



**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARAFURA AND TIMOR
SEAS REGIONAL AND NATIONAL STRATEGIC ACTION
PROGRAMMES (ATSEA-2)
SECOND PHASE OF THE ARAFURA TIMOR SEAS
ECOSYSTEM ACTION (ATSEA)**

UNDP-GEF PIMS ID: 5439

GEF SEC ID: 6920

**Mid-Term Review Report
(18 April 2022- 30 August 2022)**

TIMOR-LESTE COMPONENT

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SYNOPSIS

Title of UNDP supported GEF financed project:	Implementation of the Arafura and Timor Seas Regional and National Strategic Action Programmes: Second Phase of the Arafura Timor Seas Ecosystem Action (ATSEA-2)
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Implementing partner and other strategic partners:	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) Timor-Leste
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Acknowledgements:	Please refer to the next page

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The midterm review (MTR) report of the Timor-Leste Component ATSEA-2 Project is a comprehensive project evaluation report that was successfully conducted from May 2022 to July 2022 to assess the ATSEA-2 project management relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impacts. The report also represents achievements and challenges subsequently used for critical recommendations for the project improvement.

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Table of Contents

1.Executive Summary.....	8
Project Information Table.....	8
Project Description of Timor-Leste Component.....	9
Project Progress Summary.....	10
MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary.....	11
Concise summary of conclusions	15
Summary of Recommendations.....	15
2.Introduction	17
Purpose of the MTR and objectives.....	17
Scope & Methodology	18
Data collection methodology.....	20
Structure of the MTR report	20
3.Project Description and Background Context.....	21
3.1 Development context	21
3.2 Problems that the project sought to address: threats and barriers targeted	22
3.3 Project Strategy.....	23
3.4 Project Implementation Arrangements	23
3.5 Project timing and milestones.....	25
Main stakeholders: summary list	26
4. Findings	26
4.2 Project Strategy.....	26
Mid-Term Review Gender and Women Empowerment	27
Covid-19 pandemic and natural disaster	27
Results Framework/Log frame.....	27
4.2. Progress Towards Results.....	29
4.2.1 Remaining Barriers to Achieve project Objectives.....	51
4.3 Project Implementation and Adaptive Management.....	51
Management Arrangements	51
Work planning	52
Finance and co-finance	52
Project-level monitoring and evaluation systems.....	53
Stakeholder engagement	54
Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards) (SES).....	54
Reporting	54
Communications	55
Covid-19 pandemic and natural disaster	55
4.4 Sustainability	55
Financial risks to sustainability.....	55
Socio-economic to sustainability	55
Institutional framework and governance risks to sustainability.....	55
Environmental risks to sustainability.....	56
5.Conclusions and Recommendations	56

5.1 Conclusions	56
5.2 Recommendations.....	57
Corrective actions for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project.....	57
6. Annexes:.....	59
Annex 1: MTR ToR (excluding ToR annexes).....	59
Annex 2: MTR evaluative matrix (evaluation criteria with key questions, indicators, sources of data, and methodology).....	67
Annex 3: Example Questionnaire or Interview Guide used for data collection.....	71
Annex 4: Ratings Scales	73
Annex 5: MTR mission itinerary	75
Annex 6: List of persons interviewed	77
Annex 7: List of documents reviewed	78
Annex 8: Signed UNEG Code of Conduct form.....	79
Annex 9: Audit Trail (Timor-Leste Component).....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

ii. Acronyms and Abbreviations

ATSEA	Arafura Timor Sea Ecosystem Action
ATS	Arafura and Timor Sea
AMAT	Adaptation Monitoring and Assessment Tool
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BESIK	Bee, Saneamentu no Ijiene iha Komunidade
CBA	cost-benefit analysis
CBEMR	community-based ecological mangrove restoration
CBNRM	community-based natural resources management
CI	Conservation International
CO	Country Office
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CSO	civil society organization
CVA	coastal vulnerability assessment
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DIM	Direct Implementation Modality
DRM	disaster risk management
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
ESI	Estimated Sustainable Income
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGD	focus group discussion
GCCA	Global Climate Change Alliance
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	greenhouse gas
GNI	Gross National Income
GoTL	Government of Timor-Leste
HDR	Human Development Report
HDI	Human Development Index
ICM	integrated coastal management
IBA	important bird and biodiversity area
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LDC	Least Developed Country
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LiDAR	light detection and ranging
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
MCIE	Ministry for Commerce, Industry and the Environment
MPI	multi-dimensional poverty index
MPSI	Ministry of Planning and Strategic Investments
MSME	micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
MSS	Ministry of Social Solidarity
MTAC	Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture
MTOP	Midterm Operational Plan
NADS	National Aquaculture Development Strategy
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAP-GSP	National Adaptation Plan – Global Support Programme
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NDAHE	National Directorate of Agriculture, Horticulture and Extension
NDFMFR	National Directorate of Fisheries and Management of Fishery Resources
NDFMW	National Directorate of Forests and Management of Watersheds

NDA	National Directorate of Aquaculture
NDCN	National Directorate of Conservation of Nature
NEGA	National Ecological Gap Assessment
NGO	non-governmental organizations
PIF	Project Identification Form
RBM	Result-based Management
RDTL	República Democrática de Timor-Leste
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDP	Strategic Development Plan
SLR	sea level rise
SNC	Second National Communication
SoL	Seeds of Life
TB	Tara Bandu
UNTL	National University of Timor-Leste/Universidade Nacional Timor Loro Sae
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

1.Executive Summary

This report summarizes the findings of the Midterm Review conducted via virtual meetings between June 26 to July 2, 2022 for the Timor-Leste component of the Arafura and Timor Sea Ecosystem Action, (hereby referred to as the ATSEA-2) that received a US\$ 2,120,000 grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in March 2017.

Project Information Table

Table 2. Project Information			
Project Title	The Arafura and Timor Seas Regional and National Strategic Action Programs Phase II (ATSEA-2)		
UNDP Project ID (PIMS #)	5439	PIF Approval Date:	August 28,, 2014
GEF Project ID (PIMS #)	6920	CEO Endorsement Date:	
ATLAS Business unit, Award# Proj.ID:	*00111339 *00110428	Project Document (ProDoc) Signature Date (Date project began):	March 5, 2019
Country(ies):	Timor-Leste	Date Project Manager Hired: (National Coordinator)	1 st Coordinator: October 2019 2 nd Coordinator: June 2021
Region:	Asia-Pacific		
Focal Area:	Climate Change Adaptation	Inception workshop date:	December 2019
GEF Focal Area Strategic Objective:	International Waters	Mid-Term Review completion date:	August 2022
Trust Fund (indicates GEF TG, LDCF, SCCF, NPIF):		Project Planned closing date:	June 2024
Executive Agency/Implementing Partner:	UNDP	If revised, proposed op. closing date:	
Other Execution Partners:	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries		
Project Financing	At CEO Endorsement (US\$)	At Midterm Review (US\$)	
(1) GEF financing: (Timor-Leste Component)	2,120,000	564,868.15	
(2) Government: MAF (grant)	20,000,000	17,549,308	
(3) Other leveraged funds (grant)	-	148,986	
(4) Other leveraged funds (in- kind)	-	1,431,240	
(5) Total co-financing (2+3+4)		19,129,534	
PROJECT TOTAL COSTS (1+4)	22,120,000	19,649,402.15	

Project Description of Timor-Leste Component

The Timor-Leste component of the ATSEA-2 project is part of the second phase of the GEF-financed, UNDP-supported ATSEA program, and is designed to enhance regional collaboration and coordination in the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) region, which will specifically focus on supporting the implementation of the endorsed strategic action program (SAP), a 10-year vision for the Arafura-Timor Seas with the long-term objective “to promote sustainable development of the Arafura-Timor Seas region to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants through restoration, conservation and sustainable management of marine-coastal ecosystems”. Integrated approaches are designed to incentivize local communities to more sustainably use coastal and marine resources, enhancing their own livelihoods while safeguarding the ecosystem goods and services that are the backbone of their socio-economic well-being.

The Timor-Leste component includes the delivery of UNDP Strategic Plan Output: Output 1.3: Solutions developed at national and sub-national levels for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste, and Output 2.5: Legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions enabled to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with international conventions and national legislation. Timor-Leste national component is being executed through UNDP Timor-Leste under Award ID 00111339.

The Timor-Leste ATSEA-2 national component implementation covers five municipalities- Lautem, Manatuto, Same (Manufahi) Suai (Covalima) and Viqueque, where each municipality has its own target activities and outputs (see Figure 1). These activities will include the strengthening of existing Marine Protected Areas (MPA), while also designating a new MPA and promoting alternative livelihoods for the communities that live and work in these locations. An Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) plan will be developed and implemented, focusing on alternative livelihoods and capacity building.

Figure 1. Component Implementation

Municipality	ATSEA 2 project component
Lautem	Programme will focus on strengthening Nino Konis Santana MPA management including updating of financial sustainability plan, supporting a locally managed marine area in the adjacent waters and promoting alternative livelihoods for local people
Manatuto Posto Administrativo Barique	An Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) plan will be developed, implemented and expanded, featuring climate change adaptations. The development of alternative livelihoods and capacity building in local communities are also supported.
Manatuto & Same (Manufahi)	Programme will design and support the designation of Betano to Claluc MPA.
Suai (Covalima)	Address pollution impacting the ATS region, the Programme will provide training and facilitate knowledge exchanges related to oil spill response and preparedness

Viqueque	Application of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in Município Viqueque, to improve and protect red snapper fisheries.
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The Timor-Leste ATSEA-2 project national component implementation is expected to achieve the following:

- a) Updated National Action Program (NAP) approved by NIMC
- b) NIMC established, approved by MAF and institutionalized
- c) Priority actions under NAP mainstreamed into national development program
- d) Two local regulations issued to support NAP implementation
- e) 60 beneficiaries received training on integrated approach from capacitated trainers
- f) EAFM implemented in 1 target community with EAFM management Plan
- g) 50% of vessels within red snapper fisheries using improved gear/techniques in South Coast of Timor-Leste
- h) Improved METT score of NKS MPA from 24 to 50
- i) Established new MPA of 90,000 ha off the south coast of Timor-Leste Betano
- j) Adopted and implemented ICM in PA Barique, Manatuto Municipality

Project Progress Summary

In general, the Timor-Leste Component experienced slow progress despite ATSEA-2 serving as the continuation of ATSEA-1. The key factors affecting the achievement towards the project outcomes are: (a) Timor-Leste is a small new country that still lacks technical expertise and environmental specialists; and (b) some political and technical challenges that impact the capacity of implementing partners to participate in the project implementation at national, local and community level. In addition, the global Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the implementation of some project activities, wherein some have been delayed. However, Timor-Leste as a participant country has contributed positively to the project, e.g. the establishment of the National Project Board (NPB), inputs to the ongoing process related to the Regional Governance Mechanism (RGM), Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and recently the full establishment of the National Inter-Ministerial Committee (NIMC) in July 2022.

The project is yet to see clear results related to capacity building activities on alternative livelihoods for alternative income generation for selected community groups as the first half of the project first focused on completing the thematic assessments, capacity needs assessment and conduct of initial capacity building activities. Capacity building for target community groups have been conducted and further capacity building is planned to be conducted in the near future. However, despite the initial capacity building provided, target community groups still have limited business planning skills. It is important for local intervention to be clearer in terms of "adaptation" and to further increase coordination with local authorities to set-up natural resources development-based livelihoods supported by a clear business plan linked to a value chain and with the support of local governments. It is important that the project develops tools to measure the percentage of change in incomes generated and if the changes benefited more women and their households to know if those changes are corresponding with alternative or regular daily income.

On raising community awareness, the link between the project support and livelihoods, and the commitment for long term project objective- The "awareness" activities were performed using material and ideas to increase comprehension about climate change, marine pollution, biodiversity protection, alternative livelihood and sustainable fisheries which reached different stakeholders, the general public and specific target population such as women, young people, children, farmers and fishers. In line with this, the project needs to develop or apply tools to measure the change in awareness as a result of the efforts made in implementing awareness activities.

The MTR found that the ATSEA-2 project Timor-Leste Component implementation is moderately satisfactory, given the challenges described above. There are some aspects in the outcomes which were found to be moderately unsatisfactory in terms of progress vis-à-vis given the remaining time. In particular, there is a probability that the end project target such as Project Objective 1, Indicator 3: Landscape and seascapes under improved biodiversity management with key target on hectare coverage of a new MPA (in Betano-Klakuk) and supporting improvement of the management effectiveness of the existing MPA in Nino-Konis Santana (NKS) from 24 to 50 METT score (covering 55,660ha) may not be achieved within the target end date.

MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary

Table 3: MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table.		
Measure	MTR Rating	Achievement Description
Project Strategy	N/A	<p>The ATSEA-2 project is the second phase of the GEF-financed, UNDP-supported ATSEA program, and is designed to enhance regional collaboration and coordination in the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) region. ATSEA-2 will specifically focus on supporting the implementation of the endorsed strategic action program (SAP), a 10-year vision for the Arafura-Timor Seas with the long-term objective to promote sustainable development of the Arafura-Timor Seas region to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants through restoration, conservation and sustainable management of marine-coastal ecosystem. The ATSEA-2 Timor-Leste National Component are implemented in Lospalos, Viqueque, Manatuto, Same and Suai.</p> <p>The Timor-Leste National Component Strategic Results Framework (SRF) consist of objectives, Outcomes for Component 1, Component 2 and Component 3, which reflect and support the national, regional and international commitment on the management of marine-coastal ecosystem.</p> <p>The Timor-Leste SRF identified threats to the effective implementation of the project during the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the project team to adopt agile and adaptive management measures which has helped the project overcome some of the threats or challenges.</p>

<p>Progress Towards Results</p>	<p>Objective Achievement Rating</p> <p>MTR rating</p> <p>Highly Satisfactory (HS)</p>	<p>The ATSEA-2 Timor-Leste has achieved some of the project overall objectives, as follows:</p> <p>a) Direct beneficiaries;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provided training to 308 beneficiaries exceeded the end project target <p>b) Globally Over-exploited fisheries;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Community-based surveillance training on IUU Fishing Vessel Identification and other surveillance measure and safety at sea conducted involving local fishers, local authorities, and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF). 2) Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Sub Task Team in place in Posto Administrativo Barique and development of ICM plan is finalized supported by national government represented by MAF and local government through the Declaration of Commitment signed by local government, considering alternative livelihood initiatives and strengthening resilience to climate change. 3) The implementation of the ICM plan has been initiated and the call for proposal from local NGOs and CBOs to implement specific activities in support mainly of alternative livelihoods has been issued <p>c) Landscape and seascapes under improved biodiversity management.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Progress towards the establishment of a new MPA in Betano is on going, stakeholder consultation has been conducted and socio-economic assessment and boundary measurement has been undertaken. 2) Supporting improvement of the management effectiveness management activities for the existing MPA in NKS or data collection as part of the review of management plan and sustainable financial plan developed for both Nino-Konis Santana (NKS) and Betano. 3) The assessment for the new MPA in Betano by CTC shows that target hectare coverage for new MPA Betano is 20,000ha lower than original project target of 90,000ha. Further discussion is being undertake by MAF in regards to the issue. 4) National Oceans Policy is still in the Council of Ministers. MAF is committed to ensure alignment of the NOP with the work being done with the ATSEA-2 project. 1) Updating TDA: Inception Workshop conducted in Feb 2022, NWG meeting conducted in May 17 and June 16 2022. Drafting of country TDA is in progress.
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<p>Progress Towards Results</p>	<p>Component 1. Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale) 3</p> <p>MTR rating Highly Satisfactory (HS)</p>	<p>Under Timor-Leste National Component 1. Some of the end-of-project target has been fully achieved,</p> <p>The initial meeting to discuss the role and structure of the Timor-Leste National Inter-Ministerial Committees (NIMC) was conducted (March 20, 2020).</p> <p>Three NPB Meetings conducted (Dec. 16, 2019, Nov. 30, 2020, and Nov. 26, 2021, Dili) and approved AWP and Budget. NPB meeting in 2021 highlighted the need for National Inter-Ministerial Committee (NIMC) to be endorsed by MAF in 2021 (tentative) through a Ministerial diploma and with SPF inclusion. Two NIMC workshops were conducted in March 2020 and June 2022</p> <p>In June 2022, Timor-Leste NIMC was fully established during the process of Mid Term Review Report, and NIMC is in its early state and is yet to function fully.</p> <p>One of the local regulation related to ICM has been issued related to ICM, in Manatuto, while the local regulation related to the establishment of a new MPA in Betano is expected when the consultation for the new MPA in Betano is completed.</p> <p>90% of the end project target (particularly for regional level) on climate change predictive capacity strengthening has been achieved. The only remaining end project target is the final endorsement of the completed Guidance Toolkit by RCS which is scheduled for November 2022 at the 4th RSC meeting.</p>
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	<p>Component 2</p> <p>Achievement Rating.</p> <p>(Rate 6 pt, scale)</p> <p>4</p> <p>MTR Rating</p> <p>Moderately Satisfied (MS)</p>	<p>Under Timor-Leste National component 2. Some of the end project targets have been achieved.</p> <p>Drafted and endorsed Red Snapper EAFM in Timor-Leste is in place.</p> <p>Field surveys on stock assessment and value chain assessment of Red Snapper was conducted in 4-municipalities- Viqueque, Lautem, Manatuto and Manufahi (February and March 2021), with support from a consultant, and involved 126 direct informants. Participated in the regional-led EAFM Advisory Forum (June 9, 2021). Data analysis has been finalized in January 2022. EAFM TOT finalized for MAF technical and certified. EAFM training for fisherwomen in Fisheries Resources Centre in Lautem, Viqueque, Manatuto and Manufahi (Same) is scheduled for 2022.</p> <p>Training for Fisheries on IUU Fishing Vessel Identification Method and other surveillance measure and safety at sea conducted for Municipalities of Viqueque, Manufahi and Covalima (Dec. 2020).</p> <p>MAF completed a program to improve fish gear/techniques (which includes specification of maximum number of people per group per small fishing vessels). Completed training for 150 fishers from 6 fishing centers in 3 municipalities (Viqueque, Manufahi and Covalima) on Illegal, Uncontrolled and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Vessel Identification Methods and other community-based surveillance measures and safety at sea.</p> <p>LOA between UNDP TL and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) signed (June 17, 2021) to help facilitate undertaking of various fisheries- related activities under ATSEA-2. Initiation of activities/LOA implementation commenced in Q3 of 2021. Another Letter of Agreement (LoA)— following a series of consultations/meetings—has been signed between UNDP and MAF towards the implementation of activities related to regulating IUU fishing in Q3 (June – August 2022).</p> <p>Marine and Land- Based Pollution Study on the Southern Coast of Timor-Leste was completed; Beach Cleanup in South Coast as part of ICM waste management and public awareness raising activities conducted; Training for livelihoods activity (plastic waste recycling) as part of ICM implementation conducted. Capacity building for oil spill preparedness is scheduled for 2022.</p> <p>Bio-Physical and Socio-economic assessment in Betano is completed and consultation is ongoing. Data collection for review of the existing NKS management plan is conducted, while consultation is ongoing and the sustainable financial plan developed.</p> <p>A total of 450 sea turtle hatchlings at Com Village in Nino Konis Santana National Park released and helped raised awareness to 71 community members (45 men and 26 women) as one of the steps towards marine turtle conservation and promotion of community-based ecotourism. Moreover, Timor-Leste endorsed the Regional Plan of Action for the protection of sea turtles during the 3rd RCS meeting and also participated in the Regional Sea Turtle Expert Workshop.</p> <p>Other ICM related activities were Tree Planting Activities where 2750 trees were planted to support river bank stabilization. This helped capacitate or increase awareness of 154 persons of which 67 men and 87 women participated as part of institutionalization of and application of ICM.</p>
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Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	<p>UNDP ATSEA-2 Timor-Leste Component consist of professionals in the management team which includes a Project Coordinator, Marine Fishery Specialist, Field coordinators and Admin and Finance Assistant who is responsible for day to day project implementation.</p> <p>Despite, difficulties, and challenges encountered by the project team during the COVID-19 travel restrictions, the team has managed to operate effectively.</p> <p>However, partners expressed their concern regarding administrative and procurement process of UNDP (such as financial approval, material allocation) which often takes a long time, which impacts on the implementation of the project activities in the field.</p>
Sustainability	Moderately Likely (ML)	The four aspects of sustainability (financial, socio-economic, governance and environmental risks) are rated Moderately Likely.

Concise summary of conclusions

The MTR report scrutinized the ATSEA-2 Project parameters, including project strategy, progress towards results, project implementation and adaptive management, sustainability, and cross-cutting sector. The project was designed considering climate change related development challenges and risk that coastal communities face; while contributing to national priorities (e.g., NAPA) and to fulfil Timor-Leste's international commitment towards adaptation to climate change (Paris Agreement), Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework) and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Project activities are mostly still ongoing to achieve their outcomes. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused some outcomes to be delayed and which is hindering the acceleration of the project activities towards meeting the overall project targets.

Summary of Recommendations

The recommendations reflect the key findings of the ATSEA-2 Timor-Leste Component MTR, aiming to reinforce what have been achieved by the Government of TL, in particular the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), which is the implementing partner of the ATSEA-2 project component for Timor-Leste.

REC. #	Recommendation	Entity Responsible
R1.	<p>Immediate actions needed to set on track those areas/aspects marked as “Not on target to be achieved” corresponding to project objective:</p> <p>Indicator 1: Urgent follow up field activities on implementation of the completed EAFM Red Snapper plan in Viqueque to meet the end project target</p> <p>Indicator 2: Urgent follow up actions to assess the progress and challenges impeding significant project progress towards the establishment of new MPA in Betano</p>	Implementing agency and partners, with the support of project team.
R2	MTR highly recommends that UNDP ATSEA-2 project be extended for longer period between 6 to 12 months of no cost extension, in order to fully achieve the project objectives and to fill the time loss at the start and ensure the high quality of outcome sustainability at local level.	Implementing Partners. MAF and Timor-Leste Government

R3	Despite consultation with stakeholders at all level before project implementation, some local authorities at Suco level still has limited understanding about their responsibility and lack sense of ownership. MTR recommends that capacity building at Suco level be further strengthened to ensure their sense of responsibility and ownership over community development and environmental protection and coastal management, to progress toward project benefits sustainability, especially with IUU fishing in the Timor Sea.	Implementing Partners
R4	Adopt Benefit Management to make up the missing opportunity to ensure that the projects deliver the expected strategic impact and drive organizational success. MTR recommends that the project provide further capacity building in marketing and utilization of technology in marketing and promotion for target beneficiaries communities.	UNDP Timor-Leste and Implementing partners
R5	The project may consider strengthening its M&E systems to reflect its' activities more comprehensively as a 'bridge' between UNDP ATSEA-2 project and government of Timor-Leste, and to gather evidence on the impact of Community Livelihoods Support Project in the Country. The project should focus on providing capacity building support for engagement at both national and local levels to leverage political pressure between these levels and ensure that ATSEA-2 project is implemented effectively, domesticated and can trace the impact	Implementing partners, MAF Timor-Leste
R6	MTR recommends that the project improve decision making process by providing sufficient information on decision making process within UNDP to implementing partners and stakeholder.	UNDP
R7	Continue supporting communities' groups, especially women groups, to conduct traditional local customary law, to safeguard coastal ecosystems, plastic waste recycling, fish business in Suai, etc.	implementing partners, MAF Timor-Leste
R8	Livelihood support project, should be planned comprehensively with a professional support of specialist in business planning development such as livestock, agriculture, fishery, poultry, etc., including a very clear business plan that includes impacts and outcomes expected, capacity development for financial, technical and productive management.	implementing partners, MAF Timor-Leste
R9	MTR recommends that the project's work focused on local responsibility related to project outcomes/benefits and their sustainability. ICM success story in Manatuto can be extended to other parts of project site. MTR suggests that more minor decision making be delegated to local authorities to develop capacities (capacity building) for Integrated Natural Resources Management in coastal zones	implementing partners, MAF Timor-Leste

2.Introduction

This report presents the findings of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Timor-Leste component of the UNDP/GEF project *“Implementation of the Arafura and Timor Seas Regional and National Strategic Action Programs - Second Phase of the Arafura Timor Seas Ecosystem Action”*, further referred to as the ATSEA-2 project.

Purpose of the MTR and objectives

As outlined in the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, Mid-Term Reviews are mandatory for all GEF-financed full-sized projects and constitute an important part of the GEF projects’ monitoring and evaluation plan. MTRs are primarily undertaken for adaptive management purposes, i.e. to identify challenges and outline corrective actions to ensure that a project is on track to achieve maximum results by its completion. In order to fulfil the above purpose, MTRs are conducted in order to assess the projects’ progress towards results, implementation, and adaptive management for improvement of outcomes, facilitate early identification of risks to sustainability and provide supportive recommendations.

The objective of the MTR is to provide the project partners i.e. GEF, UNDP, key stakeholders/ private institutions and the Government of Timor-Leste (and the other country project partners) with an independent assessment of progress towards achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document. As such, the MTR serves to:

- assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made to set the Project on-track to achieve its intended results;
- strengthen the adaptive management and monitoring functions of the Project;
- enhance the likelihood of achievement of Project and GEF objectives through analyzing Project strengths and weaknesses and suggesting measures for improvement;
- enable informed decision-making;
- create the basis for replication of successful Project outcomes achieved to date
- identify and validate proposed changes to the ProDoc to ensure achievement of all Project objectives; and
- assess whether it is possible to achieve the objectives in the given timeframe, taking into consideration the pace at which the Project is proceeding.

This MTR was prepared to:

- be undertaken independent of the project management to ensure independent quality assurance;
- apply UNDP-GEF norms and standards for midterm reviews;
- assess achievements of outputs and outcomes, likelihood of the sustainability of outcomes, and if the Project met the minimum M&E requirements; and
- provide recommendations to increase the likelihood of the Project delivering all of its intended outputs and achieving intended outcomes.

In addition, the review focused on analyzing the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation, highlighting issues requiring decisions and actions, and presenting lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project’s term.

On findings and conclusions, this MTR report provides practical and feasible recommendations to project management and relevant stakeholders about short-term actions and decisions to be made in order to implement the recommended corrective actions, reinforce initial benefits from the project

and to show future directions underlining the expected outcomes, and mitigating risks to sustainability.

In order to follow a participatory and consultative approach, MTR consultants have facilitated:

1. An inception report specifying the methodology and work plan on April 29, 2022
2. National Consultant for TL started the country mission with a briefing meeting with UNDP Timor-Leste to review technical, methodological and administrative issues.
3. Conduct of several interviews with selected stakeholders at national and local level, including several meetings/interviews with beneficiaries, and project sites visit as described in the ToR.
4. A presentation about initial findings and to receive feedback from national, sectoral and local stakeholders, beneficiaries' representatives, project team and UNDP CO.
5. Completion of the final MTR document including an "audit trail", detailing how all received comments have (or have not) been addressed in the final evaluation report.

Scope & Methodology

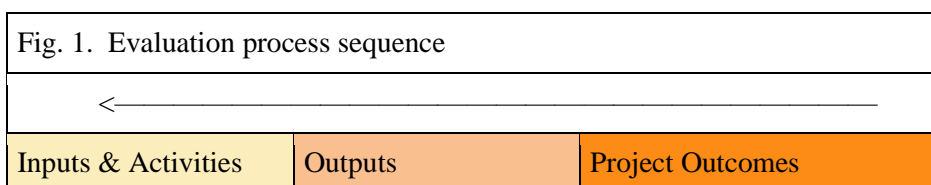
The scope of the MTR covers the entire UNDP-supported, GEF-financed ATSEA-2 Project and its components as well as the co-financed components of the Project. This MTR assesses Project progress, achievements and implementation taking into account the status of Project activities, outputs up to June 2022 and the resource disbursements made up to 31 March 2022 based on UNDP Combined Delivery Reports (CDRs). The MTR also reports on the progress against objective, outcome, output, and impact indicators listed in the latest Project Strategic Results Framework (SRF) as provided in the Annex as to how these outcomes and outputs will be achieved within the Project duration (up to June 2024). The MTR report concludes with recommendations, as appropriate, for the key stakeholders of the Project. The MTR will be approached through the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact, as defined and explained in the UNDP "Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed Projects", and the GEF M&E policy.

