



QUARTERLY BULLETIN UNDP TIMOR-LESTE DARDC PROJECT



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The Dili-Ainaro Road Development Corridor (DARDC) project aims at strengthening the resilience of communities living in the Dili-Ainaro Road Development Corridor to climate-induced disasters such as floods, erosion, fire, destructive winds and landslides to reduce the risk of damage to road infrastructure and communities.



Photo: Marino Mouzinho/UNDP

Community grants presented to municipality technical staff



Photo: Marino Mouzinho/UNDP

On 04 May 2018 the Ministry of State Administration through the General Directorate of Administrative Decentralization together with UNDP Timor-Leste presented a community grants project to the technical staff from Aileu, Ainaro, Manufahi and Ermera municipalities.

Chief Technical Advisor of the UNDP-DARDC Project.

The objective of the community grants is to improve the stability of climate resilience through development of activities to support climate change adaptation and promote women participation's in implementation. General Director of Administrative Decentralization, Mr. Abilio José Caetano said: "The quality of the first phase of top up grants project should be a good reference for us to better implement these community grants based on the design."

Forty projects will be implemented by community groups under these community grants in the four municipalities of Aileu, Ainaro, Manufahi and Ermera and will focus on integrated bio-engineering, complementary soil management, reforestation, agroforestry, community nursery to increase vegetation in watershed and reduce landslide risks caused by climate change.

These community grants will be implemented in 24 target sucos along the Dili to Ainaro road corridor, selected through a community vulnerability capacity assessment (CVCA) which identifies villages which are risk to climate change induced disasters. "We will extend this initiative to other areas following the successful implementation of this second phase of the project," said Mr. Shyam K. Paudel,



Photo: Marino Mouzinho/UNDP

Water projects construction launched in Aileu



On 17 May 2018 construction for an irrigation project which aims to improve the community's level of agricultural production and food security by delivering a sustained supply of water for irrigation was launched at Aldeia Sarin, Fahiria village, in Aileu Municipality.

Mr. Alberto Aoupeus, chief of Fahiria Village said that the community has been waiting for this opportunity for long time after many proposals were submitted to the relevant institution but today this project is finally realised with UNDP support. "We are thankful to the government and UNDP for this initiative to construct this irrigation project. I ask the community group implement the project to focus on project quality, instead of quantity," said Mr. Aoupeus.

This climate resilient irrigation infrastructure will cover 31 hectares of community rice field, horticulture and fish ponds benefitting 100 households across the 3 sucos of Fahiria, Lauisi and Bandudato.

"This project will be implemented by the community because of previous successful experiences which have demonstrated the benefit of a community-led approach," said Ms. Ana Maria de Carvalho, National Project Coordinator, UNDP-DARDC Project.

Municipality Administrator of Aileu, Mr. João Tilman do Rego said that this project should be expanded to other areas because of the benefits to the

community. "The community should satisfactorily implement the project based on the agreed design to support its expansion," said Mr. do Rego.

Another water project was launched on 5 June 2018 at Liquitura village in Aileu Municipality. This project includes the construction of 5.88m³ rehabilitation tank and two 5.5m³ distribution tanks, a temporary reservoir and 600m distribution channel, and 1.5km pipe replacement. It is expected to benefit more than 800 villagers for better access to clean water.

"Thanks UNDP for supporting our community for this water supply," said Ms. Vitori Mesquita do Rego, Secretary of Aileu Municipality. "We hope this kind of opportunity can extend to other villages within Aileu Municipality."

"This water supply will be used by students, Chapel and community in Liquitura area and other areas. We are happy with this clean water," said Mr. Domingos Soares Tomas, a community member.

Both projects are implemented as the second phase of the Top Up Grants projects, supported by UNDP through the Ministry of State Administration and direct implemented by the community.



National workshop on bamboo strategy in Timor-Leste conducted



Photo: Marino Mouzinho/UNDP

On 19 June the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), Bamboo Institute of Timor-Leste together with UNDP Timor-Leste conducted a half day workshop on “Development of National Bamboo Strategy” at Novo Turismo, Lecidere-Dili. The objectives of this half day workshop were to share and discuss the perspective and opportunity of developing the bamboo sector and national bamboo sector strategy in Timor-Leste.

Vice Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, H.E. Deolindo da Silva said: “So far, our ancestors have used bamboo for traditional purposes such as for building houses, walls, fences, water pipes and others but has now evolved to into a product providing livelihood income and the largest income for the state.”

Timor-Leste has high-quality bamboo resources. Local species *Dendrocalamus asper* (au-betun) and *Bambako lako* (au-metan, Timor Black) are high-quality bamboo used for construction and industry. However, only a few people can exploit the potential of bamboo in this country. Most bamboo is used to build temporary traditional houses. Some is used to make furniture and other handicrafts which are limited to domestic market only.

“Bamboo is one of the plants that is easy to grow in any conditions. Timor-Leste has good quality bamboo and therefore this needs to be developed to contribute to the growth of the domestic economy because bamboo is a global industry,” said Mr. Roy Trivedy, UN Resident Coordinator and



Photo: Marino Mouzinho/UNDP

UNDP Resident Representative.

In Timor-Leste, bamboo can be used for bio-engineering, bio-fuel and small industries that can provide alternative income for the livelihoods of rural communities. Bamboo can also be used as an important crop to build community resilience and protect community infrastructure from disasters in the Dili to Ainaro Road Corridor.

