

# TIMOR-LESTE

## Ecosystem-based Adaptation

2023-2028



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Improving food security for target communities by strengthening communal grazing land management and sustainable agribusiness development.



Benefitting 1,500 households through improvements with the sustainable use, operation, and maintenance of water supply and storage techniques.



Integrating climate risk into watershed planning and management policies, and developing and implementing climate-resilient integrated watershed development plans.



Restoring 4,500 hectares of forest and protecting 15,000 hectares of forests and natural ecosystems.

### PROJECT TITLE:

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENABLING SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT THROUGH PRODUCTIVE RURAL COMMUNITIES IN TIMOR-LESTE

### EXECUTING ENTITIES:



Directorate of Climate Change - State Secretary for the Environment

### KEY TARGETS:

**68,000**

Individuals benefitting directly from project activities

**15,000**

Hectares of forests and natural ecosystems restored

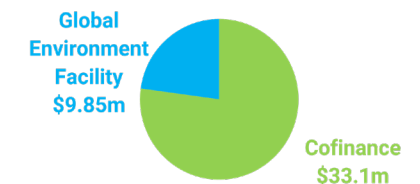
**1,500**

Households with improved water security

### FUNDING:

**USD 9,850,00**

From the Global Environment Facility



## INTRODUCTION

- Timor-Leste is home to a wide range of globally important ecosystems, including tropical rainforests, mangroves, and wetlands. These landscapes face multiple threats, including climate change and unsustainable agricultural practices, with approximately 90% of the forests across the country having been cleared or logged.
- This project is using [Ecosystem-based Adaptation \(EbA\)](#) to increase climate resilience and reduce land degradation in rural communities in Timor-Leste.
- The project's main approaches include: i) improving national and sub-national adaptation planning; ii) restoring ecosystems in water catchments; iii) developing and implementing agricultural management systems; iv) provision of water to rural communities; and v) expansion of a climate-smart agribusiness.

## CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

- EbA is a central approach of this project. It refers to the strategy of **protecting or restoring ecosystems** to reduce the negative impacts of climate change on people.
- The project is restoring **4,500 hectares of forest** and placing **4,000 hectares of communal grazing land** in target *sucos* (villages) under improved management. This will help improve ground water infiltration and water quality, while reducing land degradation, which helps to protect the communities against flooding and drought.
- The project is also **protecting 15,000 hectares of forests** and natural ecosystems through community agreements and monitoring at the *suco* level.
- To reduce water scarcity, the project is improving small-scale, **climate-resilient water infrastructure** and management in 40 villages, and **training 1,500 community members** in

## CLIMATE IMPACTS

- In Timor-Leste, climate change is increasing temperatures and changing rainfall patterns which are resulting in a greater number of extreme heat days and extreme rainfall events. These climate-induced changes exacerbate flood and landslide hazards during the wet season, while the dry season experiences more frequent and intense drought and wildfires.
- Combined with unsustainable farming practices, climate change is affecting vulnerable communities who rely on natural resources for their lives and livelihoods – particularly through reduced crop yields, soil erosion, reduced quality and availability of surface waters and groundwater.
- These climate impacts are worsened by the unsustainable degradation of valuable ecosystems that normally provide protection from storm surges and flooding.

the sustainable use, operation, and maintenance of water supply and storage techniques.

- The project is **improving national adaptation planning** by integrating climate risk into watershed planning and management policies, developing and implementing climate-resilient integrated watershed development plans (CRIWDP).
- The project is undertaking a **policy and communication campaign** to build national- and local-level awareness and support for integrated, climate-resilient watershed development.
- The project is supporting agribusiness development and sustainable value chains by **training 2,500 members of farmers organizations and women's cooperatives** to develop climate-resilient agribusinesses and supporting farmers credit access and

## PROJECT LOCATION



The project is implemented in and around municipalities and *sucos* (i.e., villages) of Dasidaro and Laclo watershed (both in yellow).

## RESOURCES

- [Climate adaptation resources & multimedia](#)
- [Adaptation Gap Report 2023](#)
- [Global EbA Fund](#)
- [A Decade of Ecosystem-based Adaptation: Lessons from UNEP](#)
- [The Story of Ecosystem-based Adaptation Through 5 Case Studies](#)

and participation in an 'impact finance' programme.

- Through the development of a portfolio of bankable impact investments for the sustainable production of agriculture commodities, the project aims to **support 2,000 farmers** to increase their production of traceable and sustainably grown cocoa and vanilla.
- To enhance knowledge and awareness of adaptation measures, the project is developing and **disseminating gender-responsive policy briefs, best practice guidelines**, and upscaling plans for the target watersheds.

## CONTACTS

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