

# Multi-purpose Port at Toco

## General Project Information

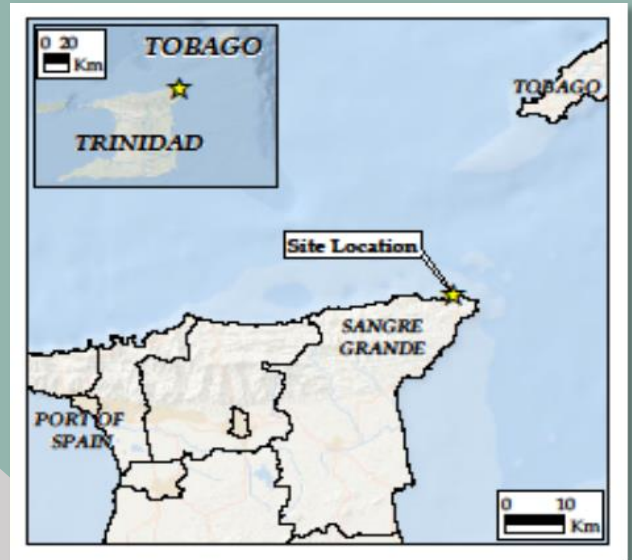


### Project Location

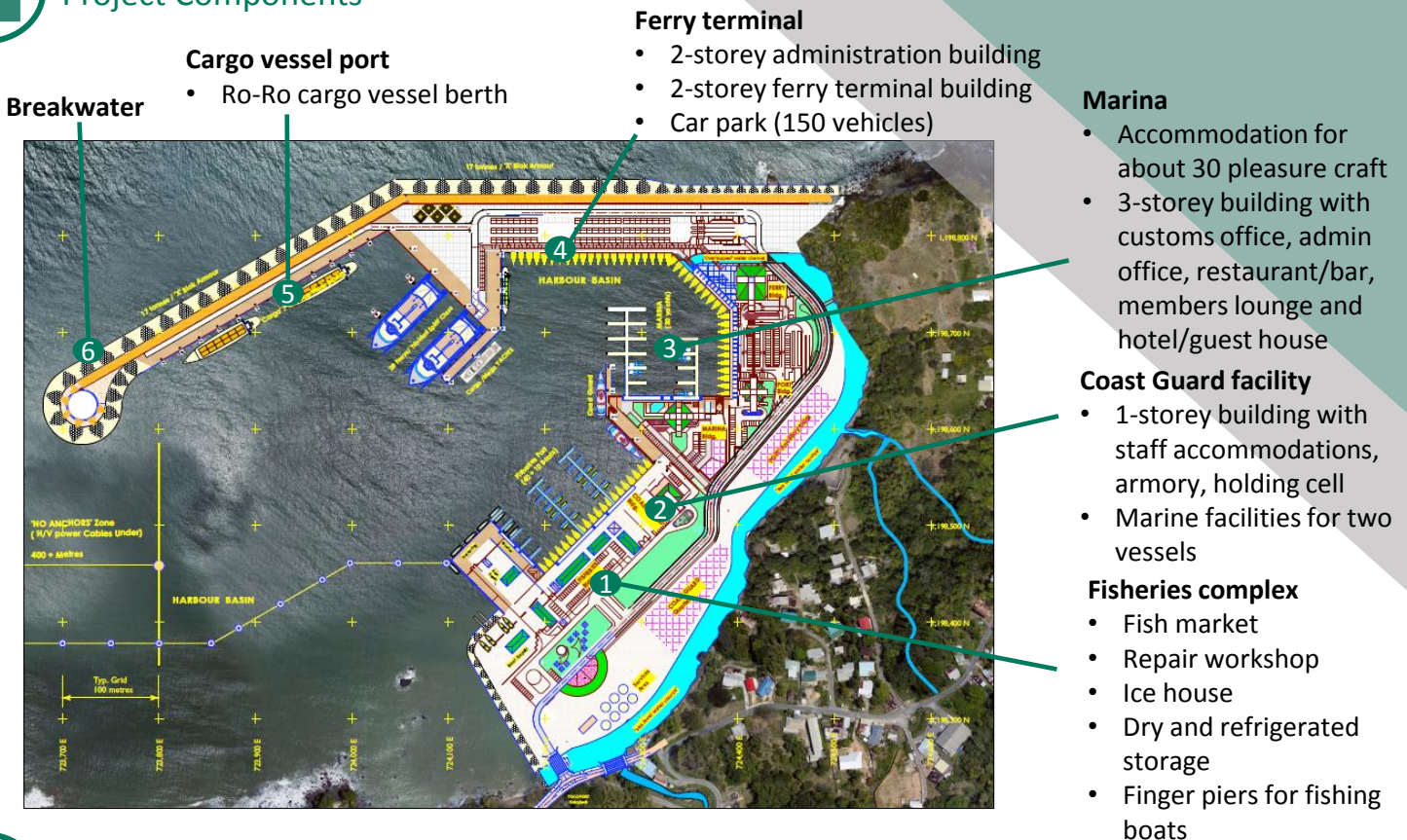
The proposed site is at Toco Bay, the northeastern most point of the region of Sangre Grande. This site was selected due to:

