



Matotoka to Sefadu Road Studies and Inst

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Tunis, - /ABC Television-Africa (ABC-Africa) / The AfDB approved approximately USD\$2.1 million in funds for a feasibility study of the Matotoka to Sefadu road in Sierra Leone. The road is a

major artery between Freetown and Sefadu and links the major diamond mining district to other towns and villages along the east-west route corridor and is widely travelled by the residents of Kono District. The feasibility studies commenced in August, 2008 and it is expected to last for two years.

According to the AfDB, the objectives of the road study component are to determine the technical feasibility and economic viability of improving the Matotoka to Sefadu road and associated feeder roads in its zone of influence. The study is to further carry out the environmental and social impact assessment, including poverty, health and gender issues. Contingent upon the outcome of the feasibility studies, the study will lead to detailed engineering designs and the preparation of Tender Documents.

The institutional support component will strengthen the Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA) and enable it to plan, budget and manage its capital investment and maintenance programmes more efficiently.

The feasibility studies will provide: 1. Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Reports, Detailed Engineering Report and Tender Documents prepared 2. Axle load control policy and action plan prepared 3. Capacity built of trainers for SLRA staff engaged in road maintenance 4. Institutional capacity of SLRA for road maintenance planning is strengthened 5. Operational data bank system for the Transport Sector are established 6. SLRA Materials Laboratory operates efficiently

Indirect benefits expected to be derived from the improved roads and bridges will include savings in vehicle operating cost due to reduced road roughness, reduced maintenance cost, savings in travel time, improvement in comfort of ride, reduced accident rate and reduced fatalities.

The main benefits from the study and capacity building activities would be to determine the increase in efficiency and cost effectiveness of the highway sub-sector that permits a higher level of economic activity, reduction in poverty, improvement in national integration as well as improvement in the transport sector's institutional capacity.

Further indirect benefits expected to be derived from the improved management of the road network will include savings in transport cost, reduced road maintenance cost, savings in travel time, improved travel comfort and reduced accident rates.

This project is one of several projects partly or fully funded by the AfDB to alleviate infrastructure development and alleviate the poverty conditions in Sierra Leone. Other portfolios include:

- [Social Action Support Project \(SASP\)](#)
- [Support to Basic and Non-Formal Education and Vocational Skills Training \(Education III\)](#)
- [Bumbuna Hydro Project - Additional Financing](#)
- [Strengthening of District Health Services](#)
- [Institutional Support Project to Strengthen Public Financial Management & Energy Sector Project](#)
- [Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project](#)

SOURCE: African Development Bank (AfDB)