

## Government of Belize

### FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE AND THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR MARITIME TRANSPORT FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE PROGRAM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND MARITIME TRANSPORT AND POLLUTION CONTROL IN THE GULF OF HONDURAS (BELIZE, GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS)

The Government of Belize, hereafter called "The Government", represented in this Agreement by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Local Government and the Environment and the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications and the Central American Commission for Maritime Transport, hereafter called "COCATRAM";

#### CONSIDERING:

That the Gulf of Honduras encompasses a tri-national body of coastal and marine waters, including portions of the exclusive economic zones of Belize, Guatemala and Honduras.

That the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), as Implementing Agency of the Project, with the purpose of enhancing the prevention and control for maritime transport-related pollution in the major ports, navigation lanes and marine and coastal areas adjacent to the Gulf of Honduras, has proposed to the Global Environment Fund (GEF) the funding of a project, which has been approved by this UN organization.

That the abovementioned Program has been called "Environmental Protection and Maritime Transport Pollution Control in the Gulf of Honduras", with a duration of five years commencing from the year 2005.

That during the years 2002 and 2003 the Project was prepared, which included the consultancy work and the participation of countries, institutions and organizations of civil society involved in the determination of the different aspects related to the future execution of the project, such as the counterpart contributions by each participating Government and the choosing of the executing agency. The executing agency of the Project will carry it out through a Project Coordination Unit (PCU), the Focal Points and National Coordination Committees in each country: Belize, Guatemala and Honduras.

That during the Fourth Meeting or Final Meeting for the Preparation of the Project for "Environmental Protection and Maritime Transport Pollution Control in the Gulf of Honduras," held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on October 9 and 10, 2003, it was approved that COCATRAM be the executing organization of the Program to the IDB and that the Central Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) will act in the capacity of co-executor for environmental matters.

That during the Final Meeting and the rest of Preparatory Workshops, as well as in the PDF-B phase, the contributions of the countries were quantified; the Government of Belize's counterpart contribution has been covered in the form of its in-kind contribution to the non-reimbursable GEF/IDB project funds.

That COCATRAM was created through Resolution 5-80 (ROMRIECA-XXIII) of the Meeting of the Ministers Responsible for the Central American Economic Integration, on July 15, 1980, as a specialized commission of the Central American Integration System, under the authority of the Transport Ministers Meeting (REMITRAN), as an International-Regional Organization, with its headquarters located in the city of Managua, Nicaragua.

That REMITRAN through Resolution of its VII Meeting...

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That COCATRAM is the technical advisory organ for the Central American Governments on matters related to the formulation of ports and maritime transport policies and actions for their application at the national and regional levels in order to promote and strengthen foreign trade.

That the CCAD is the technical advisory organ for the Central American Governments on matters related to the formulation of environmental policies and actions for their application at the national and regional levels. The CCAD brings to the Project its programmatic experience that is complementary to COCATRAM's, in addition to its political relations in the environmental field and public awareness programs targeting civil society.

That in order to facilitate the execution of the Gulf of Honduras Project, it is convenient to formalize a Framework Agreement, with the objective of determining the facilities, prerogatives and support that the Government as participant in the Project will contribute towards the development and implementation of project activities.

### AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

**First:** The Government recognizes that COCATRAM is the regional agency in charge for the execution of the Gulf of Honduras Project, according to the Contract signed between COCATRAM and the Inter-American Development Bank. The Central American Commission for Environment and Development in its capacity of co-executor is annexed to this Framework Agreement.

**Second:** COCATRAM will carry out the execution of the Gulf of Honduras Project, according to the mechanisms established in the Operational Regulations of the approved Program.

**Third:** To recognize this Framework Agreement as a formal alliance of collaboration and joint action to implement the activities of the Project.

**Fourth:** That the Project will be directed by a Project Steering Committee in which the Ministers of Environment and Transport or their delegates are voting members.

**Fifth:** The Government will designate one of its institutions as Focal Point for the Project. A National Coordination Committee will be constituted by the Focal Point to carry out follow-up activities, create awareness and report on the activities of the Program at the national level.

The Focal Point, with the support of COCATRAM, will select members from the National Coordinating Committee to be nominated as representatives of the Regional Steering Committee, according to regional representation criteria described in the Operational Regulations.

**Sixth:** To strength substantially the capacity of the governmental, non-governmental and private institutions in the country, in order to achieve the integrated management of marine and coastal resources and the strengthening of good practices in the areas of maritime transport and safety.

**Seventh:** That the present Framework Agreement will be executed through specific Memorandums of Understanding for each work plan defined jointly. In these Memorandums of Understanding there shall be established the operational modalities of the Parties the activities chronograms

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**Ninth:**

The Government and COCATRAM, according to their means and communication methods will divulge in the region the information regarding the process and activities carried out by this Project. Furthermore, they will make their best efforts to serve as a feedback channel required by such actions.

**Tenth:**

COCATRAM will strengthen communications with the Focal Point designated by the Government, on all of those processes known in the region that can be of interest for the strengthening of the activities carried out in its territory. The Focal Point will serve as member of the Regional Steering Committee and as the liaison with the National Coordination Committee.

**Eleventh:**

The Government will make available to the Project the relevant information at its disposal. In so doing, both parties agree to improve the quality and quantity of information at the regional level, regarding the state of the coastal and marine resources of the Gulf of Honduras, in order to support the proper planning of development projects and the solution of potential conflicts where it may be necessary.

**Twelfth:**

To strengthen the efforts and cooperation/coordination programs between the countries, with and between the international, regional, bilateral and multilateral institutions and organizations in order to benefit the activities and products of the Project.

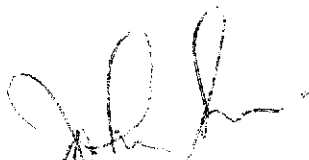
**Thirteenth:**

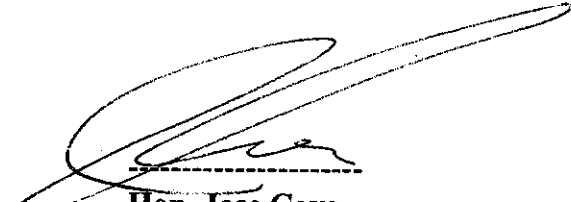
This Framework Agreement will come into effect on the date of the signing of the Contract IADB-COCATRAM, mentioned in the First Point of this Agreement.

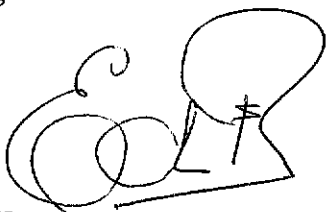
**Fourteenth:**

This Framework Agreement could be modified according to the process described in the Operational Regulations which requires the approval of the Project Steering Committee.

Signed in the City of Belmopan, Belize, on the day \_\_\_\_\_ of the month of \_\_\_\_\_, of the year two thousand and five.

  
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**Hon. John Briceño**  
Deputy Prime Minister &  
Minister of Natural Resources,  
Local Government and the  
Environment

  
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**Hon. Jose Coye**  
Minister Works, Transport  
& Communications

  
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**Eduardo Pavón Cámbar**  
President of the Board  
On behalf of the Central American Commission  
for Maritime Transport (COCATRAM)