Ocean Account: Needs Case
Global Dialogue on Ocean Accounting
University of New South Wales (UNSW)
Sydney-Australia, November 12-15, 2019

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Global Ocean Accounts Partnership

[Timor-Leste]
1. Context: The National Oceans Policy (NOP) for Timor-Leste

• Vision

“A healthy and secure ocean that sustains the livelihoods, prosperity and social and cultural values of the people of Timor-Leste in a fair and equitable manner”
2. Concerns

• The 6 objectives of NOP (Environmental, Social & Economic concerns)

1) **Working together**: An integrated participatory ocean governance system, which facilitates collaboration across jurisdictions, allows for the exchange of knowledge, data, ideas, skills, and experience, and recognizes and considers local customary law, national law, and international and regional commitments;

2) **Securing national jurisdictions and exercising sovereign rights over our oceans**: maintenance and protection of the rights of Timorese people to equitably and sustainably use and manage their marine natural resources;

3) **Our future**: a diverse **Blue Economy** based on the sea;
4) **Strengthening our natural defense:** protecting, maintaining and restoring coastal and ocean resources and ecosystem services;

5) **Investing in our people:** developing the capacity of Timorese to engage in ocean based development and protection through research, education and capacity building; and

6) **Climate change** vulnerability, adaptation and mitigation.
3. Priority (Proposed priority outcomes in the 5-year NOP Implementation Plan)

Objective 1: (Working together: An integrated participatory ocean governance system)

- An ICM Law integrating legal and jurisdictional responsibilities across national and local governments, providing full recognition and protection of Timorese culture, and extending the use of customary law (Tarabandu) to protect the Timorese's rights, access to and sustainability of important coastal and marine areas;

- ICM programs for sustainable development of priority coastal and marine areas covering at least 50% of the country's coastline;
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• National policy/strategy regarding an international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) developed and applied in international negotiations;

• Ratification of the MARPOL Convention and priority annexes leads to reductions in pollutive discharges from ships and improvements in Port State Control in Timor Leste.
Objective 2: Securing national jurisdictions and exercising sovereign rights over our oceans

• Secure final maritime boundaries with Indonesia in the Wetar Strait, Ombai Strait, and Timor Sea in accordance with international law and UNCLOS;

• Operational capacity in place to monitor and enforce the protection of marine and coastal sovereign rights and assets of Timor-Leste, in accordance with national legislation, and commitments and obligations under international conventions and agreements.
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Objective 3: Blue Economy

• Socio-economic and ecological benefits and changes in ecosystem health and resilience resulting from blue economy investments realized and shared internally and externally for further scaling up investments.

Objective 4: Strengthening our natural defense

• Significant, ecologically representative coastal and marine areas/ resources conserved through effectively and equitably managed MPAs and well-connected MPA networks (e.g. for Atauro: one island one management);

• Improved source-to-sea (S2S) governance and management practices impact pollution reduction in coastal and upland areas, sustaining/restoring freshwater environmental flows, reducing climate vulnerability, and improving water and food security.
Objective 5: Investing in our people (capacity development)

- Strengthening of local leadership, skilled human resources, and scientific, technical and management capacities and inclusiveness in ocean, marine and coastal governance and management;

- A national, interdisciplinary marine research and development strategy/program based on priority research needs for NOP implementation;

- A national ocean awareness strategy and program, building and supporting knowledge of oceans as well as recognizing and connecting with existing knowledge systems;

- A national environmental monitoring and evaluation program providing scientifically sound data and information on the benefits and impacts of improved ocean governance and management, including social, economic and environmental targets.
Objective 6: Climate change

- Enhanced resiliency and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards at “hotspot” coastal and marine areas through implementation of ICM and CCA and DRRM policies, programs and actions at selected ICM locations.
4. Current plans (Proposed priority actions in the NOP-IP for 2020)

• Options for incorporating Tarabandu into ICM institutional arrangements as well as policy, planning and programming mechanisms, developed and reviewed in collaboration with concerned national agencies, local governments and coastal communities;

• New project proposals developed for priority coastlines/coastal areas and contiguous river basin areas as appropriate, to enable up scaling of ICM coverage and improved governance at the national and local levels; proposals submitted to internal and external funding sources;
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• Comprehensive assessment of the scope, content, risks, threats, uncertainties, impacts and benefits to Timor-Leste of a proposed legally binding international instrument on ABNJ prepared and submitted to a public consultation process;

• Develop, adopt and/or adapt guidelines and standards on community-based marine resource surveys, monitoring and mapping to assist with monitoring and management of LMMAs/MPAs;

• Port evaluations conducted at international ports/terminals in Timor-Leste to assess conformance to international port safety, health and environment standards, codes and guides, as well as related national policy, legislation and programs for Blue Economy development;
Information collected information for the negotiations of maritime boundary delimitation with Indonesia from other relevant Ministries and government agencies;

Baseline studies/assessments conducted using agreed socio-economic, ecological and financial/business indicators for blue economy solutions at priority locations/economic sectors in Timor-Leste;

