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

### QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

01 July - 30 September 2017

Dili, Timor Leste

Project Number/ID: 00097253 Atlas Award ID: 00092621 Council of Ministers endorsement: 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2016 Government and UNDP officially signed of 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: USD \$13,644,402 Current Year Initial budget: US\$ <b>2,100,000</b> Current Year Revised Budget: US \$1,300, 504.5
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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), and University of Timor Leste (UNTL)
<b>Report Compiled by</b>	Sinkinesh Beyene, CTA
<b>Reporting period</b>	01 July – 30 September 2017

## Section One: SUMMARY

In the reporting quarter one of the key focus was the finalization of the coastal vulnerability assessment report; stakeholders and community consultation has been conducted nationwide to refine the report and designing of integrated coastal adaptation strategic plan.

The PMU added two additional mangrove restoration sites Selele-Boot in Covalima and Be-Malae in Bobonaro based on community and local authorities' recommendation and the assessment of the Mangrove Specialist. In all project target sites, hydrological survey has been done with the participation of local experts and the community and suco level mangroves restoration plan prepared. Community representatives, NGOs and government experts and Filed Coordinators attended a practical training session on monitoring mangroves and restoration activities including fencing, and seedling preparation and planting.

The selected six NGOs commenced project activities and more than 640 ha of mangroves protected through fencing and local customary law '*tara- bandu*'. More than 5000 mangroves seedlings prepared, community training and livelihood enhancement activities are under implementation. As part of the national capacity building activities PMU provided financial and project management training for government and NGOs experts and project team. Youth focused both in school and out school awareness raising events organized in three sites, and will be contained in the next quarter.

To expand the SLM and agroforestry interventions, second round call for proposal is advertised and NGOs proposals are under review.

## Section Two. ACTIVITIES AND PORGRESS

Planned Activities for the Reporting Period	Progress on Planned Activities in the Reporting Period (July – September 2017)	Outputs and Deliverables	Remarks (Sustainability, Delays, Additional Undertakings Key Observations)
<p><b>Outcome 1. Policy framework and institutional capacity for climate resilient coastal management established</b>  <b>Baseline:</b>  <b>Target:</b> SOP for coordinated approach to protect mangrove areas designed  <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>  <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>In the reporting quarter the major focus is given to the finalization of CVA report. Accordingly, 15 community consultations conducted to learn the local context and include communities view and opinion on climate change, vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities. 11 Experts from key stakeholders, MAF, MCIE, MSS, MPW, MPSI, and UNTL joined the team as part of enhancing national ownership and knowledge transfer  The full report of CVA was share with the partners and presented on the stakeholders' workshop to refine the result.</p>	<p>The comprehensive coastal vulnerability assessment report is finalized, and the integrated coastal management and adaptation plan is drafted based on the prioritization done with the community and national experts. The inter-ministerial dialogue on the same was postponed based on the advice of MAF senior officials as currently the new government is under formation</p>	<p>The coastal adaptation is a cross-sectoral issue and there are multiple-stakeholders and actors round the cost. As there are enormous climate induced risks and hazards; there are also human action that contribute to coastal risks and vulnerabilities. In line with this designing integrated management and adaptation strategy is becoming difficult as bring stakeholders to one agreed consensus is becoming challenging. In Timor Leste, issues of coastal adaptation</p>

