



CORAL TRIANGLE
INITIATIVE
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES
AND FOOD SECURITY



THE 19TH SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING

DILI, TIMOR-LESTE | 4-5 DECEMBER 2024

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SOM19

Country Report:

Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Mr. Celestino da Cunha Barreto
Committee Senior Official (CSO)

Mr. Horácio A. dos Santos Guterres
National Coordination Committee (NCC)





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Country Focal Points 2023-2024

1. National Focal Points

WORKING GROUP	FOCAL POINT	AGENCY
National Coordination Committee	Mr. Horácio A. dos Santos Guterres, National Director of Development Study for Fishery and Aquaculture	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry
Seascape	Mr. Fidelino Sousa Marques, National Director of Aquaculture Alternate: Delio da Costa Freitas Belo	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry
EAFM	Mr. Timotio Alves, Senior Fisheries Officer Alternate: Sidonia Siri	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry
MPA	Mr. Orlando H. Kalis Chief Dept. For Research & Development for Fisheries and Aquaculture Alternate: Mr. Artur M Pereira, Senior Fisheries Officer	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry
TS	Mr. Pedro Pinto National Director of Forestry	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry
CCA	Mr. Rui Pires, Senior officer Alternate: Mr. Nelson Madeira	State Secretariat for Environmental Ministry of Tourism and Environment



WORKING GROUP	FOCAL POINT	AGENCY
FRWG	Mr. Celestino da Cunha Barreto. Director General of Fishery, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Resirces Management Alternate: Mr. Julio da Cruz	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry
MEWG	Ms. Maria Magdalena Alternate: Ms. Inocencia Belo	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry
IRC	Mr. Teotonio Sequeira Lemos Alternate: Mr. Julio da Cruz	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry
WLF	Ms. Alda Sousa Lemos. Aazani Mujahid, Senior Fisheries Officer Alternate: Juniercia Maria da Costa	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry
CT Atlas	Mr. Fidelino Sousa Marques Alternate: Mr. Delio Freitas Belo	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry



Country Profile



2. Country Profile

Biophysical of the country

- Timor-Leste located in Southeastern Asia, northwest of Australia in the Lesser Sunda Islands at the eastern end of the Indonesian archipelago
- Timor-Leste is a country positioned in a biodiversity hotspot, known as Wallacea, which harbors a number of globally significant ecosystems and endemic species.
- The geographic position of Timor-Leste also places it in a strategic area for marine biodiversity.
- The country is located in the Coral Triangle which sustains about 120 million people and where 76% of the world's coral species and 6 of the world's 7 marine turtle species can be found.
- Surveys of Timor-Leste's coral reefs indicate that they are home to more than 1,200 species of reef fish and 400 reef-building coral species.
- The Nino Konis Santana National Park in Timor-Leste includes a large oceanic area covering nearly 350 km² of coral reef .The park also includes Mount Paitchau, Lake Ira Lalaro, the uninhabited Jaco Island



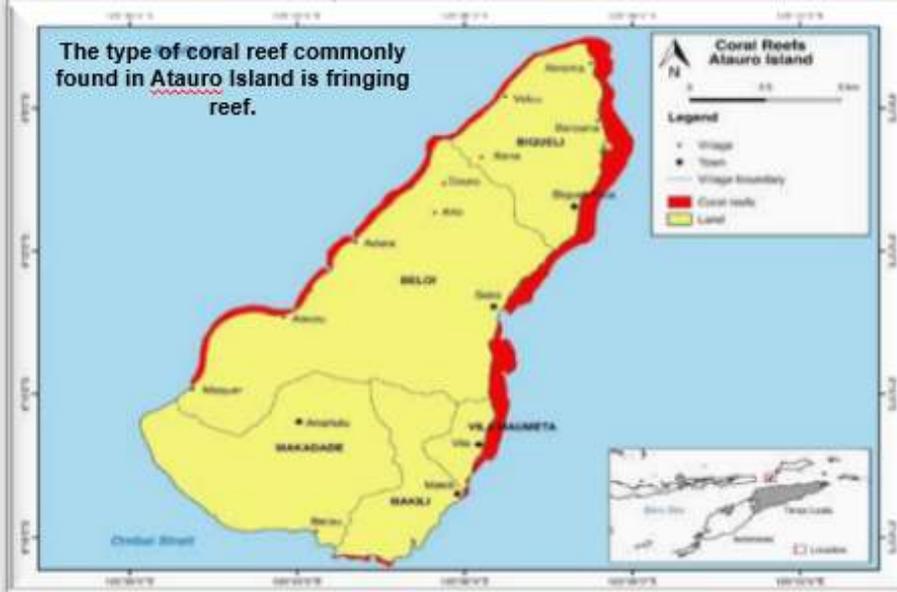


Biophysical profile:

- Coral reefs coverage:

Atauro Island Marine Protected Area and Management Plan

MPA Fact	Details
MPAs in Timor-Leste	MPA: Atauro Island MPA (13.252,22 hectares)
Contribution to Ocean Protection	These MPAs contribute to Timor-Leste's commitment to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030 (30x30 initiative)
Atauro Island MPA Approach	Atauro Island MPA follows an integrated, "one island, one management" approach. The area includes 12 Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) designated as "No Take Zones," where extractive activities like fishing are prohibited
Atauro Island MPA Management	The Atauro Island MPA is managed collaboratively by the Central Government (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fisheries - MALFF), Local Government (Administrator), local community representatives (including representatives from the 12 LMMAs, traditional leaders, and 5 village heads), and a local NGO (Roman Luan Foundation)



Coral Reef Distribution Map on Atauro Island, Timor-Leste (CTC, 2014).



MPA (Marine Protected Area) Map of Atauro Island (CTC)



The percentage of live coral cover (hard and soft corals) at observation points ranges from 38.67% to 69.83% (medium to good category), with an average live coral cover of 55.78% (good category).



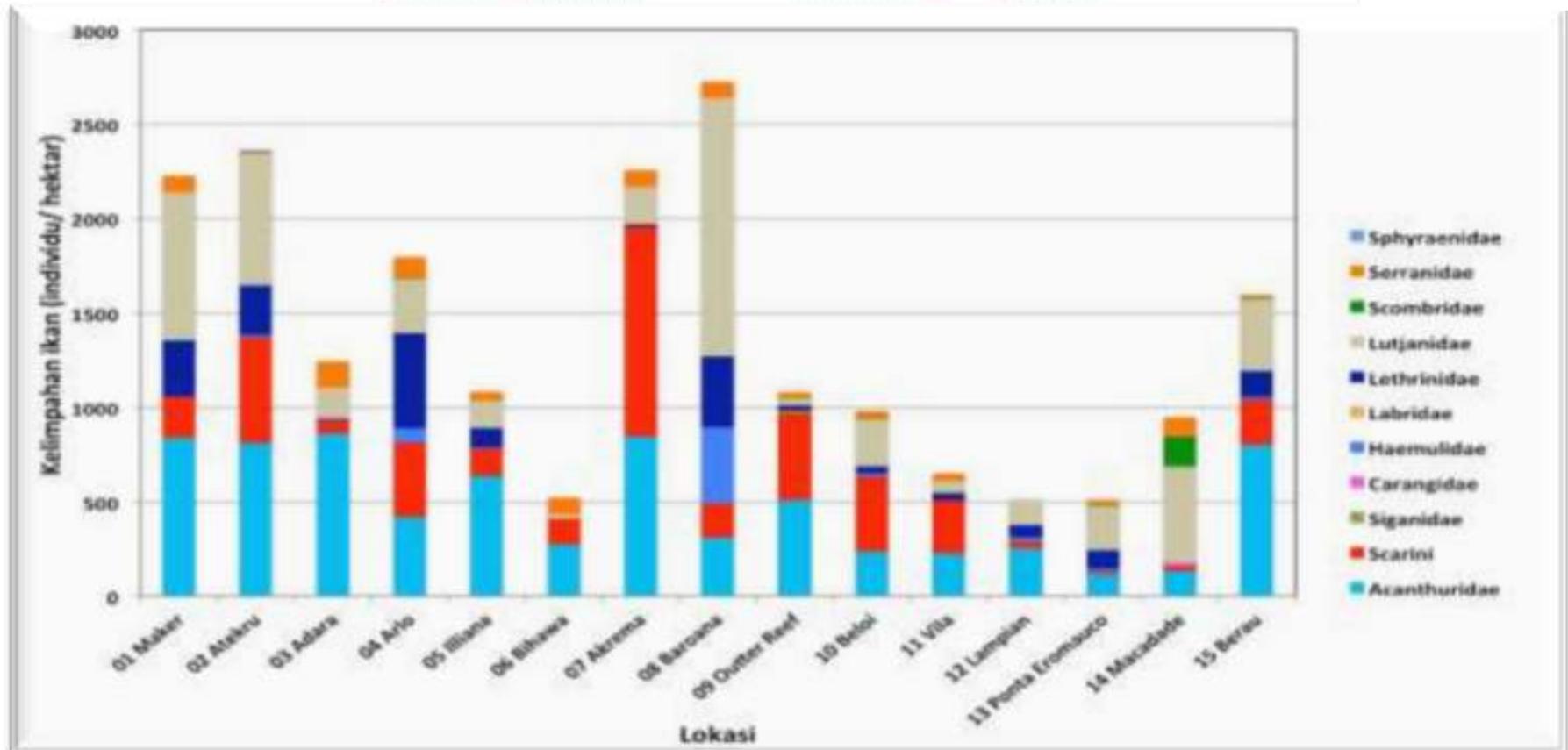
Percentage of Live Coral Coverage Atauro Island MPA (CTC, 2017).



Biophysical profile:

- Fish diversity:

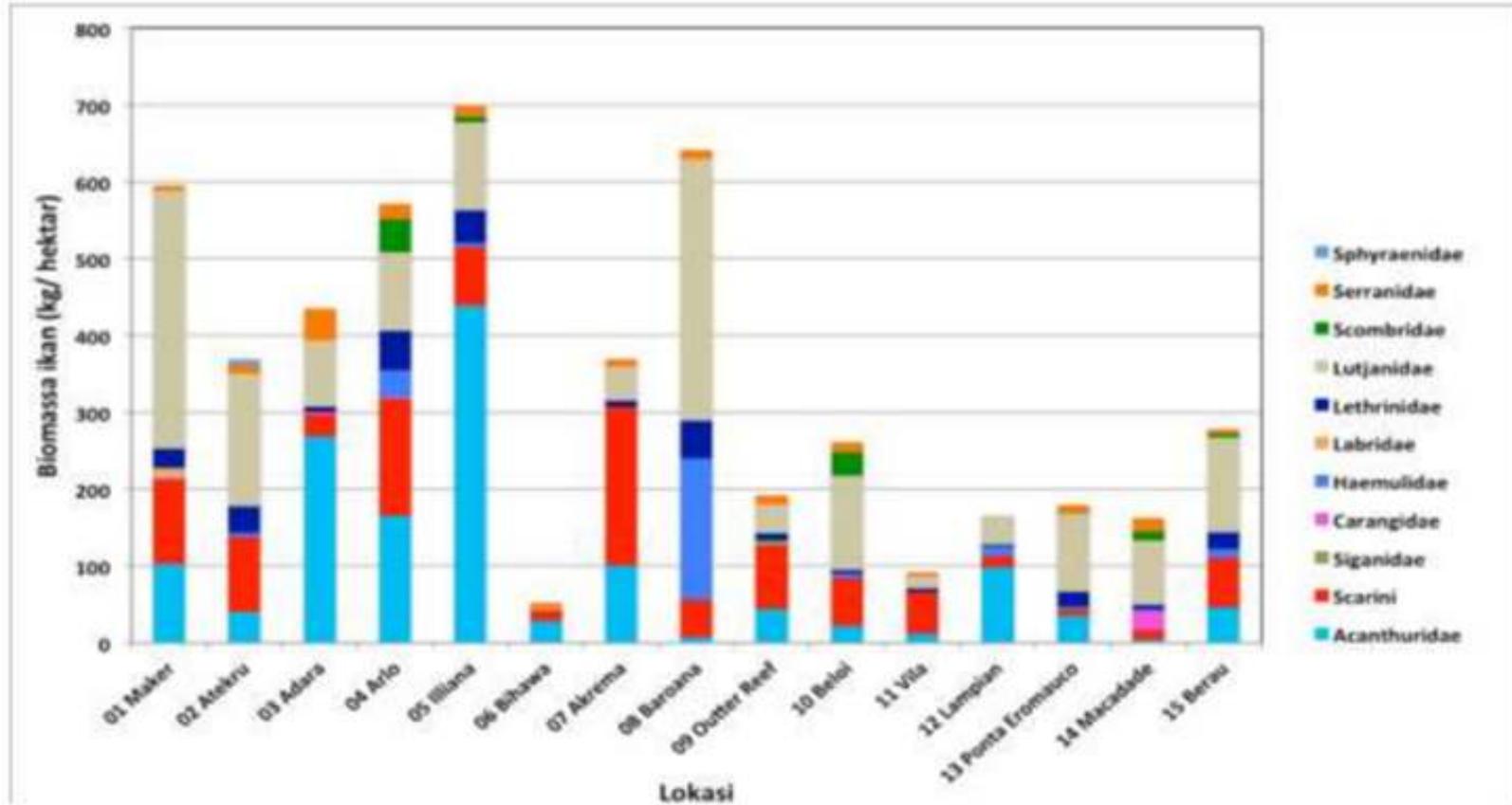
There are 642 species of reef fish in the waters of Atauro Island, with 11 dominant families: Acanthuridae, Serranidae, Lutjanidae, Siganidae, Lethrinidae, Scaridae, Haemulidae, Carangidae, Scombridae, Sphyrnidae, and Labridae.



Coral Fish (11 families) in Atauro Island MPA (CTC, 2017).



The average biomass of commercial reef fish in the waters of Atauro is 336.8 kg/hectare, with the highest average biomass being Snapper (Lutjanidae), Surgeonfish (Acanthuridae), and Parrotfish (Scarini), at 114.7 kg/hectare, 95.4 kg/hectare, and 68.7 kg/hectare.



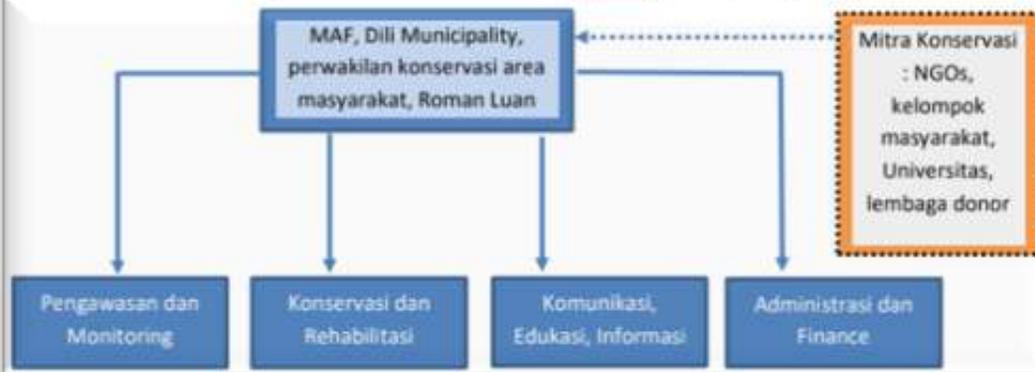
Biomass of Coral Fish (11 families) in Atauro Island MPA (CTC, 2017).



Habitats and Important Biota Locations on Atauro Island (CTC, 2017).



Diving Location Map on Atauro Island (CTC).



Structure of the Atauro MPA Management Unit (CTC).

Biophysical profile: Marine mammal diversity and Other threatened species of concern:

Conserving Marine Biodiversity in Atauro Island Konserva Tasi nia Biodiversidade iha ilha Atauro

Marine Mammals

As part of the Lesser Sunda Seascape in the Coral Triangle, Timor-Leste is ecologically rich in marine biodiversity and is home to many species of marine mammals! These mammals help maintain the balance of the marine ecosystem by keeping a stable food chain and ensuring that certain animal species do not overpopulate the ocean. These mammals also provide economic benefits to the community by supporting tourism and recreational activities. It is important to protect marine mammals to ensure their survival and the benefits they provide.

Mamalia Tasi

Hanesan parte ida husi Lesser Sunda Seascape iha Coral Triangle, Timor-Leste ekolojikamente iha riku soiti biodiversidade tasi no ida ne'e sai uma ba especies mamalia tasi sira. Mamalia tasi sira ne'e ajuda hodi halo balansu iha ekosistema tasi lu husi korenti aihan nebe'e estavel no hodi garante katak iha serteja la iha especies animal ida mak iha populasaun as lu iha oceano. Animal tasi sira ne'e mna fornese benefisio husi parte ekonomia ba komidade lu hodi support area turismo no aktividade rekreativa sira. Ida ne'e importante hodi proteze mamalia tasi sira hodi fo serteja ba sira nia mris no benefisio nebe'e sira fornese.



Blue Whale (Balaenoptera musculus)
 Length : 25-30 m
 Weight : 500,000 - 140,000 kg
 Color : Pale blue-grey
 Habitat : Deep oceans
 Diet : Krill, Copypods
 Conservation status: Endangered

Baleia Azul (Balaenoptera musculus)
 Naxak : 25-30 m
 Tuduak : 500,000 - 140,000 kg
 Cor : Chapano anidada
 Fatin moan : Tasi moan nuan
 Habitaun : ghanon, ryanacra
 Estatutu konservasaun: Awanacra

Melan-headed whale (Peponocephala electra)
 Length : 2 to 2.8 m
 Weight : 120 to 200 kg
 Color : Black, Dark Grey
 Habitat : Tropical and sub-tropical oceans
 Diet : Fish, Squid, Crustaceans
 Conservation Status: Least Concern



Golfinho (Stenella longirostris)
 Naxak : 2 to 2.8 m
 Tuduak : (Weight) 120 to 200 kg
 Cor : Metan, Chapano
 Fatin moan : Ocean tropiku and sub tropiku
 Habitaun : Bani, Suan, Crustacea
 Estatutu konservasaun: Phevoapaca



Sporn Whale (Physeter macrocephalus)
 Length : 11-20 m
 Weight : 20,000 - 57,000 kg
 Color : Dark grey-brown
 Habitat : Deep oceans
 Diet : Squid, Octopus, & Deep water fish
 Conservation status: Vulnerable

Baleia de espinha (Physeter macrocephalus)
 Naxak : 11 - 20 m
 Tuduak : 20,000 - 57,000 kg
 Cor : Chapano
 Fatin moan : Tasi Buan / ocean
 Habitaun : Suan, Gota, Buan / Buan
 Estatutu konservasaun: Vulneravel



Dugong (Dugong dugon)
 Length : 2.4-4 m
 Weight : 200-400 kg
 Color : Brownish-dark grey
 Habitat : Seagrass beds
 Diet : Seagrass
 Conservation status: Vulnerable

Dugung (Dugong dugon)
 Naxak : 2.4 - 4 m
 Tuduak : 200 - 400 kg
 Cor : Chapano kuan
 Fatin moan : Aua dar tasi
 Habitaun : dar tasi
 Estatutu konservasaun: Vulneravel

Spinner Dolphin (Stenella longirostris)
 Length : 2 m
 Weight : 40-75 kg
 Color : Grey
 Habitat : Tropical oceans
 Diet : Squid and fish
 Conservation status: Least concern

Golfinho (Stenella longirostris)
 Naxak : 2 m
 Tuduak : 40 - 75 kg
 Cor : Chapano
 Fatin moan : Ocean tropiku
 Habitaun : Suan, Bani
 Estatutu konservasaun: Mena phevopaca



- Help protect marine mammals by:**
1. Practising sustainable fishing.
 2. Reducing plastic use.
 3. Cleaning up trash.
 4. Educating yourself and others about the ocean.
 5. Support marine protected area establishment in Atauro.

- Ajuda proteze animal tasi/mamalia tasi lu husi:**
1. Pratikha puevan sustentavel.
 2. Halo reduksao uso plastik.
 3. Hancur trash.
 4. Hama'e edukasaun ba lu ma'an no tena nuan katak o'ceano.
 5. Support establismentu San Maralia Protektadu iha Atauro.



Conserving Marine Biodiversity in Atauro Island Konserva Tasi nia Biodiversidade iha ilha Atauro

Common Marine Fish

Timor-Leste is ecologically rich in marine biodiversity and is home to hundreds of fish species. Atauro Island's surrounding waters have been identified as home to the highest average number of reef fish species in the world! Fish are important sources of food and livelihood for the local communities and also help generate income from tourism. It is important that we manage Atauro's fish population so we can enjoy the benefits they provide for generations to come.



Napoleon Wrasse (Cheilinus undulatus)
Length: Up to 230 cm
Color: Blue-green
Habitat: Deep outer reef slopes
Diet: Mollusks, crustaceans, and fish
Conservation status: Endangered

Napoleon (Cheilinus undulatus)
Length: Up to 230 cm
Color: Blue-green
Habitat: Deep outer reef slopes
Diet: Mollusks, crustaceans, and fish
Conservation status: Endangered



Giant Trevally (Caranx ignobilis)
Length: Up to 170 cm
Color: Silver
Habitat: Seaward reefs
Diet: Fish and crustaceans
Conservation status: Least concern

Koku mutin azul (Caranx ignobilis)
Length: Up to 170 cm
Color: Silver
Habitat: Seaward reefs
Diet: Fish and crustaceans
Conservation status: Least concern



Humphead Parrotfish (Bolbometopon muricatum)
Length: Up to 130 cm
Color: Dark grey-dark green
Habitat: Seaward reefs
Diet: Marine algae and live corals
Conservation status: Vulnerable

Niru Ballun (Bolbometopon muricatum)
Length: Up to 130 cm
Color: Dark green
Habitat: Seaward reefs
Diet: Marine algae and live corals
Conservation status: Vulnerable



Lined Surge wrasse (Acanthurus lineatus)
Length: Up to 38 cm
Color: Bright yellow with blue stripes
Habitat: Exposed seaward reefs
Diet: Marine algae
Conservation status: Least concern

Ikan bandeira (Acanthurus lineatus)
Length: Up to 38 cm
Color: Bright yellow with blue stripes
Habitat: Exposed seaward reefs
Diet: Marine algae
Conservation status: Least concern



Checkered Snapper (Lutjanus decussatus)
Length: Up to 33 cm
Color: Silver with brown and stripes and dots
Habitat: Coral reefs
Diet: Fish and crustaceans
Conservation status: Least concern

Tanggala makorok (Lutjanus decussatus)
Length: Up to 33 cm
Color: Silver with brown and stripes and dots
Habitat: Coral reefs
Diet: Fish and crustaceans
Conservation status: Least concern



Foxface (Sigamus vulpinus)
Length: Up to 25 cm
Color: Yellow with black and white striped head
Habitat: Seaward reefs
Diet: Marine algae
Conservation status: Least concern

Ikan bandeira (Sigamus vulpinus)
Length: Up to 25 cm
Color: Yellow with black and white striped head
Habitat: Seaward reefs
Diet: Marine algae
Conservation status: Least concern

Help protect marine fish by:

1. Practising sustainable fishing.
2. Reducing plastic use.
3. Cleaning up trash.
4. Educating yourself and others about the oceans.
5. Supporting marine protected areas established in Atauro.

