









TIMOR-LESTE

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan



- Biodiversity Initiatives In Timor Leste
 - Timor-Leste's Legal and Policy Framework
 - Institutional Framework
 - Regional Biodiversity Programs
 - National Biodiversity Programs (Government and Non-Government)
 - Existing Biodiversity Projects
- II. Status of NBSAP Preparation in Timor Leste
 - With support from UNDP-GEF and ACB:
 - Conducted Stakeholders Consultation on NBSAP
 - Prepared Annotated Outline of NBSAP and 4NR
 - Initiated Stocktaking of Biodiversity Information
 - Drafted Design of CHM and established NBWGs
 - Expected Completion of NBSAP Document by September 2011



Current Policy Framework on Biodiversity:

The Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste

- upholds the right of every citizen of Timor Leste to a humane, healthy and ecologically balanced environment and the duty to protect it and improve it for the benefit of the future generations.
- recognises the need to preserve and rationalise the use of its natural resources and promote actions aimed at protecting the environment and safeguarding the sustainable development of the economy.

The Strategic Plan of Timor Leste (2011-2030)

 By 2030, Timor-Leste will have joined the ranks of upper-middle-income countries, having ended extreme poverty, eliminated the economic gap with the emerging economies of ASEAN, and fostered a democratic and environmentally sustainable society.



Current Policy Framework on Biodiversity:

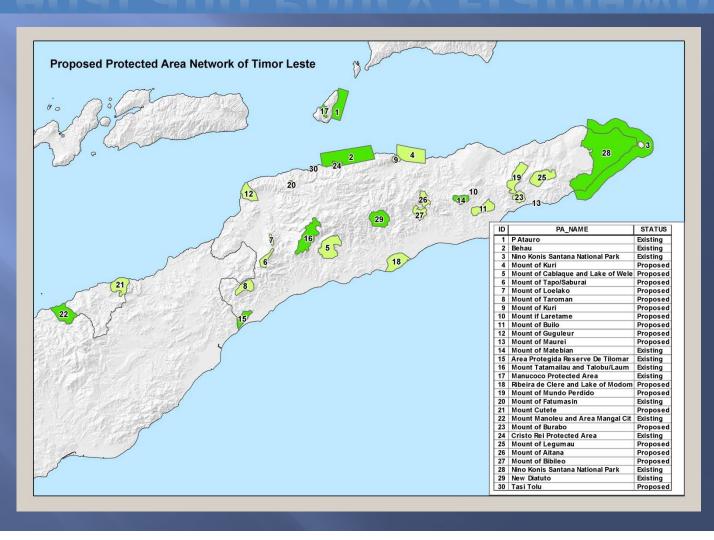
The Strategic Plan of Timor Leste (2011-2030)

- Timor-Leste will be proud and supportive of its magnificent biodiversity and natural environment.
- ☐ Timor Leste will take steps to adapt to, and be resilient to, long-term climate change, e.g., by fostering large-scale use of irrigation to protect agriculture from fluctuations in rainfall.
- Precautions will be taken to prevent loss of lives and property from floods and extreme storms that may well accompany a changing climate.
- The tourism and petroleum sectors will be developed with great attention and protection of the natural environment, so that development does not compromise the natural beauty or the ecosystem functions of the country.



Existing Laws and Regulations

- Environmental Licensing Decree, No 05/2011
 - Covers EIA licensing, including environmental protection and conservation
- UNTAET Regulation No 19/2000
 - Protected Areas Declared 15 protected areas and proposed 16
 Protected Areas in Timor Leste
 - Traditional Practices *Tara Bandu* an old tradition still being practiced in Timor Leste to protect natural areas and other sites from destruction from man-made activities.
 - It is an old custom that regulates interactions between man and the environment in Timor Leste. Communities are reviving this practice to determine where and when it is forbidden to collect sands, cut trees, collect produce from plants in areas where locals consider as sacred.





Existing Laws and Regulations

- Fisheries Decree 5/2004 General Regulation on Fishing managing Timor Leste's fisheries resources... in a judicious manner by granting fishing licenses within the framework of the sustainable exploitation of resources, ...improving the quality of the food diet of the populations, encouraging self-employment and creating conditions for the development of a national fisheries sector and industry.
- Fisheries Decree 12/2004 Fishing-related offences- The use of explosives and toxic substances in the exploitation of such resources and other ecologically reprehensible uses of the aquatic ecosystems, illegal fishing, as well as the fishing of corals and protected species or fishing in prohibited or protected areas require strong and effective measures on the part of the State with a view to better protecting and preserving aquatic species and ecosystems.



