Technical Cooperation Abstract

I. Basic Project Data

Country/Region:	BELIZE/CID - Isthmus & DR	
TC Name:	Support for SOFF in Belize	
TC Number:	BL-T1180	
Team Leader/Members:	ALLENG, GERARD P. (CSD/CCS) Team Leader; SAMAYOA JUAREZ, JORGE OMAR (CSD/RND) Alternate Team Leader; RAMSUMAIR-JOHN, PRIYA ELIZABETH (CCB/CTT); LANDAZURI- LEVEY, MARIA C. (LEG/SGO); SALAZAR, ASTRID DANIELLE (CID/CBL); BLANC PAULINE LOLA (CSD/CCS); GOMEZ, JUAN CARLOS (CSD/CCS); ISABEL WILLIAMSON DAVID ALEJANDRO (ORP/GCM)	
 Taxonomy: 	Client Support	
 Number and name of operation supported by the TC: 	N/A	
 Date of TC Abstract: 	08 Oct 2024	
Beneficiary:	National Meteorological Service of Belize	
 Executing Agency: 	BELIZE	
IDB funding requested:	US\$0.00	
 Local counterpart funding: 	US\$0.00	
 Disbursement period: 	30 months	
 Types of consultants: 	Firms; Individuals	
 Prepared by Unit: 	CSD/CCS - Climate Change	
 Unit of Disbursement Responsibility: 	CID/CBL - Country Office Belize	
 TC included in Country Strategy (y/n): TC included in CPD (y/n): 	No Yes	
 Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2024-2030: 	Gender equality	

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 This TC will support the implementation of the Systematic Observations Financial Facility (SOFF) program in Belize.
- 2.2 The Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) is a funding mechanism designed to help countries address gaps in basic weather and climate observation data. To save lives, protect livelihoods, and safeguard property globally, it is essential to enhance the availability of weather and climate observations, especially in the most data-sparse areas. These observations are crucial for accurate weather forecasts, effective early warning systems, and comprehensive climate information services. The lack of such data limits countries' ability to adapt to climate change and build resilience.
- 2.3 In Belize, a Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) analysis conducted by the World Meteorological Organization in June 2023 revealed that the country needs one surface and one upper air observation station to meet GBON standards. Furthermore, a National Gap Analysis identified the need for an additional surface observation site in the south of Belize, specifically in Punta Gorda, to ensure complete GBON coverage and address the observation gaps in southern and western Belize, particularly near the Guatemalan border. This technical cooperation aims to establish and upgrade these observation stations to meet GBON standards.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component 1. GBON institutional and human capacity developed.** This component will raise awareness of GBON, refresh the NMS strategic plan, and provide leadership and staff training. It includes national consultations, Public-Private sector engagement, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) initiatives, and workshops with community leaders. The project will also establish standard operating procedures and a project team, offering targeted training in leadership, project management, and technical skills.
- 3.2 **Component 2. GBON infrastructure established.** This component will focus on strengthening infrastructure to improve weather and climate data collection. The first priority is upgrading land-based stations by enhancing equipment, ICT systems, data management, and operating practices to ensure more accurate and reliable data. The second priority is improving upper-air stations, upgrading equipment, ICT systems, and data management to enhance data transmission and consistency in operations.
- 3.3 **Component 3. Sustained compliance with GBON.** This component will focus on completing the commissioning period for both land-based and upper-air stations while establishing country-specific standards for operations and maintenance costs. Additionally, it will ensure that data sharing is verified by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Technical Authority, ensuring alignment with international standards.
- 3.4 **Component 4. Project Management.** This component will support the establishment of a project execution team, including project management and stakeholder management skills to support the execution of the project. as well as the project evaluation.

IV. Budget

Activity/Component	IDB Funding	Total
GBON institutional and human capacity developed	400,000	400,000
GBON infrastructure established	188,000	188,000
Sustained compliance with GBON	45,000	45,000
Project Management	120,000	120,000
Total	753,000	753,000

Indicative Budget (US\$)

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The National Meteorological Service of Belize (NMS) will be the executing agency for this project. A project execution unit will be established within the NMS. As the Executing Agency (AE), NMS will be responsible for (i) the project's technical, administrative, and operational management; (ii) the procurement of works, goods, and services; (iii) the preparation of disbursement requests; (iv) the preparation and update of annual work plans and the procurement plan, among others; (v) the submission of project management reports —the Annual Operation Plan, Semi-Annual Reports, and final evaluation reports; (vi) the monitoring, supervision, and inspection of works and service contracts. The EA will use the IDB's procurement and financial policies during execution.
- 5.2 The National Meteorological Service of Belize has worked with other implementing partners to implement projects on a similar scale. These include the Energy Resilience for Adaptation Project (ERCAP), the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agricultural Project (CRESAP) and the Resilient Rural Belize (RRB)

Program. Although, the NMS was not the primary executing/implementing entity in either of these projects, personnel within the department worked closely with the main executing entities to ensure that deliverables were met.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 The first risk to achieving the project objectives is the potential departure of NMS staff after being trained. To address this, efforts will focus on raising awareness about the importance of NMS among government bodies and securing funding support. Additionally, backup staff will receive adequate technical training to ensure continuity.
- 6.2 Another risk involves slow implementation and delays in procurement, installation, and capacity-building activities. This will be mitigated through regular project reporting and meetings. The IDB will conduct regular administrative and supervision missions to maintain implementation timelines. An Institutional Capacity Assessment of the Executing Entity will also be undertaken by the IDB to diagnose organizational strengths and weaknesses related to project management.
- 6.3 A further risk is the destruction or theft of SOFF-financed equipment and infrastructure. Standard operating procedures, including high-impact weather plans for deploying spares, will be in place. The GBON station at the airport is located in a secure area with minimal risk of theft or vandalism. For the proposed GBON station in Punta Gorda, the NMS will collaborate with local civil society organizations (CSOs) and community leaders to raise awareness about the station's importance and secure their commitment to protecting it from theft and vandalism.

VII. Environmental and Social Aspects

7.1 This TC does not have applicable requirements of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF).