

CI-GEF PROJECT AGENCY SCREENING RESULTS AND SAFEGUARD ANALYSIS

(To be completed by CI-GEF Coordination Team)

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data	
Country: Timor-Leste	GEF Project ID: 9434
Project Title: Securing the long-term conservation of Timor-Leste biodiversity and ecosystem services through the establishment of a functioning National Protected Area Network and the improvement of natural resource management in priority catchment corridor	
Executing Entity: Conservation International Timor-Leste, Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Environment	
GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity, Sustainable Forest Management, Land Degradation	
GEF Project Amount: US\$3,750,000	
Reviewer(s): Ian Kissoon	
Date of Review: September 27, 2016	
Comments: Analysis completed and approved	

B. Project Objective:

To establish Timor-Leste’s National Protected Area (PA) Network to improve the management of forest ecosystems in priority catchment corridors.

C. Project Description:

This project aims to formally establish the Timor-Leste PA Network and strengthen the management of two key catchment areas as pilot sites to demonstrate how to manage protected areas and corridors outside PAs. The project also aims to build the understanding, ability, and capacity of the local communities, to manage their own resources in accordance with the collaborative management requirement of the country.

Project Components and Main Proposed Activities:

1. Establishment of a National Protected Area Network
 - Review legislation and complete a Gap Analysis
 - Develop a PAN strategy and associated legislation
 - Develop a long term business and financial plan for the PAN
 - Design and implement PA management plans in 2 PA’s as well as developing HCV plans for forests

2. Improvement of community-based natural resource management systems in priority catchments corridors
 - Develop Suco level NRM plans
 - Improve Suco regulations
 - Improve household level income

- Training and education programs for Youth, Adult and communities
3. Improvement of forest management and reforestation of degraded lands in priority catchment corridors
- Map remaining forest for HCV
 - Develop community based forest plans
 - Establish community tree nurseries for reforestation and restoration purposes
 - Develop and implement restoration and reforestation plans

D. Project location and biophysical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis:

The project is located in the Irabere River and Comoro River catchments in Timor-Leste. Timor-Leste formerly known as East Timor, covers the eastern half of the Timor Island, sharing its border with Indonesia and the north-west boundary of Australia. Timor-Leste also includes the islands of Atauro and Jaco, and covers an area of 15,007km², with a coastline of 706km. In May 2002, Timor-Leste was internationally recognized as an independent state. The last decade has seen continued internal tensions and the country now has its 6th government in place in the space of 12 years.

Timor is a mountainous island surrounded by a narrow band of coastal plain, reef and seagrass. The majority of Timor-Leste is steeply sloped (gradients greater than 40%). The country extends east to west and is very narrow from north to south. Three sides are surrounded by sea with a mountainous central ridge where the elevation rises to almost 3,000m above sea level at Tatamailau (Mount Ramelau). The climate is tropical with a great deal of local variations as is common in small islands with steep topography.

Timor-Leste holds a large number of globally significant ecosystems including tropical rainforests, mangroves, wetlands as well as agricultural areas and remarkably rich marine ecosystems. The Lesser Sundas, in particular, also offer large areas of seagrass beds (covering more than 700,000 hectares) concentrated in shallow coastal waters free from intense wave action and sedimentation. Seagrass areas function as a nursery for many invertebrate and fish species and provide rich feeding grounds for fish, molluscs, green turtles and dugongs. In addition they stabilize offshore sand reservoirs, act as sediment collectors and prevent coastal erosion.

Timor-Leste as part of the Coral Triangle offers the richest marine biodiversity on earth. The Coral Triangle holds some 76% of the world's coral species, six of the world's seven marine turtle species, more than 3,000 species of reef fish and a wide diversity of marine mammals (including whales and 22 species of dolphin). The marine basins between the island arcs may be several thousand meters deep and are swept by powerful currents forming a barrier to the dispersal of terrestrial species and an obstacle to the dispersal of marine species.

