



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.28/16
4 October 2021

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Twenty-eighth Meeting
Virtual meeting, 11-13 October 2021

Agenda Item 4 j)

PROPOSAL FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Background

1. The strategic priorities, policies and guidelines of the Adaptation Fund (the Fund), as well as its operational policies and guidelines include provisions for funding projects and programmes at the regional, i.e. transnational level. However, the Fund has thus far not funded such projects and programmes.

2. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board), as well as its Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) and Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC) considered issues related to regional projects and programmes on a number of occasions between the Board's fourteenth and twenty-first meetings but the Board did not make decisions for the purpose of inviting proposals for such projects. Indeed, in its fourteenth meeting, the Board decided to:

- (c) Request the secretariat to send a letter to any accredited regional implementing entities informing them that they could present a country project/programme but not a regional project/programme until a decision had been taken by the Board, and that they would be provided with further information pursuant to that decision*

(Decision B.14/25 (c))

3. At its eighth meeting in March 2012, the PPRC came up with recommendations on certain definitions related to regional projects and programmes. However, as the subsequent seventeenth Board meeting took a different strategic approach to the overall question of regional projects and programmes, these PPRC recommendations were not included in a Board decision.

4. At its twenty-fourth meeting, the Board heard a presentation from the coordinator of the working group set up by decision B.17/20 and tasked with following up on the issue of regional projects and programmes. She circulated a recommendation prepared by the working group, for the consideration by the Board, and the Board decided:

- (a) To initiate steps to launch a pilot programme on regional projects and programmes, not to exceed US\$ 30 million;*
- (b) That the pilot programme on regional projects and programmes will be outside of the consideration of the 50 per cent cap on multilateral implementing entities (MIEs) and the country cap;*
- (c) That regional implementing entities (RIEs) and MIEs that partner with national implementing entities (NIEs) or other national institutions would be eligible for this pilot programme, and*

(d) To request the secretariat to prepare for the consideration of the Board, before the twenty-fifth meeting of the Board or intersessionally, under the guidance of the working group set up under decision B.17/20, a proposal for such a pilot programme based on consultations with contributors, MIEs, RIEs, the Adaptation Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), and other relevant bodies, as appropriate, and in that proposal make a recommendation on possible options on approaches, procedures and priority areas for the implementation of the pilot programme.

(Decision B.24/30)

5. The proposal requested under (d) of the decision above was prepared by the secretariat and submitted to the Board in its twenty-fifth meeting, and the Board decided to:

(a) Approve the pilot programme on regional projects and programmes, as contained in document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2;

(b) Set a cap of US\$ 30 million for the programme;

(c) Request the secretariat to issue a call for regional project and programme proposals for consideration by the Board in its twenty-sixth meeting; and

(d) Request the secretariat to continue discussions with the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) towards operationalizing, during the implementation of the pilot programme on regional projects and programmes, the Synergy Option 2 on knowledge management proposed by CTCN and included in Annex III of the document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2.

(Decision B.25/28)

6. Based on the Board Decision B.25/28, the first call for regional project and programme proposals was issued and an invitation letter to eligible Parties to submit project and programme proposals to the Fund was sent out on 5 May 2015.

7. At its twenty-sixth meeting the Board decided *to request the secretariat to inform the Multilateral Implementing Entities and Regional Implementing Entities that the call for proposals under the Pilot Programme for Regional Projects and Programmes is still open and to encourage them to submit proposals to the Board at its 27th meeting, bearing in mind the cap established by Decision B.25/26.*

(Decision B.26/3)

8. At its twenty-seventh meeting the Board decided to:

- (a) *Continue consideration of regional project and programme proposals under the pilot programme, while reminding the implementing entities that the amount set aside for the pilot programme is US\$ 30 million;*
- (b) *Request the secretariat to prepare for consideration by the Project and Programme Review Committee at its nineteenth meeting, a proposal for prioritization among regional project/programme proposals, including for awarding project formulation grants, and for establishment of a pipeline; and*
- (c) *Consider the matter of the pilot programme for regional projects and programmes at its twenty-eighth meeting.*

(Decision B.27/5)

9. The proposal requested in (b) above was presented to the nineteenth meeting of the PPRC as document AFB/PPRC.19/5. The Board subsequently decided:

a) *With regard to the pilot programme approved by decision B.25/28:*

(i) *To prioritize the four projects and 10 project formulation grants as follows:*

1. *If the proposals recommended to be funded in a given meeting of the PPRC do not exceed the available slots under the pilot programme, all those proposals would be submitted to the Board for funding;*

2. *If the proposals recommended to be funded in a given meeting of the PPRC do exceed the available slots under the pilot programme, the proposals to be funded under the pilot programme would be prioritized so that the total number of projects and project formulation grants (PFGs) under the programme maximizes the total diversity of projects/PFGs. This would be done using a three-tier prioritization system: so that the proposals in relatively less funded sectors would be prioritized as the first level of prioritization. If there are more than one proposal in the same sector: the proposals in relatively less funded regions are prioritized as the second level of prioritization. If there are more than one proposal in the same region, the proposals submitted by relatively less represented implementing entity would be prioritized as the third level of prioritization;*

(ii) *To request the secretariat to report on the progress and experiences of the pilot programme to the PPRC at its twenty-third meeting; and*

- b) With regard to financing regional proposals beyond the pilot programme referred to above:
- (i) *To continue considering regional proposals for funding, within the two categories originally described in document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2: ones requesting up to US\$ 14 million, and others requesting up to US\$ 5 million, subject to review of the regional programme;*
 - (ii) *To establish two pipelines for technically cleared regional proposals: one for proposals up to US\$ 14 million and the other for proposals up to US\$ 5 million, and place any technically cleared regional proposals, in those pipelines, in the order described in decision B.17/19 (their date of recommendation by the PPRC, their submission date, their lower “net” cost); and*
 - (iii) *To fund projects from the two pipelines, using funds available for the respective types of implementing entities, so that the maximum number of or maximum total funding for projects and project formulation grants to be approved each fiscal year will be outlined at the time of approving the annual work plan of the Board.*

(Decision B.28/1)

10. At its thirty-first meeting, having considered the comments and recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) *To merge the two pipelines for technically cleared regional proposals established in decision B.28/1(b)(ii), so that starting in fiscal year 2019 the provisional amount of funding for regional proposals would be allocated without distinction between the two categories originally described in document AFB/B.25/6/Rev.2, and that the funding of regional proposals would be established on a ‘first come, first served’ basis; and*
- (b) *To include in its work programme for fiscal year 2019 provision of an amount of US\$ 60 million for the funding of regional project and programme proposals, as follows:*
 - (i) *Up to US\$ 59 million to be used for funding regional project and programme proposals in the two categories of regional projects and programmes: ones requesting up to US \$14 million, and others requesting up to US\$ 5 million; and*
 - (ii) *Up to US\$ 1 million for funding project formulation grant requests for preparing regional project and programme concepts or fully-developed project and programme documents.*

(Decision B.31/3)

11. According to the Board Decision B.12/10, a project or programme proposal needs to be received by the secretariat no less than nine weeks before a Board meeting, in order to be considered by the Board in that meeting.
12. The following project concept document titled "Multisectoral Adaptation Measures to Climate Change in the South Oropouche Basin for River Flood Relief" was submitted for Trinidad and Tobago by the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), which is a Regional Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund.
13. This is the first submission of the regional project concept proposal using the two-step submission process.
14. The current submission was received by the secretariat in time to be considered in the thirty-seventh Board meeting. The secretariat carried out a technical review of the project proposal, with the diary number AF00000261, and completed a review sheet.
15. In accordance with a request to the secretariat made by the Board in its 10th meeting, the secretariat shared this review sheet with the CAF and offered it the opportunity of providing responses before the review sheet was sent to the PPRC.
16. The secretariat is submitting to the PPRC the summary and, pursuant to decision B.17/15, the final technical review of the project, both prepared by the secretariat, along with the final submission of the proposal in the following section. In accordance with decision B.25.15, the proposal is submitted with changes between the initial submission and the revised version highlighted.



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: Regular-sized Project Concept

Country/Region: Trinidad and Tobago/Caribbean**Project Title:** Multisectoral Adaptation Measures to Climate Change in the South Oropouche Basin for River Flood Relief**Thematic Focal Area:** Multisector**Implementing Entity:** CAF, Development Bank of Latin America**Executing Entities:** The University of the West Indies (UWI)**AF Project ID:** AF00000261**IE Project ID:****Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars):** 10,000,000**Reviewer and contact person:** Micol Ullmann Auger**Co-reviewer(s):** Christian Severin**IE Contact Person:** <to be filled by the IE>

Technical Summary

The project "Multisectoral Adaptation Measures to Climate Change in the South Oropouche Basin for River Flood Relief" aims to increase the resilience of the South Oropouche River Basin's population and ecosystems to flooding, sea level rise and expected increasing water deficit events. This will be done through the five components below:

Component 1: Strengthening of Territorial Planning and Risk Management (USD 2,800,000).

Component 2: Green and grey infrastructure enhanced to increase resilience to floods and droughts (USD 3,400,000).

Component 3: Vulnerable coastal and wetland ecosystems of the SORB enhanced. (USD 1,300,000).

Component 4: Increase adaptation capacity of vulnerable farmers and fishers to address climate change and climate variability (USD 850,000).

Component 5: Stakeholders of the SORB have built their capacities and are aware of climate risks (250,000).

	<p>Requested financing overview: Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 750,000 Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 9,300,000 Implementing Fee: USD 700,000 Financing Requested: USD 10,000,000</p> <p>The initial technical review raised several issues, such as the need to include an initial gender assessment, to specify how the project will align with the Adaptation Fund strategic results framework, as well as more details regarding risks, and the knowledge management component as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.</p> <p>The final technical review finds that all the Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the initial technical review have been addressed.</p>
Date:	September 21, 2021

Review Criteria	Questions	Comments initial technical review	Comments final technical review
Country Eligibility	1. Is the country party to the Kyoto Protocol?	Yes.	-
	2. Is the country a developing country particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	Yes. Trinidad and Tobago is extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts including increasing temperatures, frequent flooding and saline intrusion, with both health and economic ramifications, including on local farming and tourism livelihoods.	-
Project Eligibility	1. Has the designated government authority for the Adaptation Fund endorsed the project/programme?	Yes, as per the Endorsement letter dated July 30, 2021.	-

	2. Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than Fifty pages for the project/programme concept, including its annexes?	No, the concept is currently 51 pages.	Yes.
	3. Does the project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the country in addressing adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?	<p>Potentially. The project aims to promote investments for enhancing water infrastructure, EbA measures in vulnerable and coastal ecosystems, and to raise awareness of climate change impacts and climate change adaptation focusing on the South Oropouche River Basin. The proposed activities are designed to strengthen institutional and regulatory systems for climate responsive planning and development, as well as information, monitoring, and climate information management and early warning systems. The planned activities include capacity building for local farmers and fishers for climate adaptive farming and improved livelihoods options.</p> <p>However, the project document is outlining a set of investments that are trying to address all issues at the same time, without a compelling cohesive storyline. Hence the concept appears as being over ambitious and lacking the needed focus to facilitate change through concrete adaptation actions.</p> <p>If the project presented the actions within</p>	<p>CAR1: Addressed. The concept note now includes new text and two infographics that visually present the climate threats, impacts and dynamics of the watershed and all the measures located in the territory applied in a landscape approach to respond to the identified adaptation needs.</p> <p>The proposed measures have been selected based on numerous studies, technical inputs from experts and various ministries, as well as in response to priorities expressed during the consultations process. Moreover, as explained in section F of the concept note, larger infrastructure projects focused on the upper basin whose budgets exceed those of the project, are already being considered by the Government for loan applications with multilateral agencies.</p> <p>CAR2: Addressed. The highly urbanized nature of both the lower and upper parts of the basin makes potential interventions upriver not cost-effective. These investments have also</p>

	<p>a Source to Sea framework and understanding, it would probably be easier to understand connections between the actions and how these would be reinforcing each other throughout the basin, and hence lead to long-term sustainability.</p> <p>CAR1: Strongly consider focusing the investments proposed and include a description that outlines how the components and sub investments will be delivering increased climate resilience to the South Oropouche River Basin.</p> <p>The project team might consider adding a component dedicated to adaptation measures in the upper part of the basin. Experience exists from other SIDS where investments in the upper basin led to substantial changes and directly led to the minimization of risk of flooding in the lower parts of the basin. These investments could be more impactful compared to small-scale rainwater harvesting or similar investments in the lower part of the basin. This is because unless investments to change flow-patterns and intensity are included, the investments further downstream may not be as impactful as expected.</p> <p>CAR2: Please consider adding a component dedicated to Adaptation measures in the upper part of the basin.</p>	<p>been assessed as difficult to implement due to unavailability of land. The larger changes in water flow will come from large investments planned for the basin, which are out of the scope of this project (see Section F of the Concept Note).</p>
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	<p>4. Does the project / programme provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p>Potentially. The project concept provides benefits in all three areas and outlines benefits to vulnerable groups in the target area.</p> <p>However, as the activities are presented as a collection of separate investments, rather than supporting an overarching logic and approach, it is uncertain if the proposed actions will provide the needed positive impacts.</p> <p>Kindly consider the suggestions made in CR1.</p>	<p>Yes. The overarching logic and approach have been clarified (see CAR1).</p>
	<p>5. Is the project / programme cost effective?</p>	<p>Unclear. As outlined in Section C, page 37, the project will prioritize 'no-regret and low regret options' and cost-effective technologies for adaptation assessed in the study conducted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Trinidad and Tobago "Understanding the economics of climate adaptation in Trinidad and Tobago", which include capacity building activities, mangrove restoration and improved DRM. The proposed measures contribute to avoid associated increasing losses and economic costs compared to the current approach of reactive measures such as evacuation, subsidies to farmers and people affected by flooding, among others. Furthermore, the project activities including improved drainage, early warning systems, and reduced</p>	<p>Clear. The overarching logic and approach have been clarified (see CAR1 and CAR2).</p>

		<p>agricultural losses due to flooding and salt intrusion, as well as the low maintenance costs of the proposed infrastructures are likely cost effective. Finally, the project seeks to use public sector and local resources, further reducing costs.</p> <p>However, due to the way the investments are presented as stand-alone investments, some of them with no apparent connection to a common strategy, it is hard to determine if the project will be cost effective (see CR1 and CR2).</p>	
	<p>6. Is the project / programme consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments?</p>	<p>Yes. The project will support five out of the six national environmental priorities set by the National Environmental Policy (2018) for Trinidad and Tobago, the National Policy and Programmes on Wetland Conservation for Trinidad and Tobago (2002), National Protected Areas Policy (2011), National Forest Policy (2011), National Climate Change Policy (2011), National Wildlife Policy (2013), National Tourism Policy (2010), and National Integrated Water Resources Management Policy (2005).</p> <p>Trinidad and Tobago's nationally implemented plans also have matching components with the project. These are the National Biodiversity and Strategy Action Plan (2017), Draft National Flood Response Plan, National Response</p>	-

		<p>Framework (2014), National Protected Areas Systems Plan for Trinidad and Tobago (2018), National Hazard Mitigation Plan (2014) and the National Action Plan Programme to Combat Land Degradation in T&T: 2006-2020.</p> <p>Finally, the proposal is aligned with efforts being undertaken through the OPDM to update the governance framework for Disaster Risk Management.</p>	
	<p>7. Does the project / programme meet the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p>Yet to be demonstrated.</p> <p>The project will be executed by the University of the West Indies through its St. Augustine Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (STACIE), and commits to ensure adherence to that all laws, policies and regulations of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.</p> <p>CR1: Please provide more details on how the planned project activities are aligned with the relevant national technical standards</p>	<p>CR1: Addressed in section E on pages 42-43. This section has been modified to show the applicable regulations per type of intervention. Please refer to Part II section B.</p>
	<p>8. Is there duplication of project / programme with other funding sources?</p>	<p>No, the project will build on existing efforts to strengthen governance and management of the SORB. The project concept has been coordinated with the Ministry of Planning and Development and CAF, and by addressing the topic throughout the bilateral meetings with the various stakeholders in order to avoid</p>	<p>-</p>

		<p>duplication.</p> <p>However, when the project will be resubmitted, and including more activities in the upstream part of the basin, this section may need to be reassessed.</p>	
	<p>9. Does the project / programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons?</p>	<p>Not cleared.</p> <p>CAR3: Please consider strengthening the proposed budget line for these activities, as they seem under-funded.</p> <p>CR2: Please elaborate further on how the KM activities will be used to inform not only project investments but will also include mechanisms to ensure that lessons learned will be fed into national ministries and organisations to increase local capacity.</p>	<p>CAR3: Addressed. The budget from component 5 has been increased by USD 150,000 to reinforce capacity building activities as well as the knowledge management component, including the stakeholders' engagement activities.</p> <p>CR2: Addressed. Planned activities in Sub-component 5.1 and 5.2 directly target the strengthening of capacities of government and key stakeholders in the basin on climate-related risk reduction strategies and adaptation solutions to address the key climate threats. Additionally, there are a wide range of proposed activities to identify lessons learned and best practices and engage different stakeholders for dissemination and use of those strategies.</p> <p>All lessons learned and best practices identified will be used to inform the capacity building activities under subcomponent 5.1.</p>

	<p>10. Has a consultative process taken place, and has it involved all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p>Yes, as elaborated in Section H, page 42, which includes gender disaggregated participant lists. A Kick-off workshop in November 2020 was attended by governmental and non-governmental organizations. Bilateral interviews and follow-up meetings with key stakeholders were organized and prioritized in conjunction with CAF and the Ministry of Planning, NDA of the Adaptation Fund in Trinidad and Tobago.</p> <p>On 22 April 2021, a Validation Workshop was held to validate the identified climate risks, the baseline conditions, main barriers to alleviate flooding in the watershed; additional climate threats and impacts experienced by the affected population; and to validate the proposed draft activities and interventions, as well as the prioritization of areas to implement the Project and the institutional arrangements foreseen.</p> <p>The feedback from the consultations process informed the project components.</p>	-
	<p>11. Is the requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning?</p>	<p>Not clear.</p> <p>CAR4: It is suggested to consider how the investments proposed are supporting a larger basin level approach, that will identify stressors, opportunities as well as potential solutions to be deployed. The current presentation is a mix of</p>	CAR4: Addressed.

		small-scale local household investments, and some larger overarching investments. There is a clear need to rethink concept so that investments naturally support each other and clearly link to increased resilience of the South Oropouche River Basin (see CAR1 and CAR2).	
	12. Is the project / program aligned with AF's results framework?	<p>No. The concept does not specify the alignment with Adaptation Fund strategic results framework.</p> <p>CAR5: Kindly specify the project's alignment with the Adaptation Fund strategic results framework. https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Adaptation-Fund-Strategic-Results-Framework-Amended-in-March-2019-2.pdf</p>	CAR5: Addressed. Section F Part III identifies how the project aligns with Fund Outcomes.
	13. Has the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes been taken into account when designing the project?	<p>Not clear. The project will support the design and establishment of a sustainability mechanism to ensure that maintenance will be financed over time, regardless of the type of management (private or public). The project will seek the commitment of the governmental institutions for ensuring that this mechanism will be sustained and that there will be enough human resources assigned to this duty.</p> <p>The project needs to include more substantial investments in the upper</p>	<p>CR3: Addressed and outlined in Section J on page 49 and under components 3 and 5.</p> <p>The project has added one activity to identify the best suited governmental institution to maintain the grievance mechanism and the monitoring of E&S standards and strengthen their capacities and related systems to ensure longer term social and environmental sustainability by mainstreaming these considerations at</p>

		<p>basin, in order for investments in the lower basin to become sustainable.</p> <p>CR3: Please provide more details on how the project will ensure the environmental, social, and institutional sustainability of the activities as well.</p>	<p>the local governmental level. Additionally, the wider institutional sustainability will be ensured through capacity building activities to key government technical staff and decision-makers, and local communities.</p>
	<p>14. Does the project / programme provide an overview of environmental and social impacts / risks identified, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p>Not cleared. An overview has been partly provided as per checklist in section K on page 46. The project is classified as a category B.</p> <p>While the project briefly elaborates on the gender-specific cultural and/or legal context in which the project will operate, it does not include an initial gender assessment to be in compliance with the Fund's Gender Policy.</p> <p>CAR6: Please include a gender assessment, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund.</p>	<p>CAR6: Addressed in Part II section B on pages 38-39.</p>
Resource Availability	<p>1. Is the requested project / programme funding within the cap of the country?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	-
	<p>2. Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 8.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget before the fee?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	-

	3. Are the Project/Programme Execution Costs at or below 9.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget (including the fee)?	Yes.	-
Eligibility of IE	1. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?	Yes, CAF which is an accredited Regional Implementing Entity.	-
Implementation Arrangements	1. Is there adequate arrangement for project / programme management, in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund?	n/a at concept stage	
	2. Are there measures for financial and project/programme risk management?	n/a at concept stage	
	3. Are there measures in place for the management of for environmental and social risks, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the	n/a at concept stage	

	Fund?		
	4. Is a budget on the Implementing Entity Management Fee use included?	n/a at concept stage	
	5. Is an explanation and a breakdown of the execution costs included?	n/a at concept stage	
	6. Is a detailed budget including budget notes included?	n/a at concept stage	
	7. Are arrangements for monitoring and evaluation clearly defined, including budgeted M&E plans and sex-disaggregated data, targets and indicators, in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund?	n/a at concept stage	
	8. Does the M&E Framework include a break-down of how implementing entity IE fees will be utilized in the supervision of the M&E function?	n/a at concept stage	
	9. Does the project/programme's results framework align with the AF's results framework?	n/a at concept stage	

	Does it include at least one core outcome indicator from the Fund's results framework?		
	10. Is a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones included?	n/a at concept stage	



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: Regular-sized Project Concept

Country/Region: Trinidad and Tobago/Caribbean

Project Title: Multisectoral Adaptation Measures to Climate Change in the South Oropouche Basin for River Flood Relief

Thematic Focal Area: Multisector

Implementing Entity: CAF, Development Bank of Latin America

Executing Entities: The University of the West Indies (UWI)

AF Project ID: AF00000261

IE Project ID:

Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars): 10,000,000

Reviewer and contact person: Micol Ullmann Auger

Co-reviewer(s): Christian Severin

IE Contact Person: <to be filled by the IE>

Technical Summary	<p>The project “Multisectoral Adaptation Measures to Climate Change in the South Oropouche Basin for River Flood Relief” aims to increase the resilience of the South Oropouche River Basin’s population and ecosystems to flooding, sea level rise and expected increasing water deficit events. This will be done through the five components below:</p> <p><u>Component 1:</u> Strengthening of Territorial Planning and Risk Management (USD 2,800,000).</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> Green and grey infrastructure enhanced to increase resilience to floods and droughts (USD 3,400,000).</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> Vulnerable coastal and wetland ecosystems of the SORB enhanced. (USD 1,300,000).</p> <p><u>Component 4:</u> Increase adaptation capacity of vulnerable farmers and fishers to address climate change and climate variability (USD 850,000).</p> <p><u>Component 5:</u> Stakeholders of the SORB have built their capacities and are aware of climate risks (250,000).</p> <p><u>Requested financing overview:</u></p>
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	<p>Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 750,000 Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 9,300,000 Implementing Fee: USD 700,000 Financing Requested: USD 10,000,000</p> <p>The initial technical review raises several issues, such as the need to include an initial gender assessment, to specify how the project will align with the Adaptation Fund strategic results framework, as well as more details regarding risks, and the knowledge management component as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.</p>
Date:	August 25, 2021

Review Criteria	Questions	Comments	RIE response
Country Eligibility	3. Is the country party to the Kyoto Protocol?	Yes.	N/A
	4. Is the country a developing country particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	Yes. Trinidad and Tobago is extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts including increasing temperatures, frequent flooding and saline intrusion, with both health and economic ramifications, including on local farming and tourism livelihoods.	N/A
Project Eligibility	15. Has the designated government authority for the Adaptation Fund endorsed the project/programme?	Yes, as per the Endorsement letter dated July 30, 2021.	N/A
	16. Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than Fifty pages for the project/programme concept, including its annexes?	No, the concept is currently 51 pages.	The project team has tried to keep the minimum contents and at the same time include all the new clarifications.
	17. Does the project / programme support	Potentially. The project aims to promote investments for enhancing water	CAR1: The concept note now includes new text and two infographics that

	<p>concrete adaptation actions to assist the country in addressing adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?</p>	<p>infrastructure, EbA measures in vulnerable and coastal ecosystems, and to raise awareness of climate change impacts and climate change adaptation focusing on the South Oropouche River Basin. The proposed activities are designed to strengthen institutional and regulatory systems for climate responsive planning and development, as well as information, monitoring, and climate information management and early warning systems. The planned activities include capacity building for local farmers and fishers for climate adaptive farming and improved livelihoods options.</p> <p>However, the project document is outlining a set of investments that are trying to address all issues at the same time, without a compelling cohesive storyline. Hence the concept appears as being over ambitious and lacking the needed focus to facilitate change through concrete adaptation actions.</p> <p>If the project presented the actions within a Source to Sea framework and understanding, it would probably be easier to understand connections between the actions and how these would be reinforcing each other throughout the basin, and hence lead to long-term sustainability.</p> <p>CAR1: Strongly consider focusing the</p>	<p>visually present 1) the climate threats, impacts and dynamics of the watershed (Part I – climate context) and 2) all the measures located in the territory, to visually understand their relationship (Part II – Project description). These proposed measures respond to a thorough analysis of the results of the studies carried out in the basin, of the needs expressed by the representatives of the communities as part of the consultation process, and of the technical views of a wide range of ministries and other authorities consulted. In this sense, the watershed / source-to-sea approach has been deeply considered during the formulation of the concept note, these figures will help see that the measures proposed are not only a list of disconnected measures, but that they are applied in a landscape approach to respond to the identified adaptation needs.</p> <p>CAR2: Although we acknowledge the results in other SIDS where investments in the upper basin led to substantial changes and directly led to the minimization of the risk of flooding in the lower parts of the basin, the specific nature of this catchment, which is highly urbanized both in the lower and the upper part, makes potential interventions upriver not cost-effective. These investments have also been</p>
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		<p>investments proposed and include a description that outlines how the components and sub investments will be delivering increased climate resilience to the South Oropouche River Basin.</p> <p>The project team might consider adding a component dedicated to adaptation measures in the upper part of the basin. Experience exists from other SIDS where investments in the upper basin led to substantial changes and directly led to the minimization of risk of flooding in the lower parts of the basin. These investments could be more impactful compared to small-scale rainwater harvesting or similar investments in the lower part of the basin. This is because unless investments to change flow-patterns and intensity are included, the investments further downstream may not be as impactful as expected.</p> <p>CAR2: Please consider adding a component dedicated to Adaptation measures in the upper part of the basin.</p>	<p>assessed as difficult to implement due to unavailability of land. The larger changes in water flow will come from large investments planned for the basin, which are out of the scope of this project (see Section F of the Concept Note). Please see new text incorporated in Part II – Project description.</p>
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	<p>18. Does the project / programme provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p>Potentially. The project concept provides benefits in all three areas and outlines benefits to vulnerable groups in the target area.</p> <p>However, as the activities are presented as a collection of separate investments, rather than supporting an overarching logic and approach, it is uncertain if the proposed actions will provide the needed positive impacts.</p> <p>Kindly consider the suggestions made in CR1.</p>	<p>The overarching logic and approach have been clarified (see CAR1). Thus, we understand that this point is addressed.</p>
	<p>19. Is the project / programme cost effective?</p>	<p>Unclear. As outlined in Section C, page 37, the project will prioritize 'no-regret and low regret options' and cost-effective technologies for adaptation assessed in the study conducted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Trinidad and Tobago "Understanding the economics of climate adaptation in Trinidad and Tobago", which include capacity building activities, mangrove restoration and improved DRM. The proposed measures contribute to avoid associated increasing losses and economic costs compared to the current approach of reactive measures such as evacuation, subsidies to farmers and people affected by flooding, among others. Furthermore, the project activities including improved drainage, early warning systems, and reduced</p>	<p>The overarching logic and approach have been clarified (see CAR1 and CAR2). Thus, we understand that this point is addressed.</p>

