
GRANT NUMBER 0794-SOL(SF)

GRANT AGREEMENT
(Special Operations)

(Land and Maritime Connectivity Project – Tranche 1)

between

SOLOMON ISLANDS

and

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

DATED 22 JULY 2021

SOL 53421

GRANT AGREEMENT (Special Operations)

GRANT AGREEMENT dated 22 July 2021 between SOLOMON ISLANDS (“Recipient”) and ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (“ADB”).

WHEREAS

(A) by a framework financing agreement dated 28 January 2021 between the Recipient and ADB, ADB has agreed to provide a multitranche financing facility to the Recipient for purposes of financing projects under the Land and Maritime Connectivity Project (“Investment Project”) as a large-scale project under the time-slice approach;

(B) by a loan agreement of even date herewith between the Recipient and ADB (“Loan Agreement”), ADB has agreed to make a concessional loan to the Recipient from ADB’s ordinary capital resources in the amount of twenty-four million four hundred twenty thousand Dollars (\$24,420,000) (“Loan”) for purposes of financing expenditures under the Project described in Schedule 1 to the Loan Agreement (“Project”);

(C) by a periodic financing request dated 28 January 2021, the Recipient has also applied to ADB for a grant from ADB’s Special Funds resources for the purposes of financing expenditures under the Project; and

(D) ADB has agreed to make a grant to the Recipient from ADB’s Special Funds resources upon the terms and conditions set forth herein;

NOW THEREFORE the parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

Grant Regulations; Definitions

Section 1.01. All provisions of ADB’s Special Operations Grant Regulations, dated 1 January 2017 (“Grant Regulations”), are hereby made applicable to this Grant Agreement with the same force and effect as if they were fully set forth herein.

Section 1.02. Wherever used in this Grant Agreement, the several terms defined in the Grant Regulations and the Loan Agreement have the respective meanings therein set forth unless modified herein or the context otherwise requires.

ARTICLE II

The Grant

Section 2.01. ADB agrees to make available to the Recipient from ADB's Special Funds resources an amount of nineteen million four hundred sixty thousand Dollars (\$19,460,000).

ARTICLE III

Use of Proceeds of the Grant

Section 3.01. The Recipient shall cause the proceeds of the Grant to be applied exclusively to the financing of expenditures on the Project in accordance with the provisions of this Grant Agreement.

Section 3.02. The proceeds of the Grant shall be allocated and withdrawn in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule to this Grant Agreement, as such Schedule may be amended from time to time by agreement between the Recipient and ADB.

Section 3.03. Except as ADB may otherwise agree, the Recipient shall procure, or cause to be procured, the items of expenditure to be financed out of the proceeds of the Grant in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 4 to the Loan Agreement.

Section 3.04. Withdrawals from the Grant Account in respect of Goods, Works and Services shall be made only on account of expenditures relating to:

- (a) Goods which are produced in and supplied from and Works and Services which are supplied from such member countries of ADB as shall have been specified by ADB from time to time as eligible sources for procurement; and
- (b) Goods, Works and Services which meet such other eligibility requirements as shall have been specified by ADB from time to time.

Section 3.05. The Grant Closing Date for the purposes of Section 8.02 of the Grant Regulations shall be 30 June 2023 or such other date as may from time to time be agreed between the Recipient and ADB.

ARTICLE IV

Particular Covenants

Section 4.01. In the carrying out of the Project and operation of the Project facilities, the Recipient shall perform, or cause to be performed, all obligations set forth in Schedule 4 to the Loan Agreement.

Section 4.02. (a) The Recipient shall (i) maintain separate accounts and records for the Project; (ii) prepare annual financial statements for the Project in accordance with financial reporting standards acceptable to ADB; (iii) have such financial statements audited annually by independent auditors whose qualifications, experience and terms of reference are acceptable to ADB, in accordance with auditing standards acceptable to ADB; (iv) as part of each such audit, have the auditors prepare a report, which includes the auditors' opinion(s) on the financial statements and the use of the Grant proceeds, and a management letter (which sets out the deficiencies in the internal control of the Project that were identified in the course of the audit, if any); and (v) furnish to ADB, no later than 6 months after the end of each related fiscal year, copies of such audited financial statements, audit report and management letter, all in the English language, and such other information concerning these documents and the audit thereof as ADB shall from time to time reasonably request.

(b) ADB shall disclose the annual audited financial statements for the Project and the opinion of the auditors on the financial statements within 14 days of the date of ADB's confirmation of their acceptability by posting them on ADB's website.

(c) The Recipient shall enable ADB, upon ADB's request, to discuss the financial statements for the Project and the Recipient's financial affairs where they relate to the Project with the auditors appointed pursuant to subsection (a)(iii) hereinabove, and shall authorize and require any representative of such auditors to participate in any such discussions requested by ADB. This is provided that such discussions shall be conducted only in the presence of an authorized officer of the Recipient, unless the Recipient shall otherwise agree.

