

# PROJECT BRIEF

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## EU-GIZ ACSE ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



PACIFIC ISLANDS  
FORUM SECRETARIAT



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## Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste: Integrated Action for Resilience and Adaptation (IA4RA) to climate change in the Raumoco Watershed Project

### Background

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste is a sovereign state in Southeast Asia occupying half the island of Timor and the nearby islands of Atauro and Jaco. Timor-Leste is vulnerable to droughts, floods, landslides and soil erosion resulting from a combination of heavy monsoon rain, steep topography and widespread deforestation. The increasing impact of these disasters has contributed to low cereal yields and overall food insecurity. More extreme El Niño and La Niña phenomena, which are associated with climate change, is expected to become more frequent and result in serious disasters and consequent damage to the socio-economic sectors of the country.

The project seeks to assist vulnerable households in the Raumoco Watershed, located in the western part of the Lautem Municipality, the eastern-most municipality of Timor-Leste. A total of 500 households from 12 aldeia (sub-villages) of six suco (villages) under two Postu Administrativu of Lautem and Luro of Lautem municipality have been selected to participate in this project. These sites were selected based on a number of criteria including geographic location (inside Raumoco watershed), exposure to climate risks and natural disasters, and prevalence of subsistence agriculture among community members.

### Project Objective

This project will **contribute to the sustained adoption and scaling out of sustainable food, water and energy efficient technologies in the Raumoco Watershed**. This will increase the resilience against the adverse impact of climate change and variability for the target 500 vulnerable households.

### Project Summary

**Location:** Raumoco Watershed, Municipality of Lautem, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

**Objective:** To contribute to the sustained adoption and scaling out of sustainable food, water and energy-efficient technologies for 500 vulnerable households in six villages in the Raumoco watershed

**Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) and Hivos Stichting, Dili

**Budget:** € 492,168

**Duration:** 2016—2018

### Current situation

The focal problem that the Integrated Action for Resilience and Adaptation (IA4RA) seeks to address is the high levels of vulnerability to climate variability and change by households, communities and the Raumoco watershed as shown by:

- Low crop yields and low household income contributing to food insecurity,
- Destructive farming practices (slash and burn agriculture),
- Soil compaction, run off/erosion which exacerbates flooding,
- Water shortages resulting in farmers not planting rice,
- Use of wood fueled stoves for cooking, contributing to deforestation, and further causing indoor air pollution,
- Lack of education about climate change impacts and adaptation responses, and

- Inappropriate land use through the planting of teak along steep slopes also contributes to forest degradation.

## What Is EU-GIZ ACSE Doing?

The EU-GIZ ACSE programme helps the people of fifteen Pacific island countries address two common challenges: adapting to climate change and reducing their dependence on fossil fuels.

The project is supporting the Government of Timor Leste to help the communities in the Raumoco Watershed to increase their resilience by scaling out sustainable food, water and energy efficient technologies. This will be achieved, through:

### 1. Increased adoption of climate-resilient and sustainable food production systems by 350 vulnerable households in six villages:

Sustainable, low-carbon food production technologies will be implemented by vulnerable farming households,

15 households use of solar-powered drip irrigation systems for cash crop production, and

Lead Farmers trial diversified crop production and low-carbon, agro-ecological farming technologies to identify cropping systems that are a) appropriate to a specific farming ecosystem in the Watershed, b) contribute to soil, water and nutrient enhancement, c) promote drought-resistance and flood-tolerance.

### 2. Increased adoption of water and energy-efficient technologies for vegetable/cash crop production and cooking by 400 vulnerable households in six villages

Low-cost rainwater drip irrigation systems implemented by vulnerable groups of women, men and young people. Includes construction of 12 ferro-cement tanks (10,000 L),

Fuelwood tree species (G. sepium or Gamal) planting established, as living fence, contour hedgerows and windbreaks for farmlands under cultivation, and

400 improved cooking stoves (ICS) distributed to vulnerable women, men and young people. The main recipients of this trial are women who are mainly responsible for cooking the family meal.



### 3. Increased involvement of 150 young people in climate-resilient and sustainable livelihood systems

Experiences and lessons learned on climate-change adaptation actions will be documented and shared with a larger stakeholder base.

## Organisational Context

The General Directorate for Forestry, Coffee and Industrial Plantation is leading the project, in collaboration with the National Directorate for Forestry and Watersheds. This project has been contracted to Hivos and is implemented in the field in close collaboration with the Raumoco Watershed Management Council and local authorities of Lautem municipality.

## Contact

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