

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROFILE

JAPANESE TRUST FUND FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES (JCF)

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Beneficiary Country:	Belize		
Project Name:	Belize City Downtown Rehabilitation		
Project Number:	BL-T1018		
Project Team:	Francesco Lanzafame (ICF/FMM), Team Leader; Juan de Dios Mattos (RDN/CGU) Team Member; Bernadete Bushbaum (LEG/SGO); Jorge De Vicente (CID/004) Team Member and Cristiane Vasconcelos (ICF/FMM) Project Asistant.		
Executing Agency:	Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)		
Beneficiaries:	Belize		
Date of Request:	October 2008		
Financing Plan:	IADB (JCF)	US\$	640,000
	Local Counterpart:	US\$	175,000
	Total	US\$	815,000
Tentative Approval Date:	<i>QRR</i> September 14, 2009	<i>Approval</i>	October 9, 2009
Execution Period:	Eighteen (18) months from the date of signature of the consulting services agreement between the Bank and the Japanese Consulting Firm.		
Disbursement Period:	Payment of the consulting fees under each consulting services agreement will occur in accordance with product delivery, however, it is estimated that the last disbursement under individual contracts will occur 24 months from the date of approval of the Operation.		

II. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

- 2.1 Belize City is the largest city in Belize and the capital of Belize District. The city was severely damaged On October 31, 1961 when Hurricane Hattie swept ashore. It was the capital of British Honduras (as Belize was then named) until the government was moved to the new capital of Belmopan in 1970.
- 2.2 The population of Belize City is estimated in 70,800 people. It is located at the mouth of the Belize River on the coast of the Caribbean Sea. Belize City is the country's principal port, the center of its communications and its financial and

industrial hub. Tourism is becoming one of the main sources of income for the city and the country. Several cruise ships drop anchor outside the port, promoting economic development and employment for local citizens, but also producing environmental and social impacts. The Government of Belize officially recognizes tourism as a national priority sector in its economic development agenda.

- 2.3 The tourism industry is changing the face of downtown Belize City, particularly, the Fort George area which, with its distinctive colonial architecture, is the thriving center for tour guides, craftsmen and other vendors who have set up shop in and around the new Belize Tourism Village.
- 2.4 Most Belizeans work in the downtown area or carry out their trades in downtown streets. Belize City is home to Belize's Central Bank, the country's major banks, insurance companies, marketplaces and the most important business activities. Belize City is the hub for both national and international air, sea and road travel.
- 2.5 In recent years Belize City has improved its infrastructure and has been the object of numerous infrastructure projects. Nevertheless, it is necessary to undertake a more integral and articulated urban rehabilitation program, particularly in the central area, characterized by many streets, public spaces and buildings dating back from the colonial days. This area, with its valuable urban heritage and natural location and landscape, represents an attraction for tourists and residents generating income and employment for a vast sector of the population. As most historic urban areas, it has a delicate balance that is being affected by the pressure of tourism and urban growth. Moreover, the majority of the colonial buildings in the area need to be restored and protected against damage by fire and hurricanes.
- 2.6 Conscious of this situation, the Government of Belize is exploring new initiatives in order to protect and rehabilitate the central area of downtown Belize City. Among these initiatives there is one consisting of an innovative proposal for the establishment of a fund (the Belize City Tourism Development Fund) that would derive its revenues from the cruise ship head taxes and would finance the maintenance of buildings and the provision of services in the downtown area. The Government of Belize has expressed the intention of transforming Belize City into a memorable destination, focusing specifically on cleanliness, entertainment, safety, aesthetics, zoning transportation, retail shopping and heritage development.
- 2.7 The Bank is supporting Belize's efforts as described above by working closely with the government and the city authorities in the formulation and implementation of national and local development strategies and programs. In particular, the Bank has approved on November 2008 a loan for the implementation of the *Sustainable Tourism Project (BL-L1003)*. This Project (contemplates the financing of infrastructure and other activities in key geographic areas previously identified by the Government of Belize. In this context downtown Belize City has been as a priority area of intervention.

- 2.8 The resources allocated to this Technical Cooperation (TC) will finance the preparation of studies and plans for the rehabilitation and socio-economic development of Belize City's downtown area, focusing particularly on the preservation of its urban heritage.

III. PROGRAM OBJECTIVE AND DESCRIPTION

A. Program goal and purpose

- 3.1 The main objective of this TC is the preparation of a Master Plan for downtown Belize City, in order to achieve its revitalization.
- 3.2 The specific objectives of this TC are the following: (i) preparation of an Action Plan for the integral revitalization of Belize City's downtown area; (ii) coordination of efforts by different stakeholders (public and private) under existing programs. The master plan seeks to improve the accessibility, quality of life and economic vitality of the downtown area in order to benefit both residents, and tourists, and support for the rehabilitation of urban heritage areas.

B. Components

- 3.3 To achieve the above mentioned objectives the TC will have the following the components: (i) analysis of available information; (ii) preparation of a Master Plan for the development of the area; (iii) blueprint for improving tourism and business competitiveness; and (iv) institutional strengthening.