Stocktaking of existing and proposed IRBM/S2S management projects and programs organized and conducted, focused on contributions and linkages to key national policies, development plans and targets (e.g., climate change; food and water security; human health; biodiversity; pollution; waste management/plastics reduction; infrastructure; etc.) and the freshwater/marine water environmental flow continuum;
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• Capacity, inclusiveness and needs assessment conducted for each NOP IP objective and related actions, as well as relevant ongoing and planned sectoral strategies and action plans, projects and programs;

• Network of scientific institutions and universities organized and operationalized as a scientific resource and advisory support network for NOP;

• Stocktaking of existing monitoring programs, projects, surveys, mapping and other related activities in Timor-Leste, identifying overlaps, gaps, information needs, monitoring/management needs and priorities, areas for improved coordination and lessons learned;
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• Stocktaking and prioritization of areas, local governments, communities and households that are most susceptible to the threats and impacts of climate change in marine and coastal areas of Timor-Leste, including good practices, shortcomings and needs.
5. Stakeholders

National and regional stakeholders who are (or should be) engaged:

• **7 Key Primary agencies**: Prime Minister’s Office, Agriculture and Fisheries, Commerce, Industry and Environment, Tourism, Art and Culture, Petroleum, Natural Resources and Minerals, Defense and Public Works, Transport and Communications;

• **9 Supporting Agencies**: Planning and Strategic Investment, Social Solidarity, Interior, Justice, Health, Education, Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Finance, State Administration;

• Universities (UNTL, UNITAL)

• Local governments/municipalities
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- International and local NGOs (Conservation International, Blue Ventures, WorldFish, Luta Hamutuk, Haburas, etc)
- Intergovernmental organizations (CTI-CFF, PEMSEA, etc)
- UN Agencies (UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, UNESCAP, etc)
- Bilateral Co-operations (USAID, AUSAID, JICA, KOICA, etc)
- Multilateral agencies (Worldbank, ADB, etc).
6. Role of the NSO

• The Directorate-General of Statistics for Timor-Leste has 5 National Directorates (National Directorate of Social Statistics, National Directorate of System and Report, National Directorate of Cartography Statistics, National Directorate of Methodology and Data Collection, National Directorate of Municipalities Statistics);

• The overall roles of the NSO are: 1) Develop and monitor the implementation of the Statistics Law; 2) Conduct a feasibility study and develop a concept design for the implementation of the new statistics building; 3) Develop and implement a communication and partnerships strategy to ensure timely communications with internal and external stakeholders and manage effective joint working relationships in place to achieve the results, etc.

(The NSO is the lead agency for development of ocean accounts and for promoting its use for national and local planning and development processes)
7. Institutional mechanisms

• Mechanisms for coordinating the NOP for Timor-Leste:

![Diagram showing the institutional mechanisms](http://www.unescap.org/our-work/statistics)
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NOSC determine planning priorities, scope, timeframes and responsibilities. Present to COM through Primary Ministries

Appointment of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to workshop key planning issues and develop draft National Ocean Strategic Plan (NOSP)

TWGs work with the Stakeholder Advisory Committee and local authorities to refine the draft plan

Revision of draft NOSP by NOSC and TWGs. Present to COM through Primary Ministries

NOSC review and refine the draft plan. Present to COM through Primary Ministries

Broad community consultation and engagement on draft NOSP

Implementation of the NOSP including establishment of monitoring and outlook program
8. Main data sources

- Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2011-2030 and SDG Roadmap
- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- UNFCCC Paris Climate Agreement
- UN Convention on Biological Diversity
- Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia 2015
- Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) Regional Plan of Action
- Arafura-Timor Seas Strategic Action Plan
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• The Changwon Declaration Toward an Ocean-based Blue Economy: Moving Ahead with the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia

• Timor-Leste National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA)

• Timor-Leste National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP)
9. Opportunities and constraints

- Potential sources of funding, e.g. FAO, UNESCO, UNDP, USAID, AUSAID, JICA, KOICA; Conservation International, CTI-CFF, PEMSEA, ATSEA, CTC;

- A National State of the Oceans and Coasts (NSOC) report for Timor-Leste (for publication) includes the ocean economy, ecosystem services, blue economy initiatives, investment opportunities, and highlights the contribution of seas and coasts to national economy
  - Serves as baseline; one of tools for M&E of NOP implementation
  - Recommended development of ocean accounts for the country

- Capacity building needs for the National Statistic Office for establishing a national database related to the Ocean Accounts system;

- Lack of data base system set at national level, particularly for the oceans related activities.
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• Inter-ministerial commitment on maintaining the sustainability related to the mainstreaming of project results into government action plans

• Re-arrange the strategy action for the coordination mechanism in relation to the Aid Transparency Portal under the Ministry of Finance (in order to avoid the duplication of activities & overlapping project sites)

• Address significantly the ego-sectoral approaches to share database links to the ongoing sectoral programs

• Needs the flexibility approach to the government partners to support the respective inter-ministerial strategy plans in order to share their technical contributions
10. Priority actions

• National Oceans Policy (NOP) has to be approved by the Councils of Ministers (COM) by 2019 in order to undertaking for its Implementation Plan;

• The NOP Implementation Plan (2020-2024) has been under review by Inter-ministerial Technical Working Group (TWG), for submission to the government of Timor-Leste for approval at least by March 2020;

• Recommendations on development and use of ocean accounts can be proposed to the TWG for consideration in the NOP-IP
Thank you!

Obrigado!