			require policy instruments that determine or control the reports and responsibilities of each stakeholders as well as demand establishment of a strong national level taskforce to lead the process and make accountable all responsible bodies for its implementation
<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 1.3.1.</b> Procurement and installation of hydro-meteorological stations and wave gauges and training of experts on maintenance and utilization Training of experts on maintenance and utilization</p> <p><b>Activity 1.3.3.</b> Sensitizing policy makers on the importance of mangroves and coastal wetlands (an ecosystem-based approach) in climate change adaptation</p>	<p>The tidal/sea level rise(SLR) instrument procurement was advertised two times and only two bidders applied, one is incomplete application. Accordingly, it is decided to approach the regional team to support on this.</p> <p>Sensitization workshop has been organized for middle level officials; municipal and national directors of MAF on the importance of coastal ecosystem conservation for effective climate change adaptation actions</p>	<p>Coordination and collaboration with national and municipalities MAF offices enable the PMU to work smoothly with local authorities and the community. MAF team included project activities monitoring and technical support in to their weekly plans and supporting the implementation of the project</p>	<p>The commitment and collaboration of key stakeholders especially MAF improved due to regular sensitization, trainings, meetings and joint field monitoring. This will strengthen national capacity</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2: Mangrove-supportive livelihoods established to incentivize mangrove rehabilitation and protection</b></p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 1,300 ha (2005) of mangrove cover</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 1000ha of mangrove areas rehabilitated using CBEMR</p>	<p>Mangroves and coastal wetland restoration work is undertaking through local customary law '<i>tara-bandu</i>' and fencing in a community participatory approach. In 11 sites different activities are taking place. In</p>	<p>Local customary law '<i>tara bandu</i>' is prepared in a very community consultative manner and passed in some of the sites and will continue in all other sites. In some of community tara- bandu has</p>	<p>Consulting and giving the leadership to the community in mangroves conservation work was the key factor for the successful commencement of the restoration work. The</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 2.1.3.</b> Communities awareness, consultation and pre-EMR joint assessment and selection of suitable areas for mangrove re-forestation. Ensure women engagement and role in the rehabilitation and monitoring activities</p>	<p>Aubeon, Manatutu community officially passed '<i>tara-bandu</i>' to protect more than 200ha of mangroves and coastal wetland and forest, followed by Suai-Loro, Covalima.</p> <p>On the other hand, 640 ha of mangroves are fenced to protect animal and human access. More than 5000 mangroves seedlings are prepared. In collaboration with MAF, Forestry Directorate, 2400 mangroves are planted in Metinaro for the second time, however, 500 seedling couldn't service due to extended dry season.</p> <p>Communities in each site are widely consulted and decided area for fencing, and groups participated in different activities are provided with incentives as well as training on business skill provided to involve them in various alternative income generating activities</p>	<p>broader scope in including the protection of natural resource and environment of the locality.</p> <p>The planned mangroves and coastal wetland conservation activity is progressing very well. As a result, more than half of targeted areas are fenced, mangroves are planted where there is limited natural regeneration due to lack of mother trees to disperse seeds. Community groups established, and local authorities took leadership during the intervention. The training gains provide on mangroves and coastal ecosystem protection, restoration and monitoring training are well utilized during implementation</p>	<p>restoration activity will only be sustainable if the local leaders take responsibility for the enforcement of local law. Provision of incentives and support on alternative livelihoods options for the poor community who are dependent on mangroves and other coastal ecosystems are vital to keep the initiative to progress. The support of different directorates of MAF and other key ministries is expected to continue especially in providing technical support and monitoring in livelihoods strengthening interventions</p>
<p><b>Output 2.2. Mangrove-supportive, diversified livelihoods/social businesses established in mangrove rehabilitation project sites, benefiting at least 1,000 households and empowering women</b></p> <p><b>Activity 2.2.2.</b> Design and implement training programmes for communities on the technical skills related to the selected livelihood investment(s), as well as basic business skills and initial investment</p>	<p>Key and relevant economic activities selected with community consultation in all target sucos such as fishery, fattening, horticulture, agroforestry and handicraft. Accordingly, 480 households involved in different groups; 57 households (in three groups) trained in basic business management skills in Aubeon, Manatutu and ready to start their business. 6 women horticulture groups; 4 agroforestry and 2 fishery groups are established in five</p>	<p>Community groups established based on their interest through intensive discussions, some of the groups were established before but nonfunctional. Basic business skill will be provided to all, which is started in two sites. Existing livelihoods activities will be strengthened, and new economic activities will be introduced to improve vulnerable communities' adaptation capacity</p>	<p>Lack of sufficient knowledge and interest to involve in economic activities are problems in some sites. In addition, opinion to get short term incentives rather than gaining business skill trainings and involve in group economic activities will hinder the planned intervention.</p>

