



GOVERNMENT OF TIMOR-LESTE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND AQUACULTURE
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE

NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE (CTI)

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DISCLAIMER

This *Working Document* is being widely circulated in order to enable a healthy dialogue between Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the resident Development partner community.

The activities here proposed are the result of a multiple stake holder interviews and meetings the results of which have aligned and harmonized and compiled into this document, National Plan of Action for Coral Triangle Initiative (NPoA-CTI).

The NPoA-CTI has been agreed by Government officials and regional practitioners in a participatory, all inclusive, transparent process facilitated by USAID (CTSP) and ADB-GEF (CTI-Pacific).

The NPoA-CTI is 1) aligned with Government existing and proposed Policies 2) aligned with the financial systems in place in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, 3) it tried to align and harmonize its activities to the best of its ability to Government of Timor-Leste Annual Action Plans and with on-going and proposed development partner programs; 4) aligned with Timor-Leste's Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Alleviation Schemes and Plans.

The NPoA-CTI respects the country's leadership and helps their capacity to exercise it in a democratic way through the continuing support to the processes of aggregating different stakeholders involved and hammering out workable compromises.

The NPoA-CTI is not an initiative to advance *exogenous* agendas, plans and development models. Timor-Leste's NPoA-CTI is an endogenous plan achieved through experiential learning process that acknowledges, recognizes and capitalizes on the cultural, experiential and epistemological diversity found in Timor-Leste.

The NPoA-CTI is a living document ever evolving to cope with the continuous changes in Timor-Leste's political and social backdrop. As a document the NPoA-CTI will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

GOAL 1: PRIORITY COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS DESIGNATED AND EFFECTIVELY MANAGED

Target #1:

"Priority Areas" designated, with investment plans completed and sequenced.

- 1.1 By Q2 of 2011 Timor-Leste will finalize rapid assessment and mapping of marine resources (coral reef, mangroves, sea grass, etc.) to define and identify coastal and marine priority areas¹;
- 1.2 Timor-Leste will facilitate the incorporation of the CTI results into other key Programs such as the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBSAP), National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA), PoWPA (Program of Works on Protected areas)²;
- 1.3 By Q3 2011 Timor-Leste will complete its measurements of pelagic and benthic primary production and respiration and finalize its estimation of ecosystem production for the South coast³;
- 1.4 By Q3 2011 Timor-Leste will complete a study for sedimentation rates and changes in sedimentation rates in catchments in the South Coast (?) and propose improvements to current management practices;
- 1.5 By Q4 of 2014 Timor-Leste will have strengthened its laws and regulations providing the required enabling environment for coastal and marine spatial planning and management of coastal and marine priority areas to occur⁴;
- 1.6 By Q4 2013 Timor-Leste will have generated an all inclusive, multi-sector investment program for Timor-Leste's priority marine and coastal areas.

Target #2:

Marine and coastal resources within selected priority areas are sustainably managed using Integrated Coastal Management approach

¹ This activity is take into account *traditional ecological knowledge* through a *rapid appraisal of ethnoecological knowledge*

² Government has expressed the idea of creating an *INFORMAL INFORMATION SHARING NETWORK*, where lessons learned from other development programs are presented to Government officials (*Technical staff*)

³ This activity and 1.4 will be conducted in collaboration with Australian Institute of Maritime Sciences (AIMS) and another research institution; the skills transfer and capacity building component of this activity requires further development, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is open to comments on this issue

⁴ The strengthening of the legislation is to be harmonized to practices found in the *Adat* system in the different priority areas

- 1.2.1 By Q4 of 2013, Timor Leste will complete the development of coastal-marine spatial planning for selected priority management areas⁵;
- 1.2.2 By Q4 of 2014, Timor Leste will start implementing integrated coastal-marine spatial plan for priority management area (Jaku Island – Lore Forest; Ataúru Island; Batugadé)

⁵ This is to be achieved by using *Participatory GIS Practices* or *Collaborative GIS*

GOAL 2: ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Target #1:

Generate and consolidate data management systems and procedures to enable adequate management of coastal resources

- 2.1 By Q3 2011 Timor-Leste will finalize study on fish-stock assessment as a basis for Total Allowable Catch and fisheries licensing system;
- 2.2 By Q4 2014 Timor-Leste will finalize and implement fisheries recording and reporting system to strengthen national fisheries statistics;
- 2.3 By Q4 of 2013 Timor-Leste will finalize draft National Legislation on marine resource conservation⁶;
- 2.4 By Q4 of 2012 Timor-Leste will enforce all existing laws and regulations of particular importance to achieving EAFM and ICM⁷

Target #2:

Support sustainable alternative livelihoods and Food Security programs for communities in Coastal Communities through Poverty Reduction Initiatives that take into account EAFM and ICM.

