

During the period 1973-1976 it is estimated that approximately B\$84 million will be required for the projects in the Development Plan. Of this amount, B\$24 will be financed through loans, mostly from the Caribbean Development Bank, and B\$33 by overseas grants, mostly from the United Kingdom and Canada, the remainder to be financed from internal sources. The economic and social development objectives, as outlined in the draft Plan, are as follows:

1. A higher rate of growth in real output through an expansion of:
 - a) Farm output for export and for import substitution; and
 - b) Industrial production, also for export and import substitution.
2. Increased rate of national savings, especially the share generated by the Public Sector and, through this means, the participation of nationals in the key sectors of the economy.
3. An absolute reduction in the current balance of payments account deficit.
4. Increased employment opportunities.
5. Diversification of the economy so as to increase its viability, i.e. to reduce dependence on a few crops.
6. A higher rate of growth originating in the tourist sector.

The Government recognises that basic to the achievement of these objectives is the need to develop its infrastructure and administrative capacity and is adopting the necessary measures to this end.

B. Justification for the project

The Economic Planning Unit has completed the revised final draft of the National Development Plan 1974-1976. The Plan has taken approximately three years to prepare, due to a general shortage of staff and lack of experience. The Unit also has the responsibility for the National Accounts, the quality of which needs to be improved, as they are only prepared at current prices, and not at constant prices. The National Accounts for 1971 were prepared with the assistance of a UK/ODA expert. The 1972 National Accounts are to be published shortly.

The two Statisticians presently employed by the Unit are not fully qualified, and both are in need of further training and experience, as are the economic planning staff. As there is a complete lack of facilities for higher-level education within the country, all staff has to receive training abroad; outside assistance is required in the form of operational experts, as there are no suitably qualified local personnel to replace the Unit's staff during the time of their fellowships abroad, as Belize suffers from a severe shortage of qualified people in all fields. Also the staff need to receive practical in-service training from the experts on planning procedures, the collection of statistical data and the preparation of statistical tables and National Accounting figures.

C. Institutional Framework

The Cabinet Development Committee (CDC) is the supreme body responsible both for planning and implementing the Plan once it is formulated. Its membership consists of all the Ministers, with the Premier as Chairman and the Head of the Planning Unit as Secretary. Carrying out the planning role of the CDC is the Economic Planning Unit, set up in 1967 within the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and situated in Belmopan, the capital city. It has the responsibility for economic planning and the collection, compiling, analysis, and publication of statistical material. In executing its functions the Unit makes its own studies on various aspects of the economy and development possibilities, and co-ordinates and collects the data and proposals for the compilation of the Development Plan. The staff consists of the Head, one Senior Economist, one Economist and two Statisticians, with one vacancy for another Economist, yet to be filled. Also one clerk is undergoing training to become a statistical clerk.

D. Provisions for Government follow-up

Following the experts recommendations, more co-ordination with the various Ministries, with respect to planning and implementing the Plan, is envisaged.

E. Other related activities

The previous National Development Plan (1964-1970) was based on a report made by an UNTAB mission in 1962-1963, but no follow-up evaluation was ever carried out. There have been missions in the past to advise on planning, but only of a very short duration.

Within the Belize Country Programme 1973-1976, UNDP technical assistance has been requested to help in the continual reviewing of the agricultural plan and preparation of projects already identified within the Plan.' This will take the form of one Agricultural Planner to work within the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Co-operatives, and one volunteer qualified in Agricultural Statistics. Assistance has also been requested to help plan the industrial development of Belize: an expert in Industrial Programming and Policy will work with the Ministry of Trade and Industry to assist the Government in the formulation of short, medium and long-term investment policies and programmes for the industrial sector.

ROCAP, US-AID technical assistance to Belize has included Civil Service personnel being trained in the USA in, among other areas, agricultural planning. Assistance is to continue throughout 1974 in the form of training Civil Service personnel capable of planning and implementing national development programmes.

The British Development Division in the Caribbean provided a Statistician for the Economic Planning Unit during the first three months of 1973, in order to assist in the compilation of the National Accounts for 1971.

F. Future UNDP assistance

Future UNDP assistance is not envisaged for long-term periods, although short consultancy missions may be requested.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

This project is included in the Country Programme for Belize, submitted to the UNDP Governing Council for approval at its January 1974 Session.

A. Long range objective

1. To improve national planning and statistical procedures.

B. Immediate Objectives

1. To strengthen the organisational, administrative and operational structure of the Economic Planning Unit.
2. To establish a co-ordinated system of economic planning and national accounting, including analytical, formulative and evaluative procedures.
3. To train local personnel in economic planning and statistics, by providing fellowships abroad and in-service training.

