



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Summary

Panama Resilience Strategy

Business Opportunities Identified

Abu Dhabi Colombo Copenhagen London Luanda San Jose Panama Zagreb Abuja Chongqing Cotonou Ljubljana Luxembourg San Francisco Santiago De Chile Y

The City of Panama has been a strategic route for maritime and trans-isthmian transit from the sixteenth century until today. Its geopolitical wealth has fostered cultural, commercial and technological exchange worldwide. Panama City has also been the location for international transactions in business, banking, tourism and trade, with a history of being the route for spices, silver, silk, porcelain and gold.

The consolidation of the role of Panama as a connection platform for global development started during the construction of the inter-oceanic canal. With the growth of the population, Panama City evolved and expanded. In 1907, new settlements originated along what is currently the boundary of the protected area of the canal basin, and the trans-isthmian highway was created, which connected the Caribbean with the Pacific Ocean. With this growing connectivity, the informal and formal settlements that make up the urban footprint began to compete with ecosystems. At the same time, growing inequality created two cities that were subject to different rights and opportunities.

Faced with these new challenges, opportunities for urbanization, and incentives for more autonomous local governments, the administration of Panama City begins a process of decentralization of the roles of the Panamanian

State, moving the governance of many areas that were previously governed nationally to the local level. In this way, the city becomes responsible for responding to the needs of its citizens. The city, increasingly, is endowed with tools that allow it to generate policies, plans, programs and projects that strengthen the vision of resilience, including not only the impacts, but also the tensions that weaken its structure and functioning.

Panama City is one of the cities of the 100 Resilient Cities Program of the Rockefeller Foundation that is developing and implementing a Resilience Strategy. The process of developing this strategy consisted of an identification of the vulnerabilities of the city, studies and analyses of those problems and an action plan that will contribute to the building of resilience in the city. The information was compiled and organized into 5 pillars, 11 goals and 45 actions that make up this resilience strategy.

Business Opportunities Identified

The report 'Panamá Resiliente' reveals the strategy to transform Panama into a more resilient city. The present document is meant as a guide to the most useful and relevant action points of the

report, from the perspective of the Dutch business community. Below one can find, in a few words, the relevance of a certain action point. The full report (in Spanish) can be found on the 100resilientcities.org/strategies/panama-city/.

1.1.1 Design and Implementation of the Master Plan for Non-Motorized Mobility in the City of Panama

The Master Plan for non-motorized mobility is written to promote cycling in Panama. This action point is not necessarily relevant for Dutch companies, but definitely interesting for the Embassy in regard to promoting Dutch values in Panama.

1.1.6 Metro Network in San Miguelito and Panama

It is planned to connect the neighborhoods of San Miguelito with the District of Panama. The plan for design, construction and execution will at some point lead to tenders, which could be interesting for Dutch companies. The connection of San Miguelito to the city will also improve connectivity between the areas, which can create opportunities in the future.

1.2.3 Panama, a Destination of Natural Sustainable Tourism

Panama would like to extend its tourism sector to the more unknown and natural places. This could be of interest to Dutch tour operators in Panama, as opportunities might arise to collaborate with local communities.

1.2.4 Exchange of Trainings Between Nationals and Foreigners

The proposal is to encourage exchange of knowledge between foreign experts and the local community, through a pilot program in the City of Knowledge in collaboration with institutions that are located there. A similar set-up has previously been discussed at the embassy year plan brainstorm meeting. Dutch experts could come to Panama to share their expertise. Sharing knowledge could, for example, lead to a change of culture on agricultural topics, and potentially opportunities for Dutch producers. It might also help with the ongoing debate about the import of Dutch onions.

1.2.5 Plan for the Strengthening of the Fish and Agricultural Markets for the Benefit of Community Providers

Proposed is to look into strategies that can improve the local agricultural market. This ties in perfectly with the Embassy's proposal to transform the city into a food hub.