		<p>agricultural losses due to flooding and salt intrusion, as well as the low maintenance costs of the proposed infrastructures are likely cost effective. Finally, the project seeks to use public sector and local resources, further reducing costs.</p> <p>However, due to the way the investments are presented as stand-alone investments, some of them with no apparent connection to a common strategy, it is hard to determine if the project will be cost effective (see CR1 and CR2).</p>	
	<p>20. Is the project / programme consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments?</p>	<p>Yes. The project will support five out of the six national environmental priorities set by the National Environmental Policy (2018) for Trinidad and Tobago, the National Policy and Programmes on Wetland Conservation for Trinidad and Tobago (2002), National Protected Areas Policy (2011), National Forest Policy (2011), National Climate Change Policy (2011), National Wildlife Policy (2013), National Tourism Policy (2010), and National Integrated Water Resources Management Policy (2005).</p> <p>Trinidad and Tobago's nationally implemented plans also have matching components with the project. These are the National Biodiversity and Strategy Action Plan (2017), Draft National Flood Response Plan, National Response</p>	N/A

		<p>Framework (2014), National Protected Areas Systems Plan for Trinidad and Tobago (2018), National Hazard Mitigation Plan (2014) and the National Action Plan Programme to Combat Land Degradation in T&T: 2006-2020.</p> <p>Finally, the proposal is aligned with efforts being undertaken through the OPDM to update the governance framework for Disaster Risk Management.</p>	
	<p>21. Does the project / programme meet the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p>Yet to be demonstrated.</p> <p>The project will be executed by the University of the West Indies through its St. Augustine Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (STACIE), and commits to ensure adherence to that all laws, policies and regulations of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.</p> <p>CR1: Please provide more details on how the planned project activities are aligned with the relevant national technical standards</p>	<p>This section has been modified to show the applicable regulations per type of intervention. Please refer to Part II section B.</p>
	<p>22. Is there duplication of project / programme with other funding sources?</p>	<p>No, the project will build on existing efforts to strengthen governance and management of the SORB. The project concept has been coordinated with the Ministry of Planning and Development and CAF, and by addressing the topic throughout the bilateral meetings with the various stakeholders in order to avoid</p>	<p>No new activities have been proposed in the upstream part of the basin, for the reasons exposed in CAR2.</p>

		<p>duplication.</p> <p>However, when the project will be resubmitted, and including more activities in the upstream part of the basin, this section may need to be reassessed.</p>	
	<p>23. Does the project / programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons?</p>	<p>Not cleared.</p> <p>CAR3: Please consider strengthening the proposed budget line for these activities, as they seem under-funded.</p> <p>CR2: Please elaborate further on how the KM activities will be used to inform not only project investments but will also include mechanisms to ensure that lessons learned will be fed into national ministries and organisations to increase local capacity.</p>	<p>The budget from component 5 has been increased in USD 150,000 to reinforce the capacity building activities as well as the lessons learned and best practices identification and knowledge management component, including the stakeholders' engagement activities.</p> <p>Planned activities in Sub-component 5.1 and 5.2 directly target the strengthening of capacities of government and key stakeholders in the basin in climate-related risk reduction strategies and adaptation solutions to address the identified key climate threats. Additionally, there are a wide range of proposed activities to identify lessons learned and best practices and engage different stakeholders for dissemination and use of those strategies.</p> <p>Activity 5.1.1 targets national and local ministries staff operating in the SORB to strengthen their capacity to manage risks associated with flood, drought, sea-level rise, and saltwater intrusion.</p> <p>Activity 5.1.2 specifically focus on</p>

			<p>peer-to-peer learning among governmental institutions and key flooding experts to improve flooding preparation, management and mitigation with key adaptation solutions.</p> <p>Activity 5.1.3 targets local communities, which will be trained through non formal education in flooding risk management and climate change.</p> <p>Activity 5.2.1 includes awareness raising campaigns on climate change risk reduction management and adaptation strategies directed at the whole population and dedicated sessions targeting key stakeholders in the basin, including dedicating meetings with different ministries and government officials, key industries with a high impact on flooding (developers, oil and gas industries) and NGOs working in the area. The goal of these sessions is to support and reinforce the promoted behaviour changes to address the key climate threats identified in the basin.</p> <p>Activity 5.2.2 Identification of best practices and lessons learned, and dissemination activities include the overarching design of a learning agenda with key learning questions, and annually planning different learning activities to make use of the identified lessons learned, best practices and proven adaptation solutions. Dissemination activities include</p>
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			<p>different formats (videos, reports, one pagers, infographic) but also annual workshops to engage all different stakeholders annually to exchange experiences and discuss the progress of activities and how to better achieve the desired changes.</p> <p>All lessons learned and best practices identified will be used to inform the capacity building activities under subcomponent 5.1.</p>
	<p>24. Has a consultative process taken place, and has it involved all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p>Yes, as elaborated in Section H, page 42, which includes gender disaggregated participant lists. A Kick-off workshop in November 2020 was attended by governmental and non-governmental organizations. Bilateral interviews and follow-up meetings with key stakeholders were organized and prioritized in conjunction with CAF and the Ministry of Planning, NDA of the Adaptation Fund in Trinidad and Tobago.</p> <p>On 22 April 2021, a Validation Workshop was held to validate the identified climate risks, the baseline conditions, main barriers to alleviate flooding in the watershed; additional climate threats and impacts experienced by the affected population; and to validate the proposed draft activities and interventions, as well as the prioritization of areas to implement the Project and the institutional arrangements foreseen.</p> <p>The feedback from the consultations</p>	<p>The overarching logic and approach have been clarified (see CAR1 and CAR2). Thus, we understand that this point is addressed.</p>

		process informed the project components.	
	25. Is the requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning?	<p>Not clear.</p> <p>CAR4: It is suggested to consider how the investments proposed are supporting a larger basin level approach, that will identify stressors, opportunities as well as potential solutions to be deployed. The current presentation is a mix of small-scale local household investments, and some larger overarching investments. There is a clear need to rethink concept so that investments naturally support each other and clearly link to increased resilience of the South Oropouche River Basin (see CAR1 and CAR2).</p>	The overarching logic and approach have been clarified (see CAR1 and CAR2). Thus, we understand that this point is addressed.
	26. Is the project / program aligned with AF's results framework?	<p>No. The concept does not specify the alignment with Adaptation Fund strategic results framework.</p> <p>CAR5: Kindly specify the project's alignment with the Adaptation Fund strategic results framework. https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Adaptation-Fund-Strategic-Results-Framework-Amended-in-March-2019-2.pdf</p>	It has been confirmed with the reviewers that this section is not mandatory as per the AF guidelines for CNs. The project team has, however, added a paragraph with the identification of the Fund Outcomes that this project aligns to in section F Part III.

	<p>27. Has the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes been taken into account when designing the project?</p>	<p>Not clear. The project will support the design and establishment of a sustainability mechanism to ensure that maintenance will be financed over time, regardless of the type of management (private or public). The project will seek the commitment of the governmental institutions for ensuring that this mechanism will be sustained and that there will be enough human resources assigned to this duty.</p> <p>The project needs to include more substantial investments in the upper basin, in order for investments in the lower basin to become sustainable.</p> <p>CR3: Please provide more details on how the project will ensure the environmental, social, and institutional sustainability of the activities as well.</p>	<p>No new activities have been proposed in the upstream part of the basin, for the reasons exposed in CAR2.</p> <p>The AE and executing entities will manage the grievance mechanism and ensure compliance with E&S safeguards throughout project implementation. The project has added one activity to identify the best suited governmental institution to maintain the grievance mechanism and the monitoring of E&S standards and strengthen their capacities and related systems to ensure longer term social and environmental sustainability by mainstreaming these considerations at the local governmental level. Additionally, the wider institutional sustainability will be ensured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building activities to key government technical staff and decision-makers, and local communities. - Developing partnerships and agreements with with key governmental institutions for the maintenance of key investments (such as the hydrometeorological network) - Participatory process throughout the intervention, since the formulation process and during project implementation which enhances the ownership of activities and investment made and
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			<p>contributes with longer-term sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation arrangements consider a Steering Committee and Sectoral Technical Committees, which guarantee key government officials and staff are involved in the decision-making process and technical definition of planned activities. With this approach all investments will be validated and technically reviewed by government officials, who are expected to have a strong understanding of the key adaptation solutions, rationale of the intervention and continue the prioritization of this approach after the project ends. The description of the implementation arrangements has now been removed to comply with the page limit since it is not a mandatory section. It will be further developed at the Full proposal stage.
	<p>28. Does the project / programme provide an overview of environmental and social impacts / risks identified, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p>Not cleared. An overview has been partly provided as per checklist in section K on page 46. The project is classified as a category B.</p> <p>While the project briefly elaborates on the gender-specific cultural and/or legal context in which the project will operate, it does not include an initial gender assessment to be in compliance with the Fund's Gender Policy.</p> <p>CAR6: Please include a gender</p>	<p>A Gender assessment has been included in Part II section B.</p>

		assessment, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund.	
Resource Availability	4. Is the requested project / programme funding within the cap of the country?	Yes.	
	5. Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 8.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget before the fee?	Yes.	
	6. Are the Project/Programme Execution Costs at or below 9.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget (including the fee)?	Yes.	
Eligibility of IE	2. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?	Yes, CAF which is an accredited Regional Implementing Entity.	
Implementation Arrangements	11. Is there adequate arrangement for project / programme management, in compliance with the	n/a at concept stage	

	Gender Policy of the Fund?		
	12. Are there measures for financial and project/programme risk management?	n/a at concept stage	
	13. Are there measures in place for the management of for environmental and social risks, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?	n/a at concept stage	
	14. Is a budget on the Implementing Entity Management Fee use included?	n/a at concept stage	
	15. Is an explanation and a breakdown of the execution costs included?	n/a at concept stage	
	16. Is a detailed budget including budget notes included?	n/a at concept stage	
	17. Are arrangements for monitoring and evaluation clearly defined, including budgeted M&E plans and sex-disaggregated data, targets and indicators, in	n/a at concept stage	

	compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund?		
	18. Does the M&E Framework include a break-down of how implementing entity IE fees will be utilized in the supervision of the M&E function?	n/a at concept stage	
	19. Does the project/programme's results framework align with the AF's results framework? Does it include at least one core outcome indicator from the Fund's results framework?	n/a at concept stage	
	20. Is a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones included?	n/a at concept stage	



ADAPTATION FUND

REQUEST FOR PROJECT/PROGRAMME FUNDING FROM THE ADAPTATION FUND

The annexed form should be completed and transmitted to the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat by email or fax.

Please type in the responses using the template provided. The instructions attached to the form provide guidance to filling out the template.

Please note that a project/programme must be fully prepared (i.e., fully appraised for feasibility) when the request is submitted. The final project/programme document resulting from the appraisal process should be attached to this request for funding.

Complete documentation should be sent to:

The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
1818 H Street NW
MSN P4-400
Washington, D.C., 20433
U.S.A
Fax: +1 (202) 522-3240/5
Email: afbsec@adaptation-fund.org



ADAPTATION FUND

PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL TO THE ADAPTATION FUND

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project/Programme Category:	Project
Country/ies:	Trinidad and Tobago
Title of Project/Programme:	Multisectoral Adaptation Measures to Climate Change in the South Oropouche Basin for River Flood Relief
Type of Implementing Entity:	Regional Implementing Entity (RIE)
Implementing Entity:	CAF, Development Bank of Latin America
Executing Entity/ies:	The University of the West Indies (UWI)
Amount of Financing Requested:	USD 10,000,000 (4 years)

PROJECT / PROGRAMME BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

SUMMARY OVERVIEW

1. Traditionally, flooding in the South Oropouche River Basin (SORB) from high intensity, short duration storms occur about ten times each year. However, in the last five years, basin-wide floods with high water depths, taking several days to subside, have been occurring almost annually. These floods cause major disruption to the productive sector and the populated centres, and frequently result in loss of personal property. Losses are estimated at between USD 19 - 36 million per year at the country level, depending on the climate scenario. According to the models, climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of floods but will also cause sea level rise and augment the occurrence of drier periods.
2. Climate change will exacerbate the problems that currently exist in the basin, with the confluence of various economic activities in the same territory (agriculture, fishing, commercial, oil and gas production), the poor condition of the drainage systems, and the pressures of major urban growth in the area in recent years. The riverine system is especially susceptible to the effects of climate change, including the threats of saline intrusion which affects both flora and fauna. Economic impacts are evident on people's livelihoods.
3. The path of the South Oropouche River within the South Oropouche watershed takes it from the generally flat and gently undulating arable lands in Barrackpore to the Godineau Swamp, an estuarine wetland of 3,171 ha, and out to the Gulf of Paria. The swamp receives the drainage from a catchment basin of 42,473ha which includes the nearby urban communities. This swamp, which acts as a buffer against flooding and sea level effects, is also under pressure by human activities and the environmental change caused by climate change and needs to be reinforced and protected to in turn protect the population of the basin.
4. The SORB has been prioritized by the country because of the chronic flooding issues that occur even in periods of moderate rainfall, it is a region of high population density and agricultural and commercial activity and thus disruption and economic losses are significant; the most recent studies have identified this region as vulnerable to climate change; the local communities have shown evidence of sea water intrusion; and climate change

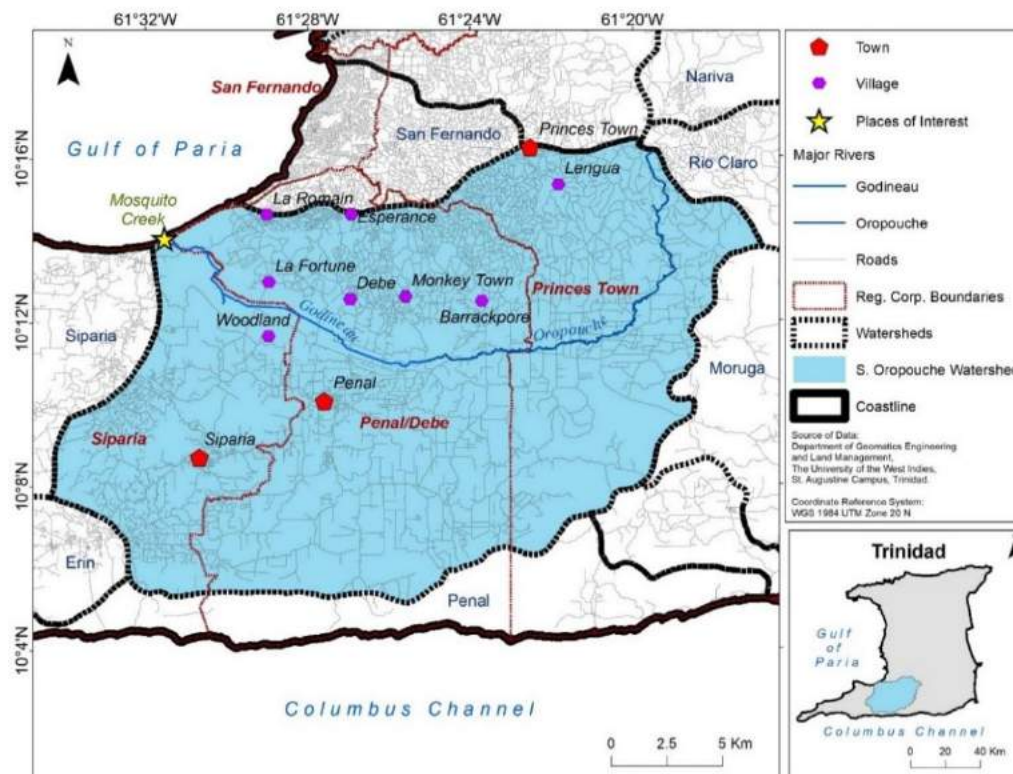
scenarios show that projected impacts are likely to exacerbate the existing situation unless adaptation measures are taken.

- The Project implemented by the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) aims to increase the resilience of the South Oropouche River Basin's population and ecosystems to flooding, sea level rise and expected increasing water deficit events. The proposed activities will strengthen territorial planning and risk management, will promote investments for enhancing water infrastructure, EbA measures in vulnerable and coastal ecosystems, increase the adaptive capacity of vulnerable livelihoods, and raise awareness, build capacities, and mobilize the stakeholders of the SORB towards climate change resilient actions that account for gender justice.

The South Oropouche River Basin (SORB)

- The South Oropouche River Basin (SORB) is situated on the southwestern coast of Trinidad (Figure 1). Its catchment area of about 450 km² is drained westward by a dense network of tributaries that drain into the Godineau/South Oropouche Swamp. A sand dune on the coast extends across the interface with the Gulf of Paria that controls free flow into the sea. Drainage is through two openings in the dune, the Godineau River to the south and Mosquito Creek to the north. The catchment is relatively flat with the highest point being about 175 m MSL. The average slope of the catchment along Godineau River, the main westward flowing watercourse, is about 0.30%. The longest flow path is about thirty (30) km and the travel time to the coast is about one (1) day. The average annual flow from the basin is 3.6 m³/s, but it varies appreciably. In some years, streamflow stations have recorded almost no flow along the main channel.

7. Figure 1. The South Oropouche River Basin (SORB)



- In its natural form, about 15% of the catchment was occupied by a lagoon and surrounding swamp lands, with the majority of it being in the lower segment and continuous with the coast. Some pockets of marsh lands extended to Barrackpore, which is about 15 kilometres inland from the coast. About 80% of the soils in the basin have clay textures but there are some pockets of sand toward the southwestern segment. A land capability assessment of the catchment has described the soils as having imperfect drainage with very low infiltration rates¹.

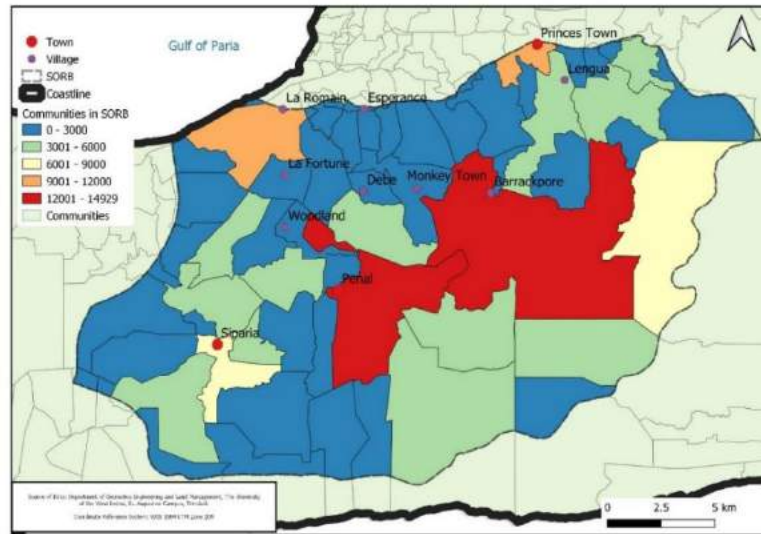
¹ Brown, C. and Bally, G., 1968. Land Capability Survey of Trinidad and Tobago No. 5 Soils of South Trinidad. Orbit Press, Port-of-Spain.

A. SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

a) Demographic data in the project area

9. Portions of three Regional Corporations comprise SORB, namely Siparia, Penal/Debe and Princes Town. Overall, the population of the SORB accounted for 143,855 people in 2000, equivalent to 11.35% of the total population of Trinidad and Tobago at that time. In 2011, date of the last census, the population had grown to 197,540 people.

Figure 2. Population distribution in the SORB (2011)



Source: University of the West Indies, 2021

10. Siparia is just over 51,000 hectares, roughly 10% of the total land area, and features a variety of settlements of various sizes, on and offshore oil production bases, ports, industrial areas, fishing centers, forest, swamps, agriculture, and numerous beaches stretching along the 100 kilometers coastline of southwest Trinidad from Godineau River to Quinam Bay. Oropouche East and West fall under the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation. Princes Town municipality, which is next to the Penal/Debe region, is one of the largest municipalities at 62,000 hectares. It is made up of fifty-six communities and extends to the coast in the South, abutting the City of San Fernando in the North.
11. **Population:** According to the last census (2011) 86,949 people reside in the region of Siparia living in 22,393 private households. The recorded population of Penal/Debe is 89,392 persons, living in the 26,067 recorded private households in the region. In Princes Town, the total recorded population is 102,957 with a population density of 148 per km² in the last census. The population of the three regional corporations is relatively young, with more than half of the population under 35 years of age. The age/gender comparison shows an almost even distribution of the population by gender.
12. **Education Level:** Examination of the highest qualification attained in Siparia and Penal/Debe approximately 49% of those 15 years or older had no qualifications. However, 30% of those who had qualifications in Siparia and Penal Debe population had attained primary-level education. Tertiary non-university level educational attainment stood at 5.7% and 5.4% for those who attained tertiary university-level education in Siparia; and at 6.1% and 7.9% in Penal Debe. The National Human Development Index ranks Princes Town as having the fourth lowest “secondary and higher education” attainment rate. Princes Town had the lowest rate of female participation in the workforce.
13. **Gender Equality:** Siparia and Penal/Debe were among the regions that scored the lowest in the gender inequality index compared to other regions in the country. This trend also applies to Princes Town, with the municipality recording the lowest rate of female participation in the workforce in its last available Economic Profile. Siparia has a higher-than-average female labor force participation rate – 50.3%, while Penal/Debe had the second lowest female labor force participation rate in the country (43.7%). In the case of Princes Town, the municipality has the lowest rate of female participation in the workforce.

14. *Health and Life Expectancy*: In the case of Trinidad and Tobago, in 2016 the total life expectancy was 63.3 years with 4.9% of adult population considered undernourished (2015–2017, 3-year average); 19.7% of adult population considered obese (2016); 12.5% prevalence of diabetes in the adult population (2014) and 23.6% of iron deficiency anemia in women of reproductive age (2016). In the case of the South Oropouche region, Siparia recorded a slightly higher life expectancy of 74.65 for both sexes; 73 for males and 76.6 for females. However, Siparia has a slightly lower incidence of chronic diseases of 21.8 percent compared to the national average. Penal/Debe's life expectancy is higher than the national average; 70.2 years for males; and 76.5 years for females. Penal/Debe also has a relatively low incidence of chronic diseases of 20.7% and recorded the second lowest population percentage without adequate sanitation facilities, with 3.9% of its households. Princes Town reflects a similar life expectancy of 74.20 years, while the municipality has the second highest incidence of chronic diseases and the fourth lowest level of participation in secondary and higher education.
15. *Informal settlements*: In 2011, within the SORB area, there were 187 informal settlements registered in Trinidad. However, these figures do not account for the many squatter communities which remain unregistered. According to ODPM 2014, there were around 23 settlements in Siparia, 12 in Penal Debe, 10 in Princes Town.
16. *Disabilities*: People with disabilities are the most vulnerable to climate risks and they require specific attention in emergencies. According to the 2011 census, the percentage of people with disabilities at the Regional Corporations were: Penal Debe 3,3%, Princes Town 4,5% and Siparia 4,8% from total of population.

b) Access to public services

17. According to the 2011 census², households of the SORB face challenges related to unmet basic needs (UBN). As presented in Table 1, the percentage of households in the region with one or more UBN ranges from 18.06% and 22.32%, and with two or more the range varies from 2.85% to 4.67%. The higher percentages of UBN are those related to housing, which varies from 5.76% to 7.53%.
18. The Penal Debe Regional Corporation presents the lowest percentage of population among the three municipalities with two or more UBN (2.85%), while the municipality of Princes Town shows the highest percentage of the population with one or more UBN (22.32%). Siparia has the lowest percentage of households with one or more UBN but has the highest value for two or more UBN (4.67%).

Table 1. Access to Public Services in the South Oropouche watershed

Indicators	Penal-Debe	Princes Town	Siparia
Households with one or more UBN, 2011 (%)	19.24	22.32	18.06
Households with two or more UBN, 2011 (%)	2.85	3.90	4.67
Households with housing UBN, 2011 (%)	5.76	7.53	6.99
Households with water UBN, 2011 (%)	2.28	2.36	1.73
Households with sanitation UBN, 2011 (%)	4.45	5.10	4.69
Households with light UBN, 2011 (%)	1.23	1.97	3.21
Households with refuse collection UBN, 2011 (%)	6.44	6.97	2.20

Source: Trinidad & Tobago 2011 Population and Housing Census

19. The productive and social infrastructure in the project area presents different level of progress among municipalities and sectors. In general, there are needs in the region related to road infrastructure, storm water management and coastal protection, solid waste management, housing quality and disaster management.
20. The three municipalities are reasonably well supplied with school places at the primary and secondary levels allowing relatively ease of access to the relevant cohorts. However, there may yet be some shortfall in facilities for early childhood care. There has been developing some level of expansion for post-secondary education, and tertiary education with UWI University Centre in San Fernando and UWI Distance Education facilities.
21. Primary health care facilities are relatively well distributed through Health Centers in the Municipality. Secondary care services are available only at some distance to most communities. However, these might be more than one hour away for many communities. This means that many residents are at risk in the case of medical emergencies that require immediate treatment and intervention. A new hospital has been constructed for the area, which has led to major improvement in access. Moreover, the extension of the Highway from San Fernando to Point Fortin is expected to reduce time in access to secondary and emergency care services.

