



**Feasibility study of island  
development at the Pacific entrance  
of the Panama Canal**

**Estudio de factibilidad del desarrollo  
de una isla en la entrada del Pacífico  
del Canal de Panamá**

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**Conclusiones y Recomendaciones  
(No existe Resumen Ejecutivo)**

## 24 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

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Probably the most important conclusion from this study is that there is no single location or long term use option for the island that sets it clearly apart from all the others.

The second most important conclusion is that the cost estimates indicate that the use of the artificial island as a simple disposal site is expected to be more expensive than the placement of material at the UXO area. However, given the large volumes of material involved, a modest shift in the transport costs of either alternative could readily tilt the scales of the evaluation in the other direction.

It therefore follows that the artificial island concept remains a valid option for placement of the excavated material from the Locks project. However, it is beyond the capability of the consultant or even ACP to select a preferred option at this time. Public perception of the project will be critical to its success or otherwise and seemingly attractive development options could well fall by the wayside as a result of objections from special interest groups or the public in general.

In terms of costs, it would seem that all of the maritime development options will require a much higher level of investment from ACP than the mixed use or even the public park options. Given the high cost of the Canal Expansion project and in particular the Locks project, this may not be an additional cost that ACP wish to take on at this time.

It is also clear from the results of the Disposal Study that ACP requires clarification of the preferred disposal option for the Locks project as soon as possible. Given the uncertainties, noted above, it is recommended that the next steps in the selection process should be:

- Begin public discussions and presentations on the range of options for the Artificial Island Project
- Commence discussions with ANAM on the range of options and preferences for the island project
- Undertake high level discussions with the major carriers and terminal operators over the potential level of interest in the maritime development option
- Initiate informal discussions with leading private sector developers in Panama and internationally over the potential prospects for the mixed use island
- Evaluate Panama government and public interest in the Public Park concept
- Undertake more detailed studies of the UXO sites to determine risk and costs of the use of this site.

- Commence discussions with government on the political implications of use of the UXO sites for materials placement
- Commence discussions with ANAM on the use of the UXO area for disposal

Assuming that these steps would take from six to twelve months to complete, ACP will then be in a position to make a firm strategic decision on the preferred option for disposal of the material from the Locks project.

At that time, the formal environmental and engineering studies can commence in earnest, hopefully with the support of the private sector, public at large and interested agencies in local, regional and national government.