

IAA QUARTERLY REPORT

U.S.G. Agency: Department of Commerce
Country: Nicaragua
Report Period: July1, 2000 through September 30, 2000
Agency Lead: Curtis Barrett

C. Results/Impact Indicators

Reconstruct and Improve Tide Gauge Stations	IR-1.8 The number of tide stations installed	N/A
	IR-1.9 Training sessions held for in-country government agencies responsible for operating water level stations, assuring data quality, and providing sea level data.	N/A

D. Narrative Report

The key accomplishments during this reporting period include:

- Bidding process on tidal gauges and meteorological stations executed
- Regional Coordinating Agency determined
- Institutional baseline report
- Reconnaissance trip by RONMAC Staff

They are described below in more detail.

Key Accomplishments

Tidal Gauge/Meteorological Station Bidding Process Executed

During this period, the procurement process for the purchase of one digital ground station and seventeen state-of-the-art sea-level and meteorological monitoring and data dissemination systems was initiated. RONMAC staff conducted an extensive analysis of many manufacturers. It was determined that two companies, (Sutron and Vitel) have the capability of delivering a system that can monitor meteorological parameters under the World Meteorological Organization (“WMO”) Standards and also process both meteorological and sea-level data under NOS/NOAA Standards. Prior to requesting proposals from Vitel and Sutron, a RONMAC staff member made site visits to both firms and discussed the project with representatives of each firm. Subsequently, he discussed the technical merits of both firms with the NOS/NOAA technical staff, and then prepared a request for proposal, which was sent to each firm. Based on the proposals received, evaluation by RONMAC staff, the lower price offered by Vitel for the equipment, and Organization of American States’ previous satisfactory experience with Vitel, Inc. and the

CPACC project in 1997, the contract was awarded to Vitel, Inc. for the purchase of seventeen (17) state-of-the-art sea-level and meteorological monitoring and data dissemination systems and one (1) digital ground station. Vitel is currently in the process of assembling the equipment.

Regional Coordinating Agency

The Comité Regional de Recursos Hidráulicos (CRRH) was officially designated as the Regional Coordinating Agency for the RONMAC project. The Organization of American States and CRRH signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding this designation. It details the responsibilities of both organizations. In particular, CRRH is responsible for 1) Analysis and Recommendations of Appropriate Institutions; 2) Coordinate Two Regional Coordination Meetings; 3) Coordinate Two Steering Committee Meetings; and 4) Assist the GS/OAS with communication and with supervision of field work.. *See attached (unsigned) MOU. A signed copy is available upon request.*

Institutional Baseline Report

The Regional Committee for Water Resources (CRRH), in its role as the Regional Coordinating Agency for the RONMAC project, researched and presented an institutional baseline report. This consisted of a consultant visiting the four RONMAC participating countries and conducting meeting and interviews with the key stakeholders and potential participating agencies. The report serves as a valuable guide for participation of various institutions and organizations. In addition, it made important suggestions regarding the execution of the RONMAC project and its related activities. *See attached report synopsis.*

Reconnaissance trip by RONMAC Staff

RONMAC staff carried out a reconnaissance trip to Nicaragua. The purpose of the trip was to meet with representatives of INETER to discuss technical aspects of RONMAC project and make site visits to Puerto Cabezas and Corinto, Nicaragua. During the trip, staff met with Mauricio Rosales (Director of the Meteorology Department), Luis Palacios (Director of the Water Resources Department), Sergio Cordonero (Director of the Hydrography Section), Gilberto Ruiz (Director in Puerto Cabezas, Empresa Nacional Portuaria), Leandro V. Peña Ugarte (Director of Operations of the Corinto Port, Empresa Nacional Portuaria), and INETER technicians. Station designs were completed for both sites and the equipment was demonstrated to both INETER and port staff.

Constraints and Problems

Reconstruct and Improve Tide Stations

None to report.

Implementation and Effectiveness of Environmental/Disaster Mitigation Measures

At this stage of the Mitch reconstruction program, we have no comments on the mission's environmental/disaster mitigation measures.

E. Success stories/Vignettes

Reconstruct and Improve Tide Stations

- NOAA completed site selection for tide stations at Puerto Corinto, Puerto Sandino, and Puerto Cabezas.
- NOAA developed working relationships with INETER and ENP to ensure the sustainability of the tide station network.

- NOAA reached an agreement with the Organization of America States (OAS) to facilitate cooperative activities in Central America related to the development and management of the tide station network.