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## Building Shoreline Resilience of Timor-Leste to Protect Local Communities and Their Livelihoods(SRTL) Project

### INCEPTION REPORT

September – December 2016

Project Number/ID: 00097253 Atlas Award ID: 00092621 Council of Ministers endorsement: 16 <sup>th</sup> August Government officially signed the pro doc: 19 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016 National Launching: 7 <sup>th</sup> September, 2016 Duration: 4 Years (2016 -2019)	Total Budget: USD\$ 38,644,402 GEF: USD\$ 7,000,000 Government: \$18,000,000 Others: 13,644,402 Current Year budget: USD\$ 552,000
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<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Building Shoreline Resilience of Timor-Leste to Protect Local Communities and Their Livelihoods(CRTL)</b>
<b>Project Implementer and Partners Agencies</b>	UNDP TL in Support of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries(MAF), Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment (MCIE), Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS), Ministry of Public Works (MPW), University of Timor Leste (UNTL)
<b>Report compiled by</b>	Sinkinesh Beyene, CTA
<b>Reporting period</b>	September – December, 2016

#### **Section One: SUMMARY**

In the project initiation period all milestones required for the commencement of project implementation are identified and put in place for the successful implementation of the project. Various discussions, national and district level launching workshops and basic training conducted in six districts on Community Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration(CBEMR) that helped to raise awareness of the wider stakeholders on the project and linkage of coastal ecosystem conservation and shoreline management. Commitment of higher government officials of MAF is secured which is the key strategy to easily reach out government sector offices and district relevant partners. Major partners are reached out and discussions have been conducted to facilitate synergy and collaboration for accelerated delivery and wider impact. Preparation is completed to lead upcoming various assessment and studies, which will be benchmark to design guidelines, strategies and also feasible action plans based on findings and recommendations. PMU set-up is underway, TORs prepared and the recruitment process is commenced for identified experts. 2017 AWP is

prepared and signed in discussion with MAF and based on discussions, meetings and preliminary assessment conducted in the target districts. Given capacity gap and existing various challenges, the unit requires to taking proactive action to deliver the planned large volume of resource and quality outputs that benefits the vulnerable coastal community of Timor Leste.

## Section Two. ACTIVITIES AND PORGRESS

Planned Activities for the Reporting period	Progress on Planned activities in the reporting period (September-December, 2016)	Outputs and Deliverables	Remarks (Sustainability, Delays, additional undertakings key observations)
<p>Outcome 1. OUTCOME 1: Policy framework and institutional capacity for climate resilient coastal management established Baseline: SOP for Directorate under MAF Target: SOP for coordinated approach to protect mangrove areas designed</p> <p><b>Output 1.1. A comprehensive coastal management and adaptation plan developed and budgeted for the entire coast of Timor-Leste (as part and a direct contribution to the NAP)</b></p>	<p>Discussion has been conducted with Minster and Director Generals, Directors and key experts of MAF on the importance of conducting comprehensive coastal vulnerability assessment at national level and design an integrated coastal management and adaptation plan for Timor Leste</p>	<p>Awareness of relevant ministry officials raised on coastal management and shoreline protection</p>	<p>Inter-ministerial dialogue and discussion will be conducted regularly in the project period to raise awareness and secure political commitment and support. Community awareness raising, mobilization and participation will be conducted via different media, communication and knowledge products dissemination, trainings, workshops, etc.</p>
<p><b>Activity 1.1.1.</b> Conduct extensive coastal vulnerability assessment <b>Activity 1.1.3.</b> Facilitate inter-ministerial dialogue on coastal management and adaptation planning, including mangrove and coastal wetland protection, restoration and management strategy</p>	<p>This activity is agreed to be conducted through experienced company/firm, accordingly TOR and shared with MAF and presented to the team of MAF team including Director Generals, comments incorporated and advertised through UNDP procurement system. Established panel members reviewed applicants technical and financial proposals and recommended for advertisement as no firm qualified to undertake the assignment. The consultancy</p>	<p>The advert will be closed on 20 January and the existing panel will review proposals. Hope this round competent firm will be found to undertake the study</p>	<p>The findings and recommendations from this study will be benchmark to design coastal management and adaptation plan for Timor Leste and plan subsequent shoreline protection and climate change adaptation activities</p>

