



TTEITI's Workplan 2021-2023

Background

The Trinidad and Tobago Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Steering Committee (TTEITISC) is a multi-stakeholder group that works to improve how the oil, gas and mining sectors are managed. In this document, we outline our Workplan for the period January 2021- January 2023.

To accomplish the goals of the workplan we recognize the value of setting objectives that are specific, measurable, actionable, relevant and timebound (SMART) and address the root causes of energy and mining sector challenges. The workplan would also address the need for greater alignment with Government policymakers, companies that operate in the extractive sector and civil society's organisations. Thus, the views and opinions of all stakeholders were sought, and their feedback incorporated. This was done through surveys where feedback was received from organisations within and beyond our multi-stakeholder group (MSG). Additionally, BlueSky/ brain storming sessions were held with stakeholders to redefine the TTEITISC's vision, mission and strategic priorities...

Vision:

Trinidad and Tobago's extractive resources are effectively managed to benefit all citizens and preserve the environment.

Mission:

To promote greater transparency and more effective management of extractive sector resources by empowering citizens with relevant information

The TTEITISC also streamlined our strategic focus to a few areas.

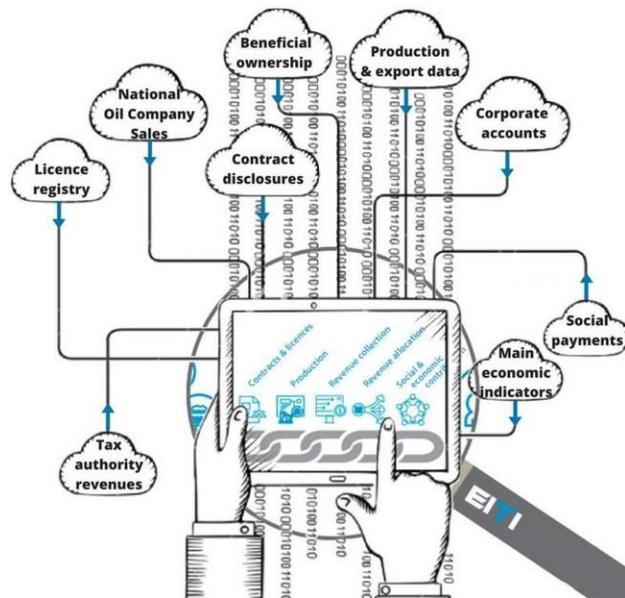
Our Strategic Priorities:

1. *Mainstreaming*
2. *Mining Sector Participation*
3. *Legislative Change*

4. *Public Awareness*
5. *Environmental Reporting and Impact*
6. *Empowering the TTEITI Secretariat*

The annual cost to implement our Workplan is TT\$ 1,339,800 (TT\$ 2,679,600 for the two-year duration) of which 70% will be funded by the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (MEEI). The Government through a Cabinet- decision, funds all technical and administrative support required by the TTEITI. The Secretariat also intends to seek the additional 30% funding required through collaboration with external donor agencies namely the EU, the US Embassy and the British High Commission.

