

STRATEGIC ISSUES, GOALS AND STRATEGIES

STRATEGIC ISSUE 1

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

GOAL 1 - Improve Access to Justice in the Environmental Commission

Strategy 1.1

Public Education and Information: Educate and inform the public on the existence, role and function of the Court, on environmental law, and how the Court can be accessed.

Strategy 1.2

Foster ongoing relationships with Court stakeholders (including the bar and academic institutions).

Strategy 1.3

Regularly review the Rules of court to ensure ongoing relevance and simplicity.

Strategy 1.4

Participate in a review of the Environmental Management Act to ensure that members of the public can more easily access the services of the Environmental Commission.

Strategy 1.5

Provide the maximum range of Alternative Dispute Resolution processes for the resolution of disputes.

Strategy 1.6

Provide procedural information to self-represented litigants that will help them efficiently prepare for court.



STRATEGIC ISSUE 2

UTILISATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AS A SPECIALIST SUPERIOR COURT OF RECORD

GOAL 2 - Fully maximise the use of the Environmental Commission by fostering effective relationships with and providing flexible processes for those who would use the Court

Strategy 2.1

Initiate dialogue with stakeholders and make recommendations to government regarding the most appropriate jurisdiction, scope and composition of the Environmental Commission to adjudicate more comprehensively on issues that impact the environment in a modern society.

Strategy 2.2

Create a mechanism for making the Alternative Dispute Resolution services of the Environmental Commission available to persons who have a right of access to the Commission.

STRATEGIC ISSUE 3

PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

GOAL 3 - Generate public trust and confidence in the Court by fostering and preserving judicial independence

Strategy 3.1

Achieve security of tenure/full-time appointments for all Members of the Commission.

Strategy 3.4

Expand the bench to ensure sufficient technical expertise and avoid conflicts of interest.

Strategy 3.2

Achieve parity in terms and conditions of Members of the Environmental Commission with their respective opposite numbers in comparable superior courts of record in Trinidad and Tobago.

Strategy 3.5

Achieve a change in name of the Environmental Commission of Trinidad and Tobago to the Environmental Court of Trinidad and Tobago.

Strategy 3.3

Achieve parity in treatment of Members of the Environmental Commission with their respective opposite numbers in comparable superior courts of record in Trinidad and Tobago.

Strategy 3.6

Achieve institutional alignment to ensure consistency with the other superior courts of record.

STRATEGIC ISSUE 4

COURT FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal 4 - Improve and modernise physical facilities and support infrastructure of the Environmental Commission to meet the expanding workload of the Court

Strategy 4.1

Ensure the facilities of the Environmental Commission are operated in compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 2004.

Strategy 4.2

Ensure the facilities of the Environmental Commission are convenient to access while maintaining adequate safety of Court users and their property.

Strategy 4.3

Ensure that the best practicable technology is utilised by the Court, while keeping abreast with current trends in Court technology and the administration of justice.

Strategy 4.4

Provide an up-to-date reference library.

STRATEGIC ISSUE 5

COURT STAFFING AND TRAINING

Goal 5 - Ensure professional, technical and administrative excellence of human resource component of the Commission

Strategy 5.1

Ensure that the Environmental Commission is adequately and competently staffed at all levels of the organisation.

Strategy 5.2

Continue the training of staff to attend to members of the public efficiently and courteously.

Strategy 5.3

Ensure that staff are oriented and trained for their responsibilities at the Environmental Commission.

Strategy 5.4

Ensure that Members of the Commission are oriented and trained to discharge their responsibilities.

Strategy 5.5

Facilitate continuing education for Staff of the Environmental Commission.

Strategy 5.6

Facilitate continuing education for Members of the Environmental Commission.

Strategy 5.7

Augment the existing performance appraisal system with the Management Action Planning Process developed as part of this strategic plan.