² Source: <https://cso.gov.tt/census/2011-census-data/>.

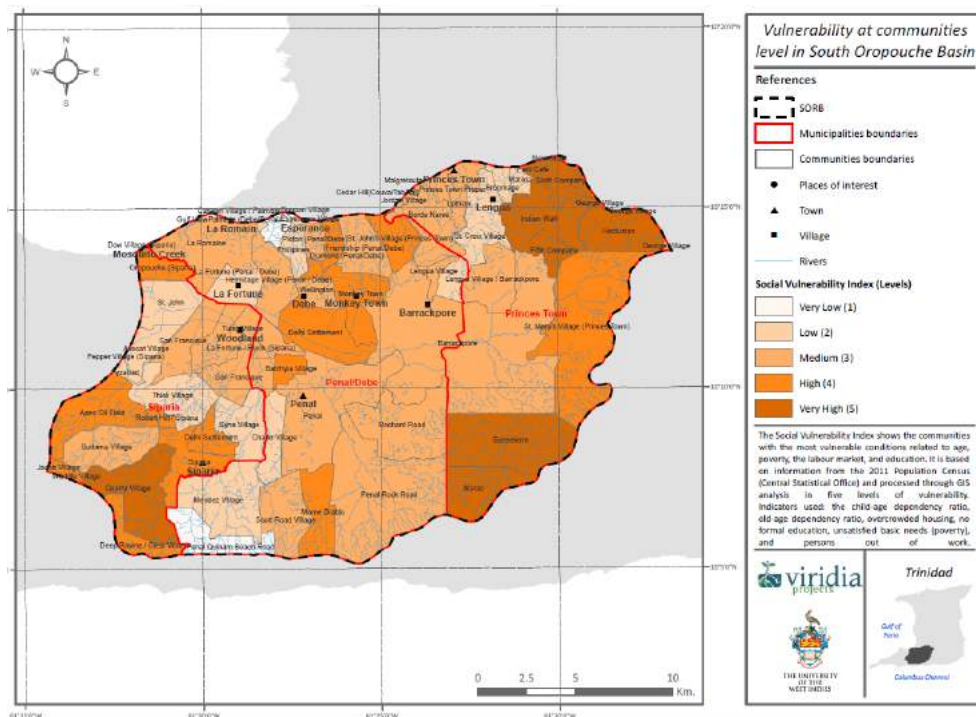
22. **Penal-Debe (PDR)** features poor quality roads impose high transport costs on the movement of goods and in the provision of some services, as well as risk to female travelers in particular who risk sexual violence. Much of the region lies in the Oropouche Basin and is subject to serious flooding during heavy rainfall events. These impacts on roads and the agricultural traces in the region. The roll-out of telecommunications services offer possibilities to the remote communities in the municipality. Residents in many areas have gained access to cable television and internet access including broadband.
23. **Princes Town (PTRC)**: The roads present many kinds of challenges. Mainly in rural areas, there is inadequate road network and extensively damaged and in a state of disrepair in many areas.
24. **Siparia (SRC)**: There is a substantial arterial road infrastructure in the municipality, but in many parts, it is of low quality and/or not well-maintained thus rendering transport costs relatively expensive in some communities. Having several industrial towns, the telecommunications infrastructure is excellent in many communities. Residents in many areas have access to telephone services – fixed and mobile, cable television and internet access but some rural and remote locations may suffer unreliable access. In the urban centers, however, access is good.

c) Main Economic Activities (livelihoods)

25. According to the World Bank income group classification in 2020, “Trinidad and Tobago is a high-income country, with an open economy in which trade plays a very important role (70% of GDP in 2014). The energy sector dominates the economy and trade: Agriculture contributes only 0.5% to GDP, and agri-food’s share of total exports is only 2.6%. Agriculture’s share of total employment is relatively higher (3.4%). Trinidad and Tobago imports 85% of its food supply. Although agriculture is not a major contributor to GDP in the country, the diversification of the economy and the reduction of the food import bill are among the country’s development goals. Developing agriculture is therefore included in the country’s policy priorities.”
26. Siparia has a lower-than-average household income per capita per annum, reporting figures of TT\$27,217 or US\$5,904 in 2012. Incomes fell in the municipality due to the shrinkage of the land-based oil industry in the area. Meanwhile Penal/Debe had the fourth highest household income per capita per annum at TT\$29,358 or US\$6,368 in 2016. The per capita household income for the Princes Town Region in 2008-2009 was US\$6,105 or TT\$25,258, the fourth lowest in the country.
27. Princes Town has the second highest incidence and highest intensity of Multidimensional Poverty among the municipal corporations with thousands of households receiving public assistance, with a poverty index of 29.3%. Penal/Debe have a similar Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) with 28.1% of the total population. In the case of Siparia, the poverty index accounts for 26.5% of the population.
28. According to the information provided in May 2021 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, the Victoria County, composed of the districts of Moruga, Barrackpore, Tableland, Piparo, Princes Town, Bonne Aventure, and Debe, comprise a total approximate land area of 600 km² and there are approximately 9,900 farmers, of which 3377 are actively registered and 80% are men.
29. In total, 992 hectares are cultivated, in which the most important cultivations are vegetables (161 ha), root crops (161 ha), cocoa (145 ha), and pigeon peas (102 ha). In addition to crops, poultry (280 pens), bees (339 hives), and cattle (3614 heads) are also important.
30. The calculated losses by flooding from June 2017 to November 2020 indicate that losses reached 231 farmers (51% of which are concentrated in 2017) and totaled US\$ 433,458. The two-mayor affected by flooding districts at Victoria County are Debe and Barrackpore. It is estimated that 20% of Debe’s 6,460 hectares and 40% of Barrackpore’s 11,800 hectares are land area prone to and affected by flooding. The two districts account for 32% of the county farmers.
31. The St. Patrick East area covers an area of approximately 320 km² and has 3,266 registered farmers. The estimated production value of crops is US\$ 1,363,380. The most widespread crops are banana/plantain (101 ha), citrus (80.8 ha), cocoa (65 ha), coconut (30 ha), and watermelon (21 ha). Although there is no headcount for livestock, the estimated monetary value amounts to US\$ 2,292,899.
32. The districts which are directly impacted by flooding and are in the South Oropouche Riverine Basin include the districts of Penal, Clarke Road, San Francique, and Pluck Road. From 2014 to the present there have been 783 claims because of economic losses which implied compensations provided to the farmers for US\$ 518,079. It is calculated that the compensation represents approximately 75% of the actual loss.

33. Commercial retail activities are concentrated in Princes Town central business district. Fishing is concentrated in the Moruga area. The fish brought ashore in the area, however, is sold without any value-added processes. All the catch is sold fresh to middlemen who wholesale and retail in other population centers. The PTRC has a high tourism potential.
34. Businesses currently operating in the municipality of Siparia account for 3.85% of the total formally registered in the country. The local economy in Siparia is predominantly comprised of businesses involved in Retail and Distribution (59.67%), the provision of Personal Services (16.37%), and Construction (7.95%). There exists a very well-established industrial sector. Siparia is also home to a substantial energy industry cluster.
35. The Social Vulnerability Index map (Figure 3) is based on the information from the 2011 Population Census and processed through GIS analysis at five levels of vulnerability. It shows the communities with the most socially vulnerable conditions related to the age dependency ratio of children, the old-age dependency ratio, overcrowded housing, lack of formal education, unsatisfied basic needs - UBN (poverty), and unemployed people. The high level of social vulnerability shows that these indicators concentrate the highest numbers of each one. As an advance to the risk analysis that will be presented in the Full Proposal, this map allows to understand the different vulnerabilities within each municipality.

Figure 3. Social Vulnerability Index map



d) Key ecosystems in the SORB

36. The path of the South Oropouche River within the South Oropouche watershed takes it from the generally flat and gently undulating arable lands in Barrackpore to the Godineau Swamp and out to the Gulf of Paria. The Godineau Swamp, also known as the South Oropouche Swamp, is an estuarine wetland of an area of only 3,171ha, yet it receives the drainage from a catchment basin of 42,473ha which includes the nearby urban communities of Penal/Debe, Siparia and Fyzabad. In a historical context, the swamp has been important to the economy of the region as a source of fish and shellfish. However, the conversion of land for agriculture, livestock farming, and housing threatens the ecological functioning of the swamp³.
37. Changes in salinities along channels in the swamp have shown that there are increasing zonation of mangrove species. Higher penetration of saline water further upstream limits the growth of some species of mangrove, with only one species (Red mangrove - *Rhizophora mangle*) showing increased tolerance to higher water salinities and conductivities. The changes in the biota of the swamp must be taken into consideration as

3 Juman, Rahanna A. 2010. Wetlands of Trinidad and Tobago. Institute of Marine Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago.

mangrove replacement can be an important effort in protecting inland areas from flooding and thereby safeguarding the ecosystem goods and services that surrounding the communities depend on⁴.

38. The main plant communities within this wetland are the tidal marshes, wet pastures, and the mangrove swamp. Land cover is shown in Figure 4. Tidal marsh communities represent the major plant community of the swamp, and at 1,746ha, they account for more than half the total area of the swamp⁵. The Godineau mangrove forest includes the most common mangrove species locally and is approximately 740ha in size. The mangrove oyster (*Crassostrea rhizophorae*) is one of the species that is commercially harvested from the swamp. Though the extent of the Godineau mangrove forest has been generally unchanged since 1969, pollution, oil spills and hydrological alterations have severely impacted the forest. Mangroves have been cleared for roads and oil-drilling activities, interrupting the swamp's hydrological flow. Occasional dredging activities have created embankments within the channels. These three activities have affected tidal flushing capacity of the swamp⁶. This reduces the overall dissolved oxygen content of the water upstream and fosters bacterial growth leading to a decline in water quality and the ability of the biota to withstand the rising anoxic conditions. In addition, it has been observed that the presence of the hairy crab in the South Oropouche mangrove is almost nil. At present, it is being decimated by overfishing by crab fishermen and it is likely that changing conditions in the climate will further harm this and other wildlife. To rehabilitate the ecosystem, in addition to restoration activities, it is necessary to raise public awareness and promote protective measures.
39. With rice cultivation commencing in the 1890s, this activity led to the clearing of 190ha of mangrove forest to develop rice paddies within a system of embankments and sluice gates. The failure of water control mechanisms to prevent saltwater intrusion led to the abandonment of rice farming and the emergent brackish marsh communities is now used by foraging bird species⁷.
40. Along the course of the South Oropouche River, are communities that depend on it as a source of freshwater and for small scale fishing. Traditional practices such fishing, recreation, eco-tourism, housing, and religious activities are important to the communities are prevalent within the watershed. These practices are predominantly unregulated⁸ and have had an increasingly negative impact on water quality. The ultimate impact of wetland depletion will be the livelihoods of the surrounding communities.
41. With the backdrop of the South Oropouche watershed consisting of significant forest reserves and forest resources, unsustainable logging, unplanned development, land conversion and slash and burn agriculture add to the fragility of forests. Controlling these would assist in grappling with the issues related to climate change. It is anticipated that future changes in temperature and rainfall will create conditions that will increase the prevalence of forest and bush fires leading to the loss of significant portions of the forest reserve.

42. Figure 4. Land cover in the Godineau Swamp in 2007

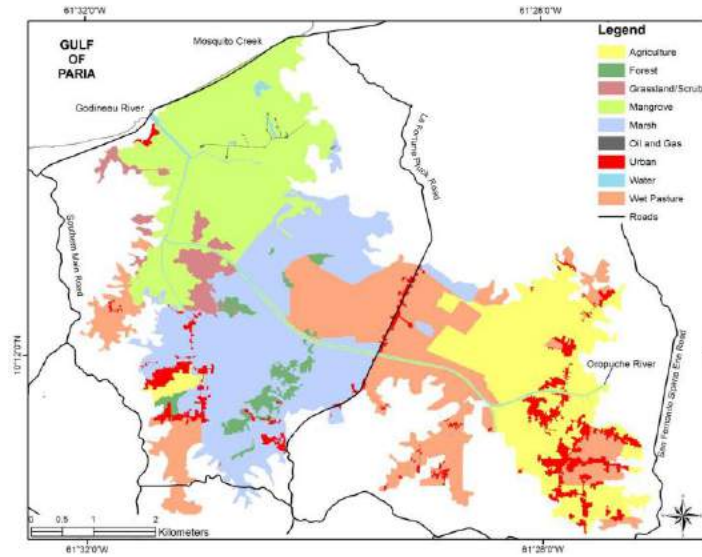
4 Atwell, Melissa & Wuddivira, Mark & Gobin, Judith. 2016. Abiotic water quality control on mangrove distribution in estuarine river channels assessed by a novel boat-mounted electromagnetic-induction technique. 42. 399-407. 10.4314/wsa.v42i3.04.

5 Juman, Rahanna A. 2010. Wetlands of Trinidad and Tobago. Institute of Marine Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago.

6 Juman, Rahanna, A. & Hassanali, Khalil. 2013. Mangrove Conservation in Trinidad and Tobago. In G. Gleason & T. R. Victor (Eds.), *Mangrove Ecosystems: Biography, Genetic Diversity and Conservation strategies* (pp. 35-64). New York: Nova Publisher.

7 Juman, Rahanna, A. & Hassanali, Khalil. 2013. *Ibid.*

8 Juman, Rahanna, A. & Hassanali, Khalil. 2013. *Ibid.*



Source: IMA

43. In the Penal/Debe municipality, forest reserves, steep slopes, gas line corridors, lands zoned for agriculture, areas of ecological importance, and land less than 1m in elevation present a peculiar set of planning challenges⁹. Siparia has a significant number of natural resources inclusive of oil, timber and fisheries¹⁰, while Princes Town has extensive forest reserves and fishing activities which are concentrated along the southern coast of the municipality. Many of the fishermen from the area use the nearby facilities in Moruga. With issues such as coastal erosion, loss of arable lands to non-agricultural activities, land slippage, squatting and unregulated urban sprawl, the environmental integrity and livelihoods within the Princes Town municipality are threatened¹¹.

e) Flood governance in the SORB

44. This section describes the governmental and civil society stakeholders considered key for the project and offers a preliminary identification of agencies and tools to be considered for enhancing flood governance¹². There are several civil society organizations linked to the watershed. Some of them are the South Oropouche Riverine Flood Action Group (SORFAG), the Puzzle Island Farmers Association, and the Woodland Fisherfolk Association. Key governmental stakeholders are shown in Figure 5 and described in Annex 1.

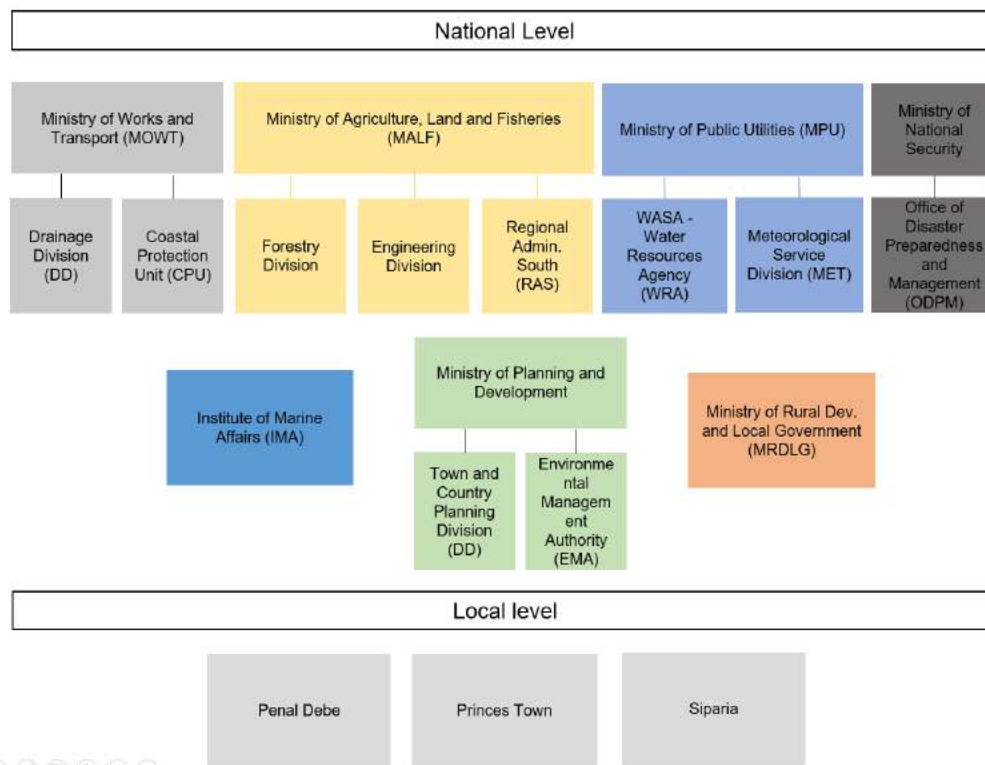
Figure 5. Key governmental stakeholders

9 GENIVAR (Trinidad and Tobago) Limited. 2010a. Final Draft Municipal Development Plan. Penal/Debe Regional Corporation. Ministry of Local Government, Trinidad and Tobago.

10 All-Inclusive Project Development Services Limited. 2010. Siparia Final Draft Municipal Development Plan. Report Volume 1. Palo Seco Agricultural Enterprises Limited. Siparia Regional Corporation, Ministry of Local Government, Trinidad and Tobago.

11 GENIVAR (Trinidad and Tobago) Limited. 2010b. Final Draft Municipal Development Plan. Princes Town Regional Corporation. Ministry of Local Government, Trinidad and Tobago.

¹² Note: With the partial proclamation of the Planning and Facilitation Act, the Town and Country Planning Division (TCPD) will be subsumed into the National Planning Authority. Therefore, in the next stages of the project formulation, a follow-up of the creation of the proposed Authority will be made.



45. Local governments in Trinidad and Tobago function largely as extensions of the central government, with significant limits on local autonomy and resource allocation. Municipal corporations have no independent revenue base and are totally dependent on the central government for national budget allocations. Planning in Trinidad and Tobago is almost exclusively at the national level, although there has been an effort to develop municipal land use plans. Also, some disaster risk management plans have been developed in several corporations.
46. The Municipal Disaster Management Units are linked to the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM), the national organization in charge of disaster preparedness for the nation. The susceptibility to severe flooding makes it imperative that each municipality has an effective disaster management unit.
47. The achievement of flood resilience within SORB requires the pursuit of approaches that can best be placed into five classes: flood risk prevention, flood defense, flood risk mitigation, flood preparation, and flood recovery. Such should be included in considering flood governance on a national scale. Such pursuits fall outside the scope of this project, but it is worth considering from among the existing governance structure in the country the agencies that might be involved and the tools required for being effective in the required roles. This is shown in summary in the table below, where the tools that will be addressed by the project are marked in bold type:

Table 2. Preliminary identification of agencies and tools to be considered for enhancing flood governance.

Approach	Lead agency	Supporting Agency(ies)	Tools/techniques	Comment
Flood prevention	Town and Country Planning Division	Regional Corporations; EMA, ODPM	Flood hazard map ; necessary enforcement instruments;	Control of investment in high-risk areas
Flood defense	Drainage Division	WRA; TTMS; Ministry Local Government; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Finance	Comprehensive Hydrologic database ; drainage manual; soft and hard computer facilities	Development of structural measures, like levees, Drainage manual would inform options. Use of computer models will improve effectiveness

Flood mitigation	Town and Country Planning Division	Regional Corporations; Ministry of Works and Transport; EMA	Drainage manual; flood hazard map	Will control development on floodplains and minimize losses from floods
Flood preparation	ODPM; Regional Corporations	Ministry of Works; WRA; TTMS; Ministry Social Development	Community Flood Early warning system; flood hazard map; vulnerable persons mapping; floodproof manual	ODPM, in conjunction with these agencies, will be able to issue early flood warning and do pre-planning for identifying evacuation routes.
Flood recovery	Ministry of Planning	Ministry of Works; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry Social Development; EMA; APETT	Round table Post-mortem exercises to shed light on reason for floods; Revision of flood hazard map; revision of flood manual	A system is needed for postmortems so that lessons from a flood event can be used for improving future responses and inform methods for rebuilding.

f) Climate context in the SORB

48. The southwestern part of the island receives relatively low annual rainfall (1100 to 1700 mm/year). Most of the rain (about 75%) falls within the wet season that is from around May to December. The prevailing factors for rainfall¹³ are the Intertropical Convergent Zone (ITCZ), the major rainfall/cloud forming system largely responsible for the wet season; the mid-Atlantic Trough of low pressure responsible for rainfall in the latter part of the wet season; daytime convection, orography, and land size; and tropical cyclones, including depressions, storms, and hurricanes. Because of its southerly position, the island of Trinidad generally is not hit frequently by tropical cyclones, although in the last five years at least three storms made landfall.
49. Since 2015, there has been significant flooding within the catchment from large volume rainfall lasting about two to three days. The most recent catastrophic events were in 2017 when more than 200 mm of rainfall fell over three (3) days (Photo 1) and in December 2019.
50. The tidal range at the coast is in the order of about one (1) metre. Drainage of the catchment is partly controlled by the tides which exert effects as far as about ten (10) kilometres inland and cause elevated salinity levels in the watercourses. As a result, mangrove forest proliferated in the lower basin and provided an important area for many birds, including migrating birds, ducks, and the rearing of young scarlet ibis (Bron et al., 2016)¹⁴.

g) Climate Historical Trends and Projections

51. Rainfall data from 1969-1990 indicated an **overall decline in rainfall** over the period. There have been **increases in the incidence of short, intense rainfall** during the dry season in Trinidad, and a comparative **10% increase in dryness** during the dry season (Clarke et al. 2018). **Average temperatures have also recorded an increasing trend** by 0.27°C for Trinidad and 0.17°C for Tobago per decade (Clarke et al. 2018).
52. A 15-model ensemble General Circulation Model (GCM) projection (A2 scenario) indicates Trinidad and Tobago can expect to warm by 0.7°C to 2.2°C by the 2050s and 1.0 to 3.7 degrees Celsius by the 2080s, compared to the 1970-1999 mean (Clarke et al. 2018). Compared to the A2 scenario of GCM ensemble median projections, Regional Climate Models (RCMs) show similar or higher **increases in temperatures**, with changes in annual average temperatures from 3.6°C and 2.4°C by 2080, up to **30% decline in annual rainfall**, an **increase of up to 3.1°C in Sea Surface Temperature, and sea level rise (SLR) of up to 126 cm** (Clarke et al. 2018) The Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP 8.5) indicate a mean annual temperature of 1.40°C (1.00°C to 2.11°C) and **annual precipitation is estimated to decrease** by -59.95mm (-357.10mm to 218.04mm) in 2040-2059 (World Bank, 2018). Already, a rate of SLR of up to 3mm has been observed at tidal gauging stations around the Caribbean (Clarke et al. 2018). Most model projections indicate an **increase in the proportion of total rainfall in heavy events** in all seasons, changing by - 16% to +8% annually by the 2080s (Clarke et al. 2018). Additionally, **more frequent tropical storms** are projected to affect the island within the coming decades, further threatening coastal zones, agriculture and human settlements (Alleng 2014).
53. McShrine et al (2019) analysed the impact of sea surface temperature anomalies (SSTAs) on Trinidad & Tobago and found a weak ($r^2 < 0.5$) but statistically significant influence on the islands' early and late season rainfall

13 Royal Haskoning/DHV, 2003. Drainage & Flood control study for the South Oropouche basin.

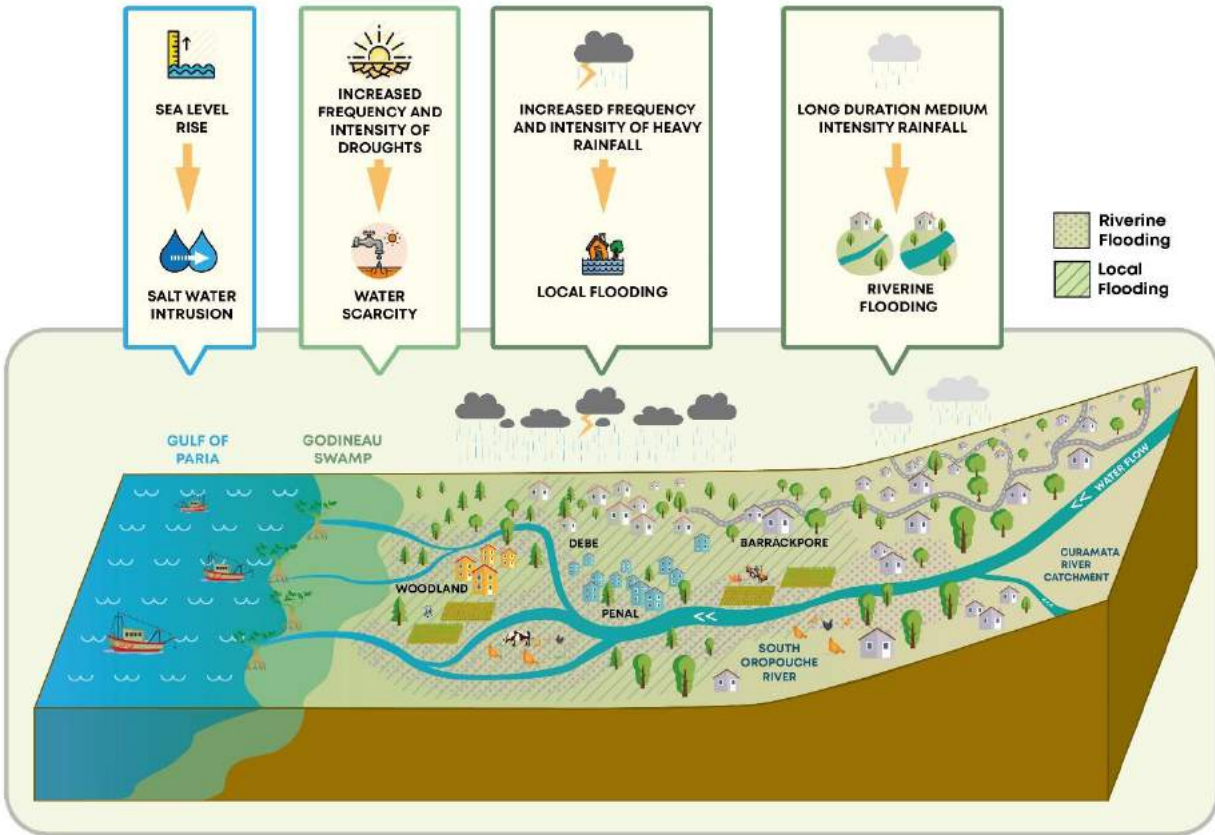
14 Bron, J, 2016. Problem Identification and Analysis Report for the project: Feasibility Studies and Detailed Design Consultancy Services for South Oropouche River Basin, Flood Mitigation and Integrated Watershed Management Project. Client: National Infrastructure Development Company Limited (NIDCO), GoRTT.

