Nicaragua Key Takeaways from TDD

1. Holistic and comprehensive planning approach that integrates urban development, land use, Cultural heritage preservation, sustainable tourism, and disaster risk management

2. Strong stakeholder engagement in all steps of planning and implementation, including government entities, communities, religious organizations and private sector

3. Regulations, laws and policies that create the enabling environment for effective cultural heritage preservation, sustainable tourism and urban regeneration.

4. Shift from **quantity to quality of tourists** who spend more, thereby benefiting local economies

5. Importance of **civic pride** in cultural heritage
1. **Planning**: Existing planning instruments **but lack of holistic approach and long-term vision** due to frequent political changes: (i) absence of Master Plan for the city of Granada, (ii) underutilization of public land with potential for urban development and tourism.

2. **Disaster Risk Management**: High exposure to natural hazards and structural vulnerabilities, lack of specialize expertise for cultural preservation.

3. **Implementation and financing**: Need to explore innovative implementation modalities such as DMO, PPP.

4. **Regulation and institutional framework**: Even though Nicaragua is the most decentralized country in CA, local governments are still weak. However, there is a **good institutional basis for the tourism sector** at the national level.

5. **Pride in cultural heritage**: need for higher **population awareness** on the value of cultural heritage, lack of citizens responsibility of cultural assets protection and preservation.
Nicaragua Actions to be Taken

• **Short-term: Focus on Granada**
  • Focus on Granada’s comprehensive development. Granada is the most important touristic attraction in Nicaragua and could become an economic engine for poverty alleviation.
  • **Designation of Granada as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO**, before the celebration of the city’s 500 years anniversary
  • Development of an urban resilience strategy focused on reducing the vulnerability of homes, businesses and cultural heritage assets of the city of Granada.
  • Implementation of urban regeneration projects already identified, such as touristic complex area outside the city
  • Development of a visitors’ management plan and conservation plan
  • Strengthening of implementation capacity of local government
  • Strengthening of stakeholders’ engagement and shared responsibilities for the management and preservation of the cultural heritage

[Responsibility of municipal and National Government]

**Medium-term: Expanding to Leon City**
• Development of a Master plan for Granada, including investment plans and PPP modalities
• Implementation of disaster Risk reduction investments in cultural heritage properties
• Scaling-up of Granada’s approach to Leon City
• **Better articulate the Colonial Cities’ tourism route** that links Granada and Leon

[Responsibility of municipal governments, intermunicipal entities, and National Government]

**Long-term: Regional approach**
• Development and strengthening of regional tourism products linked to Cultural Heritage at the Central American level, initially with Panama by
• Implementation larger, more complex cultural heritage preservation investments

[Responsibility of national and regional coordination entities]
Nicaragua Lending and TA Active or Needed

• **Technical Assistance Work Planned:**
  - TA to assess the needs for Granada to be nominate as a Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO
  - TA to develop an **urban resilience strategy for Granada** focused on reducing the vulnerability of homes, businesses and cultural heritage assets of the city of Granada US$750k (Proposal to be submitted to GFDRR next FY)
  - TA to develop an **Urban regeneration Plan** for the development of the touristic complex in Granada

• **Investment Work Planned:**
  - Rehabilitation and Restoration of important cultural heritage properties in Granada, US$20 million depending on master plan priorities
  - **Implementation of urban regeneration investments** in the touristic complex in Granada, US$5 millions
Nicaragua Support Needed

- **World Bank:**
  - Technical assistance (GFDRR Proposal)
  - Investment projects financing

- **TDLC Program (Japan):**
  - Deployment of Japanese expertise for urban regeneration and cultural heritage preservation.
  - Knowledge exchange event between Granada/Leon municipalities and Kyoto.
WE ALSO HAVE A REGIONAL DREAM!!!

The Colonial Route
Gracias, Arigato!

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