

# Studies of the Interoceanic Region

## PANAMA

SECTOR: Environment

PROJECT NAME: Studies of the Interoceanic Region  
(778/OC-PN)

TOTAL COST: \$9.2 million

FINANCING:

IDB	\$8.4 million
LOCAL	\$0.8 million

DATE OF APPROVAL: October 27, 1993

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The basic purpose of this reimbursable technical cooperation is to finance studies required for: (a) the efficient administration of reverted properties (under the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977) in the interoceanic region and their productive incorporation into the country's economic and social development; (b) conservation of canal watershed resources; and (c) regulation of the urban development of the metropolitan areas of Panama City and Colon.

The program contains four components: (a) institutional strengthening for the Interoceanic Regional Authority (ARI) to enable it to fulfill its responsibilities as administrator of the reverted properties (land, water and infrastructure); (b) a regional plan for the development of the interoceanic region; (c) an urban development plan for the metropolitan areas of the Pacific (Panama City) and the Atlantic (Colon), which will define growth patterns for urban areas and determine potential long-term urban uses for reverted areas; and (d) a general plan for the use, conservation and development of the canal zone, which defines the use of reverted assets, a development strategy for the zone and optimum marketing strategies for properties.

CONSULTANTS: A consulting firm will be hired to assist ARI's institutional development in: (a) designing an organizational

structure and operating systems and procedures to enable ARI to execute the project; (b) defining instruments and an inter-institutional and operational structure that will allow ARI to interact with other government institutions; (c) defining procedures to be followed in ARI's relations with national and foreign private entities involved in developing the properties of the interoceanic region; (d) designing a training program for the institution's staff; and (e) making recommendations regarding the legislation involved in creating ARI.

In addition, the studies for the regional plan and the general plan will be contracted with the same consulting firm so that maximum coherence can be achieved between the two plans. (Participating foreign firms will be required to form consortia with local consulting firms in this area.) The firm selected must have experts in a wide number of environmental areas.

The study for the metropolitan plan will be contracted with a single consulting firm with highly specialized technical capability and experience in different areas of professional services (competence in this area must be internationally recognized). Consultants will be contracted for the urban development plan component, as well, with expertise in a wide number of urban development areas.

The United Nations Development Programme will be contracted to provide technical support for program coordination and supervision.

GOODS AND EQUIPMENT: Computer hardware and software will be procured as part of the components for developing a regional plan and an urban development plan, including software, computers, laser printers and peripheral equipment.

CIVIL WORKS: Not applicable.

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