Mainstreaming

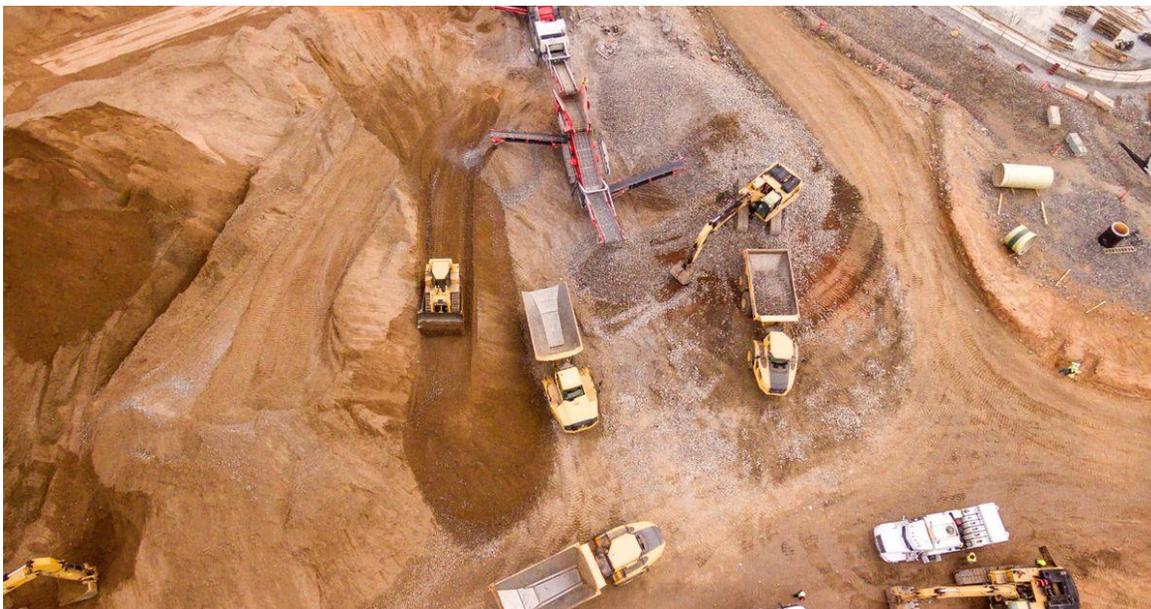


The 2019 EITI standard requires implementing countries to make transparency an integral and routine feature of their governance and management systems. As a result, implementing countries are moving toward making information required by the standard, available through websites and online portals. This ensures that the data available to the public is timely and easy to access. Additionally, the EITI open data policy speaks to making government systems open by default.

- **ACTIVITY 1:** The TTEITI Secretariat already undertook a mainstreaming mapping exercise and a new study will identify gaps in mainstreaming. The new study will identify impediments to mainstreaming/systematic disclosure, outline recommendations and costs necessary to close gaps to institutionalize systematic disclosure in Trinidad and Tobago.
- **DESIRED OUTCOME:**
 - The MEEI and other state agencies adopt systematic disclosure of EITI Standard
 - Up to date data available to the public

- **TIMELINE:** (Q3 2021 –Q4 2022)
- **ANNUAL COST:** TT\$ 130,000 (TT\$ 260,000 for the two-year duration)
- **ACTIVITY 2:** A stakeholder engagement campaign to sensitize key stakeholders on importance and value of mainstreaming.
- **DESIRED OUTCOME:**
 - a) The MEEI and other state agencies prioritizes the TTEITI's requests on mainstreaming and recommendations of TTEITI Independent Auditor/Administrator.
 - b) The EITI and mainstreaming is viewed as a necessary/useful initiative.
- **TIMELINE:** Q1 2021 – Q4 2022
- **ANNUAL COST:** TT \$30,000 (TT\$ 60,000 for the two-year duration)
- **ACTIVITY 3:** Reconciliation exercise
- **DESIRED OUTCOME:** Independently verified information on oil and gas revenue
 - **UPTODATE DATA AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC**
- **TIMELINE:** Q3 2021 – Q1 2022
- **ANNUAL COST:** TT \$821,000 (TT\$ 1,642,000 for the two-year duration)

Mining Sector Participation



At present TTEITI, has not been successful at reconciling revenues and payments from the mining sector. There are approximately 80 mining companies of which only 5 are accounted for in EITI reporting. Increasing the number of companies that report is an important step towards greater transparency within the mining sector.

- **ACTIVITY 4:** Develop and deploy an engagement strategy for the mining sector, along with exploring other actions with the TTEITI's Strategic Communications Agency and SC.
- **DESIRED OUTCOME:** More mining companies report to the EITI. (Target number: 2 new companies annually)
- **TIMELINE:** Q1 2021- Q1 2023
- **ANNUAL COST:** TT\$ 79,600 (TT\$ 159,200 for the two-year duration)

Legislative Change



In order to foster a culture of transparency within the extractive sector legislative change is essential. Under the EITI Standard 2019 contract transparency changed from an encouraged practice, to a requirement where all implementing countries are required to publish contracts signed or amended after January 1st, 2021. In Trinidad and Tobago contracts, licenses and PSCs are confidential documents. A legal barrier exists within the Petroleum Act Chap. 62:01 section 35 and the Freedom of information Act Chap 22:02 section 31. The TTEITISC has recently advocated for new production sharing contracts to contain EITI clauses requiring companies to disclose their beneficial owners and revenue payments. Despite this

step, the TTEITISC will seek additional legal research to help convince stakeholders on the value of legislative change.

