



commission for environmental impact assessment

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Directorate General International
Cooperation
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your reference
DOB-1277.jk/99

your letter
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our reference
U169-99/Sh/sg/024-312

subject
Advisory review on environmental aspects
of the implementation of the Tidal Inlet
project, Cartagena, Colombia

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Utrecht (The Netherlands),
13 December 1999

By letter dated 24 September 1999 you requested, on behalf of the minister for Development Cooperation, the Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to advise on environmental aspects of the implementation of the Tidal Inlet project, Cartagena, Colombia.

I herewith submit the advice prepared by a working group of the Commission for EIA. The advice and recommendations have been thoroughly discussed during a debriefing session in Cartagena with representatives of the Ministry of Transport and the Netherlands Embassy. The advice has been drafted in close collaboration with CARDIQUE. Representatives of Haskoning and Boskalis were also present during the debriefing.

I would like to stress that the working group decided to give priority to recording the main findings and recommendations. As all relevant parties in Cartagena were involved, less effort has been dedicated to make the report accessible to third parties. For better understanding however, the working group prepared a 2 page summary of the advice, containing main points and recommendations.

I am of the opinion that the three objectives of the site visit you mention in your letter, are adequately addressed. Technical assistance to CARDIQUE was provided in discussions on the contents and feasibility of the preconditions in the environmental licence. Specific advice was provided on the results of a monitoring campaign on water quality. The progress in project implementation and its environmental consequences are amply addressed in the advice. The simultaneous implementation of the Tidal inlet project and the 'Marine outfall' project (part of the sewerage master plan) has been thoroughly discussed and the working group is convinced that the authorities are well aware of this key issue.

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Finally, you asked for an opinion of the Commission on the institutional capacity of CARDIQUE. The working group provides its findings in a separate document. According to the working group, CARDIQUE has sufficient capacity to critically follow the environmental aspects of the Tidal inlet project also in the long term. The knowledge and authority are sufficiently guaranteed. It is nevertheless a problem that CARDIQUE does not dispose of all relevant means to adequately execute its tasks, mainly due to lack of funds.

The Commission appreciates to be informed about the use the DGIS intends to make of the advice.



Mr J.W. Kroon
chairman working group
Cartagena Tidal Inlet, Colombia