

FinnOC

FINNISH
OVERSEAS
CONSULTANTS
LTD.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS





We offer innovative solutions

Finnish Overseas Consultants (FinnOC) Ltd. is a global consulting firm helping organisations and governments to successfully implement development and infrastructure projects.

We work in multiple sectors utilizing both well-established and innovative approaches, converting findings into actionable plans and effective management systems.

Established in 2006, FinnOC has 15 years of experience in delivering technical assistance to a large variety of development projects, offering services such as feasibility studies, climate change assessments, social and environmental studies, data collection as well as capacity building.

FinnOC works with leading international financing institutions, governments and local organisations all over the world. We currently have presences in Europe, Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central Asia, the Caribbean, and we are constantly growing and expanding.

OUR MISSION

**We help organisations to
implement sustainable
development solutions
through innovative
consultancy services,
approaches and technologies.**



OUR SERVICES





ROADS & TRANSPORT

- Road Asset Management Systems (RAMS)
- Construction supervision
- Road condition surveys
- Feasibility studies
- Economic analyses

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Climate change scenarios
- Climate risk and natural hazard assessments
- Climate change vulnerability assessments
- Climate change adaptation plans

CAPACITY & INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Skills assessments
- Capacity building
- Institutional development & change management
- Business process mapping



SOCIO-ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

- Baseline, midline and endline studies
- Environmental and Social Impact Assessments
- Environmental and social safeguards management
- Social research
- Renewable energy feasibility studies

RURAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Agriculture & aquaculture
- Forestry planning & management
- Natural resource management
- Health & Gender-Based Violence

OUR EXPERTISE

ROADS AND TRANSPORT

We offer extensive international experience for transport sector projects in both rural and urban settings. We have developed state-of-the-art Road Asset Management Systems (RAMS) in several countries, allowing organisations and governments to maximize their resources available for road management and maintenance. Our RAMS expertise includes database development, HDM-4, and GIS.

Staying on the leading edge of the industry requires engaging in active research and development and integrating the latest scientific knowledge into our services. We utilise the latest road condition survey tools that significantly reduce the time and cost associated with country-wide mapping of road network condition.

Our specialists actively participate in international expert communities such as the World Road Association (PIARC), enabling us to further the discussion on methods for economic evaluations and appraisals of road projects. This also allows us to embrace the latest best practices in order to utilize them in our work for our clients' benefit.

In 2015, our company was awarded the Sustainable Development Award by the World Road Association for developing a model to quantify socio-economic benefits of road projects.





CLIMATE CHANGE

In addition to preparing climate change profiles and scenarios, we advise clients from both the public and private sectors on how to make their projects and assets resilient against the impacts of climate change.

As climate change is a crosscutting issue, our multidisciplinary experts identify, evaluate and quantify climate risks and map out climate change vulnerabilities. We also assess environmental hazards, conduct climate change impact assessments and develop climate change adaptation plans, including proposals for policy reform.

Our holistic approach in implementing sustainable transport projects also takes climate change into consideration, which generates several co-benefits including improvements in air quality, traffic safety and mobility.

CAPACITY & INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We understand the wide scope of challenges that professionals today face in their fields, and we know how tough it can be to keep abreast of new developments. We believe that continuous education and training creates a platform for institutional change, leading to improved efficiency and enhanced productivity.

We offer capacity and skills assessments as well as a full range of training plans and services. Capacity assessment takes into consideration the goals, structure, resources, performance and culture of your organisation. We employ innovative training methods that are backed by behavioural change research and tailored to the learning objectives and target audience.

Whatever the business challenge, our experts can analyse and facilitate the change and development that your organisation requires.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

We deliver high-quality research utilising a range of quantitative and qualitative methods as well as state-of-the-art, cost-effective technologies for data collection.

Gender equality and inclusion is a key focus in all our work, and our ambition is to ensure that women are well represented in the research we carry out for our clients. Gender and women's studies are an important part of our social research portfolio, and we are proud to be able to offer strong expertise in this field.

We have extensive experience in successfully carrying out Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) and other studies to anticipate and respond to potential socio-economic or environmental impacts of development projects. These have played a key role in preventing delays, reducing costs, and ensuring smooth implementation of our clients' projects.

We also assist in maintaining compliance with national regulatory requirements and international safeguards requirements and best practices, helping our clients to prevent and overcome obstacles.

Our expertise furthermore covers renewable energy, where we have the skillset to prepare comprehensive feasibility studies for solar, hydropower and other renewable energy projects.





RURAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

We work with and in communities facing diverse challenges including climate change, depletion of natural resources, or remoteness from markets and public services.

Through skills development in areas such as agriculture, aquaculture or forestry as well as business and marketing, we support communities with improving local livelihoods. At the same time, we strive to protect the environment through sustainable management of natural resources. To achieve lasting results, we apply participatory approaches that actively include all relevant stakeholders.