pattern. Both the El Niño Southern Oscillation (**ENSO**) and the Northern Atlantic Oscillation (**NAO**) are **key drivers of climate variability** in Trinidad & Tobago (Clarke et al. 2019). For example, inter-annual variability and extremes associated with the 1997-1998 and 2009-2010 drought events which affected Trinidad (and the wider Caribbean) were associated with the ENSO phenomenon. The intensity of cyclone activity during the hurricane season is also sensitive to the ENSO, with intensities generally decreasing during the El Niño phase and increasing during the La Niña phase (Clarke et al. 2019).

h) Present and Projected Climate Risks and Impacts

54. Numerous socio-ecological impacts of the climate extremes have already been documented in a number of studies. The report from the Second National Communication of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Under the UNFCCC indicated that Trinidad's agriculture, water resources (including coastal habitats) and biodiversity sectors are among the most vulnerable to climate impacts (UNFCCC 2013). Among the multiple hazards to which the twin island republic has been exposed, flooding has been highlighted as the most frequent hazard affecting Trinidad and Tobago in recent years, according to a preliminary report by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM 2014).
55. Trinidad's coastal ecosystems have been found to be especially fragile (Clarke et al. 2018). A climate change impact assessment was carried out by Ramnarine-Ramsawak, Suite, and Chinchamee (n.d.) on the Oropouche Hydrometric Areas in South-West Trinidad. Of all the natural resources, Trinidad's **riverine systems were found to be especially susceptible to the effects of climate change, including the threats of saline intrusion** which would affect both flora and fauna. The spill-off of the impacts of climate extremes also have economic ramifications, including on local farming and tourism livelihoods. In quantifying the projected macroeconomic impacts of climate projections, Alleng (2014) suggested that mean damage in Trinidad and Tobago may range between USD\$19.5953-36.8614 Million per year, depending on the climate scenario.
56. Despite its limited land size, studies have suggested that climate impacts are not experienced at the same severity spatially across Trinidad. These differences in impacts are moderated by several factors, including biogeography (vegetative cover), site geology and community preparation. A study of potential climate scenarios done by the Providing Regional Climates for Impact Studies (PRECIS-CARIBE), found that **agriculture in the South and Central Trinidad had heightened levels of vulnerability**, compared with the North of the island (UNFCCC 2013, Clarke et al. 2018, GoRTT 2011).
57. Another study by Ramnarine-Ramsawak, Suite, and Chinchamee (n.d.) on various sections of the Oropouche river region, again found that the South Oropouche region faces higher climate risks than the North, due to higher population pressure in the South. The months of February and July were projected to be the coolest and wettest months for the 2035, 2050 and 2075 reference points (Clarke et al. 2018). **Increases in temperature coupled with lower rainfall or less effective rainfall could result in increased soil aridity and considerable decreases in agricultural yields** (Clarke et al. 2018).
58. Increased rainfall intensity and sea level rise would have significant adverse effects on **flooding at the basin and local scales, impacting residential, commercial buildings and critical infrastructure**; on the **agriculture sector, due to increased levels of salinity** of soils and the **contamination of freshwater by saltwater intrusion**; and on **fisheries**, due to the damage caused to the accesses to fishing sites. Flooding also impacts on **human health**, through impacts on psychological health, the spread of diseases such as leptospirosis and other waterborne diseases, the disruption to the potable water supply, and the interruption of electricity supply during extreme events.
59. The increasing droughts predicted for Trinidad will have serious **impacts on the water security** of the population, which today lacks sufficient water in quantity and quality.
60. Each of these impacts is described in more detail in the following sections, following the description of the social, economic, and environmental aspects of the basin. The figure below summarizes the main climate threats and impacts and aims to visually show the different nature of the vulnerable areas in a highly developed watershed.

Figure 6. Main climate threats and impacts on the SORB



i) Flooding and sea level rise impacting on communities and ecosystems.

61. The increased frequency and intensity of floods, sea level rise, and the increase in drier conditions due to climate change heavily impact livelihood options, water security, health services and infrastructure of human settlements of vulnerable people in the SORB area. The sections below describe the impacts of floods events and sea level rise as the most devastating impact, and the actual situation of lack of access to water for the population that urgently needs to be addressed considering future climate trends.
62. Vulnerability to hydro-meteorological events, such as flooding, has been exacerbated by land-use changes for agriculture, livestock, and urbanization expansion patterns. These processes have led to the degradation of forests, soil erosion and increased sediment yields in rivers and canals and have altered total basin's runoff, peak flows and baseflows. These land alterations are linked to the social and economic changes in the country from the "oil boom" in the 1970s.
63. Over the 15-year period (2000-2014), Trinidad and Tobago was impacted by several climate related hazards. Since that time, several major floods have occurred within South Oropouche River Basin (SORB), including a countrywide flood in October 2018, and devastating basin wide floods in 2017 and 2019 during which flood waters remained for several days within many communities.

Photo 1. Flooding in the SORB



Sources: left: flooding in Penal in 2017 (shared in social networks)¹⁵; right: photo by the South Oropouche Riverine Action Group (SORFAG).

64. The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) in its analysis of hazard impact for 2006-2011 (V&Ca, 2019) showed that the most prevalent hazard in Princes Town, Siparia and Penal-Debe based on occurrence was flooding. Each of these districts has different climate hazards distribution and impacts, with Penal-Debe being most impacted both in terms of extent and cost of damages.
65. Flooding in the SORB is triggered by one of two rainfall phenomena, namely short-duration, high intensity rainfall with limited spatial extent, and long-duration, medium intensity rainfall over wide spatial extents. The majority of the flood events in the SORB is at the urban centre scale and is caused by **short-duration, extreme rainfall, over localized areas**. Records show that they occur on average ten times each year in these regional corporations. These floods last for a few hours, cause **major disruption to the productive sector, and frequently result in damage to property**. Flooding also occurs at the basin level and it is caused by **long-duration rainfall, spatially distributed over the entire basin**. These floods last for several days and have dire **consequences to households, and the productive sector**. The impact of such flooding is exacerbated by the high tides as the rivers are tidal. The floods of 2017 and 2019 were caused by long-duration rainfall.
66. The climate change predictions by the IPCC for the Caribbean region are for increased rainfall intensity and sea level rise at an annual rate of between 4 and 7.5 mm. The areas subject to the most severe flooding and the households within that may be affected are listed in Table 4. Their locations as per affected buildings in 2007¹⁶ are shown in Figure 7. The flood susceptibility map of the SORB is shown in Figure 8.

Table 3. Areas subject to flooding in the SORB

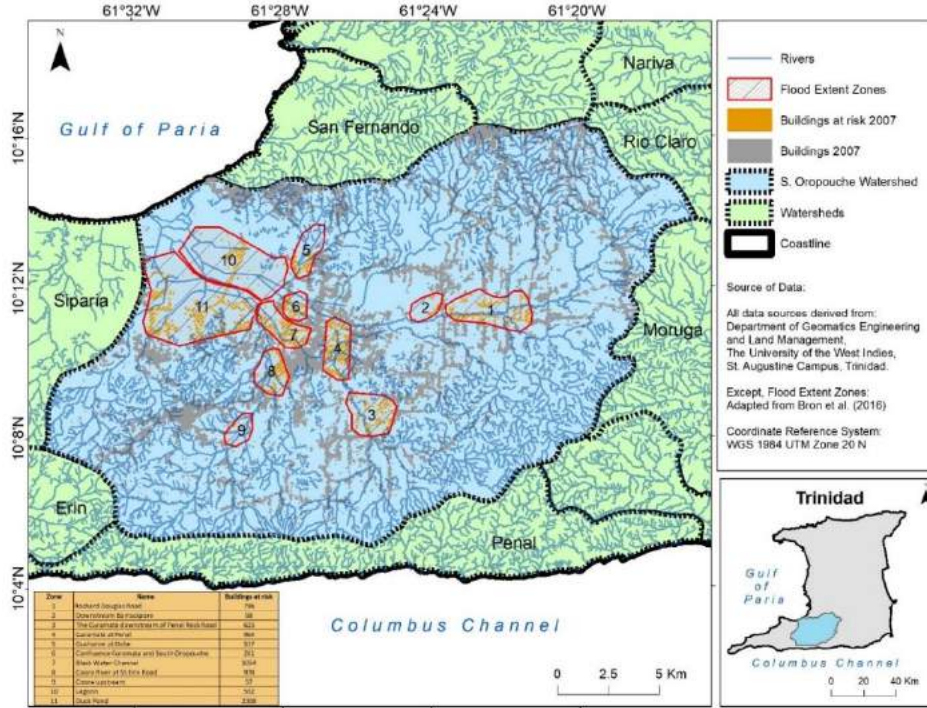
Map # ¹⁶	Name of settlement	Potential no of households affected**	Map #	Name of settlement	Potential no of households affected**
1	Rochard Douglas Road	786	6	Confluence Curamata and South Oropouche	261
2	Downstream Barrackpore	98	7	Black Water Channel	1054
3	Curamata downstream of Penal Rock Road	623	8	Coora River at SS Erin Road	978
4	Curamata at Penal	964	9	Coora upstream	57
5	Gucharon at Debe	517	10	Lagoon	552
				Duck Pond	2308

***. Determined from the Haskoning study (2016) based on the 50-year flood event.*

Figure 7. Human settlements prone to flooding in the SORB.

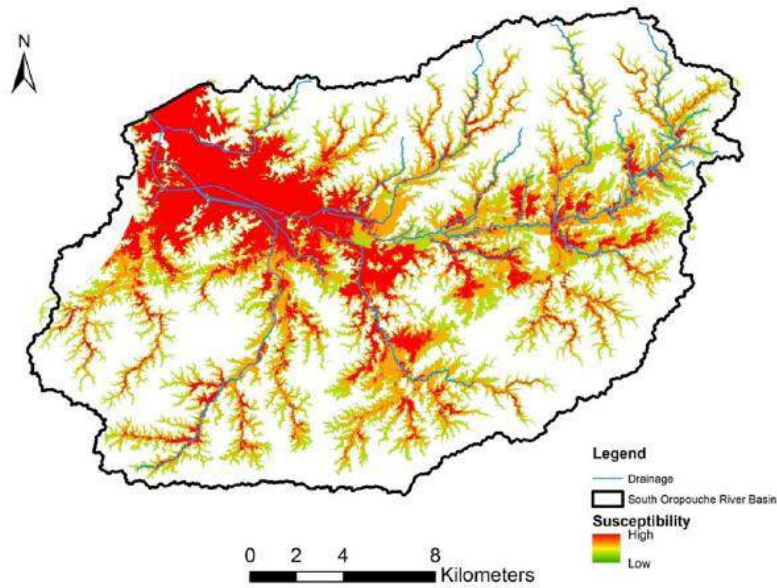
¹⁵ /www.facebook.com/yuhdottishawa/photos/

¹⁶ It is assumed that these areas are still the most vulnerable to flooding since the situation has not changed.



Source: University of the West Indies, 2021

Figure 8. Flood Susceptibility Map for the SORB



Source: Drainage Division, 2016.

67. The additional negative effect of climate change on the agricultural sector is through the **increased levels of salinity of soils and the contamination of freshwater by saltwater intrusion.**
68. In the SORB, flooding and sea level rise cause and will continue to cause **damage to infrastructure:** bridges, roads, residential and commercial properties, utilities, access, services, critical infrastructure, historic cultural buildings, and recreational structures, and impacts on wastewater and solid waste management and their

infrastructure. In the multi-criteria evaluation system used in the Vulnerability and Capacities Assessment¹⁷, the impact of this risk was rated "high" to "very high" rating. Within the SORB, the specific areas that were ranked as most vulnerable to this damage were the ones shown in Table 4.

69. The reduction of flooding at a basin-wide level requires major infrastructural work including river works, ancillary hydraulic structures and retention and detention facilities. Studies for their sizing would be performed under a recently started project to develop a national drainage plan. Opportunities might exist for utilization of any stored water for irrigation and potable use. Only when these works have been completed would flooding caused by the long duration rainfall be mitigated. One of the major hindrances, however, for developing engineering designs is the lack of a reliable hydrometeorological network to accurately describe the hydrology of the river basin.
70. One major reason for the scale of damage experienced from these floods at the household level is the absence of an effective early flood warning system that can alert them of pending high water levels for them to act to secure property or evacuate as might be required.
71. The Water Resources Agency (WRA), which is responsible for managing the water resources in the country, is collaborating with the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government to establish a **community flood early warning system (CFEWS)** in the Regional Corporations. The system that is now being implemented consists of one stage recorder on one of the tributaries and the rain gauges existing within SORB. It will provide flood warnings that are based on existing knowledge of the relation between water levels at the stage recorder and flooding downstream. The scope of this system, however, will provide only limited coverage of flooding in the basin and needs to be expanded by gauging other tributaries and deploying other rain gauges over the entire basin. The WRA has identified such a network of instruments that has the potential for providing timely warning for any location within the basin. WRA has received funding for improving its data transmission system and to upgrade its computer facilities and so the major outstanding components for having a comprehensive warning system in SORB are the hydrometeorological instruments. Should such a system be developed then it would address the concern of households and farmers that warning times will be too short to permit substantial reaction for reducing flood damage costs. The expanded system would most probably have to improve on the methods of forecasting by having means of estimating flood levels based on the information received by the Meteorological Service Division. ⁸
72. The capital works for mitigating basin-wide flooding would not directly address the flooding from localized rainfall. Without any intervention, flooding within the built-up areas and agricultural lands would continue and the extent of damage is likely to increase with the predicted increase in rainfall intensity from climate change.
73. The country vulnerability and capacity assessment report (2019) highlighted that the country will face direct **health impacts** caused by different climate risks such as heatwaves, droughts, floods, and storms. This study as well as the first round of stakeholder's consultation conducted for the development of the Concept Note, also discussed indirect impacts, such as changes in infectious disease patterns, pollution, and conflicts.
74. Direct effects from flooding being already experienced by affected population increased in psychological effects such as anxiety, violence, and depression due to the loss of property, livestock, crop, and physical assets during flooding. Sometimes stakeholders mentioned consequences being observed for even longer periods, such as increased stress and trauma from permanent loss of homes from inundation through increased seasonal flooding or landslides. Indirect effects include increase in water-borne diseases such as dengue and leptospirosis, which are categorized as high risk (EU, 2019). This study also underlines that the highest risks come from extreme weather events, increase in flash flooding leading to power supply interruption, injury, interruption of routine health service delivery and response. Among the identified most vulnerable communities to the above-mentioned risks are Penal Debe; and Siparia, both part of the SORB area.

j) Drought exacerbating water scarcity.

75. Currently, localized potable water sources for the region are presently insufficient with only about 3 MIGD (million Imperial Gallon per Day) of the 16 MIGD demand being supplied from sources within the basin. This daily shortfall is provided externally from the Caroni Water Treatment Plant in the north of the island and the Navet Water Treatment Plant to the northeast of the basin. Studies have shown that local supplies can be augmented from the South Oropouche River network and from aquifers. However, neither of these sources are likely to meet the water demand and so dependence on these external sources are likely to continue¹⁸. In the

¹⁷ Vulnerability and Capacities Assessment (V&CA), 2019

¹⁸ Formulation and Analysis of Alternatives Report: South Oropouche River Basin Study - Flood Management and Water Supply (Royal Haskoning DHV, December 2016).

case of run-of-river water systems, the problem will be in the dry season because the flows become so low to prevent any abstraction in order to meet the stipulated environmental flow requirements.

76. There is another side to meeting water needs of customers within the basin and it deals with addressing the water demand. It is a common assumption that at the heart of the problem with securing improved reliability of water to the population is reducing the high fraction of water that leaks from the distribution network. The annual cost country-wide of water leaking from the network has been estimated at about USD \$60M¹⁹ and this is mainly due to deficient infrastructure, coupled with lack of capacity to identify leaks and to repair them. The problem with the distribution system to customers within the SORB is likely to be no different than at the national scale. The prediction on rainfall patterns to the end of the century is one of diminishing supply and so it becomes very important to ensure that the water resource is properly used. Inasmuch as the problem of shortfall in demand can be partially solved by bringing into production newly identified water sources, such as from aquifers and surface water intakes and reservoirs, the high fraction of wastage from leakage cannot be overlooked, for the current situation is unsustainable. The impact of not prioritizing fixing this shortfall would likely lead to dire consequences in the near future due to climate change. It, however, needs a well-metered distribution network capable of identifying the quantity of water being supplied matched against its usage by its customers. It is to be noted that domestic metering is not practised in Trinidad and Tobago, and this has been cited as a main reason for the high daily per capita water consumption. Attitudes of households toward water consumption need to be changed as they may be unsustainable in the face of climate change. Metering offers an opportunity to trigger change.

k) Land use change in the SORB as a driver for floods

77. **9101112** There have been major changes in land use within the SORB to facilitate both agriculture and oil exploration. The required infrastructure for accessing drilling sites as well as for controlling saltwater intrusion for agriculture has made major alterations to the natural drainage of the catchments into the Godineau Swamp. Later, improved economic opportunities within the SORB diverted interest from agriculture and led to the subsequent deterioration of the infrastructure. Towns expanded rapidly without a proportional upgrade in the drainage infrastructure, thus making the towns very susceptible to flooding caused by any change in runoff peaks.
78. The limited drainage capacity was further exacerbated by deficiencies in the administration for land use enforcement and the maintenance of the infrastructure. Additionally, the absence of any drainage code for the country that could guide development allowed for arbitrary infrastructure. Many land developers filled the swampy areas to elevations above assumed flood level thus reducing the attenuating capability of these wetlands.
79. The discharge from the towns flows into natural watercourses that are administered by Central Government, but timely maintenance before the onset of the wet season is not always achieved mainly because of deficiencies in the organizational structure for administering to the drainage infrastructure.

l) Barriers to adaptation

80. The main barriers to achieving changes towards a resilient watershed are related to lack of priority in allocating funding for developing the required infrastructure, shortcomings in regulations and institutions, lack of solid data and information systems, lack of technical capacities and knowledge, cultural barriers, and lack of awareness.
81. There is a marked lack of funding to intervene in effective measures in the basin, not only in terms of structural and non-structural investments, but also in terms of human resources available in the responsible public administrations. Lack of funding has prevented the implementation of water infrastructure works such as drainage system improvement or improved access to water, significant interventions for ecosystem restoration, support to the small-scale agriculture and fisheries sector, or support to inhabitants of small towns to improve their flood preparedness. The bilateral meetings carried out and the results of the survey performed in December 2020 – January 2021 indicated that key stakeholders' opinion is that the lack of funding is the major barrier to adaptation in the watershed.
82. There is a lack of key regulations and a lack of incorporation of the climate change perspective in the existing policies and planning. For example, there is no national drainage code now, although there are plans to

¹⁹ Royal HaskoningDHV, 2016. Solution Identification and Impact Assessment Report (DRAFT). For NIDCO, Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

formulate one in the national drainage plan mentioned above. Key planning instruments that would help ecosystem resilience are not operational, such as the Godineau Swamp Management Plan, which was never adopted. There is a clear need to take up this work that has already begun and incorporate a climate change perspective into the process. There is a clear lack of capacity, highlighted by both authorities and studies in the area, to improve water governance and implement risk reduction and management, response, and recovery plans.

83. Maintenance seems to be a central problem in the drainage system of the SORB, and it stems from two issues. The first is the lack of resources available for doing the necessary works by the agencies responsible for the infrastructure; the other issue is the ambiguity regarding which agency is responsible for doing the maintenance. This issue reflects deficiencies in the governance structure to deal with flooding, and there perhaps cannot be sustained improvements in flood mitigation without properly addressing maintenance. Within the SORB, as is the case all over the country, it is not only the Drainage Division who administers to drains, but also the Highways Division, the Regional Corporations, and the Ministry of Agriculture, to a lesser extent. Initiatives are being made at the country level for enhancing the drainage network governance; however, some progress could be made at the basin scale to address some of the specific local maintenance problems.
84. There is a significant lack of meteorological, hydrological, and tidal data. If, however, the network of instruments proposed by the present proposal is realised, then its information will provide hydrologic descriptors over the entire basin, be sufficient to address the observation of the highly spatially varied rainfall within the basin and so aid in hydrologic analyses for conducting flood studies and feed the national water resource information management system that is currently being developed. But for such to be realised, the data generated by such a network must be complemented by sound technical capabilities within the agencies to model floods, predict and analyze droughts, manage, and analyze data, and promote cost-effective prevention measures. These capacities are currently insufficient.
85. With regards to ecosystems, the relevant institutions with competencies in the coastal and wetlands ecosystems management know the necessities for their rehabilitation; however, activities are not being promoted because of the lack of funding. Also, there is limited knowledge within the population about the importance of these ecosystems in water regulation and other ecosystem services. The knowledge of ecosystem restoration techniques is not spread at the level of having people being able to work in these duties.
86. Vulnerable groups of the agriculture and fisheries sectors are exposed to high risks and have low adaptive capacities to effectively respond to climate risks. The increase in flooding events and probably the increase of sea surface water temperature compromises the population and potential capture of native fishing species. The farmers and fishers lack of technical capacity and access to funding to diversify their activity and find alternative livelihoods.
87. There seems to be a lack of clarity as to how to incorporate knowledge about climate change and water management and care on the part of the different stakeholders in the basin. Issues such as the causes of flooding, the threats of sea level rise and droughts, the protection of ecosystems, the impacts of discharges into canals by residents and productive sectors, or maintenance of pipeline crossings by the oil and gas sector are just a few examples. This lack of clarity extends to only ad-hoc treatment on the part of national and local authorities to effectively address the management of climate change impacts.
88. There is a lack of a comprehensive approach to climate change in the educational system of Trinidad & Tobago; limited capacity of institutional stakeholders, CSOs, community groups, to address flooding; and lack of accessible and understandable information about climate change for fostering a change of behavior.

PROJECT / PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES:

General objective:

89. The project aims to increase the resilience of the South Oropouche River Basin's population and ecosystems to flooding, sea level rise and expected increasing water deficit events. The impacts of the mentioned events are already being experienced in the region, but its effects will increasingly impact the infrastructure, health, water security, gender, and livelihoods of the population, as well as the integrity of the basin's ecosystems.

Specific objectives:

90. Strengthen territorial planning and risk management.
91. Strengthen grey and green infrastructure to increase resilience of vulnerable population to floods, sea level rise, and droughts.
92. Enhance vulnerable coastal and wetland ecosystem of the SORB with EbA measures to restore key habitats such as the mangrove areas in the coast and the wetlands in the Godineau swamp.
93. Increase adaptive capacity of vulnerable fisherfolk and farmers to respond to increased climate risks such as flooding, saltwater intrusion, and drought.
94. Raise awareness and build capacities of the stakeholders of the SORB (government institutions, community members, vulnerable groups, private sector), in sustainable climate change resilient actions.

