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

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

01 January - 31 March 2018, Dili, Timor Leste

Project Number/ID: 00097253 Atlas Award ID: 00092621 Council of Ministers endorsement: 16 th August 2016 Government and UNDP officially signed of the pro doc: 19 th August 2016 National Launching: 7 th September 2016 Duration: 4 Years (2016 -2020)	Total Budget: USD\$ 38,644,402 GEF: USD\$ 7,000,000 Government: \$18,000.000 Others: USD \$13,644,402 Current Year Budget: US\$2,390,600
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Project Name	Building Shoreline Resilience of Timor-Leste to Protect Local Communities and Their Livelihoods(CRTL)
Project Implementer	UNDP TL in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries(MAF)
Partner Agencies	Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS); Ministry of Public Works (MPW), University of Timor Leste (UNTL); National Directorate of Environment under Vice Minister of Development for Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment
Report Compiled by	Sinkinesh Beyene, Project Manager/CTA
Reporting Period	01 January - 31 March 2018

Section One: SUMMARY

In the reporting quarter the project management unit(PMU) focused on the finalization of the integrated coastal management and adaptation strategic plan of Timor-Leste. More than 9000 Mangroves seeding planted in Sabuli suco, Metinaro, Ulmera, Liquica and Beseuk, Covalima with the participation of the community, high government officials, students and youth. 484 community members are engaged in different livelihoods improvement interventions in six municipalities. Multi-purpose trees planting, mangroves and coastal wetlands fencing activities are accomplished as planned. Moreover, community consultation and sensitization events are organized to continue the awareness raising initiative.

The implementing partner local NGOs are leading the implementation of planned activities in their target sites. Moreover, joint monitoring with government officials and experts and review of the performance of the project at the community level as well as that of the NGOs is done and corrective actions are

taken in areas where there is limitation. Two local NGOs, HADER and NITEL commenced implementation of upstream integrated sustainable land management(SLM) child projects in five sucos of Manufahi municipalities. In addition, call for proposals were advertised for mangroves restoration and integrated SLM child projects for municipalities where there is no NGO intervention and applications are under review.

Section Two. ACTIVITIES AND PORGRESS			
Planned Activities for the Reporting Period	Progress on Planned Activities in the Reporting Period (01 January - 31 March 2018)	Outputs and Deliverables	Remarks (Sustainability, Delays, Additional Undertakings Key Observations
<p>Outcome 1. Policy framework and institutional capacity for climate resilient coastal management established</p> <p>Baseline: No</p> <p>Project Target: Integrated coastal adaptation plan developed</p> <p>Annual Target: TWG meetings</p> <p>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)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.1. Facilitate inter-ministerial dialogue and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and discuss on coastal management and adaptation plan for Timor-Leste, including mangrove and coastal wetland management, protection and restoration strategy</p>	<p>Bilateral discussions with conducted key minsters, vise minters, Director Generals and national Directors of the relevant sector ministries on the draft integrated coastal management and adaptation strategic plan of Timor-Leste.</p> <p>National validation workshop hosted with the participation of more than 100 governments officials, local leaders, community and experts as well as development partners. The comments and inputs received both verbal and written are incorporated and the strategy finalized. The PMU is organizing discussion and meeting on the best mechanism to translate the strategic plan to community level adaptation action plans in order to support implementation.</p>	<p>Timor-Leste integrated coastal management and adaptation strategic pan in developed and ready for inter-ministerial dialogue and endorsement</p>	<p>Coastal adaptation is a cross-sectoral issue that requires the coordination and harmonization of multiple-stakeholders and actors interventions. The integrated management and adaptation strategic plan will only be implemented if it is adopted as a cross-cutting tools by the key actors and sector ministries who need to take timely and relevant action to reduce the vulnerability of the coastal community, their livelihoods and ecosystem. The project will continue its advocacy and lobby for the establishment of a strong national level taskforce to lead the process and make accountable all responsible</p>