1. Component I – Analysis of available information

- 3.4 Analysis of the urban typologies and characteristics of Belize City's downtown area with the definition of investment priorities, kinds of interventions and possible uses (residential, recreational, commercial, business, tourism, mixed uses, etc). The studies will particularly address matters relating to the rehabilitation, safeguard and sustainable use of urban heritage infrastructure.

2. Component II – Preparation of a Master Plan for the Development of the area

- 3.5 The Master Plan will have an integral approach and reflect a vision of a vibrant city center for Belize City; it should contemplate the following: (i) a better and more sustainable use for existing infrastructure and urban heritage; and (ii) the creation of a more secure and efficient environment for businesses, residences and amenities, for both local residents and visitors. Together with the Master Plan, the TC will identify and propose specific projects (Priority and Strategic Revitalization Projects), considered a priority for the rehabilitation of the area and will prepare specific feasibility studies for these interventions. It will be important to reflect the essence of Belize, integrating cultural heritage and traditional values into a contemporary context.

3. Component III – Blueprint for improving the competitiveness of Belize City as an important business and cruise tourism destination

- 3.6 The blueprint will identify: (i) opportunities and challenges for growth and improvement of business tourism as a niche market in Belize City; (ii) synergies between business and cruise tourism, and the market potential for further developing these niche markets *in tandem*; (iii) high priority business opportunities and the drivers for encouraging local and foreign investment in a wider spectrum of tourism attractions and experiences; and (iv) initiatives enhancing a sense of authenticity of the city, that meet tourism expectations and facilitate export-ready considerations for the business and cruise tourism niche market segments.

4. Component IV – Institutional strengthening.

- 3.7 This component is directed to the institutional strengthening of local and national agencies (City Council, National Institute of Cultural Heritage -NICH-, Ministry of Tourism), which will be responsible for the approval and implementation of the Master Plan and the specific projects. Particular attention will be given to the design of Public-Private Partnership Model (PPP) for the financing, development and management of specific projects, in order to accelerate dynamize and enrich the process of developing the area.

IV. COST AND FINANCING

- 4.1. The amount of the Contribution is estimated in the equivalent of US\$640.000 from the resources of the Japanese Trust Fund for Consultancy Services and the amount of local counterpart¹ is estimated in the equivalent of US\$175.000 according to the following Budget:

¹ Counterpart financing usually requires minimum of 20% of total cost of the TC. Can be "in-kind".

Table 1 – Cost Table

<i>Category</i>	<i>Number of Months</i>	<i>Cost per Month (US\$)</i>	<i>JFC (US\$)</i>	<i>Local Counterpart (US\$)</i>	<i>Total (US\$)</i>
Component 1 - Analysis of the existing situation	11.4		71,250	45,000	116,250
<i>National Honorarium</i>	5.7	2,500	14,250	0	14,250
<i>International Honorarium</i>	5.7	10,000	57,000	0	57,000
<i>Counterpart Honorarium</i>	0.00	0	0	45,000	45,000
Component 2: Master Plan Preparation	28.8		180,000	80,000	260,000
<i>National Honorarium</i>	14.4	2,500	36,000	0	36,000
<i>International Honorarium</i>	14.4	10,000	144,000	0	144,000
<i>Counterpart Honorarium</i>	0.00	0	0	80,000	80,000
Component 3: Institutional strengthening	17.2		108,750	50,000	158,750
<i>National Honorarium</i>	8.5	2,500	21,250	0	21,250
<i>International Honorarium</i>	8.7	10,000	87,500	0	87,500
<i>Counterpart Honorarium</i>	0.00	0	0	50,000	50,000
Travel and per diem			150,000	0	150,000
<i>Travel</i>			36,000	0	36,000
<i>Per diem</i>			114,000	0	114,000
Overhead (1)			80,000	0	80,000
<i>Overhead</i>			80,000	0	80,000
Other Expenses			35,000	0	35,000
<i>Equipment (2)</i>			20,000	0	20,000
<i>Workshops</i>			15,000	0	15,000
Contingencies (3)			15,000	0	15,000
TOTAL			640,000	175,000	815,000

1. For consulting firms only. To be estimated as a percentage (up to 150%) over the honoraria costs. This amount shall cover all administrative and logistics support required.
2. Can be up to 15% of the total cost of the TC.
3. Can be up to 5% of total.

V. EXECUTING AGENCY AND EXECUTION MECHANISM


- 4.2. The Bank will act as Executing Agency; it will be responsible for the development and implementation of this TC and for hiring the all the consulting services under this Technical Cooperation. The government of Belize has appointed the Ministry of Tourism as a local counterpart for this TC.
- 4.3. The consultancy will be developed by a Japanese Firm that will bring technical assistance through a team of international and local experts. The local counterpart team will cooperate with the consultants in the execution of the TC project.
- 4.4. The TC projects will be executed in a total period of eighteen (18) months. The international team will cover, at least, the followings thematic areas: urban development, cultural heritage, engineering, urban economist, social development, and environment. This team can be complemented and supported by a team of local experts.

