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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Consideration and approval of country programmes

FIRST COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR
BAHAMAS

UNDP assistance requested by the Government of Bahamas
for the period 1982-1986

Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986: \$2,400,000

INTRODUCTION

1. The Bahamas country programme was prepared by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with all other Government Ministries and with the assistance of UNDP. Comments of United Nations agencies were taken into consideration as applicable.
2. The country programme covers the UNDP third programming cycle, 1982-1986. However, not all funds available for the latter part of the cycle (1985-1986) have been programmed as yet. Further requests for these unexpended funds will be made by the Government in due course in accordance with its development priorities.
3. The illustrative indicative planning figure (IPF) for the 1982-1986 cycle is \$2,400,000. In accordance with guidelines from UNDP, 80 per cent or \$1,920,000,

Note: In accordance with decision 81/15, adopted by the Governing Council on 27 June 1981 (E/1981/61/Rev. 1, Annex I), the first country programme for Bahamas is being submitted to the Council without an accompanying note by the Administrator.

The previous UNDP supported activities in Bahamas were described under the country programmes for the Caribbean and the accompanying notes by the Administrator which were issued under the document symbols DP/GC/CAR/R.1-DP/GC/CAR/R2 and DP/GC/CAR/R.1/RECOMMENDATION-DP/GC/CAR/R.2/RECOMMENDATION, respectively.

has been taken into account for programming. Over-expenditure in the second cycle, 1977-1981, will be carried over into the third cycle and charged against 1982. Cost-sharing by Government in the amount of \$509,728 (excluding over head cost) is projected for the third cycle.

Review of prior UNDP-supported activities

4. UNDP-supported activities in the Bahamas during the second cycle were undertaken within the framework of the sub-regional programme for the Caribbean. They have been reviewed and the results highlight their contribution in areas of special relevance to development in the Bahamas. It was noted that major emphasis of these activities (total 19 projects) was placed on the following areas:

(i) General development planning and public administration (six projects)

5. Assistance was provided for the establishment of a Planning Unit attached to the Cabinet Office as an essential tool and prerequisite for formulating and implementing economic and social planning for the development of the country. Assistance was received as well by the Budget Director in the areas of budget formulation, execution, control and management. Also benefiting from UNDP support were the Treasury Department, through the establishment of a central accounting system; the Department of Statistics, in establishing a first set of official national accounts which could be used for development planning; and the Ministry of Finance, through a central purchasing system for controlling waste stemming from public purchases. Many Bahamians at lower economic levels are benefiting through the establishment of a number of co-operatives in different fields which are being initiated with UNDP/ILO support through a newly founded Department of Co-operative Development.

(ii) Health (two projects)

6. Fellowship training programmes prepared Bahamians for greater positions of responsibility in the health care sector. The improvement of the management of health services, the efficiency of supply management and administrative support were other fields of concern where expertise helped to upgrade the health situation throughout the nation.

(iii) Fisheries and agricultural development including marketing (five projects)

7. In compliance with the major development target of raising self-sufficiency in food production, diversifying the almost total dependency of the national economy on tourism and related imports, and creating new employment as well as diminishing the rural exodus from the outer islands, the major part of UNDP assistance was directed to this sector. Training of skippers and fishermen was effected through a major programme which also covered such related fields as exploratory and experimental fishing, improvement of fish handling and processing, quality control and inspection, and fish marketing. To develop and make possible better planning in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, the conduct of the first census in agriculture received support as did the establishment of a marketing section in the Ministry of Agriculture. Preparatory assistance towards the expansion of sheep production, of particular concern and interest for the under-populated outer islands, will not be followed up on a large scale during the third cycle due to lack of funds. Direct funding is sought from FAO.

(iv) Natural resources (two projects)

8. Assistance in assessing the potential of groundwater resources of the metropolitan island, New Providence, and improving the quality and availability of water has been vitally important to the economic development of the Bahamas. Prior to the inception of the UNDP-assisted project, severe shortages were being experienced.

9. Other assistance (four projects) was related to the improvement of meteorological services, social conditions (prison rehabilitation and the health insurance system) and transport. An extensive air traffic control fellowship programme financed primarily by Government cost sharing, laid the foundation for the continued success of the tourism industry, which is vitally dependent on safe air services.