“During this time, it is international agencies who mostly buy our furniture products. There are also government institutions but not many,” said Mr. Sabino Rua, Director of the Timor-Leste Bamboo Institute.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Yiping Lou, Professor, Zhejiang A&F University. 40 participants from different institutions including Vice-Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, H.E. Deolindo da Silva, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Country Representative, Mr. Roy Trivedy, Director General of MSS, Director General of Commerce and Industry, Director General of Forestry, Coffee and Industry Plants-MAF, national directors from line ministries, municipality administrators of Ainaro and Aileu, municipality directors of agriculture and fisheries from 12 municipalities, the Timor-Leste bamboo institute and NGOs attended the workshop to provide inputs and suggestion to develop National Bamboo Strategy for Timor-Leste. A draft national strategy will be submitted to the government by the end of July 2018.



Photo: Marino Mouzinho/UNDP



Photo: Marino Mouzinho/UNDP

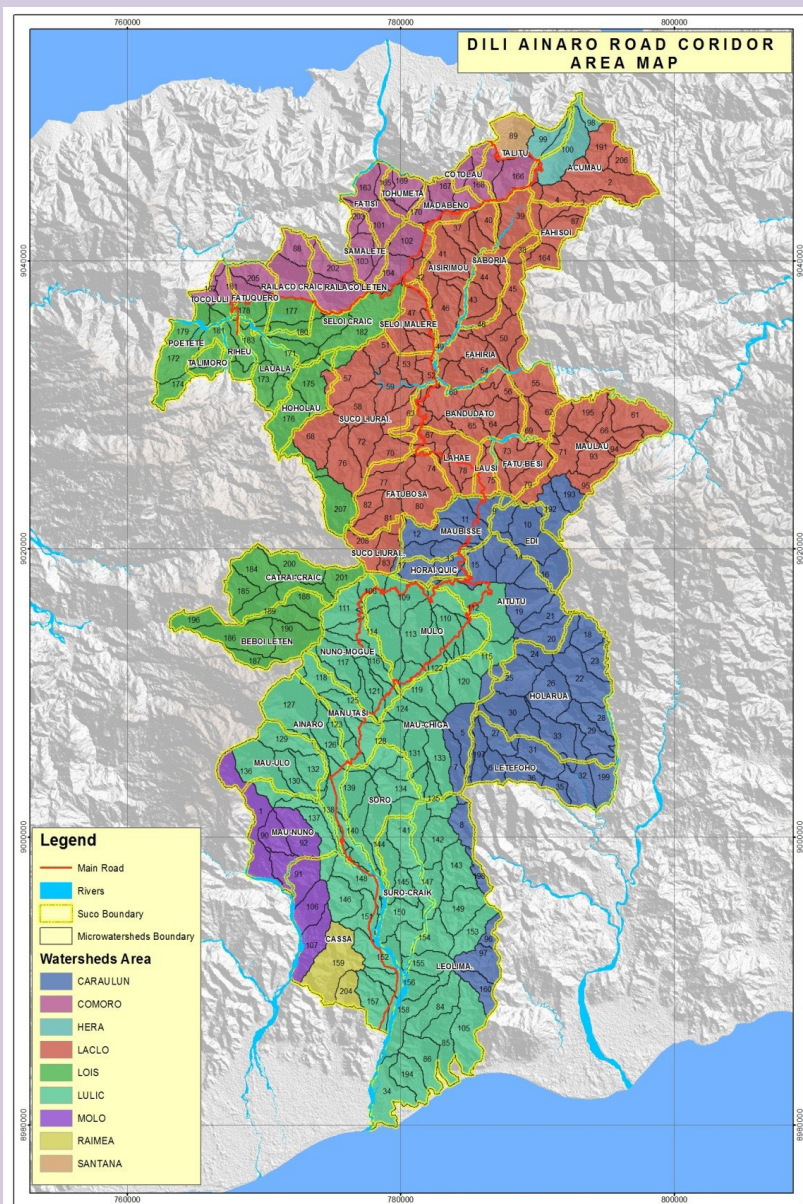
Watershed Standard for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

In the endeavour to strengthen resilience of local communities while mitigating against potential environmental hazards to the road infrastructure, an assessment of the watershed was conducted followed by the development of comprehensive watershed and land use plan and procedures.

Nine watersheds along the Dili-Ainaro road corridor namely: Carau-ulun (22.140,9 ha), Comoro (1.0364,5 ha), Hera (1.690,1 ha), Laclo (35.969,2 ha), Lois (17.021,3 ha), Lulic (40.880,0 ha), Molo (4.453,8 ha), Raimea (1.672,9 ha), and Santana (769,9 ha) were assessed to define their ecosystem patterns. Their respective biophysical and socio-economic characteristics were also described with a view to determining the degree of vulnerability and sustainability of the respective micro watersheds. To in-depth knowledge of the situation especially regarding topography and spatial distribution, GIS based watershed and land use pattern profiling was facilitated.

Targeted training was delivered to key MAF personnel with a view of enhancing their skills in implementing cost effective soil and water conservation measures through adoption of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) and activity modules for Agroforestry, and Sustainable Land Use plans. Following the training and development of the SOPs and modules, MAF technical personnel have applied their knowledge and the guidelines to reforest various land units, inspect and update various water conservation technics e.g. check dams and more important, plot key watershed activities on a GIS platform for future virtual planning.

With complex biophysical and socioeconomic challenges, the road corridor is susceptible to climate induced land and ecosystem degradation. Moreover, comprehensive and robust management approaches are required to manage current unplanned, uncoordinated and unsustainable land use activities. The developed standard operating procedures and guidelines will support informed decision making, coordination of soil and water conservation approaches and selection of appropriate methods, tools, capacities and resources. In the long term, appropriate management technics based on diversity of the respective land management units and formulation of biophysical and sociocultural scenarios will be adopted by relevant community members with technical support from MAF.



A spatial distribution map showing the micro-watersheds and villages within the road corridor.



UNDP-DARDC Project 2018

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