

Concept Note Cover Page

Country: Timor-Leste

Location within the country:

Three villages that are located in one Subdistrict, that are part of one main watershed area, share their borders, have poor access to clean water and span across three different agro-climatic zones: the Northern Coast/Lowlands, Northern Slopes and Northern Highlands. The proposed villages are: Ossoala village, Uaigae village and Vemase village in Vemase Subdistrict, Baucau District.

Concept focus:

Climate change adaptation

Sustainable energy

Both

Project type:

Type1–200,000 Euro maximum budget

Type2–Maximum budget is the country allocation

Total requested budget: 500,000 EURO

Duration of project: 3 years (36 months)

Contact point:

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Support for PDD development:

Yes, consultant(s) or organization(s) to be engaged: The University of the South Pacific (USP)

No

Undecided

Concept Note–Description(4 pages maximum)

1. Project title: Securing clean water for a climate resilient future

2. Background and rationale (max ¾ page)

According to the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) on climate change many communities in Timor-Leste are particularly vulnerable to water scarcity. The NAPA ranks water resources as the second priority for climate change adaptation measures since communities are facing declining access to water especially when flow of springs reduces in the dry season.¹ The causes of this water scarcity vary, but it is expected that climate change will worsen this situation.² The aim of Timor-Leste is that by 2030, all citizens in Timor-Leste will have access to clean water and improved sanitation according to Strategic Development Plan (SDP). Also, particularly the children of Timor-Leste deserve access to good health and clean drinking water and good sanitation.³ According to the 2010 Census around 43% of Timor-Leste’s rural population still does not have access to an improved water source.⁴ Many national and international agencies have since implemented projects that aimed to increase food security, but almost none of the climate change adaptation programmes and funds have focused on increasing water security so far. In order to put more attention on water security in Timor-Leste in line with the national priorities and the NAPA, the National Directorate for International Environmental Affairs and Climate Change (NDIEACC) would like to propose a 3 year long community-based project that focuses on water security.

For more than 10 years, NDIEACC, which is mandated to coordinate all Climate Change Adaptation initiatives nationwide, has conducted vulnerability assessments such as a National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)⁵ and the Initial National Communication (INC)⁶ to the UNFCCC, and helped communities to successfully implement several climate change adaptation activities⁷. In the last 3 years, the Directorate’s focus has mostly been on facilitating community access to clean water. This involved extending and/or repairing existing water supply systems in villages or *suco’s* in collaboration with the Directorates local NGO’s and strengthening local water management groups in technical and managerial ways to do proper maintenance of existing and new water supply infrastructure. This community-based approach was fully participatory and transparent from its inception proved to create trust with local communities and resulted in strong and durable water supply infrastructure.

NDIEACC would like to build on these lessons-learnt and continue onwards with similar activities in other villages around the country that have been identified as being most vulnerable to climate change in terms of water scarcity now and in the future.

3. Objective(s)(two to three sentences)

The project aims to assist local community authorities and existing water management groups and water users/consumers, to achieve water security for the most vulnerable communities in Timor-Leste in spite of projected climate change impacts.

4. Expected project outcomes (max ¼ page)

1. 3 villages representing 3 different agro-climatic zones in the North of Timor-Leste have improved access to sufficient year-round clean water supply and have access to at least 2 alternative improved water sources (river, stream, spring, ground water or rain water).
2. Target villages are more knowledgeable on climate change impacts on current and future water supply.
3. Improved capacity of water management groups and local government authorities in terms of governance (transparency, accountability, etc.), water infrastructure maintenance, financial and

¹NAPA (2010)

² PCCSP Volume II - Country Reports (2011), page 44

³SDP(2010), page 56

⁴ Population and Housing Census Timor-Leste (2010)

⁵ NCSA (2005)

⁶ INC (2014)

⁷ Country Report Timor-Leste, USP EU-GCCA (2014)

administrative management, and creation and enforcement of rules and regulations on sustainable water use.