			bodies for its implementation.
<p>Output 1.2. Coastal protection and resilience strategy for infrastructure planning, adopted and budgeted</p> <p>Annual Target: environment and social safeguards procedures for infrastructure drafted</p> <p>Activity 1.2.2. Support environment and social safeguards procedures integration into infrastructure development planning</p> <p>Activity 1.2.3. Technical support to Tibar Bay Port PPP, Suai, Betano and Beaco sites under the Tasi Mane Project in reviewing EIA and translating the EIA recommendations into actionable plan</p>	<p>Meetings conducted with Tibar Bay Port PPP construction company, Bollore Ports, MAF and Ministry of finance (project monitoring technical unit) on the possible way of collaboration in terms of conserving the remaining mangroves and other coastal ecosystem as well as to lobby for the compensation and payment for ecosystem services. PMU provided technical input on the social and environmental safeguard guidelines of the company before it is endorsed.</p>	<p>Bollore Ports construction company is happy on what CRB project is doing in the coastal areas and would like to partner to implement some conservation work around the port construction.</p>	<p>In Timor-Leste given the potential of the coastal area there are enormous investments and economic activities that cause large degradation on mangroves, marine and coastal biodiversity. Thus, developing resilience strategy for infrastructure is not supported by the key stakeholders.</p>
<p>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)</p> <p>Activity 1.4.1. Establish a technical working group within MAF for formulation of the SOP, strategy and action plan for mangrove rehabilitation and protection</p> <p>Activity 1.4.2. Approval of SOP by MAF Senior authorities and support its implementation</p>	<p>High level workshop is organized for with the participation of all seven target municipalities Administrators, Agriculture Directors, MAF Director general and department Directors as well as UNDP Project team and reviewed the progress of the implementation of project in all municipalities and discussion conducted. Best practices shared in terms of coordination from all municipalities except in Dili and Viqueque. PMU presented issues and challenges to be addressed by the higher officials and action points taken by all to improve at each level.</p>	<p>National and municipality authorities are providing support and giving emphasis to the project. Coordination and partnership is improved in all target areas.</p> <p>For Dili and Viqueque municipalities, Field Coordinators recruited and on Board since mid of march and coordination is improving.</p>	<p>Strong partnership and collaboration in the project implementation is key as well as national ownership to sustain the gains. Thus, the PMU is strongly working with all level key stakeholders mainly government, local authorities and the community at large for the success of the project.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Mangrove-supportive livelihoods established to incentivize mangrove rehabilitation and protection</p> <p>Baseline: 1,300 ha (2005) of mangrove cover</p>	<p>Mangrove inventory has been done and data base is under establishment. Based on lesson learnt from the 2017 intervention various corrective action</p>	<p>Community based initiatives such as implementation of local customary law, <i>tara-bandu</i> is led by the local</p>	<p>Mangrove restoration is at the core of all project intervention. Accordingly, all project interventions are</p>

