

# UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



# UNDP

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## COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

### Consideration and approval of country programmes

#### SECOND COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR BELIZE

#### UNDP assistance requested by the Government of Belize for the period 1983-1986

Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986: \$1.650.000

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Belize became independent on 21 September 1981. In view of time constraints the Government of Belize requested that UNDP technical assistance to the country be approved on a project-by-project basis for 1982. The Governing Council, at its twenty-ninth session, approved its request (decision 82/4, A, VIII). The Government is now submitting to UNDP the second country programme of technical co-operation for development, which will cover the period 1 January 1983 through 31 December 1986.

2. UNDP is currently providing assistance primarily to two sectors: the public investment sector, mainly in agriculture-related activities under the project (BZE/79/002), and the energy sector, under the project (BZE/79/001). Follow-up activities of the social security project (BZE/75/002) and the forestry project (BZE/75/008) were also undertaken in 1982 with the organization of several study tours and the granting of a fellowship. Assistance was also offered to the Belize City Hospital in recruiting an anaesthesiologist (United Nations Volunteer) to organize and implement a training programme in basic anaesthesiology under a cost-sharing agreement. A shift of emphasis has occurred over the years from a relatively large number of small projects focussing on institution -

\* In accordance with decision 81/15, adopted by the Governing Council on 27 June 1981 (E/1981/61/Rev.1, annex I), the second country programme for Belize is being submitted to the Council without an accompanying note by the Administrator. The previous country programme for Belize and the accompanying note by the Administrator were issued under the document symbols DP/GC/BZE/R.1 and DP/GC/BZE/R.1/RECOMMENDATION, respectively.

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building activities to a more limited number of projects concentrated on fewer socio-economic sectors and aimed at a closer linkage with pre-investment activities.

3. The country programme document was prepared jointly by the Ministry of Finance and the UNDP Resident Representative's office for El Salvador and Belize. The priorities determined for this exercise by the Government are based on the Economic Plan of Belize 1980-1983. The recommendations contained in the World Bank Economic Memorandum on Belize of 1982 as well as the suggestions of selected agencies of the United Nations system served as inputs for the preparatory work of the country programme exercise.

4. For the preparation of this document, the Planning Unit of the Ministry of Finance consulted with the technical ministries about the problems and priorities of each sector. The necessity of eventually following-up programmes being implemented at present by United Nations executing agencies was also taken into consideration insofar as these programmes still figure among the Government's priorities for 1983-1986.

5. The second country programme, as submitted, reflects the perception of the Government regarding how best to utilize UNDP assistance for its national development. UNDP assistance has been concentrated in strategic areas, i.e. where it can play a catalytic role. The programme has been conceived so as to generate maximum impact in priority sectors, in particular through investment-oriented projects. In view of the relatively small Indicative Planning Figure for Belize, coherence between the evolving national development objectives, needs and priorities and UNDP technical co-operation was given priority attention in order to design a co-ordinated programme of interdependent and complementary efforts aimed at achieving the stated objectives, taking into consideration the various programmes of multilateral and bilateral assistance in Belize. In the same vein, the Government will spare no efforts in resorting to third-party cost-sharing in order to maximize resources available for programming. Furthermore, continuous dialogue will be maintained between the Government and the local representation of UNDP with a view to safeguarding the dynamic character of the country programme.

6. The resources taken into account for the period 1983-1986 amount to \$1,339,000. A reserve of \$18,000 has been set aside to meet unforeseen needs and respond to the dynamics of development.

#### UNDP TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ENVISAGED IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

7. The fundamental goals of the Government's development policy, as expressed in the 1980-1983 Development Plan for Belize, are: a) to promote a balanced development between the rural and urban areas; b) to continue the process begun earlier of laying the basis for development, and c) to enable Belizeans to share in the process and benefits of development. A development plan for the following years has not been prepared yet; however, it is anticipated that it will be given the same orientation and broadly follow the same policy lines.

8. The public sector programme is designed to broaden the social and economic infrastructure for progress in development, both in the private and public sectors. The programme emphasizes the expansion of the productive base of the economy and the exploitation of the country's natural resources.

The central objective of the UNDP technical assistance programme for 1983-1986 will be to support the national efforts to increase the productive base of the country giving priority to programmes or projects directed towards:

(a) Promotion of productive investments aiming at a greater utilization of natural resources and a more dynamic presence of Belize on the international markets. The natural resources considered here are mainly land, forest and petroleum. The policy will consist of securing the viability of core industries. Two corollaries will be:

(i) Assistance to medium-size producers for the improvement and expansion of the meat, dairy and timber industries and the main agricultural export-oriented crops, like rice, bananas, cacao, citrus;

(ii) The structured planning of human settlements around these industries.

With regard to petroleum, the Government of Belize intends to institutionalize the monitoring of petroleum exploration, which has already been started. Assistance may also be required for advising on the implementation of energy-oriented projects. It is the Government's intention to submit a request to the Energy Account administered by UNDP in the order of \$50,000;

(b) Identification and implementation of needs-based training in order to support developing core industries through increased efficiency in national management and technical capacity, through both formal and non-formal education;

(c) Reinforcement of the planning and implementation of the infrastructure necessary for the smooth running and expansion of the productive activities as well as the population's needs in general, with regard to transport, communications and energy, in particular. Initial efforts will concentrate on the study of transportation requirements for the main export crops, since the facilities available at present are creating bottlenecks to their major expansion. The study will examine the requirements for improvement of the airport and the port and road network, including bridges.