VI. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 4.5. Due to the nature of this Project which only involves the financing of studies and institutional strengthening activities, negative environmental and social impacts are not foreseen for this Operation. Therefore, this Operation has been classified as a category "C" Operation.

VII. APPROVAL

VoBo: _____


Caroline Clarke, Representative
CID/CBL

Sept 7, 2009
Date

Approved: _____


Vicente Fretes, Division Chief
ICF/FMM

Sept 11, 2009
Date



GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

*Ministry of Finance
Belmopan, Belize*

Please Quote:

Ref.:

C/IOF/4/01

30 January, 2009

Ms. Caroline Clarke
Country Representative
Inter-American Development Bank
Belize Marina Towers
1024 Newton Barracks
Belize City

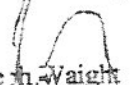
Dear Ms. Clarke

Re : BL - T1018

Draft Technical Cooperation (TC) for Belize City Downtown Rehabilitation

In response to Ms. Lemay's letter of 28 January, 2009 on the above subject, please accept this letter as the Government of Belize's formal request for the said Technical Cooperation Study and that for the study to be financed out of Bank's Japan Special Fund / Japan Trust Fund.

Yours sincerely,


Joseph M. Waight
Financial Secretary

cc: Mrs. Yvonne Hdy, CEO Ministry of Economic Development
Mr. Michael Singh, CEO, Ministry of Tourism

SAFEGUARD POLICY FILTER REPORT

This Report provides guidance for project teams on safeguard policy triggers and should be attached as an annex to the Project Concept Document (or equivalent) together with the Safeguard Screening Form, and sent to ESR.

PROJECT DETAILS	IDB Sector	Agriculture and Rural Development
	Project Type	Conditional Credit Line for Investment Projects (CCLIP)
	Additional Operation Details	
	Country	Argentina
	Project Status	New Operation
	Investment Checklist	Generic Checklist
	Team Leader	Francesco Lanzafame
	Project Title	Belize City Downtown Rehabilitation
	Project Number	BL-T1018
	Safeguard Specialist(s)	<i>Juan de Dios Matos</i>
	Assessment Date	2009-05-20
	Assessment Number	2009-05201545-2
	Additional Comments	

SAFEGUARD POLICY FILTER RESULTS	Project Type	Conditional Credit Line for Investment Projects (CCLIP)	
	Safeguard Policy Items Identified (Yes)	If a Technical Cooperation, the operation is associated with the design and/or implementation of a major investment loan in infrastructure.	(B.04)
		An Environmental Assessment is going to be performed.	(B.05)
	Potential Safeguard Policy Items (?)	No potential issues identified	
	Recommended Action	Operation has triggered 1 or more Policy Directives; please refer to appropriate Directive(s), including B13, for guidance. No project classification required. Submit Report and PCD (or equivalent) to ESR.	
	Additional Comments	<i>Policy Directives can be accessed from the Resources tab on the Toolkit home page.</i>	

ASSESSOR DETAILS	Name of person who completed screening:	
	Title	
	Date	2009-05-20

SAFEGUARD SCREENING FORM

This Report provides a summary of the project classification process and is consistent with Safeguard Screening Form requirements. The printed Report should be attached as an annex to the Project Concept Document (or equivalent) (together with the Safeguard Policy Filter Report) and sent to ESR.

PROJECT DETAILS	IDB Sector	Urban Development and Housing
	Project Type	Technical Cooperation
	Additional Operation Details	
	Country	Belize
	Project Status	New Operation
	Investment Checklist	Urban Development
	Team Leader	FRANCESCO LANZAFAME
	Project Title	Belize City Downtown Rehabilitation
	Project Number	BL-T1018
	Safeguard Specialist(s)	Juan de Dios Mattos
	Assessment Date	2009-05-21
	Assessment Number	2009-05210817-2
	Additional Comments	

PROJECT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY	Project Category: "C"	Override Rating:	Override Justification:
			Comments:
	Conditions/Recommendations	<input type="checkbox"/> Normally no environmental impact assessment studies or consultations are required for Category "C" operations. <input type="checkbox"/> Some Category "C" operations may require specific safeguard/monitoring requirements (Policy Directive B.3). These operations will establish safeguard/monitoring requirements for environmental and other risks (social, disaster, cultural, H&S etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> The Project Team must send to ESR the PP or PCD (or similar) containing the E&S Strategy (the requirements for an ESS are described in the Environment Policy Guideline: Directive B.3) plus the Safeguard Policy Filter and Screening Form Reports. <i>Policy Directives can be accessed from the Resources tab on the Toolkit home page.</i>	

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS/RISKS AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS	Identified Impacts/Risks	Potential Solutions
	No issues identified	

ASSESSOR DETAILS	Name of person who completed screening:	Date:
	Comments:	