



## Cook Islands: Improving Internet Connectivity for the South Pacific Project

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|--|---|
| Project Name   | Improving Internet Connectivity for the South Pacific Project   |
| Project Number   | 50110-001   |
| Country  | Cook Islands  |
| Project Status   | Approved  |
| Project Type / Modality of Assistance                      | Grant<br>Loan   |
| Source of Funding / Amount                                 | <b>Grant: Improving Internet Connectivity for the South Pacific Project</b><br>Government of New Zealand US\$ 10.00 million<br><b>Loan 3632-COO: Improving Internet Connectivity for the South Pacific Project</b><br>Ordinary capital resources US\$ 15.00 million |
| Strategic Agendas  | Inclusive economic growth<br>Regional integration   |
| Drivers of Change  | Governance and capacity development<br>Knowledge solutions<br>Partnerships<br>Private sector development  |
| Sector / Subsector   | <b>Information and communication technology</b> - ICT infrastructure  |
| Gender Equity and Mainstreaming                            | No gender elements  |
| Description  |   |
| Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy |   |
| Impact   | Improved telecommunication in Cook Islands  |

### Project Outcome

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Description of Outcome  | Decrease in cost and increase in quality of internet service |
| Progress Toward Outcome |  |

### Implementation Progress

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Description of Project Outputs                                      | A submarine cable system connecting Cook Islands to the international internet hub. |
| Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues) |   |
| Geographical Location   | Nation-wide   |

### Safeguard Categories

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Environment              | B |
| Involuntary Resettlement | C |
| Indigenous Peoples       | C |

### Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Environmental Aspects | This is the fifth ICT project developed by PARD. Based on similar projects in Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, and Palau/FSM during the construction (installation) phase the environmental impacts are expected to be site specific and limited to the route of the cable laying, landing sites, and landward cable routes. Prior to the installation/construction stage, the EMP developed during PPTA will be updated during the marine route survey and detailed design. Any data gaps identified during the PPTA will also be filled at this time. Operation phase impacts will be confined to the land-based cable stations. |
|-----------------------|--|

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Involuntary Resettlement | The project through a submarine internet cable will link the islands of Rarotonga and Aitutaki in the Cook Islands to Samoa, where interconnection to the international internet hubs in Fiji and Hawaii will occur. The activities under the proposed project will mostly occur under the deep sea and some activities near the shore. The construction of cable path and landing station in Rarotonga and Aitutaki will be on public or government land to minimize any land acquisition. The project is proposed as Category C with no anticipated involuntary resettlement impacts. |
| Indigenous Peoples       | The project will build a submarine internet cable to link the islands of Rarotonga and Aitutaki in the Cook Islands to Samoa, where interconnection to the international internet hubs in Fiji and Hawaii will occur. The project is not expected to impact any distinct and vulnerable IPs. No indigenous peoples plan is therefore required.  |

### Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design

During Project Implementation This project is still awaiting Loan effectiveness Two of the 4 conditions for effectiveness have yet to be met (signing of the C&MA and signing of the SLA). The project team is optimistic that this Loan becomes effective in Q4 2018. ADB no objection for the supply and installation of a submarine cable system will be issued.

Responsible ADB Officer Bhattacharya, Sibesh

Responsible ADB Department Pacific Department

Responsible ADB Division Urban, Social Development & Public Management Division, PARD

Executing Agencies *Ministry of Finance & Economic Management*  
*PO box 120*  
*Cook Islands*

### Timetable

Concept Clearance 07 Jun 2016

Fact Finding 28 Aug 2017 to 01 Sep 2017

MRM 03 Oct 2017

Approval 15 Dec 2017

Last Review Mission -

Last PDS Update 28 Sep 2018

### Loan 3632-COO

| Milestones  |              |                  |             |         |        |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|---------|--------|
| Approval    | Signing Date | Effectivity Date | Closing     |         |        |
|             |              |                  | Original    | Revised | Actual |
| 15 Dec 2017 | -            | -                | 30 Sep 2020 | -       | -      |

| Financing Plan |                                |             | Loan Utilization           |      |        |                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|------|--------|----------------|
|                | Total (Amount in US\$ million) |             | Date                       | ADB  | Others | Net Percentage |
| Project Cost   | 15.00                          |             | Cumulative Contract Awards |      |        |                |
| ADB            | 15.00                          | 15 Dec 2017 | 0.00                       | 0.00 |        | 0%             |
| Counterpart    | 0.00                           |             | Cumulative Disbursements   |      |        |                |
| Cofinancing    | 0.00                           | 15 Dec 2017 | 0.00                       | 0.00 |        | 0%             |

Project Page <https://www.adb.org/projects/50110-001/main>

Request for Information <http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=50110-001>

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