Project / Programme Components and Financing:

Project Components	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected Outcomes	Amount (US\$)
1. Strengthening of Territorial Planning and Risk Management	1.1. Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate responsive planning and development.	Improved policies, regulations and plans to reduce risk to climate change impacts.	200,000
	1.2. Strengthened information, monitoring, and climate information management systems	Reduced exposure to climate-related hazards and threats.	2,350,000
	1.3. Community Early Warning and Decision-making system strengthened and expanded to assess and manage climate risks.		250,000
2. Green and grey infrastructure enhanced to increase resilience to floods and droughts	2.1. Impact of flooding in selected most vulnerable flood-prone neighbourhoods minimized.	Increased resilience of infrastructure at risk in the SORB area.	2,950,000
	2.2. Housing and commercial buildings reinforced against floods.	Reduced exposure of vulnerable population to climate-related hazards and threats.	400,000
3. Vulnerable coastal and wetland ecosystems of the SORB enhanced.	3.1. Key coastal and wetland ecosystems restored.	Increased resilience of coastal and wetland ecosystems	1,200,000
4. Increase adaptation capacity of vulnerable farmers and fishers to address climate change and climate variability	4.1 Resilient farming technologies promoted to increase adaptation to climate change impacts.	Diversified and strengthened livelihoods for vulnerable people in the SORB area	400,000
	4.2 Fishers' resilient livelihood options promoted to increase adaptation to climate change impacts.		450,000

5. Stakeholders of the SORB have built their capacities and are aware of climate risks.	5.1. Capacities of stakeholders have been built to cope with climate change impacts in the SORB	Government officials and staff's strengthened capacities for decision-making to reduce risk to climate change impacts.	200,000
	5.2. Communication and dissemination strategies have been implemented towards reducing vulnerability.	Community members and vulnerable groups strengthened capacities to respond to climate change impacts. Increased awareness of CSOs, community members, associations, and the private sector on CC.	200,000
6. Project/Programme Execution cost			750,000
7. Total Project/Programme Cost			9,300,000
8. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)			700,000
Amount of Financing Requested			10,000,000

Projected Calendar:

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project/Programme Implementation	September 2022
Mid-term Review (if planned)	September 2024
Project/Programme Closing	August 2026
Terminal Evaluation	June 2026

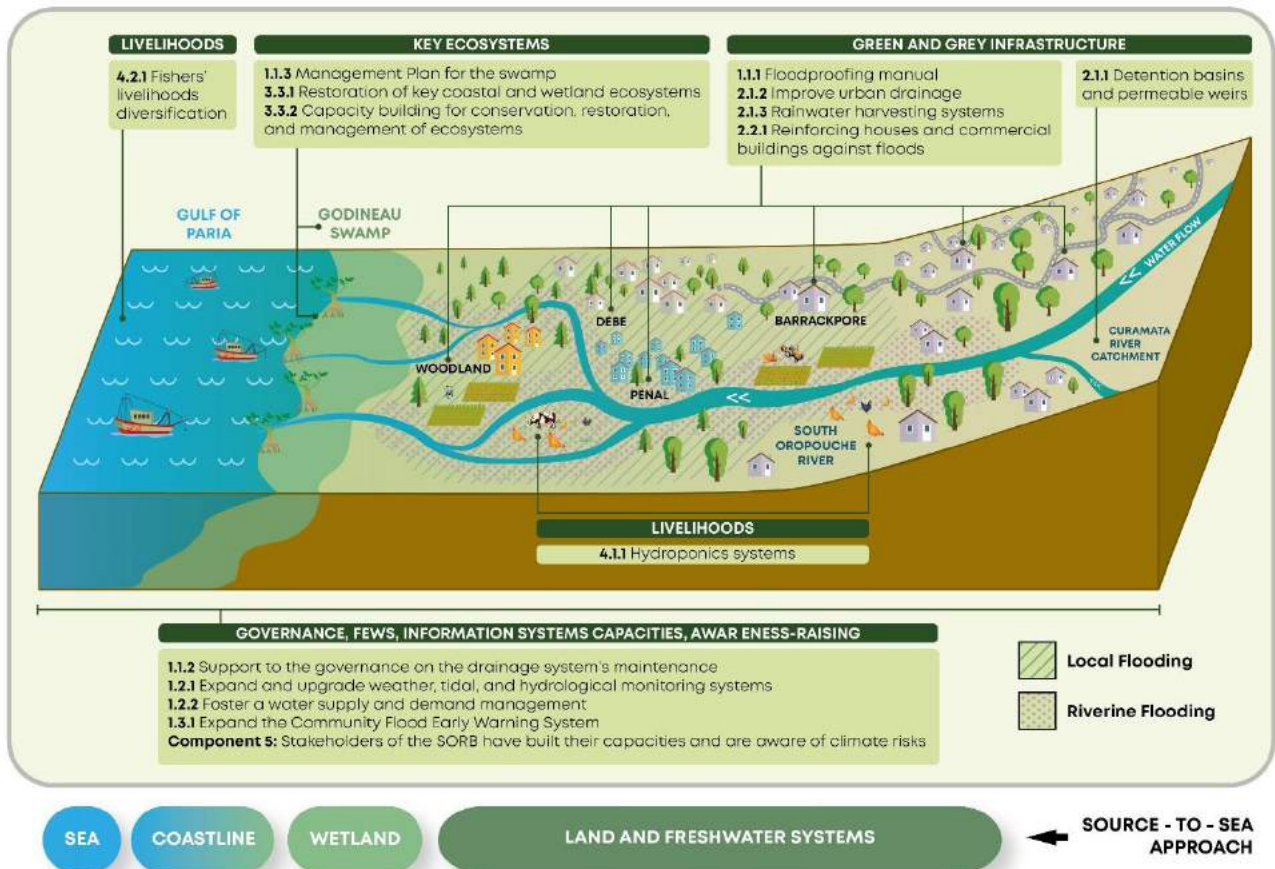
PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE THE PROJECT / PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

95. The measures proposed in the project respond to a thorough analysis of the previous studies carried out in the basin, the needs expressed by the representatives of the communities as part of the consultation process, the consultations conducted with a wide range of ministries and other authorities, including the Ministry of Planning and Development (NDA) (see Section H). Figure 9 shows all the adaptation measures proposed in the project and their location in the basin to visually understand their relationship and the key components of the watershed approach, which was part of the assessment to prioritize the solutions. The watershed approach includes an overall vision that looks at the territory in an integrated way, from upstream to the sea (source-to-sea approach).

96. The formulation process involved working together with the Government to avoid duplication with other planned investments (see Section F). The studies carried out in the catchment for the last decades clearly identify the need for large infrastructure works that require large investments. These are flood defence measures but will take some time to be implemented, and would not cover certain areas, e.g., would not address the local urban flooding or the reinforcement of key ecosystems. Also, it is a rather limited approach to managing floods and one, for far too long, has been the sole approach to flood management in the country. The country is slowly accepting other approaches to flood management including flood preparation (e.g., early flood warning systems) and flood mitigation (e.g., floodproofing measures at the household level).

Figure 913. Adaptation measures proposed by the project



97. The proposal does have some flood defence works at the local level that will complement the long-term major infrastructural work being planned now. But a significant part of the proposal is to address flood preparation and mitigation works that when implemented will add diversity to the measures for flood management in the basin. These are no-regret measures that will very easily be incorporated into the overall strategy for flood reduction in the basin and will increase the overall flood resilience in the basin. More importantly, these works can be implemented in the short term and, when completed, will be effective in reducing the threat to life and property.

98. Specifically, the project proposes measures at the basin level, that will support governance, will improve monitoring and information systems, and community flood early warning systems, and will carry out capacity building, education and awareness raising activities (most of component 1 and component 5). Then, it addresses the main vulnerabilities in terms of infrastructure, and provides green and grey solutions to vulnerable urban and rural population (Component 2), key ecosystems (Activity 1.1.3 and Component 3), and to improve and diversify livelihoods of the most affected communities – fisheries and agriculture – to offer them alternatives to cope with increasing floods, droughts, and sea-level rise (Component 4).

99. It is worth noting that the large focus of the project on generating better climate information (27% of the budget) since the lack of reliable information is one of the major deficits to inform adequate planning in the area. This has been one of the main issues that prevents further investments. With this project, early warnings to the population would be improved as well as available hydrometeorological data, which is key to inform future infrastructure designs mainstreaming the climate change variables.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

Component 1. Strengthening of Territorial Planning and Risk Management

100. This component includes the outputs aimed at strengthening institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development; strengthening information, monitoring, and climate information management systems; and strengthening and expanding the existing Community Early Warning and Decision-making system to assess and manage climate risks.

Output 1.1. Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development.

101. The project has identified important tools and techniques needed to support the flood governance structure and will provide them as outputs for use now. These tools would be even more effective when an improved governance system has been established. The project proposes the following activities:
- i. Building the capacity of residents living within flood-prone areas with knowledge, via a floodproofing manual, that would allow them to take timely and effective actions toward minimizing the potential damage from floods.
 - ii. The formulation of a development plan for Godineau Swamp, a sensitive eco-system that is essential for the livelihood of a substantial number of households and whose character is largely determined by the flooding regime within the lower SORB.
 - iii. The development of a flood hazard map that can form the basis for land zoning policies.

Activity 1.1.1 Manual about floodproofing infrastructure and buildings, specific to the reality of the SORB.

102. Even if structural measures are implemented for the improvement of the drainage infrastructure within SORB, flooding may still occur because of the uncertainties of rainfall and sea levels due to climate change. Additionally, the implementation of such works would most probably occur in phases so that there may be regions that remain unattended to for some period of time. Under these circumstances, the reduction of losses from flooding might be left up to households but their required effort must be supported for it to be effective. For this reason, the project proposes to develop a floodproofing manual containing the following:
- A description of the flood-prone areas within SORB and an indication of expected depths.
 - A description of the causes of flooding within SORB illustrated using specific flood events. The consequences of various actions on flooding would be explained.
 - A description of what can happen in the near future due to climate change, in terms of the increased frequency of extreme events and rising sea level.
 - Information on the role and function of each agency involved in flood protection, their assistance each can provide, and how it can be accessed.
 - Information on the community flood early warning system, a description of the meaning of the bulletins, and how households should respond to them.
 - Practical information on a range of floodproofing measures for different house types, including how and where to access resources for implementing the most appropriate measures.
 - A description of the grant facility for floodproofing homes, how it works, how it can be accessed, and the technical support for the implementation of the measures (see Section 2.2.1).
103. It is expected that the manual will be continually updated as more information becomes available. It is aimed to have the first edition produced in Year 1 so that it can contribute toward flood damage reduction in the shortest possible time. Subsequent versions of the manual will benefit from improvements in the flood hazard map and the community flood early warning system that would reflect the effects of any modifications to the drainage infrastructure and on improved understanding of the hydrology of SORB from the expanded hydrometeorological network. Other types of communication materials such as short videos or other graphic

formats will be produced so the information is easily understood by community members without tertiary or secondary school experience for it to be beneficial to the wider community.

104. Location: Basin-wide.
105. Beneficiaries: Households in flood-prone areas in SORB (will also benefit citizens in other parts of the country).
106. Institutions responsible/stakeholders involved: ODPM, Drainage Division, National Planning Authority, Regional Corporations, Water Resources Agency (WRA), TCPD.

Activity 1.1.2. Support to the governance on the drainage system’s maintenance in the SORB

107. To address the lack of clarity of responsibility to maintenance of the different segments of the drainage network described in the Background section, the project proposes to provide technical support to help the key institutions involved - Drainage Division, Highways Division, Regional Corporations, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries - to distinguish responsibilities for administering to various watercourses. This could be done by the accompaniment of specialized consultants that could facilitate the informed decision process that would lead to an agreement and an institutional decision. As a result, the project would provide a clear decision tree/guiding document for responsibilities for waterways and drains in the SORB.
108. Also, recognizing that once this clarity has been reached, maintenance will only be effective if the corresponding institutions count with a mechanism for the funding and the sustainability of the necessary actions. The project will support the design and establishment of a sustainability mechanism to ensure that maintenance will be financed over time, regardless of the type of management (private or public). The project will seek the commitment of the governmental institutions for ensuring that this mechanism will be sustained and that there will be enough human resources assigned to this duty.
109. Location: SORB.
110. Beneficiaries: All agencies involved in flooding
111. Institutions responsible/stakeholders involved: Drainage Division; Water Resources Agency, Town, and Country Planning Division, ODPM, Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government, EMA Regional Corporations.

Activity 1.1.3 Update and undertake participatory processes to approve and implement the Management Plan for the Godineau swamp

112. The objective of this activity is to update the Management Plan for the Godineau swamp, with a participatory approach. This would include:
 - Updating the wetland baseline information, as much has changed in the wetland since the last comprehensive assessment in 2002-2004.
 - Incorporate the climate change aspects in the management plan.
 - Undertake consultations and workshops with key stakeholders-surrounding communities, resource users, private sector (energy companies) and government entities (Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, Drainage Division, among others); and
 - Provide resources for the implementation of the prioritized actions.
113. A National Wetland Policy was developed in 2001 and a National Wetland Committee was appointed in 2004. The IMA’s ecological assessment of the Godineau Swamp in 2002-2004, included a study of the hydrology, vegetation, fauna, and socio-economic aspects of the wetland. At that time, the possibility of listing the Godineau Swamp as a Ramsar site was being considered. It is one of the largest wetlands in the country and is a habitat for several species, including birds. The preparation of the Management Plan had started, including participatory processes, but unfortunately, it was not completed.
114. That first attempt gave no consideration to the impact of climate change on the Swamp. The wetland does play a key role in the water regulation of the basin and, therefore, it is key to strengthen it to provide ecosystem services that minimize the impact of floods and serve as a barrier against saltwater intrusion and erosion – that is expected to be exacerbated by climate change. It is key to develop a management plan for the Godineau Swamp using new information considering all the alterations that have occurred in the last two decades and including the impact of climate change in the diagnosis, working with the major stakeholders, and developing a priority listing for all the actions identified.
115. IMA’s work and research experience in the Godineau Swamp, coupled with the fact that it participates in the inter-ministerial committee responsible for developing an integrated coastal zone policy, makes it the most suited institution for leading the process re p and implementing the Godineau Swamp Management Plan. The Project would provide resources for updating the studies, organizing consultations, and implementing prioritized actions. This activity will be implemented closely with activities in Component 3 – ecosystem

restoration – and in Component 5 – awareness-raising and capacity building on Ecosystem-based adaptation actions.

116. The participatory approach is key since the experience of the consulted key stakeholders shows that implementation of management plans without the involvement of the communities have not borne fruit in Trinidad.
117. Location: Godineau Swamp.
118. Beneficiaries: inhabitants of the swamp and the community in general. The population of the basin will experience reduced seawater intrusion and flooding through the improved management of the ecosystem.
119. Institutions / stakeholders involved: Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA); Coastal Protection Unit of the Ministry of Work and Transport (CPU); Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries; Drainage Division of the Ministry of Works and Transport, Environmental Management Authority (EMA); Siparia, Penal-Debe and Princes Town Regional Corporations, community, and groups within the SORB, CSOs, private sector.

Output 1.2. Strengthened information, monitoring, and climate information management systems.

120. The limitations in the existing hydrometeorological database in the SORB have been identified as the major hindrance to developing robust flood defense systems. The deficiencies in this database would not allow for (i) the creation of accurate flood hazard maps; (ii) the development of effective early flood warning systems; (iii) certainty of advice given to households for floodproofing; (iv) reduction of risks taken by farmers; (v) the prediction of the water resources available within the basin. Such shortcomings would also not allow for the quantification of changes in climate and the ability to respond accordingly. The development of a comprehensive hydrometeorological network is therefore critical to the reduction of flood risk within SORB and the development of sound resilient strategies in the face of climate change.

Activity 1.2.1 Expand and upgrade weather, tidal, and hydrological monitoring systems in the SORB.

121. Prudent decision-making approaches suggest building flexibility in strategies so that modification can be made as climate conditions change. Correct modifications can only be made with a continuous and complete dataset, for such will allow trends to be more easily observed and would also permit more reliable model predictions for any contemplated interventions.
122. A sound hydrometeorological network is therefore very critical for reducing the adverse impacts of flooding in the basin. If such is implemented, it will have a very significant impact that extends beyond flood reduction to include: i) any future investment for utilization of the physical resources within the basin; design of facilities for agriculture; all future infrastructure development; effective land-use zoning.
123. The agencies administering the instruments for the proposed network are the Institute of Marine Affairs, responsible for the tidal gauges; the Meteorological Service Division, responsible for weather stations, including rain gauges; and the WRA, responsible for stage recording stations, rainfall stations, weather stations.
124. In consultation with these agencies, it was able to determine the instrument requirement for developing this network. It is essentially the hydrometeorological network proposed by the WRA for a comprehensive early flood warning system, along with the inclusion of a tidal gauge and additional weather stations. The agencies have accounted for the resources required for the installation of the instruments and expect to have continued budgetary allocations to operate and maintain the instruments. The following table shows the type of each instrument, the number, and their estimated costs for the optimal network suggested by these agencies.

Table 4. Components of the hydrometeorological network

Agency in charge	Instrument	Optimal Number	Number Existing	Required Number	Installed Cost (USD \$K)
IMA	Tidal gauge	1	0	1	10
WRA	Stage recorder	5	1	4	100
WRA	High flow equipment	2	0	2	10
WRA	Rain gauge	20	6	14	350
TTMS	Weather station	7	1	6	210
WRA	Crest gauge	6	0	6	5
WRA	Observation wells**	22	9	13	355

Agency in charge	Instrument	Optimal Number	Number Existing	Required Number	Installed Cost (USD \$K)
WRA	Water Quality	5	0	5	70

** The project proposes to fund two of the 13 required observation wells identified by WRA.

125. Other resources normally required for the proper functioning of the network for telemetry transmission, data storage and retrieval, and subsequent dissemination of the information are available in varying degrees within the agencies and would be sufficient to satisfy data from the proposed network.

126. Location: Basin-wide.

127. Beneficiaries: Direct benefit to the Drainage Division, Regional Corporations, ODPM, Town and Country Planning Division for construction, operation, and maintenance of physical infrastructure, for developing early flood warning systems, for creating flood hazard maps to support land zoning, and for enhancing water capture for water supply.

128. Institutions responsible/stakeholders involved: Water Resources Agency, Meteorological Service, Institute of Marine Affairs/Regional Corporations, Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government, NGOs

Activity 1.2.2 Foster a water supply and demand management

129. Traditionally, the southwestern region of Trinidad has relatively limited freshwater and the consequence has been an unreliable potable water system. The Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) is very aware of the current water situation and knows of the importance to reduce the very high fraction of water lost to leakage in its distribution system. . However, limitations in resources have posed challenges in their ability to identify where the leakages might be and then to carry out the necessary repairs. A major component in improving reliability is the ability to account for water produced by the water treatment plant.

130. The project proposes to assist in increasing the reliability of the water supply by contributing to WASA's capability to reduce leaks through the provision of bulk and domestic meters and computational facilities (hardware and software) for data storage and analysis. The project will supply meters for each of WASA's seven district meter areas (DMA) within SORB and from among these, all households within three DMAs are to be metered. The gathered information will be used to identify leaks that would be repaired by WASA. Additionally, the information gathered on household water consumption would be used to formulate programmes for more efficient use of water within the households. *14*

131. Location: Three DMAs called Scott Road, Barrackpore, and Oropouche.

132. Beneficiaries: Direct benefit to SORB households fed by the water supply system that will be enhanced.

133. Institutions responsible/stakeholders involved: Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA).

Output 1.3. Community Early Warning and Decision-making system strengthened and expanded to assess and manage climate risks.

134. It is not likely that any of the major engineering works required for mitigating basin-wide flooding would be done soon. Until such happens, flooding would continue within the basin. In the meantime, it is important that an effective flood early warning system be developed to warn households of impending floods so that they can take measures to save life, limb, and property. The project proposes to support existing efforts to develop such a system.

Activity 1.3.1. Expand the Community Flood Early Warning System in the SORB

135. In response to the recent flooding over the country, the Red Cross has partnered with the agencies involved in flood control to implement a basic flood early warning system in each of the regional corporations, including Penal-Debe Regional Corporation, Siparia Regional Corporation and Princes Town Regional Corporation. This basic system will be in place during the 2021 wet season, and it is being monitored by the WRA.

136. The project proposes to assess the effectiveness of this warning system, expand its coverage by providing additional instruments, and then to use their signal to input into hydrologic and hydraulic models to obtain improved predictions and to issue more accurate bulletins. A substantial amount of information already exists within the regional corporations and their Disaster Management Units (DMU) have protocols for assisting households in flood-prone areas. The project proposes to work with the DMUs to develop a flood early warning system that would have the following features:

- Establishment/improvement of flood response and recovery plans for flood-prone areas.
- Creation/improvement of a community database for vulnerable persons for first responders during rising flood waters.

- Improvement of flow information to farmers on impending floods, including the promotion of the existing tools such as the mobile apps designed by the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service.
- A database on critical equipment, their owners, locations, and how to access them when needed for better assisting persons living in flooded areas.
- The flood early warning system will benefit from the development of the flood-proofing manual for buildings developed under activity 1.1.1, which will include an explanation of the meaning of the warnings to households and advise them on the measures they should take to minimize damage from impending floods.

137. Location: Basin-wide.

138. Beneficiaries: Direct benefit to households in SORB.

139. Institutions responsible/stakeholders involved: Water Resources Agency, Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service (TTMS), Drainage Division, ODPM, Ministry of Agriculture /Regional Corporations, NGOs.

Component 2. Green and grey infrastructure enhanced to increase resilience to floods and droughts.

140. This component includes actions focused on infrastructure enhancement or development, in urban and rural areas. The activities proposed are aimed at reducing the impact of flooding, improving urban drainage in selected most vulnerable flood-prone neighborhoods; promoting the flood-proofing of housing and commercial buildings; and improving water access for the urban and rural population. Activities under this component will need accompanying cultural shifts through social and behavior change education. This will be covered by activities in Component 5.

Output 2.1. Impact of flooding in selected most vulnerable flood-prone neighborhoods minimized.

141. Many of the drainage problems in the basin require large infrastructure works currently being considered by the Drainage Division. Such works address flooding from the long-duration rainfall that may last several days. The scale of these works is beyond the scope of this project in terms of budget. However, some small-scale interventions could significantly help to alleviate severe flooding in specific locations in some vulnerable neighborhoods. The proposed activities will minimize the impact of floods and will provide support to Regional Corporations to carry out small drainage and rainwater harvesting works that will have the dual benefit of water retention to mitigate the impact of flooding and to increase the availability of water, the supply of which is currently insufficient for the population.

Activity 2.1.1 Reduce flooding within the Penal Debe Regional Corporation by using detention basins and permeable weirs.

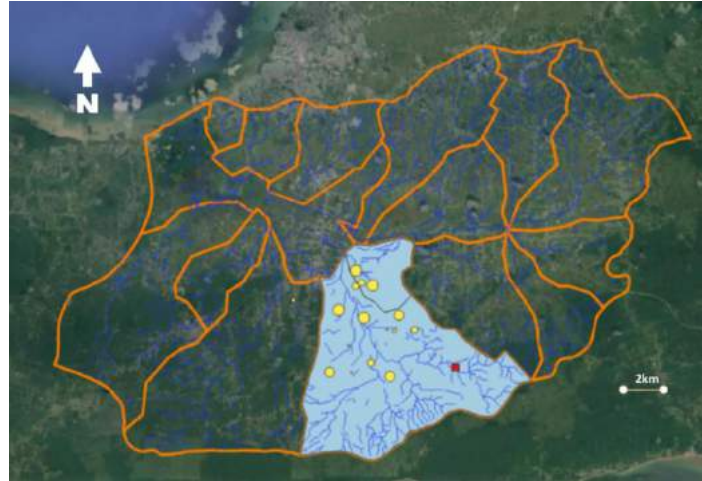
142. Much attention has been given to reducing flooding within PDRC by using detention basins. The main area of interest is in the lower reach of Curamata River (see Figure 9). A potential site in the upper part of this catchment, in the vicinity of Haggard Trace, has been identified for a detention basin (see Figure 11). The effectiveness of retention basins to positively impact flooding within Curamata River Catchment was reported in a study done in 2016 by Haskoning DHV consultants for the Drainage Division. Along with the traditional retention basin, the study also found that the lower-cost permeable weir solution could also be effective. Permeable weirs are constructed of gabion baskets, no more than two meters high, arranged in a cascading formation within the river. (See Figure 10). The project prefers the less obstructive permeable weir solution and proposes that they be used within the Curamata River system.

143. Location: Within upper reaches of the Curamata River network.

144. Beneficiaries: Built-up areas around the central PDRC, which is in the lower reach of Curamata River Catchment.

145. Institutions responsible/stakeholders involved: Regional Corporations, Drainage Division.

Figure 15. The Curamata River Catchment



The Curamata River Catchment (blue shade) among the other sub-catchments (orange outline). The yellow circles are locations of flooding. The red square is the potential detention basin at Haggard Trace.

Figure 10. Concept of a cascade to permeable weirs (left) and an example of a permeable weir made of gabion baskets.



Activity 2.1.2 Improve urban drainage within the PDRC, especially in the lower Curamata river.

146. Urban areas are particularly vulnerable to the predicted increases in short duration rainfall intensities due to climate change. These rainstorms exacerbate current problems with the urban drainage system, which are: i) blockages from utility lines and from siltation; ii) the failure to expand the drainage system to account for increased impervious areas and hence increased peak runoff flowing into the drains; iii) the main watercourses receiving runoff from these areas frequently are not well maintained resulting in reduced carrying capacity to convey urban runoff; iv) malfunctioning pumps in places that rely on them for urban drainage.

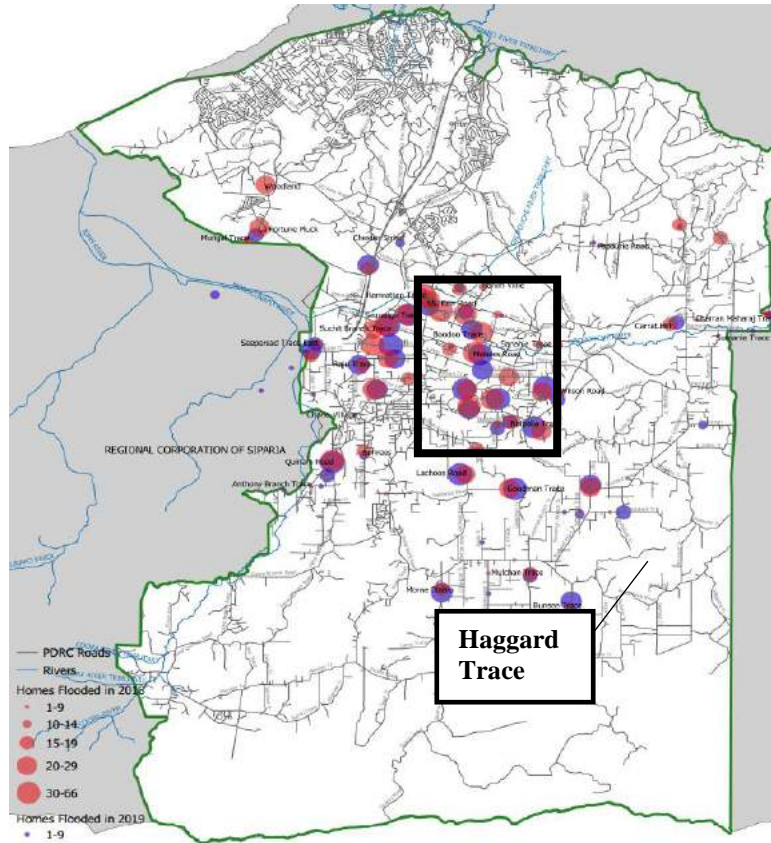
147. The PDRC has identified a built-up area in the lower Curamata River catchment that is subject to frequent flooding caused by localized rainfall (see Figure 11). Various river works have been identified by the corporation, mainly within the small tributaries to the Curamata River to reduce the frequency at which they spill their banks. The needed works are consistent with the finding in the Haskoning study that looked at all the main urban centers in the basin. The consultant concluded that the flooding in these centers was largely because the outlet drains were not well-connected to the main water channels and so runoff was not being conveyed quickly enough. The required works are about 2.5 km long.

148. Location: Within PDRC, around the lower reach of Curamata River.

149. Beneficiaries: Households affected by flooding because of the identified deficient infrastructure.

150. Institutions responsible/stakeholders involved: Regional Corporations, Drainage Division, Environmental Management Agency (EMA).

Figure 11. Flood-prone area within Penal Debe Regional Corporation in the lower reach of Curamata River.