The geographic scope of the evaluation is Timor-Leste, with specific sites in TL shown on Display 1 below.

Display 1: Project areas of the ATS region



The result-based evaluation methodology looked into each project outcome as its starting point (Fig. 1) to determine: (i) to what extent outcomes are being achieved with respect to the strategy and factors affecting their progress, (ii) the contributions meted to achieve outcomes in relation to the implementation process and adaptive management, and (iii) the partnership strategy related to sustainability. In each point, the factors of success, the difficulties, challenges, benefits and their sustainability will be systematized.



Based on document reviews, meetings and interviews, the MTR has collected and analyzed qualitative and quantitative information, using standard evaluation criteria, to evaluate a number of selected variables, such as project activities and "soft" assistance, within and outside of the project, that have driven or influenced outcomes; as well as the activities of other actors related to development.

The MTR includes four categories of analysis:

- the status of the outcome related to **Project Strategy**;
- the factors affecting the outcome related to **progress towards results**;
- the project contributions to the outcome with respect to **project implementation and adaptive management**;
- the project partnership strategy related to **sustainability**.

This analysis has included everything that has been done within the project's realm and how the context may influence the efforts made towards the achievement of outcomes, taking in account multiple levels of perceptions and the different viewpoints of all key project stakeholders. It is important to note that the MTR also reviews the project's strategy and risks to sustainability by using

a previously prepared evaluation question matrix (Annex 2). In this regard, special attention has been placed on Human Rights and Gender Equity as defined by UNEG's "Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation" guide (United Nations Evaluation Group, 2014).

Key evaluation criteria:

- GEF Mid Term Review primary evaluation criteria will be used as listed in the Term of References (ToR), i.e. Project Strategy, Progress towards Results, Project Implementation & Adaptive Management, and Sustainability.

Data collection methodology

The MTR mission conducted a "first cut" and desktop analysis from the Project Information Package. In addition, MTR secondary data analysis to define some of the preliminary findings and to obtain additional information from specific areas of analysis. Qualitative data was collected from several interviews and meetings with Project Team, government counterparts (the GEF Operational Focal Point), the UNDP CO, UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisors, executing agencies, senior officials and task team/component leaders, key experts and consultants in the subject area, Project Board, project stakeholders, academia, national and local government, community organizations, NGOs and other key stakeholders.

In order to ensure that evidence-based conclusions and recommendations were made based on the findings, the project results were rated with brief descriptions of the associated achievements in the MTR.

Structure of the MTR report

This MTR report is structured and organized in the following key sections:

- **Project description and background section.** This includes a description of the national development context (including a description of significant socio-economic and environmental contexts to be implemented from the project start; the policy factors relevant to the project outcomes and any other major external contributing factors identified); in this regard, this section includes a summary of problems that the project sought to address; and finally, a description of the project's strategy and implementation arrangements, the timing and key stakeholders involved.
- **Findings.** This section analyses the input obtained from the MTR evaluative matrix and the resulting findings are presented centered on the following four areas: Project Strategy, Progress Towards Results, Project Implementation and Adaptive Management, and Sustainability.
- **Conclusion and recommendations:** This section describes the factors of success, the strengths, the weaknesses, the difficulties, and the achievements reached by the project up to Mid-Term Review. The conclusions are described responding to questions defined on Terms of Reference and provided suggestion to help solve important problems or issues pertinent to project stakeholders, including UNDP and GEF.

3. Project Description and Background Context

3.1 Development context

Timor-Leste is a new country in South East Asia covering an area of 14,609 sq km (5,641 sq miles) half the island of Timor with a total population of 1.2 million people. Timor-Leste was a Portuguese colony for more than 450 years, and was under Indonesian military occupation for 25 years. Approximately 75% of the country's development infrastructures were destroyed prior to the Indonesian military withdrawal. In 1999, the people of Timor-Leste overwhelmingly voted for independence in a UN supported referendum. At the 20th meeting of the UN General Assembly on September 27th 2002, Timor-Leste was formally recognized by the International community as the newest independent country and became the 191st member state of the UN¹.

The national economy is still based on oil production. Oil revenues provide 90% of the gross domestic product (GDP). Coffee is the country's second largest export. The tourism industry currently ranks as the third largest sector. Every year the Government of Timor-Leste invests billions from its Sovereign Wealth Fund to finance the government's program. In spite of these efforts, many challenges remain in terms of poverty (Table 5 Sources: Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census 2015)²

Table 5. Main social indicators	
Population distribution by sex and edge	<u>Urban population</u> : 34% of total population (2017) <u>Death rate</u> : 5.9 deaths/1,000 population (2017 est.)
	Drinking Water Source Improved: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban: 95.2% of population• Rural: 60.5% of population1. Total: 71.9% of population Drinking Water unimproved: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban: 4.8% of population• Rural: 39.5% of population• Total: 28.1% of population (2015 est.)
	<u>Sanitation facility access: improved</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban 69% of population• Rural 26.8% of population• Total: 40.6% of population Sanitation Facility unimproved: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban: 31% of population• Rural: 73.2% of population• Total: 59.4% of population (2015 est.)

¹.<https://www.un.org/press/en/2002/ga10069.doc.htm>

² <https://timor-leste.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/2015%20Census%20Gender%20Dimensions%20Analytical%20Report.pdf>

<p>Telecommunications. The total number of fixed phones landlines is 3,000 and the total number of mobile cellular is 103,000 (as of June 2008). There is no broadband or ADSL service. Timor Telecom offers mobile GSM services covering approximately 92% of the population, 100% of the districts, and 57% of the sub-districts. International service is available in major urban centers, but not much elsewhere. As of 2015, 13.4% of the population was connected to the internet with the vast majority of users using cellular internet. Approximately 94% of the population has access cellular phones and internet services.</p>	<p>Literacy: definition: age 15 and over can read and write</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total population: 67.5% • Male: 71.5% • Female: 63.4% (2015 est.) <p>Electricity access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population without electricity: 744,032 • Electrification - total population: 42% • Electrification - urban areas: 78% • Electrification - rural areas: 27% (2012)
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Approximately 75% of the population lives in rural areas; almost 80% of the rural population depends on subsistence farming and the collection of wild food products and traditional medicines; the animals are very much left free to grow and reproduce. Only 30% of arable land is in use and industrialized based farming is non-existing. Particularly, the degradation of natural resources, due to human activity and climate change impact on ecosystems, is affecting both high and low lands including coastal and marine areas. Degradation processes such as erosion, eutrophication, pollution and sedimentation, will impact the ecosystem further impacting food security, fresh water and soil protection.

Climate change jointly with non-sustainable productive practices and non-suitable land-use will continue to challenge human and ecosystems' security. The impacts are likely to be particularly acute in the coastal regions where sea surges, coastal flooding, prolonged submersions, erosion, and long-term sea-level rise undermine land productivity, exposing over 600,000 people living in coastal and lowland areas to increasing losses and damages related to climate hazards.

Rapid population growth and migration to the coastal area in search of livelihood opportunities, have resulted in informal settlements, putting pressure on fishing, particularly along the northern coast, but also along the southern coast of the country, exposing coastal communities to climate related hazards.

While there is an ongoing effort to protect coastal communities and provide alternative income generation activities, it falls short because financial/human resources are not sufficient to cover the entire country and communities are not engaged in this task. The existing vacuum in spatial planning (laws and plans) and in land tenure, hinders community interest in maintaining this common good. Furthermore, employment and income generation potential, associated to climate change, protection and sustainable management, has not been explored as part of government programmes, Suco development plans and investments or public-private partnership initiatives.

3.2 Problems that the project sought to address: threats and barriers targeted

The project intervention aims to address the following priority transboundary environmental challenges identified by the TDA:

- (1) Unsustainable fisheries and decline and loss of living coastal and marine resources;
- (2) Modification, degradation, and loss of coastal and marine habitats;
- (3) Marine and land-based pollution;
- (4) Decline and loss of threatened and migratory species; and

- (5) Impacts of climate change on the ATS, by removing the key barriers to sustainable management of the ATS

3.3 Project Strategy

As described in the Project Document (PRODOC) and Project Implementation Review (PIR) 2019, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) are implementing the “The Arafura and Timor Seas Regional and National Strategic Action Programs Phase II (ATSEA-2)” project. Its aim is “to promote sustainable development of the Arafura-Timor Seas region to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants through restoration, conservation and sustainable management of marine-coastal ecosystems”.

Project Objectives: “to promote sustainable development of the Arafura-Timor Seas region to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants through restoration, conservation and sustainable management of marine-coastal ecosystems” including in Timor-Leste through the following ATSEA-2 components:

- Component 1: Regional, national and local governance for large marine ecosystem (LME) management
- Component 2: Improving LME carrying capacity to sustain provisioning, regulating and supporting ecosystem services
- Component 3: Knowledge management

The ATSEA-2 project also corresponds to Timor-Leste 2015-2019 program: Outcome 1. People of Timor-Leste, especially the most disadvantaged groups, benefit from inclusive and responsive quality health, education and other social services, and are more resilient to disasters and the impacts of climate change.

The Project implementation targets five municipalities in Timor-Leste: Lautem, Viqueque Covalima, Manuhafi, and Manatuto.

As part of the MTR in TL, the following sites were visited by the MTR national consultant.

Table 6. Project sites visited by MTR team.

Table 6. Project Site Selected					
Project Site	Lautem and Lorehe	Viqueque Vila	Barique	Same	Betano
Municipality	Lautem	Viqueque	Manatuto	Manufahi	Suai
Community Group			Women Group		Women Groups

3.4 Project Implementation Arrangements

The ATSEA-2 Project is executed following the national implementation modality (NIM), in collaboration with MAF, municipality sector offices, authorities, community, local NGOs and CBOs. As described in the PRODOC, the regional or overall aspect of the project is coordinated by the Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) based in Bali Indonesia. The RPMU coordinates with

the National Coordination Units (NCUs) in each ATS country who coordinates day to day implementation of the project at the country level. UNDP Regional and Headquarters' high experts team monitor the financial flow and implementation of the project planned activities, as well of UNDP and GEF rules and regulations and provide technical advice and guidance to achieve the project's set goals. On the other hand, GEF, the donor, strictly monitors financial use, reporting and achievement of project target objectives.

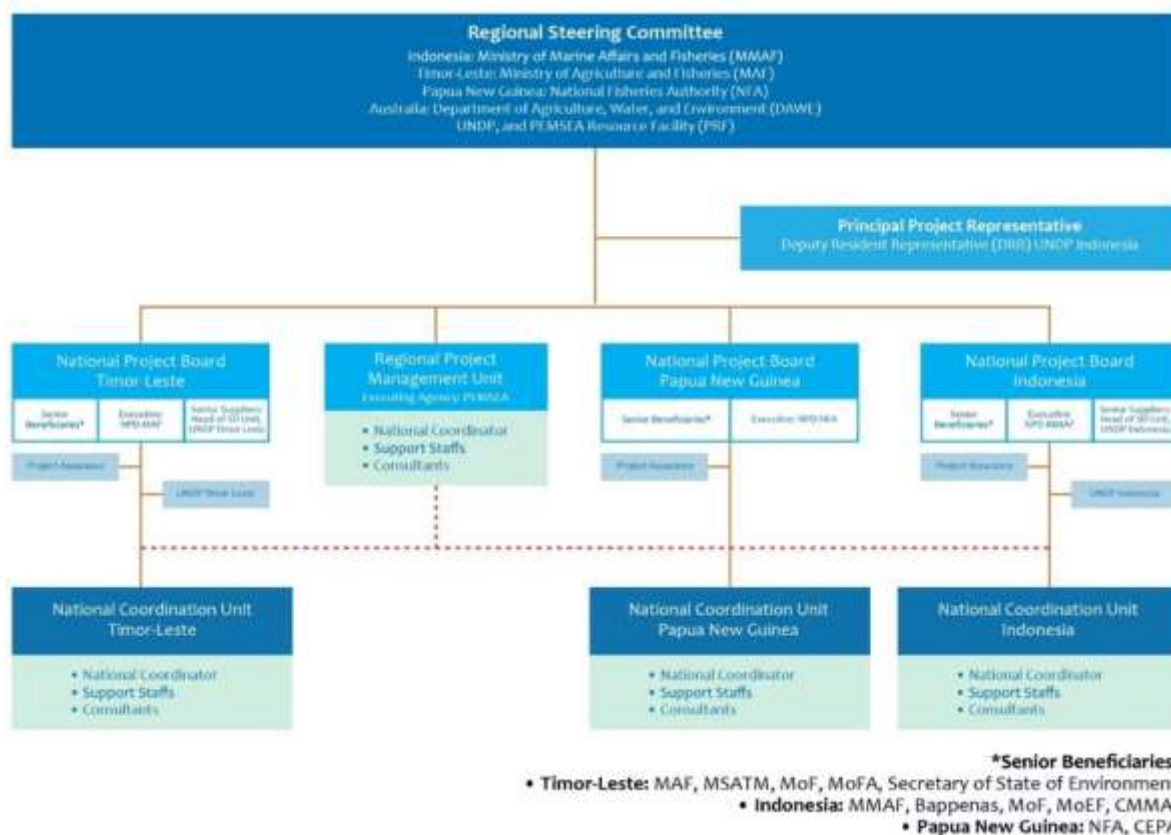
UNDP Timor-Leste is the GEF implementing agency for the Timor-Leste component, and PEMSEA Resources Facility serves as the executing agency for the regional and PNG component of the Project and supports the RPMU in its functions. The MAF is the Timor-Leste national implementing partner.

National project board of the ATSEA-2 Project for Timor-Leste component is comprised of the lead governmental agency (MAF), national planning/development agency, and UNDP Timor-Leste. For the details, see Figure 2.

The ATSEA-2 NCU is composed of a National Coordinator, Finance and Operation Officer, two Field Coordinators (5 municipalities), and Marine Fishery Specialist and a Driver. In addition, experts are hired on consultancy basis to support the NCU in the implementation of the project. Moreover, a team of experts from MAF, the National Directorates of Fisheries, Forestry, etc. support project implementations and periodic monitoring.

