



**United Nations Development Programme
Timor-Leste**

**Building Shoreline Resilience of Timor Leste to Protect the Local
Community and Their Livelihoods Project**

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2017

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I. Project Summary

Project ID and Title	00097253 Building Shoreline Resilience of Timor Leste to Protect the Local Community and Their Livelihoods Project
Duration	2016– 2019
Total Budget	Total Budget: USD\$ 38,644,402 GEF: USD\$ 7,000,000 Government: \$18,000.000 Others: USD \$13,644,402
Annual Budget 2017	Initial budget: US\$ 2,100,000 Revised Budget: US \$1,300, 504.5
Expenditures 2017	Total expenditures: Carry-over to 2018:
Implementing Partner	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Target Beneficiary	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Ministry of Social Solidarity Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment Ministry of Public Works National University of Timor Leste
Location	National Level, Municipalities (Dili, Liquica, Covalima, Manatutu, Boboaro, Manufahi, Viqueque)

II. Project Background

The objective of the UNDP GEF-funded **Building shoreline resilience of Timor-Leste to protect local communities and their livelihoods** project is to strengthen resilience of coastal communities through the introduction of nature-based approaches to coastal protection; as well as support inter- and intra-ministerial coordination for collaborative development planning ensuring protection of coastal areas, as well as identify and research potential revenue streams for long term sustainability.

The project under implementation in close collaboration with the Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) through the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment; Ministry of Public Works and; Ministry of Finance, as well as working with international and national NGOs and private enterprise as the issues of coastal areas are complex and cross-sectoral. It employs an integrated approach, while tailoring activities to address the specific needs, challenges and priorities of the Government of Timor Leste.

The coastal population of Timor-Leste is vulnerable to the threats of sea level rise and extreme events. Approximately 40% of the population lives in the coastal areas. This is comprised of almost 560,000 people residing in coastal and lowland areas with an elevation of up to 500 meters. The coastal zone and habitats of Timor-Leste are thus subject to a high degree of human dependency and resource use.

Climate change projections indicate that coastal areas might in future experience increased flash floods and landslides originating from the upstream hill areas but are also likely to face increased incidents of sea surges and storms. These hazards have serious impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems, especially for mangroves, estuaries and coral reefs, which are already under stress because of coastal zone development and population growth.

Coastal impacts are expected to include: increased groundwater contamination by salt water intrusion; direct physical damage to forest and terrestrial ecosystems; reduced health, diversity and productivity of coastal and inshore marine ecosystems and species; physical damage to coral reefs and mangroves by strong wave action; increased erosion of beaches, shorelines and coastal land; direct damage to physical infrastructure; flooding and destruction of coastal settlements; and damage to schools, homes and community buildings such as churches and health clinics.

As mangroves are vital natural defense to the impacts of climate change, extensive mangrove protection and restoration will be supported while addressing community pressures (i.e. felling for fuelwood) and introduce alternative mangrove-supportive livelihoods, as well as improve public awareness about the important role of coastal ecosystems in shoreline protection and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Since Timor-Leste's landscape is generally steep, therefore, where relevant, the project looks at upland SLM activities to reduce impacts of sedimentation, increased runoff and flash floods, and enhance availability of groundwater in the coastal areas for both human and agricultural activities.

The Project aims to achieve the following three outcomes:

- Policy framework and institutional capacity for climate resilient coastal management established
- Mangrove-supportive livelihoods established to incentivize mangrove rehabilitation and protection
- Integrated approaches to coastal adaptation adopted to contribute to protection of coastal populations and productive lands

This report summarizes progress achieved during the implementation year 2017.

III. Summary of Project Achievements

In year 2017, the Coastal Resilience Building project management unit(PMU) worked very hard to accomplish the planned activities in all seven targeted municipalities in more than 15 project target communities. As a result, encouraging progresses and results are accomplished though there are significant challenges faced. The following section discusses accomplishment of activities by outcome.

OUTCOME 1. Policy framework and institutional capacity for climate resilient coastal management established

In the reporting period the project accomplished various institutional capacity building activities range from strategic and policy level support to wider stakeholders and community sensitization and awareness raising about mangroves and coastal ecosystems, climate change adaptation and coastal protection.