	municipalities by the implementing partner NGOs and project team		
<p><b>Outcome 3. Integrated approaches to coastal adaptation adopted to contribute to protection of coastal populations and productive lands</b></p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> potential revenue streams identified in NBSAP, PPG assessment</p> <p><b>Target:</b> one financing mechanism established</p> <p><b>Output 3.1.</b> Upstream watershed replantation demonstrates risk reduction, (including reduction of excessive sediment loads) to downstream coastal waterways and areas</p> <p><b>Activity 3.1.1.</b> Promoting agroforestry: Upscaling of successful SLM and reforestation efforts with diversity of tree species,</p> <p><b>Activity 3.1.3.</b> 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</p>	<p>The 6 NGOs; Timor Verde in Metinaro, FUNDEF in Ulmera, Fundasaun Malaedoi in Lake Mubara, Fundasaun Halarae in Beacu and Be-malai, Fini Esperansa in Selele-Boot and Hametin Lia Tatoli in Suai-Loro; are implementing child projects that integrate coastal mangroves ecosystem conservation with upstream watershed management and SLM activities. In the municipalities where there is no NGO's intervention, the Field Coordinators are closely working with responsible MAF department, local authorities and the community and implement seedling preparation for degraded hill and buffer forest planting, and soil and water conservation activities. In line with this more than 3000 multipurpose trees seedlings prepared by the community.</p> <p>Second round call for proposal is advertised and submitted NGOs proposals are under review</p>	<p>More than 8000 seedlings of multiple purpose trees such as Coconut, mahogany, mango, and others are prepared to be distributed to the community members to plant in their backyard and also to plant on the degraded hills to reduce erosion as well us to be used by the community as source of livelihoods</p>	<p>The extended drought period is a big concern to plant the seedlings including mangroves on time.</p>
<p><b>Output 3.2. Coastal wetland restoration and groundwater recharge plans developed and initiated to increase storm water absorption capacity and buffer seawater intrusion</b></p> <p><b>Activity 3.2.1</b> Train-the-trainers programme on use of water level meters (e.g. electric tape method, as the technology is available in Timor-Leste)</p> <p><b>Activity 3.2.3.</b> Educational activities on mangrove and wetland restoration targeted to school children as a means of</p>	<p>Restoration of wetland ecosystem around mangroves areas in Selele- Boot in Covalima and Modu-mahut in Manufah has been done by fencing from animal and human access to restor the ground water as well as the biodiversity.</p> <p>Discussion was conducted with Directorate of Hygiene, Water and Sanitation (Sanitasaun Aqua no Saneamento-SAS) of Ministry of Public Works on underground water monitoring and experts training and planned to conduct in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter as</p>	<p>Around 480 ha of mangroves and wetland ecosystem (200 ha in Selele-Boot and 280 ha in Madu-mahut) are protected for ecological regeneration and restoration. The request from schools for additional awareness raising materials and willingness to support organization of different school based learning events, signify the increasing understanding of climate change and importance of environment conservation for sustainable development by the larger public.</p>	<p>The rich wetland and coastal ecosystem of Timor Leste is highly degraded and exploited. Though, it is home of various species of flora and fauna and source of freshwater, food and other economic and environmental benefits. There is low awareness at government and community level on such benefits and very limited action to conserve these natural</p>

also engaging the broader community in restoration and monitoring activities	currently they are in institutional restructuring School based awareness raising activities are continued in this quarter too, events organized in 8 elementary and high schools and addressed more than 1000 students and school communities		resources. Extensive intervention is required including reinforcing traditional customary laws, regular monitoring and promoting community engagement in conserving and wise use of such resources. This will be sustainable when integrated with community livelihoods strengthening and climate change adaptation options
<b>Outcome 4: Project Management</b>	PMU is implementing the project in close collaboration with MAF, local authorities with the full participation of the communities. Regular meeting and monitoring is conducted by the field coordinators with Implementing NGOs.	Planned project activities are under implementation as of the scheduled time period, however, significant budget revision has been done specially from the livelihoods enhancement component as it took longer time to hire a consultant and conduct economic analysis which is a base to select appropriate livelihoods option for specific community	This first year was mainly period of conducting baseline studies and assessments which will be a benchmark for the interventions under the three result areas, thus it was the last three quarters' focus
<b>Staffing</b>	The PMU currently got one driver and a vehicle which enable to monitor each site regularly	Planned project activities are under implementation in all target municipalities. Project team are actively participating in all trainings provided to the partners and government counterpart experts to enhance their capacity in managing the project and gain relevant skills and knowledge.	The remoteness of many of the target sites and lack of basic infrastructures are big challenge for the project team
<b>Recruitment of additional technical staff</b>	IC recruited to provide project and financial management capacity building training for implementing NGOs, government experts and project team	Based on the HACT financial management capacity assessment conducted on potential 13 NGOs, as well as during review of proposal submitted, it is observed that there is limited project and finance management capacity at national	25 participants attended the project management training including the project team while 20 finance officers participated the Financial management training. At the end of the

		level. Accordingly, it is found very important to provide basic training on the same to capacitate key partners and PMU	sessions, all of them evaluated the training as very important and got good knowledge in each subject
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**Section Three: Institutional Context & Project Partnership Issues**

The partnership with MAF Directorates and their replicas in municipalities in the implementation of each project component through agreed modalities enhanced mutual understanding and enable the project to address the priority needs of the community as well as the county. The capacity building component through different trainings and organization of field practices and joint monitoring strengthened national ownership and knowledge and skill transfer in various subject matters that build confidence of the national experts to handle the project initiatives in the future. However, the partnership with National Directorate Environment is not to the expected level and challenging specially to implement the coastal adaptation components of the project as they are not providing support as needed. They are not happy about the project is being under MAF.