4. Increased number of best practices from target villages on how to plan for, and deal with climate change impacts.

5. Targeted outputs (max ½ page)

1. An additional 800 households in total across 3 villages now have improved access to sufficient year-round clean water supply and have access to at least two alternative water sources (river, stream, spring, or rain water) by means of constructing new water tanks, extending pipe networks, digging wells, drilling for groundwater, installing pumps, installing water harvesting equipment, repairing existing water infrastructure, water source protection, etc.
2. An increase of 50% of all households in the target villages that understand the importance and severity of current and future climate change impacts on water supply by means of workshops and distribution of climate change information through different media (community radio, posters, folders, etc.) (means of verification: household surveys).
3. All of the water management groups have statutes and financial management, monitoring and evaluation plans and examples of enforced rules and regulations are available by the end of the project, that were made through consultation and planning workshops and management trainings.
4. At least 6 consultative new best practices and 3 case studies in the field of Climate Change Adaptation and Water Security have been identified, documented and made available to Climate Change Adaptation practitioners and decision makers.

6. Beneficiaries (max ½ page)

The target groups are local village water management groups or GMF (Grupú Maneja Fasilidade) and main water consumers in the village. Extra focus will be put on women since they are the main providers of water for their families.⁸ Children will also be a target group, since consumption of dirty or polluted water affects them most in terms of health and mortality rates.⁹ In the design of water supply systems provisions will be made for Persons With Disabilities (PWD) like wheelchair ramps at public taps and PWDs will be included in the consultation process as much as possible.

Direct benefits of this project to these specific target groups will include: improved access to clean safe water; reduced time to collect water used for cooking, washing and cleaning purposes; and improved health and sanitation for the whole family. Other direct benefits include increased managerial capacity in the water management groups.

Indirect economic benefits are more free time for income generating activities and reduced time and money spent on tending to sick children due to unhygienic water sources. Another indirect benefit is that it is expected that through capacity building of the water management groups, increased capacity and better governance will also affect the other village groups and even the village council since members of these groups often overlap.

7. Indicative budget (max ½ page)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Indicative budget (EURO)</i>
Output 1	EUR 180,000 (EUR 60,000 for each village)
Output 2	EUR 25,000
Output 3	EUR 14,000
Output 4	EUR 6,000
Administrative costs	EUR 35,000 (7%)
Monitoring and Evaluation	EUR 50,000 (10%)
Technical assistance (incl. salaries)for implementation	EUR 100,000

⁸ Decree Law No. 4/2004, page 1.

⁹ SDP (2011), page 77

and management	
Travel and transportation (incl. vehicle)	EUR 50,000
PDD Assistance	EUR 30,000
Visibility and communications	EUR 10,000
In-kind contribution/ Co-financing	*
TOTAL	EUR 500,000

**In-kind contribution will be provided by the government in the form of office space, office furniture, copy and printing facilities and the Directorate's driver.*

8. Project management (max ½ page)

The **lead national agency** for the project is the National Directorate for International Environmental Affairs and Climate Change (NDIEACC) under the Secretary of State for Environment (SoSE) within the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment (MCIE). NDIEACC had 1 year of experience creating the National Capacity Self- Assessment (NCSA), 3 years of experience leading the development of the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), 2 years of experience in preparing and publishing the Initial National Communication (INC) to the UNFCCC which have been completed with good success, and 3 years of experience leading the USP (University of the South Pacific) EU- Global Climate Change Alliance project (EU-GCCA). The **national implementing agency** is the Directorate-General for Water and Sanitation (DGWS) under the Secretary of State for Water, Sanitation and Urbanization (SoSWSU) within the Ministry of Public Works (MPW). DGWS has responsibility to ensure that rural communities in Timor-Leste will have sustainable and equitable access to safe water supply, improved sanitation and hygiene, and DGWS implements its programs via its three National Directorates of Water Services (DNSA), Sanitation (DNSB) and Water Control and Quality (DNCQA). In coordination with other stakeholders (e.g. international and local NGOs), it has set up water management groups (GMF) in villages, designed and constructed water supply systems, implemented community based planning and conducted inventories on groundwater availability. DGWS will be supported by BESIK, which is an Australian funded Government program with its main objective to ensure that rural communities in Timor-Leste will have sustainable and equitable access to safe water supply, improved sanitation and hygiene. BESIK will provide technical assistance and capacity building support specifically to DGWS in addressing a better implementation of the project.

