

Technical Cooperation Abstract

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	BELIZE/CID - Isthmus & DR
▪ TC Name:	Support for Ambergris Caye Sustainable Development
▪ TC Number:	BL-T1150
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Soulier Faure, Martin Nicolas (CSD/HUD) Team Leader; Balani, Hero Ranjit (CID/CBL); Bryant, Alexis (CID/CBL); Alleng, Gerard (CSD/CCS); Villota Coral, Maria Alejandra (CSD/HUD); Avila, Francy Dianela (CSD/HUD); Pérez, Silvia (CSD/HUD); Lugo Moreno, Monica Bibiana (LEG/SGO)
▪ Taxonomy:	Client Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	02 May 2022
▪ Beneficiary:	Government of Belize
▪ Executing Agency:	Inter-American Development Bank
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$300,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	CSD/HUD - Housing & Urban Development
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CSD/HUD - Housing & Urban Development
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Productivity and Innovation; Institutional Capacity and the Rule of Law; Environmental Sustainability

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The objective of the TC is to support the sustainable development of Ambergris Caye through building a Sustainable Master Plan, elaborating prioritized project proposals, and implementing capacity-building activities.
- 2.2 **Justification.** The Ambergris Caye is the largest island of Belize, located northeast of the country's mainland. It is about 40 kilometers (25 mi) long from north to south and about 1.6 kilometers (1 mi) wide. San Pedro Town, located in the southern part of the island, is the largest settlement and only town on Ambergris. There are also several small villages and resorts. By mid-2021, San Pedro had 22,755 inhabitants, doubling its population since the last census (2010).¹
- 2.3 Ambergris Caye plays an important role in Belize's tourism product² as well as having a significant impact on the economic recovery of Belize. The Island presents a variety of development challenges: (i) services needs (mobility, water supply, drainage, sewage, wastewater treatment, electricity, solid waste management); (ii) adequate key infrastructure (port, airport, roads, coastal protection); (iii) vulnerability to climate change and preservation of natural heritage; and (iv) economic, financial and social needs.

¹ Statistical Institute of Belize (2021): Postcensal estimates by administrative areas and sex, 2010-2021.

² IDB CDC: Belize City and Ambergris Caye concentrate 55.2% of overnight visitors and the overnight ecotourism product is still shaped by the Belize Barrier Reef and the primary motivations are the marine activities (sun and beach product).

- 2.4 Therefore, the Prime Minister has appointed a Task Force to foster Ambergris Caye development. Members include Ministers, San Pedro's Mayor and representatives from the private sector. The Task Force asked for IDB's support to recommend a sustainable development strategy for North Ambergris Caye, taking into account challenges across the Island.
- 2.5 **Strategic Alignment.** This TC is consistent with the Second Update of the Institutional Strategy 2020-2023 (AB-3190-2) under the development challenges of: (i) Productivity and Innovation by promoting planning and implementing activities with the assistance of digital tools and innovative approaches. This operation aligns with the cross-cutting issues (i) Institutional Capacity and the Rule of Law by supporting the government and strengthening local capacities for planning sustainable development; and (ii) Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability by assessing vulnerability of the Island to natural risks with climate change considerations and promoting sustainable activities as natural areas preservation, conservancy of natural heritage and blue economy analysis. This TC is also aligned with the Country Strategy with Belize 2022-2025 (GN-3086) with the objective of improving the efficiency and quality of public spending by straitening the government capacities for sustainable planning.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component 1. Sustainable Master Plan and Pre-Investment Studies (US\$250,000).** To develop a Sustainable Master Plan for North Ambergris Caye and concept proposals for selected prioritized projects. Activities will include the identification of challenges and actions for building a shared vision of sustainable development on: (i) environmental aspects i.e. natural disasters vulnerability); (ii) territorial-urban aspects i.e. urban footprint and land use, services, key infrastructure); and (iii) economical and financial aspects (investment climate, funding strategies).
- 3.2 **Component 2. Pilots and Capacity Building (US\$50,000).** This component will finance the design and implementation of pilots and workshops regarding innovative approaches for planning and natural conservancy, such as digital tools and behavioral analysis for educational campaigns in natural risks, natural heritage preservation, vulnerable population integration, circular economy or energy efficiency.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Component 1. Sustainable Master Plan and Pre-Investment Studies.	US\$250,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$250,000.00
Component 2. Pilots and Capacity Building.	US\$50,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$50,000.00
Total	US\$300,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$300,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The Bank will be the Executing Agency and will be led by the CSC/HUD team.
- 5.2 At the beneficiary's request and in accordance with Appendix 10 of the Operational Guidelines for Technical Cooperation Products (GN-2629-1), the Bank will be the Executing Agency, given its experience developing sustainable master plans. The Housing and Urban Development Division (CSD/HUD) will be responsible for the technical supervision and administration. The TC activities will be executed in coordination with the beneficiary and the stakeholders designated by the beneficiary. CSD/HUD will act as the Unit of Disbursement Responsibility (UDR) and be in charge of the procurement processes.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 The project risks are medium. Two main risks have been identified: (i) institutional weakness, which could affect the participation of stakeholders in the development of activities and the empowerment of the Master Plan; and (ii) the stakeholders' lack of commitment to implementing pilot projects. Activities will encourage the participation of technical personnel, civil servants, and relevant interest groups to mitigate the first identified risk, such as the private sector and environmental agencies, when applicable, and approval from Task Force representatives will be required for each intermediate and final product. The Bank's close engagement with high-level government officials will be key. This TC will prioritize financing pilot projects aligned with Task Force priorities regarding the second risk.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

- 7.1 This TC will not finance feasibility or pre-feasibility studies of investment projects with associated environmental and social studies; therefore, it falls outside the scope of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF).