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- Eco-tourism projects
- Hotel Projects

Environment

In 1995 the Government passed the Environmental Management Act outlining environmental policy and establishing the Environmental Management Authority through which its policies will be implemented. As part of its environment policy, the government has announced it will establish standards and measures to prevent air and water pollution and legislate the monitoring and compliance of these standards.

The country's reliance on petroleum, and the accelerated rate at which it developed from its birth in the 1960's, was accomplished at a very high cost to the environment. The result of this accelerated development has been the unsafe disposal of industrial, domestic, and agricultural waste into the rivers and coastal areas, the deforestation of woodlands, and the loss of valuable farmlands. In addition, it has created an underlying threat to public health and the delicate ecosystem of Trinidad and Tobago. An estimated 63% of the land in Trinidad and Tobago is deemed unsuitable for agricultural production. The goal of promoting the agriculture industry as one of the cornerstones of the local economy will have to start with protecting existing producing acreage and reclaiming land already lost to pollution. The government now recognizes just how important the environment, and the sustainable development of that environment, have become to the country's future. To act on this recognition, the government needs to gain the skills, institutions, and attitudes necessary to erase the environmental deficit which exists in Trinidad and Tobago.

International Financial Institutions

International Financial Institutions provide a special opportunity for Canadian firms to do business in Trinidad and Tobago. There are three IFI's currently operating in the country: The World Bank, The Inter-American Development Bank, and the Caribbean Development Bank. As of January 1995, these three institutions had a total of US\$746 million of project loans in various stages of development in Trinidad and Tobago. Canada is a member of all three organizations, allowing Canadian firms eligibility to submit bids for project contracts and procurement of goods and services.

The project cycle of the region's IFIs involve the following steps:

- *Identification:* Staff specialists engage programming missions to the various member countries. Along with local government and other specialists, development plans and investment programs are reviewed and new projects developed. Identification normally takes 12 to 18 months.
- *Preparation:* The project is further studied and defined, and feasibility studies prepared. The preparation stage usually lasts between one and two years.