

Climate-smart urban regeneration through a new public cable car system in San Miguelito, Panama



SAN MIGUELITO, PANAMA

A NEW PUBLIC AERIAL CABLE CAR TO CONNECT AND REGENERATE SAN MIGUELITO

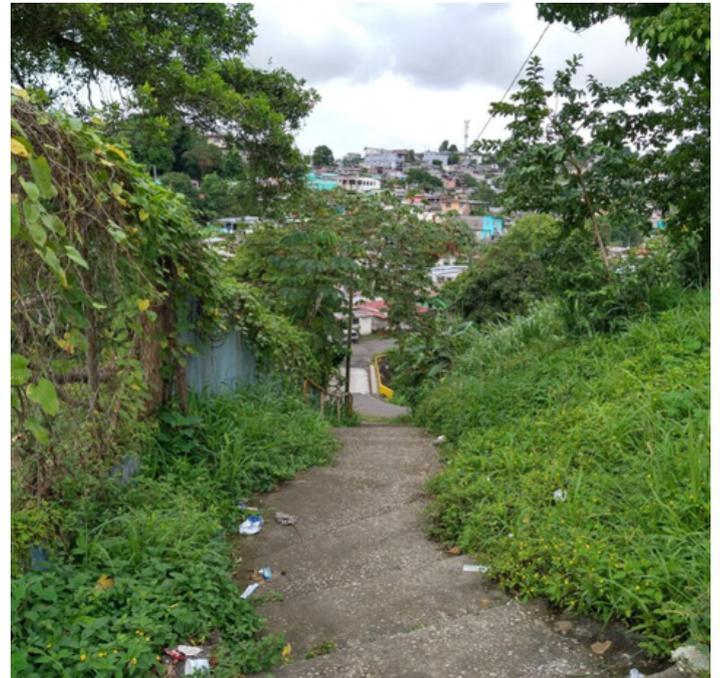
In response to these challenges, the Government of Panama prioritized the construction of a public aerial cable car system in San Miguelito to improve the district's connectivity with the rest of the metropolitan area. This new infrastructure offers opportunities for complementarity investments in urban regeneration and disaster risk reduction.

The Government sought Gap Fund support to identify, design, and cost a series of investments to promote accessibility through non-motorized transportation and resilience through nature-based solutions around the planned cable car stations.



LIMITED URBAN CONNECTIVITY AND URBAN PRODUCTIVITY IN SAN MIGUELITO

San Miguelito, a low-income district located within Panama City's metropolitan area, and home to a population of more than 350,000 people, has experienced chronic lack of access to jobs and amenities. Around half of the people in the district live in hillside informal settlements. Many are prone to climate-related disasters including flooding and landslides, which further exacerbate connectivity issues, impacting quality of life and economic opportunities for the residents.



THE GAP FUND'S SUPPORT

- Conceptual planning and prioritization of urban regeneration investments for the implementation of the metroable system in San Miguelito.
- Development of schematic designs for prioritized investments.
- Design and intervention criterion for the development of designs in water and risk management, connectivity, and urban regeneration.

IMPACT



The Gap Fund supported the development of schematic designs for two cable car stations in the areas of Torrijos Carter and Samaria.

Technical assistance activities included in-depth site analysis and the identification of priority interventions through a participative approach including site visits and workshops with local stakeholders. As a result, investments to improve last mile connectivity through non-motorized transportation and opportunities in nature-based solutions were identified to reduce floods and landslide risks and to improve access to green spaces and public equipment.



Additionally, the technical assistance developed an implementation roadmap for a priority list of investments with an estimated budget of US\$67 million, as well as technical design guidelines for the main categories of investments

The recommendations from this technical assistance activity are being included in San Miguelito District's statutory spatial development plan (Plan Parcial) which sets legal provisions for the district's future urban development. The Ministry of Economy and Finance of Panama has shown interest in including the investments identified in the Government's investment pipeline.

NEXT STEPS

Following the Gap Fund's work, the recommendations provided by the technical assistance will help bring the project closer to implementation:

- Recommendations from the TA to be incorporated in the updated statutory spatial development plan (Plan Parcial) for San Miguelito.
- Ministry of Finance to include identified investment in the government's investment pipeline.
- Priority investments to be taken up for further preparation (feasibility studies) with support from a grant from the Global Fund for Disaster Reduction and Resilience (GFDRR).

