11.0 Timor-Leste

ALM	Adaptation Learning Mechanism
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GEF	Global Environment Facility
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (United States)
PNG	Papua New Guinea
SEARCA	Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WWF	World Wildlife Fund / Worldwide Fund for Nature

Timor-Leste is the smallest country in the region of East and Southeast Asia both geographically—with a total area of less than 15,000 kilometers—as well as in regards to population—with less than 1.2 million people (CIA, 2011). Since achieving independence in May 2002 following civil unrest in the late 1990s, the country has focused on rebuilding its infrastructure and economy. Its Human Development Index ranking of 120 out of 169 (UNDP, 2010) is near the lower end of the region, but Timor-Leste has made strides in recent years.[289] Still, it remains classified as one of the least developed countries in the world.

A. Adaptation Needs and Priorities

Very little data is available about Timor-Leste's adaptation needs and priorities. The country has not completed a National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and is in the process of preparing a National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Despite these limitations, it is generally accepted that Timor-Leste is susceptible to extreme weather events, flooding, sea level rise, deforestation and soil erosion due to sub-prime agricultural practices (ALM, 2009). Understanding of potential climate-related impacts

[289] Timor-Leste's ranking within the UNDP Human Development Index rose by 11 spots from 2005 to 2010.

and issues beyond these general assessments, however, does not appear to be available at present. Statements from its government recognize the importance of climate change issues and the need to react to climate change (e.g., Government of Timor-Leste, 2010a & 2010b).

B. National Level Policies and Strategic Documents

To date, the Government of Timor-Leste has made little progress with respect to the development of a policy architecture related to climate change adaptation, having completed neither its first National Communication nor NAPA.[290] As such, Timor-Leste does not have a formal adaptation strategy or plan. However, there are reports of some progress in the areas of agricultural education (ALM, 2009).

C. Current Adaptation Action

Timor-Leste is currently involved in a very low number of adaptation projects in comparison to other developing countries in East and Southeast Asia. To date it appears to only be involved in projects that also include other countries. Several of these projects are being undertaken in collaboration with Pacific region countries, reflecting in part its status as a small island nation. Each of these projects has a strong focus on capacity building. The vulnerable sectors addressed through these projects include agriculture, water, natural resource management, coastal zone management, marine management and policy and planning. These projects are being funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), and the countries of Canada, Sweden and the United States.

Table 1: Current Adaptation Projects and Programs in Timor-Leste

Name		Objectives	Funder(s)	Implementing Agency(s)	Type of project	Duration	Priority Sector(s)	Geographic focus (if any)
Participation in Regional and Global Actions								
1.	International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative[291]	To help the most vulnerable countries adapt to the impacts of climate change. It includes four components: (a) improved scientific information and understanding; (b) strategic planning and vulnerability assessments; (c) implementing, financing and coordinating	AusAID *Budget:* US$328.2 million		Research; Field implementation; Capacity building	2008 – 2011	Multi-sectoral	Pacific and Timor-Leste (focus on islands neighboring Australia)

[290] Timor-Leste received a grant of USD $200,000 in 2008 from the Least Developed Countries Fund to undertake the development of its NAPA (ALM, 2009).
[291] AusAID, http://www.ausaid.gov.au/keyaid/adaptation_initiative.cfm

Name		Objectives	Funder(s)	Implementing Agency(s)	Type of project	Duration	Priority Sector(s)	Geographic focus (if any)
		adaptation measures; (d) multilateral support for climate change adaptation.	*In Timor-Leste:* Further information required.					
2.	US Support Program to the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI)[292]	To improve the management of biologically and economically important coastal and marine resources and associated ecosystems that support livlihoods and economies in the Coral Triangle and assist the six CTI countries in implementing the CTI Regional and National Plans of Action with activities that focus on instituting an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, creating marine protected areas, building climate change adaptive capacity and establishing regional platforms to promote cross-country learning and enhance sustainability.	USAID *Budget:* US$41 million	WWF, Conservation International, the Nature Conservancy, ARD Inc., NOAA	Capacity building; Assessment; Field implementation	2008 – 2013	Marine management	*Asia-Pacific:* Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste
			In Timor-Leste: Further information required.					
3.	Strengthening the Capacity of Pacific Developing Member Countries to Respond to Climate Change (Phase 1)[293]	Incorporation of climate risk management, adaptation practices, and greenhouse gas mitigation measures into infrastructure and key sector investment plans and project designs. Adaptation related actions include: • Pacific Climate Change Program – will assist participating countries to improve their resilience to climate change impacts through (i) mainstreaming of the adaptation in their policies, plans, programs, and projects; and (ii) strengthening their systems and capabilities to foster the adaptation process; • Adaptation preparation – up to five countries will be supported in preparing the implementation of climate change	ADB, Canada *Budget:* US$4.965 million	ADB	Capacity building; Policy formation and integration	2009 – ?	Government	*Asia-Pacific:* Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, PNG, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

[292] CTI, http://www.uscti.org/uscti/default.aspx
[293] ADB, http://pid.adb.org/pid/TaView.htm?projNo=43071&seqNo=01&typeCd=2#timetable

Name		Objectives	Funder(s)	Implementing Agency(s)	Type of project	Duration	Priority Sector(s)	Geographic focus (if any)
		adaptation plans, including further capacity building	*In Timor-Leste:* to be determined					
4.	Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific (under the Pacific Alliance for Sustainability Program and the Coral Triangle Initiative)[294]	To promote the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant coastal and marine resources in the Coral Triangle region through the introduction of integrated and ecosystem-based coastal and marine resources management in five Pacific countries. Includes activities focused on understanding how fishing/coastal communities perceive risk and respond to vulnerabilities, including from climate change, and implementing climate change adaptation measures as demonstrated by improved resilience of coastal resources and communities to stochastic events.	GEF-SPA; Japan; Australia; United States *Budget:* US$27,568,183	ABD; national governments	Capacity building, Research; Field implementation	2009 – 2013	Coastal zone management; Marine management	*Asia-Pacific:* FSM, Fiji, Palau, PNG, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu
			In Timor-Leste: to be determined					
5.	Climate Risk Management Technical Assistance Support Project: Phase II[295]	Building capacities for climate risk management among national stakeholders.	Sweden and SIDA through UNDP, UNDP core finance	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, International Institute for Sustainable Development	Research; Policy formation and integration	2010 – 2011	Multi-sectoral	*Global:* Bangladesh, Bhutan, Dominican Republic, Honduras, India, Kenya, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru,

[294] GEF, http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=3591
[295] UNFCCC, http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/nairobi_workprogramme/partners_and_action_pledges/application/pdf/iisd_furtherinfo_water_190411.pdf

Name		Objectives	Funder(s)	Implementing Agency(s)	Type of project	Duration	Priority Sector(s)	Geographic focus (if any)
								Timor-Leste and Uganda
			In Timor-Leste: to be determined					
6.	Knowledge Center on Climate Change: Adaptation and Best Practices in Agriculture and Natural Resources Sectors[296]	The objectives of this project are: • Increasing understanding, knowledge and skills of those in the agriculture and natural resources sectors; • Making clients quickly access and learn about what is going on about climate change; • Responding to every client with quickness, courtesy, competency and accuracy; • Providing products that give clients easy access to cutting-edge research and development results, learning events and policy advocacy.	SEARCA *Budget:* US$1.0 million for 5 years	SEARCA's University Consortium in Southeast Asia, University of the Philippine Los Banos, World Fish Centre and the Adaptation Learning Mechanism	Capacity building; Knowledge communication	[2010 – 2014]	Agriculture; Climate information services	*Regional:* Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam
			In Timor-Leste: to be determined					

D. Proposed Adaptation Action

Timor-Leste is proposed to be part of two regional projects submitted to the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), as presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Proposed Adaptation Projects and Programs in Timor-Leste

Name		Objectives	Type of project	Priority Sector(s)	Geographic focus (if any)
1.	Increasing Climate Resiliency of the Transport Sector in the Asia Pacific[297]			Transport	*Asia region:* China, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam
			Notes: SCCF Proposal. Proposed funding from SCCF: $30-million. Proposed co-financing: 1,089,500,000 million.		

[296] KC3, http://beta.searca.org/kc3/ and ALM, http://www.adaptationlearning.net/project/knowledge-center-climate-change-kc3-adaptation-and-best-practices-agriculture-and-natural-re

[297] GEF, http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/adaptation-actions_0.pdf

Name		Objectives	Type of project	Priority Sector(s)	Geographic focus (if any)
2.	Adaptation in the Coral Triangle[298]			Marine management	*Asia region:* Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste
			Notes: Proposed to the SCCF. Funding request: $20 million. Proposed co-financing: $290 million		

E. Assessment

Timor-Leste is taking steps towards improving its level of development under the leadership of its relatively new government. While these efforts may be expected to contribute to improving the adaptive capacity of the country, a clear priority going forward is the need for basic understanding of climate change and building capacity to act upon this knowledge. As such, the completion of its NAPA and an initial National Communication to the UNFCCC will be a significant step forward in the country's efforts to begin developing a national climate change action plan. In the interim, as progress is being made in Timor-Leste with respect to meeting its basic development needs, it will be important for the country to integrate considerations for climate change implications into its planning process. The degree to which this is already taking place within the country is unclear.

References:

Adaptation Learning Mechanism [ALM] (2009). Country Profile – East Timor. Retrieved from http://www.adaptationlearning.net/timor-leste/profile

Central Intelligence Agency [CIA] (2011). Timor-Leste. *The World Factbook*. Retrieved from https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tt.html

Government of Timor-Leste (2010a). Meeting of the Council of Ministers of 16th of December 2010 Press Release. Retrieved from http://timor-leste.gov.tl/?p=4427&lang=en&lang=en

[298] GEF: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/adaptation-actions_0.pdf

Government of Timor-Leste (2010b). Meeting of the Council of Ministers, July 7th 2010 Press Release. Retrieved from http://timor-leste.gov.tl/?p=3384&lang=en&lang=en

United Nations Development Program [UNDP] (2010). *Human Development Report 2010*. Retrieved from http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2010_EN_Complete_reprint.pdf

World Bank (2009). Timor-Leste at a glance. Retrieved from http://devdata.worldbank.org/AAG/tmp_aag.pdf