<p>Annual Target: 10,000 mangrove seedlings planted and nurtured</p> <p>Project Target: 1000ha of mangrove areas rehabilitated using CBEMR</p> <p>Output 2.1. 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>Activity 2.1.1. Inventory of coastal wetlands and actual mangrove coverage with follow up ground surveying - identify areas most affected by sea level rise and mangrove loss</p> <p>Activity 2.1.3. Expansion and strengthening of initiatives on protection or rehabilitation of mangrove areas, in all target sites</p>	<p>and improvements are done where there is limitation. Dead mangroves and those eaten by animals are replanted in some areas, fencing strengthened and maintained to enhance protection of the newly growing seedlings.</p> <p>183ha of mangrove areas are fenced in Be Malae, Bobonaro as well as in Beseuk and Suai Loro sucos in Covalima.</p> <p>9000 Mangroves seeding planted in Sabuli suco, Metinaro, Ulmera, Liquica and Beseuk, Covalima.</p>	<p>leaders and authorities; local community guarding; youth involvement in planting and other activities contributed to strengthening the protection and restoration of mangroves and coastal ecosystem restoration. The community awareness and participation in most of the target project sites is resulted encouraging progress.</p>	<p>linked to contribute to this goal.</p> <p>Larger public sensitization, seedling preparation and planting, fencing and cleaning activities are integrated with community livelihoods strengthening initiatives for a sustainable result.</p>
<p>Output 2.2. Mangrove-supportive, diversified livelihoods/social businesses established in mangrove rehabilitation project sites</p> <p>Annual Target: 120 HHs</p> <p>Project Target: benefiting at least 1000 households and empowering women</p> <p>Activity 2.2.1. Support community livelihoods enhancing activities and initial investment</p> <p>Activity 2.2.2. training programme for communities on the technical skills related to the selected livelihood investment(s), as well as basic business skills</p> <p>Activity 2.2.3. Document best practices and lessons learned to inform subsequent phases of project implementation, as well as Suco development plans</p>	<p>In Manufahi in Claku and Fatukahi sucos a group of 147 HHs fenced and prepared 30 ha of land for fruits and vegetable farming of which 10 ha is provided to the youth group. Women handicraft and horticulture groups are registering promising progress. On the other hand, 8 shelters are under construction by NGO Malaidoi in Maubara lake, Liquica to enable community members to start small café and restaurants.</p> <p>NGO Halarae in Bobonaro provided training and distributed agricultural tools and seeds for 200 community members in Be-malae and Beacou</p>	<p>In this quarter 484 households established new groups in Manufahi, Liquica, Bobonaro and Covalima and Dili. The groups are provided with relevant training and materials and commenced their alternative livelihoods strengthening activities. This is done as an incentive to motivate them to restore mangroves and reduce pressure on the coastal biodiversity in search of livelihoods.</p>	<p>Livelihoods strengthening for the vulnerable coastal communities is found a key mechanism to involve them in conserving mangroves. Community willingness and awareness enhanced to engage in alternative income generating activities and restore their coastal environment.</p>

<p>Output 2.3. In project site Suco, development plans include mangrove-supportive livelihood support measures benefiting at least 25,000 people</p> <p>Activity 2.3.1. Public awareness raising activities to highlight the economic potential of mangrove-supportive livelihoods and environmental benefits of protecting mangroves</p> <p>Activity 2.3.3. Support proposal development of livelihood support measures for inclusion in suco development plans</p>	<p>Community sensitization and awareness raising event is continued at large scale in this quarter. PMU in collaboration with Government Environment experts expanded awareness raising activity in all project target municipalities to engage more school community and the youth in coastal environment protection and waste management as well as enhance their knowledge on the ecological, social and economic benefits of mangroves and coastal ecosystem.</p>	<p>More than 400 students and youth live in the coastal sucos, Senior High School of Santa Imaculada Coracao de Maria in Tibar, Santo Ignatius Loyola School in Ulmera, Elementary Schools in Aipelu (Liquica Municipality), Secondary School of Palaca and Youth Groups of Atabae (Bobonaro Municipality) attended the events and learnt new skill on recycling of waste as well as took their own initiative to plant more than 200 coconut trees along the Beacou beach</p>	<p>Public awareness raising enhances knowledge and participation of the community in different mangroves and coastal environment protection. We have project witnessed high moral and interest from the youth, the project will work to build on this and empower youth to take action for the sustainability of the interventions.</p>
<p>Outcome 3. Integrated approaches to coastal adaptation adopted to contribute to protection of coastal populations and productive lands</p> <p>Baseline: potential revenue streams identified in NBSAP, PPG assessment</p> <p>Baseline: no</p> <p>Project Target: one financing mechanism established</p> <p>Annual target:</p> <p>Output 3.1. Upstream watershed replantation demonstrates risk reduction, (including reduction of excessive sediment loads) to downstream coastal waterways and areas</p> <p>Activity 3.1.1. 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</p>	<p>Morethan 21,610 seedlings of Flamboyant (dellonix regia), Acacia Spp, Casuarina, Ketapang (Terminalia ketapa), Mahogany, Jackfruit, Orange, Papaya, Citrus, Sandal wood and Coconut prepared and planted in Covalima, Bobonaro and Dili municipalites as a life fence and also to reduce erosion and land degradation. Moreover, for their economic benefit to the community to imporove their livelihoods.</p> <p>Two local NGOs, HADER and NETIL and commenced the implementation of child project on integrated sustainable land management(SLM) activities in</p>	<p>This intervention motivated the local leaders and community at large to plant more multipurpose trees in their backyards and farmland. Some farmers took their initiative to establish their own small seedling site. The PMU facilitated the fee distribution of seedling to communities and schools in Liquica and Bobonaro from the nursery center of national Directorate of Forest, Coffee and industrial plants, MAF as a result more</p>	<p>As Timor-Leste is a mountainous country with high degree of degradation resulted in erosion and siltation from highland areas to the coastal mangroves areas as well as enhanced loss of agricultural land; upstream SLM interventions should be expanded and enhanced for the success of coastal mangrove and ecosystem restoration initiatives in addition to improving agricultural land productivity.</p>