Accordingly, Economic analysis of mangrove supportive livelihoods options; baseline survey on mangrove ecosystem and rapid assessment of shoreline and oceanography of Timor Lest

completed and reported shared to key stakeholders. Mangroves ecosystem restoration manual developed and translated in to local language to be shared with district and national experts. Coastal vulnerability assessment and designing of integrated coastal management and adaptation strategy is commenced, inception workshop conducted, and field assessment is undergoing. Rapid assessment of the oceanography of Timor Leste Conducted and based on the findings and recommendation sea level rise/ tidal gauging instrument procurement initiated.

Six Field Coordinators, Communications and Public Awareness Specialist recruitment and joined the PMU. 13 NGOs/CBOs' proposal found good to implement an integrated community based ecological mangrove restoration activities in the targeted sucos of the seven districts. Accordingly, HACT assessment is conducted on the financial management capacity of each NGO/CBO. Based on the recommendation of the assessment six NGOs are qualified to access Micro Grant fund. TOT on Mangroves and coastal wetland monitoring and management provided for 35 experts from seven national sector ministries and districts.

Project Field Coordinators provided with detailed similar training and on operation of Drone for mangroves monitoring. Drone technology is launched for mangroves and coastal ecosystem monitoring. One of the major activity of the quarter was organizing school-based campaign on environment protection and mangroves conservations. School children and youth are the target of the initiative. Accordingly, school-based awareness raising activities organized, communication materials including two children booklets prepared in local language and distributed, more than 800 children and youth and 350 representatives from government, UNDP and partners mobilized to plant of more than 3000 mangroves in two sites in Metinaro, Dili and Ulmera, Liquica districts and raised the awareness of the wider public. The campaign will continue in all target districts.

Community sensitization conducted in all target sucos in seven districts in Mangroves and coastal ecosystem utilization and management, climate change adaptation and livelihoods enhancements, in which more than 600 community members, local officials, community leaders and district representatives participated.

Summary of Achievements

- 5330 community members from seven municipalities participated in Community sensitization and consultation on the importance of mangroves and coastal wetlands protection and conservation (an ecosystem-based approach) in climate change adaptation

- 2155 children in 14 primary and secondary schools participated in Educational activities on mangrove and wetland restoration targeted to school children as a means of also engaging the broader community in restoration and monitoring activities
- Youth symposium on Environment, mangroves and coastal ecosystem conservation: 740 youth participate on different activities including planting mangroves and multipurpose trees, cleaning, educational activities, among others
- Trainings: 503 national experts provided trainings on biophysical coastal vulnerability assessment and prioritization of climate change adaptation options; assessment and monitoring of mangrove and coastal wetlands using drones; Community based Mangroves restoration techniques and financial and project management.

Analytical and Communication Products:

- Economic analysis of mangrove supportive livelihoods options for Coastal communities of Timor Leste
- Assessment Report: Biophysical, Ecological and Socio-Economic Conditions of Mangroves Ecosystem of Timor Leste
- Comprehensive coastal vulnerability assessment(CVA)
- Integrated coastal management & adaptation Strategic Plan(drafted)
- Rapid assessment of shoreline and oceanography of Timor Leste: recommendation of viable sea level Rise and Tidal gauging instruments
- Mangrove Restoration Guideline for Timor-Leste (English, Tetun and Bahasa Indonesia)
- Field Guideline for Monitoring and Evaluation of Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration in Timor-Leste
- Quarterly newsletters, Leaflets, booklets (2), quarterly reports

OUTCOME 2. Mangrove-supportive livelihoods established to incentivize mangrove rehabilitation and protection

Incentivizing the community to actively participate in mangroves restoration activities is a key mechanism to get the local community involvement in mangrove conservation intervention as well as to secure ownership for suitability of the result obtained. The local customary law, tara-bandu will be one of the strong instrument adhered by the wider community in conserving environment, thus, linking mangroves restoration with such local law is beneficial for long term protection of coastal ecosystem.

