental issues.

Unlike other international agreements that set strict concrete targets for action, the Convention on Biological Diversity is a framework agreement that takes a flexible approach to implementation, leaving it up to individual countries to determine how its provisions are to be implemented. Provisions are mostly expressed as goals and policies, rather than as precise obligations and targets.

One of its greatest achievements so far has been to generate an enormous amount of interest in biodiversity at national level, both in developed and developing countries. Biodiversity is now seen as a critically important environment and development issue.

For more information on the CBD please go to:
http://bch-cbd.naturalsciences.be/belgium/convention/convention-faq.htm

15.16 The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

On 29 January 2000, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a supplementary agreement to the Convention known as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. It establishes an advance informed agreement (AIA) procedure for ensuring that countries are provided with the information necessary to make informed decisions before agreeing to the import of such organisms into their territory. The Protocol contains reference to a precautionary approach and reaffirms the precaution language in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The Protocol also establishes a Biosafety Clearing-House to facilitate the exchange of information on living modified organisms and to assist countries in the implementation of the Protocol.

"Living modified organism" means any living organism that possesses a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology;

For more information on the Cartagena Protocol please refer to:
http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety/background2.aspx

15.17 Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (Stockholm Convention)

The Stockholm Convention is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs). POPs are chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, becoming widely distributed geographically; they accumulate in the fatty tissue of living organisms and are toxic to humans and wildlife. POPs circulate globally and can cause damage wherever they travel. In implementing the Convention, Governments will take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment.

Please refer to the following website for more information: http://www.pops.int/

15.18 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, (UNCCD) 1994

The objective of the UNCCD is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa. The Convention does this through action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnerships. It uses an integrated approach to combat desertification, which is consistent with the principles of sustainable development as contained in Agenda 21. The UNCCD came into force in December 1996.

15.19 The Kyoto Protocol 1997

The 1997 Kyoto Protocol shares the UNFCCC's objective, principles and institutions, but significantly strengthens the Convention by committing Annex I Parties to individual, legally-binding targets to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Only Parties to the Convention that have also become Parties to the Protocol (i.e. by ratifying, accepting, approving, or acceding to it) will be bound by the Protocol's commitments. 163 countries have ratified the Protocol to date. Of these, 35 countries and the EEC are required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions below levels specified for each of them in the treaty. The individual targets for Annex I Parties are listed in the Kyoto Protocol's Annex B. These add up to a total cut in greenhouse-gas emissions of at least 5% from 1990 levels in the commitment period 2008-2012. The Kyoto Protocol entered into force on 16 February 2005.

For more information on the Kyoto Protocol please see:
http://unfccc.int/essential_background/kyotoprotocol/items/2830.php

Table 15.7 presents a summarized view of important facts pertaining to Conventions and International Protocols which relates to Trinidad and Tobago.

TABLE 15.7: SUMMARY FACTS ON CONVENTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOLS

Convention	Signed	Accede/Accept/Ratify by Trinidad and Tobago	Date of entry into force	Number of Parties as at 31 Dec. 2005	Focal Point
RAMSAR Convention, 1971		Acceded to the Convention on Wetlands on 21 April 1993	21 December 1975	150	MPUE
CITES, 1973		Acceded to the Convention on 19 January 1984	1 July 1975	169	MPUE
Marpol, 1973					
Law of the Sea, 1982			16 November 1994	149	
Cartegena Convention, 1983		24 January 1986	11 October 1996	21	MPUE
Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region		24 January 1986	11 October 1986	21	
SPAW Protocol, 1990		10 August 1999	18 June 2000	12	MPUE
LBS Protocol, 1999		Protocol on 28 March 2003	The Protocol is not in force	2	MPUE
Vienna Convention, 1985		28 August 1989	22 September 1988	190	MPUE
Montreal Protocol, 1987		28 August 1989	1 January 1989	189	
Basel Convention	-------------------	18 February 1994 acc	5 May 1992	166	MPUE
UNFCCC, 1992		24 June 1994 Trinidad and Tobago is a Non-Annex 1 country	21 March 1994	189	MPUE
CBD, 1992		1 August 1996	21 December 1975	188	MPUE
UNCCD, 1994	-------------------	8 June 2000 acc	6 September 2000	191	MPUE
Kyoto Protocol, 1997	7 January 1999	28 January 1999	16 February 2005	158	
The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity	------------------	5 October 2000	11 September 2003	130	MPUE
Stockholm Convention, 2001	-------------------	13 December 2002 acc	17 May 2004	117	