Flooding in 2018 and 2019 are colored pink and blue, respectively. The number of households affected are distinguished by the size of the circle. The proposed drainage works target improving the areas within the black rectangle.

Activity 2.1.3 Increase access to water while minimizing the impact of flooding with rainwater harvesting systems in urban and rural areas.

151. As mentioned in other sections, there are deficiencies in the water supply system within SORB and this has ultimately limited the amount of fresh water available to households, as well as water for agricultural uses. The problem is particularly acute during the dry season, both in urban and rural areas, and also during the extreme rainfall events since the water supply service is affected and sometimes are interrupted during those. In rural areas, many families are solely dependent on agriculture as a means of earning an income, and water scarcity also affects their food security. Expected impacts of climate change will exacerbate this situation. On the other hand, during the wet season, excess rainfall causes floods, the severity of which is directly related to the increased coverage of impervious surfaces, including rooftops. In at least one regional corporation, consideration has been given to collecting in tanks water from these rooftops before it flows into the urban drains so as to reduce floods caused by short duration events within the urban areas. The water collected from the rooftops can then be used to augment the water supply. The idea is interesting because it helps to solve these two problems.

152. The project will promote the installation of rainwater harvesting systems as a means of flood reduction and increasing reliability of the water supply. It will aim at providing technical assistance and funds to assess water demand, design and build rainwater harvesting systems for vulnerable groups in the rural areas of the watershed; and to promote strategies for efficient irrigation practices.

153. The project will promote two main water harvesting systems:

- i. **Rainwater harvesting system** consists of a catchment surface, a conveyance system, and water storage tanks. This system is directed towards individual households as well as the construction in community building or specially constructed catchment surface for households or communities with no available surface. The activities will entail the building of sloped roofs, when needed, to avoid ponding and non-toxic roof coating. The conveyance system consists of gutters or pipes that deliver rainwater falling on the rooftop to cisterns or tanks. The tanks or cisterns can also be built with different materials, such as

reinforced concrete, fiberglass, or stainless steel. For water pumping, the project will encourage the use of solar pumps thus promoting renewable energy use.

Special attention will be given to provide information and capacity building for the maintenance and the water treatment when it is expected to be used for human consumption. To this end, rainwater harvesting systems include a pre-filtering and a filtering system. Further sanitization is needed for human consumption.

An effective rainwater harvesting system to serve the two needs (mitigating the effect of floods and reducing water scarcity) requires knowledge of several components, such as the expected water quality depending on its purpose; desired level of reliability; cost of the system; efficiency of communal systems versus household systems; and the overall impact on flood mitigation.

For acquiring this information, the Project will perform a small study undertaken by a research institution considering the existing system developed by GWP and NIHERST²⁰ for water supply improvement, with possible adaptation to maximize its flood reduction capability.

The project will work with the community to minimize any risk to public health using the stored water. For the unlikely purpose for potable use, the project will ensure that the design is robust and minimizes the risk to public health. It is more than likely that the purpose will be for non-potable use, such as for flushing toilets, washing cars and for gardening, but still, consideration will be given to providing proper training for using and maintaining the rainwater harvesting system.

- ii. **Small retention ponds for farmers or communities.** Designed with additional storage capacity, retention ponds can serve the dual purpose of attenuating surface runoff during rainfall events; and water harvesting, which can be channelled to the surrounding areas for irrigation purposes. The project will support retention ponds to be created by using an existing natural depression, by excavating a new depression, or by constructing embankments; and the conveyance system to channel the water to the communities' farms. When required, ponds might also include windmills and associated tanks for water use. The project will work with the community to develop a management and maintenance plan, with clear responsibilities agreed upon among all users.

- 154. **Location:** Specific urban and rural areas identified by the Regional Corporations, suffering from water scarcity and floods.
- 155. **Beneficiaries:** Urban and rural vulnerable households and farmers affected by flooding and unreliable water supply in the chosen areas.
- 156. **Institutions responsible/stakeholders involved:** Regional Corporations, Drainage Division, ODPM, WRA-WASA.

Output 2.2. Housing and commercial buildings reinforced against floods.

- 157. Given that floods will likely continue to occur due to climate change despite planned infrastructure improvement works in the country - the timing of which is uncertain - there is a need to help flood-affected communities prepare for and recover from the impacts. It is possible to improve their resilience by retrofitting residential and commercial buildings.

Activity 2.2.1 Reinforcing houses and commercial buildings against floods.

- 158. This activity proposes to create a grant facility or revolving fund targeted to inhabitants of the most vulnerable flood-prone neighborhoods in Penal, Debe, Barrackpore, Woodland and La Fortune, to reinforce their housing and commercial buildings. Housing in adjacent rural areas would also be eligible.
- 159. According to Regional Corporations' records, around 1,000 households are affected by floods periodically, which cause severe adverse economic, psychological, and social impacts. While commercial buildings affected by floods result in loss of livelihoods, one of the situations reported to be most worrying is that sometimes families do not want to leave their homes because they want to protect their assets and because of emotional reasons. The problem becomes more serious in the case of households with elderly people, young children, and people with disabilities. These issues will be addressed in part by the project through the improvement of the Community Early Warning System (Component 1) and the strengthening of the awareness-raising and capacity building initiatives being developed by the ODPM (Component 5). This activity will enhance these actions by facilitating means to adapt and improve households and commercial buildings that are currently vulnerable to flooding.

20 NIHERST, National Institute for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology

160. Some of the eligible investments could be: door flood locks or gates, waterproofing walls, internal sanitary installations to minimize risks, including non-return valves; adaptation of electrical installations, construction of upper floors as a contingency measure for floods, accessibility measures for people with disabilities or reduced mobility, to remove barriers that prevent them from moving to safer places within their home (e.g., moving to upper floors), or if necessary, evacuating their homes; mechanisms to elevate furniture and other valuable objects to upper floors, refurbishing and/or repairing the house/commercial building after the event.
161. The first step for implementing this activity will be to develop an operations manual that states how the grant will function, including eligibility conditions for obtaining a grant, and the monitoring method. The manual will be produced with the participation of the community, including persons with different vulnerabilities. The outcome from this process would be a list of criteria that define what qualifies for funding and the mechanism by which persons can apply.
162. The grants facility could be managed by an agency with experience in granting social or emergency assistance. Another possibility lies within the local governments. During the preparation of the Full Proposal, these possibilities and means of capitalizing the grant facility will be explored in more detail. Ceilings to how much a household can access will be determined. At this stage, an estimation of 2,500 per household is considered.
163. Location: flood-prone neighborhoods in Penal, Debe, Barrackpore, Woodland and La Fortune.
164. Beneficiaries: 160 households (800 people) in the selected areas which meet the grant requirements. Direct beneficiaries will be the owners of the houses and commercial buildings. However, since this is a pilot that can be upscaled in this and other flood-prone areas, the number of indirect beneficiaries would be much higher. During the formulation of the Full Proposal, consideration will be given to homeowners who do not have a Deed to show ownership but have a Certificate of Comfort from the Land Settlement Agency (LSA) which demonstrates that the LSA is in the process of regularizing the settlement. This would improve the equity of access to the fund.
165. Institutions responsible/stakeholders involved: Siparia and Penal Debe Regional Corporations, Drainage Division, Ministry of Planning, Agency managing the grant facility / revolving funds to be determined.

Component 3. Vulnerable coastal and wetland ecosystems of the SORB enhanced.

166. This component brings together activities to strengthen key ecosystems for the regulation of water resources in the SORB: the coastal ecosystem and the wetlands, following the Nature-based solutions approach. Capacity building of key stakeholders on conservation, restoration and management of coastal and wetlands ecosystems is needed to ensure the sustainability of the project's actions and to promote employment opportunities.

Output 3.1. Key coastal and wetland ecosystems restored.

Activity 3.1.1 Restoration of key coastal and wetland ecosystems

167. This activity proposes the rehabilitation of the two ecosystems key for the water regulation of the watershed, in the face of flooding effects and sea-level rise, including saline intrusion: the coastal ecosystem, consisting mainly of mangrove forest, dunes, and beaches; and the inland wetland ecosystem, the Godineau Swamp. The activity also includes investments in monitoring equipment to enhance the knowledge of the ecosystem's evolution.
168. **Wetlands**: the history and importance of the Godineau Swamp have been described in the Background section and in Activity 1.1.5 aimed at developing its Management Plan. One of the outcomes of this Plan will be the methods and the priority areas for the restoration. Restoration of the wetlands would contribute to mitigating the impact of floods, saltwater intrusion that has led to mangrove colonization, and would also benefit fishermen: the wetland is important in terms of supporting the fisheries in the adjacent Gulf of Paria by providing organic material, food and nursery support for the fish. Through this activity, the project would fund the restoration of priority areas within the wetland defined by the studies and the Plan. The activity will include the hydrological restoration to some of the freshwater and brackish marsh areas of at least 50-75 ha. Vegetation found in the brackish marsh that can withstand saltwater intrusion includes sedges *Eleocharis mutata* and *Cyperus articulatus*. These were dominant species recorded back in 2004. Other brackish marsh species include *Fimbristylis cymosa*, *F. miliacea*, *Cyperus surinamensis*, *Torulinium odoratum* and *Rhynchospora corymbosa*.
169. On the other hand, the **coastal ecosystem** is subject to different pressures due to changes in the water regime and suffers from severe erosion. As described previously, mangroves are expanding into freshwater areas. Through this activity, the project would fund the restoration of priority areas in the coastal area. A portion of the mangrove forest can be restored/ enhanced by removing levee / raised embankments so there is increasing flushing / flow within the system (hydrological restoration) and by removing old oil infrastructure (derricks)

that cause oil pollution. The current estimate of mangrove coverage is approximately 691 ha, and the project will improve by approximately 100 ha.

170. The Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) analyses the change in land cover patterns in the Godineau Swamp through aerial photography and satellite imagery. This kind of analysis can help monitor the evolution of the vegetation with climate change, and the effect of the restoration measures that would be applied with the project. For this reason, this activity will include the purchase of drones that allow mapping of mangrove dieback using photogrammetric techniques, and training for their use. Digital elevation models can be obtained from drone images and videos. These can be incorporated into the regular monitoring programmes of the IMA.
171. Location: Godineau Swamp and coastal area: between 50-75 ha of marshes and 100 ha of the coastal ecosystem.
172. Beneficiaries: Inhabitants of the swamp and the coastal area, fishers, and the community in general. The population of the basin will reduce its risk of flooding through the improved management of the ecosystem.
173. Institutions / stakeholders involved: Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA); Coastal Protection Unit (CPU) and the Drainage Division (DD) of the Ministry of Work and Transport; Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries; Environmental Management Authority; Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries, Siparia, Penal Debe and Princes Town Regional Corporations, CSOs, private sector.

Activity 3.1.2 Capacity building for CSOs, community groups, and government, on conservation, restoration, and management of wetland coastal ecosystems.

174. This activity aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), community groups, and government agencies to effectively participate in critical management functions to conserve, restore, and manage wetland and coastal ecosystems. To accomplish this, a rapid institutional assessment of targeted entities will be conducted to identify key capacity needs; an action plan will be developed to outline and support the recommended areas for capacity improvement and medium-term conservation priorities; training will be delivered to improve skills and contribute to capacity building; and where possible certain operational resources will be purchased to improve operations.
175. These activities could be organized with EMA and IMA, which have done community outreach programmes. Additionally, environmental NGOs can often develop beneficial programmes for communities with the absence of a top-down academic approach allowing the communities to have greater buy-in and build trust and strong working relationships with the NGOs and governing bodies.
176. Location: SORB.
177. Beneficiaries: CSOs, community groups, and government agencies in the SORB.
178. Key stakeholders involved: Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA), Environmental Management Agency (EMA), Regional Corporations, environmental NGOs, Academia, Education-related governmental institutions.

Component 4. Increase adaptation capacity of vulnerable farmers and fishers to address climate change and climate variability.

179. This component targets the most vulnerable population living in the rural areas in the watershed. Communities living in the SORB are greatly dependent on climate-sensitive practices, such as fishing, agriculture, forestry, and animal husbandry. The proposed activities aim at enhancing the adaptive capacities of the targeted groups, by providing technical assistance and affordable finance to promote the efficient use of water, promote alternative livelihoods for income and food security, and climate-resilient practices in the agriculture, aquaculture, and animal husbandry sector.

Output 4.1 Resilient farming practices promoted to increase adaptation to climate change impacts.

Activity 4.1.1 Pilot project of small-scale hydroponics systems to respond to climate-related risks.

180. Dry spells, increased sea water intrusion and increased flooding have a great negative impact in the agriculture sector, especially on vulnerable groups with low adaptive capacities to effectively respond to these emerging climate-risks. According to estimations of the Ministry of Agriculture 60% of all farmers' land in the SORB are flood-prone areas. Through this activity, the project aims at developing a pilot small-scale hydroponics project and provide support with technical assistance as well as affordable finance to around 120 vulnerable smallholders to test and implement the technology in their fields, including a commercial scheme to sell the hydroponic production in the market. Hydroponics is a suitable adaptation technology, which allows farmers to grow plants without soil, hence overcoming the problems of salinity, floods, and the accumulation of pests and diseases. Furthermore, it saves water (savings of 60-80%), contributing to addressing the problem of projected

droughts and it is nutrient efficient, reducing the use of pesticides. At the same time, it offers good yields and quality of products and can be grown all year long.

181. There are different potential technological designs, which could be feasible to promote with the pilot project. During the preparation of the full proposal, the most suitable design will be further assessed and refined, including necessary modifications to ensure the promoted system can withstand floods.
182. The UWI has already been testing the following technologies in the region, among others:
Table-Top, Double Table-Top and A-frame Hydroponic Systems: use Deep Flow Technique (DFT), easy to maneuver, saves on water, preassembled, modular design, incorporates vertical farming.
Deep Water Culture: Plants are usually placed to float on a raft structure on top of the nutrient tank, with their roots hanging in the water. This system is commonly used for aquaponics in Trinidad.
Under current system: employs a negative pressure technology to re-circulate nutrient water solution that is highly concentrated with oxygen. Ideal for top-heavy plants, fruiting plants.
 The main advantages of the proposed pilot are the **adaptability** - the design can be adapted to different conditions and areas, it is allowed for high savings and water efficiency, and nutrient efficiency, reducing pesticide and herbicide use – and the **scalability** potential: its modular designs facilitate farmers to test and learn about hydroponic systems and easily expand and replicate the modules.
183. The proposed pilot will also include the necessary linkages to promote market access of hydroponics production. According to the consulted stakeholders, there is a growing market in the country for hydroponic crops. Furthermore, the promotion of a Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) will be fostered with the project since there have already been previous successful experiences of farmers' adoption of these labels in the country.
184. Location: Vulnerable areas to dry spells and flooding in Siparia, Penal-Debe and Princes Town. Flooding areas include the low-lying area of the watershed, being Woodland and Barrackpore the most affected areas.
185. Beneficiaries: Rural vulnerable population with no year-round access to water in the SORB area during the dry season and suffering frequent flooding during the wet season. It is proposed that land ownership should not be a requirement as hydroponics structures could be relocated if farmers were to change the location of their activity.
186. Key stakeholders involved for management and support: Ministry of Agriculture, Siparia, Penal-Debe and Princes Town Regional Corporations, UWI, NAMDEVCO.

Output 4.2 Fishers resilient livelihood options promoted.

Activity 4.2.1 Promotion of fishers' livelihoods diversification to reduce exposure to climate-related risks.

187. Floods expel large quantities of objects and pollution into the sea in a very short time, causing fish populations to move away. The fisherfolk have reported that, every time there is a flood event on the mainland, their catches are drastically reduced. They have also reported a sustained decline in catches over time, which may be due to rising sea surface temperatures, coupled with overfishing. Within this framework, the promotion of alternative livelihoods for fisher folks such as aquaculture and ecotourism provide an effective option for diversification.
188. This activity will provide training as well as funding to fisher folks in the SORB area to adapt to the increasing risks of flooding and saltwater intrusion and diversify their livelihoods income.
189. As part of the potential livelihoods alternatives suitable for fisher folks, this activity will promote investments and the strengthening of capacities to create small-scale community-based ecotourism, or aquaculture. Further assessments will be conducted in the feasibility study to determine the best-suited solution for the identified most vulnerable population, either the development of an ecotourism enterprise or the potential aquaculture model (oyster farming, freshwater, or brackish water species). Additionally, the most adequate financing instruments to be used for this activity will be further explored during the design of the Full Proposal and further discussed with the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries.
190. Location: SORB.
191. Beneficiaries: Fisher folks (with special focus on low-income women-led households, youth-led households, mono parental households with fishing as the only income generating activity), in the SORB area.
192. Key stakeholders involved: Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, Siparia, Penal-Debe and Princes Town Regional Corporations.

Component 5. Stakeholders of the SORB have built their capacities and are aware of climate risks.

193. Some of the barriers identified in the watershed are related to the lack of a comprehensive approach to climate change in the educational system of Trinidad & Tobago; limited capacity of institutional stakeholders, CSOs, community groups, to address flooding; and lack of accessible and understandable information about climate change for fostering a change of behavior. The activities included in this component have the objective of

raising awareness and building capacities of the stakeholders of the SORB in sustainable climate change resilient actions and decision-making to reduce their risk to climate change impacts. Activities related to learning and dissemination from the implementation of the Project will contribute to support the adoption of best practices.

Output 5.1 Capacities of stakeholders have been built to cope with climate change impacts in the SORB.

Activity 5.1.1 Institutional strengthening on flood, drought, sea-level rise and saltwater intrusion management.

194. This activity is focused on strengthening the government institutional capacity of key entities operating in the SORB to manage risks associated with flood, drought, sea-level rise, and saltwater intrusion. The first step will be to conduct a rapid institutional capacity assessment to identify specific areas for strengthening. Priority will be given to measures focused on improving coordination and communication, access to environmental information, and building capacity to support livelihood alternatives among local institutions operating in the SORB. It is envisaged that strengthening the institutional capacity of a diverse group of institutions engaged in climate resilience building in the SORB will enable the upscaling of the range of solutions introduced by the project. This activity is related to the actions for flood governance (Component 1): it is expected that the capacities strengthened in this activity will contribute to the achievement of better results in the aforementioned initiative.

195. Location: SORB.

196. Beneficiaries: National and local institutions with competencies in managing flood, drought, sea-level rise and saltwater intrusion management.

197. Key stakeholders involved: Academia and national and local governmental institutions.

Activity 5.1.2 Promotion of peer-to-peer learning and capacity building on approaches to solving flooding for key government institutions.

198. Despite the increased attention to the impacts of flooding in Trinidad, the requisite expertise to develop local solutions is a major constraint to the long-term alleviation of the problem. The MoWT, MoRDLG, and the MoPD have extensive expertise and experience in addressing flooding challenges; however, knowledge-sharing and peer-to-peer learning are limited. Additionally, there is often discordance between conceptual understandings of flooding and the implementation of measures on the ground. Thus, the Project proposes to develop a short-term training programme on flooding preparedness and management that will be accessible in person for the duration of the project and additionally through online modality, which will ensure the sustainability of the programme after the Project ends. Additionally, as adult-centered learning principles highlight the importance of peer-to-peer learning, the Project proposes to organize from Year 2 onwards of the implementation of the project annual exchange sessions among government professionals and university experts on approaches to solving flooding to meet the learning needs of experts and practitioners. On an annual basis, the Project will ensure at least 10 exchange sessions with balanced participation of staff involved in the implementation of flooding solutions from different institutions.

199. The main objective of both modalities of learning would be to build professional capacities in flood risk management at the institutional and individual levels.

200. There are several universities that have the requisite resources to support the design of such training and knowledge sharing programmes. For example, the UWI has a strong record of implementing similar programmes, and the required infrastructure to support the sharing of course content and teaching material via blended, online, and face-to-face learning modalities.

201. Location: Trinidad & Tobago.

202. Beneficiaries: Professionals who are involved with the implementation of solutions to flooding.

203. Key stakeholders involved: Academia, Ministry of Education, government institutions at the national and basin level.

Activity 5.1.3 Incorporation of climate change and disaster risk reduction in the curriculum.

204. Embedding climate change and disaster risk management in national teaching curricula provides multiple co-benefits to building resilience. Climate change and disaster risk management are not consistently addressed in the school curriculum in Trinidad & Tobago. This activity will focus on developing core modules targeting youth that may have limited knowledge of climate change and disaster risk management concepts. The training will target primary and secondary schools as well as youth skills training programmes. The curriculum design will provide maximum flexibility and will include teacher training - covering content related to climate change, disaster preparedness, response and rehabilitation, climate hazards and vulnerabilities relating to gender

relations and family life. It is anticipated that the training will equip younger generations with the ability to respond to natural disasters and significantly reduce losses of lives and property.

205. The strategy for the implementation of the specialized modules will rely both in the Environmental Policy and Planning Division (EPPD) that will provide the trainings based on the modules designed with the Project and the mainstreaming of these modules in the curriculum of primary and secondary schools in alliance with the Ministry of Education.

206. Location: Trinidad & Tobago.

207. Beneficiaries: Primary and secondary school, and youth skills training programmes.

208. Key stakeholders involved: Academia, Education-related governmental institutions.

Activity 5.1.4 Capacity building for key local and national government staff on environmental and social safeguards and grievance mechanism

209. Through this activity the project will provide capacity building to relevant government staff at the national and basin level in the identification of social and environmental impacts, international E&S standards, and the adequate social and environmental monitoring of the project-related activities and investments. Although the grievance mechanism and the E&S monitoring of the project will be guaranteed by CAF and the UWI, support will be provided to governmental actors to continue to guaranteeing compliance with the E&S safeguards once the project is finished. This way, it is expected that key government staff will improve awareness of potential social and environmental impacts of the proposed technologies and strengthen their skills in the appropriate monitoring and social and environmental safeguards compliance.

210. Location: Trinidad & Tobago.

211. Beneficiaries: National and local government staff

212. Key stakeholders involved: government institutions at the national and basin level.

Output 5.2. Communication and dissemination strategies have been implemented towards reducing vulnerability.

Activity 5.2.1 Awareness raising campaigns on climate change risk reduction management and adaptation strategies.

Sub-activity 5.2.1.1 Community level awareness raising campaigns.

213. Awareness raising is key to address knowledge gaps targeting different stakeholders. Campaigns will comprise topics related to: climate change expected impacts and risks, efficient water management, linkages between human-made obstruction to channels through dumping of debris and flooding consequences, maintenance work in channels that could be taken up by community members; importance of recycling to avoid dumping of debris, impact of the use of chemical for cleaning dumping, waste and run off in water courses. Additionally, information on the characteristics of the ecosystems in each community and the climate related risks will be part of the awareness raising campaigns to support activities of Component 3. People have lived in the Godineau Swamp for years. During the socio-economic assessment conducted in 2002/2003, it was evident that many people did not even realize they lived in a wetland and thought the wetland was the mangrove swamp. So, many of the inhabitants may not be aware of their vulnerability because of where they live.

214. To support activities and behavior change of component 2, specifically, the reinforcement of houses to withstand floods, awareness raising campaigns will target cultural practices and norms, to support the technical recommendations. Additionally, since many families are reluctant to be evacuated when floods come, a focus will be given to the emotional and cultural reasons about invasion of privacy, protection of property and inheritance, how people living in the SORB act in crisis to promote understanding of emergency and safety concerns.

215. Different communication strategies for the awareness raising campaigns will target different actors, since the incentives to promote behavior change vary among the target stakeholders. The following strategies have been identified during the consultation process as to be more effective in targeting the following actors: a) Public information campaigns in schools, or public places, or radio; b) Community involvement activities, such as contents through partnerships with key NGOs working at the local level; c) Joint presentations and campaigns with government officials aligning the discourse at the national, and local level, including public and key local leaders.

Sub-activity 5.2.1.2 Awareness raising campaigns for business such as Oil and Gas companies, and developers.

216. This activity is focused on building awareness of real estate developers of the risks of climate change. For real estate investors, climate change is causing risks to rise exponentially, and incorporating sustainability into the real estate sector has become an absolute imperative for long-term investment prospects. The SORB has experienced rapid real estate development in the last decade or so, resulting in increased infrastructure and livelihood exposure to climate risks. One of the greatest challenges faced by developers is the lack of awareness of climate risks and the benefits and opportunities of green infrastructure. In addition to information on the climate risks, this activity will equip developers with material related to green building construction and operation to preserve natural resources and protect the environment for generations to come.
217. Targeted meetings with the CEOs, board of directors, managers and key decision-makers in the companies will be organized to raise awareness on climate change impacts and the industry-related exacerbation of risks in the area. A focus on improved practices to reduce the impact of the industries on flooding will be promoted along with the alignment of such action with corporate responsibility principles.

Sub-activity 5.2.1.3: Design of communication material

218. The communication material includes including short films highlighting activities that contribute to flooding, on impacts of flooding and the development of promotional material and campaigns that can be shared through social media will also be developed.
219. Location: Siparia, Penal-Debe and Princes Town Regional Corporations.
220. Beneficiaries: Communities within the SORB area in Siparia, Penal-Debe and Princes Town.
221. Key stakeholders involved: Penal-Debe and Princes Town Regional Corporations, National government, CSOs, private sector, Chambers of Commerce, Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners, Trinidad and Tobago Association of Planners, APETT, Association of Real Estate Agents, Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Architects, and the Trinidad and Tobago Green Building Council.

Activity 5.2.2 Identification of best practices and lessons learned, and dissemination activities.

222. Communication and dissemination activities arising from the implementation of the Project will contribute to support the adoption of best practices and the wider reflection at the Project level and dissemination to a wide variety of stakeholders of lessons learned.
223. To this end, the Project will promote a series of case studies, and proper identification throughout of a learning agenda and learning plan. After the definition of the learning plan, the identified and prioritized learning questions will be supported. Supported sub-activities will potentially include:
- Case studies of promoted strategies: From year 3 onwards, the identification of best practices on the proposed strategies and technologies will be identified and further assessment through case studies will analyze them.
 - Lessons learned: identification of problems or challenging situations during implementation and distilled lessons will also be identified and documented through systematization of experiences, which will enable a reflection process with the involved stakeholders and the lessons that can be shared and disseminated.
224. The Project will **hold annual Reflection workshops** with a wide variety of stakeholders, including **public officials, NGOs working in the area**, and beneficiaries, to assess the progress of the Project and get feedback on improvements that could be made, and potential partnerships for the upcoming activities.
225. Lessons learned, case studies and good practices identified during project implementation will be developed in different communicational formats, such as videos, short-interviews films, and one-pagers with key highlights to be widely disseminated among stakeholders working in flooding adaptation strategies, and climate change adaptation to dry spells and sea water intrusion.
226. Location: Siparia, Penal-Debe and Princes Town Regional Corporations.
227. Beneficiaries: Communities within the SORB area in Siparia, Penal-Debe and Princes Town.
228. Key stakeholders involved: Ministry of Planning, Penal-Debe and Princes Town Regional Corporations, NGOs, other Regional Corporations of the country, donors and funding institutions working in adaptation strategies, CAF.