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

(i) Tourism

10. Many countries, primarily in Europe and in the Caribbean, have experienced a severe down turn in visitor arrivals. Some countries, long leaders in tourism, have had a five to ten per cent drop in visitors to their shores. With rampant inflation, escalating living costs and general economic uncertainties, trying to maintain a high level of tourist arrivals will be more difficult than ever before in this nation's experience. There will be fierce competition among countries for the tourist dollar. As a result the Bahamas intends to intensify its promotional campaign, improve tourist facilities and increase the number of air and sea carriers to the Bahamas.

(ii) Agriculture

11. The Bahamas intends to continue its efforts to promote self-sufficiency in this field. This has been attained in the production of a large quantity of various seasonal crops, poultry and eggs. It is the future goal to become self-sufficient in the production of pork and other livestock products.

(iii) Fisheries

12. The Government, assisted by UNDP, has invested considerable time, effort and funds in a large-scale programme to train Bahamians in modern fishing techniques in order to develop the fisheries industry. A number of significant fisheries training courses have been conducted up to the present time. As part of the Government's continuing commitment to the development of this industry, a contract has been signed to commence construction for a fish landing, handling and marketing complex.

(iv) Co-operative development

13. The development of the co-operative movement is considered a vital part of the Bahamas' economic development especially in the less developed islands where Bahamians find it difficult to obtain commercial loans. The Government will continue to assist and encourage the development of co-operatives as independent and economically self-sustaining businesses.

(v) Education

14. The Government has always upheld the principle that the education of the Bahamian people is one of the most vital elements in the development of the nation and therefore has afforded this sector the highest priority. It is envisaged that a number of new schools will be built, existing ones refurbished, technical and craft instructors trained and upgraded and that the technical and technological division of the Ministry of Education and Culture will be strengthened. Qualitative improvement to basic subject areas-language, mathematics and science-will be sought in 1982.

(vi) Public works and utilities

15. The Government will place continued emphasis on the expansion and upgrading of infrastructure both in New Providence and the Family Islands. The supply of water is always of considerable concern. Large-scale water shortages experienced in the recent past have been almost eliminated. Yet it must be remembered that only through constant diligence on the part of the Water and Sewerage Corporation, with the assistance of United Nations experts, does this resource continue to be available. If this effort is not vigilantly maintained, the serious problems of the past will return.

16. It is the Government's objective also to continue to upgrade roads, telephones, electricity, airports and docks to ensure meaningful development.

(vii) Security

17. The Government will continue to strengthen its internal security by increasing the number of officers, vehicles and vessels allotted and by upgrading and modernizing the communications system and other forms of equipment. The Government intends to increase the number of training attachments to equip the Police Force and Defence Force to deal effectively with the increasing number and sophistication of crimes, to combat illegal immigration problems and to eliminate the drug traffic.

(viii) Health

18. The Government plans action programmes to accelerate economic development by improving the physical quality of the labour force and reducing the burden of ill health. New clinics are to be constructed and existing ones expanded. A comprehensive community mental health programme will become an integral part of Ministry of Health's activities. Every effort will be made to improve the quality of health care being delivered.

19. In the field of environmental health, legislation will be enacted to regulate industrial activities, conduct epidemiological surveys to determine the nature, cause and correlation between reported illnesses and the environment.

Summary of UNDP assistance

(i) Transport and communication

20. The Government wishes to continue using the services of UNDP/ICAO for the training of airport personnel in the field of air traffic control. Radar is to be

installed at the Nassau International Airport during the forthcoming year in an effort to improve facilities and ensure the safety of visitors to the Bahamas. The entire cost of this assistance will be paid by Government on the basis of a cost sharing contribution.

21 Following an advisory mission from ITU, a request for expertise and legal advice might be forthcoming to upgrade the telecommunications sector and to strengthen the awareness for future developments in this highly technological and fast developing field. This is of particular importance and is a prerequisite for the well-reputed banking and insurance industry. It is expected that services rendered will be paid for on a cost sharing or funds-in-trust basis.

(ii) Fisheries

22. Following the completion of the large-scale fisheries training project, Government will require the continued assistance of UNDP/FAO to assist in the establishment, effective operation and management of its new Fish Terminal Complex scheduled for completion in 1982. FAO assistance is also required to conduct a stratified resources survey using direct observation techniques in order to ensure proper management of marine resources. FAO expertise will also be required to assist in the completion of aquaculture regulations to meet industrial development demands.

