

Promotion of Sustainable Rural Access in the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda

Project Profile



BACKGROUND

Following the United Nations (UN) General Assembly meeting in September 2015 to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the year 2015 has proven to be decisive in determining the global sustainable development architecture to 2030. Sustainable transport is recognized in the architecture, through its contribution to several of the adopted 17 SDGs¹ including SDGs related to food security, health, energy, infrastructure development, urban development, sustainable consumption and production, as well as climate change.

Unfortunately, the continued need for improved rural transport and enhanced rural access is not featured prominently in the SDGs. Continued promotion and advocacy are required to ensure that rural communities, which will represent 30% of the global population at 2030, are not 'left behind' in the new global development agenda. Communications and advocacy on rural access must therefore be highlighted through global processes on sustainable transport, including ongoing development of indicators to measure progress toward the SDGs and in new global institutional arrangements on sustainable transport (e.g. Secretary General's High Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport, MDB Working Group on Sustainable Transport).

Fortunately, many stakeholders view rural access as vital strand of sustainable transport. For example, the two-year UK Aid-funded Research for Community Access Partnership (ReCAP)² is undertaking research with the aim of promoting safe and sustainable transport for rural communities in Africa and Asia. ReCAP comprises the Africa Community Access Partnership (AfCAP) and the Asia Community Access Partnership (AsCAP). These partnerships support knowledge sharing between participating countries in order to enhance the uptake of low cost, proven solutions for rural access that maximize the use of local resources.

Consequently, the Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT)³ has agreed to play a key role (with the support and partnership of ReCAP) in systematically pursuing opportunities to ensure better integration of rural transport in the finalization and implementation of the post-2015 development framework. To this end, a four pronged programme of activities has been developed by SLoCaT and ReCAP to extend through 2016.

¹ Set out in the final report of the Open Working Group (OWG) on the SDGs that was published in July 2014. <http://slocat.net/transport-open-working-group-process>

² <http://www.afcap.org/>

³ <http://www.slocat.net>

OVERARCHING GOAL

The ReCAP-SLoCaT project contributes to the overarching goal of “realising sustainable basic access at an affordable cost,” which is being advanced by advocacy in official fora, integrating views of rural access stakeholders in an effective global dialogue, developing technically-sound and well-supported indicators for rural access, and identifying key financing needs for needed rural transport infrastructure and services.

ACTIVITIES

Project activities include the following:

Activity A: Continuing advocacy on rural transport in finalization and implementation of SDGs including the following tasks and outputs:

- (i) Prepare and advocacy materials aiming to achieve specific rural transport targets
- (ii) Disseminate advocacy documents through various media channels
- (iii) Establish a database of key rural transport stakeholders
- (iv) Deliver advocacy messaging at key fora and through online channels
- (v) Contribute to on-going inter-governmental processes at regional and global levels

Activity B: Strengthening of the global rural transport community through effective dialogue including the following tasks and outputs:

- (i) Liaise with and promote dialogue through key stakeholders, including UN agencies
- (ii) develop a dedicated process of progressive dialogue tied to official events in the UN process
- (iii) Obtain buy-in from partners to expand dialogue in Africa (e.g. SSATP) and Asia (e.g. ESCAP)

Activity C: Detailing indicators on rural transport including the following tasks and outputs:

- (i) Document past and on-going efforts on relevant indicators by relevant stakeholders
- (ii) Coordinate with other groups linked to ReCAP on indicator development
- (iii) Develop revised indicators for possible rural transport-related targets based on the SLoCaT Results Framework and linking up with leading indicator efforts of the UN Statistical Commission and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

Activity D: Contributing to SLoCaT’s Financing Framework on Sustainable Transport⁴ including the following tasks and outputs:

- (i) Identify the main challenges and priorities for funding and financing of sustainable rural transport infrastructure and services
- (ii) Contribute to the development of a comprehensive financing framework for sustainable, low carbon transport as currently pursued through the SLoCaT Partnership.

SLoCaT, with its global network of members and stakeholders within the rural transport community and across all relevant sectors (including the UN system, MDBs and bilateral development agencies), is well placed to facilitate the communication and advocacy required to raise the profile of rural access in the forthcoming implementation of the post 2015 agenda.

For further information www.slocat.net/ruraltransport or contact Cornie Huizenga, cornie.huizenga@slocatpartnership.org

www.afcap.org

ReCAP LinkedIn⁴ Group Page

4 <https://www.linkedin.com/grps/Research-Community-Access-Partnership-ReCAP-5026568/about?>