We not only focus on economic development but also on the social side of sustainable development. We for example assist governments and communities in fighting Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

As rural communities are among the ones affected most by climate change, climate resilience and adaptation to climate change are crosscutting issues in most of our projects.

OUR VALUES



SUSTAINABILITY

We offer sustainable solutions by addressing both social and environmental aspects in all our projects. This approach allows our clients to achieve maximum results with a long-term impact.



QUALITY

We never compromise on the standards of our work and the quality of the results that we deliver. Always on target, always on time.



EXPERIENCE

Our experts are leading professionals in their industry sectors, and as a company we have experience from over 30 countries.



GLOBAL REACH

We have a true global presence and local knowledge. No matter where your projects are, we will be there too.



CLIENT COMMITMENT

We build lasting relationships with our clients by working closely together with them throughout the project implementation.

OUR OFFICES

*Global presence,
local knowledge.*



OUR PROJECTS

Technical Assistance to Develop Capacity for a Climate Resilient Road Sector in Mozambique

Climate Change / Roads & Transport / Capacity & Institutional Development

Country: Mozambique
Year: 2018-2021
Client: Nordic Development Fund (NDF) / National Roads Administration (ANE)

The National Roads Administration (ANE) in Mozambique seeks to increase its capacity to address the serious threats posed by climate change to the country's road network. FinnOC was commissioned to strengthen the capacity of ANE to plan for climate change and to mainstream climate change adaptation into all their processes.

In addition, the project involved carrying out a vulnerability assessment for the road network in the Zambezi Village, financial and economic assessments, climate-proofing roads in the Nacala Corridor as well as designing a Road Asset Management System (RAMS).

The long-term results are expected to contribute towards improving the overall condition of the country's road network and enabling economic growth through increased national and regional connectivity.





Baseline Study for the Rural Service Delivery Project in Papua New Guinea

Socio-Economic & Environmental Studies /
Rural & Social Development

Country: Papua New Guinea
Year: 2019-2020
Client: World Bank / Department
for Provincial and Local
Government Affairs
(DPLGA)

FinnOC was responsible for conducting the baseline study for the impact evaluation of the Rural Service Delivery Project (RSDP) using a quasi-experimental research design and mixed methods approach. This included further developing and piloting the quantitative and qualitative research instruments, programming the tablet-based survey tool in Open Data Kit (ODK), sampling of research sites using statistical and GIS data (treatment and control group) as well as data collection, data

cleaning, weighting of responses and preliminary data analysis.

Household surveys were conducted with over 3,000 respondents in a total of 74 rural villages across five provinces. In addition to that, 400 local leaders on various levels were interviewed. Qualitative interviews were conducted with a total of 560 household-level respondents and 90 local leaders. Data was collected on a) access, usage, quality of public services; b) participation of community members in community-level decision-making; as well as c) inclusiveness of participatory processes, especially for women.

Besides this, FinnOC digitally mapped every study village by capturing the geolocation, photo and basic information for each facility in the villages.



Developing Capacity for Climate Resilient Road Transport Infrastructure in Rwanda

Climate Change / Roads & Transport / Capacity & Institutional Development

Country:	Rwanda
Year:	2019-2022
Client:	Nordic Development Fund (NDF) / Rwanda Transport Development Agency (RTDA)

As a landlocked country, road transport is critical to Rwanda's mobility and regional economic integration. However, the mountainous topography of the country is particularly challenging for the road sector and adds to its vulnerability to climate change.

The goal of this project is to increase Rwanda's resilience to the impacts of climate change on the road infrastructure while improving standards for road construction, rehabilitation and maintenance.

FinnOC is delivering a comprehensive program designed to build knowledge and develop technical and policy tools for the transport sector to integrate climate change as well as other natural disasters into all aspects of the transport life cycle.

The outputs of the project include a countrywide GIS vulnerability mapping, targeted technical trainings on environment, climate change and disasters, a technical assessment and recommendations for improved planning, design, maintenance, repair and recovery of roads and bridges, "Build-back-better" guidelines as well as a revised Transport Sector Policy.

This will lead to increased capacity by all stakeholders to integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk management into the transport sector and thus increased resilience to the impacts of climate change on the infrastructure, in particular in the form of landslides, erosions and floods.