	is re-advertised for another 35 days.		
<p><b>Output 1.3. Technical skills (through specialized trainings), hardware (at least two sets of hydro-meteorological stations and wave gauges), methods (economic valuation and cost-benefit analysis) and solid value-chain analysis of livelihood options, and software introduced to monitor climate change induced coastal change and to plan management responses at policy levels</b></p> <p><b>Activity 1.3.2 Training and sensitization workshops for policy makers, government staff and larger community on coastal management</b></p> <p><b>Activity 1.3.1. Procurement and installation of hydro-meteorological stations and wave gauges</b></p> <p><b>Training of experts on maintenance and utilization</b></p>	<p>National launching workshop, preliminary assessed and discussion with community, local leaders and district officials helped to raise awareness and build partnership. The district level launching of the project and basic training on Community Based Ecological Mangroves Restoration(CBEMR) training enhanced the awareness of the larger stakeholders about the project and coastal ecosystem protection and management including mangroves and climate change adaptation</p> <p>Various discussion has been conducted at MAF, MCIE, MPW and MSS on how to enhance coordination for the implementation of the project</p>	<p>Key stakeholders identified, awareness raised and establishment of partnership is progressing</p> <p>Procurement and installation of hydro-meteorological stations and wave gauges is not accomplished in the reporting period as agreement not reached between different ministries responsible for this intervention</p>	<p>As it is explained earlier, implementation of various adaptation, Early warning and risk reduction activities will be challenging due to lack of coordination and overlapping and unclear mandates of sector-ministries on the issues</p> <p>Meeting is planned to be organized among these sector- ministries and development partners providing support on the same areas to identify gaps, key priorities and decide the type of Hydro- metrological equipment to be procured to strengthen the CIEWS of TL</p>
<p><b>Output 1.4. Forestry, Protected Areas, Aquaculture and Fisheries Directorates under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have their roles, coordination, and planning mechanisms clarified and enforced for improved management of mangrove and other critical coastal habitats (as emerges from National Adaptation Plan consultation process)</b></p> <p><b>Activity 1.4.1. Establish a technical working group within MAF for formulation of the SOP, strategy and action plan for mangrove rehabilitation and draft SOP</b></p>	<p>National mangrove restoration taskforce established lead by Director General Forestry, Coffee and Industrial Plants. The taskforce is composed of Chief of Forest, Fisheries and Aquaculture from the seven project target districts. The taskforces and key relevant staff of MAF conducted south- South experience sharing visit to Bangladesh to share experience from Bangladesh successful Community Based Ecological Mangrove restoration programme</p>	<p>10 Government officials including representatives from target districts led by General Director of Forestry and accompanied with UNDP staff conducted five field level visit to community managed mangrove forests and other forest conservation sites and also a high level one-day experience sharing workshop took place where the delegate able to meet various</p>	<p>After comeback from the experience sharing visit all delegate prepared their training action plan and conducted awareness raising workshop in each target district with the support of UNDP project team</p> <p>The visit enabled to build good partnership, raised awareness and commitment of the officials to lead mangrove restoration activities in their respective districts and support the</p>

		government and development partners	implementation of other components of the project
<p><b>Outcome 2: OUTCOME 2: Mangrove-supportive livelihoods established to incentivize mangrove rehabilitation and protection</b>  <b>Baseline: 1,300 ha (2005) of mangrove cover</b>  <b>Target: 1,300 ha (2005) of mangrove areas rehabilitated using CBEMR</b></p> <p><b>Output 2.1.</b> At least 1000 ha of coastal mangroves and wetlands conserved or degraded mangrove areas rehabilitated through natural recruitment and restoration of hydrological regimes both in the northern and southern coasts with a direct employment of local coastal communities</p> <p><b>Activity 2.1.2.</b> Training-of-trainers programme to government staff on mangrove and wetland mapping, monitoring and coastal change assessment, ultimately for mapping to be done by extension officers  Exposure visit for key government officials</p>	<p>Community Based Ecological Mangroves Restoration(CBEMR) training was conducted in six target districts to participants from different government sector offices, NGOs, schools and community representatives</p>	<p>The training is organized with MAF Forestry Directorate and delegates who participate on South-south experience sharing visit organized with Bangladesh UNDP Country Office with the objective of transferring knowledge and keep the delegates committed to support project implementation</p> <p>The focus on women participation and being community-led approach is well appreciated and taken by district officials and community representatives</p>	<p>In addition to raising awareness of the larger stakeholder on CBEMR and benefits of coastal Ecosystem conservation for shoreline protection, it helped to get the commitment of the district officials to mobilize the community and experts in supporting the implementation of planned activities.</p> <p>Project team presentation on the objectives, component and operational strategy of the project, helped participants to understand the nature of project and its operational requirements as well as the benefits it will bring to the communities</p>

