Papua New Guinea: Sustainable Highlands Region Core Road Network Project

Project Name: Sustainable Highlands Region Core Road Network Project
Project Number: 56007-001
Country / Economy: Papua New Guinea
Project Status: Proposed
Project Type / Modality of Assistance: Grant
Loan
Technical Assistance
Source of Funding / Amount:
- Grant: Sustainable Highlands Region Core Road Network Project, Phase 1
  Asian Development Fund
  US$ 5.00 million

- Loan: Sustainable Highlands Region Core Road Network Project
  Ordinary capital resources
  US$ 163.20 million

- TA: Sustainable Highlands Region Core Road Network Project, Phase 1
  Technical Assistance Special Fund
  US$ 1.50 million

Operational Priorities:
- OP1: Addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities
- OP2: Accelerating progress in gender equality
- OP3: Tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability
- OP5: Promoting rural development and food security

Sector / Subsector:
- Agriculture, natural resources and rural development / Agricultural policy, institutional and capacity development - Agricultural production - Agro-industry, marketing, and trade - Livestock - Rural market infrastructure
- Transport / Road transport (non-urban) - Transport policies and institutional development

Gender:
Effective gender mainstreaming

Description:
This stand-alone loan, formerly Highlands Region Road Improvement Program (HRRIIP) 2, is one of the three ensuing projects of Loan No. 6032-PNG: Transport Sector Preparatory Project (Project Readiness Financing [PRF]). The proposed project builds on the first HRRIIP, which was completed in 2020 and improved 347 km of the Highlands core road network (HCRN). The proposed project will improve the top priority roads with high design readiness. The larger project covering tentatively 12 remaining roads totaling 407 km is being prepared through the ongoing PRF loan in parallel. As Phase 1, this project will finance the improvement of five roads of the HCRN totaling 116 km to all-weather roads with gender-responsive and socially-inclusive design features (output 1). The project will also enhance the socioeconomic and poverty benefits of improved transportation through physical and nonphysical interventions that support climate-resilient livelihood and income diversification, build capacity to address key social issues and improve community-based infrastructure relevant to the communities along the project roads (output 2). The project will improve road safety and women's use and access to road infrastructure through gender-sensitive designs (output 3).

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy:
Providing safe and efficient transport is a top government priority under PNG’s Development Strategic Plan, 2010-2030, National Transport Strategy, and Medium-Term Development Plan III. In the road transport sector, government's strategic priorities are defined in the Connect PNG initiative focusing on developing a key economic lifeline road network to improve connectivity and addressing the chronic maintenance negligence. To reduce the cost and time of moving people and goods reliably between communities and key economic centers, the government has requested ADB’s assistance to continue the rehabilitation of the HCRN. The project is aligned with ADB Strategy 2030 by improving market connectivity, thus promoting rural development and food security. The project will (i) address remaining poverty and reduce inequalities in the Highlands region, and (ii) accelerate progress in gender equality and tackle climate change with the proposed solutions. The project is also aligned with all three strategic pathways of ADB’s country partnership strategy for PNG by (i) improving land connectivity, (ii) enhancing capacity building, (iii) building disaster and climate resilience with crosscutting aspects of (iv) gender mainstreaming, and (v) addressing climate change. The project is expected to be aligned with the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement Alignment assessment is being prepared.

Impact:
Inter- and intra-regional connectivity improved.
Strong economic growth and social development sustained.
Road safety along the national road network improved.

Outcome:
Road transport safety, efficiency and accessibility for people, goods, and services on the selected regional roads of the core road network in Highlands region improved.

Outputs:
Existing roads in Highlands region improved.
Socio-economic activities enhanced.
Road safety of the project roads increased.

Geographical Location:
Nation-wide

Safeguard Categories:
- Environment: B
- Involuntary Resettlement: B
- Indigenous Peoples: C

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects:
Environmental Aspects
Involuntary Resettlement
Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation
During Project Design

During Project Implementation

Responsible ADB Officer: Kalliokoski, Ari
Responsible ADB Department: Sectors Group
Responsible ADB Division: Transport Sector Office (SG-TRA)
Executing Agencies: Department of Works and Highways

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<td>21 Feb 2024</td>
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Project Page: https://www.adb.org//projects/56007-001/main
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