

REFERENCE PROJECT

Geotechnical (Rockfall Protection)

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

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

Abseil Access, working through local contracting firm, were 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. Total surface area of 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 project was completed over a 6-month period.

