



QUARTERLY BULLETIN UNDP TIMOR-LESTE DARDC PROJECT



4th EDITION

October-December 2017

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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



Photo: Joanna Wong/UNDP

Drones will help collect data and reduce disasters

On 04 October 2017 UNDP officially handed over two drones to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) and Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS). This followed the delivery of a three-day drone operation training.

Mr. Claudio Providas, UNDP Country Director; H.E. Mr. Deolindo Silva, Vice Minister of MAF, and Mr. Rui Manuel Gago Exposto, General Director of MSS Corporate Services gave remarks during the handover ceremony. "Timor-Leste is a fragile island that is subject to natural hazards therefore data availability is important for decision makers for purpose of planning and early warning. Hazards have many ramifications and these drones will help MAF, MSS and the Government of Timor-Leste to better plan," said Mr. Providas.

"UNDP is one of the most important partners and pillars for MAF. We hope that this drone can provide strong motivation and encourage MAF to identify activities related to illegal logging and forest fires as this drone has been equipped with GPS to take aerial photographs," said Mr. Silva. "This equipment is important to help MSS to facilitate technical staff to conduct mapping of natural disasters in villages that have been identified as high risk," said Mr. Exposto. Following the ceremony, the

trainees performed a drone simulation. This aerial based rapid mapping system that complements GIS technology will contribute to disaster risk reduction in Timor-Leste by collecting erosion, vegetation and watershed data, and monitor impacts of disasters on infrastructure such as roads and community assets.

"This drone can fly at an elevation of up to 250 meters. The coverage area per flight is 30 hectares and the capacity for aerial photography can be up to 1,000 to 2,000 hectares in one day. This drone is very useful because it can identify natural disasters and sources of fires that cannot be easily reached by people.

This drone equipped with GPS can identify the ground area of the land," said Mr. Juliberto dos Santos, a MAF staff who received the training.

These two drones will be based at the National Disaster Management Directorate, MSS and National Directorate of Forestry, Coffee and Plants Industry, MAF.



Water project launched in Manufahi



A water supply project was launched at Holarua village in Manufahi on 11 October and will benefit 70 households in the community. Through construction of a water tank, installation of 1,497m pipe and three public taps, reforestation activity, awareness campaign and formation of a Facility Management Group (GMF), the project will provide sufficient clean water, protect the water source and strengthen community resilience to climate change.

“This assistance is a good opportunity for Holarua village. We are grateful to UNDP for supporting the community with this water supply project in a rural area that is not yet covered by the government. I request the community to take care and use this facility to the best of their ability in the long-term,” said Mr. Carlito P. de Araujo, Administrator of Manufahi Municipality.

Second phase top-up grant proposals signed

Four new irrigation and water supply projects in four municipalities – Aileu, Ainaro, Ermera and Manufahi – were selected by the top-up grant proposal selection committee under the leadership of the Director General of Administrative Decentralization at Ministry of State Administration (MSA) on 17 November 2017.



Photo: Marino Mouzinho/UNDP

This approval of second phase top-up grant proposals were signed by MSA, UNDP and administrators from the four municipalities.

UNDP supports Timor-Leste to learn bamboo development from China



Photo: Shyam Paudel/UNDP



Photo: Shyam Paudel/UNDP

A bamboo development study tour to Zhejiang Province of China was organized from 28 October to 4 November for delegates from the Government of Timor-Leste to learn about China’s development of the bamboo sector including cultivation, production and economic development. The team was comprised of 10 representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment (MCIE), MAF, MSS, MSA and municipality administrators from Aileu and Ainaro. During the trip, they visited various locations and had discussions with farmers, factory owners, business people and researchers.

“Bamboo can protect the environment through conserving soil and water and bring economic benefit, and thus community livelihoods will be much better,” said Mr. Adalberto Ferreira, National Director of Forestry and Watershed Management, MAF.

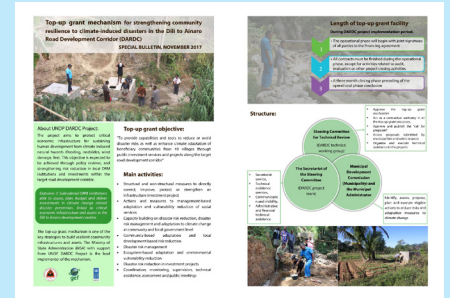
The objective of the visit was to enhance awareness and technical skills of the mission participants on bamboo management, industrialization and contribution to the livelihood of local communities, and obtain important insights and knowledge in promoting bamboo in Timor-Leste to better manage the country’s bamboo resources and tap its vast socio-economic potential. “Bamboo can reduce disasters along the Dili-Ainaro Road Development Corridor, which is very important that need to be planted in the municipalities,” said Mr. João Tilman do Rego, Administrator of Aileu Municipality.

This visit as part of the south-south cooperation among China and Timor-Leste is the best way of learning and sharing platform for knowledge transfer and institutional capacity building to replicate and scale-up the best practices from countries who have similar contexts.

New publications:

Top-up grant special bulletin

introduces top-up grant’s mechanism including objectives, main activities, structure, operational and financial guidelines



Gender policy brief

gives highlights for designing gender responsive disaster risk management interventions



Visit DARDC project page for more information:
<http://www.tl.undp.org/content/timor-leste/en/home/all-projects/DARDC/>

Bamboo reforestation to protect environment and boost local economy



As part of the top up grant water project, bamboo seedlings were planted on 23 November in Madabeno village, Aileu Municipality. The bamboo forest will protect the area from erosion and landslides, conserve soil and water, and improve the local economy through the selling of bamboo and related products. A total of 100 bamboo seedlings were planted that day, involving more than 30 people from the community, government and UNDP.