<p>agroforestry use, as well as for infiltration to restore springs and aquifers</p> <p>Activity 3.1.2. Promoting agroforestry: Upscaling of successful SLM and reforestation efforts with diversity of tree species, rehabilitation and protective measures of mangroves and wetlands</p> <p>Activity 3.1.4. Securing steep slopes with ‘pioneer’ deep root vegetation (e.g. grasses such as vetiver), to support the establishment of slower-growing agroforestry species, using integrated land management-approaches</p>	<p>five sucos of Mahakidan, Betano, Clacu, Fatukahi and Dotic.</p> <p>The NGOs conducted community sensitization in all target Aldias and with participation of local authorities and community identified degraded areas for soil conservation such as terracing, small scale bio-engineering and agroforestry</p>	<p>than 1000 multipurpose tree plants on communal degraded land by students in both municipalities.</p>	
<p>Output 3.2. Coastal wetland restoration and groundwater recharge plans developed and initiated to increase storm water absorption capacity and buffer seawater intrusion</p> <p>Activity 3.2.1. Underground water monitoring equipment procurement</p> <p>Activity 3.2.3. Educational activities on mangrove and wetland restoration targeted to school children as a means of also engaging the broader community</p> <p>Activity 3.2.4. Production of Children’s book and video in Tetum and English on interconnectedness of watershed ecosystems and coastal activities</p>	<p>Underground water monitoring equipment procurement was advertised two times and extended for another three more weeks to receive more applications. Accordingly, joint evaluation team from UNDP and government, SAS are reviewing the submissions.</p> <p>The school based and youth focused awareness raising activities are continued in this quarter. In Liquica and Bobonaro municipalities more than 500 students participated from six schools. Learning materials produced and disseminated to all target sites on mangroves conservation and coastal environment protection. In addition, 240 youth participate in sensitization, waste recycling practices and mobilized to plant coconut trees along the Beacu beach.</p>	<p>The Underground water monitoring equipment procurement will be procured in the coming quarter and training will be delivered to the SAS experts to takeover the assessment work for the better planning of underground water management and protection of seawater intrusion that will affect the coast ecosystem and livelihoods of the coastal community. Public awareness enhanced and participation in various environmental protection and mangrove restoration activities expanded in all target sites.</p>	<p>Timor Leste’s coastal areas are vulnerable to various climate and non-climate induced factors including sea water intrusion and contamination of fresh and underground water, regular monitoring and taking timely protection measure is vital.</p>
<p>Staffing/ Project Management</p>	<p>The PMU recruited Field Coordinator for Dili and Viqueque Municipalities and the project activities</p>	<p>The PMU is performing well in all sites, though target</p>	<p>The PMU is working very hard to accomplish planned activities as of the time</p>

