



*This Project is executed by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund,
with financing from the GEF, implementation support by UNEP
and technical support from the CMS Dugong MoU Secretariat.*

Country presentation: Timor Leste

2nd Executive Project Steering Committee meeting

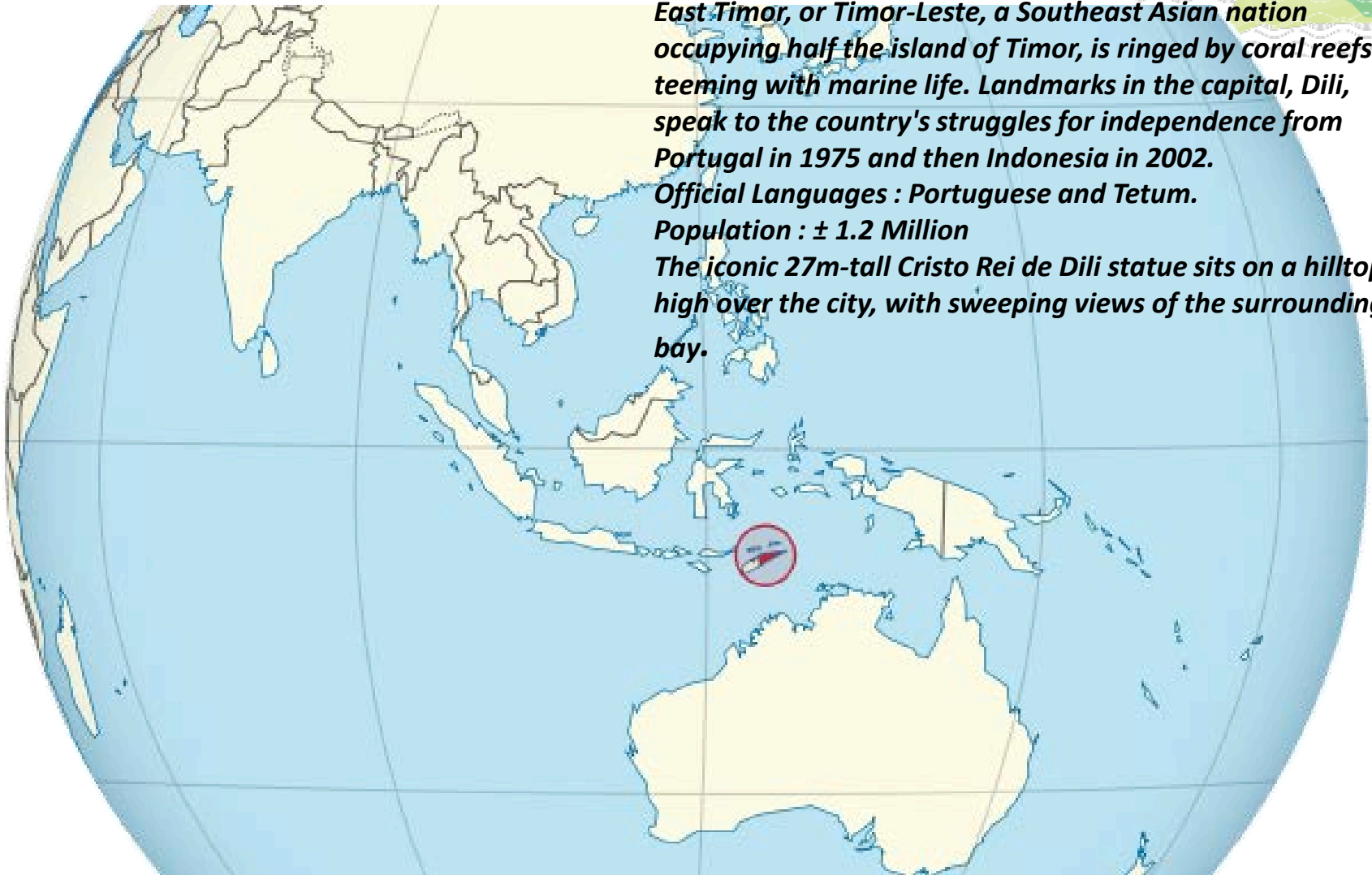
1-2 November, 2016

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

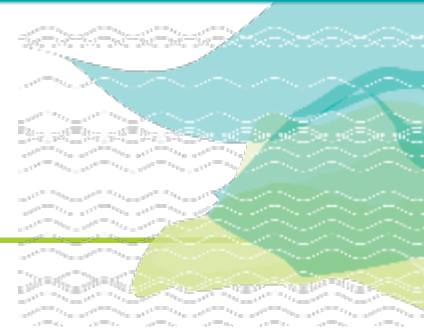
Timor-Leste in the World



East Timor, or Timor-Leste, a Southeast Asian nation occupying half the island of Timor, is ringed by coral reefs teeming with marine life. Landmarks in the capital, Dili, speak to the country's struggles for independence from Portugal in 1975 and then Indonesia in 2002. Official Languages : Portuguese and Tetum. Population : ± 1.2 Million The iconic 27m-tall Cristo Rei de Dili statue sits on a hilltop high over the city, with sweeping views of the surrounding bay.