B. DESCRIBE HOW THE PROJECT / PROGRAMME PROVIDES ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS.

Economic benefits of the Project

229. The economic benefits of the project overall include increased and more stable income, protected assets, job creation, higher productivity, and money savings as a result of the improved adaptive capacities and reduced exposure to flooding, drought and saltwater intrusion of vulnerable population in the SORB area.

230. Component 1, through the institutional and regulatory improvements (outcome 1.1), the climate information management system (outcome 1.2), and the EWS (outcome 1.3), will allow better prevention, mitigation, planning, and response to climate risks, and therefore, the reduced exposure and economic costs associated to its impacts.
231. Component 2 will enhance water drainage infrastructure in selected most vulnerable flood-prone neighborhoods (outcome 2.1), which will result in indirect economic benefits by avoiding cost from emergency response regarding extreme events. The housing and commercial building improvement against floods (outcome 2.2), will benefit vulnerable population by protecting their assets and reducing exposure and economic costs due to property loss as well. The improved water access for the urban and rural population (outcome 2.1) due to the installation of rainwater harvesting systems, retention ponds at the household and community level will result in economic benefit by reducing flooding costs and water supply costs for household owners, and in rural areas where the water is carried, it will also reduce the time spent in carrying water, a task usually performed by women.
232. Component 3, restoring key coastal and wetland ecosystems (outcome 3.1) will increase income and productivity in the area by reducing losses in agriculture, fishing, and trade due to climate hazards and threads decline. In agriculture, the avoidance of flooding, saltwater intrusion, and soil erosion, will result in economic benefit due to productivity gains. The fisheries will benefit from reduced pollution and wetland degradation, which are important nurseries and providing organic material for fish.
233. Component 4 through the implementation of hydroponic systems (outcome 4.1) will increase productivity and income. Technical and commercial assistance, and affordable finance will be provided as well.
234. For fishers, diversification of livelihoods with ecotourism or aquaculture (outcome 4.2) will result in income growth, at the same time that will reduce the likelihood of the need for social assistance from the government.
235. Component 5 will build capacities among stakeholders (outcome 5.1) and develop communication and dissemination strategies (outcome 5.2) which will reduce economic impact by educating on how to prevent flooding and act during emergencies, reducing the cost of climate change hazards on livelihoods, infrastructure, and population.
236. A cross-cutting benefit to all the outcomes of components 2 to 5, is the creation of indirect jobs because of the implementation of the planned works and capacity building activities.

Environmental Benefits of the Project

237. Structural interventions discussed in Components 1 and 2 focus on providing both long- and short-term positive impacts. Activity 1.1.3 which revolves around governance support gives direct environmental benefits of flood alleviation through basic structural maintenance works, while Activity 1.1.2 will provide individuals with the type of information needed to better implement options for flood proofing their homes and businesses, which will be more effective and environmentally sustainable than the short-term usage of options such as sandbagging. Activities 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 under the remit of Component 2 which addresses infrastructure to increase resilience is directly connected to reducing flood impacts.
238. The development of a Management Plan for the Godineau Swamp under Component 1 will provide both direct and indirect environmental benefits in the short- and long-term. It will ensure that the Swamp's resources are used sustainably, the ecological integrity of the Swamp is protected, biodiversity is conserved, activities that have a negative impact on the Swamp are precluded, and the Swamp's hydrology is properly maintained. The development of a Management Plan through a participatory approach lends for the possibility of the successful sustainable management of the Swamp's resources, as top-down legislative approaches are challenging to enforce and manage in developing countries. Nonetheless, the development of a Management Plan could also provide a possible pathway for the legal recognition of the Swamp as a protected area allowing for prosecutions in the event of environmental violations.
239. Component 2 prescribes activities related to rainwater harvesting that can effectively reduce the impacts associated with stormwater runoff and reduce potential impacts associated with increasing pressures placed on freshwater systems to meet growing demands.
240. The implementation of an initial study prior to the implementation of water harvesting will allow for the filling of knowledge gaps so that any provision of information to the residents of SORB will be relevant. Residents will be educated on the appropriate measures for the management of the systems to reduce any health or environmental risks. Any impacts will be addressed through the

Certificate of Environmental Clearance process whereby the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) would require each impact be determined and mitigated prior to the grant of approval.

241. In the case of Component 3, the restoration of mangroves can improve the carbon sequestration capability of the Godineau Swamp, and increase the availability of habitats, nurseries, and spawning grounds for both crustaceans and fish which are intrinsically linked to the livelihoods of the residents of the SORB. Additionally, mangrove restoration will ultimately reduce the risks of storm surges, improve coastal protection, and reduce erosion, maintain the biodiversity of the Swamp, and improve water quality. Reduction of negative impacts associated with mangrove restoration programmes as outlined in Component 3 will be avoided through the involvement of the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) and the Coastal Protection Unit of Ministry of Works and Transport. This would address some of the reasons why some restoration programmes fail including a lack of knowledge of the site hydrology, poor site and species selection and the absence of long-term monitoring and management.
242. Actions related to more sustainable practices in Component 4 provide several environmental benefits. For example, hydroponics systems will reduce the amount of water used by farmers, which will contribute to reduce droughts. As it is nutrient efficient, it will also minimize the use of pesticides.

Social Benefits of the Project

243. Components 1 and 5, through regulatory and institutional improvements combined with awareness and communicational campaigns, will allow the population not only to have more information and capabilities, but also a greater degree of involvement and empowerment in relation to floods and the decisions made in relation to them.
244. The infrastructure works of Component 2 will significantly contribute to enhance the population's quality of life by improving the living environment. The rainwater harvesting systems will also increase hours-availability for productive or domestic tasks, by reducing the time spent in carrying water, a task usually performed by women.
245. In component 3, restoration of mangroves will imply the improvement of the ecosystem services. The hydroponic systems in component 4 will benefit population with a better health, by reducing the use of pesticides and the possibilities of water run off pollution.
246. Overall, it is expected that the reduced impact of flooding will also benefit SORB population's spread of diseases such as leptospirosis and other waterborne diseases, the disruption to the potable water supply, and the interruption of electricity supply during extreme events.

Gender Assessment

- *Gender Baseline*

247. In the context of Trinidad and Tobago, like so many other places, any experience examined in terms of gender, must be understood as intersectional. As Leo-Rhynie (1998)²¹, established, class, race, ethnicity and more (e.g., religion, cultural customs, age) are consistently drawn into relevance due to the history of slavery, indentureship and colonization that entrenched hierarchies along these lines.
248. In terms of the specific region in Trinidad and Tobago, the South Oropouche Basin, national trends persist, and are in fact intensified. Siparia and Penal/Debe were among the regions that scored the lowest in the gender inequality index compared to other regions in the country. This trend also applies to Princes Town, with the municipality recording the lowest rate of female participation in the workforce in its last available Economic Profile. Siparia has a higher-than-average female labor force participation rate – 50.3%, while Penal/Debe had the second lowest female labor force participation rate in the country (43.7%). In the case of Princes Town, the municipality has the lowest rate of female participation in the workforce.
249. Regarding target groups in the project, in the County of St Patrick East there are 1,192 agricultural and livestock producers, from that 161 are women; in the district of Debe there are 460 farmers, including 62 women; and in the district of Princes Town there are 995 farmers, including 200 women. According to FAO²², in the fishery sector the participation of women is not well documented; however, and as supported by the stakeholders consultations, women in this sector are more likely involved in the processing and marketing

²¹ Leo-Rhynie, Elsa A. 1998. "Socialisation and the Development of Gender Identity: Theoretical Formulations and Caribbean Research". In Caribbean Portraits: Essays on Gender Ideologies and Identities. Ed: Christine Barrow. Ian Randle Publications.

²² FAO. Fishery and Aquaculture Country Profiles- The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

activities. FAO estimates put the total number of women involved in the fisheries sector at 1,350 in the country.

- *Gender differences aggravated by climate change*

250. A February 2021 Gender Analysis of Trinidad and Tobago, prepared by the UNDP and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, reinforces the country's extreme vulnerability to climate events and the compounded risks to vulnerable populations such as women as a demographic group because women "have less secure economic standing than men, disasters increase the risk of reinforcing, perpetuating, and increasing existing gender inequalities in Trinidad and Tobago"²³. The report cites the opportunity cost of care work, both within the home and in the community, unemployment or underemployment of women in the labor market even though women and girls enroll in higher numbers in education, the gender division of labor which influences women's and men's career choices, and low levels of women in political leadership as factors that constitute women's increased vulnerability to climate change events and that undermine their capacity to adapt and to be resilient in comparison to men.

251. The project consultation process identified specific vulnerabilities for women related to climate change effects in the SORB such as spike in domestic violence, the stakeholders pointed out "we do have a rise in domestic violence and 90%, even probably 98% if I may say, go unreported, so we don't know the definite and the magnitude of the impact because most of the heads of households are males and they depend on farming as their livelihood".

- *Gender considerations in the project*

252. The 2021 gender analysis report makes twelve recommendations to rectify these shortcomings which suggests that there is a will to strive for gender responsive action.

253. The gender responsive approach will be mainstreamed in the entire project activities, including the design of trainings, the implementation of technical assistance to ensure women participation and care for the children so they can attend, appropriate language and gender considerations in the communication, dissemination, and awareness activities, among others. The decision making by women will be strengthened in participatory processes such as the development of the Godineau Swamp Management Plan by using specific methodologies that promote the equitable participation and voice inclusion.

254. The investments in urban areas will address women's specific needs by reducing the risk of productive and family assets loss and reduction of health issues that usually increase the burden of caretaking by women. Women will be actively targeted in the diversification of productive activities (fishing, agriculture) that will benefit them by offering an alternative to stabilize their income and their food security. They will be particularly engaged in capacity building activities related to ecosystem restoration and conservation which are also expected to increase the opportunities for future jobs. Women's skillsets in education and awareness-raising activities will be capitalized in Component 5 activities. Through the climate monitoring system and expansion of the community flood early warning system, the project can provide a more equitable information access, improve the response capacity, and reduce the vulnerability of women who are usually more affected by floods impacts and are in charge of people with disabilities, elderly and children.

C. DESCRIBE OR PROVIDE AN ANALYSIS OF THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT / PROGRAMME.

255. The project proposes a combination of investments in different technologies, including hard adaptation measures, such as grey and green infrastructure and soft adaptation (e.g., capacity building, awareness raising, and flood governance strengthening) that are combined to address in an integral manner the impacts of flooding, droughts and increased sea level rise providing benefits for the most vulnerable population in the area. The Project has included the following consideration to ensure cost-effectiveness:

²³ UNDP NDC Support Programme. 2021. Trinidad and Tobago Gender Analysis: Executive Summary. Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Prioritization of no-regret and low regret options²⁴ and cost-effective technologies for adaptation assessed in the study conducted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Trinidad and Tobago “Understanding the economics of climate adaptation in Trinidad and Tobago” (2014)²⁵.

- Support for the strengthening of flooding governance, which includes the meteorological alert system under component 1 and mangrove restoration (component 3) fall into the category of “high impact” and “no regret”.
- Capacity building activities are generally no regret options since they entail low investment with proven long-term effectiveness and sustainability of actions as well as benefits that would be justified under all future scenarios, since it addresses key issues already being experienced in the SORB. Furthermore, social awareness and institutional training as well as the introduction of retention ponds obtained the highest score in terms of cost-effectiveness assessment under the multi-criteria analysis in the above-mentioned study.
- Activities as rainwater harvesting systems, infrastructure and building reinforcement, and sustainable drainage systems, are also included in the analysis of the IDB study and obtained a high score as cost-effective actions to prioritize in the country.

Proactive and preventive approach to address flooding, drought, and increased sea level rise: The proposed measures contribute to avoid associated increasing losses and economic costs compared to the current approach of reactive measures such as evacuation, subsidies to farmers and people affected by flooding, among others.

Reduced costs of investments, low maintenance costs and increased associated co-benefits:

- Activities such as the improvement of the early warning systems (Component 1) builds on previous work done by a partnership of non-government and government institutions and complement the required investment to expand and enhance the EWS. This kind of systems do not only contribute to disaster risk management but also contribute to social-capital and community network development and has a low associated operation and maintenance cost.
- Component 2 will address identified drainage issues by investing in small detention basins, and small drainage works in specific identified location, which entail a relatively small investment and can maximize the benefits to avoid flooding in the identified areas. Through this component, the strengthening of housing and commercial buildings to withstand floods also represents a low investment adaptation solution that entails high benefits of avoided asset losses and the losses related to the stop of an income-generating activity for the flooded households. The development of rainwater harvesting systems that will also be promoted through component 2 will build upon the experience of other institutions with a proven design and improve the technology to make it also effective for flooding. Community involvement and training will contribute to maintenance and long-term sustainability avoiding the high costs associated to the procurement of water by the government, long distances, or payment to commercial providers.
- Component 3 includes ecosystem-based adaptation solutions that have been proven to require not only a low initial investment but also low maintenance costs, making them efficient and effective. This measure not only contributes to avoiding costs but also supports key ecosystem services, and associated benefits of environmental health such as increased biodiversity.
- Activities such as capacity building and awareness raising (component 5) require a minimum investment and entail associated benefits to not only address climate-related impacts, but also, to improve health and water-borne diseases, contribute to improve chemical pollution derived from pesticides use and water run-off, contribute to address social and cultural behaviors that tend to neglect vulnerable groups such as women and youth, and contribute to understand the importance of emergency responses that can prevent loss of lives, among others.
- Component 4 will avoid high costs for farmers and the government due to losses in the agriculture production by promoting innovative solutions that are proven to save high quantities of water, reduce pollution and high return on investment (ROI). Without the proposed adaptation solutions to

²⁴ Low regrets options deliver benefits now and across a wide range of future scenarios of climate change and may incur in an additional cost to offset climate change risks but costs are small in comparison to the benefits of avoiding future costs. No regret options are investments that would be justified under all plausible future scenarios, including the absence of human-induced climate change

²⁵ This study assesses the existing climate hazards calculates their economic effects, proposes actions to address the identified risks, and analyses their economic costs and benefits of each adaptation measure, reaching to a weighted result for each of them. Link available at <https://publications.iadb.org/en/publication/16851/understanding-economics-climate-adaptation-trinidad-and-tobago>.

vulnerable groups of agriculture and the promotion income-diversifying solutions among fisher-folks, they would continue to depend on government subsidies due to climate-related events.

The project sought to leverage local resources and previous experiences by:

- Leveraging human and technical resources from the public sector: for the implementation of activities, the project will rely on existing structures while strengthening them and ensuring the mainstreaming of climate change and adaptation solutions. This contributes to the sustainability while ensuring consideration of climate change aspects in future interventions.
- Considering additional infrastructure and activities required, complimentary to current and planned investments and projects aimed at improving water management in the country
- Ensuring complementarity with other projects and programmes run by public institutions promoting community involvement, trainings and communication strategies based on local practices, culture and social norms to effectively promote behavior change.

D. DESCRIBE HOW THE PROJECT / PROGRAMME IS CONSISTENT WITH NATIONAL OR SUB-NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES.

256. Trinidad and Tobago's National Development Strategy 2016-2030 was built on significant consultations within all spheres of Trinidad and Tobago to determine the challenges faced by the country and establish the thematic areas that require national attention as the country move along a pre-determined developmental pathway. Theme V – Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development allowed for the articulation of goals that align with the outcomes of components of this project including the strengthening of environmental governance and management systems, climate change vulnerability assessment, and improvement of natural resource management. This Strategy explicitly mentions DRM and Climate Change Adaptation among the highest priorities²⁶.
257. The project will support five out of the six national environmental priorities set by the National Environmental Policy (2018) for Trinidad and Tobago: Priority 1 – Protecting Environmental and Human Health through Pollution Control; Priority 2 – Sustainably Managing Assets; Priority 3 – Improving the Local Environment; Priority 5 – Fostering an Environmentally Responsible Society; and Priority 6 – Addressing Climate Change and Environmental and Natural Disasters.
258. The project also allows Trinidad and Tobago to address some of their national goals and key thematic sectors that require consideration under various policies in addition to the National Environmental Policy (2018). These policies including the National Policy and Programmes on Wetland Conservation for Trinidad and Tobago (2002), National Protected Areas Policy (2011), National Forest Policy (2011), National Climate Change Policy (2011), National Wildlife Policy (2013), National Tourism Policy (2010), and National Integrated Water Resources Management Policy (2005). Policy documents not yet approved by the Cabinet of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago but still represent valuable guides in determining priority areas for Ministerial interest also cover some of the components of this project. These draft policies include the Draft Ecotourism Policy, Draft Integrated Coastal Zone Management Policy, Draft Comprehensive Disaster Management Policy, and Draft Hazard Mitigation Management Policy.
259. Regarding the abovementioned National Climate Change Policy (2011), the present proposal is aligned with the objectives of conserving and building resilience of human and natural systems to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, including through capacity building; protection of the natural environment and human health; enhanced agricultural production and food security; educating the wider public on the potential impacts of climate change and the recommended adaptation strategies; and conserving and guaranteeing a sustainable supply of potable water.
260. Trinidad and Tobago's nationally implemented plans also have matching components with the project. These are the National Biodiversity and Strategy Action Plan (2017), Draft National Flood Response Plan, National Response Framework (2014), National Protected Areas Systems Plan for Trinidad and Tobago (2018), National Hazard Mitigation Plan (2014) and the National Action Plan Programme to Combat Land Degradation in T&T: 2006-2020.
261. This proposal is also aligned to the efforts that the country through the ODPM is undertaking for updating its governance framework for Disaster Risk Management. Nowadays, the country lacks from a comprehensive disaster risk management legislation, since the Disasters Measures Act (Ch. 16:50, Act 47 of 1978) – the only

²⁶ Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2016. "Vision 2030- The National Development Strategy of Trinidad and Tobago 2016-2030".

regulation governing disaster related issues at national level – is focused on disaster response; and there is a general absence of DRM responsibilities explicitly defined on sectorial and territorial regulations²⁷. To give a solution to this, the ODPM is working on the revision of past draft legislation documents to obtain a new comprehensive bill that incorporates, among others, some of the elements gathered by the present proposal at the watershed level: building capacity of disaster management stakeholders, information sharing, early warning systems, public awareness, and resilience²⁸.

E. DESCRIBE HOW THE PROJECT / PROGRAMME MEETS RELEVANT NATIONAL TECHNICAL STANDARDS.

262. The project will be executed by the University of the West Indies through its St. Augustine Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (STACIE), who will ensure adherence to that all laws, policies and regulations of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

263. The Project will comply with all the applicable national regulations regarding management of the environment, the industrial relations, health and safety, public health and protection of rivers and waterways. It will comply with all relevant government policies such as its water resources management policy and adhere to all standards for construction and building. It will also comply with CAF' safeguards and AF Environmental and Social and Gender Policies.

264. The relevant legislation and regulations are as follows:

1) Legislation Applicable to All:

Environmental Management Act Chap. 35:05 of 2000 and its subsidiary legislation: Certificate of Environmental Clearance Rules, 2001, Certificate of Environmental Clearance (Designated Activities) Order, 2001 (As amended), Air Pollution Rules, 2014, Noise Pollution Control Rules, 2001, and Water Pollution Rules, 2019	
Town and Country Planning Act Chap. 35:01	State Land (Regularisation of Tenure) Act of 1998
Planning and Facilitation of Development Act, 2014.	Waterworks and Water Conservation Act Chap. 54:41
Occupational Safety and Health Act Chap. 88:08	Forests Act Chapter 66:01
Public Health Ordinance Chap. 12:04	Water and Sewerage Act Chap. 54:40
Disasters Measures Act Chap. 16:50	Agricultural Small Holdings Tenure Act Chap. 59:53
State Lands Act Chap. 57:01	Summary Offences Chap. 11:02
Municipal Corporations Act Chap. 25:04	Fisheries Act Chap. 67:51

National Policies Applicable to All:

National Climate Change Policy, 2011	National Integrated Water Resource Management Policy, 2018
National Environmental Policy, 2018	Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Policy Framework, 2019
National Policy on Gender and Development of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2009	Comprehensive Disaster Management Policy Framework for Trinidad and Tobago, 2010
National Wetland Policy, 2001	National Development Strategy: Vision 2030
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2017-2022	

2) Legislation per types of interventions:

Project Components	Type of interventions	Applicable Legislation
I	Assessments, strengthening, and participatory processes	Environmental Management Act Chap. 35:05 -- Town and Country Planning Act Chap. 35:01 -- Disasters Measures Act Chapter 16:50 -- Certificate of Environmental Clearance Rules, 2001 -- Certificate of Environmental Clearance (Designated Activities) Order, 2001 -- Municipal Corporations Act Chap. 25:04 -- The Freedom of Information Act, 1996
	Installation and operation of monitoring equipment and systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterworks and Water Conservation Act Chap. 54:41 • Water and Sewerage Act Chap. 54:40

²⁷ IDB, 2020. "Index of Governance and Public Policy in Disaster Risk Management (IGOPP): National Report for Trinidad and Tobago". Technical Note N° IDB-TN-02002.

²⁸ ODPM website, section "Policies, Plans and Legislation": www.odpm.gov.tt

2	Public works – detention basins, permeable weirs, urban drainage.	Water and Sewerage Act Chap. 54:40 -- Waterworks and Water Conservation Act Chap. 54:41 -- Agricultural Small Holdings Tenure Chap.59:53 -- Certificate of Environmental Clearance Rules, 2001 -- Certificate of Environmental Clearance (Designated Activities) Order, 2001 -- Town and Country Planning Act Chap. 35:01 -- State Lands Act Chap. 57:01 -- Municipal Corporations Act Chap. 25:04 -- Planning and Facilitation of Development Act, 2014 -- Malaria Abatement Act Chap. 28:50 -- Environmental Management Act Chap. 35:05 -- Water Pollution Rules, 2019 -- Occupational Health and Safety Act, 2004 -- Workmen’s Compensation Act, 1960 -- Minimum Wages Act, 1976 -- Maternity Protection Act, 1998 -- Children’s Act, 2012 -- Malaria Abatement Act Chap. 28:50 -- Summary Offences Chap. 11:02 -- Demolition of Unsafe Structures Act Chap. 35:55
	Rainwater harvesting systems and reinforcement of buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and Sewerage Act Chap. 54:40 • Waterworks and Water Conservation Act Chap. 54:41
3	Ecosystem restoration	Waterworks and Water Conservation Act Chap. 54:41 -- Water and Sewerage Act Chap. 54:40 -- State Lands Act Chap. 57:01 -- Plant Protection Act Chap. 63:56 -- Control of Importation of Live Fish Act Chap. 67:52 -- Fisheries Act Chap. 67:51 -- Forests Act Chap. 66:01 -- Forests Amendment Act, 1999 -- Public Health Ordinance Chap. 12:04 -- Town and Country Planning Act Chap. 35:01 -- Environmental Management Act Chap 35:05 -- Litter Act Chap. 30:52 -- Conservation of Wildlife Act Chap. 67:01 -- Plant Protection Regulations, 1997 -- Agricultural Fires Act Chap. 63:02 -- Sawmills Act Chap. 66:02 -- Fisheries Management Bill, 2020 -- Noise Pollution Control Rules, 2001 -- Environmentally Sensitive Species Rules, 2001 -- Environmentally Sensitive Areas Rules, 2001 -- Marine Areas (Preservation and Enhancement Act) Chap. 37:02 -- Recreation Grounds and Pastures Act Chap. 41:01 -- Malaria Abatement Act Chap. 28:50 -- Summary Offences Chap. 11:02 -- Petroleum Act Chap. 62:01 -- Animals (Diseases and Importation) (Amendment) Act, 2020 -- Animals (Diseases and Importation) (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 -- Water Pollution Rules, 2019 -- Municipal Corporations Act Chap. 25:04 -- Pipelines Act Chap. 35:51 -- Malicious Damage Act, Chap. 11:06 -- Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Act Chap. 30:03 -- Mongoose Act Chap. 67:55 -- Control of the Importation of Live Fish Act Chap. 67:52
	Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Management Act Chap 35:05
4	Hydroponics systems	Plant Protection Act Chap. 63:56 -- Pesticides (Registration and Import Licensing) Regulations, 1987 -- Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs Act Chap. 63:55
	Aquaculture / aquaponics systems	Fisheries Act Chap. 67:51 -- Animals (Diseases, Importation, Health and Welfare) Act by Animals (Diseases and Importation (Amendment) Act, 2020 -- Control of Importation of Live Fish Act Chap. 67:52 -- Animal (Importation) Control Regulations -- Fisheries Management Bill, 2020
	Ecotourism	Fisheries Act Chap. 67:51 -- Recreation Grounds and Pastures Act Chap. 41:01 -- Environmental Management Act Chap. 35:05 -- Tourism Development Amendment Act, 2006 -- Water Pollution Rules, 2019 -- Certificate of Environmental Clearance (Designated Activities) Order, 2001 -- Certificate of Environmental Clearance Rules, 2001 -- Noise Pollution Control Rules, 2001 -- Municipal Corporations Act Chap. 25:04 -- Malicious Damage Act, Chap. 11:06
5	Institutional strengthening, education, capacity building	Education Act Chap. 39:01 -- Industrial Relations Act Chap. 88:01 -- Environmental Management Act Chap. 35:05 -- The Freedom of Information Act, 1996

F. DESCRIBE IF THERE IS DUPLICATION OF PROJECT WITH OTHER FUNDING SOURCES. IF ANY.

265. The SORB is of high priority for the country and thus several studies are being developed and various investments are being envisaged at present by the government. Therefore, the development of this concept note has aimed to carefully identify the existing or planned initiatives by always coordinating with the Ministry of Planning and Development and CAF, and by addressing the topic throughout the bilateral meetings with the various stakeholders (see section H below).
266. The continuous effort made by the governmental institutions in the region has been described in the Background section: from the hydrometeorological network developments made by the MET to the ecosystem monitoring actions sustained by the IMA with the limited resources available, to mention a few. This project builds on these efforts in order to boost action to increase community resilience as a matter of urgency.
267. If we refer to specific projects, the unfinished Godineau management plan initiative will be resumed by this project. Also, several studies have been carried out in coordination with the main governmental entities related to flooding, such as the Drainage Division, to find the best solutions for flooding problems in different basins of the country, including the SORB.

