



# NATIONAL WILDLIFE POLICY

## SUMMARY

### SCOPE AND PURPOSE

The Wildlife Policy provides guidance on the sustainable management of undomesticated animals and plants, whether introduced, resident or migratory, their parts or derivatives, and their habitats. It addresses issues related to endangerment and provides guidance on the management of threatened species. It also addresses key policy issues on the management of game species, wildlife habitat and the engagement of civil society in the management of wildlife.

The Wildlife Policy recognizes the recently adopted Forest Policy, as the guiding policy for the management of trees and all other plants in forest ecosystems, and the new Protected Areas Policy, as the national framework for the identification, designation, and management of protected areas, including the protection of freshwater, marine and terrestrial wildlife habitats, respectively. Together these three policies provide an integrated framework for the sustainable management of the biological resources of the country, and must be implemented concomitantly.

*The Policy addresses natural, captive breed and artificial propagated populations*

“Animal” in this policy means arthropods (insects, crustaceans, arachnids, myriapods, etc.), freshwater fishes, and amphibians, mammals, reptiles and birds whether terrestrial, estuarine or marine, occurring on state or private lands. Commercial marine fisheries are excluded from the ambit of the Policy. Wildlife in this policy is also meant to include all non-domesticated members of the plant kingdom, the fungi (including unicellular protozoa, unicellular and multicellular algae) and Monera (including true bacteria and cyanobacteria). Here plants mean all wild members of the plant kingdom including Bryophyta, Pteridophyta and Spermatophyta.

### VISION

Trinidad and Tobago embraces a vision of national development in which the native wildlife is abundant, ecologically healthy, biologically diverse and contributing to the well-being of all people and to the national economy in current and future generations.

To fulfil this vision, wildlife populations will be sustainably managed; the people of Trinidad and Tobago will have a good understanding and appreciation of wildlife resources and their values including their economic and the intrinsic, ecological, social, cultural and spiritual/religious values; these values of wildlife will be considered in national development and physical planning that impacts these wildlife resources, and will be included in national accounting; and the management of wildlife in Trinidad and

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## PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

*Respect and care for the community of life*

*Ecosystem approach to wildlife management*

*Evidence-based management*

*Precautionary principle*

*Sustainability and carrying capacity*

*Maintenance of future options*

*Valuing of wildlife goods and services*

*Payment for wildlife goods and services*

*Enforcement and effective control*

*Policy integration*

*Adaptation and "learning by doing"*

*Accountability*

*Subsidiarity*

*Empowerment, collaboration and participation*

*Inter-generational equity*

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Tobago will lead to an efficient use of these resources and equitable participation of stakeholders.

## GOAL

The goals of this policy are: the sustainable management of the wildlife resources, which provides for the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual needs of present and future generations; wildlife management that contributes to the sustainable development of the country, enhances the quality of human life, while at the same time protecting ecological processes.

## POLICY OBJECTIVES

1. To protect nationally and globally critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable, and/or near threatened wildlife populations, whether resident or migratory;
2. To maintain viable representative populations of native wildlife species particularly endemics;
3. To optimise the contribution of wildlife resources to livelihoods, cultural and spiritual/religious use, while ensuring sustainable use of wildlife resources, including hunting, capture of cage birds, captive breeding, artificial propagation and international trade, where possible, feasible and desirable;
4. To maintain and enhance the ecological integrity of wildlife habitats in order that it continues to function to support sustainable and viable populations of wildlife species

## POLICIES TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES

1. **Protection of Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), and Near-Threatened (NT) Wildlife Species** including through:
  - establishing a legally designated national list of CR, EN, VU, or NT;
  - prohibiting the capture, taking, hunting, harassing, possession, offering for sale and/or export of any species legally designated as CR, EN, VU or NT, for sport or commercial purposes;
  - regulating the capture, taking and possession of any species legally designated as CR, EN, VU, or NT for scientific research through an appropriate permit system;
  - establishing national standards and regulating through an appropriate permit system, the operations of all captive breeding