The following is the Project's operational structure:

Figure 2. ATSEA-2 organizational structure



3.5 Project timing and milestones

Key project's milestones	Date
Project Identification Form (PIF) Approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNDP-GEF - MAF Timor-Leste 	8 August 2014 28 August 2014
Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting (LPAC)	24 November 2017
Planned Start of the Project	June 2018
Project Document Signature Timor-Leste	March 5, 2019
Project Kick-Off meeting/Inception Meetings	December 2019
Timor-Leste National Coordination Unit Installation	7 October 2019
Planned End Date of the Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operational Closed Date 	June 2024
Planned Midterm Review	18 April-5 August 2022

Actual Midterm Review	27 April 2022-05 August 2022
- Inception Report Submission	06 May 2022
- MTR Mission and Site Visits	12-30 May 2022
- Mission Wrap-up and Initial Findings	03 June 2022
- MTR Report Review Process	27 June-08 July 2022
- Audit Trail and Creation of Final MTR Report	20 July 2022
- Management Responses	21-27 July 2022
Planned Terminal Evaluation	10 March 2024
Original Planned Closing Date	June 2024
Revised Closing Date	

Main stakeholders: summary list

- Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery (MAF)
- Secretary of State for Environment (SSE)
- Ministry of Planning and Strategic Investment (MPSI)
- Ministry of Public Works,
- Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS)
- Ministry of Tourism, Art and Culture (MTAC)
- Universidade Nacional de Timor-Leste (UNTL)

4. Findings

4.2 Project Strategy

1. Identified problems exhaustively listed in accurate fashion; all of these problems are relevant for several GEF fields of actions: Climate Change, biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, chemical and waste. However, an important part of the described problems is not well formulated in terms of RBM approach, assuming in their description a pre-conceived solution beforehand.
2. The MTR has not detected significant changes in the context that may alter the process to achieving the project's results as outlined in the PRODOC.
3. Given the analysis about how the project seeks to address the problems related to ICM and its environmental services, targeting structural causes and dynamic pressures, MTR observed a high relevance of project strategy and high coherence with the international priorities related to UNFCCC and UNCCD, national climate change framework and GEF field of actions. Timor-Leste is a young nation, the project relevance increases its importance in terms of enhancing capacity building related to Integrated Coastal Management, at both national and local scales.
4. The MTR found that project strategy provides an effective concept-route towards expected results and impacts; however, when the strategy is implemented during the COVID 19 pandemic, the strategy has partial loss of its effectiveness towards expected results and impacts in the long run or post ATSEA-2.
5. The MTR found that lessons from other relevant projects were incorporated in project design, such as:

- UNDP-LDCF projects “Strengthening Community Resilience to Climate-induced disasters
 - LDCF-funded Community- based Adaptation to Climate Change through EAFM, ICM and alternative livelihoods project for community has provided additional income and established a natural protection barrier centered on some of Timor-Leste’s most vulnerable communities.
6. The MTR found that the project addressed the country priorities and link with national priorities described in PRODOC; identifying the country ownership and particularly over national sector priorities and plans:
- Decree-Law no. 05/2016 – National System of Protected Areas. This Decree-Law establishes the necessary legal instruments for the protection of sensitive ecological areas in Timor-Leste and their categorization.
 - Priority Strategy 2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Timor-Leste (NBSAP) 2011-2020 seeks to protect biodiversity and promote sustainable use, which focuses on a) rehabilitation activities in critical watersheds and degraded lands, and b) sustainable livelihoods for local communities through ecosystem restoration activities.
7. The MTR observed that consultation method was applied during the project design to gather information from the people affected by project decisions and outcomes. However, consultations were not an active participative decision making, especially concerning issues related to livelihoods and sustainable development in the context of climate change.

Mid-Term Review Gender and Women Empowerment

8. The MTR found that women are actively involved in the livelihood project activities., particularly leadership role in leading most of the alternative income generation activities supported by the project such as: developing recycling business activities and tree planting activities , seaweed soap business in Betano, however, COVID-19 pandemic also impacted their activities. Establishment of a women-led cooperative for the sale of local fish as well other livelihood activities further shows a positive gesture being done by the project to enhance it’s commitment to mainstreaming gender into its activities.

Covid-19 pandemic and natural disaster

9. The MTR found that the project adopted a New Normal Project Management Plan in early 2020 to assess the COVID 19 pandemic which have impacted the whole project implementation and and from there created agile strategies in Timor-Leste components.

Results Framework/Log frame

10. Some indicators and end-of-project targets were found insufficient signposts toward the outcome and target achievement. Even though all indicators and end-of-project targets will be achieved, the outcome will not make much "dent" as expected to mobilize elements of sustainability and impacts. However, and although insufficient, the indicators and end-of-project targets described in the PRODOC LogFrame are specific and depict in part, the change it wants to achieve. In addition, these are clearly measurable and achievable; has well

specified targets at the end of project in a time-bound manner. But it is important to highlight that their relevance is insufficient to signpost the pathway toward the outcome achievement.

11. Project objective and outcomes are clear, practical, and feasible within its time frame.
12. The progress so far, has the potential to lead beneficial development effects, such as reinforce income generation, productive diversification, gender equality and women's empowerment, that should be included in the project results framework and monitored on an annual basis. In this line and in order to ensure broader development and gender aspects of the project are being monitored effectively, MTR have suggested SMART 'development' indicators, including sex-disaggregated indicators and indicators that capture development benefits level in the "recommendations section".
13. Project management included gender into the project monitoring and evaluation system, and included in its PAR, PIR and monitoring annual plan.
14. MTR found two indicators clearly drive to disaggregate data by sex, but there not exist tools to disaggregate data by age and by socio-economic group or any other socially significant category in society (e.g. by vulnerability level).
15. In addition, MTR found that in project's results framework have set up two end of project target that clearly driving to disaggregating data by sex, in order to facilitate gender balanced activities (e.g. observe quotas for male and female participation).
16. However, MTR has not found how disaggregating data by sex is being used by the project's team to provide a more contextual understanding of the needs, access conditions and potential for the empowerment of women, girls and men and boys.

4.2. Progress Towards Results

By reviewing the log-frame indicators against progress towards the end-of-project targets, MTR has assigned a rating on progress for each outcome.

TABLE 7: Progress Toward Outcome Analysis

Objective: To enhance sustainable development of the Arafura-Timor Seas (ATS) region to protect biodiversity and improved the quality of life of its inhabitants through conservation and sustainable management of marine-coastal ecosystems (as indicated in the SAP).							
Indicator	Baseline Level	Level in 2 nd PIR (self-reported) (2019 to July 2021)	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating	Remaining Barriers
Landscapes and seascapes under improved biodiversity management 55,660.	0	<p>To date, 44% of target has been achieved vis-à-vis end of project target.</p> <p>Establishment of new MPA in Timor-Leste is ongoing.</p> <p>Timor-Leste, efforts have also been initiated to help strengthen management effectiveness in selected MPAs in Nino Konis Santana National Park, Timor Leste.</p>	<p>800,000 ha (Note: this is for entire project).</p> <p>TL Target based on the ProDoc (Total target for TL is 145,660 ha):</p> <p>a. Establish new MPA in Betano-Klakuk (90,000ha); and</p> <p>b. Support strengthening of management effectiveness of existing MPA in NKS (55,660 ha)</p>	Based on initial assessment completed in Betano, the coverage is at 20,906ha only (with 2 nautical miles outer boundary), which is lower than the ProDoc target of 90,000ha. While support to NKS and coverage remains the same.	MS	The designation of a new MPA still undergoes several processes. The coverage of the new MPA is below the targeted MPA stipulated in the Prodoc. Possible alteration of MPA coverage or area is still being discussed based on the result of the boundary mapping done in the area.	<p>Overall Barriers that may impact in various aspects of project implementation in TL:</p> <p>>Time-consuming administrative procurement (service and goods) and human resources procedures by the UNDP Timor-Leste, leading to the delayed implementation of activities;</p> <p>>Language barriers for implementing community involvement in the project particularly community members with low educational background and limited understanding/</p>

							<p>knowledge about climate change;</p> <p>>Upcoming Parliamentary election in 2023 and change in governmental restructures and transitions in MAF Timor-Leste;</p> <p>>Covid 19 pandemic still considered to hamper the project activities' implementation.</p>
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OUTCOME 1.1: REGIONAL AND NATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR COOPERATION IN PLACE AND OPERATIONAL							
Indicator	Baseline Level	Level in 2 nd PIR (self-reported) (2019 to July 2021)	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating	Remaining Barriers
INDICATOR: Regional Governance Mechanism	Informal cooperation under ATSEF, and conceptualization of ATS governance mechanism outlined in Ministerial Declaration	<p>The regional governance mechanism assessment has been completed and will undergo further country consultations as part of consensus building process on most viable regional mechanism for ATS region.</p> <p>In relation to this, the Stakeholder Partnership Forum (SPF) draft TOR and Guidelines have also been completed and will also undergo further country consultations; identification of SPF members at country level have also been initiated. Formal SPF is expected to convene before end of 2021.</p>	Regional governance mechanism established and functioning with at least 2 of 4 countries contributing dues	<p>Interim Regional Coordination Committee (2019)</p> <p>Regional Governance Assessment (June - September 2021)</p> <p>Guidance Document on RGM (June 2021)</p> <p>SPF consultation meeting (December 2021)</p> <p>National consultation meetings</p>	NOTE: Rated at the regional report (No specific target for TL)	<p>RGM establishment process is ongoing</p> <p>Timor-Leste has contributed in the discussions and consultations related to the RGM and SPF process</p>	

National Inter-Ministerial Committee (NIMCs)	NIMCs loosely formed, with no clear mandate for ATS priority concerns	40% of the target has been achieved (2 out of 3 NIMCs established) and legalization/formalization ongoing. NIMCs established in Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea.	NIMCs established, functioning and formalized, legal and/or institutional arrangements in each of the three beneficiary countries (Note: 1 NIMC targeted to be established in TL)	Discussion on the role and structure of the Timor-Leste National Inter-Ministerial Committees (NIMC) conducted (March 20, 2020). Three NPB Meeting conducted (Dec. 16, 2019 and Nov. 30, 2020, and Nov 26, 2021 Dili) and approved AWP and Budget. NPB meeting in 2020 highlighted the need for NIMC to be endorsed by MAF in 2021 (tentative) through a Ministerial diploma and with SPF inclusion. NIMC established on June 16th 2022 during the process of Mid Term Review Report, and NIMC is in its early state and is yet to function effectively.	HS	NIMC in TL established; full operationalization in 2022	The 2023 coming general election highly likely to in change of government which can affect the work of NIMC that automatically will affectiveness of the NIMC is new government installs.
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SAP implementation finance secured by governments and development partners	0	<p>Review of various related regional entities and their financial mechanisms developed in support of the ongoing regional Financial Landscape Assessment.</p> <p>The full assessment is targeted for review at 3rd RSC Meeting by end of 2021 and will feed to subsequent development of 5-year cost estimate and financial plan for the updated SAP.</p>	25% (Regional target)	Financial Landscape Assessment draft completed and undergoing review	NOTE: This is rated at the regional report	For TL, the updated information is only about the co-financing delivery from MAF in support of ATSEA-2	N/A
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OUTCOME 1. 2: STRENGTHENED INSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY TOWARDS INTEGRATED APPROACHES IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Indicator	Baseline Level	Level in 2nd PIR (self-reported) (2019 to July 2021)	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating	Remaining Barriers
Number of local regulations issued to support implementation of NAP that reflect regional harmonization of national and subnational policies	Priority actions in the NAPs are not mainstreamed in national and local policy and programming frameworks	<p>35% of target has been achieved.</p> <p>In Timor-Leste, an Official Order issued by the Municipal Administrator of Manatuto Municipality formally launched the ICM Sub Task Team in PA Barique and signed a declaration of commitment to the implementation process of the formulated plan</p>	Timor-Leste: Two local regulations issued to support implementation of NAP	<p>1 local regulation achieved related to ICM sub task team establishment in support of ICM implementation</p> <p>Pending regulation is in support of new MPA to be established in Betano.</p>	MS	1 local regulation issued to support the implementation of ICM	Lack of human resources and limited local financial capacity may hinder the implementation of the regulation effectively

