

Economía

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## Panama launches offensive for tourism development over Caribbean and the Pacific

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LA PRENSA/Archivo



El Fuerte de Sherman en la provincia de Colón.

The government of Panama launched a new offensive in order to attract tourism development investments in two coveted areas, former American military base in Sherman over the Caribbean, and in Amador at the shore of the Canal by the Pacific Ocean.

Both destinations have had the investigation work from Spanish consultant company C4T, which was awarded with the contracts for the elaboration of a complete development plan over both areas, and of investigation within the investment market.

Administrative Unit of Reverted Properties (Uabr) executive secretary, Juan Carlos Orillac, explained to EFE that investment opportunities in Sherman "will be opened for bidding over the next few weeks", after receiving in 2010 the complete study from the Catalan

firm.

The exploitation of Sherman's heavenly beaches offers to the sector the construction of six ecotourism hotels, marinas for yachts, cultural centers, eight house developments and entertainment centers.

Concerning Amador, the Spanish firm already delivered the preliminary draft, and within the next weeks they will present their final report; in this case of update for the Tourism Development Plan elaborated in 1996, specified Orillac.

Concerning Sherman development plan, a former American Marine's base located at the shores of the Caribbean Sea for the defense of the Panama Canal, C4T developed a work for \$279,300, said its delegate councilor to EFE, Jordi Marcé Puigvert.

On the other hand, C4T advisor, Jordi Castelló specified they have calculated an investment of \$177 million for Sherman, while in Amador's case, the consultant contract rose up to \$192,800.

Sherman's voluminous plan which EFE had access to, proposes several alternatives with possibilities of receiving up to 200 tour operators from several specialties, and around 20 investors, according to Castelló.

On the other hand, Orillac explained the Panamanian government has prepared the call for bids for the next few weeks for the tourism development in Sherman, considering that the Air and Sea base installed in there will remain and keeps reserving the projected areas for their expansion.

*(With information from EFE)*