Mr. João Tilman do Rego, Administrator of Aileu Municipality, said that this reforestation activity is one of the outcomes of his recent visit to China organized by UNDP. He has learnt that bamboo development is important to communities and the nation because it provides strong benefits such as soil conservation, landslide prevention and income generation. "We have learnt that bamboo can provide a positive influence on community lives. Hopefully following this reforestation, we will receive good benefits in the future," said Mr. Rego.

"The income generated from planting bamboo can be five times more than rice cultivation," said Dr. Shyam Paudel, Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) of the UNDP DARDC Project. "Bamboo will contribute to sustainable development in this country." 200 more seedlings would be planted by the community the next day.



Photo: Joanna Wong/UNDP

CVCA undertaken in 25 villages across Dili-Ainaro corridor



Photo: Joanna Wong/UNDP



Photo: Joanna Wong/UNDP



Photo: Joanna Wong/UNDP

To enhance disaster risk management and reduction and to increase community resilience to climate induced disasters, a Community Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (CVCA) was carried out for project focused villages in four municipalities.

A national inception workshop was held in September in collaboration with the MSS to present the conceptual framework and serve as an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss and exchange information on the climate induced vulnerability across Dili Ainaro Road Development Corridor. "I hope your input and feedback will make this finding more tactical and more useable for building capacity of DRM stakeholders in Timor-Leste in planning DRM related activities," said Dr. Shyam K. Paudel, CTA of DARDC Project. "I ask to all, especially the four-municipality administrators to give more inputs for the consultants so that they can better prepare a good development strategy for DRM in the future," said Mr. Abilio José Caetano, DG Administrative Decentralization, MSA.

CVCA was carried out in 24 villages of Aileu, Ainaro, Ermera, Manufahi municipalities using participatory methods such as community dialogue, focus group discussion and interaction with the vulnerable groups. It precisely revealed that local communities living along the Dili Ainaro road corridor are at high risks of climate induced natural disasters, namely strong wind, landslide, fire, drought and flood. The current initiative is not

enough to minimize these hazard risks on people and properties.

This vulnerability assessment will provide a foundation for developing programmes and community action plans that will help communities to cope and adapt to the impact of climate induced disaster. There are lessons and recommendations that need to be considered for instance:

- Land tenure and its security as one of the key priorities to ensure effective implementation of community action plan;
- Organizing vulnerable communities into a viable and functional group;
- Tara Bandu to make sure that rules and regulations are properly enforced in practice;
- Participatory multi-stakeholder approach;
- Strengthening capacity at both technical and management level;
- Private sector involvement;
- Construction of heavy structures such as gabions, check dam, retaining walls and bio-engineering;
- A massive campaign for awareness raising across 24 villages;
- Encouraging local people to promote traditional agroforestry practices;
- Promoting community based resource management;
- Diversification of their farming system and encourage to establish rain water harvesting system

GIS and remote sensing training for watershed management

A 10-day training on advanced geographic information system (GIS) and remote sensing was held in Bogor, Indonesia for six technical staff from MAF and MSS on 6-17 November. This training aimed to build capacity of the staff who will then apply hazard, risk mapping and watershed management skills in Timor-Leste.

During the training, they learned how to use applications such as ERDAS IMAGINE to identify and map the characteristics of the watershed, WEAP software for integrated water resources planning, and ArcGIS 10.3 to carry out spatial analysis. The team also conducted a field survey and practices at a river station, as well as agroforestry and plantation sites.

“The training materials are relevant to the context of Timor-Leste especially for the Dili-Ainaro corridor. The training not only focused on theory but also practices. We have completed practices on GPS, drone operation, watershed management and several software applications,” said Mr. Severino da Costa Oliveira, a participant from MSS. “The training is very useful, and we have learned how to conduct watershed management and produce maps to identify natural disasters through GIS hazard maps within the disaster areas.”



Project board meeting



The UNDP DARDC project and World Bank conducted a joint Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting at Timor-Plaza on 12 December 2017 with the aim to update key stakeholders on achievements of 2017 project activities and to obtain their approval of 2018 Annual Work Plan.

The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Social Solidarity, H.E. Dra. Florentina da Conceição Pererira Martins Smith and co-chaired by UNDP Country Director, Mr. Claudio Providas and World Bank Country Representative, Mr. Macmillan Anyanwu. Both UNDP and World Bank presented the achievements of the project implementation in the year of 2017, together with the challenges and some recommendations to be considered. Mid Term Review findings were also presented to the board.

In the discussion session, several participants especially municipality administrators from four municipalities agreed that the DARDC project is very important. “This project is responsive to community needs and the benefits are clear especially to the community in rural areas,” said Ms. Agida Judit Mendonça, Secretary of Ainaro Municipality. Minister Smith appreciated the project implementation. “I have presented this project to the Council of Ministers and they appreciated and provided their overwhelming support,” she said.

This meeting made several important decisions such as joint monitoring to be organized as soon as possible, endorsement of MTR report, approval of 2018 Annual Work Plan and no cost extension of DARDC project up to October 2019.

Retreat and technical working group meeting

A project retreat and technical working group (TWG) meeting was held in Tibar, Liquica on 30 November and 1 December for all project staff and partners from the World Bank, line ministries and four municipalities. The aim is to provide input, conduct an overall evaluation and prepare the Annual Work Plan for 2018 linking to technical issues and challenges during project implementation and seek solutions and strategies for future implementation.

During the retreat, UNDP and World Bank presented the project progress in 2017 and Mid Term Review (MTR) findings, and shared experiences on a bamboo development visit to China conducted by line ministries and UNDP.



UNDP-DARDC Project 2017

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