



CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL
Timor-Leste



blue ventures
beyond conservation

COUNTRY PRESENTATION: Timor-Leste

INCEPTION WORKSHOP
THE GEF DUGONG AND SEAGRASS CONSERVATION PROJECT
20-21 October 2015
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Timor-Leste

0 20 40 km
1:750000



KISAR

ILHA DE ATAÚRO

PONTA ACREMA
PONTA MANO TALA
PONTA NUSSALO
PONTA CARETA TUTO
PONTA TUTOLO
PONTA BI SE
PONTA BERE HARAT
PONTA EROMAUJO

ALOR



Indonésia
(Nusa Tenggara Timur)



Socio-economic facts

- Population total 1.13 millions
- Population in multidimensional poverty 64.29%
- Human Development Index 0.62 → rank 128
- Employment to population ratio 54
- Rural population share 68.52% as of 2013
- Median age 18.5 years as of 2014 (est.)
- Population growth rate 2.44% as of 2014 (est.)

UNDP 2014: Human Development Report

Index Mundi 2013: <http://www.indexmundi.com>

Top five conservation facts

- Wallacea biogeographic region
- High endemism level
 - 10% of plants
 - 50% of 15 – 20 known frog species
 - Nine of 168 resident bird specie
- Niko Konis Santana National Park
- Seven genera of mangroves
- Part of the Coral Triangle Initiative
 - Home to 75% of all known coral species
 - > 3,000 species of reef fishes
 - Six of the seven known turtle species

Dugong

- Distribution ??
- Recent sightings on the north coast, no information on the presence for the south coast
- Abundance ??
- Mortality ?? Incidentally trapped individuals are killed and consumed

Seagrass

- Narrow reef flat dominated by seagrass beds ($\pm 2,200$ hectares) in shallow water at the north coast, south coast unknown
- Limited presence in a mixed habitat containing hard coral and bare areas ($\pm 1,250$ ha)
- Seagrass dominated habitat cover averages 43% -100%
- Densest seagrass beds at a depth of > 1 m
- Seven genera *Halodule*, *Halophila*, *Enhalus*, *Cymodocea*, *Syringodium*, *Thalassia*, and *Thalassodendron*

Challenges for conservation

- Deforestation and forest degradation
 - Slash & burn
 - Fire wood incl. mangroves
 - Domestic livestock grazing
 - Invasive weeds *Chromolaena odorata*, *Lantana camara*, etc.
- Unsustainable use of natural resources
- Overfishing incl. illegal & by-catch of dugongs
 - Turtle egg collection
- Destructive development activities
- Housing with inadequate waste disposal
 - Sand & gravel extraction

- Erosion, sedimentation & pollution
- Degradation coast & freshwater h.

TL1 Identification of priority sites



- Utilizing several different innovative ways in which to collect data on seagrass and dugong
- The data collection will mainly be carried out by the stakeholders and community with the assistance of government

TL2 Incentivising community engagement through volunteer ecotourism

- Pioneer marine conservation ecotourism model to diversify livelihoods
- Generate sustained source of income for local community through visiting ecotourists
- Incentivize local engagement in Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) activities including development of a co-management plan
- Selection and establishment of an ecotourism site and sustainable ecotourism project
- Engage and train partner communities & ecotourists to participate in CBNRM

25% more tourists for Timor-Leste!!!



TL3 Building national-level expertise & mainstreaming conservation into coastal zone planning & decision-making

- Ensuring that better and more accurate planning occurs for coastal zones through
 - socializing of the data collected
 - building capacities of local stakeholders to monitor the natural resources
- Providing data and conservation information obtained through TL1 to decision makers to ensure inclusion of key priority sites in planning and development projects

Creating linkages between ministries and departments for improved information sharing

An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. In the foreground, there is a large, irregularly shaped body of water with a vibrant turquoise color, indicating shallow depths and coral reefs. The water is surrounded by steep, green mountains with some exposed brown rock faces. A narrow road or path is visible winding along the base of the mountains. In the background, more mountains and a distant coastline are visible under a sky with scattered white clouds.

Why?

To increase awareness on the need to include environmental protection when considering planning approvals



TL4 National-level awareness raising campaign

1. Reviewing policy, planning and regulatory gaps
 - Stakeholder workshops
 - Gap Analysis Report
2. Developing and implementing advocacy programs and advocacy capacity for conservation management
 - Tool Box containing educational materials & media
 - Syllabi for school curricula
3. Capacity for national and regional networking, and contribution to global conservation policy
 - Train the trainers program
 - National dugong ambassador



TL5 National Facilitating Committee (NFC)

1. Establishing NFC to coordinate, review and communicate project activities within Timor-Leste
 - Project implementation partner, government & locally working NGOs all represented
 - Each government partner appoint two senior technical staff members
2. Sensitizing government stakeholders and NGOs
 - Project Facilitator
 - Coordinates meetings & workshops
 - Maximizes the project outcome by approaching stakeholders to facilitate their involvement and interest
 - Technical Report showcasing project implementation



Thank you for your attention!

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