

## Project #8

TIMOR  
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National  
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Committee



# Rehabilitation of Mangrove Ecosystem in Ulmera Village, Liquica

**Project Duration:** 24 months

**Link to the CTI Timor-Leste National Plan of Action:**

Goal 3 Target 1: Region-Wide Early Action Climate Adaptation Plan for the near-shore marine and coastal environment developed and implemented

**Geographic Areas:** Suco Ulmera, Bazartete Sub-District, Liquica District, Timor-Leste

**Overview:** The condition of mangroves in Timor-Leste is becoming a cause of concern, especially along the north coast where forests are being exploited for fuel. The total mangrove cover has decreased significantly over the last decades, from approximately 9,000 ha. in 1940 to 3,035 ha. in 2000. The mangrove forest in Ulmera Village of Liquica District, about half an hour's drive from Dili, the capital, is no exception.

Coastal areas are now vulnerable to erosion and sea level rise, forecasted to be between 3.4 to 15.5 cm by 2020, and 11.2 to 35 cm by 2050 or higher.

Communities have also lost the opportunity of sustainable harvest of animal and plant species from mangrove ecosystems.

**Project Objectives:**

- Protection and stabilization of the coastline;
- Enhanced habitat for fish species and other marine biota;
- Provide a future source of livelihood (from sustainable harvesting of animal and plant species); and
- Location for education and awareness of climate change impacts (in conjunction with the planned formation of Center for Climate Information, please refer to the separate brochure).

**The Strategic Approach/ Methodology:**

Rehabilitation of mangrove ecosystems is not a new endeavor in Timor-Leste, and past activities include

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mangrove rehabilitation in the Metinaro region, one of the largest patch of mangroves in the country. Since then, staff at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, have gained enhanced knowledge and experience on mangrove rehabilitation.

Knowledge sharing in the CTI has also raised the capacity of staff at the Ministry to effectively plan for and implement mangrove rehabilitation projects. Additionally, reforestation, including in the wetlands, is a priority national program of the National Directorate of Forestry.

The proposed rehabilitation of mangrove will involve coastal communities in the planting of seeds and re-planting in the designated plots. Seeds will be obtained from nearby mangrove areas to ensure that the variety/species will be suitable for the target locations.

Soil samples will also be analyzed to make sure that the condition is viable for replanting. Replanting will be conducted in

patches, where a pilot plot will first be established prior to large scale re-planting.

Lastly, communities will be facilitated to maintain the replanted trees, including through provision of equipment and supplies, and the knowledge on benefits to be provided by a healthy mangrove ecosystem. In return, communities will have the right to future sustainable harvests from the rehabilitated mangrove forests.

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**Project Activities and Cost:**

Activities	Cost in US\$
Salaries	\$27,640
Training, village meetings and travel	\$18,160
Equipment, materials, field operations	\$161,128
Institutional support and administration	\$12,240
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$219,168</b>
Government of Timor-Leste contribution	\$165,608
<b>Funding sought</b>	<b>\$53,560</b>