<p><b>Output 2.2.</b> Mangrove-supportive, diversified livelihoods/social businesses established in mangrove rehabilitation project sites, benefiting at least 1,000 households and empowering women</p> <p><b>Activity 2.2.1.</b> Conduct robust economic analyses to identify most viable mangrove-supportive livelihood option (identify combination of CBEMR and potential livelihood options appropriate for selected site)</p>	<p>TOR was developed and submitted to procurement team of the country office to hire IC to conduct the study. Though the process took longer time than planned. The IC is identified and will be on board soon</p>	<p>The IC will be on board as of 16<sup>th</sup> of February, 2017 to undertake the study</p>	<p>The findings and recommendations of this study will enable us to identify feasible mangrove supportive livelihoods options for the coastal vulnerable and poor communities and deigned implementation plans for each target district and commence implementation of the same</p>
<p><b>Activity 2.2.2</b> PMU office establishment</p>	<p>In the reporting period only CTA was working as PMU. Recently Operations Officer recruited. As MAF provided office space at the Directorate of Forestry, re-innovation and purchase of office furniture process is ongoing</p>	<p>The team will move to new office as planned in February</p>	<p>The placement of PMU in the government office will enhance partnership and collaboration</p>
<p><b>Activity 2.2.3.</b> Project inception workshop</p>	<p>The project is launched at national and district level successfully</p>	<p>More than 80 participants attended the national launching workshop from government, UN, NGOs, district authorities, academic and research institutions and community representatives</p>	<p>The workshop enabled to raise the awareness of the wider stakeholders on the project and collect valuable questions and comments which are input to enrich the project document and consider in the implementation phase</p>
	<p>District level launching is conducted in all target Municipalities</p>	<p>In total more than 400 district officials, experts, sub-district and Sucos representatives and different development partners working in each district participated</p>	<p>As a result of the launching workshop awareness about the project raised, partnership built and districts prepare way forward action plans to support project implementation. District Authorities committed to mobilize the communities to actively participate and benefit from the project</p>

<p><b>Activity 2.2.4. Project Staff:</b> technical support and policy advisory service provided to MAF</p>	<p>The CTA was participating on technical working groups meetings, workshops and policy document review and also conducted number of meetings with government officials and experts and provided technical support and advise</p>	<p>Strengthen partnership building, sharing information which will help to avoid overlap and duplication of activities and interventions,</p>	<p>The engagement will enhance partnership and collaboration to create synergy between UNDP's and other partners' projects and programmes and also promote learning and sharing</p>
<p><b>Outcome 3. Integrated approaches to coastal adaptation adopted to contribute to protection of coastal populations and productive lands</b>  <b>Baseline: potential revenue streams identified in NBSAP, PPG assessment</b>  <b>Target: one financing mechanism established</b>  Output 3.1. Upstream watershed replantation demonstrates risk reduction, (including reduction of excessive sediment loads) to downstream coastal waterways and areas  <b>Activity 3.1.1.</b> Knowledge sharing/awareness raising activities targeted at various age groups, these will include: Promotion of nature-based risk reduction practices in the communities</p>	<p>A one-day workshop has been conducted with the officials and senior experts of different departments of Directorate of Forestry on the coastal ecosystem conservation, mangroves restoration and watershed management and the importance of environmental management in resilience building which is followed by awareness raising workshops in the target districts</p>	<p>Forestry Directorate officials and team have gained understanding on the relationship between ecosystem conservation and resilience building, the project components and also the implementation plan</p>	<p>Continues capacity building and awareness raising is required as there is limited manpower and capacity with in government sector ministries</p>
<p><b>Outcome 4: Project Management</b></p>	<p>MAF provide office space for the project team at the Directorate of Forestry.  Procurement of IT equipment such as computers and printer and vehicles is not accomplished but six motorcycles procured for the field coordinators</p>	<p>Procurement and recruitment processes are slow but on progress</p>	<p>Acceleration of the office set-up, procurement of vehicle and office equipment is vital for smooth implementation of planned project interventions</p>
<p><b>Staffing</b></p>	<p>TOR prepared for all key expertise identified during project deign and share with HR and procurement units for recruitment and the process is underway</p>	<p>CTA and Operation officer are on board and Project Coordinator interview was conducted for the third time. Potential candidate is identified and expected to join the team mid-February</p>	<p>Hiring local exert such us project and Field Coordinators is becoming challenging due to limited availability in the market, extension of advert and re-advertising of post is talking considerable time in addition to the slow process which in</p>