Ajuda proteze ikan iha tasi laran lu husi:

1. Pratikka peneqan sustenivel.
2. Hala reduzian usa plastik.
3. Hurnas bol.
4. Hama's edukasun ba lu iha an nu sira ukun kruna's besun.
5. Suptan' establisimentu Aua Marinha Protetadu Iha Atauro.



CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND



CORAL TRIANGLE CENTER
Inspiring People Saving Oceans



Guide to Sustainable Fishing Practices For Food Security

Mata Dalam Hodi Pratika Sustentavel Pescas ba Siguransa Aihan

Being part of the Coral Triangle, Timor-Leste's Atauro Island is ecologically rich in marine biodiversity and home to abundant fisheries resources. Sustainable fishing practices need to be adopted and fishing areas have to be managed to ensure that Timor-Leste's reef systems and fisheries resources are sustainable to support food and livelihood for generations to come.

Hanesan parte ida husi iha Coral Trianglo, Atauro ekolojikamente iha riku soin biodiversidade tasi no uma ba abudante rekursus. Sustentabilidade pratika pesca presiza adopta no area pesca hodi halo gestaan nune bele garantia katak Timor-Leste nia sistema korais sira nia rekursus ikan iha sustentavel hodi suporta siguransa aihan no moris loron loron ba geraun sira turi mal.



Catch mature fish
Catch only mature fish and avoid young ones to allow fish populations to reproduce and recover.
Kaer ikan nebe bo'ot ona.
Kaer sibi ikan nebe bo'ot ona no ovula ikan nebe li'ik nune ikan sei produsa nia an no rekupera.



Use sustainable fishing gear
Use pole and line, handline, trap, wide nets, to avoid bycatch and reduce the impact of fishing gear in the marine ecosystem.
Uza arte de pesca sustentavel
Uza pole and line, handline, armalilha, neli lu medikas bo'ot, hodi evita bycatch no reduz impaktu ekosistema mari.



Support marine protected area establishment
Marine protected areas help help ensure fish stocks supply by protecting fish spawning grounds and habitats.
Suporta hodi estabesele Area Marinha Protezida
Area Marinha protezida sei ajuda hodi garante numan ikan ba hodi produsaun feto ikan tokan sira no habitasaun.



Do not catch endangered, threatened, and protected species
Catching these marine animals will further deplete their population and can cause extinctions.
Labele kaer espesies nebe atu moha,ameasada no espesies protezida.
Kaer mamula tasi no hamosa nia populasaun no bele halo moha nia espesies.



Do not use dynamite and cyanide
Dynamite and cyanide destroy fish habitats like coral reefs, leaving fish with no place to feed and breed.
Labele uza bomba no veneno
Bomba no veneno sei destrui ikan nia maris lalin hamosa korai maris sira no lalin lalin atu tokan no halo reproduzasaun.



Do not step on the coral
Watch your feet during low tide. Corals are very fragile and take a long time to grow.
Labele sama korai sira
Atansaun no kailada kailada tasi maris. Korai sira fragil tokan no lalin tempu marik maik bele maris.



Do not litter
Marine debris such as plastic waste can kill marine animals eaten by fish. Dispose of trash properly.
Labele soe finer arbiru
Fotr tasi hamosa partiku bele hamosa animal tasi. Soe fotr ita nia lalin no lalin.



Do not discard used fishing nets in the ocean
Fishing nets floating in the ocean trap and kill marine animals and entangle corals. Dispose of fishing nets properly.
Labele husik hela redi sira ita oceano
Redi nebe husik hela no mamula ita oceano maik armalilha no so oho hodi animal tasi no korai sira. Uza arte de pesca nebe lalin.



Do not drop anchor on corals
Anchors can break and damage corals that provide food and home to the fish.
Labele hatun ankor ita korai
Ankor bele halo at korai sira nebe sira bele pampara hahan no sai uma lu ita.

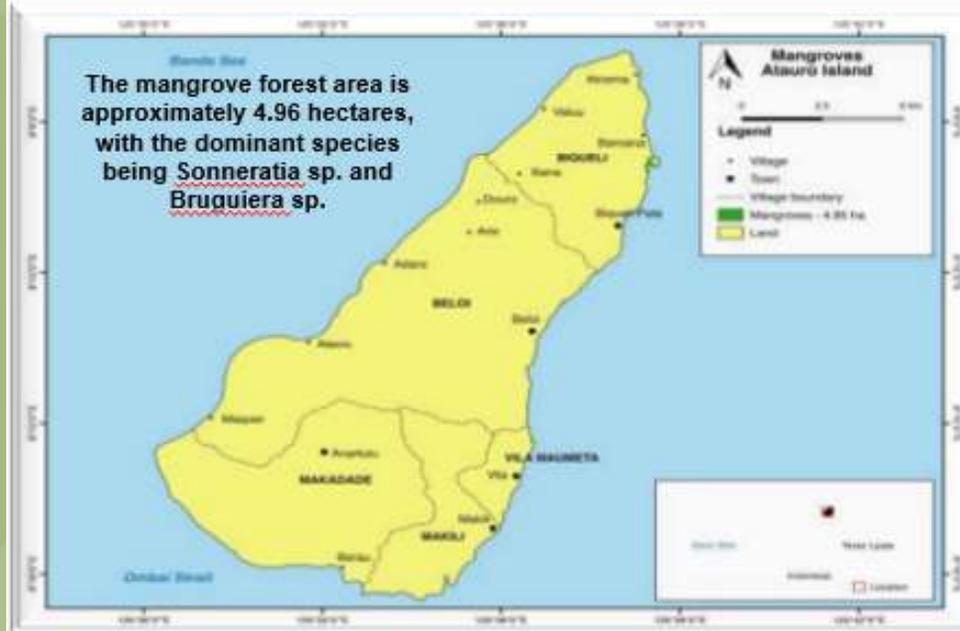


CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND





Mangrove and Seagrass Distribution in Atauro Island (CTC, 2017)



Mangrove Forest Area Map on Atauro Island (CTC, 2017)

The distribution of seagrass beds on Atauro Island is predominantly found on the eastern coast, from Villa village to Akrema village. The total area of seagrass beds on Atauro Island is 203.92 hectares. The dominant species on Atauro Island are Thalassia sp. and Enhalus sp.



Seagrass Meadow Area Map on Atauro Island (CTC, 2017)

The Management Plan for the Atauro Island Marine Protected Area (MPA), located in Timor-Leste.

This MPA is a designated area meant to protect marine biodiversity, including coral reefs, seagrass beds, and fish populations, while promoting sustainable use of the ocean's resources.

The plan involves key stakeholders:

- ❑ Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fisheries - MALFF of Timor-Leste, which is responsible for overseeing natural resource management at the national level.
- ❑ The Coral Triangle Center (CTC), an organization dedicated to conserving marine biodiversity in the Coral Triangle region, which includes Timor-Leste.
- ❑ The Roman Luan Foundation, likely involved in local conservation and community engagement efforts on Atauro Island.
- ❑ Local Authority and Community

This document outlines strategies and actions for effective management and conservation of the marine environment around Atauro Island, focusing on preserving its biodiversity, enhancing sustainable fishing practices, and protecting the marine ecosystems. The year 2019 indicates the time frame for the plan, showing that it is relatively recent and may include updated conservation strategies based on the latest research and local needs.



MANAGEMENT PLAN ATAURO ISLAND MARINE PROTECTED AREA DILI, REPUBLIC OF TIMOR LESTE



Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Timor Leste
Coral Triangle Center
Roman Luan Foundation

2019

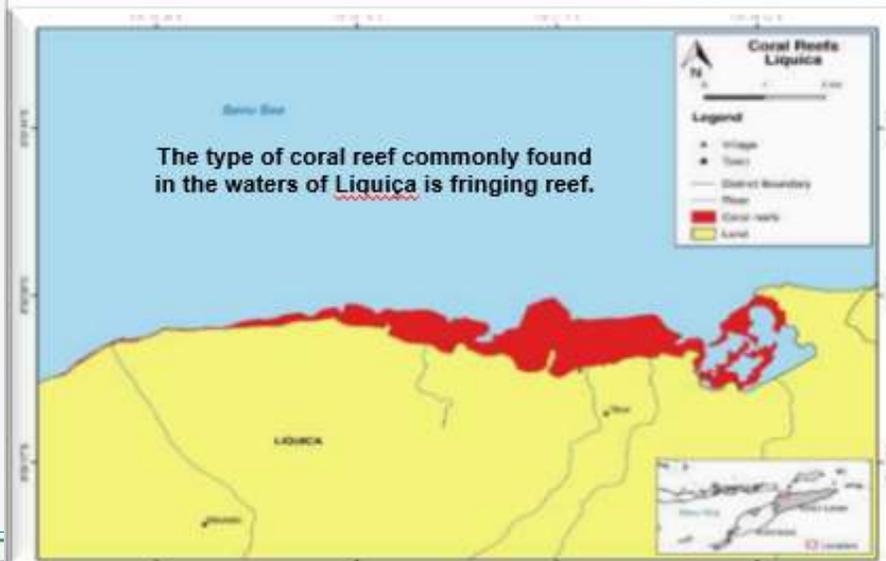


Biophysical profile:

- Coral reefs coverage:

Samba Sembilan Liqueça Marine Protected Area and Management Plan

MPA Fact	Details
MPAs in Timor-Leste	Samba Sembilan Liqueça MPA (8.372,20 hectares)
Contribution to Ocean Protection	This MPAs contribute to Timor-Leste's commitment to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030 (30x30 initiative)
Samba Sembilan MPA Approach	The Samba Sembilan Liqueça MPA's area includes: two Core zones, four marine tourism zones, and one marine culture zone
Samba Sembilan MPA Management	The Samba Sembilan Liqueça MPA is managed collaboratively by the Central Government (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fisheries - MALFF), Local Government (Administrator), local community, and traditional leaders.



