

# Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) Regional Activity Centre (RAC)

Strategic Plan (2021-2026)



Presented by D. Banjoo

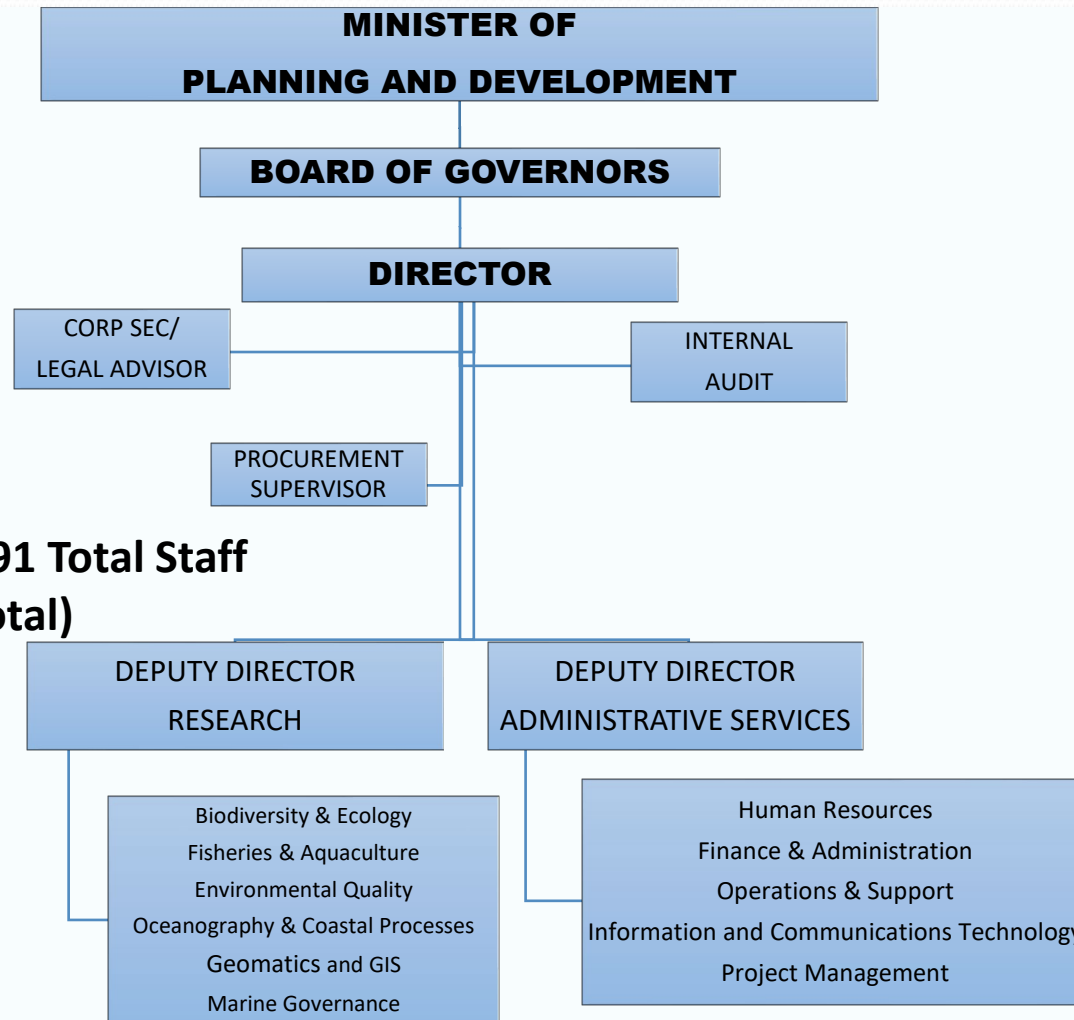
Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (LBS COP5), July 26, 2021

## What is IMA?

- The Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) is a government funded marine and environmental research institute in Trinidad and Tobago
- IMA was established by an Act of Parliament in 1976 following negotiations for an agreement signed between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the United Nations in 1974.
- IMA has been operational since 1978 (43 years).
- IMA is mandated to collect, analyze and disseminate information relating to the economic, technological, environmental, social and legal developments in marine affairs and to formulate and implement specific programs/projects.