Knowledge transferred from capacitated trainers to resource beneficiaries	Limited local knowledge on integrated approaches	100% of target achieved in Timor-Leste, Data on recorded project resource beneficiaries that have been capacitated under various capacity building initiatives: 148 in Timor-Leste (exceeded end of project target);	Timor-Leste: 60 resource beneficiaries receive training on integrated approaches from the capacitated trainers	308 (200 Men, 108 Women) beneficiaries as of June 2022. This covers: IUU Fishing Vessel Identification Method and other surveillance measure and safety at sea (2020); EAFM survey (2021); Management of point and non-point source of pollution (2021); Plastic waste recycling and alternative livelihood (2021); Environmental and Aquaculture Engineering; Fresh Water Fish Farming (Tilapia); Natural Fish Food Organisms; Fish Nutrition's for Human; Rearing Freshwater Shrimps; Water Quality Management (2021); Seafoods processing, boat machine repair and button longline fishing skills (2021); Basic cooperatives (2022)	HS	The number of beneficiaries of the Project exceeds the expected end-of-project target. Total of 308 beneficiaries, 200 men and 108 women.	N/A
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OUTCOME 1.4: UPDATED TRANSBOUNDARY DIAGNOSTIC ANALYSIS (TDA), STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAM (SAP), AND NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAM (NAPS)							
Indicator	Baseline Level	Level in 2 nd PIR (self-reported) (2019 to July 2021)	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating	Remaining Barriers
<p>Proportion of countries that are implementing specific measures from the SAP</p> <p>SUPPORTING ACTIVITY TARGETS IN TL: 1.4.3-4. Renew the ATS NAP for Timor Leste in response to the updated ATS SAP.</p> <p>1.4.3-5. Validate the renewed Timor Leste NAP through a special session with the NIMC and the national project board. Following validation, the NAP is endorsed by the national project board and NIMC.</p> <p>1.4.3-6. Facilitate stakeholder consultations with the NIMC and national and local authorities, advocating for inclusion of specific actions included in the ATS NAP into</p>	0	<p>In line with ATSEA-2 Project implementation, activities in support of NAPs (Indonesia and Timor-Leste) and SAP have initiated since the commencement of the project in 2019.</p> <p>TIMOR-LESTE: Implementation of activities related to NAP under the ATSEA-2 Project started in 2020 (following the inception workshop in December 2019). During the Inception Workshop, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) committed to align the National Oceans Policy and National Fishery Strategic Plan with priority action of the SAP and the NAP. Updating of NAP is targeted once the updated</p>	Timor-Leste: Priority actions under ATS NAP mainstreamed into national development programs and budgets	In relation to TDA updating, TDA updating team in TL in place and desktop review initiated. NWG for TDA updating in place and oriented.	MS	Timor-Leste: The current activities being implemented under ATSEA-2 reflect the original NAP implementation	N/A

national development planning and budgetary frameworks.		TDA and SAP are completed					
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<p>OUTCOME 2.1: IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES AND OTHER COASTAL RESOURCES FOR LIVELIHOODS, NUTRITION AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH IN INDONESIA, TIMOR-LESTE, AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA</p>
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Indicator	Baseline Level	Level in 2 nd PIR (self- reported) (2019 to July 2021)	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating	Remaining Barriers
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Number of management plans and appropriate measures implemented for rebuilding or protecting fish stocks including alternative management approaches	0	<p>35% of target has been achieved (focused on the development of plans so far; implementation aspects of the plan are yet to be initiated).</p> <p>At country level, in Timor-Leste, stock assessment and value chain assessment of red snapper was done in 4 municipalities (Viqueque, Lautem, Manatuto and Manufahi) done and undergoing consolidation.</p>	<p>5 (for the regional/overall target)</p> <p>For Timor-Leste: 1 EAFM Plan for Red Snapper in Viqueque</p>	<p>Stock and value chain assessments for the Red Snapper fishery completed.</p> <p>The red snapper fishery EAFM plan completed.</p> <p>- National Fisheries Advisory Committee. A draft TORs towards the establishment of the committee is being developed.</p> <p>LoA signed with MAF to implement a Livelihoods Program (June- September 2022) for Coastal Communities adjacent to NKS National Park - Sucu Lorehe-I (Lautem) through the installation of two Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD/RUMPON) to improve economic viability of fishers.</p> <p>The programme will benefit Fishers Group of 40 people (30 Male and 10 Female) in Horalata; and one fishers Group of 40 members (30 Male and 10 Female) in Vailana</p>	MS	<p>EAFM plan completed and it is covering 4 municipalities in the South Coast of Timor-Leste, not just Viqueque. Roll out of the plan is already to be initiated.</p>	N/A
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<p>Improved use of fish gear/techniques</p> <p>Supporting Output/Activity in TL:</p> <p>Output 2.1.3</p> <p>Regional and national actions strengthened in support of the Regional Plan of Action for Responsible Fishing Practices Including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region and the Indonesian Presidential Task Force on Combating Illegal Fishing, e.g., through better surveillance, enforcement, and monitoring, resulting in a further reduction of IUU fishing in the ATS by 10%, around 150,000 tons</p>	<p>South Coast, Timor-Leste: Approx. 150 registered vessels in the south coast municipalities.</p>	<p>In Timor-Leste, training on IUU fishing vessel identification and methods have been carried out.</p>	<p>South Coast, Timor-Leste: 50% of the vessels within the mackerel fishery using improved gear/techniques.</p>	<p>Training for Fisheries on IUU Fishing Vessel Identification Method and other surveillance measure and safety at sea conducted for Municipalities of Viqueque, Manufahi and Covalima (Dec. 2020)</p> <p>MAF is also implementing a program to improve fish gear/techniques (which includes specification of maximum number of people per group per small fishing vessels)</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>Training for Fisheries on IUU Fishing Vessel Identification Method and other surveillance measure and safety at sea conducted for Municipalities of Viqueque, Manufahi and Covalima (Dec. 2020).</p> <p>Despite the training field evidence suggest that the fishermen have not been successful in preventing IUU in the Timor Sea and that there is ineffective coordination line between the Timor-Leste Navy, Maritime Police and local coastal community.</p> <p>Development, socialization and training related to EAFM and FIP for Timor-Leste to improved use guidance for fish gears and techniques.</p> <p>Activities related to socialization and trainings on the improved use of</p>	<p>N/A</p>
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						fish gears were undertaken but there is no information on the number of registered fishing vessels in beneficiary municipality.	
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OUTCOME 2.2: REDUCED MARINE POLLUTION IMPROVES ECOSYSTEM HEALTH IN COASTAL/ MARINE HOTSPOTS IN THE ARAFURA AND TIMOR SEAS							
Indicator	Baseline Level	Level in 2 nd PIR (self- reported) (2019 to July 2021)	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating	Remaining Barriers
Strengthened oil spill response systems and capacities	Oil and gas development is expanding in the ATS region, but local communities lack awareness and capacity to respond to marine pollution incidents	<p>20% of target has been achieved. The ATSEA-2 focuses on 2 areas (a) marine debris, and (b) oil spill.</p> <p>Regional assessment on marine and land-based pollution and hotspot analysis has been completed, including the conduct of a Regional Webinar on Marine and Land-based Pollution.</p> <p>Timor-Leste, the Marine and Land-based Pollution</p>	Oil spill early response systems and procedures are included in the ICM plans of Município Manatuto in Timor-Leste	<p>Marine Pollution Hotspot Analysis on the Southern Coast was finalized in 2021. The study summarizes recent developments in waste reduction and management in Timor-Leste and outlines the main gaps in treaties, legislation, regulations, and enforcement.</p> <p>A community workshop (with 47 participants) led by University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) was organized in August 2021 regarding the management of point and non-point source</p>	HS	Target pollution assessment completed for South Coast. Point and non-point sources of pollution and action program integrated in ICM Plan in Barique. Roll out of plan is expected from 2022 onwards.	N/A

		<p>Assessment in South Coast (covering 4 municipalities) has been completed with final validation ongoing.</p> <p>Beach clean-up activities also undertaken combined with awareness building workshops.</p>		<p>pollution in the Manatuto Municipality.</p> <p>Awareness and capacity building conducted:</p> <p>Beach clean-up and awareness campaign on marine plastic pollution in Viqueque, Manatuto, Manufahi and Covalima, including a survey workshop in Barique in 2020</p> <p>Training on plastic waste recycling and alternative source of income from recycled products conducted in Uma Boco Village, Barique in 2021 (benefiting women)</p> <p><u>As of SAR 2022.</u></p> <p>The final report on Marine Pollution Hotspot Analysis on the Southern Coast in place and the project management team will continue to share it with line ministries and other stakeholders.</p> <p>A concept note towards the organization of a six (6) days training on</p>			
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				oil spill preparedness in Betanu and Suai has been finalized and shared with the Ministry of Petroleum and ANPM (National Agency of Mineral and Petroleum) who have already accepted to facilitate the training from 18-22 July 2022 in Betano and from 25- 29 July 2022 in Suai Municipality.			
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OUTCOME 2.3: COASTAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVED THROUGH PROTECTION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES							
Indicator	Baseline Level	Level in 2 nd PIR (self- reported) (2019 to July 2021)	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating	Remaining Barriers

Protected area management effectiveness score	Timor-Leste: NKS MPA METT: 24	NOTE: METT scores to be reported in next PIRs, focus for 2019-2021 was mainly on baseline assessment and profiling. In line with the ATSEA-2 targets on biodiversity conservation, this section covers the following key accomplishments: completion of updated baseline data/profile of key marine ecosystems in ATS and ecosystem valuation; completed MPA Network Design and proposed roadmap for new MPAs; In Timor-Leste, the conduct of stakeholder coordination meeting on the planned establishment of new MPA in Manufahi. Support to existing MPAs have just been initiated and as such, specific reporting on METT improvement in 2	Timor-Leste: NKS MPA METT: 50	Stakeholder consultation meeting for new MPA concept in Manufahi conducted in Dec, 10 2020 A Marine Rapid Assessment (MRA)/coastal ecological and socio-economic surveys were conducted in Manufahi coastal areas from 8 – 17 March 2022 by the CTC team A draft socio-economic, biophysical, and sustainable financing plan report (for Manufahi and Nino Konis Santana MPAs) has been produced. The CTC team and consultants have already undertaken field visits to Nino Koni Santana (NKS) MPA to do field observation, discuss and collect data from MPA management unit members and key stakeholders regarding status of management plan in the MPA The draft of Training Need Analysis (TNA) questionnaires form has been agreed on and available to be used for collecting data from key stakeholders in Timor-Leste.	MS	In relation to the EOP on METT, assessment is targeted to be completed in 2022, following the field assessments and stakeholder have been conducted in NKS.	N/A
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		existing MPAs in Indonesia and Timor-Leste is targeted in next PIR reporting		The final draft of the report (socio- economic and biophysical) and MPA outer boundary with no take zone map for Betano were presented to Manufahi Municipality and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries stakeholders on 10 June 2022			
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Number of threatened species under enhanced protection	0	<p>60% of the target achieved with the completion of a Draft Regional Plan of Action for the Enhanced Protection of Sea Turtles. A regional and consultations have been conducted and inputs accommodated.</p> <p>Timor-Leste is in the process of engaging consultant for target pilot project on community-based turtle conservation project.</p>	1 (marine turtles).	<p>On 18 August 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) in collaboration with ATSEA-2 project, organized the release of 450 sea turtle hatchlings at Com Village in Nino Konis Santana National Park and raised awareness to 71 community members (45 men and 26 women) as one of the steps towards marine turtle conservation and promotion of community-based ecotourism. Consultations with the community/stakeholders (May 4-5, 2022) in Com, Lautem Municipality who pointed out a need for a sea turtle egg holding tank to facilitate the work by the women conservation groups towards protection of sea turtles. Reactivation of Tarabandu and improved awareness amongst the local communities towards conservation of sea turtles were also pointed out.</p> <p>TORs towards a call for proposals (Low Value Grants) targeting local conservation organizations to undertake activities related to sea turtles ' conservation following the priorities pointed out by the conservation groups during UNDP/MAF prior</p>	(NOTE: This is rated at regional report as the EOP refers to regional target)	<p>In support of this regional project target Timor-Leste has released 450 sea turtles. Support to sustainable alternative livelihoods has also been initiated in TL to help mitigate turtle harvesting and bycatch.</p>	N/A
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				consultations is being developed.			
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OUTCOME 2.4 : INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT, INCORPORATING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CONSIDERATIONS, IMPLEMENTED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL TOWARDS MORE SUSTAINABLE USE AND CONSERVATION OF ECOSYSTEM GOODS AND SERVICES							
Indicator	Baseline Level	Level in 2 nd PIR (self- reported) (2019 to July 2021)	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating	Remaining Barriers

Adoption and implementation of ICM plans and reforms to protect coastal zones in LMEs – Number of beneficiary countries adopting and applying ICM within ATS region	No coastal areas are currently under ICM. Timor-Leste is currently preparing ICM plans with support of PEMSEA.	In Timor-Leste, the ICM Sub Task Team in PA Barique has been established and the ICM Plan developed.	2 (1 ICM plan in Indonesia and 1 ICM plan in Timor-Leste)	<p>Official Order establishing ICM Sub Task Team; Meetings related to ICM Sub Task Team conducted.</p> <p>Baseline/biophysical and socio-economic assessment as well as a climate change vulnerability assessment for the target areas within Barique Posto Administrativo completed</p> <p>ICM Strategic Implementation Plan for Post0 Administrative Barique developed.</p> <p>A declaration of commitment signed on 7th January 2022 in Barique. Uma Boco Suco ICM plan was also developed as part of the general ICM plan for Barique Post Administrative. Over 254 people also benefited from activities related to piloting of the outcomes from the Worldfish feasibility study in the context of ICM plan development and implementation-</p>	MS	<p>ICM Strategic Implementation Plan has been adopted and implementation has initiated for Barique.</p> <p>Engagement of women-led cooperative for target project on alternative livelihood also initiated.</p>	Lack of human resource and limited local financial capacity may hinder the effective implementation of the plan
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				<p>A women led cooperative for the sale of local fish has been established (24-28 April 2022) in collaboration with the Secretary State of Cooperatives. This has been done in the context of ICM to eventually support subsequent implementation of the ICM activities.</p> <p>A letter of Agreement signed with MAF to conduct trainings for fish farmers on local production and/or sourcing of affordable fish feed for the aquaculture as well as freshwater cultivation technique training.</p>			
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Number of women and men supported with alternative livelihoods that contribute to improved management of natural resources and increased resilience of their local communities with respect to the impacts of climate change	0	This target is also linked with the above target on ICM. Part of ICM Plan (once completed and adopted) is the conduct of key sustainable initiatives. Initiatives related to alternative livelihoods have just started as provided below, and as such number of men and women supported will be part of subsequent PIR reporting in line with the roll-out of ICM plan and livelihood activities.	Total: 1500, including 850 women and 650 men (for overall project target; EOP not disaggregated at country level)	As of June 2022, in terms of livelihood capacities/support, for TL Timor-Leste a total of 154 were capacitated (67 men and 87 women) in relation to alternative livelihoods. This includes: training covering various aspects of aquaculture fishing was conducted in Lautem in 2021 and covered the following topics: Environmental and Aquaculture Engineering; Fresh Water Fish Farming (Tilapia); Natural Fish Food Organisms; Fish Nutrition's for Human; Rearing Freshwater Shrimps; Water Quality Management (Theory and Practice); Fish Disease; Fish Nutrition and Feed Formulation (Theory and Practice) 2) Training on plastic waste recycling conducted in Uma Boco Village, PA Barique in 2021. The training also provided ideas on possible alternative source of income from recycled products (22 community members capacitated)	MS	Number of men and women supported still low, but is expected to increase as the sustainable livelihood activities are fully rolled out.	N/A
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				<p>3) Training on Seafoods processing, boat machine repair and button longline fishing skills conducted in Betano, Same, Manufahi. (41 trained: 26 Men, 15Women)</p> <p>4) A 4-day training on basic cooperatives was done in April 2022 in Barique with technical support from the Secretary State of Cooperatives. 50 participants (40 women, 10 men) participated in the training. This was done in the context of ICM to eventually support subsequent implementation of the ICM activities. Following the training, a women led cooperative (Tok Derek Cooperative) was established and was officially launched on 3 June 2022 by the Representative Secretary of State for Cooperatives, with 53 participants in attendance, where the cooperative leadership was further elected. A concept note has already been approved by UNDP towards a training in</p>			
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				financial management and accountability of the elected leadership of Tok Derek Women led cooperative leadership will be done by SECOOP with support from UNDP on 20-24 June 2022—as part of the requirements towards formal/legal registration with the Ministry of Justice and subsequently contribute to ICM implementation and sustainability of activities.			
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Green: Completed, indicator shows successful achievements	Yellow: Indicator shows expected completion by the EOP	Red: Indicator shows poor achievement – unlikely to be completed by project closure
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18. GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools (TT) for the respective GEF focal areas of International Waters and Biodiversity were prepared by the project team at the project inception and for the MTR; the latter using the GEF Core Indicator format as required for monitoring and reporting for GEF-6 projects ³.
19. By reviewing the aspects of the project that have already been successful, actions were identified to further expand their derived benefits, which are described in section 5.2.