On the other hand, the extensive youth and school children sensitization and awareness raising events organized across all target municipalities, has a significant impact to reach out the wider community. The youth and children mangrove planting and neighborhood cleaning events are educational activities by themselves. The eagerness and motivation of the youth and children is very inspirational, which should be used to teach the community and continue to expand the conservation and protection activities.

The “One Child – One Mangrove” campaign is initiated targeting school children and voluntary youth with the objective of to raise the awareness of the children and youth of Timor Leste to take responsibility in conserving their environment especially the mangrove ecosystem which is the natural defense of the coastal areas and shoreline from climate change induced risks and hazards such as sea level rise, inundation, erosion and seas water surge. Two children booklets prepared in local language (One Child - One Mangrove and “Love Environment” and disseminated in to primary schools in the target districts.

School campaign and mangroves plantation took place in one district. More than 250 primary and 100 junior high school students and more than 50 youth volunteers participated on the first campaign. UNDP and government officials, community representatives and invited guests and partners grace the event. Secured large media coverage

More than 100 Mangroves tree are planted

The initiative raised the awareness and empowered children and youth to taking their own initiative not only in biodiversity conservation but also making accountable the government, development partners, private sector and academic institutions to perform their role and responsibilities towards a sustainable development and environment through their collective voice, campaign and action. The campaign is one of the grand event of UNDP, highly apricated by government and partners. Children and youth participation was inspirational. It is planned to continue in all target sites.

Prior site selection and preparation was done in consultation with local community and authorities. Fencing is done, and community group is under establishment to link it to livelihoods activities so that the community can own and protect the site for its sustainability

Summary of Achievements

- 30,550 seedlings of different species mangroves prepared, and 7860 mangroves planed in five sites.

- Through community based participatory approach 875 ha of mangroves areas and wetlands fenced in 12 sites across the country
- 4 sucos' community launched comprehensive mangroves and environmental protection customary law, 'tata-bandu' Community Livelihoods strengthening Interventions
- Strengthening livelihoods and adaptive capacity of the coastal vulnerable communities is the center of the project in order to incentivize them to conserve mangroves.
- 620 poor households, of which 264 are women (3720 community) in seven districts organized in to 52 different groups and cooperatives, received business skill and technical trainings and currently engaged in fishery, fattening, horticulture, handicraft, farming, and agroforestry activities

OUTCOME 3. Integrated approaches to coastal adaptation adopted to contribute to protection of coastal populations and productive lands

School based awareness raising activities are continued in this quarter too, events organized in 10 elementary and high schools and addressed 1035 students 1035 school children. The youth symposium on environment, mangroves and coastal ecosystem conservation is one of the most successful intervention, with 740 youth participation. The symposium includes, guest speakers and key note address by UNDP and government officials, presentation youth activity such as drawing, poem, drama and song contest, mangrove plantation and cleaning Dili City.

1000 two children booklets are republished and distributed during school events in all municipalities. Some youth requested the local government to provide them land and MAF to provide seeding of different trees including mangroves to plant, In Dili and Manatutu municipalities youth took their own initiatives and planted 240 coconut trees along Aubeon, south coast and 1000 mangroves in Metinaro along the North coast. Other 200 youth do cleaning campaign in Dili City which is educational instrument to teach the public about environmental protection.

Summary of Achievements:

- 16,845 multipurpose trees such as Jackfruit, Orange, Papaya, Mahogany, Citrus, Sandal wood and Coconut seedling prepared by community and implementing NGOs in all target municipalities to be planted on degraded hills, coastline and community farm and home yard as a mechanism of reducing erosion, land degradation and enhancing food security

- Water points development for Ercina coastal community in Bobonaro municipality where there is high salinity and water stress as a result the community commenced different livelihoods activities

IV. Project Management

The project management unit(PMU) is closely working with national counterpart, MAF, local authorities and the community at large. Technical support provided, and regular monitoring is conducted in all local NGOs interventions and target areas. Where there is no local NGOs engagement, the Field Coordinators are leading the coordination and day to day management of planned activities implementation. 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.

