1. Key development issues and rationale for Bank involvement

The Regional Communications Infrastructure Program (RCIP) is a World Bank Group regional instrument aimed at catalyzing private sector investment to improve connectivity in East & Southern Africa (E&SA). The RCIP has been designed as a 10-year horizontal APL regional IDA operation to (a) accelerate the roll-out of the regional and national backhaul, and backbone infrastructure to extend the reach of submarine cables’ traffic to consumers in the East and Southern Africa region (b) finance capacity purchase schemes for Government use and that of targeted users (schools, universities, hospitals, etc) and (c) finance related activities such as eGovernment and ICT in rural areas.

Overall, the program is open to Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, DRC, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, provided these countries are eligible for IDA or IBRD financing. More information on RCIP and related operations can be found at [www.worldbank.org/rcip](http://www.worldbank.org/rcip).

The first Phase of the RCIP was approved by the Board of the World Bank on March 29, 2007 and comprised the Kenya Transparency and Communications Infrastructure Project, the Burundi Communications Infrastructure Project and the Madagascar Communications Infrastructure Project with a combined IDA volume of around US$164.5 million. RCIP 2 is being prepared following the requests of the Governments of Rwanda for a possible combined US$24 million IDA Grant support.

The Third Phase - RCIP 3 is also being prepared in parallel following the requests of the Governments of Tanzania, Mozambique and Malawi for a possible combined US$153 million IDA support.
**Significant benefits are expected to arise from the regional nature of the RCIP project.** Enhanced regional connectivity will increase cross-border communications traffic flows and will improve the viability of the submarine cable infrastructure under development along the East coast of Africa. The regional nature of the project will also enhance the harmonization of sector regulation across the countries of the region. This type of coordinated regional initiative complements other activities that the World Bank Group is involved with (e.g., EASSy).

2. Proposed objective(s)

Project development objectives for RCIP 3 are similar to RCIP The RCIP Program, and all Projects under RCIP have one to two of the following development objectives, depending of the individual Government’s request: (i) contribute to lower the price of international broadband capacity and extend the reach of backbone networks across Eastern and Southern Africa and (ii) contribute to improved Government efficiency and transparency through eGovernment applications

3. Preliminary description

The **Guiding principles** for the design of each component of the proposed Projects are: (i) Utilizing a programmatic approach with detailed phasing of activities; (ii) Incorporating a results-based Monitoring and Evaluation framework; (iii) Leveraging Public Private Partnerships (PPP); and (iv) Leveraging participatory approaches and harmonization with development partners.

**TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT (TCIP):**

Component 1 – Enabling Environment (US$[17] million): This component will provide support in the form of technical assistance (TA) and capacity building in order to (i) accelerate project implementation (ii) strengthen the policy and regulatory environment and (iii) promote further sector reform so as to maximize benefits from access to international capacity.

Component 2 – Connectivity (US$[60] million): This component will support connectivity in Tanzania through several subcomponents: (i) Financing for the construction of the submarine cable(s) landing station in Tanzania (US$[2-4] million); (ii) Support for pre-purchase of capacity on the submarine cable(s) for priority targeted user groups (US$[6-8] million); (iii) Financing for equipment for a virtual Government Communications Network (US$[20] million); and (iv) Support for the extension of coverage and access to ICT services in rural areas using PPP arrangements (US$[30] million). This component will also cover implementation of recommendations stemming from the relevant environmental studies.

Component 3 – eGovernment Applications (US$[13] million): This component will include support for implementation of targeted eGovernment applications such as: (i) eProcurement; (ii) Records and Archive Management; and (iii) Quick-Win Mobile (mGovernment) Applications. The applications to be supported will be further detailed during project preparation.

Component 4 – Project Management Support (US$[3-5] million): This component will consist of support to finance project management related issues, and namely support for (i) a Project Coordinator; (ii) a Telecom Specialist/Manager; (iii) an eGovernment Specialist; (iv) an Procurement Specialist; (v) an Financial Management Specialist; (vi) a Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist; (vii) an Information, Education, and Communications Specialist; (viii) an Environmental Specialist; (ix) office equipment; (x) incremental operating costs; and (xi) audits.
MOZAMBIQUE EGOVERNMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT (MECIP)

Component 1 – Enabling environment (US$[2] million): This component will provide technical capacity building and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) assistance to the Ministry of Science and Technology (MCT), the Technical Unit for Implementation of the ICT Policy (UTICT), the Ministry of Transport and Communication (MTC) and the National Mozambican Communications Institute (INCM) and possibly TDM so as to (i) accelerate project implementation, (ii) strengthen the policy and regulatory environment and (iii) promote further sector reform so as to maximize benefits from access to international capacity.

Component 2 – Connectivity (US$[6] million): This component will support connectivity in Mozambique through several subcomponents: (a) support for equipment and construction of a landing station, and for establishment of an Internet Exchange Point (IXP), (b) support for the rollout of a national backbone (possible inclusion of extension of backbone to districts and trans-frontier links), (c) support for purchase of capacity for targeted users (schools, universities, hospitals, eGovernment users, other user groups), (d) support for financing the Governments’ communications network (e.g. extension of GovNet or agreed platform to districts), and (e) support for the extension of ICT coverage in rural areas, (f) support for country-specific innovative demand-stimulation programs (e.g. community radios, SMS-based services, MICTI, etc). This component will also cover implementation of recommendations stemming from the relevant environmental studies.

