

## TC ABSTRACT

### I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	BELIZE/CID - Isthmus & DR
▪ TC Name:	Support to Integrated Water Resources Management
▪ TC Number:	BL-T1126
▪ Team Leader/Members:	GRAU BENAIGES, JAVIER (INE/WSA) Team Leader; NALESSO, MAURO (INE/WSA) Alternate Team Leader; BRYANT, ALEXIS (CID/CBL); ORTIZ STRADTMANN, SILVIA (INE/WSA); WATSON, BRODRICK RAYLANDO (VPC/FMP); LUNSTEDT TAPIA, CHRISTIAN (VPC/FMP); CHAMPI TICONA, DIANA CARLA (INE/WSA); GUIZA CERON CARLOS ANDRES (INE/WSA)
▪ Taxonomy:	Client Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	06 Aug 2021
▪ Beneficiary:	Belize
▪ Executing Agency:	MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, PETROLEUM AND MINING
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$250,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$25,000.00 (In Kind)
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	INE/WSA - Water & Sanitation
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CID/CBL - Country Office Belize
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	Yes
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Social inclusion and equality; Institutional capacity and rule of law; Environmental sustainability

### II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 To assess the environmental conditions of two critical watersheds in Belize and review the institutional and legal framework for water resources management in Belize.
- 2.2 Belize's economy continues to be based on agriculture, tourism, and other sectors that rely heavily on the availability of freshwater resources. Belize has been prone to cyclical hurricane damage, tidal wave, floods, and wind damage, which have affected agriculture, tourism, and infrastructure, among other sectors, severely affecting the economy. Between 1931-2016, 33 hurricanes or tropical storms either made landfall in Belize or passed close enough to cause damage or the loss of life. In addition, within the last decade, some areas in Belize experienced drought on a yearly basis. Belize's 2019-20 dry season was the worst in almost four decades and has reportedly led to about US\$25 million (1.3% of GDP) losses in agricultural production.
- 2.3 To address the risks brought by droughts, floods and other weather-related extreme events, in 2010, the National Integrated Water Resources Policy was finalized. The Government of Belize passed legislation establishing the National Integrated Water Resources Authority (NIWRA) as a statutory body to help encourage the efficient use

of Belize's water resources. However, there is still much work to do to implement the legislation approved as part of the National Integrated Water Resources Policy.

- 2.4 This Technical Cooperation is to strengthen the Ministry of Natural Resources and the National Hydrological Service to implement and execute the integrated water resources management activities and legislation passed over the last decade. The proposed TC is consistent with the Bank's 2025 Vision and with the Second Update to the Institutional Strategy 2020-2024. In relation to the 2025 Vision, the TC focuses on water security in Belize, a country that is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change such as sea-level rise, natural disasters, and changing precipitation and temperature patterns. It is also aligned with the development challenges of social inclusion and equality, given that it supports the improvement of water resources management in two watersheds where most of Belize's urban and rural population lives.

### III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Design and Implementation of an Action Plan to implement the National Integrated Water Resources Management Act.** This component will include the hiring of consultants to: i) assess the conditions of the New River and the Belize River watersheds, two of the largest watersheds in Belize, and ii) design a detailed action plan to help implement the National Integrated Water Resources Management Act identifying existing gaps and recommending detailed measures and actions to address them.

### IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Design and Implementation of an Action Plan to implement the National Integrated Water Resources Management Act	US\$250,000.00	US\$25,000.00	US\$275,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>US\$250,000.00</b>	<b>US\$25,000.00</b>	<b>US\$275,000.00</b>

### V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The Executing Agency will be the National Hydrological Service, a unit within the Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining. Its mission is to enforce the water policy of the Government for the orderly and coordinated management, development and use, conservation, and protection of our water resources.
- 5.2 Reporting and Accountability. The Executing Agency undertakes to prepare an initial work program, semi-annual progress reports and a final program report. These reports will focus on program activities and finances, as well as results achieved. The format of these reports will be agreed between the Executing Agency and the Bank.
- 5.3 Procurement of goods and consultants: will be conducted in accordance with the Policies for Procurement of Works and Goods and Policies for Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the IDB, contained in GN-2349-15 and GN-2350-15 and in accordance with the provisions laid down in the grant funding agreement and procurement plan of the program, which will be updated as necessary.
- 5.4 Audit and Final Evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the Financial Management Policy for Projects financed by the Bank (OP-273-2). The Executing Agency will hire an independent auditor acceptable to the Bank to audit the financial statements to be submitted within 90 days of the date of the last disbursement. The budget provision for the financial audit is US\$10,000. The program will include a final evaluation report which will describe and analyze progress in reaching the targets

contained in the results matrix of the TC. This final evaluation will be carried out by the Bank.

- 5.5 The National Hydrological Service is the sole entity responsible for the sustainable management of water resources in Belize. As such, the TC will be executed by this agency. While this agency does not have previous experience in executing IDB projects, it sits within the Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining, responsible for the execution of an active loan (BL-L1021 Solid Waste Management Project II) and several Technical Cooperations. It is important to note that the TC would be comprised of only two consultancies, which would make the TC straightforward to manage administratively and from a fiduciary point of view.

## **VI. Project Risks and Issues**

- 6.1 The main risks of this project are related to the lack of experience of the National Hydrological Service in executing Bank-financed operations and the need to ensure appropriate coordination among key government agencies. In relation to the first risk related to the lack of experience by the National Hydrological Service, it is important to note that this TC will only comprise two consultancies, thus reducing the execution complexities. In addition to this, the Bank will provide all the necessary accompaniment to the executing agency and will promote training by the Solid Waste Management Authority within the same Ministry.
- 6.2 In relation to the second risk, the interventions proposed in this TC would require proper coordination among various GOB agencies such as the National Hydrological Service, Ministry of Natural Resources, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Rural Transformation, among others. However, given that the National Integrated Water Resources Management Act and the Policy establish a well-defined structure to implement the approved legislation, there should not be major issues in having the National Hydrological Service as the main implementing agency of this TC. This risk is thus not foreseen in this TC.

## **VII. Environmental and Social Classification**

- 7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "C".