	implementation is progressing well. However, since the Manatutu Municipality coordinator left his job beginning of 2018, recruitment of his replacement is not yet accomplished	sites and municipalities are extensive.	however, the remoteness and inaccessibility of most of the sites in addition to huge project target area is the main challenge.
Recruitment of additional technical staff	UNV, Mangroves Restoration Specialist recruited and joined the PMU in the reporting quarter. Gender Specialist(Consultant) has recruited and will join PMU beginning of April to support gender mainstreaming in to the project intervention as well as for better addressing coastal women needs and to empower them. In addition, Senor Expert contracted to lead coastal assessment and site selection for the installation of RSET to measure the impact of SLR on mangroves ecosystem, the expert will be on board in April.	Mangroves Restoration Specialist is supporting the mangroves restoration activities in all project site Other two consultants the recruitment is finalized	The Gender Specialist is expected to support the PMU in doing gender analysis in the project target sucos and lead mainstreaming of gender in the project activities implementation in order to address the demand of vulnerable coastal women and strengthen their adaptation capacity through livelihoods activities as well as targeted trainings on women empowerment

Section Three: Institutional Context & Project Partnership Issues

In the reporting quarter the PMU signed micro-grant agreement with two local NGOs, HADER and NETIL and commenced the implementation of child project on sustainable land management(SLM). The PMU strengthened partnership with MAF, National Directorate of Environment, UNTL and municipality level MAF experts in organizing sensitization event for schools and youth out of school throughout the quarter. This collaboration enabled us to reach out more schools and youth and hold events simultaneously.

Moreover, the knowledge and awareness shared from different experts is diverse and informative. The collaboration of schools' administrations, local authority and youth forum in each target municipality is very encouraging to expand sensitization and awareness raising events across all target municipalities. Currently, eight local NGOs are implementing child projects in Dili, Liquica, Bobonaro, Covalima and Manufahi municipalities through micro grant agreement.

Section Four: Outcomes and Lessons Learned

In Aubeon strong community commitment is exhibited in protecting mangroves ecosystem through implementing the local customary law, *tara-bando*. However, in some community such as Ulmera and Metinaro, animal trampling and eating of small seedlings became the major problem for survival of newly

planted mangrove. The Modo-mahut community on the other hand became the champion in introducing life fencing for more than 8 KMs mangroves and wetland areas as well as preparing more than 30ha of land for vegetable and fruit farming to improve the livelihoods of 147 households. The initiative on involving youth in economic activities in addition to environment protection and coastal ecosystem management has motivate them to engage more in the project activities. This is one of the key result of repeated sensitization and awareness raising activities. On the other hand, ensuring high level community participation and developing their ownership of different project interventions should be enhanced through different awareness raising events and consultations as well as incentives as livelihoods improvement mechanism in order to expand the mangrove restoration work and sustain the so far registered results.

Section Five: Monitoring and Evaluation

Field Coordinators conduct regular monitoring on progress made at community level and provide technical guidance as well as share update to the PMU. The implementing NGOs submit their quarterly AWP accomplishment report. BTOR from field monitoring and regular meetings on issues arised in any target site enable to jointly design solutions and solve problems. PMU is undertaking regular monthly meeting and daily communication with the Field Coordinators and implementing local NGOs on the accomplishment of planned activities in each respective suco.

In addition, joint monitoring with MAF technical team and provision of technical advice benefited the project in terms of enhancing national ownership as well as increase awareness and ownership of 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. The PMU organize bi-annual Project Board meeting, each implementing NGO organize regular local Project Steering Committee(PSC) meeting. Moreover, the PMU lead joint review of the performance of each implementing local NGO with PSC, local and national relevant authorities. Regular report is compiled for each quarter in a timely manner, which all together enable to gauge the achieved results as well as take timely action when problem arise in the implementation of project activities.