Component 3 – Transparency – eGovernment Applications (US$[8-23] million): This component will include support for targeted eApplications such as: (a) a Land Information Management System, (b) the setup of a Unique Citizen Identity Number (NUIC); (c) an Election Information System. The applications to be supported will be further detailed during project preparation, and chosen according to the following criteria: (i) existence of a champion or change agent, (ii) acceptability of PPP approach, (iii) potential for improvement of internal efficiency and transparency, (iv) cost-benefit analysis and possibility for quick wins, (v) high potential for positive impact for citizens.

Component 4 – Project Management Support (US$[2] million): This component will consist of support to finance project management related issues, and namely support for hiring staff which will be found necessary, and which could include (i) a Project Coordinator; (ii) a Lead IT architect; (iii) a Procurement Specialist; (iv) a Financial Management Specialist; (v) a Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist; (vi) a Communications Specialist; (vii) Environmental expertise; (ix) office equipment; (x) incremental operating costs; and (xi) audits.

MALAWI COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT (MCIP)

Component 1 - Enabling Environment: This component will provide technical capacity building and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) assistance to the Ministry of Information and Civic Education (MICE) and for the Malawi Communications Authority (MACRA) so as to (i) accelerate project implementation, (ii) strengthen the policy and regulatory environment and (iii) promote further sector reform so as to maximize benefits from access to international capacity.

Component 2 – Connectivity: This component will support connectivity in Malawi through several subcomponents: (a) support for equipment and construction of a virtual landing station, (b) support for the setup of rollout of a national backbone, (c) support for purchase of capacity for targeted users, (d) support for financing the Governments’ communications network, and (e) support for the extension of ICT coverage in rural areas. This component will also cover implementation of recommendations stemming from the relevant environmental studies. It should be noted that civil works will be limited to
areas such as existing roads or buildings and this will not include right of ways clearing nor inhabited land acquisition.

Component 3 – Transparency – eGovernment Applications: This component will include support for targeted eApplications.

Component 4 - Project Management for MCIP: This component will consist of support to finance project management related issues, and namely support for (a) an Executive Secretary, (b) a Technical Manager, (c) a Procurement Specialist, (d) a Financial Management Specialist, (e) an M&E Specialist, (f) office equipment, (g) incremental operating costs, (h) audits, and (i) environmental specialist expertise.

4. Safeguard policies that might apply

The physical components of the RCIP Program will mostly be limited to the building of national backbones, rollout of rural networks, and of the landing stations for the submarine cable (or virtual landing stations for landlocked countries). The risks associated with this kind of infrastructure are generally low, and the Program therefore rates as environmental category B under OP 4.01. This also applies to the RCIP 3 (the Tanzania, Mozambique, and Malawi operations). Land acquisition for terrestrial facilities (if any) might be needed for virtual landing stations as well as national backbone structures. These are likely to be existing telecom-related buildings and therefore not likely to require land acquisition. If it is determined that project activities will require land acquisition or impact other assets, a Resettlement Action Plan will be prepared, approved by the World Bank, and implemented prior to initiating civil works. The triggering of OP 4.04 - Natural Habitats and OP 4.11 - Physical Cultural Resources are to be determined. The potential application of these safeguards will be assessed during the preparation of the project prior to appraisal and if likely to be triggered appropriate measures will be designed and included in the Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

An ESMF and Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) have been prepared for the overall program and for the countries included in the first phase (Kenya, Madagascar and Burundi). These have been approved and disclosed prior to appraisal of RCIP1. An update of the ESMF and RPF is being carried out so as to also include Tanzania, Mozambique, and Malawi. Specific costed Environmental Management Plans (EMP) and Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) will be prepared as necessary for the terrestrial facilities during project implementation, in line with the ESMF and RPF, once the exact locations of those facilities have been identified. The revised ESMF and RPF will be submitted for Bank review and publicly disclosed in Tanzania, Mozambique, and Malawi and InfoShop prior to appraisal. The institutional responsibilities for preparing the various safeguards instruments would lay with the implementing agency of each participating country. Any specific required action for some of the Civil Works will be taken into account during project implementation as part of implementation of the relevant RAP and EMP. Institutional responsibilities for the implementation of the ESMF and RPF will be defined closely with the Safeguards Team. In addition, civil works are not expected to take place for the first 12 months of project implementation.

The team will work in close coordination with (i) the Government of Tanzania, Government of Mozambique, and Government of Malawi, (ii) the different World Bank Group units involved, including the Bank's safeguards standards from early on into the project preparation process, and (iii) the Procurement Team which will offer guidance on procurement.

The team notes that the above arrangements have been successfully tested as part of the preparation of RCIP1 and 2 and early implementation of RCIP1.
5. Tentative financing

Source: ($m.)

BORROWER/RECIPIENT  0
International Development Association (IDA)  153
Incl. IDA Grant  18

Total  153

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