			turn affect project performance
<b>Recruitment of additional technical staff</b>	Hiring of international consulting firm to conduct coastal vulnerability assessment is advertised, TORs prepared for the recruitment of national and international consultants to undertake different assignments that require special expertise	IC will be on board soon to undertake economic analysis of mangroves supportive livelihoods options for coastal communities TOR prepared and submitted to Procurement unit to recruit IC- Mangrove Restoration - SLM specialist	Hiring international consultants and firm to conduct key studies and develop strategic guidelines is also similarly challenging

### **Section Three: Institutional Context & Project Partnership Issues**

- The project is under implementation in collaboration with mainly MAF, the project team is provided small office at the Directorate of Forestry and preparation is underway to move to the new office. This will be a good opportunity to closely work with government, build partnership and trust, knowledge transfer and build ownership. However, the project is perceived as 'only' Mangroves restoration project; though intensive advocacy work has been done to introduce the project as an integrated resilient building project. This perception will continue as a challenge specially when approaching the above mentioned Ministries to collaborate, take leadership and ownership of climate change adaptation, shoreline protection, risk assessment and reduction and early warning system interventions.
- Given the multi sectoral nature of the project activities, building partnership with multi-stakeholders and strengthening collaboration and synergy among government sector ministries is most important. Implementation of activities such as strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning System(CIEWS) is become challenging because of overlapping mandates of different government sector ministers, which resulted in difficulty to reach on an agreement on the type of hydro-metrological equipment to procure and also assigning responsibility for the operationalization and suitability of the intervention.
- Strong project board and inter-ministerial coordination is one of the key remedial solution the project team is advocating and working on.

### **Section Four: Outcomes and Lessons Learned**

- The inception phase of the project helped to raise the awareness of wide range of stakeholders about the project. Enormous meetings and workshops have been conducted at different level to establish partnership and seek collaboration for the implementation. Securing the support of senior government officials of MAF is an encouraging result to move forward. The project's integrated and nature based approach to coastal resilience building is highly appreciated by different partners and stakeholders though the capacity to implement with in the target period is questioned by many. The inception period also taught us the presence of various challenges that impact the smooth implementation of the project given the limited capacity and complex development challenges of Timor Leste. We also realized that the project has ambitious targets and inter-related but different outputs and activities which demand high level of coordination, capacity building and synergy with wide range of partners to implement. The lengthy recruitment and procurement process with in UNDP country office is aslo another challenge that will affect the project performance.

### **Section Five: Monitoring and Evaluation**

- As one of monitoring and evaluation requirement of the project, inception report was compiled and share with RTA which covers activities accomplished at the project commencement phase and progresses made so far.

- Project board is established in consultation with MAF minister who will oversight overall project implementation, achievement of the target outputs and outcomes and also provide support and joint solution in time challenges and problems encountered during the project period.
- Consultant is hired to conduct” *Economic Analysis of Mangrove Supportive Livelihoods Options for the Coastal Community in the target districts*” to conduct robust economic analyses to identify most viable mangrove-supportive livelihoods in the target municipalities; and design Randomly Controlled Trial (RCT) to gauge the impact of the intervention periodically.
- In addition, IC post for Mangroves - SLM Specialist is advertised who will conduct baseline survey on the current status of mangroves and also design M & E framework for regular monitoring of the progresses in the Mangroves and coastal ecosystem restoration interventions among others.
- Once hired and deployed to each districts, one of the key role of the Field Coordinators is to regularly gather primary data both on the livelihoods of the target coastal communities and mangroves ecosystem restoration interventions to measure improvements and scale up best practices as well as to take timely corrective measures on the failures.
- A comprehensive Coastal Vulnerability assessment (CVA) will be commenced in this soon to establish baseline and monitoring framework on the coastal change and climate change induced hazards and risks to inform policy makers and development practitioners to give emphasis on climate change adaptation and mitigation actions to sustain development gains and build communities resilience.

