



## Regional: Strengthening Domestic Transport Connectivity in the Pacific

Project Name	Strengthening Domestic Transport Connectivity in the Pacific					
Project Number	51065-001					
Country	Regional					
Project Status	Active					
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance					
Source of Funding / Amount	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>TA: Strengthening Connectivity in the Pacific</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td> <td>US\$ 2.00 million</td> </tr> </table>		<b>TA: Strengthening Connectivity in the Pacific</b>		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 2.00 million
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Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 2.00 million					
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth					
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Private sector development					
Sector / Subsector	<b>Transport</b> - Road transport (non-urban) - Transport policies and institutional development					
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements					
Description	<p>The TA will provide project preparatory support to participating Pacific DMCs to improve national and regional connectivity through new investments. It will also support the participant countries in formulating and updating transport sector policy and investment planning, and identify institutional gaps and capacity development activities to support transport sector development.</p>					
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>The Pacific island countries of Tonga, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu (target countries) share similar characteristics. By regional standards, they are mid-range in terms of size and population. They are smaller in size and population than the larger Pacific countries such as PNG, Timor Leste, and Fiji although significantly larger than the micro states of Tuvalu and Nauru. Tonga's population is about 100,000, Solomon Islands' population is about 600,000, and Vanuatu's population is about 250,000. The target countries are geographically isolated and far from main commercial centers. Tonga is located about 3,000km from New Zealand and 4,000km from Australia, while Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are located about 2,000km from Australia. Tonga, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu share similar geographic traits as archipelagos, with rural communities typically living in remote islands that can only be accessed by costlier transport modes such as aviation or maritime transport. Transport connectivity is critical to provide essential services, improve trade and tourism, and access to domestic and international markets. However, the delivery of efficient transport infrastructure and services is hampered by characteristics shared throughout the region. These include constrained capacity of institutions responsible for infrastructure delivery, constraints to fiscal budgets to allocate adequate finance for recurrent maintenance and rehabilitation, vulnerability to natural disasters and anticipated climate change, and limited policy and legislation environment in the sector.</p> <p>Road transport is an important subsector in the region, especially on larger islands where the road network provides access to key economic links such as tourism and agriculture. Roads also provide access to essential government services including health and education. They also serve as an important intermodal link, providing access to ports and airports, thereby facilitating the movement of people and goods for inter and intra island travel. A significant proportion of the road network in the participant countries is in poor condition, due to their age, or a history of neglect which has led to a lack of maintenance or rehabilitation to sustain the assets at a maintainable standard. To achieve the full intended service life of road assets, adequate routine and periodic road maintenance is necessary and these activities should be prioritized through sound asset management systems. There is a need to strengthen maintenance and asset management activities in the participant countries, especially where frequent natural disasters and a general lack of adequate maintenance generally leave the road network in a state of disrepair, and increase the time and cost of travel. Road conditions can also be undermined by overloaded vehicles where forestry, agriculture, construction, and other heavy industries operate with improper regulation and enforcement of weight limits.</p>					
Impact	Strengthened economic and social connectivity through sustainable and resilient transport infrastructure investments in Tonga, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.					

## Project Outcome

Description of Outcome	Updated transport sector plans and investments that strengthen economic and social connectivity through transport infrastructure are endorsed by participating Pacific DMC governments
Progress Toward Outcome	
<b>Implementation Progress</b>	
Description of Project Outputs	Vanuatu National Transport Sector Investment Policy and Plan. Endorsed investment proposals to strengthen transport connectivity. Roadmap to strengthen transport institutions.
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	
Geographical Location	

## Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects	
Involuntary Resettlement	
Indigenous Peoples	
<b>Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation</b>	
During Project Design	
During Project Implementation	

## Responsible Staff

Responsible ADB Officer	Ling, David Tai-Wen
Responsible ADB Department	Pacific Department
Responsible ADB Division	Transport, Energy and Natural Resources Division, PARD
Executing Agencies	<i>Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines</i>

## Timetable

Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	21 Jun 2017
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	23 Jun 2017

Project Page	<a href="https://www.adb.org/projects/51065-001/main">https://www.adb.org/projects/51065-001/main</a>
Request for Information	<a href="http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=51065-001">http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=51065-001</a>
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