Preparing the Road Network Sustainability Project in Tajikistan

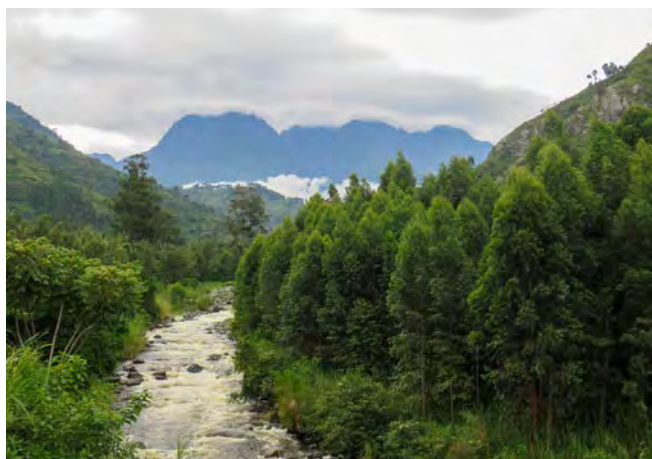
Roads & Transport / Socio-Economic & Environmental Studies / Rural & Social Development

Country: Tajikistan
Year: 2020-2022
Client: Asian Development Bank (ADB) / Ministry of Transport

As a landlocked country, Tajikistan heavily relies on road transport for the movement of goods and people. To improve the quality of the road network, FinnOC is contributing to the rehabilitation of two road sections in Southern Tajikistan (Bokhtar Dangara and Khulbuk Kangurt) which directly link to two major international networks and serve as a connector of regional economic hubs.

FinnOC's consultants carried out due diligence works including the assessment of the project's potential social and environmental impacts (ESIA) as well as a poverty, social and gender assessment along the roads and in the neighbouring areas. In addition to this, economic, financial and climate risk assessments were prepared. FinnOC is furthermore participating in the supervision of the construction activities.

As a result of FinnOC's services, it was ensured that the project meets all technical and procurement standards as well as social and environmental safeguard requirements. The project is expected to contribute to poverty reduction, through inclusive economic growth based on improved efficiency and safer movement of goods and people.



Training in Forestry Planning and Management in Uganda

Rural & Social Development / Capacity & Institutional Development

Country: Uganda
Year: 2020-2021
Client: Nordic Development Fund (NDF) / Ministry of Water and Environment

To provide the much-needed products and services for a prosperous livelihood, FinnOC is assisting the Forestry Sector Support Department (FSSD) in conducting trainings in forestry planning and forestry management in five catchment areas across Uganda.

The trainings are delivered to farmers, local government (Training of Trainers) as well as ministry staff using an innovative situational capacity building approach which consists of learning-by-doing at demonstration sites, lectures, group discussions as well as individual coaching.

The aim is to enhance both forestry and business skills and thus set the foundation for improving local livelihoods and household incomes while protecting the environment through sustainable management of forests.

Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection Prevention and Response Support Services in Solomon Islands

Rural & Social Development / Capacity & Institutional Development

Country: Solomon Islands
Year: 2020-2023
Client: World Bank / Ministry of Communication and Aviation

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Violence Against Children (VAC) are serious problems in the Solomon Islands. FinnOC has been commissioned to conduct activities to prevent and respond to GBV and VAC in Malaita Province, Honiara and Munda, where civil works are to be undertaken as part of the Solomon Islands Roads and Aviation Project (SIRAP).

To assess community needs and increase awareness of GBV/VAC among local residents impacted by the civil works, FinnOC is mapping all services available for survivors of GBV and VAC as well as high-risk areas and groups.

Based on this FinnOC will design and deliver a training and awareness-raising strategy, aiming to sensitize communities, contractors as well as construction workers on GBV/VAC related risks and services.

Additional activities are undertaken to permanently strengthen the capacity of local stakeholders and communities in providing GBV/VAC services, even beyond the scope of this project and after it has finished.



Sensitisation on Communicable Diseases in Zambia

Rural & Social Development

Country: Zambia
Year: 2018-2021
Client: African Development Bank (AfDB) / Road Development Agency (RDA)

The rehabilitation of the Chinsali-Nakonde road is bringing an influx of workers seeking job opportunities into the area, thereby increasing interactions between workers and the local inhabitants. Such interactions too often lead to an increase in the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

To mitigate this challenge, FinnOC is sensitizing construction workers and local residents on the issues of HIV/AIDS, malaria and communicable diseases. In doing so, FinnOC is closely working together with other stakeholders in the project area such as the local government and traditional leaders.

The services also include sensitisation on gender mainstreaming and environmental protection in order to permanently increase the levels of awareness on these topics in the project area.



Socio-Economic Impact Evaluation in the Highlands Region of Papua New Guinea

Socio-Economic & Environmental Studies
/ Rural & Social Development / Roads &
Transport

Country: Papua New Guinea
Year: 2015-2019
Client: Asian Development Bank
(ADB) / Department of
Works

The Socio-Economic Impact Study under the Highlands Region Road Improvement Investment Program (HRRIP) in seven Provinces of the Highlands Region aimed at monitoring the impacts of the road improvement works on people's livelihoods and poverty reduction. The study also assessed the impacts of the road improvement on issues relating to climate change, gender equity, and HIV/AIDS.

