

## Concept Note

<b>Title</b>	<b>Pacific Regional Connectivity Project</b>
<b>Organisation(s):</b>	<b>World Bank</b>
<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Theme 2: Affordable Access: International Connectivity in the Pacific</b>
<b>Speaking Duration:</b>	<b>15 Minutes</b>
<b>Background and Justification:</b>	
<b>Objectives:</b>	Reduce the cost and increase the capacity or “bandwidth” of international connectivity in the Pacific Region. Facilitate extension of telecommunications infrastructure and services to unserved and under-served areas in the region. Generate new economic opportunities, promote inclusive development, and reduce isolation of communities.
<b>Scope:</b>	Through a private-public partnership arrangement support the development of regional fibre-optic telecommunications cable infrastructure to provide faster and cheaper connectivity for Pacific island economies. Possible scope of project: Technical assistance to facilitate detailed project design and development, including coordination of regional stakeholders. Technical assistance for management of international cable resources (institutional and governance arrangements, competition safeguards, enabling policies and regulations, including fair and transparent pricing. Development of a management/governance structure. Selective investment subsidy for supporting backbone infrastructure (e.g. spurs and cable landing stations) Selective investment subsidy for required backhaul infrastructure for commercially less viable areas e.g secondary islands.
<b>Expected Outcomes:</b>	Reduced cost of international bandwidth. More widespread availability of broadband Internet to support multiple applications.
<b>Potential Partners:</b>	Regional telecommunications operators (Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association), Pacific regional inter-governmental agencies, Bilateral and multilateral development partners, ITU.
<b>Project Timescale:</b>	5 years

	<p>February 2009: decision in principle by Pacific member governments</p> <p>April 2009: Project Concept note &amp; start of detailed consultations with potentially interested governments and private investors</p> <p>July 2009: establishment of “Project secretariat” or “task force” in the region</p> <p>September 2009-detailed project preparation commences</p>
<b>Budget (optional):</b>	Depending on option selected (point to point or regional links)