Timor-Leste also belongs to the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot which is situated between the Sunda and Sahul continental shelves and includes a large part of the Indonesian archipelago. The land area is therefore fragmented into thousands of islands covering an area of 33.8 million hectares and separated by deep oceanic trenches. Wallacea is made up of three biogeographic sub-regions: Maluku, Sulawesi and Lesser Sundas (of which Timor-Leste is a part). This Biodiversity Hotspot has a total 560 species classified as Threatened with extinction by IUCN, and of these threatened species, 308 are terrestrial or freshwater while 252 are marine.

Timor-Leste's mostly mountainous environments have experienced significant destruction of natural capital and ecosystem services caused variously by deforestation, poor farming practices, wildfires and overgrazing. Most worryingly the country now experiences extended periods during which water is not available to rural communities. In total, only 3 of the 29 main river catchments in Timor-Leste are now considered to be perennial. This lack of water flow, over already shallow soil, is directly influenced by the reduced vegetative cover which would otherwise allow for deeper permeation of water into the shallow soils.

Timor-Leste has a relatively small population of 1.2 million but with a staggering 65% of the population under 25 years of age, Timor-Leste is one of the youngest countries in the world. Life expectancy is around 68 years, but infant mortality is still just under 40 deaths/1,000 live births, and 45% of children under the age of five are underweight. Population growth rate remains high at 2.44%. The majority of children attend school for 12 years, but only half (48%) the population are literate. Over 70% of the population resides in rural areas, and over half the urban population resides in Dili. Despite strong economic growth over the last decade, the World Bank estimates the poverty level has increased from 36% in 2001 to almost 50% in 2015. This dichotomy is mainly attributed to the oil and gas extraction off shore that has impacted the country's macro-economic figures but has had very little impact on the economic situation for the Timorese people and their living standards. The increase in poverty underscores a very strong need for the nation to address the pressing issue of a growing and predominantly young population placing more pressure on ecosystems as they look for employment opportunities and to support their families.

Of the total population, 80% are rearing livestock and 63% are directly engaged with agricultural production, mainly subsistence farming. Agriculture provides livelihoods for more than 80% of the Timorese population, and accounts for 30% of the GDP. Main crops are rice, maize and coffee. The industry/manufacturing sector is underdeveloped and the non-oil and gas sector contributes little to the GDP.

The development of oil and gas resources in offshore waters has greatly supplemented government revenues. This technology-intensive industry, however, has done little to create jobs for the unemployed, in part because there are no production facilities in Timor-Leste. Benefitting from high global oil prices, Timor-Leste achieved lower middle-income status in 2011, but this growth has not been accompanied by a reduction in poverty which remains persistently high, particularly in rural areas, where the majority of the population lives.

E. Executing Entity's Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies:

The EA indicated that with support from CI's regional Asia Pacific Field Division and the government, it is able to implement the safeguard policies. However, the EA did not describe the resources, experiences and capacities available within the CI Timor-Leste team, government nor the regional division in dealing with environmental and social safeguards. Such description would have indicated whether the EA needs to hire relevant experts to develop and implement the safeguard plans or if these experts are already on board.

II. SAFEGUARD AND POLICIES

Environmental and Social Safeguards:

Safeguard Triggered	Yes	No	TBD	Date Completed
1. Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)		X		
<i>Justification: No significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are sensitive, diverse, or unprecedented is anticipated</i>				
2. Natural Habitats		X		
<i>Justification: The project is not proposing to alter natural habitats</i>				
3. Involuntary Resettlement	X			
<i>Justification: The project is proposing restriction of access/use of natural resources.</i>				
4. Indigenous Peoples		X		
<i>Justification: The project does not plan to work in lands or territories traditionally owned, customarily used, or occupied by indigenous peoples.</i>				
5. Pest Management		X		
<i>Justification: There are no proposed activities related to pest management</i>				
6. Physical & Cultural Resources		X		
<i>Justification: There are no proposed activities related to physical and cultural resources</i>				
7. Stakeholder Engagement	X			
<i>Justification: The project is required to engage stakeholders</i>				
8. Gender mainstreaming	X			
<i>Justification: The project is required to mainstream gender at all levels</i>				
9. Accountability and Grievance Mechanisms	X			
<i>Justification: As a publicly funded GEF project, a Grievance Mechanism is required.</i>				

III. KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

From information provided in the Safeguard Screening Form, this project has triggered four safeguard policies. These are:

- I. Restriction of Access to and Use of Natural Resources (Involuntary Resettlement),*
- II. Stakeholder Engagement,*
- III. Gender Mainstreaming, and*
- IV. Grievance Mechanism.*

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

No indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities are foreseen at this time.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts:

The proposed approach of the project is expected to avoid or minimize adverse impacts. As such, no better alternative can be conceived at this time.

4. Describe measures to be taken by the Executing Entity to address safeguard policy issues.

I. Restriction of Access to and Use of Natural Resources

To ensure that the project meets CI-GEF Project Agency's "Involuntary Resettlement Policy #3" the Executing Agency is required to develop during the PPG phase, a "Process Framework" that describes the nature of the restrictions, the participatory process by which project components will be prepared, and the means by which any conflicts would be resolved. A plan may also be developed during implementation providing more detail on the arrangements to assist affected persons to improve or restore their livelihoods. The terms of reference for the "Process Framework" will be provided by the CI-GEF Project Agency, who will approve and oversee the implementation of this Framework throughout the duration of the project.

II. Stakeholder Engagement

To ensure that the project meets CI-GEF Project Agency's "Stakeholders' Engagement Best Practice", the Executing Agency is required to develop, during of the PPG phase, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The CI-GEF Project Agency will oversee the implementation of this plan throughout the duration of the project.

III. Gender Mainstreaming

To ensure that the project meets CI-GEF Project Agency's "Gender Mainstreaming Policy #8", the Executing Agency is required to develop, during of the PPG phase, a "Gender Mainstreaming Plan" that will ensure the mainstreaming of gender issues throughout the project. The CI-GEF Project Agency will provide a gender mainstreaming guideline, and will approve and oversee the implementation of the Gender Mainstreaming Plan throughout the duration of the project.

IV. Grievance Mechanism

An Accountability and Grievance Mechanism is required to ensure people affected by the project are able to bring their grievances to the Executing Entity for consideration and redress. The mechanism must be in place before the start of project activities, and also disclosed to all stakeholders in a language, manner and means that best suits the local context.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people:

The key stakeholders are the government, municipalities, communities, NGOs/CSOs, and private sector.

The mechanisms for consultation and disclosure should be culturally appropriate, gender sensitive, effective, and in keeping with local customs. Engagement can take the form of village meetings, group meetings, workshops, interviews/surveys, etc. and done using local languages and methods. The Executing Entity should take these contexts into consideration when designing engagement activities.

IV. PROJECT CATEGORIZATION

PROJECT CATEGORY	Category A	Category B	Category C

Justification: The proposed project activities are likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.

V. EXPECTED DISCLOSURE DATES

Safeguard Plan	CI Disclosure Date	In-Country Disclosure Date
Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)	NA	NA
Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	NA	NA
Voluntary Resettlement Action Plan (V- RAP)	NA	NA
Process Framework for Restriction of Access to Natural Resources	<i>Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval</i>	<i>Within 30 days of CI-GEF approval</i>
Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP)	NA	NA
Pest Management Plan (PMP)	NA	NA
Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)	<i>Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval</i>	<i>Within 30 days of CI-GEF approval</i>
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	<i>Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval</i>	<i>Within 30 days of CI-GEF approval</i>
Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	<i>Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval</i>	<i>No later than inception workshop/kick-off meeting</i>

VI. APPROVALS

Signed and submitted by:		
Vice President:	Name: Miguel Morales	Date:
Approved by:		
Safeguard Manager: <i>Ian Kissoon</i>	Name: Ian Kissoon	Date: 2016-09-27
Project Manager:	Name:	Date: