INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET
CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC805

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 19-Feb-2015

Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed: 28-Feb-2015

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Samoa	**Project ID:**	P128904
Project Name:	WS: Pacific Regional Connectivity Program: Phase 3 - Samoa (P128904)		
Task Team Leader(s):	Natasha Beschorner		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	23-Apr-2015	**Estimated Board Date:**	19-Jun-2015
Managing Unit:	GTIDR	**Lending Instrument:**	Adaptable Program Loan
Sector(s):	General information and communications sector (100%)		
Theme(s):	Infrastructure services for private sector development (50%), Rural services and infrastructure (40%), Regulation and competition po licy (10%)		

Financing (In USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	38.00	Total Bank Financing:	15.50
Financing Gap:	0.00		

Financing Source	Amount
BORROWER/RECIPIENT	4.00
IDA Grant	15.50
Asian Development Bank	18.50
Total	38.00

Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment
Is this a Repeater project?	No

B. Project Objectives

The development objective of the Project is to reduce the cost and increase the availability of ICT services to support social and economic development in Samoa.

C. Project Description

The Project is expected to finance a submarine fibre-optic cable linking Samoa to either Fiji (at the

Southern Cross Cable Network at its landing station in Suva) or New Zealand (at the Spark cable landing facilities in Auckland. In addition, the project will finance a dedicated domestic cable from Apia, to Savai'i island.

Project Components are as follows:

Component 1. Submarine cable system (SCS) (US$14.0 million). IDA financing will be provided through on-lending or an equity contribution to the Government to finance its participation in SCC. SCC will be responsible for procuring and managing the proposed submarine cable system, including commercial arrangements for backhaul and interconnection, as appropriate.
Component 2. Technical Assistance (US$1.0 million) for sector regulation and regulatory capacity development. This will finance medium-term technical assistance for the Office of the Regulator to review, develop and implement effective regulation for the sector with a particular focus on wholesale markets. Such assistance will include provision of legal and regulatory expertise, especially for: competition and market regulation activities; review of existing legal regulatory framework including drafting new instruments and reforms; and training and skills development. Additionally, funding will be provided for procurement of technical equipment that is needed to administer and plan effective arrangements for the sector.
Component 3. Project management support ($0.50 million) for a Project management unit to be established in the Ministry of Finance, consistent with arrangements for other IDA-financed operations. This component will finance overall Project coordination, financial management, audit, communications and outreach, and reporting, monitoring and evaluation.

D. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The Project is not expected to have any major environmental impacts and would be proposed for consideration as a Category "B" Project. The international route currently proposed is from Samoa (Upolu) to either Suva, Fiji or Auckland, New Zealand. For the Samoa to Fiji direct option, the landing point will likely be the existing Vatuwaqa station in Laucala Bay, Suva operated by FinTel where the Southern Cross cable currently terminates. No new construction is required at this site, with connection enabled through a service agreement and provision of requisite space within existing facilities for the interconnection, shared provision of power, UPS, fire protection and security, etc. The Samoa to New Zealand option will terminate at existing cable landing facilities owned by Spark (formerly Telecom New Zealand) in Takapuna near Auckland. The domestic cable, if included in the final project scope would be constructed to the neighboring island of Savai'i, with the landing station to be built on government-owned land at Tuasivi landing. Both the international and domestic cables will originate at the Samoa/American Samoa (SAS) - American Samoa-Hawaii (ASH) cable landing site at Fagalii, Upolu (owned by BlueSky Samoa).
The main construction-phase activities will be:
(i) a marine survey to characterize the route and avoid hazards and/or environmentally significant zones. Surveys include water depth and seabed topography, sediment type and thickness, marine faunal/floral communities, and potential natural or human-made hazards. A marine route survey for a SCS installation commonly assesses a seabed corridor from 1 to 10 km wide with repeat passes where necessary;
(ii) detailed design of the submerged infrastructure – the cable and repeaters. This will determine the cable route and cable types and quantities, and clarify the nature of its deployment on the seafloor – surface laying, or trenching and burial, supplementary protection, etc.
(iii) construction of a landing facility and cable station at Tuasivi landing on Savai'i comprising a small beach manhole and a shore end to the sea. The exact terrestrial arrangement is still to be

defined but the station will likely be on government land associated with the adjacent hospital.
(iv) cable laying – the cable will likely be buried in the shallow water approaches to the landing sites and surface-laid along the deep water route. In sections where the cable is not buried it will lie directly on the seabed. Where burying is undertaken, the most effective method is by sea plough (i.e. as a cable approaches the seabed, it is fed through the plough, which inserts the cable into a narrow furrow). In near shore environments, cable burial may require other excavation methods (eg. backhoe trenching).

Once the route option has been selected the exact cable route will be determined by a marine survey that will also map out the locations of all the sensitive ecosystems and the laying of the cables will be done by a specialized ship guided by sonar and other systems. The final cable route will be chosen to avoid sensitive deep ocean ecosystems such as hydrothermal vents and seamounts given that the geophysical conditions at these locations could also destroy the cable. Similarly, avoidance will be the key mitigation measure to avoid impacts in the near-shore environment (eg. coral-based ecological communities, seagrasses, fishing grounds etc.). The use of sonar may be a nuisance to cetacean communities but this risk will be mitigated by adoption of industry best practice protocols. Given these considerations, the Project is unlikely to significantly impact the marine environment and sensitive ecosystems and species during the laying of the cable (i.e., the construction phase). Therefore, any impacts that occur are likely to be short-term, and will not lead to induced and/or cumulative impacts.