Ongoing Environment Policy Initiatives:

With support from UNEP, UNDP and IUCN

- Writing Environmental Policy and Strategy, 2011-2020
- Drafting Forestry Decree Law, First Draft completed in 2008
- Drafting Environmental Framework Law, started May 2010 and will be finalized the final draft by end of 2011
- Drafting Biodiversity Decree Law, started March 2011
- Drafting Protected Area Decree Law, started April 2011



Biodiversity Institutional Framework

Ministry of Economy and Development

- National Directorate for Environmental Services (CBD Focal Point)
- National Directorate for International Environmental Affairs (GEF Focal Point)

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

- > National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- > National Directorate of Agriculture and Horticulture
- > National Directorate of Forest
 - > Service of National Parks and Flora and Fauna



Biodiversity Institutional Framework

Ministry of Economy and Development

- To promote, monitor and **support strategies for environment mainstreaming in sectoral policies**; To effect a strategic, environmental assessment of plans and programmes and coordinate the environmental impact assessment of nationwide projects, including public consultation procedures; To ensure, in general and at the level of environmental licensing, the adoption and monitoring of measures to prevent and control, in an integrated way, pollution by facilities covered by such licences;
- To ensure the **protection and conservation of the environment and biodiversity**, overseeing the implementation of the policy and monitoring activities that are harmful to the integrity of the National Fauna and Flora, in conjunction with the concerned entities

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

- Covers areas of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock Breeding and Fisheries
- Propose policy and draw up the proposed regulations necessary for its areas of oversight; manage agricultural and forestry resources and watersheds; manage National Parks and Protected Areas; ensure the implementation and continuity of programs for rural development, in coordination with the Ministry of the Economy and Development.



- □ Partnerships in Environmental Management for Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), member country since 2006;
 - Establishment of two Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) demonstration sites and core working group;
- □ Arafura Timor Sea Ecosystem Action Program (ATSEA), 2010-now;
 - Development of biophysical analysis, including fisheries and biodiversity assessment in Arafura and Timor Sea. (ongoing)

Regional Biodiversity Programs

- □ Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), 2010- present;
 - Includes a rapid assessment and mapping of marine resources (coral reef, mangroves, sea grass, etc.) to define and identify coastal and marine priority areas.
 - Cost-benefit analysis for the adhesion to CITES, and RAMSAR conventions and IUCN.
 - CTI results to be mainstreamed into NBSAP, NAPA and PoWPA.
- Building capacity for regionally harmonized national processes for implementing CBD provisions on access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits (ASEAN including Timor Leste), August 2011 July 2013.



Government Activities under the National Directorate for Environment - NDE:

- Raising public awareness on biodiversity protection and conservation at national and village level (Govt. priority);
- Conducting seminars and workshops for related department, local authority, academic institutions, schools and NGOs;
- Mainstream biodiversity into school curricula (basic schools high schools).



- Create awareness on biodiversity issues and local species through brochures, pamphlets, videos and local news;
- Involve local media (TV and Radio) on how to protect and conserve biodiversity in Timor-Leste;
- Use treeplantation activities as a way to include communities on how to protect and conserve biodiversity (in-situ and ex-situ).



Non-Government Initiatives:

- Tree plantation activities involving local communities;
- Advocacy about land tenure and environmental issues;
- Most local NGO's however, focus mainly on foodsecurity instead of (biodiversity) conservation issues.

Existing Biodiversity Projects (ongoing):

- Programme of Works on Protected Area (PoWPA) - Developing Strategic Plan on Protected Areas
 - National Ecological Gap Assessment completed.
- Coral Triangle Initiative;
 - Pilot project in Marine Protected Area commenced;
 - National Plan of Action (NPoA) completed.



II. Status of Timor Leste NBSAP

- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)
 - Engaging ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity-ACB for Technical Support in the NBSAP Process
 - Completed initial stocktaking assessment based on existing biodiversity information
 - Prepared NBSAP draft based on stakeholder consultations;
 - CHM establishment on-going and First Draft of CHM design under consultation with CHM Focal Point
 - 4th National Report Annotated Outline and Initial Assessment of achievement of 2010 target



II. Status of Timor Leste NBSAP

- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)
 - Conducted Stakeholders Consultation on NBSAP (National Agencies, NGOs, Academe, Community Groups) – 31 March-April 2011) – National and selected District s Consultation
 - Established National Biodiversity Working Groups (NBSAP, CHM and National Reports) involving national agencies, NGOs, academe, community groups, media, business
 - Coordination with on-going regional programs and national projects
 - Expected Completion of NBSAP Document by September 2011
 and will be presented to Council of Ministers in September 2011.

THANK YOU