# IMA Organization Chart (2019-2024 Strategic Plan)



**36 Research Staff out of 91 Total Staff**  
**8 PhD (3 in process of total)**  
**14 MSc**  
**5 BSc**

# IMA Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Improved Long Term Stakeholder Value Through Vision 2030 Alignment
- Fostering of Interdisciplinary Research and Linkages to Industry
- Growth and Diversity of Research Funding Through Grant funding and Corporate Sponsorship
- Operational Cost Reduction and Optimization of Resources to Achieve Value
- Strengthening of External Engagement

# Strategic Plan 2019-2024

## Organisational Strategic Objectives

- 60% of the Institute's obligations to the RAC on a phased basis over a two-year period.
- Development of RAC organisation structure and filling of vacancies.

## Financial Strategic Objectives

- Grant funding to represents at least 60% of its research budget (10% in the first two years, 20% by the third year and 40% by the end of the five year strategic period). Operational cost reduction by 15% through a value for money approach and optimising available resources.”

**The approach taken by IMA RAC is based on short (1-2yrs, 20%), medium (2-4yrs,40%) and long-term (4-6 yrs, 60%) for implementation of strategies.**

# Work of IMA RAC since 2002

## **Support to Programme Coordination and Management**

- Hosting of Workshop and Training.
- Support activities that promote the ratification and implementation of the LBS Protocol
- Production of promotional DVD to LBS protocol.
- Hosted Regional Workshop for the Launch of the Caribbean Platform for the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management

## **Land and Marine Based Sources of Pollution Management**

- Participation in Workshops and Training
- Conducting monitoring and assessment. Submission of environmental data.
- Support to the Regional Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan
- Support to SOCAR development.
- Support to STAC.
- Support to Monitoring and Assessment working group and data sub-group.

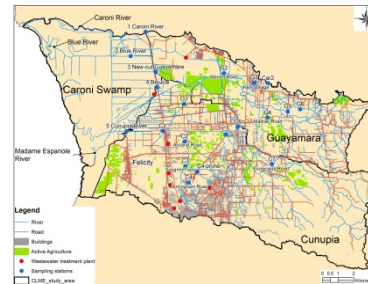
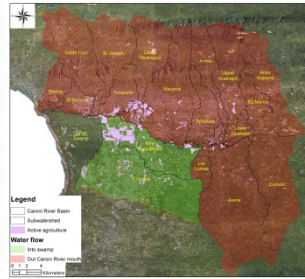
## **Knowledge Management and Communications**

- Production of a public education and awareness DVD on the work of the CEP.
- Production of article on CEP website on Ecosystem based management.
- Design and development of GIS maps, infographics as well as promotional and awareness material about the LBS Protocol

# Regional Projects conducted

- **CLME+ EBM Project, 2018-2021 (SSFA -70k USD)**

Implementation of an **Ecosystem- Based Management (EBM)** approach for **addressing the Impacts of Land-based Sources of Pollutants on Critical Coastal Habitats** such as Mangrove Swamp in **NBSLME (SSFA -70kUSD)** .



- **WCR- Regional Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan (WCR-RNPRSAP) 2020-2021(SSFA -50k USD)**

