

Reference Project

Rockfall Protection

American Samoa - Rockfall Protection

Location	American Samoa, SE coast road
Date	2018 - 2019
Client	Department of Public Works
Consultant	Tonkin & Taylor NZ

The South-East coast road on the island of Tutuila is cut into volcanic rock and experiences periodic rockfall directly on the road.

Abseil Access, working through a local contracting firm, was awarded the project to stabilise four bluffs above the road. Tonkin & Taylor NZ did the design work and the solution which was a passive drape of Geofabrics HR30 wire rope re-enforced double twist mesh.

The 4 sites reached up to 60m high. Geofabrics manufactured mesh was custom made in extra-long lengths to fit each site. The total surface area of the mesh was 10,000m². Without tall cranes or helicopter support, the team had to manually raise the mesh rolls to the top of each site

The netting was secured with a top cable anchored at 2.5m intervals to 32mm anchor bars. Anchor lengths were 2.5m into volcanic rock, with a hole diameter of 80mm.

The team worked in constant extreme tropical conditions and the project was completed over a 6-month period.

