



### UNDP Coastal Resilience Building Project Supported Public Private Partnership for Mangrove Restoration in Timor-Leste



Partnership plays an important role in achieving inclusive and sustainable development through shared responsibilities and commitment to protect and conserve our ecosystem. Accordingly, engaging development partners and private sectors to strengthen partnership in the restoration of vulnerable mangroves and coastal ecosystem is one of the key intervention of the project. Since the project inception, UNDP maintained huge effort to engage more partners to support the initiative.



*Photo: Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries accompanied by representative of private companies and UNDP to plant mangroves in Metinara area.*

One key milestone in public private partnership (PPP) is laid during mangroves plantation event organized in Metinara on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 that signify encouraging partnership initiative. Companies such as Heineken, BRI Bank, Mandiri Bank, Pertamina International, Fuel Company collaborated MAF to plant more than 2000 mangroves. MAF Minister, Vice-minister, Director General of Forestry, Coffee and Industrial Plants, government staff, UNDP, local authorities and communities and university students were participated in this colorful plantation event.

UNDP will continue its advocacy and support to enhance such public private partnership for the expansion of coastal ecosystem restoration and management to build the resilience of Timor-Leste coastal communities.

### Strengthening Community Livelihoods as Incentive to Restore Mangroves



UNDP Coastal Resilience Building Project partnered with local NGO Hametin Lia Tatoli in Suai Loro, Covalima to introduce community based ecological mangroves restoration (CBEMR) initiative. Accordingly, community members who are dependent on mangroves for their family livelihoods organized as mangrove conserving group. The groups are incentivized to engage in alternative economic activities through provision of training, start-up capital, agricultural materials and horticulture seeds to improve their income. As a result, Matadalan community group in Aldeia Mane Ikun, Suco Suai Loro, is became one of the successful groups and managed to harvest some of their products and sell it at the local market.



Marcelina Gomes, member of the group, testified that "I am happy to engage in this livelihood activities of cultivating vegetables and generate income to feed my family as well as involved in restoring mangroves that protect us from sea effect."



## UNDP CRB Project Launched Community Based Integrated Sustainable Land Management in Manufahi



Photo: Local Authorities along UNDP, MAF and NGOs hold workshop launching community based integrated sustainable land management project in Manufahi.

UNDP Coastal Resilience Building Project signed and launching community based integrated sustainable land management child-project in five Sucos of Clacuc, Fatucahi, Dotic, Mahaquidan and Betano in Manufahi Municipality.

The key objective of the child-project is to reduce deforestation, erosion, land degradation which in turn affect mangroves and the coastal ecosystem. The project also employs integrated nature-based approach to livelihoods improvement of local vulnerable communities.

The micro grant agreement is signed between UNDP and the two NGOs, HADER and NETIL in the launching workshop in the presence of municipality authorities and community representatives from five sucos.

Local authorities and the community representative appreciated the support and expressed their commitment for the successful implementation of the planned project activities.

### Live Fencing: An Innovative Approach to Mangroves Protection

Promoting nature-based approaches to coastal protection; through community based ecological mangroves restoration (CBEMR), strengthening coastal community livelihoods as well as integrated approach to climate change adaptation are the key pillars of the Coastal Resilience Building project. In line with this, in most of restoration sites life fencing is under implementation.

In Modomahot around 848ha of mangroves and wetlands area have been protected through live fencing through active participation of the local community. Similarly, in suco Sabuli, Metinaro, in partnership with local NGO Timor Verde, 48ha of mangroves area protected with life fence. Tree species such as *ai-lamtoro*, *ai-gamal*, *aiamare fuik*, and *ai -fauk* are used once grown the leaves will be used for animal feed.



Photo: live fencing put up all around the Modomahot mangroves areas as part of promoting nature-based approaches to coastal protection



## Beacou Youth Protecting Their Coastal Area by Planting Coconut



UNDP Coastal Resilience Building Project organized more than 100 youth group in Beacou to plant around 200 coconut seedling along Beacou beach. The objective the initiative is to engage the youth in protection of coastal areas, wetlands and mangroves ecosystem from the impact of sea level rise, erosion and degradation as well as for the economic benefits.

Mr. Francisco Fontes, Suco Chief of Aidabaleten, in his remark during the event highlighted that, "It is time for the youth to take action to protect and conserve the coastal ecosystem, especially for people living along the coast to be resilience and also avoiding the intrusion of salt-water in to their clean water which will affect their health. The engagement of young is an important breakthrough that will enhance their responsibility in environment protection."



Photo: youth groups engaged actively in coconut seedling planting in Beacou beach.

Eulalia, member of youth group, appreciated the UNDP initiative because the youth have big role in protection mangroves, coastal environment as well as nurture their coconut trees so that they benefit from them. Also, it is a good approach to educate community and young to love and protect the environment and use the ecosystem responsibly.

Coastal Resilience Building Project will continue its support to the community to strengthen their livelihoods and conserve their environment in order to enhance their adaptation to the changing climate.

## Awareness Raising Campaign for School Community and The Youth



UNDP Coastal Resilience project in collaboration with Government Environment experts expanded its awareness raising activity in all project target municipalities to engage more school community and the youth in coastal environment protection and waste management as well as enhance their knowledge on the ecological, social and economic benefits of mangroves and coastal ecosystem.



Photo: Bemalae youth practicing plastic waste recycling

More than 400 students and youth live in the coastal sucos, Senior High School of Santa Imaculada Coracao de Maria in Tibar, Santo Ignatius Loyola School in Ulmera, Elementary Schools in Aipelu (Liquica Municipality), Secondary School of Palaca and Youth Groups of Atabae (Bobonaro Municipality) attended the events and learnt new skill on recycling of plastic waste.



## Hidden Treasure of Timorese Community Resilience in Aubeon



Photo: members of community groups with UNDP project team

One big challenge of development in Timor-Leste is limited involvement of local community, particularly at the suco level to collaborate and feel ownership of the projects and interventions. As a result, number of projects failed or unable to sustain good results due to lack of engagement and support from the community.

After one year of Coastal Resilience Building (CRB) project implementation in Aubeon, Natarbora Post Administrative, Manatuto Municipality; there is a shine emerged from the heart of Suco Aubeon community. With the support of the CRB project the community

established three groups of fisheries, agriculture and fattening under one umbrella cooperative. The community through its Suco Chief and head of cooperative expressed their hope by saying:

“We are thankful to UNDP project for supporting us through economic activities as an incentive to protect our mangroves, the natural forest where we get food from generation to generation. It is a blessing that our mangroves are naturally protected, but we need to take care of it,” said the head of livestock fattening Group, Mr. Pedro dos Santos revealing his group sense of true cooperation and ownership of the efforts.

The project conducted sensitization and community consultation as well as various youth and school community awareness events. Subsequently, the community themselves fully aware of their contribution to protect their own environment, particularly the coastal ecosystem. Moreover, customary law, *Tara-Bandu* was launched to protect the mangroves and coastal ecosystem.

Suco Chief, Domingos Gonzaga added that “For years we have survived with hardship. We have cows and land to graze our animals and for agriculture activities. In addition, we have ocean and open land for fishpond. However, we need supporters like UNDP, who raise our knowledge on how to wisely use these resources and protect our environment as well as provide materials and technical support that we don’t have.”

The project has organized sensitization workshops, provided business skill trainings and currently, the community cooperative submitted proposal to the project to support in additional trainings, materials, technical advise as well as to create market linkage.



Photo: Aubeon Community Cooperative prepared their own land for agriculture activities, open fishpond and fencing the potential area for cow fattening.



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