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ACEH WEST COAST HIGHWAY PROJECT

2010



Photo: USAID/ Roy Ventura

Environmental erosion control demonstrated on a section of the new road

Presently it appears that the current completion date will not be met and effort is being made to accomplish the actual completion in the latter part of 2010.



Photo: USAID/ Roy Ventura

New highway emerging from a jungle environment to the Indian Ocean



Photo: USAID/ Roy Ventura

Road pioneering through a jungle near Lhok Kruet

INTRODUCTION

The reconstruction of Aceh's West Coast Highway continues to move forward. The road, which connects the province with the rest of North Sumatra and Indonesia is vital for ensuring mobility, improving communications, facilitating trade and creating local jobs in the region. The road project was spurred by the destruction caused by the 2004 tsunami that destroyed Aceh.

Construction and Land Acquisition

- Project design and construction management company, Parsons, completed the alignment design for the Aceh West Coast Highway in June 2006 after a thorough investigation which included environmental assessments, community consultations and technical surveying.
- A local contractor, PT. Wijaya Karya is constructing a 28 kilometer stretch of road from the Raba River to the start of the Gereute Mountains. That contract work is expected to be totally completed and turned over to the local government within the current month.
- For the 150 kilometer project 16 new bridges are open for public use and 6 additional ones are under construction.
- The land acquisition process for the project is virtually complete. Provincial Public Works and the Aceh Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency (BRR), Badan Pertanahan National (BPN) and the Provincial Government, have all participated in this process with the support of various road project personnel. Remaining unique issues are dealt with immediately on a case by case basis.
- Employment opportunities develop on the project as work progresses along the 150 kilometer route. USAID contractors are building local capacity where possible through training in construction, project management and supervision.
- The USAID awarded the Prime Contract for the construction of 110 km of the road to a joint venture of SsangYong Engineering and Construction Co. Ltd and PT. Hutama Karya. Work is under construction in all areas of that contract.



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Caleeh Bridge assembly nearing completion

Photo: USAID/ Roy Ventura



New highway section by-passing a village

Photo: USAID/ Roy Ventura

- To date 6 permanent turnovers have been made to the local Department of Public Works involving approximately 37.5 kilometers of completed road. Additionally more than 27.5 more kilometers of new road have been opened for public use. Additional turnovers are expected in the coming weeks.
- A new bidding package has been developed to re- insert a 12 kilometer section which was removed from the project due to contractor and community regional conflicts.

Environmental Management and Community Outreach

- The road construction follows guidelines established in formal environmental assessments based on combined Indonesian and U.S. regulations.
- Mitigation activities are under way to compensate for wetlands disturbed by the project. To date these include establishment of mangrove areas and tree plantings
- Environmental monitors have inspected road segments that run close to the coastline and surveyed areas where protective measures, such as shore protection, are proposed to protect the road from excessive storm damage.
- The project team has developed a siltation screen process to help prevent stream and river contamination in compliance with Indonesian and U.S. environmental standards for all work in, or adjacent to, flowing bodies of water.

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