Section 4.03. The Recipient shall enable ADB's representatives to inspect the Project, the Goods, Works and Services, and any relevant records and documents.

ARTICLE V

Suspension

Section 5.01. The following is specified as an additional event for suspension of the right of the Recipient to make withdrawals from the Grant Account for the purposes of Section 8.01(k) of the Grant Regulations:

- (a) the Recipient shall have failed to perform one or more of its obligations under the Loan Agreement; or

- (b) the Loan shall have become liable for suspension or cancellation for any reason whatsoever or shall have become repayable prior to its agreed maturity date.

ARTICLE VI

Effectiveness

Section 6.01. The following is specified as an additional condition to the effectiveness of this Grant Agreement for the purposes of Section 9.01(e) of the Grant Regulations: the Loan Agreement shall have been duly executed and delivered on behalf of the Recipient, and all conditions precedent to its effectiveness (other than a condition requiring the effectiveness of this Grant Agreement) shall have been fulfilled.

Section 6.02. A date 90 days after the date of this Grant Agreement is specified for the effectiveness of this Grant Agreement for the purposes of Section 9.04 of the Grant Regulations.

ARTICLE VII

Termination

Section 7.01. The Grant Agreement and all obligations of the parties thereunder shall terminate on a date twenty-five (25) years after the date of this Agreement.

ARTICLE VIII

Miscellaneous

Section 8.01. The Minister of Finance and Treasury of the Recipient is designated as representative of the Recipient for the purposes of Section 11.02 of the Grant Regulations.

Section 8.02. The following addresses are specified for the purposes of Section 11.01 of the Grant Regulations:

For the Recipient

Ministry of Finance and Treasury
P. O. Box 26
Honiara, Solomon Islands

Facsimile Number:

(677) 27855

For ADB

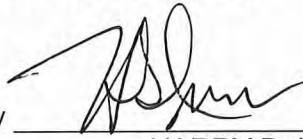
Asian Development Bank
6 ADB Avenue
Mandaluyong City
1550 Metro Manila
Philippines

Facsimile Numbers:

(632) 8636-2444
(632) 8636-2388.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto, acting through their representatives thereunto duly authorized, have caused this Grant Agreement to be signed in their respective names as of the day and year first above written and to be delivered at the principal office of ADB.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

By  _____
HARRY D. KUMA
Minister for Finance and Treasury

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

By  _____
LEAH C. GUTIERREZ
Director General
Pacific Department

SCHEDULE

Allocation and Withdrawal of Grant Proceeds

General

1. The table attached to this Schedule sets forth the Categories of items of expenditure to be financed out of the proceeds of the Grant and the allocation of the Grant proceeds to each such Category ("Table"). (Reference to "Category" in this Schedule is to a Category of the Table.)

Basis for Withdrawal from the Grant Account

2. Except as ADB may otherwise agree, the proceeds of the Grant shall be allocated to items of expenditure, and disbursed on the basis of the withdrawal percentage for each item of expenditure, as set forth in the Table.

Reallocation

3. Notwithstanding the allocation of Grant proceeds and the withdrawal percentages set forth in the Table,

- (a) if the amount of the Grant allocated to any Category appears to be insufficient to finance all agreed expenditures in that Category, ADB may, by notice to the Recipient, (i) reallocate to such Category, to the extent required to meet the estimated shortfall, amounts of the Grant which have been allocated to another Category but, in the opinion of ADB, are not needed to meet other expenditures, and (ii) if such reallocation cannot fully meet the estimated shortfall, reduce the withdrawal percentage applicable to such expenditures in order that further withdrawals under such Category may continue until all expenditures thereunder shall have been made; and
- (b) if the amount of the Grant allocated to any Category appears to exceed all agreed expenditures in that Category, ADB may, by notice to the Recipient, reallocate such excess amount to any other Category.

Disbursement Procedures

4. Except as ADB may otherwise agree, the Grant proceeds shall be disbursed in accordance with the Loan Disbursement Handbook.

Retroactive Financing

5. Withdrawals from the Grant Account may be made to finance eligible expenditures incurred under the Project before the Effective Date, but not earlier than 12 months before the date of this Grant Agreement in connection with Goods, Works and Services, subject to a maximum amount equivalent to 20% of the Grant amount.

TABLE

ALLOCATION AND WITHDRAWAL OF GRANT PROCEEDS			
Number	Item	Total Amount Allocated for ADB Financing (\$)	Basis for Withdrawal from the Grant Account
		Category	
1	Works and Consulting Services	19,460,000	50% of total expenditure claimed*
	TOTAL	19,460,000	

*Exclusive of taxes and duties imposed within the territory of the Recipient.