

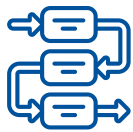
Assessment of the Hydrometeorological Value Chain in Panama

Objective



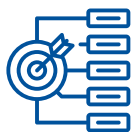
Establishing a strategy to strengthen the capacities of the newly consolidated Meteorological and Hydrological Institute of Panama (IMHPA), official meteorological and hydrological authority at the national level.

Methodology



- Mapping of relevant institutions
- Development of tailored matrices to assess institutions
- Evaluation of the institutions and analysis of the information
- Verification
- Development of a Roadmap

Identified Lines of Action



- Actions for institutional strengthening and development
- Actions to strengthen the infrastructure
- Actions to strengthen forecasting, hydro-meteorological and climate monitoring
- Actions for the development and implementation of services

The assessment led to the creation of a Roadmap, aimed at strengthening the hydrometeorological services in Panama by providing recommendations to establish the best possible conditions for the transition from DH-ETESA (Dirección de Hidrometeorología - Empresa de Transmisión Eléctrica) to the newly constituted IMHPA.

Key Findings and Recommendations

To comply with the mandate of the newly constituted IMHPA, more resources and capacities need to be made available to the institution.

In particular, some of the recommended actions are:

Short-Term

- **Optimal organizational structure** – to be in accordance with national and international guidelines, as well as with the requirements derived from the law and the users of hydromet information
- **National Policy on Hydrology and Meteorology and Strategic Plan** – to ensure the configuration of IMHPA complies with the requests made within the Law
- **National Hydrometeorological Database** – to ensure all actors access information required for their decision making processes
- **Installation of Meteorology, Climatology and Hydrology Database Management System** – to provide a cost-effective data management system

Mid-Term

- Establish an Observatory for hydrological variability, including flood and drought
- Integrate a National Hydromet Network
- Strengthen sub-seasonal to seasonal hydrological prediction
- Establish cooperation agreements with identified national and international institutions

Long-Term

- Capacity development and enhancing of the workforce
- Refinement of sector-specific products and services (especially Agriculture, Health and Navigation)
- Reinforcement of the hydromet network

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) are working together on identifying mechanisms to implement the Roadmap in the country, taking into account a regional approach.