

The government of Cuba has taken some mitigation measures to rehabilitate Havana bay, but the special economic situation in Cuba has limited its capacity. Cuba has several ongoing development programs for alternative, environmentally sound technologies related to wastewater treatment. The economic situation in Cuba also accentuates the need for potential domestic production of fertilizers and energy recovered from alternative wastewater treatment. In response to these needs, a new integrated sewage treatment plant will be constructed in eastern Havana to cover a population of about 57,000 in the Luyano River area. The plant will include nutrient removal and will allow for sludge utilization to energy or fertilizer.

In central Havana, the City Historian's Office, with help from several Spanish communities, is rehabilitating the oldest strip of the Malecón. The challenge of this work is how to invest economic life in the area, ensure self-sufficiency and balance the needs of development with current residents. Another challenge is how to slow down traffic on the Malecón, which currently is the fastest access to old Havana and the bay tunnel, so that pedestrians might gain access to the water's edge. Several projects to protect the front line of eclectic buildings from the rough winter sea or occasional tidal waves have been developed; however, such schemes require significant investment and are therefore hard to implement.

A well-defined triangular shaped neighborhood, La Fragua, lies between Centro Habana and La Rampa, the city's most lively mixed-use area from the 1950s and 1960s. The revitalization of La Fragua will improve the link between Centro Habana and Vedado and activate that strip of waterfront. This revitalization will involve the rehabilitation of a major historic axis in Havana, leading to Havana University, San Lázaro. The potential of this axis is tremendous. The northern part will allow more active development and one day will become the new La Rampa.

In eastern Havana, a historic park, Morro-Cabaña, is slowly being redeveloped. The area is rich with archeological material left by the Colonial military garrisons. Once complete, the waterfront park will provide the only nearby open space for residents in old Havana. Farther east, several new subdivisions might be developed, using some of the infrastructure from pre-revolutionary days. Eastern Havana has the benefits of clean air, fine sandy beaches and good connections to the city center. Planners in Havana see development in this area as essential to correct the imbalance of a city that grew west away from the original settlement beside the port. One area of particular interest is the small fishing village of Cojímar. It was here that Ernest Hemingway stored his fishing boat. Cojímar has a small colonial fort dating from 1646, located at the mouth of a river.

The prime piece of Havana waterfront is the Malecón. The Malecón waterfront is almost seven kilometers long and links old Havana with the west through Centro Habana and Vedado. Issues of preservation and the appropriateness of development are critical on the Malecón. It was here that Sert proposed his massive intervention, which would have significantly altered the character of the Malecón skyline. Planning authorities are currently studying the area to understand if high-rise development is appropriate. The issue, given the historic nature of the area, is how new commercial developments might situate themselves within the fabric of the city.