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Reference Project

Bridge Construction

110m suspension bridge in the highlands of Western Province, Papua New Guinea

Location	Ok Tedi River at Tabubil Township, PNG
Date	July 2021
Client	MGDD, Port Moresby & Ok Tedi Mining
Consultant	Design and Build by Abseil Access

The changing course of the mighty Ok Tedi river resulted in the main road bridge between Tabubil mining town and Okma village becoming unusable. Abseil Access were engaged to resolve this problem which had resulted in a number of drownings over the past 15 years.

The work included:

- Design and engineering of the bridge with a load capacity of 20 person and a 3 x safety factor.
- Width of 900mm and suitable for pedestrians passing both directions and meeting the NZ HB8630.
- 110m deck starting on the existing piers of the truss bridge and ending 30m back from the TR riverbank.
- 12m steel towers, cables and deck component made in NZ and shipped to site.
- Construction with the NZ crew working closely with the local workforce.
- Extensive use of a helicopter for transportation across the river
- Construction period clashing with pandemic travel restrictions and additional health and safety requirements.

Abseil Access worked on various solution options with the client before deciding on utilizing the strongest part of the existing structure. The likely continuing erosion of the true right banks required an extra-long bridge to ensure a long life.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the site was not able to be visited prior to work starting and surveying and foundation work was carried out by local resources under remote supervision.

Once the AA team got to site the structure was completed in 4 weeks. Local interest and assistance in the project was huge and the bridge got built in record time.

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