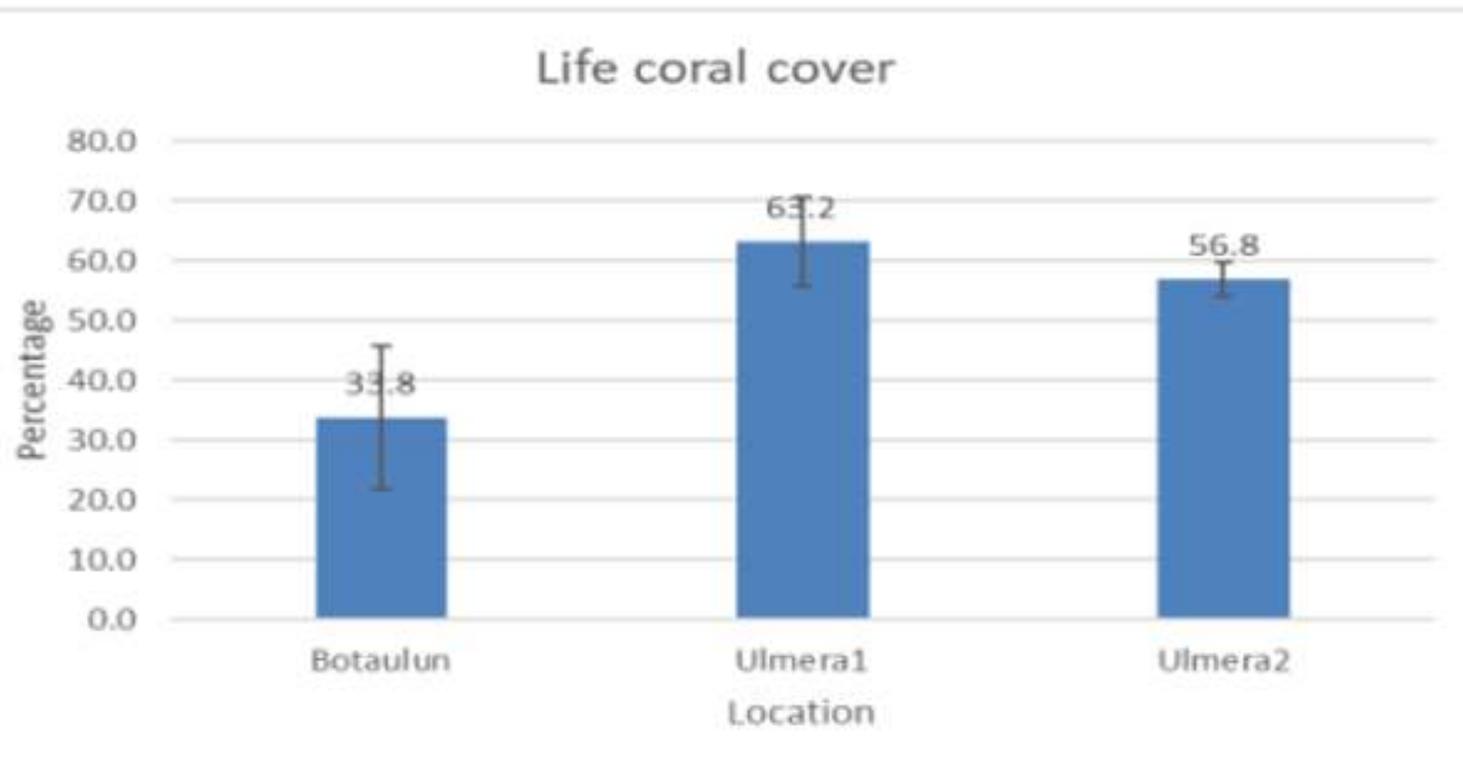
Coral Reef Distribution Map on Samba Sembilan Liqueça, Timor-Leste (CTC, 2017).



MPA (Marine Protected Area) Map of Atauro Island (CTC)



The percentage of live coral cover (hard corals + soft corals) at observation locations ranges from 33.8% to 63.2%, with an average of $51.3\% \pm 10.4\%$ SE.



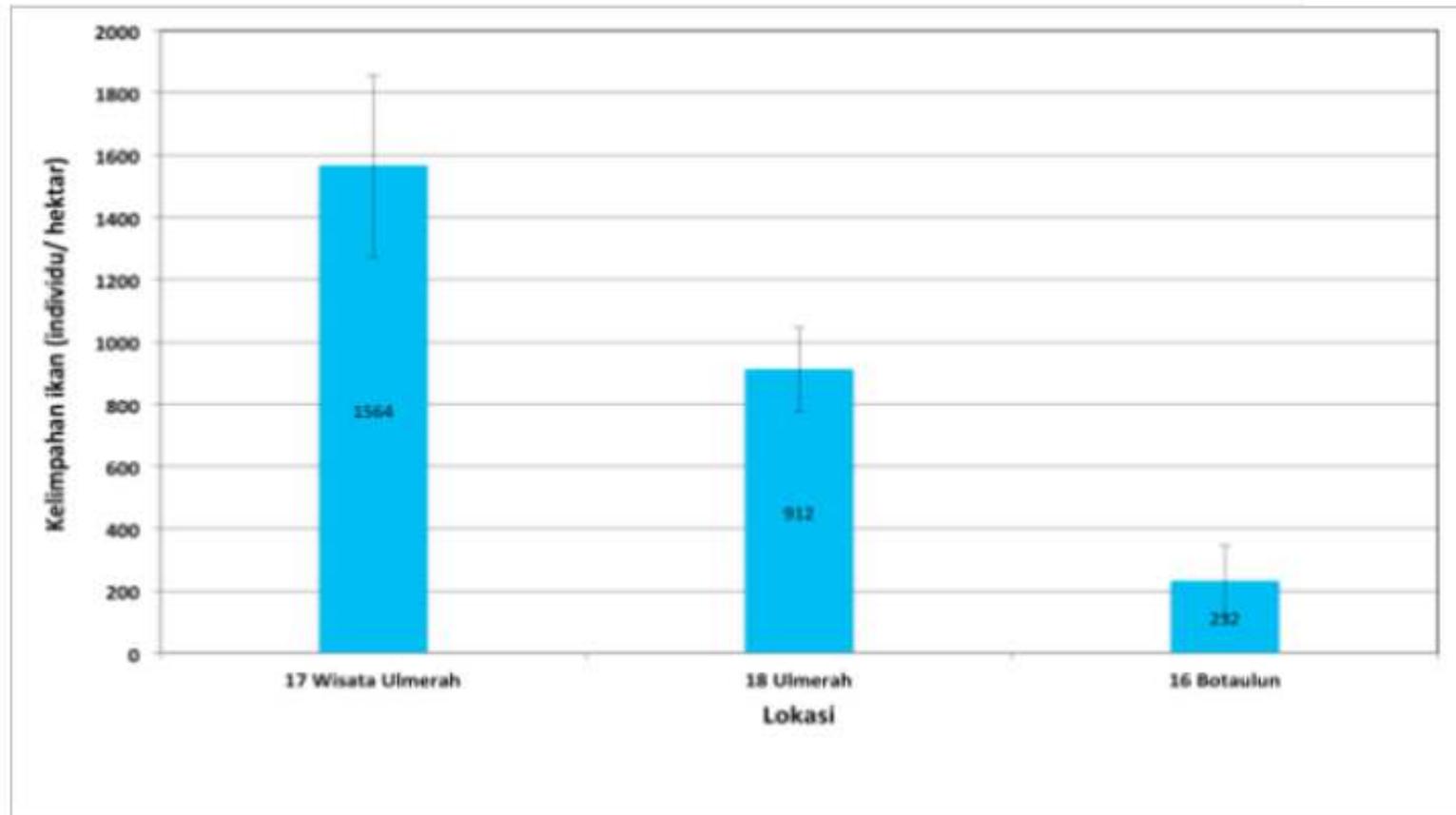
Percentage of Live Coral Cover in Liquica Using the PIT Method (CTC, 2017).



Biophysical profile:

- Fish diversity:

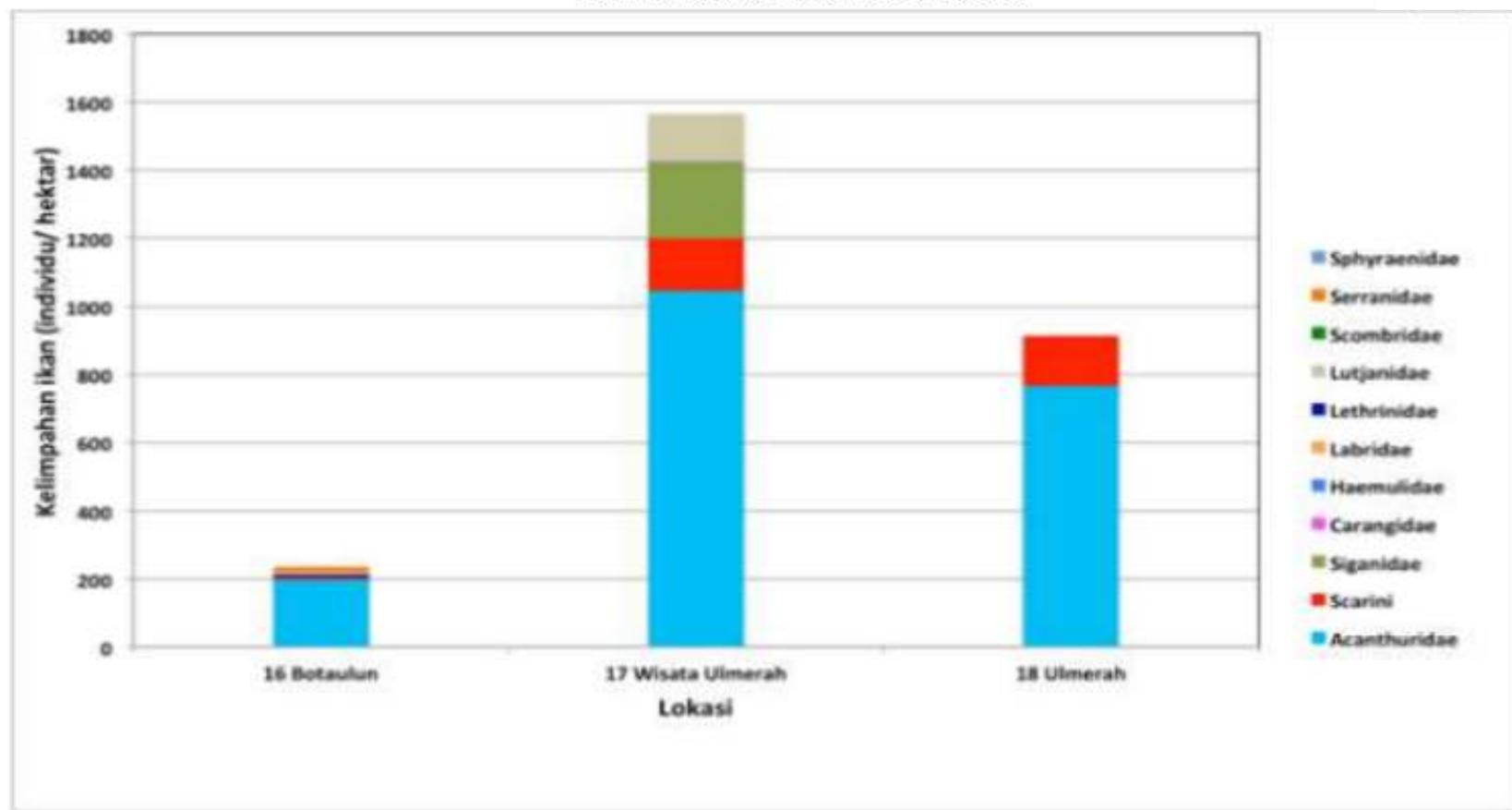
The average of commercial fish in the waters of Liquica is 903 individuals per hectare.



The commercial reef fish in Liquica (CTC, 2017).



