

U.S. Position  
Colombia – Proposed IFC Investment in TCBuen  
May 6, 2010

The U.S. supports this \$150 million IFC investment for the construction of a new container terminal in Buenaventura Colombia. It fits well within the Bank Group's strategy in Colombia of expanding infrastructure, growth and trade opportunities along Colombia's Pacific coast.

IFC provided significant financial additionality in this project at a time when other private sector lenders had to pull back. There are significant potential development impacts of this investment, including job creation in the short and long term in a low income area of Colombia, and expanding port infrastructure, which will strengthen Colombia's port sector by increasing competition.

Given the potential significant environmental impact of this project, the United States agrees with the project's "A" categorization. There has been adequate environmental disclosure lead time, and there is detailed discussion of the environmental risk mitigation measures in place, including mangrove replacement. The extensive community engagement detailed in the project document and TCBuen's engagement in various community development initiatives are most welcome.

The United States encourages port sponsors and operators to position the port as a model of good environmental practice in port design and operations, including through environmental management training and other services that may be available through various Port Authority Associations.

Finally, the U.S. Government intends to follow closely the CAO complaint brought against the project and other large development projects in Buenaventura.