

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ABSTRACT

I. BASIC INFORMATION

Country/Region:	Belize
TC Name:	Implementation of the Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative (ESCI) in Belize City
TC Number:	BL-T1076
Team:	Team Leader: Andres Blanco (IFD/FMM); Co-Team Leader: Ellis J. Juan (VPS/VPS); Rebecca Sabo, Roland Krebs, Diego Arcia, and Marina Massini (IFD/FMM); Luis Lopez-Torres (INE/ESC); and (LEG/SGO).
TC Type:	Research and Dissemination
Beneficiary:	Belize
Executing Entity:	Inter-American Development Bank, through the coordination of the ESCI and IFD/FMM
Financing:	US\$740,552 from ESCI's Ordinary Capital (OC) and US\$359,448 from Multidonor Fund
Execution Period:	36 months
Disbursements Period:	48 months
Consultant Type:	Individual Consultants and Firms
UDR:	IFD/FMM
Priority Sector GCI-9:	(i) Infrastructure for competitiveness and social welfare, (ii) Institutions for growth and social welfare, and (iii) Protect the environment, respond to climate change, promote renewable energy, and secure food security.

II. OBJECTIVE AND JUSTIFICATION

- 2.1 **Objective.** The main objective of this Technical Cooperation (TC) is to implement the methodology of the Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative (ESCI) in Belize City, Belize under ESCI's regular program.
- 2.2 **Justification.** The operation will support a diagnostic assessment and the preparation of an action plan to improve the city's sustainability in the environmental, urban, and fiscal and governance dimensions. It will then support pre-investment studies consisting of more detailed diagnostics, the determination of economic and technical pre-feasibility, engineering drafts and designs of projects that are prioritized in the action plan. The operation also seeks financing for the consulting contracts necessary to carry out the rapid and efficient administration of all steps of the process. This operation is the continuation of a multi-sectorial effort that seeks to improve the quality of life in emerging cities in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in the long term.

III. DESCRIPTION OF COMPONENTS AND BUDGET

A. Components

- 3.1 **Component 1. Preparation, diagnostic assessment and analysis, prioritization, strategy selection, and preparation of action plan (US\$450,000).** This component includes the identification of critical action areas for the city using a multi-sectorial diagnostic assessment of the city's environmental, urban, and fiscal and governance dimensions analyzed by Bank specialists and consultants in conjunction with stakeholder interviews and other relevant documents such as development plans, and the subsequent prioritization of the critical action areas with the greatest potential to improve the sustainability and quality of life in the city using environmental, economic, and public opinion criteria. An action plan will then be developed with concrete strategies to address the issues identified in the priority action areas.
- 3.2 **Component 2. Pre-investment studies (US\$550,000).** The operation will finance pre-investment studies essential to the sustainability of Belize City. The pre-investment studies will cover projects in one or more of the initiative's three pillars (environmental, urban, and fiscal/governance). The number, depth, and areas of coverage of the studies will be determined by the action plan.
- 3.3 **Component 3. Monitoring system (US\$100,000).** This component will finance the design and initial implementation of an external system to monitor the results and impact of Belize City's action plan and the city's general progress.
- 3.4 As a result, in the short term, Belize City will have a diagnosis and prioritization of its critical areas, with solutions identified for the critical problems in an action plan. This plan will support an integrated vision of urban, environmental, and fiscal/institutional sustainability. The action plan will provide the city with an agenda of priority investments compatible with the technical and financial capacities necessary to execute it in an effective and efficient way. This will allow the city to execute high impact investments, avoiding wasting resources on low priority topics. In addition, the development of the ESCI coordination activities will advance inter-sectorial work within the Bank.

B. Budget

- 3.5 The budget for this technical cooperation will be US\$1,100,000, of which US\$740,552 will be financed by the ESCI's Ordinary Capital and US\$359,448 will be financed by the ESCI's Multidonor Fund.

Components	Total (USD)
Component 1. Preparation, diagnostic assessment, prioritization, action plan	450,000
Component 2. Pre-investment studies to be determined by the action plan	550,000
Component 3. Monitoring system	100,000
Total	1,100,00

IV. EXECUTION

- 4.1 The Bank will be responsible for executing this TC, through the Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative's coordination group in close coordination with IFD/FMM.

V. RISKS

- 5.1 There are two fundamental risks that could impede achieving the results of this TC: (i) lack of coordination among different government agencies during the implementation of the methodology in Belize City; and (ii) institutional weakness and low technical capacity of some areas of the city's government.
- 5.2 To minimize the first risk, during the execution of the TC the Bank's team will hold coordination meetings with government agencies involved in the process, including the Ministry of Finance. As to the second risk, the action plan will incorporate institutional strengthening methods to improve the capacity of the government to execute and supervise projects like those to be implemented from the ESCI action plan.

VI. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

- 6.1 This project is not expected to have any negative environmental and/or social impact. On the contrary, the studies and projects to have a positive social and environmental impact, promoting improvements in the urban environment and the quality of life of Belize City's residents. This TC has been rated as "C".