268. Particularly in the SORB, an important work was made in 2003 to characterize²⁹ the needs and the possibilities for enhancing Drainage and Flood control in the watershed. This study has been taken as a knowledge basis in this proposal (see Background section). Also, it should be noted that very recently, in 2019, CAF commissioned a "Rapid assessment for the rehabilitation and improvement of drainage infrastructure in Trinidad"³⁰. The objective of this study was to assess the no-regret and short-term measures for a rapid rehabilitation of the drainage infrastructure on Trinidad after the October 2018 flood event. In addition to this, the mid- and long-term measures were assessed in order to further improve the drainage infrastructure and flood management on the island. The recommendations for the case of the SORB were: 1) in the long term, to increase the capacity of the New Cut Channel and of the upstream tributaries and to construct a bypass near the river mouth; 2) in the short term, to build embankments. These are grey infrastructure investments whose budget exceeds the possibilities of this project. In addition, these large investments are being considered by the government for loan applications with multilateral agencies.
269. Based on this knowledge, the preparation of the concept note has prioritized the focus on smaller-scale complementary interventions and sought to promote ecosystem-based adaptation interventions.
270. Regarding the enhancement of the agriculture, farming and fishing sectors and ecosystems management, the project will seek synergies with at least the following projects:
- The Caribbean Agrometeorological Initiative (CAMI) reunited the meteorological and agricultural agencies of 10 Caribbean nations to deliver climate services to farmers. European Union (EU) African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States' Science and Technology Programme (ACP-ST)-funded initiative operated by the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH).
 - CDKN (Climate & Development Knowledge Network) project "Climate impacts and resilience in Caribbean agriculture"³¹: Using innovative technology, the University of the West Indies (UWI), has connected with farmers to "climate proof" the agriculture sector.
 - FAO's Climate Change Adaptation of the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector Project (CC4FISH)³². In T&T, this project undertook a Vulnerable Capacity Assessment, different activities to reinforce resilience of the fishery sector, and provided support to the Trinidad Fisheries Division.
 - FAO's project "Improving Forest and protected area management in Trinidad and Tobago", included activities such as improvements to the legal and institutional arrangements for PA management, improvements to infrastructure for biodiversity conservation and forest restoration³³.
271. In terms of strengthening capacities in climate change, lessons learned can be taken from the "Climate ACTT: Action by Civil society in Trinidad and Tobago to build resilience to climate change"³⁴.

G. DESCRIBE THE LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT COMPONENT TO CAPTURE AND DISSEMINATE LESSONS LEARNED.

272. The Project will develop a knowledge management strategy at the start of the intervention to ensure effective use and dissemination of the information and data generated by the Monitoring and Evaluation System and the best practices and lessons learned captured under component 5. The Project includes among its activities in Component 5 the development of communication material as well as identification of best practices and lessons learned to guarantee knowledge generation.
273. An initial mapping of all key stakeholders has been performed during the formulation stage (see Annex 1). The knowledge management strategy will update the stakeholders map at the inception stage to ensure all relevant stakeholders, including additional stakeholders that might not have been identified during formulation are targeted and engaged with the project learning activities. Different audiences require different knowledge products to capture their attention. Thus, the KM strategy will

²⁹ Royal Haskoning/DHV, 2003. Drainage & Flood control study for the South Oropouche basin.

³⁰ Witteveen+Bos International Projects B.V., 2019. Rapid assessment for the rehabilitation and improvement of drainage infrastructure in Trinidad – Final Report.

³¹ CDKN website: https://cdkn.org/project/climate-impacts-and-resilience-in-caribbean-agriculture-assessing-the-consequences-of-climate-change/?loclang=en_gb

³² FAO's website: <http://www.fao.org/in-action/climate-change-adaptation-eastern-caribbean-fisheries/project-overview/en/>

³³ FAO website: <http://www.fao.org/sids/resources/projects/detail/en/c/281935/>

³⁴ CANARI (Caribbean Natural Resources Institute): <https://canari.org/climateactt/>

identify the most adequate communication material to reach the different targeted stakeholders. A list of potential knowledge material might include short videos, leaflets, one-pagers, infographic, and multimedia resources to ensure knowledge is disseminated adequately targeting different learning needs.

274. Additional dissemination activities will be identified while designing the learning agenda at the inception of the project, and annually developing the learning plans, which will include targeted activities to ensure all targeted stakeholders can learn and use the lessons derived from the project. The following dissemination and capacity building activities have already been included under component 5 and the M&E of the project: peer to peer learning between key government staff supported by specialists from the university, development of training material, embedding climate change and risk reduction planning to address flooding in the school curricula or through extra-curriculum activities targeting initial and middle school students, learning workshops to critically examine evidence from the implementation and the M&E data system for adaptive management and further planification of activities. Sharing of best practices will be promoted through these activities and at the community level through participatory approaches and stakeholders engagement process, with targeted activities to discuss the implementation of Project activities during field-visits and promote capacity building sharing information on best practices and lessons learned. All activities targeting vulnerable population such as farmers, fisher folks, women and youth, vulnerable urban neighbourhoods for the development or redesign of resilient infrastructure or the climate-proofing of assets have a strong technical assistance component associated to ensure knowledge dissemination and appropriation of the adaptation measures at the community level. Ecosystem restoration activities will also be developed with a community-level approach, where community members will be trained to support rehabilitation efforts, which will in turn contribute to the longer-term sustainability of the Project. Knowledge products will be developed featuring the successful strategies used at the community level to disseminate knowledge and reinforce a virtuous cycle of learning and capacity building.
275. The learnings coming from the project will also serve to inform the above-mentioned planned capacity building activities, this way strengthening the use of key lessons learned for improving implementation.
276. Among planned activities in Component 5 (Activity 5.2.2 Identification of best practices and lessons learned, and dissemination activities.) an annual reflection workshop has been planned. These annual workshops will gather representatives from different stakeholders' groups to assess the progress of the project, identify lessons learned and best practices. All knowledge generated will be discussed among different stakeholders during this event, which will gather the information generated by the Project, including mid-term evaluation results, case studies and final evaluation findings and lessons learned. Additional targeted presentation to key government stakeholders will also be considered in case not everyone is willing to participate in the larger dissemination activities to promote evidence-based decision making and a learning culture of adaptation strategies in the SORB area.
277. Coordination among key government stakeholders at the national and local level will be promoted through **dedicated sessions** held once a year. In these sessions, the project team will share information on the activities conducted, the progress and key lessons learned, and best practices identified. This sessions will also serve to ensure alignment of all planned activities at the project level with the work of national and local governmental institutions for the following year and ensure the findings, lessons learned, and best practices being identified with the project can be disseminated among key government officials and staff working in these topics.

H. DESCRIBE THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

278. The formulation of this project has been led by the Ministry of Planning and Development - the Designated Authority to the Adaptation Fund -, and CAF, Development Bank of Latin America.
279. A Kick-off workshop in November 2020 was attended by 72 participants (44% women), from governmental and non-governmental organizations. Following this event, bilateral interviews with key stakeholders were organized and prioritized in conjunction with CAF and the Ministry of Planning, NDA of the Adaptation Fund in Trinidad and Tobago. These are listed in the table below.

Table 5. First round of bilateral interviews with key stakeholders (Dec 2020-Jun 2021)

Environmental Management Authority (EMA)	Water and Sewerage Authority/ WRA
Penal Debe Regional Corporation	Regional Administration South (MALF)
Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management	Siparia Regional Corporation
Coastal Protection Unit (MoWT)	Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA)
T&T Meteorological Service	Puzzle Island Farmers Association
Drainage Division (MoWT)	Woodland Fisherfolk Association
Princes Town Regional Corporation	Global Water Partnership (GWP) and NIHERST
The Penal Debe Foundation	Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government
Engineering Division (MALF)	Extension, Training, and Information Services Division (MALF)
Estate Management and Business Development Company Ltd (EMDB)	Faculty of Agriculture - University of the West Indies (UWI)
Forestry division (Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries – MALF)	

280. After this first round of bilateral interviews, further meetings were held with these same stakeholders to allow definitions on the different adaptation measures.

281. On 22 April 2021, a Validation Workshop was held to validate with all relevant stakeholders the identified climate risks, the baseline conditions, main barriers to alleviate flooding in the watershed; additional climate threats and impacts experienced by the affected population; and to validate the proposed draft activities and interventions, as well as the prioritization of areas to implement the Project and the institutional arrangements foreseen. There were 58 attendees (43% women)³⁵.

Table 6. Organizations attending the Concept Note Validation Workshop

Type	Ministry/Division/Agency/Organization
CSO	Adopt a River
	South Oropouche Riverine Flood Action Group
	The Penal Debe Foundation
	Woodland Fisherfolk Association
Private Sector	Penal Debe Chamber of Commerce
	Witteveen+Bos (engineering firm)
Local Govt	Penal Debe Regional Corporation
	Siparia Regional Corporation
	Penal Debe Regional Disaster Management Unit
	Princes Town Regional Corporation
National Govt	Ministry of Works and Transport - Drainage Division
	Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries
	Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries - Engineering Division
	Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries - Regional Administration South
	Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries - Forestry Division
	Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries
	Ministry of Finance
	Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government
	Ministry of National Security - Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM)
	Ministry of Planning and Development
	Ministry of Planning and Development - Environmental Management Authority (EMA)
	Ministry of Sport and Community Development/Community Development Division
	Ministry of Works & Transport - Coastal Protection Unit
	Ministry of Public Utilities - Water Resources Agency (WRA) - Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA)
	Ministry of Public Utilities - Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service
NAMDEVCO (National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation)	
NIDCO (National Infrastructure Development Company)	

282. The main issues addressed by the participants revolved around the need to work with developers; concrete proposals for short-term flood intervention; the complexity related to the fact that the problems occur in several jurisdictions; the need for enforcement of the law; the importance of community empowerment; the possibility of building detention ponds upstream; the suggestion to

³⁵ This figure does not include the participants from the Consortium supporting the development of the Concept Note, integrated by Viridia Projects and the University of the West Indies (UWI).

adapt existing manuals and codes to the reality of the SORB. Regarding investments in water infrastructure, comments were made on the availability of data on flooded houses; the suitability of rainwater harvesting systems and the need for training for their proper operation; problems with oil extraction infrastructure; problems of saline intrusion; possible mechanisms to manage grants for housing reinforcement. In discussing livelihoods and ecosystems, participants were interested in promoting restoration, aquaculture, and ecotourism activities. They mentioned concern about the mangroves growing upstream and the decimated crabs population. All the applicable comments from the stakeholders were taken into account in the development of the proposal.

283. At the time of preparation of this concept note, the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Trinidad and Tobago has been very serious. The country has entered a new lockdown due to the large number of cases. The state of emergency, which began on Sunday, May 16 - for a 15-day duration - is being extended for a period of three months³⁶. Therefore, the planned field trip to the SORB has been suspended for the time being. So far, due to the pandemic, all project exchanges have been virtual. However, the high level of participation of different types of actors, despite the situation, is remarkable.

I. JUSTIFICATION FOR FUNDING REQUESTED.

284. As described in section F when explaining the non-duplication and complementarity of the project with other funding sources, the formulation of this proposal has taken into account the planned investments in the SORB and has carefully identified the activities that are complementary to the country's efforts and planning and has ensured that the project activities can deliver adaptation results by themselves. None of the proposed activities depend on any other investments to be made by other sources or stakeholders. The proposed activities focus on targeted groups and areas to ensure that the adaptation results are verified. When addressing issues with the national institutions, the proposed activities have a precise and stringent scope so that the objectives of the project are clear, and their outputs and outcomes can be monitored.

285. To increase the resilience of the SORB population and ecosystems to flooding the project activities are organized in five distinct components.

Component 1. Strengthening of Territorial Planning and Risk Management.

286. *Baseline:* There is a lack of incorporation of the climate change perspective in the existing policy and planning. Also, key planning instruments that would help ecosystem resilience, such as the Godineau Swamp management plan are not operational. Also, maintenance is a central problem in the drainage system of the SORB, due to the ambiguity in terms of roles and responsible institutions. Today, warning times are too short to permit substantial reaction for reducing flood damage cost. There is a significant lack of meteorological, hydrological, and tidal data. The community flood early warning system (CFEWS) being implemented in the Regional Corporations will provide only limited coverage of flooding in the basin and would need to be expanded. Also, the MET has reported that existing tools to alert the population are not being spread in all their potential.

287. *With AF funds:* The project will strengthen territorial planning and risk management, by developing technical documents that will help to better face the increasing flood events, will facilitate governance in the maintenance of drainage infrastructure; will facilitate local planning processes to increase resilience of key ecosystems and vulnerable people depending on them, will strengthen information, monitoring and climate information management systems, and will help strengthening and expanding the existing Community Flood Early Warning and Decision-making system, by improving the forecast and the uptake of the alert tools by the population.

Component 2. Green and grey infrastructure enhanced to increase resilience to floods and droughts.

288. *Baseline:* There is a marked lack of funding to intervene in effective measures in the basin.

289. *With AF funds:* The project will help to enhance infrastructure in increase resilience to both floods and droughts, via flood reduction structures in a particular catchment; will improve urban drainage in localized neighborhoods; will increase access to water while minimizing the impact of flooding with rainwater harvesting systems; will promote the adaptation to floods of residential and commercial

³⁶ Trinidad Express, 19 May, 2021: "3-month extension for SoE": https://trinidadexpress.com/news/local/3-month-extension-for-soe/article_f0db0e1a-b905-11eb-a5fd-d7f724cfec04.html

buildings; and will fund the redesigning high-risk zones of the city to avoid settlements of vulnerable people and therefore avoid their exposure to flooding.

Component 3. Vulnerable coastal and wetland ecosystems of the SORB enhanced.

290. *Baseline:* There is a marked lack of funding to intervene in effective measures to reinforce key ecosystems. There is room to further promote the Ecosystem-based adaptation approach, which is well known by the relevant institutions with competencies in the coastal and wetlands ecosystems management. There is limited knowledge within the population about the importance of these ecosystems in water regulation and other ecosystem services. The knowledge of ecosystem restoration techniques is not spread at the level of having people being able to work in these duties.

291. *With AF funds:* The project will fund the rehabilitation of vulnerable areas of ecosystems that are key for the water regulation of the watershed, in the face of increasing flooding effects and sea level rise, including saline intrusion, and will provide capacity building to increase technical knowledge.

Component 4. Increase adaptation capacity of vulnerable fishers and farmers to address climate change and climate variability.

292. *Baseline:* Vulnerable groups of the agriculture and forestry sector are exposed to high risks and have low adaptive capacities to effectively respond to climate risks such as dry spells, increased sea water intrusion and increased flooding. The increase in flooding events and probably the increase of sea surface water temperature compromises the population and potential capture of native fishing species. The fisherfolk lack of technical capacity and access to funding to diversify their activity and find alternative livelihoods.

293. *With AF funds:* The project will help to increase the adaptation capacity of vulnerable fishers and farmers to address climate change and climate variability, by providing technical assistance and funds to promote the efficient use of water, promote alternative livelihoods for income and food security, and climate-resilient practices in the agriculture, aquaculture, and animal husbandry sector. These activities aim to address adaptation to the increasing droughts (e.g., efficient irrigation), increasing flooding events (e.g., animal shelters) and increasing changes in the marine environment due to climate change (e.g., diversification to fish farming and aquaculture).

Component 5. Stakeholders of the SORB have built their capacities and are aware of climate risks.

294. *Baseline:* There is a lack of a comprehensive approach to climate change in the educational system of Trinidad & Tobago; limited capacity of institutional stakeholders, CSOs, community groups, to address flooding; and lack of accessible and understandable information about climate change for fostering a change of behavior.

295. *With AF funding:* Barriers will be overcome through raising awareness and building capacities of the stakeholders of the SORB in sustainable climate change resilient actions and decision-making to reduce their risk to climate change impacts. Activities related to learning and dissemination from the implementation of the Project will contribute to support the adoption of best practices.

J. DESCRIBE HOW THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT OUTCOMES HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN DESIGNING THE PROJECT.

296. The design of the Project includes several elements to ensure actions and benefits of the intervention continue after it ends. The main sustainability and replicability considerations aim to ensure that the local population, the institutions, and the policy environment are supportive of an effective adaptation to the increasing impacts of flooding, saltwater intrusion, and dry spells in the SORB area. The main elements that will contribute to this include:

- **Capacity building for key government institutions** to strengthen climate change knowledge, the use of hydro-climatic information for decision-making, flood, drought, and saltwater intrusion management with appropriate adaptation strategies, which will enable the local institutions to continue implementing similar actions, after the Project ends.
- **Capacity building for key government staff:** dedicated capacity buildings for key national and local government staff from different institutions related to environmental and social management systems, social and environmental monitoring of the project-related activities and investments, and the grievance mechanism will contribute to guarantee the key stakeholders are aware of potential social and environmental impacts of the proposed technologies, and strengthen their skills in the appropriate monitoring and social and environmental compliance assurance.

- **Capacity building and awareness raising for the local population:** the project considers different strategies targeting the local population, among which, awareness raising campaigns, capacity building activities for the implementation of the adaptation measures, incorporation of climate change and disaster risk reduction as extracurricular activities targeting children at school age. All these strategies will strengthen capacities in vulnerable populations, enhancing their knowledge about climate change, main impacts, and efficient measures to contribute to prevent and manage flooding, efficient use and harvesting of water, promoting a cultural change.
- **Maintenance of small works:** Rainwater harvesting systems as well as retention ponds at the household and community level will include capacity building for the use and proper maintenance in the long-term. For communal works the Project will require before accessing funds, the commitment to develop a community plan, which regulates rights and responsibilities of the community that will use the installed system to avoid conflicts and guarantee long-term operation and maintenance.
- **Partnership with key governmental institutions** to ensure resources are allocated for the long-term maintenance and operation of the investments made. Additionally, the implementation of activities involving key government institutions contributes to guarantee ownership and the sustainability once the Project comes to an end.
- **Strengthening of regulations and the flooding management governance:** The Project strongly supports the strengthening of the enabling environment contributing to develop a stronger flood governance structure and improved water management, mainstreaming climate change considerations and its impact in the drainage, and building code. It promotes regulatory changes that will make it possible to support flooding management in the long-term, protecting and restoring key ecosystems exposed to the impacts of climate change in the region.
- **Participatory process:** the participatory approach that has been embedded from the design stage and will be applied throughout project implementation will contribute to enhanced stakeholders ownership, which is expected to reinforce the sustainability of the results and longer-term impact of investments.
- **Engagement of key ministries and governmental staff throughout the implementation through a Steering Committee and Sectoral Technical Committees.** The proposed implementation arrangements consider the creation of a Steering Committee with higher level decision-making government officials of key ministries. Additionally, Sectoral Technical Committees will involve key technical staff for the review, technical overseeing and for providing recommendations on the planned activities and investments in the basin. This process is expected to reinforce the ownership and engagement for longer-term institutional sustainability.

K. PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS AND RISKS IDENTIFIED AS BEING RELEVANT TO THE PROJECT.

297. A preliminary analysis of the Project's impacts and risks as per the AF's Environmental and Social Principles in compliance with the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (revised in March 2016) is presented below. A detailed impact assessment and mitigation plan will be developed for the Full Proposal. Overall, this project has been classified as a **Category B** project/ program according to the E&SP of the AF, as the potential impacts are few, small in scale and not extremely widespread, reversible, or easily mitigated.

Checklist of environmental and social principles	Further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
<i>Compliance with the Law</i>	Further assessment required	All applicable proposed projects need to comply with the legislation of Trinidad and Tobago. The EMA grants approvals via the Environmental Management Act (2000) under which there are subsidiary legislation which covers the types of approvals and regulatory requirements projects need. These pieces of legislation include the Certificate of Environmental Clearance Rules (2001), Certificate of Environmental Clearance

		(Designated Activities) Order, 2001 (As amended), Air Pollution Rules (2014), Noise Pollution Control Rules (2001), and Water Pollution Rules, 2019. The recommended projects/ actions which develop from the proposed Activity 1.1.3 which provides for the development of a management plan for Godineau Swamp will be subject to regulatory approval where needed. Additionally, future protective designation of the Godineau Swamp can be achieved under the Environmentally Sensitive Areas Rules (2001) and Environmentally Sensitive Species Rules (2001) via implementation of recommendations made under the management plan. This would legally restrict the types of activities which can be undertaken in the Swamp necessary for compliance. Drainage works will lie with other regulatory agencies including the EMA and TCPD (or the planned National Planning Authority in lieu of TCPD) to provide conditional approvals for. Therefore, there will be some legal requirement to be met for each development with stormwater management engineering works. Future assessment of this criterion is required for the Full Proposal.
<i>Access and Equity</i>	Further assessment required	Beneficiaries were identified during extensive stakeholder engagement. This was imperative in the engagement process as it allowed for groups which may not often have had the opportunity to raise some of their concerns with flooding in the SORB on a national scale.
<i>Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups</i>	Further assessment required	Vulnerable groups have been identified for the project at this stage. There is no specific legislation in Trinidad and Tobago to address any means by which Venezuelan refugees can have a legal redress for ownership of properties. In the provision of grants to homeowners and business-owners, it has not yet been determined at the Concept Note stage whether refugees, renters, and holders of Certificates of Comfort from the Land Settlement Agency will have equivalent access to funds. Therefore, there is a potential for such persons to indicate they are being denied the same rights being granted to members of the community that are affected by flooding. This criterion would require further assessment.
<i>Human Rights</i>	No further assessment required	Human rights will be further protected through the implementation of activities that will raise awareness and build capacity of homeowners and business-owners within the basin. Given that there are no proposed projects which will negatively impact human rights, there is no further need for assessment for this criterion.
<i>Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment</i>	Further assessment required	The proposed projects present gender and women's empowerment sensitive activities.
<i>Core Labour Rights</i>	Further assessment required	While the perceived risks may be minimal at this stage since there is governing legislation regarding several different aspects of labour rights, there would be a need for further assessment at a later stage regarding any project that would require any civil work.
<i>Indigenous Peoples</i>	No further assessment required	There are no known Indigenous communities currently residing within the SORB watershed, even though there are artefacts from previous generations. There is no further assessment required for compliance.
<i>Involuntary Resettlement</i>	No further assessment required	There have been no proposed activities that require the resettlement of persons, but rather the redesign of only vacant flood prone land, and thus no further assessment is needed.
<i>Protection of Natural Habitats</i>	Further assessment required	There are no project components which require any unjustified conversion of habitats recognized for their legal protected status or by communities, and high in conservation value. In fact, the components recognize the conservation value of the Godineau Swamp. Further assessment of risks related to economic activities will be required.
<i>Conservation of Biological Diversity</i>	Further assessment required	Some of the proposed project's interventions will consider nature-based solutions intended to provide for human well-being and positively impact the biodiversity of the Godineau Swamp - an important measure as Trinidad and Tobago ratified the Convention of Biological Diversity in 1996 and developed the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action to specifically plan for the country's sustainable use of biodiversity. Output 3.1 which involves the restoration of coastal and wetland ecosystems, will involve activities that include re-growth of mangroves and restoration of marshes. The potential impacts of the aforementioned activities cannot be fully explored at this Concept Note stage and therefore the extent of the risks cannot be determined, even though the intended result will be of direct benefit to the ecosystem and indirectly, positively impact the surrounding communities.
<i>Climate Change</i>	No further assessment	There are no provisions for projects within the SORB to target sectors that generate GHG. Where civil works may be required, the movement of vehicles

	required	have the potential to increase greenhouse gas emissions, but it is considered as not significant.
<i>Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>	Further assessment required	There is a potential risk of measures which will not maximize energy efficiency and reduce resource use to be implemented at some stage. Additionally, the production of waste or even the production of pollution emissions and effluent may also be a plausible project by-product. The potential risks cannot be adequately assessed at this stage and would require future elaboration.
<i>Public Health</i>	Further assessment required	There are interventions which can possibly have a potential public health impact which have not been fully assessed at this stage, and therefore the extent of potential risks has not been fully ascertained.
<i>Physical and Cultural Heritage</i>	Further assessment required	There are no proposed projects that will have an impact on the archaeological sites which have been discussed in the Background section of this Concept Note. However, the proposed Management Plan development for the Godineau Swamp recognizes the important of this cultural find and through the participatory process, this will be incorporated into the management objectives for the Swamp. Any proposals from the Plan will be subject to future compliance requirements where needed to properly ascertain the potential impacts or risks associated with the activity. Further risk evaluation is necessary.
<i>Lands and Soil Conservation</i>	Further assessment required	The promotion of potentially improved valuable ecosystem services are provided by proposed activities. While the proposed projects provide the opportunity for the promotion of soil conservation, improved protection to lands and soils and conservation of valued ecosystem services within the SORB watershed, the inherent potential impacts, and risks of each of these projects have not been thoroughly assessed at this stage.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Subsequent sections of Part III will be developed at the Full proposal stage.

F. DEMONSTRATE HOW THE PROJECT ALIGNS WITH THE RESULTS FRAMEWORK OF THE ADAPTATION FUND

The full table of alignment of project objectives and indicators to the Fund outcome and fund indicators will be developed at the Full proposal stage. The following Fund outcomes, have been initially identified as aligned with the project objectives: Outcome 1: Reduced exposure to climate-related hazards and threats; Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses; Outcome 3: Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at local level; Outcome 4 Increased adaptive capacity within relevant development sector services and infrastructure assets; Outcome 5 Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress; Outcome 6: Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas.

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT

Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement. If this is a regional project/programme, list the endorsing officials all the participating countries. The endorsement letter(s) should be attached as an annex to the project/programme proposal. Please attach the endorsement letter(s) with this template; add as many participating governments if a regional project/programme:

<i>(Enter Name, Position, Ministry)</i>	<i>Date: (Month, day, year)</i>
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B. IMPLEMENTING ENTITY CERTIFICATION

Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (.....list here.....) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.

<i>Name & Signature</i> Implementing Entity Coordinator	
Date: <i>(Month, Day, Year)</i>	Tel. and email:
Project Contact Person:	
Tel. And Email:	