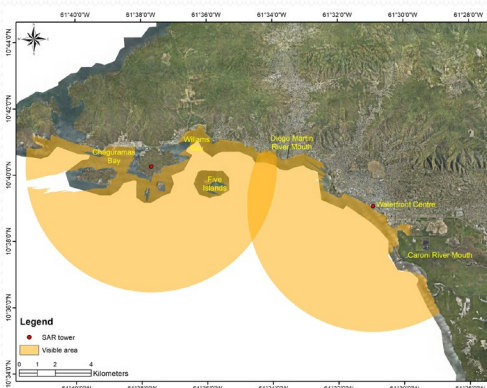
# Caribbean Sea Oil Spill Monitoring

## Possible project for mystery spills detection

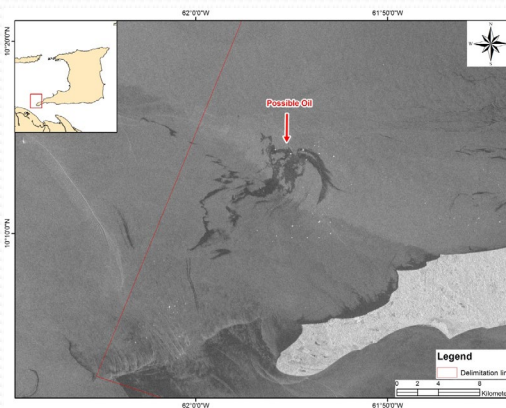
- Majors spills in regions, 2019-Brazilian coast, 2017 and 2014- Trinidad.
- 2021, Oil spills detection by radar system. Project between IMA and MEEI in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T).
- 2021, Training facilitated by IOCaribe, a pilot program for T&T was organised. Training conducted by NOAA Satellite Analysis Branch on a variety of satellite platforms.
- Possible pilot project to be expanded for the entire Caribbean region.



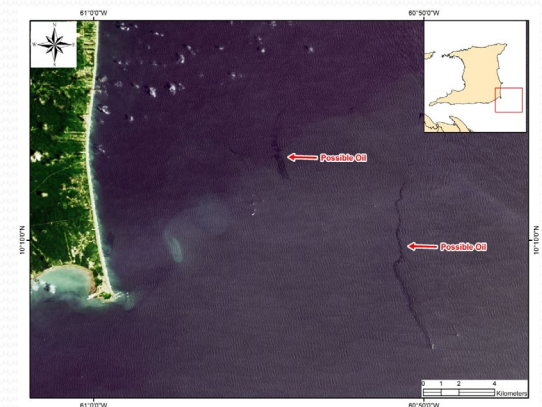
### Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Tower mounted



### Sentinel 1 SAR imagery



### Landsat8 optical imagery





# IAEA technical cooperation project RLA0063, “Using Nuclear Techniques for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation”.


- Strengthening National Capacity to Assess Coastal and Marine Environment in T&T (Training and equipment).
- Observatory for oceanic acidification, microplastic and coastal eutrophication established.
- Capacities for monitoring the impact of HABs in coastal areas strengthened.
- Capabilities to assess environmental pollution (Heavy Metals, POPs and Hydrocarbon) in the coastal zone and its impacts improved.
- Updated monitoring programme on impact of HABs in coastal areas
- Received minor equipment costing over **37k Euros** to be received in September 2021.

## Proposed project activity/cost of RAC IMA for biennium 2021/2022

Theme/Component	Activity	Budget (USD)
<b>Programme Coordination</b>	Provide technical assistance and guidance to CPs for the implementation of the Cartagena Convention, Oil Spills and LBS Protocols. Guidance on sampling, monitoring and assessment for oil spills (by IMA RAC)	10,000
Theme/ Component	Activity	Budget (USD)
<b>Land and Marine- Based Pollution</b>	Develop Guidelines for classification of waters according to the LBS Protocol;	50,000
	Classify recreational/receiving waters in selected countries (3 countries);	10,000
	Pilot national projects on pre-treatment of industrial discharges into domestic wastewater systems implemented (3 countries)	60,000

# Proposed project activity/cost of RAC IMA for biennium 2021/2022

Theme/ Component	Activity	Budget (USD)
<b>Monitoring and Assessment</b>	Develop technical guidelines for classification of watershed and water bodies for good ecological status.	30,000
	Quantify industrial discharges of N and P and other pollutants (3 countries);	20,000
	Regional Workshop on Index of Coastal Eutrophication & Harmful Algal Blooms;	30,000
	Regional Workshop on the identification and tracking of priority pollutants;	30,000
<b>Knowledge Management</b>	New pollution fact sheets, project briefs, PSAs and infographics developed for the AMEP Sub-Programme in English, Spanish and French;	10,000
	Improve Communication and Outreach with LBS Focal Points Articles circulated quarterly on ICZM Newsletter (IMA RAC)	5,000

A tropical beach scene with a row of palm trees leaning over a white sandy beach. The water is clear and turquoise. The sky is blue with some light clouds. A decorative blue wave graphic is at the top of the image.

*Thank You Very Much  
for your Attention  
Any Questions*