Key national objectives in Timor Leste






- Main objectives of the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project
 - Enhanced institutional capacity (government, private sectors and related stakeholders) to consider the importance of Dugong population protection and seagrass conservation in Timor-Leste based on the project components as decided.
 - Enhanced sectoral coordination to protect and conserve Dugong and seagrass in the way of reducing negative impacts from the human activities on marine resources.
 - To improve the conservation status of dugongs and their seagrass habitats
 - Developing social marketing and innovative environmental education campaigns and implementing these at a national-scale across coastal communities
 - Building national-level expertise in dugong and seagrass conservation
- Marine Protected Areas
 - Nino Konis Santana Park including **Jaco Island**. Marine area of 55,600 hectares (137,000 acres) established since 2007 under **Government Resolution No. 8/2007**.
 - **Atauro Island, Batugade.**



Timor Leste Map and MPA's



	Number of MPAs (known boundaries)*	1 (1)
	Total MPAs area (km ²) for known boundaries	586
	MPAs in EEZ (%)	1.5
	Coral Reef area (km ²)**	35
	Reef area in MPAs (km ²)	11
	Reefs in MPAs (%)	30
	Mangrove area (km ² ***)	No mangrove
	Mangrove area in MPAs (km ²)	-
	Mangrove in MPAs (%)	-

MPA Management Authority:

- Department of Protected Areas & National Parks, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Timor-Leste

Only has one MPA declared – Nino Konis Santana National Park. The total area of national park is 1,257 km², consists of 586 km² of the marine area.

Coral Reef:

- Number of coral species (Veron *et al.*, 2009): 514
- Coral destruction mainly due to destructive fishing.

Mangrove:

- Number of mangrove species (Spalding *et al.*, 2010): No mangrove reported

*Compiled from various sources by CT Atlas team up to July 2012;

**UNEP-WCMC (2010) Global Distribution of Coral Reefs. Download from UNEP-WCMC's Ocean Data Viewer (<http://data.unep-wcmc.org/datasets/13>) and further correcting the topology error by CT Atlas team (2012);

***UNEP-WCMC (2010) Mangroves of the World 2010. Preliminary global dataset provided to ReefBase.

Project implementation structure



- **TL 1** - Identification of priority sites for conservation of dugongs and sea grasses in Timor Leste
 - ◆ **CI (MAF-MCIA)**

- **TL 2** - Incentivising community engagement in dugong and sea grass conservation in Timor Leste through volunteer ecotourism
 - ◆ **Blue Ventures (MAF-MCIA-Tourism)**

- **TL 3** - Mainstreaming dugong and their Sea grass habitats in national coastal zone planning and decision-making.
 - ◆ **CI (MAF)**

- **TL 4** - National-level awareness campaign to champion dugong and seagrass conservation
 - ◆ **MCIA (MAF-CI-Blue Ventures)**

- **TL 5** - Timor Leste National Facilitating Committee
 - ◆ **MCIA**

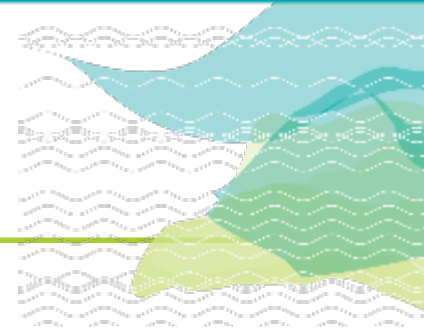
CI=Conservation International
MAF= Ministry Agriculture and Fisheries
MCIA= Ministry of Commerce, Industry and
Environment – (National Directorate for
Biodiversity Protection and Restoration=NDBPR)

Timor Leste achievements



- Dugongs are protected under the Marine Protected Species Act, and reference to their endangered status is made in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The NBSAP describes the importance of seagrass ecosystems not only as the primary habitat for dugongs and many fish and shellfish species, but also as a protective barrier for coral reefs against sedimentation. Also protected under Ministerial Diploma and Decree law.
- It is expected that by protecting and conserving Dugong and seagrass in a proper manner this can attract local and international tourists to visit the conserved areas. Economically the government and the local community will be benefited if the marine areas are managed properly while including protection of Dugong and seagrass conservation. Under the project component 2, the Blue Ventures will bring foreign researchers and tourists (volunteers) totaling around 70 people in 2016. More people will visit Timor-Leste in 2017 and 2018 through Blue Ventures research and tourism activities as well. It is also expected that the foreign tourist will disseminate information to other people so that more people will visit Timor-Leste in the future.
- Our volunteers are here to learn about life on Atauro, and the Atauro people, they are here to see the treasures of Atauro. And will expand to the main land of Timor Leste.
- Through Public awareness and Implementing educational program on Dugong and Seagrass conservation in the country whereby government institutions, universities and schools, civil society and communities can increase their understanding of the importance of Dugong and seagrass conservation.