The Project will take into account the implementation experience of the recently-commissioned Tonga-Fiji cable, co-financed by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. No adverse social or environmental impacts were experienced during marine operations or landing at Suva or Nuku'alofa.

The Project will use the applicable safeguards policies of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. The safeguards process will include a gap analysis to establish differences between World Bank and Asian Development Bank policies with the highest standards being adopted by the project. The World Bank, in consultation with the Asian Development Bank, will take primary responsibility for review and clearance of safeguards instruments.

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E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

Samoa has an established Code of Environmental Practice (COEP) and a regulatory agency. The COEP of Samoa was developed through the assistance of the World Bank and consists of 14 codes which cover different activities such as road works, quarry operations, drainage works and telecommunications facilities among others. These codes generally cover the safeguards requirements of the 14 specific activities identified in the COEP.
The Planning and Urban Management Agency (PUMA) as the environmental regulatory agency of Samoa will monitor the compliance with the applicable local regulations, which is the COEP.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Nicholas John Valentine (GSURR)

Ross James Butler (GSURR)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)

Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	This Project will finance the laying of a submarine fiber-optic cable system, with associated marine and land based infrastructure, between Samoa and Fiji/ New Zealand and within Samoan territory (Savai'i Island). The project influence area (PIA) will include the terrestrial and marine environments in Samoa and Fiji or New Zealand. Potential adverse environmental impacts may include temporary site-specific disturbance of marine ecosystems (including habitats and species) and coastal areas and communities during installation and maintenance of the cable, and construction of the land and marine based infrastructure, which are expected to be temporary and/or short term and readily manageable. The Project has been initially assigned a category "B" consistent with the nature of these impacts and the requirements of OP4.01. An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and corresponding Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will be prepared by the Project team to address these issues in Samoa and Fiji or New Zealand. As part of this process consultations will be undertaken with all stakeholder groups in the relevant countries (potentially affected communities, NGOs and research groups with interest and experience in the Pacific). The ESIA and ESMP will be prepared and disclosed locally in Samoa and in the destination country and also via the World Bank's Infoshop.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	The PIA may have designated marine protected areas and parks and important habitats and migratory routes for marine species, and significant flora (e.g. mangroves, seagrasses).The ESIA/ESMP process will determine, investigate and assess these issues and relevant and tangible management measures to ensure full compliance with this policy, and relevant national and international laws, treaties and other obligations. The key mitigation measure will be avoidance of natural habitats and there is sufficient design flexibility to allow this.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	The project infrastructure will not impact on forests.
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	The project will not include pest management.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	TBD	The ESIA process will determine the presence of Physical Cultural Resources (PCRs) in the PIA, and will propose measures to avoid impacts to PCRs or

		prepare acceptable plans to manage these impacts if PCRs are present in the project influence area. As two of the three landing sites are at existing facilities (and hence will not require new infrastructure) PCRs are unlikely to be relevant. Nevertheless, a Chance Find Procedures/Protocols will be included in all works contracts.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	Based on prior country-level social analysis undertaken as part of preparation of the Environmental and Social Safeguard Procedures for the Pacific Island Countries, OP 4.10 is not typically triggered in Samoa. Indigenous Peoples are defined by four characteristics: self-identification as members of a cultural group, collective attachment to habitats/territories, customary institutions, and indigenous language. All four characteristics must be present to trigger the policy. In Samoa, virtually all of the population is ethnic Samoan and there are no significant ethnic cleavages among them; therefore, they do not self-identify as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group within their own country. Similarly there are no customary cultural, economic, social or political institutions that are separate from the dominant society and culture because they are the dominant society and culture. There also is no indigenous language different from the official language of the country.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/ BP 4.12	Yes	The proposed landing sites in Apia and Fiji are existing and no further land disturbance is required. Nevertheless, due diligence on land ownership will be undertaken. Due diligence will also be undertaken to determine whether or not there are legacy issues (such as involuntary displacement, grievances of lost assets etc) associated with the proposed landing site in Savai'i. The site proposed is understood to be a government-owned hospital site. Nevertheless, this will be confirmed through consultation with Government agencies and associated documentation. In the unlikely event of any legacy issues a strategy to address them will be prepared. This may include securing agreement with relevant parties to ensure appropriate compensation arrangements or other remedial measures agreeable to all parties are made. If involuntary land acquisition and/or resettlement are confirmed and specific Project areas are known prior to appraisal a Compensation and Resettlement Plan will be prepared. When land acquisition and/or

		involuntary resettlement are not confirmed or specific Project areas are unknown prior to appraisal, a Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework will be prepared. Although any impacts are likely to be minimal/ temporary, there is potential for the customary use right owners (land, fisheries) to be entitled to compensation payments due to any temporary interrupted access to their fishing grounds as a result of the laying of the cable.). The issue of linkage will be investigated by the Task team to determine if there are linked activities as defined by the World Bank's OP4.12, clause 4. If there are, the Task team and the Project Implementing Entity will agree on a due diligence approach and agree on how best to address any issues that might arise. These issues will all be clearly stated in all the Project documents.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The project scope does not include dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	The project entails construction of a submarine cable between the territorial waters (ocean) of Samoa and Fiji or New Zealand. However, these water bodies do not form a boundary between countries.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/ BP 7.60	No	There are no disputed areas within the scope of project implementation.

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 16-Mar-2015

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing[1] should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:

Safeguards studies TOR were approved by December 2014.

IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader(s):	Name: Natasha Beschorner	
Approved By:		
Safeguards Advisor:	Name:	Date:
Practice Manager/ Manager:	Name:	Date:

[1] Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.