- **ACTIVITY 5:** Develop an updated legal opinion on EITI Legislation in relation to the Petroleum Act and Income Tax Act.
- **DESIRED OUTCOME:** EITI reporting is made a mandatory requirement and/or EITI clauses are included in new Production Sharing Contracts and E&P Licenses.
- **TIMELINE:** Q1 2021- Q1 2022
- **ANNUAL COST:** TT\$ 25,000 (TT\$ 50,000 for the two-year duration) Funding will be contingent on grants from donor agencies.
- **ACTIVITY 6:** Devise and adopt a new approach to advance EITI Legislation. This action will be a collaborative effort between the Strategic Communications Agency and the TTEITISC.
- **DESIRED OUTCOME:** The EITI Independent Administrator and the Auditor General are given access to the BIR's data and key stakeholders embrace mandatory EITI disclosure.
- **TIMELINE:** Q1 2021- Q1 2023
- **ANNUAL COST:** TT\$ 15,000 from communication budget (TT\$ 30,000 for the two-year duration)

Public Awareness



The EITI Standard 2019 (Requirement 1.3 (a)), states that ..." Civil society must be fully, actively and effectively engaged in the EITI process." Over the years we innovated how we engage the public via our reports, key messages and our online presence. This has resulted in a greater level of interest and

engagement but there are gaps that exist. Public awareness is of the utmost importance to foster interest around the effective management of energy sector resources.

- **ACTIVITY 7:** Communications Agency to develop a communications strategy for TTEITI to inform engagement with public, other key stakeholders and roll out of select activities. Issues for engagement include contract transparency, participatory budgeting and fiscal transparency.
- **DESIRED OUTCOME:**
 - a) TTEITI information is used in public debate to promote better management of energy sector resources and the TTEITI is recognized as the preferred data source on extractive sector issues for a wider cross section of civil society.
 - b) Increased buy-in and awareness of TTEITI by local and regional stakeholders including Parliamentarians, media, civil society and extractive companies.
- **TIMELINE:** Q1- Q2 2021 for communication strategy. Q1 2021-Q1-2023 for activities.
- **ANNUAL COST:** TT\$ 104,200 (TT\$ 208,400 for the two-year duration)

Environmental Reporting & Impact



The EITI Standard 2019 (Requirement 6.4) states that “Implementing countries are encouraged to disclose information on the management and monitoring of the environmental impact of the extractive industries. This could include:

- a) An overview of relevant legal provisions and administrative rules as well as actual practice related to environmental management and monitoring of extractive investments in the country. This could include information on environmental impact assessments, certification schemes, licenses

and rights granted to oil, gas and mining companies, as well as information on the roles and responsibilities of relevant government agencies in implementing the rules and regulations. It could further include information on any reforms that are planned or underway.

- b) Information on regular environmental monitoring procedures, administrative and sanctioning processes of governments, as well as environmental liabilities, environmental rehabilitation and remediation programmes.”

Given the changes to the Standard and focus on environmental disclosures, the TTEITISC deems it necessary to fulfil new EITI Standard obligations while mainstreaming environmental disclosure into the EITI reporting process. There is room for greater civil society and public knowledge of the gaps in environmental data disclosures, regulatory practice and the country’s status in fulfilling its international climate change obligations.