Timor Leste achievements



- Meetings under TL5
- Two NFC meetings and workshops conducted in January and June 2016.
- Several technical meetings organized TL5
- Organizing environmental campaign including Dugong and Seagrass in the Municipalities
- Organizing 3 days National workshop on Sustainable Ocean Initiative-SOI with UNCBD Secretariat in Dili, Timor-Leste



Timor Leste achievements

- Communications – materials, initiatives, on social or other media, etc., key communications messages.
 - TL4 – Stickers
 - TL4 - Posters/Banners
 - TL4 – TV Education
- Equipment purchased using the GEF funding under the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project.
 - TL1 – Planning to buy 1 Drone
 - BV bought 1 Boat
 - BV bought some Diving Materials
 - TL4 bought 1 Pick Up Car
 - TL4/TL5 – 2 Laptops



Photos

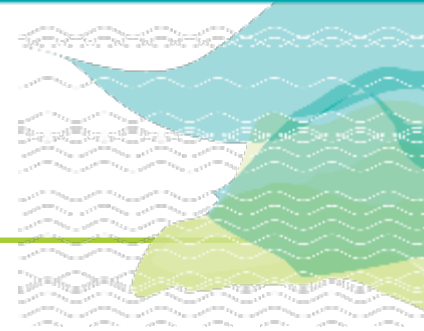


Timor Leste's challenges



- High deforestation rates in the slope and high land areas are contributing to high sedimentation in the coastal areas which is affecting seagrass and other marine biodiversity.
- Initiatives from the government institutions to consider and solve environmental issues are still few.
- Many development activities are not sustainable in Timor-Leste and ignore the existing environmental management and impact assessment requirements. Consequently, many development activities have a negative impact on the environment including seagrass degradation. For instance, lack of solid and liquid waste management can affect the seagrass when most of the solid and liquid waste end up in the sea.
- Some government institutions are not interested on this program due to lack of proper information, coordination and interest.
- Program a little bit slowing down because of the work load of the relevant ministry
 - Project is New for Timor Leste
 - Some Project partner are running side by side with ministries programs
 - More Time/Data needed from Costal Communities
- Difficult to cover all costal areas because of the size and with limited budget
- Need more adequate equipment
- Lack of coordination among the stakeholders

Timor Leste lessons learned



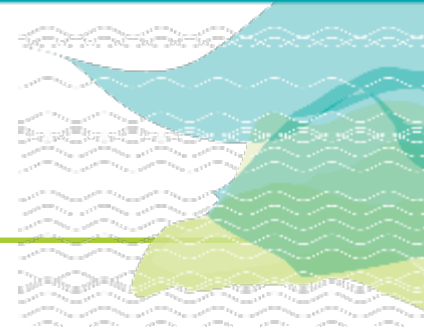
- Need more communication through Media to the community
 - Public awareness
 - TV
 - Radio
 - News Paper
 - Posters
- Coordination between the project partners and the Relevant Ministry are relatively Good
 - Government are very supportive
 - But needs continuing remainder
- Communities are very enthusiasm and welcome Dugong Project into their communities
 - Dugong in some part of the country are considered Sacred Animals
 - Community happy that there are people care about
 - Remain them to their ancestors
 - Encourage them to give us more information about dugongs

Next steps



- Expected major Project activities and their outcomes until the end of 2016 and for the first half of 2017
 - **TL 1 Continuing** Identification of priority sites of seagrasses conservation as the main food supply for Dugong in the sea of Timor-Leste. This component is led by National Directorate for Fisheries Resources Protection and Management and assisted by the Conservation International.
 - **TL 2 Continuing** Development of seagrass and dugong through LMMAs is implemented by Blue Ventures in coordination with the National Directorate for Fisheries Resources Protection and Management and National Directorate for Biodiversity Protection and Restoration.
 - **TL 3 Continuing** Mainstreaming dugongs and their seagrass habitats into national coastal zone planning and decision-making. This component is implemented by Conservation International in coordination with the National Directorate for Biodiversity Protection and Restoration National Directorate for Fisheries Resources Protection.
 - **TL 4 Continuing** National-level awareness raising campaign to champion dugong and seagrass conservation by involving related government institutions, Students, Civil Society and Communities. This component is implemented by the National Directorate for Biodiversity Protection and Restoration.
 - **TL 5 Continuing** Forming “National Facilitating Committee” to coordinate with the implementing partners of components TL1 to TL4, conduct semestral meeting/workshops to share and update activities from each component to the stakeholders. Component TL-5 is led by the National Directorate for Biodiversity Protection and Restoration.

Next steps



- Support we might need until the first half of 2017
 - Need More Financial support
 - Capacity building
 - Learning exchanges
 - Need adequate equipment
 - Internship
 - Trainer of trainer
- Cross-country cooperation/ collaboration you would like to explore
 - To Any Country
 - To know more about dugongs and seagrass from other countries experiences



*Thank You
Obrigado*



*By: Aires E. Aparicio Guterres
Project Manager*