4.2.1 Remaining Barriers to Achieve project Objectives

20. The ATSEA-2 Timor-Leste Component Project Management, identified several barriers that likely to impede the successful delivery of project end target as follows:
21. Time-consuming administrative procurement (service and goods) and human resources procedures by the UNDP Timor-Leste, leading to the delayed implementation of activities;
22. Language barriers for implementing community involvement in the project, particularly community members with low educational background who has limited understanding or knowledge about climate change;
23. Upcoming Parliamentary elections in 2023 and change in governmental structures and transitions in MAF Timor-Leste;
24. Covid-19 pandemic also considered to still hamper the project activities' implementation.

4.3 Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

Management Arrangements

25. Project responsibilities and reporting lines are clear, and decision-making is transparent and undertaken in timely fashion if field information is available, the content of this information must be communicated with more candour: e.g. there are situations that clearly indicate failure where local staff for field activities not actively present in the project site, which can affect the effective implementation of the project.
26. The project should ensure that local authorities and fishermen do not assume the constitutional responsibilities of the Law Enforcement; the F-FDTL Navy and Maritime Police. The operative modality, instructed to local government and fishermen about IUU and the line of instructions, oversee and reporting, are directly from PMU to the NGO and to the PMU, where the local authorities participating as formal figure but not as an authority with decision making capacity over the project execution in their communities. The adjustment of this kind of vision (which was good for the first phase of the project) take high relevance in the second half of project execution, in order to assure that project's benefits will continue its development toward sustainability.
27. The project should review the participation of key members and ministries for involvement in Project Board, encouraging representatives from the Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Defence and Maritime Police to have an active part. The Ministry of Tourism have

³ Guidelines on Core Indicators and Sub-Indicators, GEF ME/GN/02 (March 2019)

identified some of the sites for development into tourist sites and the Ministry of Defence and Maritime Police has the mandate for protecting the Timor Sea and its surrounding.

Work planning

28. The project was signed on March 5, 2019, ground implementation started on December 16, 2019, which affected the effective implementation of several project activities.
29. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic was another problem impeding the implementation of the project at full capacity. The project design and work-planning are based on results-based management (RBM), ensuring high performance and the achievement that interventions are relevant, efficient, effective, and deliver impact on the results.

Finance and co-finance

30. With respect to the project's financial management, with specific reference to the cost-effectiveness of interventions against progress made towards the end-of-project targets (Table 8 and 9), the MTR observed:

Table 8: Allocation and disbursement of GEF funds-TL Component (as of 31 March 2022)

Project Component	5-year Budget (US\$)	Expenditures (US\$)	%
Component 1	284,412.00	34,824.26	12%
Component 2	1,796,685.00	481,191.46	27%
Project Management	38,903.00	39,599.43	102%
Total	2,120,000.00	564,868.15*	27%

NOTE: *Based on available TL CDR there an Expense of US\$9,253 was recorded under Component 3 but TL has no Component 3. The expenditure was added as part of the total as reflected in the table.

Table 9. Co-finance Commitment for ATSEA-2 Project Timor-Leste Component					
Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Co-financing amount confirmed at GEF CEO endorsement/approval	Investment Mobilized	Amount (\$)
Recipient Government	Government of Timor-Leste, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in collaboration with Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)	Grant	N/A		100,000.0
Recipient Government	Government of Timor-Leste, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in partnership with the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI)	Grant	N/A		48,986.0

Recipient Government	Government of Timor-Leste, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	In Kind	N/A	Recurrent Expenditure	1,431,240.0
Recipient Government	Government of Timor-Leste, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Grant	20,000,000	Recurrent Expenditure and Investment Funds Mobilized	17,549,308.03
Total Co-financing					19,129,534.03

26. The MTR found that co-financial commitments are monitored, reported or planned, setting up important constraints for the use of this information in strategic fashion to facilitate the outcomes achievement and for the project benefits to be sustainable.
27. Furthermore, MTR has observed that the project team does not meet with all co-financing partners regularly in order to align financing commitment priorities related to annual work plans.

Project-level monitoring and evaluation systems

28. The monitoring plan provides basic information. The project-monitoring plan has left out the participation of institutional beneficiaries and communities in the M&E process. Given the RBM approach and from a Human Rights and Gender Equality approach (United Nations Evaluation Group, 2014), the process of Monitoring and Evaluation needs to be conducted also with the direct participation of involved beneficiaries in the following three ways: (i) data collection for monitoring and analysis, (ii) reporting and (iii) accountability. Ergo, project team needs to further improve capacity building and empowerment for beneficiaries community.
29. The MTR found that the monitoring planning is focused more on activities and outputs, and little focus on explaining the reasons why these activities are implemented and why the outputs are needed in relationship to the outcome. This was evident at local and community level; as such some people who were supposedly involved in local project activities have very little knowledge about the project.
30. The Monitoring does not collect data from households both receiving and not receiving livelihood support from the project - to assess the success of livelihoods support provided by the project. Livelihood project recipients have little understanding on as to how the project is supporting the improvement of their livelihoods in the long term.
31. The MTR found that the project adopted risk management during the peak of Covid-19 pandemic. The adaptive management successfully updated project progress, via virtual meetings and continuous engagement of stakeholders. Despite the COVID 19 pandemic, the project managed to implement project activities with minor complaints from implementing partners.

Stakeholder engagement

32. The MTR found no evidence that the project has leveraged the appropriate partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders, such as NGOs and important private businesses.
33. With regards to participation and government-involved processes: local and national government stakeholders are supporting the objectives of the project, however, stakeholder at local Suco level are requesting a more active role in project decision-making that supports efficient and effective project implementation foreseeing the sustainability of project benefits.
34. The MTR found that stakeholder involvement especially from the part of the government MAF and local community are positive and public awareness activities, so far, need to be improved quality wise to raise the commitment progress towards achievement of project objectives at Suco or local level.

Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards) (SES)

35. The MTR found that the project design was subject to a mandatory Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) to identify potential social and environmental risks and its impact. The SESP screens projects for all environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the Social and Environmental Standards (SES) and related programming principles including human rights-based approach; gender equality and women's empowerment; sustainability and resilience; and accountability) as well as project-level standards, including direct, indirect, cumulative, transboundary risks and impacts and those related to associated facilities.
36. The MTR found that the project adopted gender marker 2 to promote gender equality to recognise and ensure women involvement in the project. The project clearly includes gender quota in the project objective Outcome 1 on EAFM and on Outcome 2.4 on ICM and IUU. Moreover, the MTR field visit found that women are actively involved in livelihood project activities and that they have taken a leadership role particularly in most of the alternative livelihood income generation activities supported by the project, such as developing a recycling business activities in Natarbora and tree planting activities, seaweed soap business in Betano, and establishment of a women-led cooperative for sale of local fish as well as in ecotourism. However, COVID-19 pandemic have also impacted their activities and are on a slow progress.

Reporting

37. The ProDoc clearly outlines reporting line of responsibility. All activities are reported updated and progress are tracked including; monthly updates, quarterly progress reports, and quarterly PAR. The NCU renders inputs to the inputs for the ATSEA-2 annual progress report, inputs for the PIRs reporting.
38. Delays and risks are well addressed by project management team and shared with Regional Project Management Unit as part of project adaptive management to mitigate situations which could lead to major difficulties for all project components.
39. The MTR found that UNDP ATSEA-2 Project Team and partners fulfill GEF reporting requirements on time and form, however, some difficulties or situation on the ground needs

to be reported clearly. Therefore, PIR report needs to focus more on reporting local or field difficulties and challenges rather than on the achievements.

Communications

- 40. Internal project communication with stakeholders is regular, however, it needs to highlight challenges at community level to enhance the quality of implementation to contribute to project progress and sustainability.
- 41. Furthermore, project utilised social media communications as an effective tool to convey the project progress made intended to impact public view. There is good presence on social networks and Internet and the project has also implemented appropriate outreach and public awareness campaigns.

Covid-19 pandemic and natural disaster

- 42. The MTR found that the project adopted a New Normal Project Management Plan due to COVID-19 pandemic which have impacted the whole project implementation and from there the project created agile strategies in Timor-Leste components.

4.4 Sustainability

Financial risks to sustainability

- 44. The MTR identified NIM modality as a means of ensuring ownership and responsibility. However, financial risk are very high in post GEF assistance due to limited financial capacity of implementing partners and other strategies (like with private sector) and the commitments from communities in relation to contributing to components of ATSEA-2 project is insufficient.

Socio-economic to sustainability

- 45. The MTR has not identified any social or political risks that may impact sustainability of ATSEA-2 project outcomes.
- 46. The MTR observed that the risk level of project ownership at Municipal, Suco and community level is insufficient (e.g) local government at Suco level has limited knowledge to envision supportive local program to ensure project outcomes/benefits sustainability.
- 47. Furthermore, the MTR observed that various key stakeholders have good interest in having project benefits continue to flow; however, important efforts need to be made to increase the quality (not quantity) of public and stakeholder awareness actions in support of the long-term objectives of the ATSEA-2 project.

Institutional framework and governance risks to sustainability

- 48. The MTR has not found a legal framework, policy, governance structures or processes that pose risks or may jeopardize sustenance of project benefits.

49. It is important to highlight that Local Government and key ministries such as MAF, have suitable mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and technical knowledge in place. However, these mechanisms need to be strengthened by the government of Timor-Leste to address the national environment agenda, the climate change adaptation strategy.

Environmental risks to sustainability

50. The MTR did not identify any environmental risks that may impact the outcome of the project. However, local communities still cut down trees for firewood that can affect mangrove rehabilitation and conservation. In addition, marine pollution is still high and hidden turtle catching is still common.
51. The MTR found that community basic understanding of specific transboundary issues are still low. MTR noted that the project also supported the rehabilitation of the degraded ecosystem of mangroves in newly identified MPA of Suai Betano.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

52. The project was designed with a very high sense of responsibility with respect to the development challenges and risk of climate change that Timor-Leste is experiencing; while at the same time, providing a core contribution to national priorities (NAPA) and to fulfil Timor-Leste's international commitment toward adaptation to climate change (Paris Agreement), Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework) and SDGs.
53. Project benefits achieved up to now are contributing to solve some baseline sustainable development problems that are pointing toward adaptation to climate change impacts, such as improve access to food security, fresh water availability, enhance natural resources and improved productive diversification.
54. The project has progressed under important work pressure and delayed caused by COVID 19 pandemic. The project team has been influenced by the sense of delay producing an "activism" without sufficient attention given to why actions are performed or "where we go next". Outcomes were not present all the time at execution
55. The MTR observed improved material conditions and socio-institutional concerns about coastal protection, there is no change observed in the problems, barriers and constraints related to (i) the weakness of policy framework and institutional capacity for climate resilient coastal management, (ii) the needs of alternative livelihoods to incentivize and protection and (iii) the development of tools for ecosystem-based adaptation and executed applying a Ridge to Reef (R2R) approach.
56. The MTR observed that problems include important barriers to integrate local solutions and practical experiences from not "technical" local people. Traditional knowledge/capabilities and local solutions that could be most suitable to address the problems and barriers the project is trying to solve.
57. Several "end of project target" are clearly insufficient. Furthermore, the project needs to assure that the broader development issues that are being achieved, such income generation

project, productive diversification, gender equality and women's empowerment, to be monitored effectively in the long run, to provide a more contextual viewpoint of the project's impact.

58. Training sessions on selected productive/economic activities, are dispersed and low efficient activities with unclear results. Most groups have no idea of what they want and don't know the type of support they need from the project. Very few exceptions observed where community groups have a clear idea of what they want to achieve. In all cases, these are groups organized before the intervention of the project.
59. Most of the community groups engaged in the project livelihood activities are unaware of the link between the support received from the project and the commitment expected from them.
60. The project is unable to measure the percentage of change in incomes perceived, and if the changes took place in households headed by women or not or if they correspond to alternative or regular daily incomes.
61. It is necessary to be more innovative in awareness raising at community level, emphasizing practical activities like dynamic workshops, theatre, music festivals, community traditional events (beach cleaning activities) and other such conferences, youth forums, etc. based on awareness strategy suitable for different target population and stakeholders.
62. The project has no awareness strategy and this is an important vacuum. Furthermore, the project has no tools to measure the change in public awareness at local level and target coastal populations. "Awareness raising" activities were performed using materials that were published and distributed without testing the suitability of ideas and language for accurate comprehension by different stakeholders, population in general and specific target populations such as women, young people, children, farmers and fishers.

