



The Cartagena Protocol is being implemented in three phases in Trinidad and Tobago; currently we are in the Third phase of its implementation.

Important Dates to be noted within each phase:

Phase I: Initial strategy for assisting countries to prepare for the entry into force of the Protocol on Biosafety

- January 29th 2000, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) was adopted by Trinidad and Tobago.
- August 23rd 2000, Cabinet Minute 1580 agreed that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago sign and ratify the CPB to the United Nations Conventions on Biological Diversity.
- October 5th 2000 Trinidad acceded to CPB.
(The act whereby a state accepts the offer or the opportunity to become a party to a treaty already negotiated and signed by other states.)
- June 2001 Trinidad was a part of The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project on the Development of National Biosafety Frameworks (NBFS). This was one of the main components of the GEF Initial Strategy for assisting countries to prepare for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety entry into Force, over a three year period.
- September 11th 2003, Cartagena Protocol entered into Force

Phase II: Development of National Biosafety Frameworks

- January 19th-30th 2004, Trinidad successfully conducted a capacity building workshop on biosafety for the Caribbean.
- May 11th – 14th 2004, Trinidad hosted the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Sub-regional Workshop on the development of a regulatory Regime and Administrative System for National Biosafety Frameworks (NBFS) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Port-of- Spain.
- June 2006- A draft Policy was completed by the committee for the development of a National Policy and Regulations on Biosafety.
- December 16th 2010, Cabinet Minute No. 1751 agreed to the establishment of a committee to examine the draft National Policy.

Phase III: Implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks

- April 2014, Cabinet Minute No.1115 Approved the National Policy and draft National Framework for Implementation.
- National Biosafety Coordinating Unit established in August 2014 in the Ministry of Legal Affairs.
- May 13th 2014, Signed partnership agreement between the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the National Executing Agency, and University of the West Indies, the Lead National Executing Agency. It involves the continuation of the Regional Biosafety Project in the area of capacity building.