(iii) Co-operative development

23. The Government will continue to require UNDP/ILO assistance to assist in the design and implementation of systems for credit, management, audit and supervision as well as distribution of production inputs and marketing of members goods in order that co-operatives become efficient, viable business organizations. Equally important will be the design and implementation of education and training programmes for members, management committees and staff of the co-operatives.

(iv) Water resources development

24. The Government will continue to require UNDP assistance to (1) prepare scheme designs, construct works, plan, improve and manage facilities for the extraction and transmission of about 3 million imperial gallons per day (mgd) of water mainly by gravity conduits; (2) strengthen the marine operation of the Water Corporation to have the capability of transportation by sea 4.5 mgd of water from North Andros to New Providence; (3) improve the efficiency of water collection, delivery, transmission and distribution systems on wellfields and to consumers; and (4) provide on and off the job training in water management and supply to national personnel.

(v) Health

25. The Government will continue to require UNDP/PAHO assistance in the field of health care to develop ability in the areas of medical records environmental health and procurement of supplies. A number of fellowships will be required to assist in training Bahamians to perform at a high level of proficiency in these areas.

(vi) Supply management

26. The Government will continue to require UNDP assistance for six months into

the third cycle to complete the assignment of the Central Purchasing Adviser who is assisting in the establishment of a centralized system for the purchase of supplies on a systematized basis at a greatly reduced cost. A further extension might be desirable to reach originally set targets, but will be subject to cost sharing.

(vii) Regional, interregional and global projects

27. Requests for participation are expected on a selective basis in appropriate fields which are in accordance with national development objectives when the full range of new programmes is established.

Assistance other than from UNDP

28. The full extent of third-cycle assistance from other United Nations agencies and other resources is not yet known. Some, however, has already been identified.

29. PAHO will continue to render technical assistance over the 1982-1983 biennium to the Ministry of Health by providing expertise, consultancy services, fellowships, seminars, supplies and material in the fields of communicable disease control, dental health, environmental service, development of health services, health statistics, management of health services as well as programme planning and activities totaling \$609,200. Projections for 1984-1985 in the same fields amount to \$677,000.

30. FAO is expected to support different projects in the field of agriculture from its TCP resources on a limited but not yet established financial basis subject to individual requests from the Government.

31. The Bahamas will continue to receive technical assistance through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation. However, fields where expertise and fellowships will be forthcoming as well as respective funds have not yet been specified.

32. The European Development Fund has established a quinquennial programme totaling \$2,300,000 mainly in the fields of agriculture and trade development.

Annex

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A.	<u>Resources</u>		\$
	(a) IPF and other resources		
	(i) Illustrative IPF for programme period	2 400 000	
	(ii) Carry-over from previous IPF cycles	(115 000)	
	(iii) Other resources (Government cost-sharing)	510 000	
	(b) Provision for adequate programming	-	
	TOTAL	2 795 000	
B.	<u>Use of resources</u>		
	(a) Programmed		
	(i) Ongoing projects	735 000	
	(ii) New projects and new phases included in the country programme	1 164 000	
	(iii) Earmarked for specific objectives and activities for which projects are to be worked out (continuous programming at a later stage)	-	
	Subtotal	1 899 000	
	(b) Reserve	416 000	
	(c) Unprogrammed balance <u>a/</u>	480 000	
	TOTAL	2 795 000	

C. Financial distribution of programme, by sector

<u>Sector</u> ^{b/}	<u>Ongoing projects</u>	<u>New projects</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	\$	\$	\$
02 General development issues, etc.	112 000	166 000	278 000
03 Natural resources	64 000	442 000	506 000
04 Agriculture	49 000	380 000	429 000
06 Transport and communications	510 000	-	510 000
10 Health	-	176 000	176 000
TOTAL	735 000	1 164 000	1 899 000

a/ Representing 20 per cent of the illustrative IPF which has not been taken into account for programming in accordance with the Administrator's instructions contained in UNDP/PROG/FIELD/111; UNDP/PROG/HQTRS/126.

b/ According to ACC classification.

