

**Implementation Status & Results**  
**Africa**  
**Central African Backbone - APL1A (P108368)**

Operation Name: Central African Backbone - APL1A (P108368)	Project Stage: Implementation	Seq.No: 7	Status: ARCHIVED	Archive Date: 23-Mar-2013
Country: Africa	Approval FY: 2010			
Product Line: IBRD/IDA	Region: AFRICA	Lending Instrument: Adaptable Program Loan		
Implementing Agency(ies):				

**Key Dates**

Board Approval Date	24-Sep-2009	Original Closing Date	15-Mar-2016	Planned Mid Term Review Date	07-Mar-2013	Last Archived ISR Date	31-Jan-2013
Effectiveness Date	12-Feb-2010	Revised Closing Date	15-Mar-2016	Actual Mid Term Review Date	30-Apr-2013		

**Project Development Objectives**

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

**The development objective of the Central African Backbone Program is to contribute to increase the geographical reach and usage of regional broadband network services and reduce their prices.**

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project?

Yes     No

**Component(s)**

Component Name	Component Cost
Chad - Component 1 # Enabling environment	7.40
Chad - Component 2 # Project management capability	1.60
CAR - Component 1 # Enabling environment	5.70
CAR - Component 2 # Project management capability	1.60
Cameroon - Component 1 # Enabling environment	6.90
Cameroon - Component 2 # eGovernment and flagship ICT applications	1.20
Cameroon - Component 3 # Project management	1.80

**Overall Ratings**

	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Progress towards achievement of PDO	Moderately Satisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	Moderately Satisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Risk Rating		

**Implementation Status Overview**

This ISR is being filed to update the performance ratings of the project, based on a reassessment of progress in the three participating countries (Cameroon, CAR and Chad).

Cameroon: The disbursement rate is 30% as of February 26, 2013. The expected disbursement rate by the end of June 2013 is 35%. The disbursement rate is expected to accelerate within the coming months with the delivery of large contracts (\$1.3 m. or 17.6% of the total project amount) including the purchase of frequency management equipment (final comments on the bidding documents were sent by the Bank on September 9, 2012). The procurement process of this item has been stalled since December 2012, due to major institutional change in public procurement in Cameroon: creation of the Ministry of Public Procurement. This new arrangement was assessed by the Bank, which recommended that all projects approved prior to the creation of this new Ministry should retain their original procurement arrangements. This agreement took time to materialize and delayed ongoing procurement processes. Regarding CAMTEL, the Government has still not made any final decision on the option to be selected for the restructuring of the incumbent operator: one option proposes the structural separation of the incumbent, the other one proposes a functional separation within CAMTEL. On February 12, 2013, the Government, supported by CAB APL1A, organized a workshop to discuss and validate the conclusions and recommendations of the PPIAF funded study on Digital Switch Over (DSO) in Cameroon. At the end of this seminar, it was agreed that CAB APL1A will finance a pilot project to implement one of the recommendations of the study. This issue will be discussed during the Mid Term Review and may be part of the restructuring of the project.

Central African Republic (CAR): the disbursement rate is 55% as of February 26, 2013. Disbursement will soon increase with the delivery of the frequency management equipment (\$1.1 m.). Project management has improved with the constant involvement of the implementing agency and the regular use of the Africa Procurement Cycle Tracking System (PROCYS). In terms of results, the Government of CAR launched in early February the recruitment of the consultant for the strategic repositioning of SOCATEL, which will be funded under the CAB Project. This was made possible through high-quality, constant policy dialogue with GoCAR and SOCATEL's new management team. In addition, a new ICT law (developed with support from CAB APL1A) should be submitted promptly to Parliament. This has been delayed the recent political crisis (December 2012/January 2013).

Chad: The disbursement rate is 26% as of February 26, 2013. The expected disbursement rate for end of July 2013 is 50%. An individual international consultant has been recruited to support the PIU. However, project restructuring options probably will need to be considered at the upcoming mid-term review to simplify the project, make implementation arrangements more effective, and adopt initiatives to fill institutional and technical capacity gaps. A Presidential Decree dated January 21, 2013 (#059/PR/PM/MPNTI/2013) restored exclusivity on the management of international gateways (incoming and outgoing traffic) to SOTELCHAD, the incumbent operator. This is inconsistent with one of the basic overarching goals of the CAB APL program, namely to "remove monopoly regimes through policy and regulatory support to ensure that once in place, the infrastructure is accessible to all operators on open, transparent and nondiscriminatory terms". The impact of this on the viability of the CAB1A project in Chad will be a major issue for the mid-term review.

Upcoming Mid Term Review: MTRs will be conducted in the three CAB countries in the first half of May 2013. During MTR, the Bank will discuss Project scope and re-alignment of PDO with new country priorities.

**Locations**

No Location data has been entered

**Results**

**Project Development Objective Indicators**

Indicator Name	Core	Unit of Measure		Baseline	Current	End Target
Chad International Internet/Communications Bandwidth (bits per person)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	18.58	9.06	50.00
			Date	31-Dec-2008	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	
Chad Internet users per 100 inhabitants	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	Value	0.60	7.07	1.40
			Date	31-Dec-2007	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016

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			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	
Chad Average monthly price of wholesale international capacity link from N'Djamena to European Hub (E1) in \$	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	7000.00	3600.00	2000.00
			Date	31-Dec-2008	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	
CAR International Internet/Communications bandwidth (bits per person)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	0.37	2.38	3.00
			Date	31-Dec-2008	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	
CAR Internet users per 100 inhabitants	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	Value	0.30	5.50	1.60
			Date	31-Dec-2006	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	
CAR Average monthly price of wholesale international capacity link from Bangui to European hub (E1) in \$	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	7000.00	15000.00	2500.00
			Date	31-Dec-2008	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	
Cameroon International Internet/communications bandwidth (bits per person)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	10.95	30.00	80.00
			Date	31-Dec-2008	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	
Cameroon Internet users per 100 inhabitants	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	Value	2.00	5.00	4.50
			Date	31-Dec-2008	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	
Cameroon Average monthly price of wholesale international capacity link from Yaounde to European Hub (E1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount(USD)	Value	6000.00	6000.00	1200.00
			Date	31-Dec-2008	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	