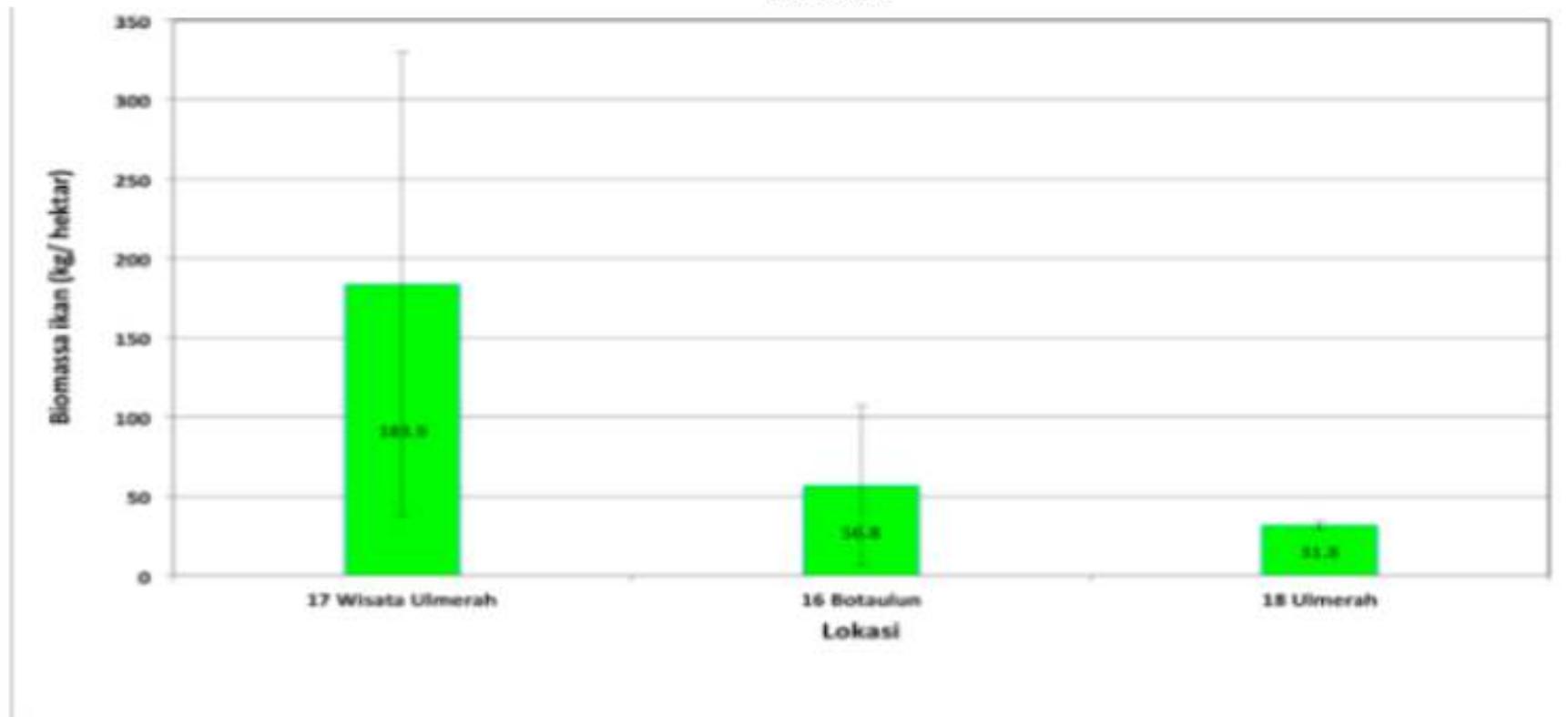
The commercial fish found in the waters of Liquica consists of more than 99% of fish under 30 cm in size, or small fish, with 47.6% being 0-10 cm, 35.5% being 11-20 cm, and 16.5% being 21-30 cm in size.



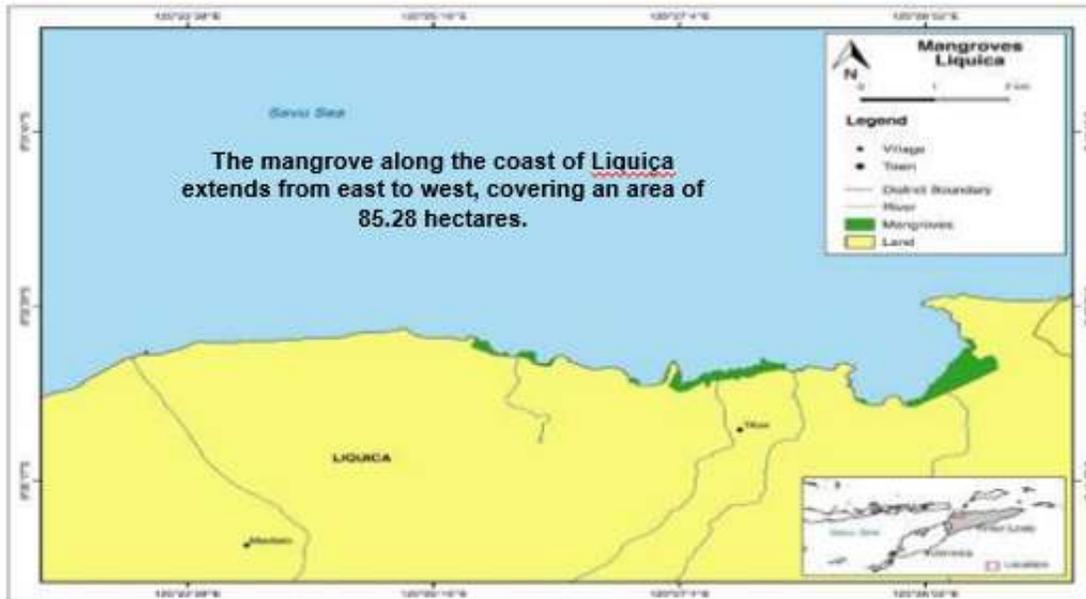
Commercial Coral Fish by Species in Liquica (CTC, 2017).



The average biomass of commercial fish found in the waters of Liquiça is 90.8 kg/hectare.



Average Coral Fish Biomass Ranked from Highest to Lowest in Liquiça (CTC, 2017).



The mangrove along the coast of Liquiça extends from east to west, covering an area of 85.28 hectares.

Seagrass beds are an important coastal ecosystem, just like coral reefs and mangrove forests. Based on a survey by CTC in collaboration with MALFF and Pescas Dili Municipality, seagrass ecosystems are found along the coast of Liquiça. The presence of these seagrass beds makes the Liquiça coastline a habitat for dugongs and sea turtles (green and hawksbill), which feed on the seagrass. The dominant species in Liquiça are *Thalassia* sp. and *Enhalu*. (CTC, 2017).

The distribution of mangrove in Liquiça (CTC, 2017).



The structure of the Liquiça MPA Management Unit.



The Management Plan for the Samba Sembilan Liquica Marine Protected Area (MPA), located in Timor-Leste.

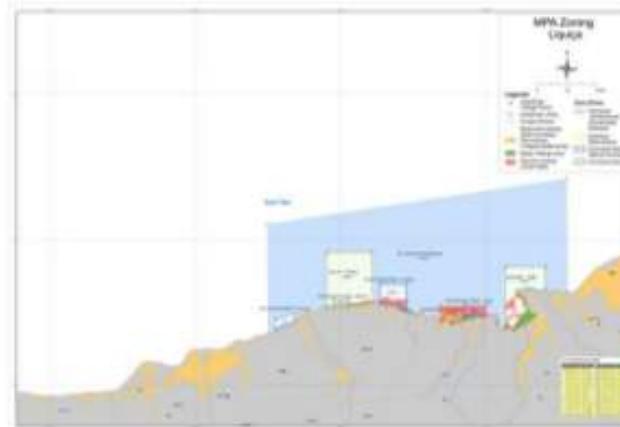
This MPA is a designated area meant to protect marine biodiversity, including coral reefs, seagrass beds, and fish populations, while promoting sustainable use of the ocean's resources.

The plan involves key stakeholders:

- ❑ Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fisheries - MALFF of Timor-Leste, which is responsible for overseeing natural resource management at the national level.
- ❑ The Coral Triangle Center (CTC), an organization dedicated to conserving marine biodiversity in the Coral Triangle region, which includes Timor-Leste.
- ❑ Local Authority and Community



MANAGEMENT PLAN (LONG -TERM 20 YEARS) SAMBA SEMBILAN, LIQUICA MARINE PROTECTED AREA REPUBLIC OF TIMOR LESTE



**Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Timor Leste
Local Agency Fisheries (Pescas) Liquica Municipality
Coral Triangle Center**

2020

Nino Konis Santana Protected Area - Marine

MPA Fact	Details
MPAs in Timor-Leste	Nino Konis Santana Protected Area - Marine Section (60,800 hectares)
Contribution to Ocean Protection	This MPA contribute to Timor-Leste's commitment to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030 (30x30 initiative)
NKS MPA Approach	NKS MPA consists of; Core zone, Buffer Zone, and Pelagic zone
NKS MPA Management	The NKSMPA is managed collaboratively by the Central Government (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fisheries - MALFF), Local Government (Administrator), local community representatives, and traditional leaders.



Note: CTC supports on improvement marine zoning plan and management plan document of the Protected Area, as well as conducting several training for stakeholders in Lautem regarding MPA and species protection (sea turtle)



Socio-economic profile:

- Demographic:
- Male-female ratio:
- GDP:
- Number of community living on the coastal zone:
- Number of fisherfolk:

Demographics Population: In 2022, Timor-Leste recorded a total population of 1,340,434, consisting of 678,087 males and 662,347 females, yielding a male-to-female ratio of 102.4 males per 100 females.

Source: UNFPA Timor-Leste, Population and Housing Census 2022 Preliminary Results, published December 2022

Economic Profile GDP: The GDP for 2023 was approximately \$3.1 billion, with a per capita GDP of \$2,330. The economy is heavily reliant on petroleum, agriculture, and fisheries.

Source: World Bank, Timor-Leste Economic Update, 2023

Coastal Zone Population: A significant portion of Timor-Leste's population resides in the coastal regions, especially in areas like Dili, which has over 324,000 residents. Coastal zones form the backbone of livelihood for a large part of the population.

Source: Government of Timor-Leste and UNFPA, Census Data Analysis Report, 2022

Fisherfolk: Approximately 20,000 people in Timor-Leste are directly involved in fishing activities, contributing to both subsistence and the local economy.

