

ABSTRACT

Determination of the Environmental Vulnerability Index for Tobago

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This study investigated the Environmental Vulnerability Index (EVI) for the island of Tobago. The vulnerability index was determined for anthropogenic, meteorological, biological, geological events and general country characteristics and was based on the EVI study developed by the South Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission (SOPAC).

Written requests for information were made to appropriate Government Ministries, State agencies, private companies and other environmental organizations and the relevant data obtained from available documents or by interviews with appropriate professionals. This data was then used to calculate the values of the environmental indicators as directed by SOPAC and the overall EVI for Tobago was determined by the average score of all these indicators.

The results of the research revealed that on a holistic level the island of Tobago scored relatively low on the EVI Scale. Although most indicators received a score of four or less, selected indicators received scores of six and seven, which indicated a high vulnerability for these selected indicators. It was found that the indicators which scored

highly, were mostly anthropogenic in origin or could be traced to some man made influence. To this end, it was realized that the vulnerability of Tobago could be greatly controlled with vigilant management of the island's resources, coupled with information sharing between agencies governing these resources.

Keywords: Marissa Gowrie, Environmental Vulnerability Index, Tobago, Indicators