- 2.2.1 By Q4 of 2010, Timor-Leste will finalize a rapid assessment study to identify and map fish production and poverty areas in the coastal zones;
- 2.2.2 By Q2 2012 Timor-Leste will finalize an in depth national census to better understand to role of fisheries in coastal communities livelihoods;
- 2.2.3 By Q4 of 2010 Timor Leste will start implementing community-based fisheries management scheme in selected priority areas;
- 2.2.4 By Q4 of 2014 Timor-Leste will have developed a Aquaculture Development plan that will become a part of Timor-Leste's coming National Development/Strategic Plan
- 2.2.5 By Q4 of 2014 Timor-Leste will develop alternative income generating package program, including capacity building and support for the small-scale enterprise at the community level (e.g., marketing) ready to submit for present in Timor-Leste's Development Partner Meeting in 2015;

⁶ This should be linked to the broader "Lei de Bases para o Ambiente" proposed by other Development Partners (Project is currently on hold)

⁷ Enforcement is intrinsically linked to the degree of understanding of the existing legislation, the Government proposed better communication, awareness and education strategies to expand communities understanding of the current legislation

GOAL 3: MARINE PROTECTED AREAS PROPOSED, MANAGED AND ESTABLISH

While CTI Regional plan dictates that Timor-Leste should have in its National Plan of Action a goal dedicated to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) the Government of Timor-Leste is adamant that for Timor-Leste, activities under this main goal should mainly focus in improving Natural Asset Management, with MPAs, Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) seen as some of the tools to improve such asset management.

Timor-Leste strives to reach an equilibrium between improving its management of sensitive marine and terrestrial natural assets, sustainable job creation leading to increase in household incomes, and building a social base to improve the community engagement in management activities over time.

Target #1

Testing the Marine and Coastal Priority Area Network system and Regional Marine and Coastal Protected Areas with an emphasis in spatial planning

- 3.1.1. By Q2 of 2011 Timor-Leste will finalize National Grand Strategy on PAs and PA network development
- 3.1.2. By Q4 of 2011 Timor Leste will finalize zoning and management plan for Nino Konis Santana National Park (marine part);
- 3.1.3. By Q3 of 2011 Timor-Leste will propose to the Council of Minister the formal declaration of two new protected areas: Ataúru, Batugadé;
- 3.1.4. By Q4 of 2014 Timor-Leste will start its discussion with the Indonesian Government on the establishment of a trans-boundary protected area network;
- 3.1.5. Starting Q2 of 2010 Timor-Leste will develop and implement capacity building activities targeting mainly Environmental Managers in the Fisheries, Environment and Forestry Directorates (central Government) and local government officers .
- 3.1.6. By Q3 of 2014 Timor-Leste will finalize study on cost estimate and sustainable financial plan for protected areas such of Ataúru and Batugadé
- 3.1.7. By Q4 of 2014 Timor-Leste will strengthening ecotourism sector contribution to protected area sustainable management of coastal and marine resources

GOAL 4: CLIMATE CHANGE

Target #1

Region-Wide Early Action Climate Adaptation Plan for the near-shore marine and coastal environment developed and implemented

- 4.1.1. By Q2 of 2010 Timor Leste will adopt coral reef resilient to climate change principles in the MPA zoning/network design (linked to Action 2 of GOALS 3)
- 4.1.2. By Q4 of 2010 Timor Leste will finalize studies on social resilient / vulnerability to climate change impacts
- 4.1.3. By Q2 of 2011 Timor Leste will develop and implement early warning and response plan to climate adaptation
- 4.1.4. By Q2 of 2009 Timor Leste will continue coastal rehabilitation program to anticipate climate change impacts
- 4.1.5. By Q1 of 2010 Timor Leste will continue the development and implementation of community awareness on early warning system that lead by Ministry of Transportation and Communication
- 4.1.6. By Q1 of 2011 Timor Leste will start to strictly implementing commitment to UNFCCC

Target #2.

Networked National Centers Of Excellence On Climate Change Adaptation For Marine And Coastal Environments Are Established And In Full Operation

- 4.2.1. By Q1 of 2012 Timor-Leste will establish a Research Center on Climate Change
- 4.2.2. By Q2 of 2012 Timor-Leste will develop and operate national information network on climate change early warning and response;

GOAL # 5 THREATENED SPECIES STATUS IMPROVING

- 5.1. By Q3 of 2010 Timor-Leste will have started the cost-benefit analysis for the adhesion to *CITES*, and *RAMSAR*
- 5.2. By Q2 of 2010 Timor-Leste will have started a cost-benefit analysis to join the IUCN
- 5.3. By Q2 of 2011 Timor Leste will finalize assessment on threat status of species under different ecosystem categories to culminate the gaps identified by NBSAP;
- 5.4. By Q3 of 2012 Timor-Leste will have started discussion on the development of a threatened species act and have produced at least on draft management plan for the most threatened species and/or habitat identified by NBSAP;



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