

Response by Asian Development Bank

Dear Ella Skybenko and Sofya Manukyan,

Thank you for your media monitoring results shared with ADB on 3 May 2023. We have carefully examined each case and are sharing the requested clarifications and information below. Kindly note that not all mentioned projects are financed by ADB. ADB is carefully reviewing project implementation and its compliance with loan agreements and ADB policies. We will continue to monitor the pending actions. Please be advised that you can monitor the status of pending actions shared in our response through the project monitoring reports, which are disclosed on the ADB webpage twice a year.

Let me once again thank you for writing to ADB and bringing these topics to our attention.

Kind regards,

Jesper Klindt Petersen
Head and Advisor
Central and West Asia Regional Department
ADB

KGZ: North-South alternative road (section Balykchy-Kazarman-Jalal-Abad)

ADB maintains its commitment to its [Safeguard Policy Statement \(2009\)](#) in all projects that it finances. The three articles cited refer to separate sections of road that are not financed by ADB.

KGZ: Bishkek-Naryn-Torugart road

The article cited refers to an investigation on a road section not financed by ADB. ADB has financed rehabilitation of a separate section of road from Naryn to Torugart and has adhered to its Safeguard Policy.

TAJ: Obigarm-Nurobod Road

The article contains a link to the website of another financing institution without providing details on specific road section(s). The article is not clear on the specific road section being funded. ADB is supporting the construction of a 72-km replacement road for the existing M41 highway. The implementation of the environmental management plans and effectiveness of mitigation measures are being closely monitored by ADB and implementing agency.

KAZ: Aktobe-Atyrau highway

Community consultations in April 2023 have resulted in proposed design variations to improve safety, connectivity and other community and commercial facilities. The revised design, once completed, will be disclosed to the communities for further review and consultation.

GEO: Khevi-Ubisa section of Tbilisi-Senaki-Leselidze highway

A brief protest of workers took place in May 2021. The demands of the workers related to wages and communications. An agreement was reached on wages and a qualified interpreter was appointed to facilitate communications with the Contractor. The project is being implemented in accordance with ADB's safeguard policy, which includes a robust and responsive grievance redress mechanism and social and environmental monitoring.

GEO: Kvesheti Kobi Road

ADB engages dedicated field staff for environmental and social monitoring to facilitate the consultation process, and to assist the efficient functioning of the established Grievance Redress Mechanism. A Project Information Center is available for the public in the village of Kvesheti. A Cultural Heritage General Action Plan details the significance, protection measures and monitoring processes for Cultural Heritage. Land acquisition and resettlement impacts, including livelihood impacts, were identified through comprehensive field surveys and consultations. Public consultations were held with landowners during preparation of the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plans (LARPs) and consultations have continued throughout the project and following completion of the LARP. Also, a robust and transparent Grievance Redress Mechanism is in place.

China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway

At this stage there is no plan that ADB will be a financier for this project.