10. Within the above framework, the second country programme will promote, as far as possible, technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) and will be geared in such a way that it will promote self-reliance and build-up national capabilities through institution-building endeavours. TCDC efforts resulted in 1982 in the organization of study tours for three staff members of the National Social Security Scheme in three different countries of the Caribbean region. Further efforts will be made in this direction whenever possible for the development of the priority sectors determined by the Government for the years 1983-1986.

11. As a measure of support to activities already undertaken in Belize by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women (UNVFW) with the setting-up of a Women's Bureau in 1981 and by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with the "Income Generation for Women" element of its programme for Belize, future projects will give special consideration to women's needs.

12. In view of the emphasis given in the country programme to the linking of technical co-operation and pre-investment activities with investment follow-up, close and continuous contact will be maintained with major sources of funding for the supported projects, among others, those of the World Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank.

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13. The Government will use the second country programme as a frame of reference for the co-ordination of all programmes of assistance from within and outside the United Nations system, linking multilateral and bilateral sources of assistance to national and inter-country projects, in order to increase the impact of all resources made available to the country. Special consideration will also be given to the technical assistance brought by the European Development Fund (EDF) in the field of education and by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the promotion of private productive activities, and to regional development undertakings within the framework of the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development aimed at economic integration.

14. Available resources will be allocated to the three identified priority areas mentioned above. It is estimated that 85 percent of programmed resources will be allocated to two ongoing projects; 7.5 per cent to one new project and 7.5 percent to projects still to be defined, as described below. The three projects referred to above are of the direct support functional category.

15. The assistance provided in support of the promotion of productive investments and the utilization of natural resources will absorb approximately 81 percent of the UNDP resources to be distributed among:

(a) Productive activities:

The Public Investment project (BZE/79/002), which started in 1981, presented recommendations for securing the viability of priority productive projects and attracting capital or technical assistance from external sources for their development. The second phase of project activities will undertake the follow-up to these recommendations with respect to economic activities of national importance, such as the banana and citrus industries, the rice production, dairy and livestock projects and the Toledo integrated rural development project, and will support the activities of the recently created Investment Task Force in its role of project promoter with donors and financing agencies. The project will also be expanded in scope, covering additional major productive activities, such as wood industry, and organizing assistance to medium-size farmers and human settlements around the expanding industries. Co-ordination with the regional project, Promotion of private sector activities in the Caribbean (RLA/79/075), executed by the World Bank, will be maintained.

(b) Petroleum resources development:

External assistance will be requested in order to strengthen the recently created Petroleum Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources. The Office's functions are to monitor the drilling by oil companies offshore and onland, and analyse and interpret the samples and seismic data obtained from the drilling. In view of the project's size (estimated at US\$1 million), cost sharing will be sought between various sources of financial and technical assistance:

(c) Additional technical assistance might also be required for advising the Government on the implementation of energy-oriented projects, some of which have already been identified by the Ministry of Energy through the UNDP Energy Planning project, (BZE/79/001).

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16. Needs-based training requirements will be identified and implemented, with the short-term objective of supporting the development of core industries and the medium-term objective of increasing national management and technical capacity. A programme will be designed to operate in a non-formal adult education setting, and will aim primarily at bringing in-service workers to a higher level of performance and specialization. The programme design will be co-ordinated with EDF activities in the education sector and absorb 7.5 per cent of the available funds. The in-service and training programme in anaesthesiology for medical staff at Belize City Hospital will be considered from the perspective of fulfilling needs-based training requirements under the project BZE/82/001.

17. Improvements to the country's infrastructure will also aim at supporting the expansion of the main productive activities. It has been observed that the present transport facilities are creating bottlenecks to the expansion of production of some export crops and core industries, like sugar, banana, rice and citrus. A master plan study is needed in order to determine the transport requirements of the main exports and imports of the country. Co-ordination with the regional projects, Shipping in the Caribbean (RLA/79/051) and Caribbean Export Supply/Demand Study (ITC project No. RLA/20/30) will be established.

Annex

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

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<u>A. Resources</u>					
<u>(a) IPF and other resources</u>					
(i)	Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986			1,650,000	
(ii)	Less Unprogrammed balance a/			(330,000)	
(iii)	Less authorized budget level for 1982			(543,000)	
(iv)	Previous IPF cycle balance			562,000	
Total resources available for programming				1,339,000	
<u>B. Use of resources</u>					
<u>(a) Programmed</u>					
(i)	Ongoing projects			1,126,000	
(ii)	New projects and new phases of ongoing projects included in the country programme			100,000	
(iii)	Earmarked for specific objectives and activities for which projects are to be worked out at a later stage			95,000	
Subtotal				1,321,000	
<u>(b) Reserve</u>				18,000	
Total programmed plus reserve				1,339,000	
<u>C. Financial distribution of programme, by sector</u>					
<u>Sector</u>	<u>(b)/</u>	<u>Ongoing projects</u>	<u>New projects</u>	<u>Sectoral earmarkings</u>	<u>Total</u>
		\$	\$	\$	\$
03	Natural resources	465,000	-	-	465,000
05	Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	10,000			10,000
06	Transport and communications	-	100,000		100,000
07	International trade and development finance	611,000	-		611,000 (*)
11	Education		-	95,000	95,000
14	Social conditions and equity	40,000	-	40,000	40,000
TOTAL		1,126,000	100,000	95,000	1,321,000

(\*) Public Investment project (BZE/79/002)

a/ Representing 20 per cent of the illustrative IPF which has now been taken into account for programming.

b/ According to ACC classification.