



Regional: South Caucasus Gateways

Project Name	South Caucasus Gateways				
Project Number	55118-001				
Country	RegionalArmeniaAzerbaijanGeorgia				
Project Status	Active				
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance				
Source of Funding / Amount	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>TA 6800-REG: South Caucasus Gateway</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td> <td>US\$ 750,000.00</td> </tr> </table>	TA 6800-REG: South Caucasus Gateway		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 750,000.00
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Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 750,000.00				
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth Regional integration				
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions				
Sector / Subsector	Agriculture, natural resources and rural development - Agro-industry, marketing, and trade Industry and trade - Industry and trade sector development - Trade and services Transport - Multimodal logistics - Transport policies and institutional development				
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements				
Description	The proposed regional knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will facilitate the development of a regional cooperation approach to unleash the economic potential of the South Caucasus region comprising of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia in the new realm of reopening gateways agreed in the 2020 Armenia-Azerbaijan Ceasefire Agreement. The South Caucasus Regional Cooperation Approach (SCRCA) will assess the benefits of economic cooperation within and beyond the region, amidst political uncertainties. The approach will provide options to identify and optimize international and domestic gateways and provide a roadmap for the region to regain its historical significance for trade and transit especially with Central West Asia and as a bridge to Europe. Blocked historical transport routes because of divided land and closed border crossing points result in high costs for trade, reducing the competitiveness of the region's exports. New gateways can yield considerable economic benefits for the region and hence support the political peacebuilding process.				
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	Each country of the South Caucasus region claims its role as a transport hub between Asia and Europe. To realize this potential, however, the countries' cooperation among each other is a precondition. South Caucasus gateways are competing with other transport routes and only the fastest and least expensive routes will attract significant transport flows. All three countries have made significant efforts to improve soft and hard trade infrastructure including investments to reduce travel time and facilitate trade and align with international integration initiatives. The region would benefit from improved connections. The SCRCA will aim to leverage the region's investments, trade facilitation efforts, and significance in interregional transport gateways to provide transport and trade options that benefit Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. The approach will be sensitive to political realities, consider the status of existing transport infrastructure, help maximize benefits from trade agreements, support the diversification of exports through lower transport costs, and enhance value added in the region. The approach will also assess new tourism opportunities through re-opened gateways within the region and with neighboring countries.				
Impact	a shared vision for a South Caucasus Gateway that improves understanding and commitment of Caucasus countries for regional cooperation				
Project Outcome					
Description of Outcome	Increased trade among Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and their neighbors				
Progress Toward Outcome					
Implementation Progress					
Description of Project Outputs	Political economy assessment for South Caucasus Gateways prepared Sector assessments for exports and regional value chains South Caucasus Regional Cooperation Approach developed				
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)					
Geographical Location	Armenia - Nation-wide; Azerbaijan - Nation-wide; Georgia - Nation-wide				
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects					
Environmental Aspects					
Involuntary Resettlement					
Indigenous Peoples					
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation					
During Project Design					
During Project Implementation					
Business Opportunities					
Consulting Services	A total of 25 person-months of individual consulting services (up to 8 international consultants for 15 person-months and up to 9 national consultants for 10 person-months) will be provided using mostly lumpsum/output-based contracts.				

Responsible ADB Officer	Rosbach, Kristian
Responsible ADB Department	Central and West Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Div, CWRD
Executing Agencies	Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	18 Jun 2021
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	11 Oct 2021
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	11 Oct 2021

TA 6800-REG

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
750,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750,000.00	-	0.00

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/55118-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=55118-001
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