Based on its previous success in implementing Climate Change Adaptation activities across the Pacific and in Timor-Leste, the chosen **implementing partner** is the Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD) within the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Fiji. PaCE-SD has been managing environmental projects across the Pacific region since its inception in 2001 and continues to grow in strength in its involvement and partnership of environmental projects. PaCE-SD has proven experience managing and administering multilateral and bilateral funds, including funds from the European Union through its Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) program.

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be formed consisting of the national Directors of the NDIEACC and the three Directorates under the DGWS, the Secretary of State for Environment, the Secretary of State for Water and Sanitation and the Director of PaCE-SD, and will meet quarterly. The PSC will form a Technical Working Group (TWG) consisting of technical staff from government and non-government organizations. Project management will be handled by a Project Manager (PM) and a Project Assistant (PA), who will both be recruited by NDIEACC. This PM and PA will handle all aspects of project management such as planning, event organizing, financial administration, (financial and technical) reporting, monitoring and evaluation, etc. in collaboration with 3 technical staff from the Climate Change Department in the NDIEACC and 3 technical staff from DGWS. The finances and funds for this project will be managed by the PM and overseen by the NDIEACC, the Secretary of State for Environment and the Ministry of Finance. Management and disbursement of funds to the national implementing agency and the implementing partner will also be handled by NDIEACC.

9. Complementarity and replicability (max ¼ page)

The time and effort spent on preparing the NCSA, NAPA and the INC have provided NDIEACC with the necessary experience and knowledge on climate change adaptation priorities within Timor-Leste.

Moreover, the experience it gained by implementing the USP EU-GCCA project, provided a means to put these national policies into action on the ground. Since the activities of NDIEACC have thus far been successful and effective in its approach and implementation and also since monitoring and evaluation efforts have shown good results, the proposed project is to continue and complement this project and build on successes that were already achieved.

The proposed project and its approach is expected to be replicable in many villages across all agro-climatic zones in Timor-Leste since the selected target villages are part of the three different main agro-climatic zones: Northern Lowlands, Northern Slopes and Northern Highlands. Therefore water access solutions to problems that are characteristic for that zone can be implemented in those same zones in other villages across the north of Timor-Leste. Also, output 4 is aimed at sharing the best practices which will increase the likelihood of replication.

10. Sustainability and risks (max ¼ page)

Main expected risks are delays in implementation due to unpredictable weather and difficult road conditions. Hence, main village related implementation is scheduled for the dry season. Other factors that may cause delays are social conflicts between groups or households in villages. The latter can be solved by open, clear and transparent communication with the communities in participatory facilitation that will mitigate this risk of conflicts. We wish to reserve the right to choose another village, if in the initial assessment phase it turns out that governance of a specific village in terms of open, consistent, transparent leadership is not adequate.

Sustainability is ensured since this project will apply a community-based approach and implementation and monitoring and evaluation will be led and conducted by the communities themselves whereby they offer their labor to implement (parts of) the project according to their skills and capacity. Another factor contributing to the sustainability of the project is the focus on capacity building (output 2 & 3). Also, with the documentation of best practices (output 4), government officials get more experienced in integrating Climate Change Adaptation and water supply aspects into their planning. Demonstrated implementation increases capacities of these officials to replicate good practices.

11. Timeline for planned measures (max ¼ page)

The proposed timeline is 36 months spanning over 4 calendar years. In the first year the project will focus on achieving output 2 and 3. The second year will focus mostly on output 1. And the third and fourth year will focus more on achieving output 4.

	Year 1- 2015				Year 2- 2016				Year 3- 2017				Year 4-2018											
Activity:	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
Project mgt. establishment	■	■	■																					
Output 1							■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Output 2			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Output 3			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Output 4																								
M&E			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Communication and visibility																								

12. Stakeholder engagement in concept note development (maximum three sentences)

A stakeholder meeting with all relevant Government agencies, such as National Directorates in the areas of Water and Sanitation, Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock, Health, Disaster Risk Reduction, Forestry, Environment, Biodiversity and Energy was organized by the NDIEACC on the 4th of July 2014. All their inputs and feedback were considered before developing this final concept note. DGWS, USP, BESIK and the National Focal Point for Climate Change were also key informants in this process.