5.2 Recommendations

Corrective actions for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project

1. MTR recommends that the project take corrective action to put back on track area that not on target because of slow progress to achieve "in table 7, corresponding to project objective:
 - **Indicator 2:** urgent follow up on EAFM Red Snapper related project activities in Viqueque.
 - **Indicator 3:** Urgent follow up action to assess the progress and challenges impeding the project progress towards the establishment of new MPA in Betano
2. MTR highly recommends that UNDP ATSEA-2 project be extended for longer period between 6 to 12 months, in order to fully achieve the project objectives and filled the time loss at the start and ensure the high quality of outcome sustainability at local level.
3. Despite consultation with stakeholder at all levels before project implementation, some local authority at Suco level still has limited understanding about their responsibility and lack of sense of ownership. The MTR recommends that capacity building at Suco level be further strengthened to ensure their sense of responsibility and ownership over community development and environment protection, coastal management, to progress toward project benefits sustainability, especially with IUU fishing in the Timor Sea.

4. The MTR suggests Benefit Management to make up the missing opportunity to ensure that the projects deliver the expected strategic impact and drive organizational success. MTR recommended that the project provided further capacity building in marketing and the use of technology in advancing marketing and promotion for target beneficiaries community.
5. The project may consider strengthening its M&E systems to reflect its 'activities more comprehensively as 'bridge 'between UNDP ATSEA-2 project and government of Timor-Leste, and to gather evidence on the impact of Community Livelihoods Support Project in the Country. The project should focus on providing capacity building support for engagement at both national and local levels to leverage political pressure between these levels and ensure that ATSEA-2 project implementation effectively, domesticated and can trace the impact
6. The MTR recommends that the project improve decision making process and provide sufficient information to partners in regard to UNDP internal decision making process.
7. Livelihood support project, should be planned comprehensively with a professional support of specialist in business planning development such as livestock, agriculture, fishery, poultry, etc., including a very clear business plan that includes impacts and outcomes expected, capacity development for financial, technical and productive management.
8. The MTR recommends that the project's work focused on local responsibility related to project outcomes/benefits and their sustainability. ICM success story in Manatuto can me extended to other part of project site. MTR suggest that more minor decision making be delegated to local authorities to develop capacities (capacity building) for Integrated Natural Resources Management in coastal zones

6. Annexes:

Annex 1: MTR ToR (excluding ToR annexes)

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

National Consultant to Conduct a Mid Term Review (MTR) for the Arafura and Timor Seas Regional and National Strategic Action Programs Phase II (ATSEA-2)

TIMOR-LESTE COMPONENT

POST TITLE:	National Consultant for Mid Term Evaluation of ATSEA-2 Project
AGENCY/PROJECT NAME:	UNDP/ Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Phase 2 (ATSEA-2)
PERIOD OF ASSIGNMENT/SERVICES:	30 working days between April and May 2022
COUNTRY OF ASSIGNMENT:	Timor-Leste
STARTING DATE:	01 April 2021
LOCATION:	UNDP Timor-Leste
DUTY STATION:	Dili, Timor-Leste

A. INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

In accordance with UNDP and GEF M&E policies and procedures, all full and medium-sized UNDP- supported GEF-financed projects are required to undergo a midterm review. This term of reference (TOR) sets out the expectations for a Midterm Review (MTR) of the full-sized project entitled “Implementation of the Arafura and Timor Seas Regional and National Strategic Action Programs (ATSEA-2); Second Phase of the Arafura Timor Seas Ecosystem Action (ATSEA) Program” (PIMS 5439), implemented through UNDP/PEMSEA, which is to be undertaken in 2022. The project started in 2019 and is in its third year of implementation.

The ATSEA-2 Project is the 2nd phase of the GEF-financed, UNDP-supported ATSEA program, and is designed to enhance regional collaboration and coordination in the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) region, which is composed of Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea (PNG), and Timor-Leste.

Building upon the foundational results realized in the first phase of the ATSEA program, whereby the ATS Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and regional ATS Strategic Action Program (SAP) and corresponding National Action Programs (NAPs)⁴ were developed and adopted, the ATSEA-2 project focuses on supporting the implementation of the 10-year ATS SAP endorsed through a Ministerial Declaration in 2014. The SAP responds to the findings of the TDA and aims to pursue the following environmental objectives addressing the five major transboundary concerns in the ATS region: (1) Recovering and sustaining fisheries; (2)

⁴ Under ATSEA-1, the countries of Indonesia and Timor-Leste have developed and adopted their respective National Action Programs (NAPs). PNG was an observer country during ATSEA-1.

Restoring degraded habitats for sustainable provision of ecosystem services; (3) Reducing land-based and marine sources of pollution; (4) Protecting key marine species; and (5) Adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

In accordance with the SAP's long-term objective, the ATSEA-2 project aims to enhance sustainable development of the ATS region to protect biodiversity and improve the quality of life of its inhabitants through conservation and sustainable management of marine-coastal ecosystems. To achieve this objective, the project's intervention has been organized in three components, under which nine outcomes and 22 outputs are expected. The project components include:

- Component 1: Regional, National and Local Governance for Large Marine Ecosystem Management
- Component 2: Improving LME Carrying Capacity to Sustain Provisioning, Regulating and Supporting Ecosystem Services
- Component 3: Knowledge Management

The project is closely aligned with the GEF-6 IW strategic programs, particularly to Objective 3 "Enhance multi-state cooperation and catalyse investments to foster sustainable fisheries and protect coastal habitats and reduce pollution of coasts and Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs)". It also applies a multifocal approach which covers international waters and biodiversity focal areas, as well as increased resilience to climate change.

The project is being managed under National Implementation Modality (NIM) with full country office support. In particular, UNDP Indonesia serving as the Principal Project Representative (PPR) is managing Indonesia component (Award ID 00096036) and Regional and PNG component (Award ID 00111335), while Timor-Leste component (Award ID 00111339) is being executed by UNDP Timor-Leste. The Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) is serving as executing agency for the regional and PNG component of the project. Indonesia, PNG, and Timor-Leste are the three participating countries to the project with corresponding co-financing support, while Australia is providing technical and co-financing support to the project.

The project has a five-year timeframe starting from 2019 to 2024. The project implementation began in 2019 but with varying starting dates based on the signing of the Project Document by member countries: Indonesia-01 February 2019; Timor-Leste-05 March 2019, Papua New Guinea-29 July 2019, while at the regional level the activities started from 24 July 2019 following the signature of Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between PEMSEA and UNDP Indonesia. The Project Inception Meetings were conducted in Indonesia on 03 October 2019, in Timor-Leste on 16 December 2019, and at the regional level on 19 November 2019, while PNG's inception meeting was conducted only on 31 May 2021, following the series of discussions and finalization of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between PEMSEA and the National Fisheries Agency (NFA) of PNG which was signed on 21 October 2020. The Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) serving as Secretariat and based in Bali, Indonesia was operationalized beginning early 2020, while National Coordinating Units (NCUs) were operationalized in Indonesia and Timor-Leste in 2019, and in PNG in 2021.

The total GEF grant for the project is US\$ 9,745,662, with corresponding co-financing commitments (in-kind and in cash) amounting to US\$33,818,412 from the ATS government partners, UNDP Indonesia, UNDP PNG, and NGO partners. For the Timor-Leste component,

the total GEF grant is at US\$ 2,120,000, with corresponding co-financing commitment amounting to US\$ 10,000,000.

B. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT/SCOPE OF SERVICE

The MTR will assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document's Strategic Results Framework and assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results. The MTR will specifically

- Review all relevant sources of information including documents prepared during the preparation phase (i.e. PIF, UNDP Initiation Plan, UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure/SESP), the Project Document, project reports including annual PIRs, project work plans and budget revisions, and any other materials that the team considers useful for this evidence-based review;
- Review the baseline GEF focal area Core Indicators/Tracking Tools submitted to the GEF at CEO endorsement, and the midterm GEF focal area Core Indicators/Tracking Tools that must be completed before the MTR begins;
- Review technical and managerial aspects and consider issues of effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, impact and sustainability. This review should be conducted throughout project's components, strategy and approach against its objectives, output and outcome targets;
- Identify factors that have facilitated and/or impeded the achievement of objectives and should result in recommendations and lessons learned that will help project managers/project team in reorienting and re-prioritizing project activities and managerial arrangements as needed for the remainder of the project. The MTR should take into account all relevant factors including social and/or gender factors that may hinder achievement of objectives. Hence, gender lens should be applied in the whole approach and methodology of evaluation review;
- Identify future directions and recommendations for the project team, donors, government and partners and provide them with a clear understanding of the major outcomes and with a strategy and policy options to achieve the project's expected results more effectively and efficiently.

The MTR will also review the project's strategy, including gender mainstreaming and approach to the vulnerable group, and its risks to sustainability. The MTR will also look at any project interventions that have contributed directly or indirectly to government's effort of COVID-19 recovery both at the national level and project sites.

Result of the MTR will be submitted to the GEF. The MTR findings and responses outlined in the management response will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's duration.

Refer to List of MTR Annexes (Annex 5) for UNDP guidance on the conduct, preparation and finalization of MTR report.

C. EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

The specific deliverables expected from this assignment is as following:

#	Deliverables/ Outputs	Estimated completion days	Target Due Dates	Payment Milestones	Review and Feedback	Review & Approval
.						

1	MTR Inception Report and consultancy work plan	4	8 April 2022	10%	ATSEA-2 Regional Programme Unit, ATSEA-2 National Coordination Unit Timor-Leste	UNDP Timor-Leste
2	Undertake MTR fieldwork/interviews, prepare and Make Presentation for Initial Findings of the MTR	13	30 April 2022	25%		
3	Draft MTR Report	8	15 May 2022	35%		
4	Final MTR Report	5	30 May 2022	30%		
	Total number of days	30 days		100%		

D. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Individual Consultant (IC)/National Consultant (NC) will work closely with the National Project Coordinator (NPC) of ATSEA-2 who will ensure that all relevant documents and any other necessary support is available and any planned meetings with stakeholders and partners are arranged for this assignment. The NPC will also provide guidance and information and liaise with the government partners to facilitate the process needed for this assignment. The IC/NC will be in regular contact with the National Project Coordinator (NPC) ATSEA-2 to update his/her working progress.

UNDP Timor-Leste and ATSEA-2 Project Team will provide logistic support to the IC/NC in the implementation of specific meetings identified as essential to be undertaken for the purposes of this MTR. If travel to project sites and/or meetings to meet the identified stakeholders is restricted due to Covid 19 related travel restrictions, UNDP will provide support towards the organization of virtual meeting. An updated stakeholder list with contact details (phone and email) will be provided by UNDP Timor-Leste to the MTR Consultant.

The IC/NC for Timor-Leste will be part of an MTR Team (one International Consultant as team leader, and one National Consultant for Indonesia). While the NC for Timor-Leste will be responsible for the in-depth review of the Timor-Leste component, he/she will also closely coordinate with the MTR Team for the development of the inception report and ensure that MTR findings and recommendations from Timor-Leste MTR are considered as part of the overall consolidated MTR Report for the ATSEA-2 project. Meetings with the MTR Team will be coordinated by the ATSEA-2 Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU).

E. DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT

The assignment is expected for a period of 30 days between April 2022 to May 2022 in Timor-Leste. The consultant must also be available for regular meetings with the ATSEA-2 Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU), NCU in Timor-Leste, and implementing

partners and stakeholders. Field visits to municipalities for consultation, if required, will be arranged based on the approved consultant's work plan/schedule.

F. DUTY STATION

Dili, Timor-Leste

G. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SUCCESSFUL INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTOR

The IC/National Consultant (NC) should have prior experience and exposure in evaluation of similar projects. The selected applicant should not have participated in the project preparation and/or implementation and should not have conflict of interest with project related activities.

The **National Consultant (NC)** must present the following qualifications:

Education:

- University Degree (Preferably Masters) in sociology, development studies/management, environmental science, environment & natural resources management, social anthropology, or any related course (20%).

Experience:

- Minimum of five (5) years of relevant professional experience especially on results-based monitoring and evaluation methodologies and applying SMART indicators and reconstructing or validating baseline scenarios (20%);
- Experience in the evaluation of technical assistance projects, preferably UN agencies and major donors (20%);
- Minimum 2 years work experience with institutions, programmes and local and national governments in the ATS region (10%)
- Demonstrated understanding of issues related to sustainable fisheries, coastal and marine habitats and biodiversity, climate change, marine and land-based pollution, including experience in gender sensitive evaluation and analysis, and experience working on application of EAFM, ICM, EbA approaches (20%)
- Excellent English writing and communication skills. Demonstrated ability to assess complex situations to distill critical issues and draw forward looking conclusions (5%) succinctly and clearly
- Experience leading multi-disciplinary, multi-national teams to deliver quality products in high stress, short deadline situations (5%)

3. Language Requirements:

- Fluency in English with excellent written communication skills, and strong experience writing reports is required.
- Knowledge of written and spoken skills in Tetum would be an advantage.

4. Competencies and special skills requirement:

- Strong leadership and good communication skills and strong analytical, reporting and writing skills;

- Openness to change and ability to receive/integrate feedback and have ability to plan, organize, implement and report on work;
- Ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines.
- Proficiency in the use of office IT applications and Internet in conducting research.
- Good presentation and facilitation skills and demonstrates integrity and ethical standards.
- Positive, constructive attitude to work and displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability.
- Strong field work experience and strong communication skills in community and other relevant stakeholder.

H. SCOPE OF PRICE PROPOSAL AND SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Lump Sum Amount

The financial proposal must be expressed in the form of a lump sum all-inclusive cost linked to deliverables specified in TOR Section C, supported by a breakdown of costs as per the template provided. If travel to municipalities is required during the assignment, UNDP will cover all the costs of transportation, hotels and meals.

If an Offeror is employed by an organization/company/institution, and he/she expects his/her employer to charge a management fee in the process of releasing him/her to UNDP under Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), the Offeror must indicate at this point, and ensure that all such costs are duly incorporated in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP.

Deliverables and schedule of payments

The MTR IC/National Consultant (NC) will liaise and coordinate with the International Consultant in-charge of the review of the ATSEA-2 Regional and PNG component and overall MTR for ATSEA project, to ensure that the submitted deliverables meet the expectations of the overall MTR. Upon submission of each deliverable and accepted by UNDP Timor-Leste, payments will be done according to the outlined breakdown and timeline.