Source: FAO, Fisheries and Aquaculture Profile: Timor-Leste, 2023



Socio-economic profile:

- Demographic:
- Male-female ratio:
- GDP:
- Number of community living on the coastal zone:
- Number of fisherfolk:

Socio-economic of the country

- Timor-Leste 2024 population is estimated at 1,400,638 people at mid year
- The country's largest exports are oil and gas and coffee the second-largest export
- These funds have enabled significant investment in core services and infrastructure, especially related to roads and electricity
- Around 75% of the country's 1.3 million people live in rural areas, where livelihoods depend on subsistence or semi-subsistence crop and livestock farming
- Capture fishery and aquaculture plays an important role as an additional source of livelihoods and protein for both coastal dwellers and, to some extent, inland communities.
- Small-scale coastal fisheries dominate the fisheries sector while inland capture fisheries are seasonal and predominantly carried out for subsistence purposes

SOM19



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GOAL 1: SEASCAPES AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACHES TO MANAGEMENT
TARGET 1: PRIORITY “SEASCAPES” DESIGNATED AND EFFECTIVELY MANAGED

Outcome 1: Integrated Management of Priority Seascapes in Alignment with Fisheries Management Areas

- Output 1.1: Designation and Streamlining of Priority Seascapes with Fisheries Management
- Output 1.2: Capacity Building and Community Engagement in Seascape Management

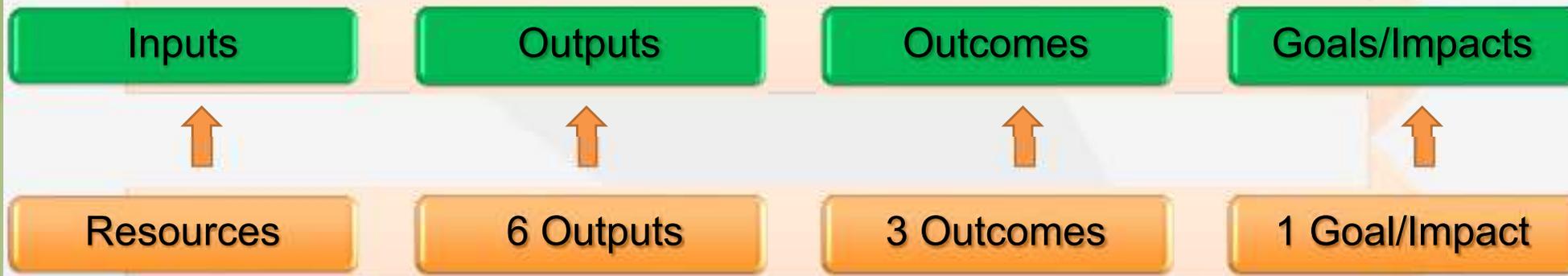
Outcome 2: Strengthened Legal Framework and Institutional Capacity for Marine Spatial Planning

- Output 2.1: Development and Implementation of Regulatory Frameworks
- Output 2.2: Monitoring and Research Programs for Ecosystem Health

Outcome 3: Enhanced Stakeholder Participation and Collaborative Governance in Seascape Management

- Output 3.1: Establishment of Collaborative Management Frameworks
- Output 3.2: Awareness and Education Campaigns for Stakeholder Engagement

Logical Framework



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TARGET 2: MARINE AND COASTAL RESOURCES WITHIN SELECTED PRIORITY AREAS ARE SUSTAINABLE MANAGED USING INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT APPROACH.

Outcome 1: Sustainable Management of Marine and Coastal Resources through Integrated Coastal-Marine Spatial Planning

- Output 1.1: Development of Coastal-Marine Spatial Plans for Priority Areas
- Output 1.2: Implementation of Integrated Coastal-Marine Spatial Plans

Outcome 2: Enhanced Capacity and Resources for Integrated Coastal Management

- Output 2.1: Capacity Building for Stakeholders in Integrated Coastal Management
- Output 2.2: Resource Mobilization and Strategic Planning for Coastal Management

Logical Framework



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GOAL 2: ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES RESOURCES IS FULLY APPLIED

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Outcome 1: Enhanced Fisheries Management through Data-Driven Decision-Making

- Output 1.2: Enforcement and Review of Fisheries Regulations
- Output 1.1: Implementation of Fisheries Data Collection and Reporting Systems

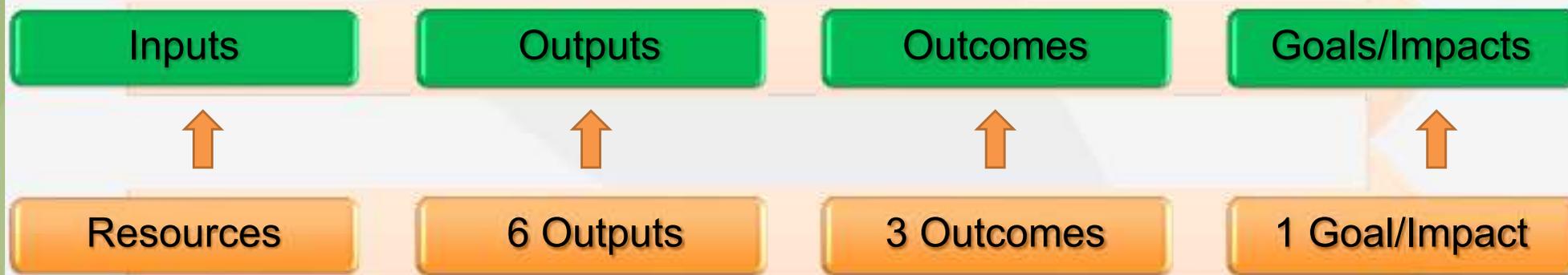
Outcome 2: Improved Livelihoods of Fishery-Dependent Communities through Diversification Strategies

- Output 2.2: Conduct of Comprehensive Livelihood Assessments
- Output 2.1: Development and Implementation of Alternative Livelihood Programs

Outcome 3: Enhanced Monitoring and Quality Control in Fisheries Management

- Output 3.2: Quality Control Initiatives in Fisheries Management
- Output 3.1: Improvement of Fisheries Monitoring Systems

Logical Framework





GOAL 3: MARINE PROTECTED AREAS EFFECTIVELY MANAGED AND THREATENED SPECIES STATUS IMPROVING

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Outcome 1: Effective Management and Enforcement of Marine Protected Areas

- Output 1.1: Establishment and Enforcement of New Marine Sanctuaries
- Output 1.2: Finalization and Implementation of Management Plans for Existing MPAs

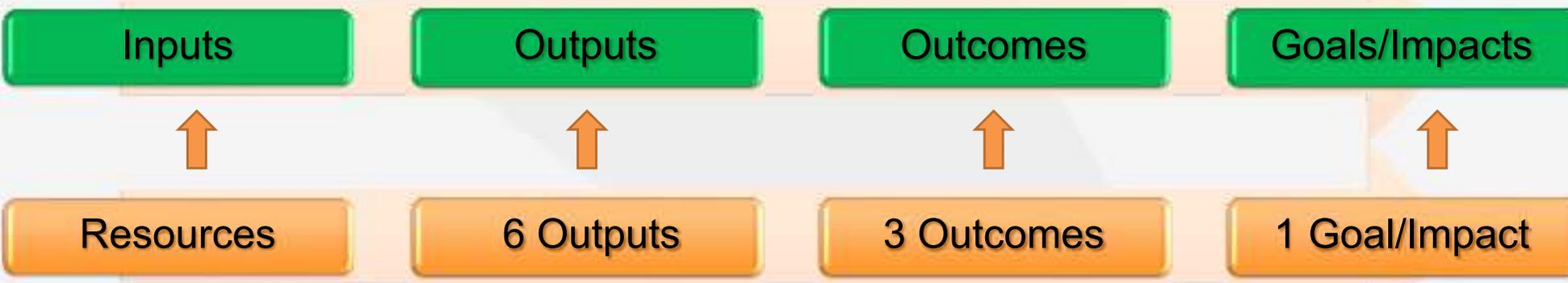
Outcome 2: Enhanced Capacity for MPA Management among Stakeholders

- Output 2.1: Development and Implementation of Training Programs for Environmental Managers
- Output 2.2: Engagement of Local Communities in MPA Management

Outcome 3: Establishment of Trans-Boundary Protected Area Networks

- Output 3.1: Collaborative Framework for Trans-Boundary MPA Management
- Output 3.2: Development of Joint Conservation Strategies for Shared Marine Resources

Logical Framework





GOAL 4: THREATENED SPECIES STATUS IMPROVING

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Outcome 1: Enhanced Legal and Institutional Framework for Species Protection

- Output 1.1: Completion of Cost-Benefit Analyses for International Agreements
- Output 1.2: Development of Legal Instruments for Threatened Species

Outcome 2: Improved Understanding of Species Vulnerability and Threats

- Output 2.1: Conducting Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessments
- Output 2.2: Raising Awareness on Threatened Species

Outcome 3: Enhanced Conservation Measures for Threatened Species

- Output 3.1: Implementation of Targeted Conservation Strategies
- Output 3.2: Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation of Threatened Species Status

Logical Framework





GOAL 5: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION MEASURES ACHIEVED

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Outcome 1: Improved Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning for Coastal Communities

- Output 1.1: Conducting Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments
- Output 1.2: Policy Analysis and Recommendations Development

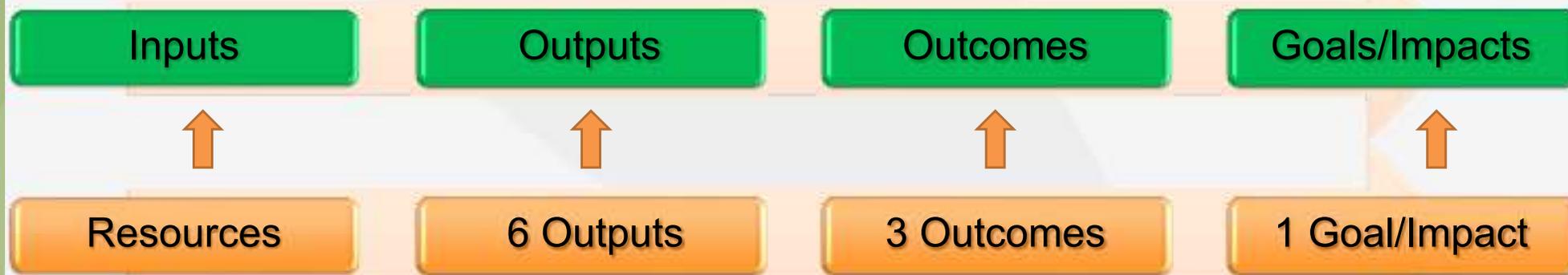
Outcome 2: Strengthened Community Adaptive Capacity in Coastal Demonstration Sites

- Output 2.1: Implementation of Adaptation Interventions at Demonstration Sites
- Output 2.2: Community Awareness and Capacity Development Programmes

Outcome 3: Enhanced Monitoring, Legal Framework, and Strategic Planning for Climate Adaptation

- Output 3.1: Development of Institutional and Legal Framework for Adaptation
- Output 3.2: Establishment of Monitoring Mechanisms and Strategic Planning Tools

Logical Framework





GOAL 6: GOOD GOVERNANCE

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Outcome 1: Strengthened Good Governance for Integrated Coastal and Marine Resource Management in Timor-Leste

- Output 1.1: Endorse and Implement the National Plan of Action (NPOA) for the Conservation and Management of Fisheries Resources and Habitats
- Output 1.2: Conduct Research on Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Carrying Capacities

Outcome 2: Enhanced Policy Framework and Capacity Building for Sustainable Livelihoods and Resource Management

- Output 2.1: Build Capacity in Developing Sustainable Livelihoods and Marine Resource Management
- Output 2.3: Formulate New Policies to Address Gaps in Coastal and Marine Resource Management

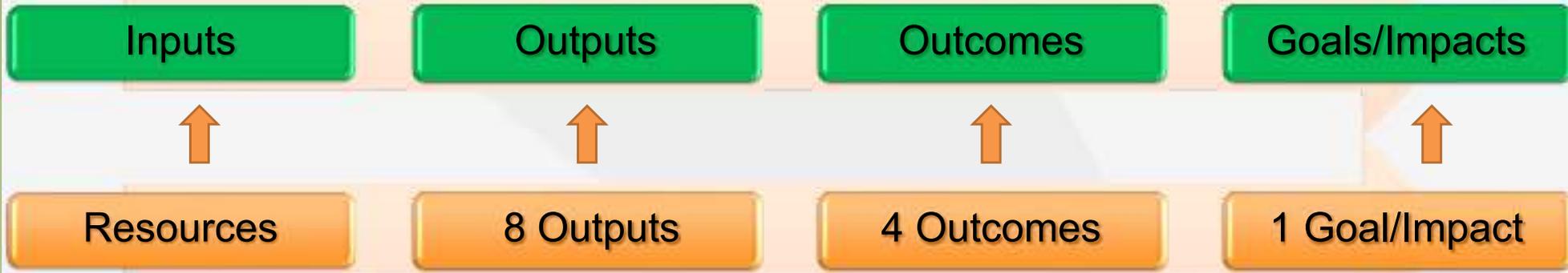
Outcome 3: Strengthened Governance Framework for the Integrated Management of MPAs, EAFM, CCA, TS, and Seascape Initiatives