**Section Four: Outcomes and Lessons Learned**

The increase of public awareness on mangroves conservation for coastal protection and involvement of the communities in the target project site is encouraging progress. The support and collaboration of MAF Directorates provided good bases to implement the project. The consultations with community and their involvement in all process including delineating fencing areas resolved the land ownership issues raised in some target areas. Intensive work on sensitization of government experts, officials, and the larger public is highly demanded in order to increase the awareness on climate change impacts, integrated development planning between different sectors as well as to enhance commitments at different level to sustain the project achievements. However, communities high demand to earn daily income from their involvement in the project activities implementation rather than forming groups, get trained in business skills and receive small grant to run alternative economic activities will be the major challenge in all project sites.

The comprehensive coastal vulnerability on the other hand clearly indicated the vulnerability of the coastal communities and ecosystem to multiple climate change and human induced risks and disasters and call for joint and integrated adaptation strategy and proper planning among different sectors to build the shoreline and coastal community resilience.

**Section Five: Monitoring and Evaluation**

PMU conduct regular monthly and daily communication with the Field Coordinators and implementing local NGOs on the accomplishment of planned activities in each respective suco. Joint monitoring with MAF technical team and provision of technical advice as well as jointly solving problems benefited the project in terms of enhancing national ownership as well as increase awareness about the project. Field Coordinators are regularly gathering primary data both on the livelihoods of the target coastal communities and mangroves ecosystem restoration interventions to measure progresses and scale up best practices as well as to take timely corrective measures if there is failure or problem arises. The PMU also organized field monitoring for project board members, however, due to recently concluded new government formation, they are unable to participate.

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

Monthly newsletter is prepared and shared both in local language, tetun and English to share the progress of the project to the larger public, two newsletters are issued until now and got large number of readers which encourages the PMU to produce more communication materials. The PMU participated in different exhibitions and forums to present the project and disseminated booklets, leaflets and newsletters to large audiences. School based awareness raising activities continued in all target municipalities including provision of reading materials and presentation. Short videos are prepared by the Field

Coordinators and shown to the community in different sucos to raise their awareness of degradation of ecosystem, climate change and the importance of protection and conserving resources for sustainable use.

The PMU shared all finalized studies to key partners to be used as a reference and input for planning their respective national and district level development interventions.

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

Limited capacity and unwillingness of local NGOs to partner in the implementation of CBEMR activities in the remotest areas of Manatutu, Viqueque and Manufahi municipalities is one of the key challenge faced by the project team. Planned activities such Mangroves restoration and protection and strengthening coastal community livelihoods requires intensive presence of strong local CBOs or NGOs. In the absence of such partners, the PMU is working with the local authorities and communities through providing intensive capacity building interventions. The demand to receive an incentive for each and every engagement by both by local experts and community is a big challenge to move forward in the implementation of activities.

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

The PMU is collaborating with different Directorates of sector Ministries. In MAF, Directorate of Forest, Coffee and Industrial Plants, Fisheries, Crops Production and Horticulture, and ALGIS; in Ministry of Public Works, with SAS, in MCIE with Directorate of Environment (recently moved to Prime Minister's office and UNTL, CBCC among others. Partnership strengthened with national and international development organizations for accelerated implementation of the project. The project benefited from receiving comments on the baseline studies reports conducted by consultants, and learning and sharing with partners at meetings, forums and workshops.

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

**In quarter IV the major focus will be:**

**Outcome 1.** Finalizing the design of integrated coastal management and adaptation strategic plan of Timor; organize inter-ministerial dialogue on climate change adaptation and coastal management strategy and procurement and installation of hydro-meteorological tidal /wave gauge stations and training of experts on maintenance and utilization of the instruments

**Outcome 2.** Strengthening the commenced mangroves rehabilitation and restoration intervention in all the targeted sites; continue the provision of basic business skills for communities on selected livelihoods options

**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.



