

# Potential for Carbon Dioxide Flooding in Trinidad

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## **Abstract**

Revenues from crude oil production and the petroleum sector in general make a significant contribution to the economy of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Annual crude oil production has declined by 24% over the last 10 years. It is generally accepted that the dependence on the petroleum sector will continue well beyond the year 2000. It is imperative, therefore, that steps be taken to arrest this decline in production and preferably reverse it. In the absence of the discovery of new reserves in the recent past, Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) has the potential to achieve this objective.

This paper shows that there is a potential for CO<sub>2</sub> flooding in Trinidad. Produced as a by-product of the Petrochemical Plants at the Point Lisas Industrial Estate, CO<sub>2</sub> is mainly vented to the atmosphere. Environmental concerns indicate that this practice should not continue much longer. Capture of this CO<sub>2</sub> for injection into oil reservoirs will provide a means of safe disposal of the CO<sub>2</sub> and, concurrently, will contribute to increased crude oil production.