- Output 3.1: Policy Development and Institutional Strengthening for Integrated Management
- Output 3.2: Capacity Building for Multi-Sectoral Governance and Compliance

Outcome 4: Enhanced Transparency, Accountability, and Stakeholder Engagement in Marine and Coastal Resource Governance

- Output 4.1: Establishment of Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Mechanisms
- Output 4.2: Development of Data Sharing and Monitoring Systems

Logical Framework

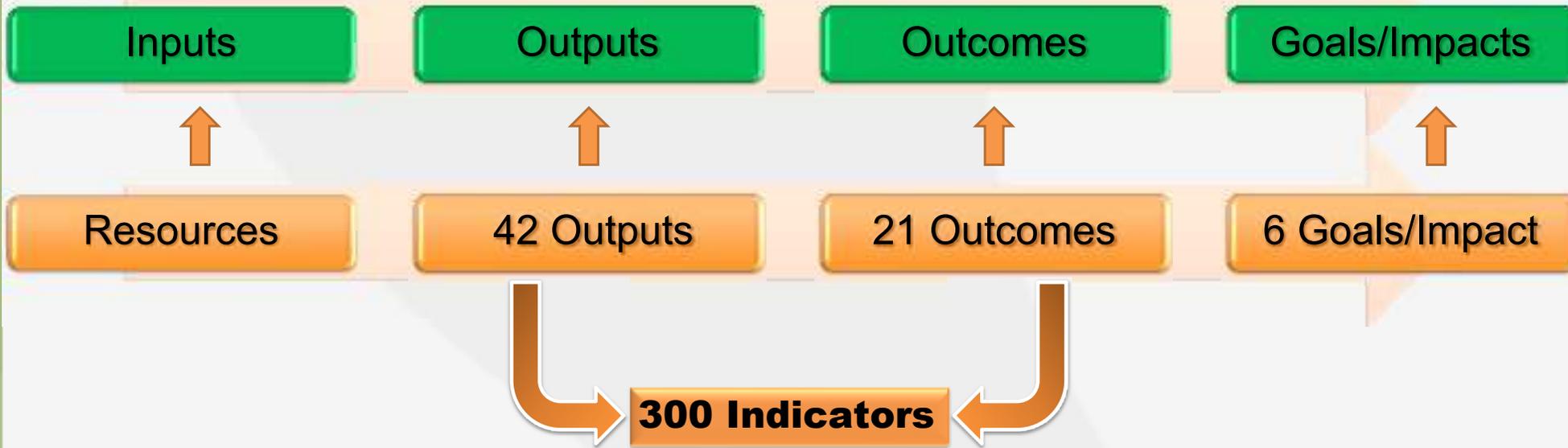




Summary

Logical Framework

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Government profile:

- Departments in charge for conservation activities: **The General Directorate for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management – The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry and The Ministry of Tourism and Environment**

- National trust fund related to conservation:

In Timor-Leste, the National Trust Fund mechanism specifically for conservation purposes does not yet exist. Most of the funding for environmental conservation and natural resource management is drawn from the **State Annual Budget**. This budget supports initiatives in biodiversity protection, marine conservation, and sustainable resource management.

- **The Coral Triangle Center (CTC)** has been actively supporting Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and capacity-building initiatives in Timor-Leste. Since 2012, CTC has worked closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry of Timor-Leste, local communities, and other stakeholders to enhance the management of marine resources. This collaboration has led to the establishment of key MPAs, including those in Atauro Island, Liquiça, and support the NKS MPA, with recent efforts expanding to new areas like Manufahi and Metinaro.



Coral Tringle Center (CTC)



Coral Tringle Center (CTC)



Coral Tringle Center (CTC)



Technical Working Groups' Progress/ Accomplishments Towards NPOA



3. Technical Working Group Progress/Accomplishment Towards NPOA

3.1. Seascape

- GIZ-SOMACORE Project focused on Lesser Sunda Seascape, that pay attention to CTI CFF thematic working group namely MPAs and Threatened species
- First SOMOCARE launched in June 01, 2024
- Discussion of implementation SOMACORE Project with CI Timor-Leste and the Director General of Fisheries Timor-Leste in October 16, 2024
- Socialization of SOMACORE Project with the local leaders and beneficiaries in each target site such as Manatuto, Bobonaro, and Liquiça from 11, 15, and 17 July 2024 respectively

Challenges:

- Time constraint of implementation this SOMACORE Project (2,5 years).
- Lack coordination with local authority as well as NCC of Timor-Leste



3.2. Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

- To date Timor Leste does not have specific policies and legislations addressing and implementing EAFM. However, govt. decree law on fisheries, ministerial diploma and TLS fisheries and aquaculture Strategy plan, already in place
- Marine biodiversity assessment in Timor-Leste using environmental DNA, in collaboration with the USP
- Financial Literacy training for seaweed group in Atauro Island (worked closely with the USP)
- Fish processing training in collaboration with WFC in Viqueque municipality
- Fish technology training on establishment FAD in Bobonaro municipality in collaboration CI, Timor-Leste
- Socialization of fishery law

Challenges:

- ✓ Lack of coordination among govt. Bodies and partners
- ✓ Lack of monitoring and no follow up activity
- ✓ Lack of personnel/HR for the management of MPAs



3.3. Marine Protected Area

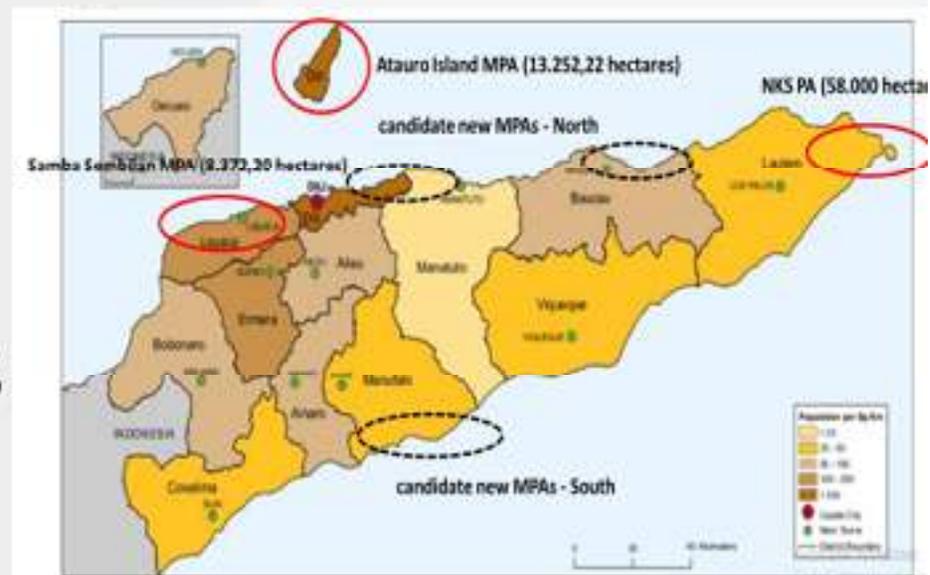
Number of MPAs:

- Atauro Island : 1 MPAs, with 11 NIZ, 1 Marine tourism, and 2 buffers zone
- Nino Konis Santana: 7 MPA, 6 NTZ and 1 for dugong and seagrass
- Samba Sembilan: 1 MPAs
- Candidate new MPAs: 3
- Nino Konis Santana MPAs will be nominated for IUCN Green List Standards

➤ Target of MPAs coverage by 2030:

These MPAs contribute to Timor-Leste's commitment to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030 (30x30 initiative)

Other MPAs Activities: Turtle Nest adoption program



Marine Protected Area....continuing

Activities organized/attended related to MPA:

- Celebrating World Ocean Day with Beach Clean Up Activities in Timor-Leste
- The activity organized UNTL, was attended by over 200 students, youth volunteers, other local organizations and residents.



Corporate involvement:

- CTC in collaboration with the MALFF of TLS, local NGOs "Roman Luan Foundation", and the local government of Atauro, and the local community, successfully deployed zoning boundary markers from August 24 to September 7, 2024.
- This initiative aims to improve marine conservation efforts and create a clearer framework for sustainable resource management in the 13,252-hectare MPA, which includes 12 core zones



Challenges:

- Lack of Human resources for monitoring & evaluation the existing MPAs
- Lack of financial support
- Lack of coordination govt. bodies and partners

3.4. Climate Change Adaptation

Existing vulnerability studies

- Enhancing Early Warning Systems to build greater resilience to hydro and meteorological hazards in Timor-Leste

Relevant regulations for CCA

- Government resolution No. 8/2022 of March 1st National Climate Change Policy

Activities organized/attended related to CCA

- Hera Seagrass mapping mainly dominated by *Halodule uninervis* or *Thalassia hemprichii*, with smaller sections dominated by *Halophila ovalis* and *Syringodium isoetifolium*.

Youth involvement / Corporate involvement

- Introduced a green initiative, over 1,000 tree seeds were planted in the Fatumaca area, involved primary, pre-secondary, secondary, and technical vocational institutions.
- This initiative was integrated into the school curriculum, to reduce natural disasters while promoting forest conservation and environmental protection





Climate Change Adaptation.....continuing

Challenges

- Timor-Leste has established policies for climate change, but Lack of expertise to implement and monitor project
- Lack of funding for long term research project

- Lack of consistent climate data for Timor-Leste, which makes it challenging to accurately evaluate the climate risks in the country

3.5. Threatened species

Updated list (2024) of threatened species in the country sorted by IUCN categories:

Common name	Species	Genus	Family	Conservation status*)
Oliver Ridley	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	<i>Lepidochelys</i>	Cheloniidae	Vulnerable
Loggerhead	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	<i>Caretta</i>	Cheloniidae	Endangered
Hawksbill	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	<i>Eretmochelys</i>	Cheloniidae	Critically endangered
Green	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	<i>Chelonia</i>	Cheloniidae	Endangered
Leatherback	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	<i>Dermochelys</i>	Dermochelyidae	Critically endangered

*) Global (IUCN Ver. 3.1)

Note: Number 5 species, 5 genus and 2 families



Threatened species.....continuing

Activities organized/attended related to protection of Threatened Species:

- In Timor-Leste, Jaco Island and Tutuala beach have been identified as turtle nesting sites
- Sea Turtle Conservation Training
- Sea turtles tagging

Challenges:

- Lack of personnel expertise to identify endangered species
- Insufficient expertise to identify sharks and rays and their derivatives
- Lack of information and scientific data to develop policies and strategies related to endangered species
- Lack financial allocation to carry out management and conservation activities for endangered species



Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group





Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group

- Tools of monitoring of effective management and department in charge:

In line with the discussions held during the MEWG (Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group) physical meeting in Papua New Guinea, where templates and tracking tools for monitoring the effective management of marine resources were presented, proposed that the Regional Secretariat takes the following actions:

- **Sharing of Templates and Tools:** The Secretariat should circulate the provided templates and tracking tools to all member countries. These tools are designed to support the monitoring of marine and coastal management activities in line with the regional objectives.
- **Guidelines for Data Entry:** Clear instructions should be provided on how member countries can enter relevant data into the templates. This should include step-by-step guidance on the type of information required, the format for data entry, and any specific parameters that need to be tracked to ensure consistency and comparability across countries.
- **Training on Tool Usage:** The Secretariat should organize capacity-building sessions or workshops to demonstrate how to effectively use the tracking tool. This training will enable member countries to monitor progress, identify challenges, and report on the status of management efforts more effectively.



Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group

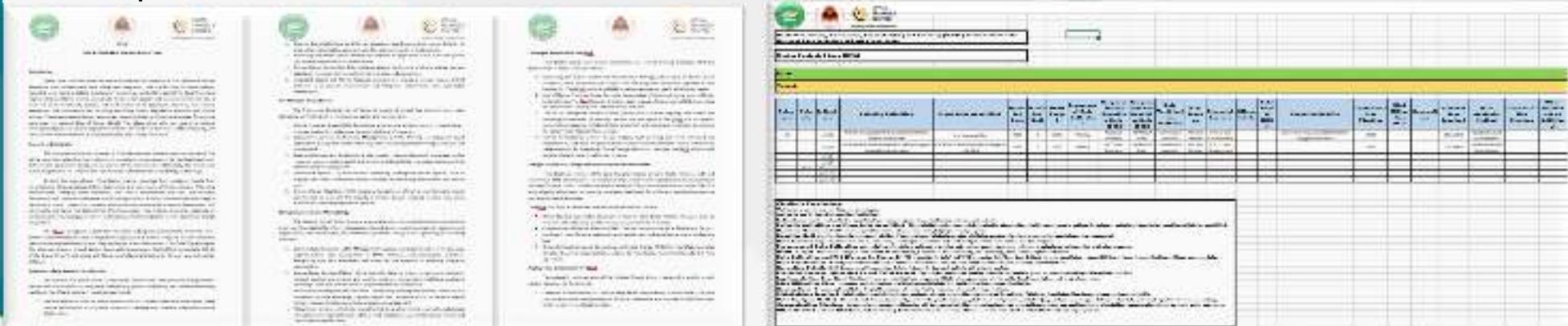
- Tools of monitoring of enforcement activities related to natural resource mismanagement (e.g. coral destruction, oil spill, waste dumping, etc.):

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fisheries – MALFF of Timor-Leste continues to collaborate closely with the Coral Triangle Center (CTC) in monitoring the health of coral reefs through the Reef Health Monitoring (RHM) program.

Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group

- Activities organized/attended related to MEWG, Activities organized/attended related to NPOA and Activities organized/attended related to CT Atlas:

Several meetings have been held regarding the development of the National Plan of Action (NPOA) and the creation of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework for its implementation. The information gathered from the development of the National Plan of Action (NPOA) and the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework will be highly valuable for the Coral Triangle Atlas (CT Atlas) platform.





Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group

Challenges:

1. Data Collection and Standardization:

- MEWG and NPOA: Gathering consistent and high-quality data to support the M&E framework remains a challenge. Variability in methodologies among stakeholders can lead to fragmented or non-comparable data.
- CT Atlas: Integrating data into the platform may face hurdles due to inconsistent formats, incomplete datasets, or gaps in time-series information.

2. Technical Capacity and Resources:

- Limited technical expertise and infrastructure in some member countries can impede the effective development and application of the NPOA M&E framework.
- The CT Atlas platform may face challenges in ensuring timely updates and technical support to accommodate new data submissions from all member states.

3. Coordination Among Stakeholders:

- Collaboration across multiple sectors and agencies, both nationally and regionally, often encounters delays due to differing priorities, limited communication, and resource constraints.
- Regional meetings and workshops for the MEWG and NPOA development may suffer from uneven participation, reducing the inclusivity of input.



Cont...

4. Funding Constraints:

- Insufficient financial resources to conduct comprehensive monitoring activities or organize regular capacity-building events for MEWG and NPOA stakeholders.
- Maintaining the operational efficiency of the CT Atlas platform and integrating new features may require more funding than currently available.

5. Policy and Institutional Challenges:

- Aligning the goals of the NPOA with existing national and regional policies might encounter bureaucratic hurdles or conflicts with other priorities.
- The operationalization of the M&E framework requires robust institutional backing, which may not always be forthcoming.

6. Awareness and Engagement:

- Limited awareness about the importance of the CT Atlas among local stakeholders can reduce the quality and frequency of data contributions.



Potential Regional Program and Support Required



Potential Regional Program and Support Required

A potential regional program of focus is the Seascape Initiative, which aims to enhance the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources across connected ecosystems. To ensure the successful implementation of this program, the support of the Regional Secretariat will be essential, particularly in securing financial resources. Such support would enable the development of comprehensive strategies, capacity-building efforts, and on-the-ground actions needed to achieve the goals of marine conservation and sustainable livelihoods within the region.

Propose to the Regional Secretariat, provide regular updates to member countries on the financial progress of initiatives under the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) 2.0, based on the specific financial indicators outlined within the RPOA 2.0.



National Roadmap 2024 (for each Working Group)



National Roadmap 2024 (for each Working Group)

The draft National Plan of Action (NPOA) 2024 for Timor-Leste includes provisions to establish a detailed national roadmap tailored to the objectives of each working group. Once officially approved and endorsed by the Government of Timor-Leste, the roadmap will be provided including strategic guidance and actionable frameworks to facilitate the implementation of initiatives across various sectors.

Each working group, will be align with the priorities outlined in the NPOA, will have a specific set of milestones, timelines, and responsibilities aimed at achieving the overarching goals of sustainable development, environmental conservation, and socio-economic progress.

This structured approach is expected to ensure coordination among stakeholders, optimize resource allocation, and promote accountability in achieving the NPOA's targets. The endorsement will also formalize the roadmap as a guiding policy document for national and regional development planning.



Coral Triangle Day Celebration





Coral Triangle Day Celebration

- To enhance the celebration of Coral Triangle Day, propose that the Regional Secretariat takes a leading role in organizing events in each member country annually.
- Fully funded support from the Regional Secretariat is recommended to ensure inclusivity and comprehensive participation across all member states.

Such financial backing would enable diverse activities, including public outreach campaigns, educational workshops, community-led conservation projects, and cultural events. It would also provide a platform for member countries to showcase their conservation efforts while promoting regional unity under the shared vision of preserving the Coral Triangle's unique biodiversity and resources.



Communication and Publications



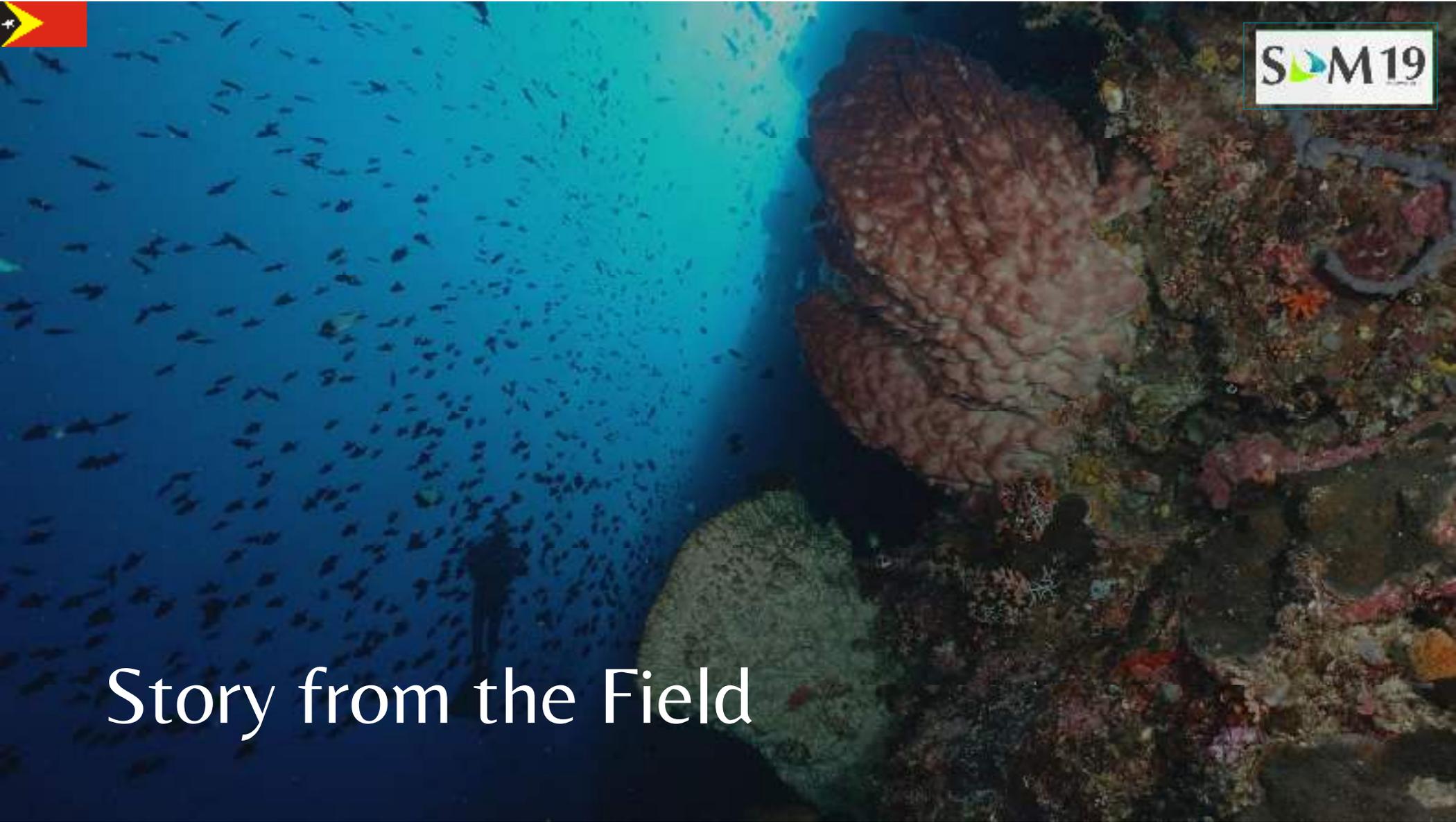


Communication and Publications

- **Publications:** We plan to share our upcoming publication, which will feature peer-reviewed journal articles highlighting recent findings and insights from our initiatives. This effort aims to disseminate critical knowledge, showcase achievements, and contribute to the broader scientific community's understanding of the region's challenges and opportunities.
- **Communication Strategy:** According to the Timor-Leste's NPOA (M&E framework), we include as well communication strategy therefore, we propose that the **Regional Secretariat** share the progress of the Communication Strategy as outlined in the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) 2.0. This strategy, expected to be available by 2023, is designed to strengthen information-sharing, stakeholder engagement, and advocacy across member countries.



Story from the Field





Story from the Field



[other]



To achieve the:

1. Convention on Biodiversity GLOBAL TARGET (30 X 30)
2. National Plan of Action (NPOA) Timor-Leste

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fisheries – MALFF of Timor-Leste collaborate with Coral Triangle Center (CTC) will be focusing on;

- MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA)
- CAPACITY BUILDING ON COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
- MARINE SPATIAL PLAN (MSP)



Obrigadu Wa'in

COUNTRY REPORT

Timor-Leste

The logo for SOM19, featuring the letters 'SOM19' in a stylized font with a green and blue graphic element.