V. Monitoring Progress

Project Board met twice a year to review the progress of the project as well as to discuss on and find joint solutions for issues raised during project implementations. In addition, Field Coordinators submit monthly progress report as well as the implementing NGOs submitted their quarterly accomplishment report. BTOR from field monitoring and regular meetings on issues arise in any target site enable to jointly design solutions and solve problems. 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 and coastal wetlands restoration interventions to measure progresses and scale up best practices

VI. Challenges and the way forward

The remoteness and inaccessibility of most of mangroves ecosystem both at the North and South coasts accompanied by risk of crocodiles are the major change for the PMU. Moreover, the vast project target areas scattered in seven municipalities is another key problem. On the other hand, coordination and collaboration will be challenging for cross-sectoral activities due to government institutional arrangement and overlapping mandates that can significantly impact project performance in terms of delaying implementation, ensuring ownership and sustainability. Securing collaboration and coordination with key ministries such as MSS, MPW, MPSI and UNTL remind a challenge. In addition, some of project site such as Be-malai, selele-boot are inaccessible due to the heavy rainy season, which affects implementation of some of the planned activities.

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.

VII. Risk Log -Update

Risks	Probability(P) and Impact(I)	Mitigation Measures Taken
Coordination among the various directorates at the concerned ministries will remain limited and preclude an agreement over a consensus-based, multi-sectoral and integrated coastal management and adaptation plan	P- Medium I -High	The project Board and municipality level steering committee periodical meet and discuss on the progress of the project, the technical team established at MAF is supporting project implementation and monitoring, consultation and involvement of stakeholders and partners
Ineffective coordination among the various MAF directorates, result in policies and plans which inadvertently impact the mangrove rehabilitation targets.	P: Low I: High	A technical working group established, and TOR prepared, the team is supporting the project implementation in joint monitoring and community consultation and sensitization activities.
Mangrove protection and re-afforestation efforts result in low survival rates.	P: Low I: High	The PMU is employing community-based mangroves restoration and protection mechanism to involve the local communities in such activities, which improve the survival rate. In addition, fencing and community customary law, <i>tara-bandu</i> are under implementation to reduce the impact of human and animal access.
Communities are reluctant to adopt new land use practices and mangrove-supportive livelihood options due to, perceived risks to their income stability, and uncertainties over the market demand, and continue with activities which degrade mangrove areas.	P: Medium I: High	Community consultations, sensitization and awareness raising events are extensively conducted, based on economic analysis of mangrove supportive livelihoods options alternative livelihood activities introduced to different community groups. Training provided to communities to create linkage between protection of mangroves ecosystems and economic/social value.
Rehabilitated mangrove areas are eventually degraded after the project close.	P: Medium I: High	Guidelines on mangrove rehabilitation developed both in English and tetun to inform appropriate species selection and technique and disseminated to stakeholders. Training provide on mangrove conservation to local experts and communities
Protection and re-afforestation efforts result in increases in the crocodile population.	P: Low I: Low	The PMU consult the community leaders and communities on the best way to reduce the risk.

Risks	Probability(P) and Impact(I)	Mitigation Measures Taken
<p>Failure to identify viable revenue streams or secure financing for long term maintenance or mangrove areas</p>	<p>P: Medium I: Low</p>	<p>PMU is initiating private-public partnership(PPP) to involve private sectors in mangroves conservation. Partnership initiated with different investors along the coastal areas.</p> <p>Moreover, in the remaining project period, PMU will build on the work already conducted for the NBSAP, as well as the LDCF PPG stage, to identify potential revenue streams. An expert will be hired to further explore these options. Training on economic analysis will ensure that MAF is able to present the needs and proposed measures for mangrove activities, for public or other sources of funds, in a manner that proves economic value and cost-effectiveness.</p>
<p>Communication materials are not tailored to audiences or delivered in a manner which ensures broad outreach.</p>	<p>P: Low I: Medium</p>	<p>Wider communications and awareness raising activities conducted that target groups with potential for greatest impact, especially coastal communities, school children through preparation and distribution of books, print material, radio, TV as well as organization of various educational events in local language</p>