**Intermediate Results Indicators**

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Indicator Name	Core	Unit of Measure		Baseline	Current	End Target
Chad Average cost of mobile call in \$ (per 3 min local peak)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	1.05	0.20	0.85
			Date	31-Dec-2008	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	
Chad Average monthly price of 256 kbps broadband connection (\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	530.00	450.00	80.00
			Date	31-Dec-2008	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	
Chad Coverage of mobile networks (percent of population)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	Value	24.00	38.03	50.00
			Date	31-Dec-2008	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	
CAR Average cost of mobile call (3 minutes local peak) (\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	0.57	0.45	0.49
			Date	31-Dec-2006	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	
CAR Average monthly price of 256 kbps broadband connection (\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	425.00	250.00	100.00
			Date	31-Dec-2008	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	
CAR Coverage of mobile networks (percent of population)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	Value	19.30	55.00	47.50
			Date	31-Dec-2008	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	
Cameroon Average monthly price of 256 kbps broadband connection (\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	165.00	107.00	50.00
			Date	31-Dec-2008	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	
Cameroon Coverage of mobile networks (percent of population)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	Value	35.00	35.00	70.00
			Date	31-Dec-2008	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	

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Cameroon Number of Internet servers registered under the Country Top-Level Domain (ccTLD)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	1100.00	14000.00	200000.00
			Date	31-Dec-2008	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	
Cameroon Average cost of mobile call (1 minute local peak)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	306.00	100.00	102.00
			Date	31-Dec-2008	01-Jul-2012	15-Mar-2016
			Comments		Information received from the client on January 16th, 2013	

**Data on Financial Performance (as of 07-Mar-2013)**

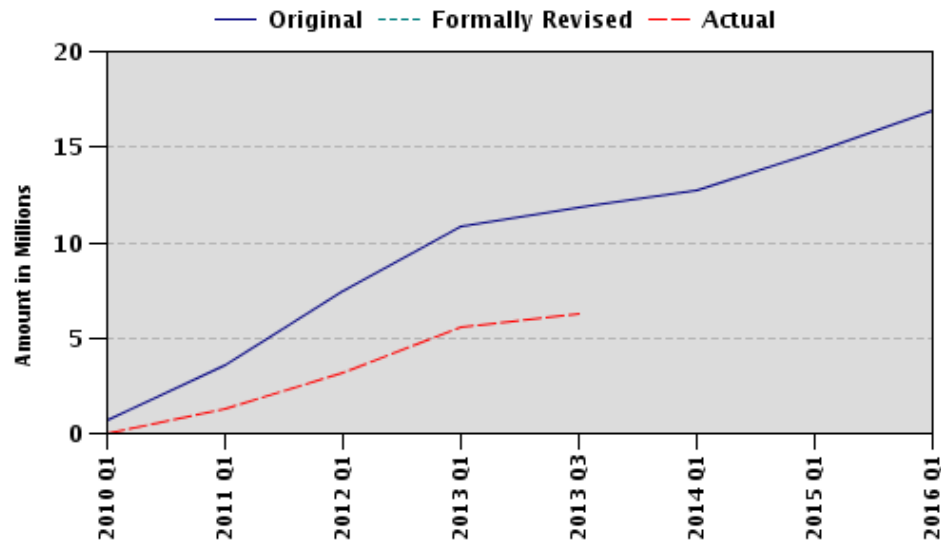
**Financial Agreement(s) Key Dates**

Project	Ln/Cr/Tf	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Original Closing Date	Revised Closing Date
P108368	IDA-46470	Effective	24-Sep-2009	29-Jan-2010	20-Apr-2010	15-Mar-2016	15-Mar-2016
P108368	IDA-H5150	Effective	24-Sep-2009	11-Dec-2009	12-Feb-2010	15-Mar-2016	15-Mar-2016
P108368	IDA-H5160	Effective	24-Sep-2009	22-Jan-2010	27-Jul-2010	15-Mar-2016	15-Mar-2016

**Disbursements (in Millions)**

Project	Ln/Cr/Tf	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	% Disbursed
P108368	IDA-46470	Effective	XDR	6.40	6.40	0.00	1.98	4.42	31.00
P108368	IDA-H5150	Effective	XDR	4.80	4.80	0.00	2.66	2.14	55.00
P108368	IDA-H5160	Effective	XDR	5.80	5.80	0.00	1.67	4.13	29.00

**Disbursement Graph**



**Key Decisions Regarding Implementation**

Cameroon: The Government will send an official request to include the Digital Switch Over activity in the CAB APL1A project. The team will take the opportunity of the upcoming MTR (April/May 2013) to restructure the project accordingly.

CAR: The Consultant for the strategic repositioning of SOCATTEL should be recruited by the end of March 2013.

Chad: Chad will finalize the recruitment of the international consultants to (i) provide operational support to PCU; and (ii) provide policy and regulatory advice to the Government. Moreover the replacement of the fiduciary team within the PCU should be finalized by May 2013. The Mid Term Review will be an opportunity to review the overall implementation of the project, and potentially recommend a restructuring of this operation. The dates for the MTR will be finalized by end of March 2013.

**Restructuring History**

There has been no restructuring to date.

**Related Projects**

There are no related projects.