- **ACTIVITY 8:** Conduct environmental reporting pilot with select companies disclosing information on key environmental indicators.
- **DESIRED OUTCOME:** More companies disclose environmental data through the EITI process. (Target number: 2 new companies annually).
- **TIMELINE:** Q1 2021 – Q1 2023
- **ANNUAL COST:** TT\$ 10,000
- **ACTIVITY 9:** Conduct study on the environmental impact of mining.
- **DESIRED OUTCOME:** The study informs civil society, extractive companies and State regulatory agencies on actions necessary to address environmental risks associated with mining sector activity.
- **TIMELINE:** Q1 2021 – Q1 2022
- **ANNUAL COST:** TT\$ 90, 000 (contingent on grant funding)

An Empowered Secretariat



The TTEITI Secretariat plays a vital supporting role to the TTEITI Steering Committee. This team devotes itself to carrying out the legwork required for EITI implementation in Trinidad and Tobago. The functions of the Secretariat are as follows:

1. Acquire donor grant funding.
2. Plan and execute all outreach events.
3. Innovative to become more relevant to the public.
4. Collect non-public data and conduct research for our fiscal reports.
5. Instrumental in planning for T&T EITI International validation.
6. Build rapport with key decision-makers and various stakeholders.

In December 2020, the team held a staff retreat which was a key focus area of the 2019-2020 workplan. Everyone benefitted from the experience and we developed several team commitments.

- **ACTIVITY 10:** A facilitated Secretariat retreat to identify internal challenges and to propose solutions for optimal team and capacity building. Additionally, identify training opportunities for team members and foster a more collaborative work culture. There is also the need to improve security of tenure/contracts of the team.
- **DESIRED OUTCOME:** Consistent actions are taken by the Secretariat, TTEITISC and MEEI to ensure that the Secretariat functions effectively.

- **TIMELINE:** Q4 2021 and Q4 2022
- **ANNUAL COST:** TT\$ 35,000 (TT\$ 70,000 for the two-year duration)

Appendix- Summary Workplan Activities

Mainstreaming			
Activity	Desired Outcome	Timeline	Annual Cost
Study to identify impediments to mainstreaming	MEEI and other state agencies adopt systematic disclosure of EITI Standard/up to date data available to the public	Q3 2021 - Q4 2022	\$130,000.00
Reconciliation Exercise	Up to date Independently verified information on oil & gas revenue available to the public	Q3 2021 - Q1 2022	\$821,000.00
A stakeholder engagement campaign to key stakeholders on importance/value of mainstreaming	The MEEI and other state agencies prioritizes mainstreaming	Q1 2021 - Q4 2022	\$30,000.00
Mining Sector Participation			
Activity	Desired Outcome	Timeline	Annual Cost
Develop engagement strategy for the mining sector	2 additional mining companies reporting annually	Q1 2021 - Q3 2022	\$79,600.00
Legislative Change			
Activity	Desired Outcome	Timeline	Annual Cost
Develop legal opinion on EITI Legislation in relation to the Petroleum Act and Income Tax Act	EITI clauses included in new Production Sharing Contracts and E&P Licenses/EITI reporting made mandatory	Q1 2021- Q1 2022	\$25,000.00
Devise and adopt a new approach to advance EITI Legislation	The EITI IA and the Auditor General given access to the BIR's data / key stakeholders embrace mandatory EITI disclosure	Q1 2021- Q1 2023	\$15,000.00

Public Awareness

Activity	Desired Outcome	Timeline	Annual Cost
Develop communications strategy to inform public engagement	TTEITI information is used in public debate for better management of energy sector resources /TTEITI is recognized as the preferred data source on extractive sector issues	Q1- Q2 2021	\$104,200.00
	Increased buy-in and awareness of TTEITI	Q1 2021-Q1 2023	

Environmental Reporting and Impact

Activity	Desired Outcome	Timeline	Annual Cost
Conduct environmental reporting pilot with select companies disclosing information on key environmental indicators	More companies disclose environmental data through the EITI process. (Target number: 2 new companies annually).	Q1 2021 – Q1 2023	\$10,000.00
Conduct study on the environmental impact of mining	The study informs civil society, extractive companies and State regulatory agencies on actions necessary to address environmental risks associated with mining sector activity	Q1 2021 – Q1 2022	\$90,000.00 (Contingent on grant funding)

An Empowered Secretariat

Activity	Desired Outcome	Timeline	Annual Cost
A facilitated Secretariat retreat to identify internal challenges and to propose solutions for optimal team and capacity building	Consistent actions are taken by the Secretariat, TTEITISC and MEEI to ensure that the Secretariat functions effectively	Q4 2021 and Q4 2022	\$35,000.00

TOTAL			\$1,339,800.00
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