Economic growth and development cannot be achieved without the availability of appropriate economic and social infrastructure. The need to improve the quality of infrastructure services in Zimbabwe is, therefore, the cornerstone of the Government of Zimbabwe’s policy, strategy and programs to promote sustained and shared economic growth in the country. This has been articulated by the Government in its Medium Term Plan, currently under preparation, Short-Term Emergency Recovery Programme (STERP) and the Three Year Macroeconomic Policy and Budget Framework 2010-2012 (STERP II). In line with the Government’s commitment to address infrastructure bottlenecks in the country, this publication seeks to contribute to the body of knowledge regarding this complex sector, and to assist by providing current information and analysis in order to inform and facilitate decision making.

The report provides a detailed assessment of the current status of infrastructure and services associated with water and sanitation, transport, electric power, and ICT in Zimbabwe and their role in facilitating regional integration in the Southern Africa region. The main report is divided into two parts. Part A reviews country context issues, including infrastructure and growth issues in Zimbabwe, and the proposed policy options and action plans that can be pursued by Zimbabwe in order to strengthen the sector. Part B of the report provides detailed data and assessment of the current status of the infrastructure and services in the four infrastructure areas under review. A separate summary report is also available. The full report and a detailed Annex to the report are available online at http://www.afdb.org/en/countries/southern-africa/zimbabwe/.

The preparation of the report was based on a broad stakeholder participation and consultation. This involved numerous rounds of consultations with Government officials and various key stakeholders between May and November 2010, including a consultative workshop, to forge a consensus on the actions to be taken and to adequately reflect them in the report even though, by necessity, some of the things are left out. In recognition that this report is not an end in itself, the African Development Bank looks forward to continued dialogue to develop bold and new approaches towards addressing infrastructure deficiencies in Zimbabwe.