2.2.1 Municipal Company for Basic Services

Panama would like to create a municipal company that combines the basic services, like water and electricity, which are now

managed by several institutions. This action point is mainly interesting for Dutch businesses because they state to prioritize for example potable water and clean energy.

3.1.1 Program for Green-Blue Micro-Infrastructure

The planning and design of green infrastructure systems concerns flood risk management through bioretention. Three alternatives will be part of the pilot: permeable pavement, bioretention area and green roof.

3.1.2 Coastal System for Open Spaces

The city wants to start up a large-scale project regarding coastal planning, together with the World Bank. The objective of this initiative is to create a coastal edge integration plan to promote mitigation measures for existing and future risks, including drainage and infrastructure in the coastal areas. The green infrastructure will serve as buffer for vulnerabilities such as impacts due to floods and storms. The project also includes the better protection of coastal wetlands and watersheds, and improving the public's access to the coast and the enjoyment of the landscape.

3.1.3 Map of Vulnerabilities and Risks in the Rio Tocumen basin

A study is proposed to map the vulnerabilities and (flood) risk that come with urbanization in the east of the city, around the area of Tocumen International Airport.



3.1.4 Resilient Urban Basin Juan Diaz

The proposed project concerns the regeneration of the Juan Diaz basin for the sake of the environment, as the amount and intensity of floods in the area are aimed to be reduced. The project has three components:

- Strategic channeling of the Juan Diaz River, which includes the development of retention lagoons
- Territorial including a Basin Plan that considers the identification of risk areas, in order to propose a clear public policy in the basin area
- Communication Plan to highlight the benefits and importance of the project

3.1.5 Atlas of Integrated Risks: Hydrological Models of Hydrographical Basins in the Municipality

As local authorities at the moment do not have a full map of the risks in urban basins, it is proposed to create a database on hydraulic models of the basins and to develop a platform where the user can create flood maps that will allow to evaluate the impact of the projects in risk areas.

3.2.1 Plan for Communication and Education about Water, Ecosystems and Biodiversity

The city aims to carry out awareness campaigns for drinking water, the conservation of wetlands, and for example plastic use. Obviously, this is very much in line with the Dutch values the Embassy wants to promote. On top of that, the increase in awareness and interest could lead to opportunities for Dutch businesses working in the sustainability sector.

3.3.2 Integrated Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Development Options around the Wetlands

The city requests a cost-benefit analysis for wetland development. This CBA should not only capture factors like construction costs, sale prices, tax revenues and other common project measures, but a wider range of wetland benefits, such as human health and rainfall reduction.

3.3.3 Monitoring of the State of the Wetlands Ecosystems and Water Quality of the Basins in the Metropolitan Area

The city proposes to start up monitoring programs for the conservation and restoration of degraded wetlands in the district. Various indicators will be defined to evaluate the state of the ecosystems and water quality. The monitoring will include an early warning assessment system to take action in case of signs of threat.

3.3.4 Municipal Plan for Waste Management

Panama would like to improve their waste management system, encouraging more organic waste and recycling. As there is not much expertise in the city on these topic, Dutch companies could be valuable.



4.1.1 Multi-Departmental Municipal System for Geographic Information

The city would like to implement a geographic information system (GIS). This will be useful for Dutch businesses as it will provide information on infrastructure, water levels, flood risks, etc.

4.1.2 Certification of Previous Information

The certification of information is mainly tailored at providing real estate investors and owners with the correct information to understand the development potential and restrictions of locations.

5.1.2 Tenders Based on More and Better Opportunities

Panama wants to increase the number of participating companies in tenders, as well as offer a fairer and more transparent process.

Dit is een publicatie van:

Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

Postbus 20061 | 2500 EB Den Haag

Aan deze publicatie kunnen geen rechten worden ontleend. Het ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken aanvaardt geen aansprakelijkheid voor eventuele fouten in deze publicatie.

© Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, oktober 2018