DEVELOPMENT OF THE OPTIMAL SUITE OF TOURISM INCENTIVES FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOR THE PERIOD 2020

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project proposes to:

a. Identify Trinidad and Tobago’s ranking within the region with respect to its tourism offerings and the attractiveness of its incentives; Identification of possible competitors to the regional tourism market

b. Identification of new and innovative incentives provided by other jurisdictions

c. Provide a competitive suite of niche-specific tourism incentives that correlate to the National Tourism Policy of Trinidad and Tobago of 2010 and the Tourism Roadmap for Tourism Sector Development for the period 2016 – 2020.

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED

Six (6) Stakeholder Consultations were conducted as follows:


Tobago: Three (3) consultations with Tourism Accommodation Operators, Tourism Transport Operators and Tourism Ancillary Facility Operators on January 28-29, 2020. This completes all required consultations to obtain input for the draft report.

Meetings with the following Stakeholders were conducted:

- Trinidad and Tobago Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC),
- Ministry of Works and Transport, Port Operation Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (PATT),
- Ministry of Works and Transport – Transport Division,
- Ministry of Works and Transport – Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago
- Trinidad and Tobago Automobile Association,
- Ministry of Trade and Industry.

CHALLENGES

Stakeholder Consultations were unable to be held as scheduled in the first quarter of fiscal 2020 as no funds were released.

These postponements in accessing release of funds delayed the consultations. However, these were completed on January 28, 29 and 31, 2020.
The committee was seeking to have the Cabinet reconstitute the committee to increase the members to assist in conducting the exercise as there are three members who are no longer part of the committee. This request was not considered.

The global pandemic of Covid-19 caused a severe challenge to convening some outstanding meetings to obtain technical expertise as well as the conduct of feedback from Stakeholders of the Draft Report in both Trinidad and Tobago. The Ministry however will be seeking to convene these outstanding meetings virtually with the intention of completing the report.

SUMMARY

The Tourism Investment Advisory Committee (TIAC) continues to meet weekly and is developing the report on the Optimal Suite of Tourism incentives for attracting investors.

Stakeholder Consultations were carded for November and December 2019. These were eventually completed in January 2020.

A preliminary draft report was prepared and this project was expected to be completed by March 31, 2020.

However, due to the global pandemic, the project was affected and the March 31, 2020 deadline for completion of the March 31, 2020 report is now unrealistic. The Committee continued to meet in March 2020 and would seek to do so virtually in April 2020. There are some meetings with some stakeholders that have been affected in March 2020 that are still to be conducted and the Ministry would seek to convene these virtually at the earliest opportunity, as we seek to have them done virtually.