FinnOC carried out extensive baseline, midline and endline studies by collecting and analysing socio-economic and environmental data from 10,000 households. This enabled to identify and assess positive and negative impacts in the socio-economic well-being and status of the people affected by the HRRIP. FinnOC delivered the baseline studies for all 13 project roads, midline studies for 2 roads, and endline studies for 8 project roads.

Through the impact evaluation it was possible to identify socio-economic and environmental impacts of the road development project, assess consequent risks, and develop measures to mitigate the negative impacts. In particular, the study allowed to evaluate if and to what extent poverty reduction and enhancement of standard of living have been achieved.



Developing and Implementing a GIS-based Road Maintenance Management System in Saint Lucia

Roads & Transport / Capacity & Institutional Development

Country:	Saint Lucia
Year:	2018-2024
Client:	World Bank / Ministry of Infrastructure, Ports, Energy and Labour

Years of inadequate road maintenance in Saint Lucia has resulted in pronounced deterioration of the road network. To counter this, the Government of Saint Lucia aims to introduce comprehensive Road Maintenance Management and Road Asset Management systems, and appointed FinnOC to assist in this task.

Over the course of six years, FinnOC will establish a computer-based GIS road management information subsystem and a Road Asset Management System (RAMS) using HDM-4 modelling. This includes adapting, installing and applying a model for central preparation of road work programs, budgets and long-term plans of all road expenditures, works and system trends.

As a result, the Government of Saint Lucia will have a sustainable source of information for managing the road system and the tools for enhanced programming and budgeting of the road network maintenance/rehabilitation. The economic challenges posed by natural disasters and climate change will also be addressed.

Capacity Building in Rural Roads Development in India

Roads & Transport / Capacity & Institutional Development / Rural & Social Development

Country: India
Year: 2018-2020
Client: Asian Development Bank (ADB) / National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA)

The objective of the overarching Second Rural Connectivity Investment Program is to enhance connectivity of rural communities by facilitating safer and more efficient access to markets, health centres, education facilities and other socio-economic opportunities.

FinnOC provided technical assistance to the governments of five Indian states (Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal) for strengthening the institutional capacity of the rural road development agencies in each state.

The services included investigating the use of innovative approaches and locally available technologies for rural road development, such as the use of plastic waste as an alternative material for road construction, preparing state-specific disaster risks and vulnerability assessment as well as developing state-specific GIS manuals for natural disasters.



Climate Smart Agriculture Capacity Building and Training Activities in Uganda

Rural & Social Development / Capacity & Institutional Development

Country: Uganda
Year: 2019-2021
Client: Nordic Development Fund (NDF) / Ministry of Water and Environment

As a response to the impacts of climate change on Uganda, including increasing volatility of rainfall, droughts and flooding, FinnOC is building local capacity in climate smart agriculture (CSA) with a focus on alternative livelihoods and skills development.

To achieve this, FinnOC is conducting trainings for 15,000 farmers and several farmer groups in five irrigation areas across the country to strengthen their capacity on utilizing CSA. Besides agriculture, the training activities extend to apiculture, aquaculture, rice and other potential value chains.

The training activities are not only expected to increase farmers' resilience to climate change but also to improve incomes, rural livelihoods and food security.



Climate Change and Natural Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment and Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy for the Cabo Verde Road Network

Climate Change / Roads & Transport

Country: Cabo Verde

Year: 2019-2020

Client: World Bank / National Roads Authority (ECV)

As a small island developing state, Cabo Verde is exposed and highly vulnerable to a variety of climate-related events. Climate change is increasingly posing a threat to critical infrastructure, including the country's transport infrastructure.

The objective of this assignment was to prepare a Climate Change and Natural Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment and to develop, in close consultation with local stakeholders, a Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy for Cabo Verde's road network.

For this, FinnOC surveyed the condition of the roads and video-logged the entire road network. The survey was done using a cost-effective smartphone solution. A subset of the road network was then selected for a detailed risk and geo-hazard assessment and drainage condition survey. From this survey and together with other parameters, including socio-economic indicators, a multi-criteria risk and criticality index for the road network was established. Based on this index, FinnOC developed a program of priority investments for the road sector, grouped into different time bands.

The Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy was complemented by a policy framework and objectives for the road sector as well as by providing specific policy reforms required to provide a foundation for climate change adaptation and to address disaster and climate-related risks in the road sector.

CONTACT US

Finnish Overseas Consultants (FinnOC) Ltd.

info@finnoc.fi

Tel. +358 40 483 5533

www.finnoc.fi

Registered office:

Metsärinne 7 B

04220 Kerava

Finland

Find us on social media:



[www.linkedin.com/company/
finnish-overseas-consultants](https://www.linkedin.com/company/finnish-overseas-consultants)



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All enquiries: info@finnoc.fi





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