Section Six: Communication, Dissemination and Advocacy

Key events are captured and shared at project site by the Field Coordinators and PMU through UNDP website, Facebook and tweeter. In addition, different national media such as radio and Television are used to share news and awareness to the wider public. Quarterly newsletter and illustrative posters are prepared and share both in English and local language which present progresses and results recorded at community level on the ground. Analytical and communication products prepared and published and shared to key government sector offices and partners as well as for municipality level local experts for reference. Community sensitization and school awareness raising events are under implementation on all target municipalities on mangroves and coastal ecosystem conservation, environment protection and management.

Section Seven: Risks, Issues and Challenges

Limited capacity of implementing local NGOs partners especially in the areas of mangroves and coastal ecosystem conservation is resulted in low quality and delay in the project implementation. In addition, some of project site such as Be-malai, Bobonaro; Selele-boot, Covlima and Modo-mahut, Manufahi are inaccessible due to long heavy rainy season, and swampy has affected execution of some of the planned activities. In Manatutu, and Viqueque municipalities one of the key challenge faced by the project team is lack of local NGOs to partner for planned community-based activities. Planned activities such Mangroves restoration and protection, SLM 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 trainings. On the other hand, the demand to receive short term incentive by community for their participation in the project activities is one of the challenges to ensure high level of community engagement as well as to enhance ownership. Moreover, limited coordination, collaboration and overlap(unclear) mandate of some of government institution remained as one of project performance hindering challenge.

Section Eight: Collaboration and Support

The PMU is collaborating with MAF, Directorate of Forest, Coffee and Industrial Plants, Fisheries, Crops Production and Horticulture, and ALGIS; in Ministry of Public Works, with SAS, Directorate of Environment, UNTL, CBOs, NGOs and local authorities for the successful implementation of the project. Partnership initiated with private sectors such as Tibar port, Bollore Ports construction company for possible collaboration in the restoration of mangroves and coastal ecosystem. The PMU is supported by UNDP other projects and operation teams for timely delivery of planned activities.

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

In the second quarter the major focus will be:

Outcome 1: Policy framework and institutional capacity for climate resilient coastal management established

Facilitate inter-ministerial dialogue and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and discuss on coastal management and adaptation plan for Timor-Leste, including mangrove and coastal wetland management, protection and restoration strategy and support designing of environment and social safeguards procedures for infrastructure planning affecting coastal areas; Support environment and social safeguards procedures integration into infrastructure development planning and ecosystem services and adaptation into school/university curriculum. As well as course design on coastal ecosystem and mangroves conservation and management at UNTL.

Outcome 2: Mangrove-supportive livelihoods established to incentivize mangrove rehabilitation and protection

Inventory of coastal wetlands and actual mangrove coverage with follow up ground surveying - identify areas most affected by sea level rise and mangrove loss. Expansion and strengthening of initiatives on protection or rehabilitation of mangrove areas, in all target sites. Mainstreaming gender in to project activities implementation and enhance women participation and empowerment. In addition, public awareness raising activities to highlight the economic potential of mangrove-supportive livelihoods and environmental benefits of protecting mangroves and document best practices and lessons learned.

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

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 agroforestry use, as well as for infiltration to restore springs and aquifers. Promoting agroforestry: Upscaling of successful SLM and reforestation efforts with diversity of tree species, rehabilitation and protective measures of mangroves and wetlands.

Promotion of rainwater harvesting system to o relieve water table pressures through reduced reliance of increasing groundwater infrastructure. Securing steep slopes with 'pioneer' deep root vegetation (e.g. grasses such as vetiver), to support the establishment of slower-growing agroforestry species, using integrated land management-approaches. Train-the-trainers programme for government experts on use of water level meters (e.g. electric tape method, as the technology is available in Timor-Leste) and regular monitoring as well as educational activities on mangrove and wetland restoration targeted to school children as a means of also engaging the broader community.