- Lack of critical habitats and protected species, both onshore and offshore
- Reasonably good road access
- Proximity to fishing zones

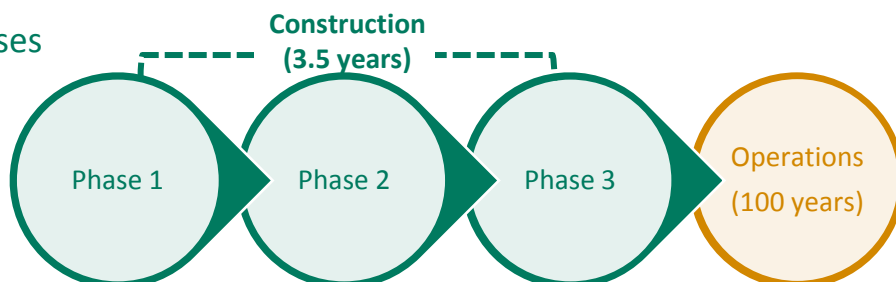
Other sites that were considered for the Project are Grande Riviere and Balandra Bay. These were deemed unsuitable for various reasons including distance from Tobago (Balandra Bay) and presence of critical habitat (turtle nesting grounds – Grande Riviere Bay).



### Project Components



### Project Phases



- Protective works to shield facility from extreme wave conditions
- Basic infrastructure

- Marine works (dredging, piling, marine-side construction)

- Land-side facilities

- Ferry operations
- Occupancy and use of marine and land-side facilities



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## Environmental Impact Assessment Approach

### EIA Approach and Process

The purpose of the EIA is to provide an independent, factual and technical basis of the Project. Below please find an overview of the approach and process.

- Submit CEC application to EMA
- Obtain EMA determination on environmental study requirements
- Execute physical, environmental, and socio-economic studies in line with the ToR
- Identify and assess potential impacts
- Prepare and submit draft EIA to NIDCO



- EIA ToR issued by EMA
- Solicit public comments on EIA ToR
- **First round of public consultation introducing the Project and EIA approach**
- **Second round of public consultation to explain EIA results and solicit stakeholder feedback**

### Summary of Baseline Studies

The following studies were conducted in order to establish baseline conditions for the physical, biological and social environment.

#### Physical environment

- Geotechnical survey in Toco Bay
- Baseline air monitoring
- Baseline noise monitoring
- Coastal dynamics and water quality modeling

#### Biological environment

- Dry and wet season terrestrial biological surveys
- Dry and wet season marine biological surveys

#### Social environment

- Socioeconomic baseline, including focus groups and key informant interviews

### Stakeholder Engagement

#### EIA process timeline of engagement:

**April 2018** – Public review of the EIA Terms of Reference

#### April 2019

– Scoping phase public meeting in Toco  
– Key informant interviews, focus groups and workshops in POS and Toco

