

IAA QUARTERLY REPORT

U.S.G. Agency: Department of Commerce
Country: Nicaragua
Report Period: October 1 – December 31, 2000
Agency Lead: Curtis Barrett

The following discusses Department of Commerce (DOC) activities and accomplishments for the referenced reporting period. The report is organized by county and further broken down by the problem areas identified in the DOC Implementation Plan (*U.S. Department of Commerce's Implementation Plan for Reconstruction Work in Central America*, July 1999). In addition, Result Indicators in this report are the Intermediate Results (IRs) referenced in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Hurricane Mitch Reconstruction Program Tracking System for the Department of Commerce and the Performance Indicators referenced in the DOC Implementation Plan. Where applicable, Mission SpO indicators are provided for reference.

A. DOC Problem Area: Base Infrastructure Reconstruction

Problem Area Objectives:

- Provide a foundation for ongoing reconstruction efforts
- Reconstruct and improve weather forecast and early warning networks
- Promote safe and efficient air and marine transportation
- Provide for a geo-spatial data and water level reference framework
- Ensure that capacity exists to maintain and expand new base infrastructure

B. DOC Activities:

- Reconstruct and improve geodetic networks
- Reconstruct and improve hydrometeorological data collection networks
- Reconstruct and improve tide stations

C. Results/Impact Indicators

OMB Intermediate Result

IR-1: The restoration and development of base geodetic and environmental monitoring infrastructure in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador

DOC Measures of Progress (Ref: DOC Implementation Plan)	Intermediate Result	Accomplished Previous Reporting Period	Accomplished This Reporting Period
Reconstruct and Improve Geodetic Networks	IR-1.1 Number of continuously operating reference stations (CORS) that are installed	N/A	<i>Future Activity. On schedule</i>
	IR-1.2 “Train the trainer” sessions held for US private contractors and US and Central America academic institutions	N/A	<i>Future activity. On schedule</i>
	IR-1.3 The number of first, Second, third order benchmarks That are installed	N/A	<i>Future activity. On schedule</i>
	IR-1.4 Training sessions held for In-country government agencies Responsible for surveys	N/A	<i>Future activity. On schedule</i>

Reconstruct and Improve Hydrometeorological Data Collection Platform/Telecommunications Networks	IR-1.5 The number of data collection platforms (DCPs) that are installed	N/A	
	IR-1.6 The percentage of telecommunications network installed	N/A	
	IR-1.7 The number of connections to other sensors, such as tide gauges, that are established	N/A	
Reconstruct and Improve Tide Gauge Stations	IR-1.8 The number of tide stations installed	N/A	<i>Future Activity. Puerto Corinto station installation re-scheduled for January 2001 and the Puerto Cabazes station installation re-scheduled for February 2001.</i>
	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	

Cumulative accomplishments to date are not applicable at this time and will be provided with future quarterly reports.

Nicaraguan Mission Intermediate Results Framework:

Mission Intermediate Result	NOAA Activity		
	Geodetic Networks	Hydromet Networks	Tide Stations
IR 1.1 Agriculture			
IR 1.2 Land Title			
IR 1.3 Infrastructure			
IR 3.1 Environmental Management			
IR 3.2 Preparedness			

Note: Matrix cells marked “ ” indicate direct support for the mission IR. Matrix cells marked “ ” indicate a supporting relationship. Blank cells indicate no relationship. In no case does a NOAA activity conflict or interfere with a mission IR.

D. Narrative Report

The key accomplishments during this reporting period include

- Bidding process on tidal gauges and meteorological stations completed. Stations purchased and shipped to El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua.
- Amendment to MOU with CRRH signed
- MOU with Nicaragua signed.
- The Intra-Americas Sea (IAS) Tsunami Warning System meeting..

They are described below in more detail.

Key Accomplishments

Tidal Gauge/Meteorological Station Bidding Process Executed and Equipment Shipped to El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua

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 completed. This consisted of inspection, testing and acceptance of all equipment components from the manufacturer (Vitel, Inc.). Project staff coordinated the packing and logistical arrangements for the delivery of equipment. Equipment was shipped and cleared customs in El Salvador and Honduras. It has been shipped to Nicaragua, but due to the holiday season, has not yet cleared customs. Guatemala will receive equipment in January 2001.

Amendment to MOU with CRRH signed

The OAS and CRRH signed an amendment to the MOU regarding RONMAC. This provides for the contracting of an Assistant Technical Coordinator for the RONMAC Project. The Assistant Technical Coordinator works under the supervision of the OAS and CRRH. The principal role of the Assistant Technical Coordinator is to assist the OAS and CRRH in the execution of the RONMAC Project. The staff person assuming this position began his responsibilities in November, 2000. Additionally, as per the amendment, CRRH has acquired the adequate space needed for a data/calibration center. The responsibilities of the position and details regarding the data/calibration center are outlined in the attached (unsigned) MOU. A signed copy is available upon request.

MOU with Nicaragua

An MOU with the Government of Nicaragua was signed. This document outlined the responsibilities of both the Nicaraguan Government and the Organization of American States. The (unsigned) MOU is attached. A signed copy is available upon request.

The Intra-Americas Sea (IAS) Tsunami Warning System meeting

The Intra-Americas Sea (IAS) Tsunami Warning System meeting took place at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez from December 19 to 21, 2000. The meeting was sponsored by the Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program, the Pacific Branch of the U.S. National Weather Service, and the International Ocean Committee (IOC). The objective of the meeting was to finalize the tsunami warning system project proposal for the IAS, and to establish coordination mechanisms between the Pacific and the Caribbean in this area. The meeting was attended by representatives from the IOC, IOCARIBE, NOAA-NWS, U of Puerto Rico, International Tsunami Warning System, Universidad del Valle -Colombia, Governments of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, France, Puerto Rico, the Central American Sea-level Observing system and RONMAC, and the OAS. At this meeting, Alejandro

Gutierrez made a presentation on the RONMAC Project, and how it could play a role in the proposed tsunami monitoring network.

Constraints and Problems

Reconstruct and Improve Tide Stations

RONMAC project initially planned on one to two installations being completed in Nicaragua by December 31, 2000. Due to various constraints, the project has experienced a minor delay. The equipment shipped to Nicaragua was not cleared through customs during this quarter. Unexpectedly, the customs office shut down in mid-December and will not re-open until after the New Year. Upon it's opening, the Project will obtain the items and proceed with the installation.

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