#### **Section Six: Communication, Dissemination and Advocacy**

- Local media were invited to document and air different events of the project (project document signing ceremony, national and district level launching workshops), media advisory note on all big events is prepared both in local and English language and shared with medias. Press release is given by UNDP SMT and senior government officials on the launch of the project which helped to reach wider stakeholders. Updates shared on the CO website and events live tweeted to raise awareness about the project. In addition, fliers and presentation were translated in local language and disseminated to sensitize the larger community and stakeholders.

#### **Section Seven: Risks, Issues and Challenges**

- Limited capacity and coordination among government sector ministries will be a challenge and can significantly hindering the project implementation. As the project will be implemented in seven districts it took longer time to establish strong partnership and awareness to commence the project.
- The need to conduct studies such as coastal vulnerability assessment, baseline survey and economic analysis of mangrove supportive livelihoods, which are the benchmark to design specific mangroves and coastal ecosystem restoration interventions and alternative livelihoods enhancement activities for the target vulnerable and poor communities
- Recruitment of qualified local project staff and consultants to conduct different studies is becoming difficult and time taking, which in turn delays implementation of other related interventions.
- As mentioned on section-3 partnership issues will be challenging for cross-sectoral activities due to government institutional arrangement and mandates that can significantly impact project performance in terms of delaying implementation, ensuring ownership and sustainability.

#### **Section Eight: Collaboration and Support**

- Partnership building activities have been done both at national and district level mainly with government sector ministers and District authorities and departments, there is a promising progress in terms of getting support and collaboration for the implementation of the project. Different expectations were raised and clarification has been provided and discussions conducted at various level to reach at common understanding.
- At the Country office level, given the project is launched at the time when only the CTA is on board, tremendous support has been provided by all units specially by the head of SDU to accomplish the reported progress. Critical support in terms of timely recruitment of project staff



and hiring of consultants, procurement of vehicles, office furniture and IT equipment and also project related items is demanded to move the project implementation at the desired pace.

#### **Section Nine: Next Steps and Key Planned activities for subsequent quarter**

- The 2017 AWP has been prepared as of the project document in consultation of MAF relevant Directorates and signed. The implementation of activities will be continued as planned, the initiated and new studies will be commenced soon.
- **In FY 2017 the major focusses will be:**
  - Outcome 1.** Comprehensive coastal vulnerability assessment will be conducted and integrated coastal management and adaptation plan of Timor Leste as well as Mangroves and coastal ecosystem restoration guideline will be designed. Various sensitization, dialogue and trainings will be undertaking for policy makers, development partners, government sector experts, academic institutions and the larger community on the importance of mangroves restoration and coastal protection and management (an ecosystem-based approach), climate change adaptation and mitigation and climate information and early warning system (CIEWS), among others. Moreover, Procurement and installation of hydro-meteorological tidal /wave gauge stations and training of experts on maintenance and utilization of the instruments will strengthen the CIEWS of Timor Leste.
  - **Outcome 2.** Baseline survey on mangroves and coastal wetland inventory and assess status and Communities awareness and trainings, consultation and pre-EMR joint assessment and selection of suitable areas for mangrove re-forestation. Starting pilot mangroves rehabilitation and restoration intervention in 4-5 targeted sites. Conduct robust economic analyses to identify most viable mangrove-supportive livelihood option (identify combination of CBEMR and potential livelihood options appropriate for selected site) followed by social business training and initial investment.
  - **Outcome 3.** Promoting agroforestry: Upscaling of successful SLM and reforestation efforts with diversity of tree species; Land works such as contour/swale building and small scale bio-engineering for reducing runoff and soil loss and providing enhanced water-access for agricultural and agro-forestry use, as well as for infiltration to restore springs and aquifers. Training of experts on monitor groundwater levels and educational activities targeting different groups of the communities. Best practices documentation and sharing will be a regular activity of the year with the objective of sharing knowledge and scale up successful initiatives