III. WORK PLAN

A. <u>Description of project activities</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Proposed duration and starting date</u>
1. Collection, analysis and compiling of statistical data for the National Accounts and Economic Surveys.	Belmopan	18 months November 1974
2. To assess and evaluate present effectiveness of the National Plan and advise on revisions if necessary.	Belmopan	2 months November 1974
3. Establish continual review procedures for the implementation of the National Development Plan and monitoring of its implementation.	Belmopan	16 months January 1975
4. To train counterpart personnel in planning procedures	Belmopan	18 months November 1974

6.

A. <u>Description of project activities</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Proposed duration and starting date</u>
5. To set up an effective system of co-ordination regarding planning with the various Ministries and the private sector.	Belmopan	16 months January 1975
6. Fellowships for local staff of the Economic Planning Unit, in Statistics and Economic Planning.	to be decided	18 months 1974

B. Description of UNDP inputs

1. Assignment of international staff

- i) One Statistician (OPAS) able to work on the collection, analysis and compilation of statistical data, and with experience in drawing up National Accounts. Preferably should have experience of working in a Unit with extremely limited resources and experience.
- ii) One General Economic Planner (OPAS) to review the National Development Plan, and assist in its implementation. He will set up effective planning procedures, train local staff, and improve co-ordination between the Ministries and the EPU.
- iii) One United Nations Volunteer, qualified in Statistics, to assist the OPAS Statistician.

2. Training provisions

The two Statisticians presently employed by the Unit will receive training abroad as well as from the expert himself. There are also training provisions for two of the Economic Planning staff.

C. Description of Government inputs

The Government has made extra provision for their share of the salaries of the OPAS experts, as well as including in their annual budget the salaries of six professional staff. Secretarial support will be made available to the experts, plus suitable office space.

Project Budget Covering UNDP Contribution
(in U.S. Dollars)

Country: BELIZE
Project No.: BZE/74/001/A/01/01
Title: Assistance to the Economic Planning Unit (OPAS)

		<u>Total</u>		<u>1974</u>		<u>1975</u>		<u>1976</u>	
		<u>m/m</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>m/m</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>m/m</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>m/m</u>	<u>\$</u>
10.	<u>PROJECT PERSONNEL</u>								
12	<u>OPAS Experts</u>								
12-01	Statistician	18	38,100	2	4,200	12	25,400	4	8,500
12-02	General Economic Planner	18	38,100	2	4,200	12	25,400	4	8,500
14	UNV - Statistician	18	4,500	2	500	12	3,000	4	1,000
19.	Sub-total	54	80,700	6	8,900	36	53,800	12	18,000
30.	<u>TRAINING</u>								
31	<u>Fellowships</u>								
31-01	Statistics 003	9	4,500	-	-	9	4,500	-	-
31-02	Statistics	9	4,500	-	-	3	1,500	6	3,000
31-03	Economic Planning	9	4,500	-	-	9	4,500	-	-
31-04	Economic Planning	9	4,500	-	-	3	1,500	6	3,000
39.	Sub-total	36	18,000	-	-	24	12,000	12	6,000
99.	GRAND TOTAL	98,700	=====	8,900	=====	65,800	=====	24,000	=====

Project Budget Covering Government Contribution
(in Belize Dollars)

Country: BELIZE
Project No.: BZE/74/001/A/01/01
Title: Assistance to the Economic Planning Unit (OPAS)

		Total		1974		1975		1976	
		m/m	\$	m/m	\$	m/m	\$	m/m	\$
10.	<u>PROJECT PERSONNEL</u>								
15-01	General Economic Planner (OPAS contribution)	18	10,950	2	1,220	12	7,300	4	2,430
15-02	Statistician (OPAS contribution)	18	10,950	2	1,220	12	7,300	4	2,430
15-03	Head of Department	18	16,500	2	1,840	12	11,000	4	3,660
15-04	Senior Economist	18	12,270	2	1,360	12	8,180	4	2,730
15-05	Economist	18	8,940	2	990	12	5,960	4	1,990
15-06	Economist	18	8,250	2	920	12	5,500	4	1,830
15-07	Statistician	18	9,555	2	1,065	12	6,370	4	2,120
15-08	Statistician	18	7,425	2	825	12	4,950	4	1,650
19.	Sub-total	144	84,840	16	9,440	96	56,560	32	18,840
99.	GRAND TOTAL	144	84,840	16	9,440	96	56,560	32	18,840