**September 2019** – Additional key informant interviews, focus groups and workshops at NIDCO's Head Office and Toco

**December 2019** – Upcoming public disclosure meeting in Toco

#### Stakeholders engaged throughout the EIA process:

- Department of Fisheries
- Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government
- Sangre Grande Regional Corporation
- NGOs and Community-based Organizations
- Grande Riviere Nature Tour Guides Association
- Toco Sangre Grande Member of Parliament
- Toco Fisherfolk Association
- Women in Toco
- Youth in Toco
- Toco Health Center
- Toco Police Station
- Salybia Beach Vendors' Association
- Sangre Grande Police
- Sangre Grande Fire Department

# Multi-purpose Port at Toco

## EIA Findings and Impact Management



### Potentially Impacted Resources and Management Measures

#### Physical environment



##### Water

- Use silt curtains to contain sediment transport
- Manage dredging activities with relation to waves and weather
- Monitor dewatering and silt/sediment in the water
- Monitor turbidity throughout the construction area
- Monitor beach conditions for signs of sedimentation or erosion
- Develop a Liquid Waste Management Plan
- Develop an Emergency Response Plan



##### Air

- Develop dust management/ suppression plans during construction
- Regularly inspect and maintain all construction vehicles and equipment
- Limit idling time for ferries and other vessels at port
- Monitor ambient air quality when operations start



##### Noise

- Maintain functional mufflers on all diesel powered equipment
- Turn off any construction equipment that are not being actively utilized
- Limit any necessary nighttime construction to less noisy activities (e.g., avoid earth moving, dredging, activity at night)



##### Seabed

- Commit to natural attenuation
- Monitor beaches for erosion/sedimentation/grainsize compatibility

#### Biological environment



##### Marine biology

- Develop hard bottom structures (artificial reef) to offset loss of hard bottom habitat
- Implement best practices around dredging/pile driving/vessel operations
- Develop a turtle monitoring program during construction and ferry operations utilizing observers and best practices
- Implement a construction monitoring program for both water quality and biological resources



##### Terrestrial biology

- Conduct detailed surveys of flora and fauna before construction
- Rescue and/or relocate protected species (flora and fauna) if found during construction
- Clear vegetation only outside of bird nesting seasons
- Train and educate workers on wildlife management and incident reporting
- Install traffic signs and speed limits
- Maintain construction equipment to minimize noise and avoid spills





# Multi-purpose Port at Toco

## EIA Findings and Impact Management



### Potentially Impacted Resources and Management Measures

#### Social environment



##### Transportation

- Adopt speed limits
- Adopt specific driver/captain/crew qualifications, training programs, and readiness standards
- Provide regular maintenance to vehicles and vessels
- Provide regular road and port maintenance
- Adopt physical and procedural safety measures for communities (i.e., traffic flaggers, designated crosswalks, etc.)



##### Economic development and livelihoods

- Implement a community grievance mechanism
- Work with the Ministry of Community Development and Ministry of Labor to deliver pre-training programs to local residents to facilitate qualification for jobs
- Hire locally to the extent practicable (local procurement target in construction contract)
- Work with SGRC to support small business development
- Provide venues for local entrepreneurs to sell local products (e.g. ferry terminal gift shop)
- Actively engage fisherfolk on an ongoing basis
- Relocate the fishing facility in close cooperation with fisherfolk and the Department of Fisheries



##### Community health and well-being

- Implement a community grievance mechanism
- Collaborate with SGRC and police department in advance of construction to determine additional law enforcement resources
- Require construction subcontractors to implement rigorous background checks during recruitment processes
- Implement best management practices for mosquito control (eliminate standing water, treat ditches with larvicide as needed)
- Ensure minimum standards for housing accommodations in construction contracts to avoid overcrowding



##### Occupational safety

- Establish a Worker Code of Conduct including zero-tolerance drug and alcohol policy; enforce with random drug and alcohol testing
- Provide worker health awareness training
- Require construction contractor to develop a robust Project Safety Plan that outlines required training along with schedules



##### Services and infrastructure

- Liaise with WASA to conduct study of water availability and potential alternate sources
- Coordinate with SGRC and ministries responsible for road network and health services to discuss potential upgrades required
- Conduct logistics study to determine available temporary housing units and worker accommodations strategy for construction phase



For more information please contact

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