Deliverable/Outputs	Target due dates	Breakdown of the payment
Deliverable 1: Mid Term Review (MTR) Inception Report clarifying objectives and methods of Midterm Review as well as the work plan	8 April 2022	10%
Deliverable 2: Presentation for Initial Findings of the MTR for the ATSEA-2 Project Timor-Leste Component and regional review)	30 April 2022	25%
Deliverable 3: Draft MTR Report (A guide on contents of the National Mid Term Review Report is found in the annexes to this TOR).	15 May 2022	35%

Deliverable 4: Final MTR Report for ATSEA-2 Timor-Leste Component and ensure that its key inputs are covered in the consolidated MTR Report to be prepared by the IC.	30 May 2022	30%
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I. RECOMMENDED PRESENTATION OF OFFER

Individual consultants interested in the assignment must submit the following documents to demonstrate their qualification in one single PDF document:

- a) **Duly accomplished Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability** using the template provided by UNDP (the template to be downloaded from the procurement notice link).
- b) **Personal CV or P11** indicating all past experiences from similar projects, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the Candidate and at least three (2) professional references (to be downloaded from the procurement notice link).
- c) **Financial Proposal:** that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of costs, as per template provided (the template to be downloaded from the procurement notice link).
- d) **Technical Proposal:**
 - a. Brief description of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment.
 - b. A methodology, on how they will approach and complete the assignment and work plan as indicated above.

J. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF THE BEST OFFER

Individual consultant will be evaluated based on the following methodology:

The award of the contract shall be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- 1) Responsive/compliant/acceptable, and
- 2) Having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical and financial criteria specific to the solicitation.

* Technical Criteria weight 70%

* Financial Criteria weight 30%

Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 49 points (70% of the total technical points) would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Technical Evaluation (70%)

Qualification, Experience and Technical Proposal (70 marks):

- 1) General Qualification (15 marks).
- 2) Experience relevant to the assignment (35 marks);
- 3) Technical Proposal: Brief methodology and workplan on how the consultant will approach and complete the work (20 marks).

Financial Evaluation (30%):

The following formula will be used to evaluate financial proposal:

$p = y (\mu/z)$, where

p = points for the financial proposal being evaluated

y = maximum number of points for the financial proposal

μ = price of the lowest priced proposal

z = price of the proposal being evaluated

Annexes (*click on the hyperlink to access the documents*):

- **Annex 1 - IC Contract Template** (for information);
- **Annex 2 - Financial Proposal Template using the template provided by UNDP** (to be completed at later stage upon request by UNDP);
- **Annex 3 – IC General Terms and Conditions** (for information);
- **Annex 4 – RLA Template** (if consultant wishes to be recruited through an employer) - (for information).
- **Annex 5: Annexes to the MTR ToR**

Incomplete applications will not be considered and will be disqualified automatically.

K. APPROVAL

This TOR is approved by:

Signature

Name and Designation

Date of Signing

Annex 2: MTR evaluative matrix (evaluation criteria with key questions, indicators, sources of data, and methodology)

Evaluative Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
Project Strategy: To what extent is the project strategy relevant to country priorities, country ownership, and the best route towards expected results?			
(Include evaluative question(s))	(i.e. relationships established, level of coherence between project design and implementation approach, specific activities conducted, quality of risk mitigation strategies, etc.)	(i.e. project documents, national policies or strategies, websites, project staff, project partners, data collected throughout the MTR mission, etc.)	(i.e. document analysis, data analysis, interviews with project staff, interviews with stakeholders, etc.)
To what extent were the project objectives and outputs aligned with member States' and other project stakeholders' development strategies/priorities?			
To what extent is the project in line with GEF operational programs?			
Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design?			
Were perspectives of those who would be affected by project decisions, those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the process, taken into account during project design processes?			
Were the project's expected accomplishments and indicators of achievements properly designed, timebound and achievable?			
Does the project design remain relevant in generating global environmental benefits?			
Were relevant gender issues raised in the project design/strategy?			
How are broader development objectives represented in the project design?			
Does the strategic results framework fulfil SMART criteria and sufficiently captures the added value of the project?			

Progress Towards Results: To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved thus far?			
To what extent are key stakeholders engaged in establishing a long-term regional and national cooperation mechanisms in support of the region's SAP?			
How effective was the project in building knowledge and capacities on integrated approaches to marine and coastal management and in application of tools/mechanisms developed under the project?			
To what extent has the project provided science-based information in support of policy/decision-making?			
Has the project already demonstrated/shown contribution to improved management of natural resources, increased resilience and improved livelihoods?			
Do the project-related activities give the participants adequate access to the benefits and implications of the project, particularly to women and other vulnerable groups?			
What were the risks involved and to what extent were they managed?			
What lessons have been learned from the project regarding achievement of outcomes?			
To what has the project addressed the barriers identified (i.e., lack of strong regional mechanism; weak intersectoral coordination and law enforcement; lack of access to environmental planning tools, technologies and approaches; insufficient baseline data)?			
Project Implementation and Adaptive Management: Has the project been implemented efficiently, cost-effectively, and been able to adapt to any changing conditions thus far? To what extent are project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, reporting, and project communications supporting the project's implementation? To what extent has progress been made in the implementation of social and environmental management measures? Have there been changes to the overall project risk rating and/or the identified types of risks as outlined at the CEO Endorsement stage?			
How were lessons learned on other projects incorporated into project implementation?	Lesson incorporated into project design	National Stakeholder project Documents	Interview, meeting and workshop, documents analysis

How effective has adaptive management been, e.g., in response to recommendations raised by project steering committee. Have changes been made and are they effective?			
How timely and effective has implementation of adaptive management measures been (i.e., relating to COVID19 challenges)?			
Are milestones within annual work plans consistent with indicators in strategic results framework?			
Are responsibilities and reporting lines clear? Is decision-making transparent and undertaken in a timely manner?			
How efficient has financial delivery been?			
How cost-effective have the project interventions been?			
How inclusive and proactive has stakeholder involvement been? What is the gender balance of project staff, RSC, NPBs, NIMCs? What steps have been taken to ensure gender balance? Does the project have a gender action plan and is it implemented?			
How effective have partnership/collaborative arrangements been?			
Were the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner(s) responsive to support needs of the project team/project?			
Has the project efficiently utilized local capacity in implementation?			
Has the project information been effectively managed and disseminated?			
What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non -achievement of the project objectives?			
Sustainability: To what extent are there financial, institutional, socio-economic, and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?			

What lessons can be drawn regarding sustainability of project results, and what changes could be made (if any) to the design of the project in order to improve sustainability of project results?	Number of meetings to exchange experiences.	National and local stakeholders, project team.	Interview, meetings and/or workshop.
What evidence is available that demonstrates budget allocations have been or will be made to sustain project results?			
What evidence is available that demonstrates capacities and resilience of local communities have been strengthened?		Document PIR 2021	Documents analysis
How have management plans and other approaches promoted by the project been integrated into institutional frameworks? What is the level of ownership of approaches promoted by the project? What policies are in place that enhance the likelihood that project results will be sustained?			
Do the various key stakeholders see that it is in their interest that the project benefits continue to flow? Is there sufficient public / stakeholder awareness in support of the long-term objectives of the project?			
What evidence is available that demonstrate reduction of key threats to biodiversity and ecosystems? Have any new environmental threats emerged?			

Annex 3: Example Questionnaire or Interview Guide used for data collection

Project Strategy: To what extent is the project strategy relevant to country priorities, country ownership, and the best route towards expected results.

1. What are the Development problems where the project seeks to impact?
2. Have you observed some change in this problematic situation?
3. How the project can contribute to solve this Development problem?
4. Which is the most effective route towards expected results?
5. Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design?
6. How the project outcomes are fitting into National and/or Sectorial priorities and Plans?
7. Who could affect the outcome and how?
8. Who is contributing with information and/or resources to achieve outcomes?
9. How were they integrated on project?
10. The progress to achieve outcomes, have catalyzed beneficial development effects? (i.e. income generation, gender equality and women's empowerment, improved governance, etc...)
11. The catalyzed beneficial development effects should be included in the project results framework and monitored on an annual basis?

Gender.

1. Were relevant gender issues raised in the Project Document?
2. Does the project budget include funding for gender-relevant outcomes, outputs and activities?
3. Were gender specialists and representatives of women at different levels consulted throughout the project design and preparation process?
4. The broader development and gender aspects of the project are being monitored effectively?
5. Which 'development' indicators, including sex-disaggregated indicators and indicators that capture development benefits, can be included in the project?

Progress Towards Results: To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved thus far?

1. Are the project's objectives, outcomes and outputs clear, practical, and feasible within its time frame?
2. Are the project indicators enough SMART to guide the process toward outcome achievement and to allow monitoring & evaluation with suitable accuracy?
3. Do the Indicators System need to be adjusted by modify existing indicators or replacement some of them or added new others?
4. How many villages and/or Councils have design CCA plans to enhance resilience?
5. Are the CCA actions based on these plans?
6. How many villages and/or councils are in process of implementation?
7. What mean "high quality early warning"? What is "a timely manner"? What are the "multiple communication lines"?
8. How is expressed the "Integrated coastal zone management framework incorporating resilience though climate change adaptation"? Please give some examples.
9. How these expressions of "resilience though climate change adaptation" have been supported by appropriate sectoral and cross sectoral policy and legislations? Please give some examples.

Project Implementation and Adaptive Management: Has the project been implemented efficiently, cost-effectively, and been able to adapt to any changing conditions thus far?

1. To what extent are project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, reporting, and project communications supporting the project's implementation?
2. Has there been an economical use of financial and human resources?
3. In which extent the resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc.) are being used to produce the intended outputs?
4. Do the achieved justify the costs?
5. Could the same achievements be attained with fewer resources?
6. Have activities supporting the strategy been cost-effective?
7. How resources could be used more efficiently to achieve the intended results?
8. Are the products timely delivered as was needed?
9. Why some initiatives are implemented more quickly than others?
10. How is structured the cost-sharing measures and complementary activities?
11. How has the steering or advisory committee contributed to the success of the project?
12. Is there a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities by all parties involved?
13. Is the monitoring and evaluation systems that project have in place helping to ensure effective and efficient project management?

Sustainability: To what extent are there financial, institutional, socio-economic, and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?

1. Are there any social or political hazards that may jeopardize sustainability of project outcomes?
2. Are stakeholders enough interested in outcomes, to allow for the project benefits to be sustained?
3. Lessons learned are being documented by the Project Team continuously and are shared with stakeholders who could learn from the project?
4. Do the current legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes, may jeopardize the sustenance of the project benefits?
5. Are there any environmental risks that may jeopardize the sustenance of the projects outcomes?
6. Do the project interventions have well designed and well planned exit strategies?
7. What could be done to strengthen exit strategies and sustainability?
8. What changes if any should be made in the current partnership (s) in order to promote long term sustainability?

Annex 4: Ratings Scales

Ratings for Progress Towards Results: (one rating for each outcome and for the objective)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve or exceed all its end-of-project targets, without major shortcomings. The progress towards the objective/outcome can be presented as “good practice”.
5	Satisfactory (S)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets, with only minor shortcomings.
4	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets but with significant shortcomings.
3	Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve its end-of-project targets with major shortcomings.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	The objective/outcome is expected not to achieve most of its end-of-project targets.
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The objective/outcome has failed to achieve its midterm targets, and is not expected to achieve any of its end-of-project targets.

Ratings for Project Implementation & Adaptive Management: (one overall rating)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all seven components – management arrangements, work planning, finance and co-finance, project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and communications – is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
5	Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management except for only few that are subject to remedial action.
4	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management, with some components requiring remedial action.
3	Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of some of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive, with most components requiring remedial action.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.

Ratings for Sustainability: (one overall rating)		
4	Likely (L)	Negligible risks to sustainability, with key outcomes on track to be achieved by the project's closure and expected to continue into the foreseeable future
3	Moderately Likely (ML)	Moderate risks, but expectations that at least some outcomes will be sustained due to the progress towards results on outcomes at the Midterm Review
2	Moderately Unlikely (MU)	Significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, although some outputs and activities should carry on
1	Unlikely (U)	Severe risks that project outcomes as well as key outputs will not be sustained

Annex 5: MTR mission itinerary

Venue	Date	Time	NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Dili/UNTL	03 June 2022		Dr. Abilio Fonseca. ATSEA 2 Partner. UNTL	Partner	National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL)
Dili/SEA Environment	03 June 2022		Nelson Antonia de Jesus Medeiros Madeira	National Director of Pollution Control, SEA	SEA Environment
Dili/MNEC	03 June 2022		Aquelino Amaral	National director for bilateral Cooperation	MNEC (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Dili/SECoop	03 June 2022		Gil Bento	National Director	Secretary state of Cooperative
Dili/MAF	04 June 2022		Pedro A. M. Rodrigues	Chief of Department	MAF
Dili/MAF	04 June 2022		Celestino da Cunha Barreto	National Director	MAF/Fishery directorate
Dili/MAF	04 June 2022		Constancio dos Santos	Chief of Department	MAF/Fishery directorate
Dili/MAF	04 June 2022		Acacio Guterres	Director General	MAF/Fishery directorate
Lautem/Lorehe	27 May 2022	1 days	Jose Monteiro	Senior staff of Fishery	Trained of EAFM
Lautem	27 May 2022	1 days	Elezito de Jesus Ximenes	Representative Fishery department	Municipality Lautem
Viqueque	28 May 2022	1 days	Fernando Joaquim	Representative Fishery department	MAF
Manatuto	26 May 2022	1 day	Jaime Alves	Representative Fishery department	MAF
Manatuto/Barique	29 May 2022	1 day	Venancio da Costa Ximenes	Coordinator ICM	MOSA
Manatuto/Barique	29 May 2022	1 day	Felixiano Baptista	Chefe Suco Uma boku	MOSA
Manatuto/Barique	29 May 2022	1 day	Jacinta M da Cruz	Head of women group	Beneficiary of plastic recycling training in postu Barique
Manatuto/Barique	29 May 2022	1 day	Florindo da Costa Magalaens	Administrator Post Administrative Barique	MOSA
Manufahi/Same	30 May 2022	1 day	Arantes Isaac Sarmento	Administrator of Municipality Manufahi	Ministry of Administration/STATAL

Manufahi/Same	30 May 2022	1 day	Adelino de Araujo Costa	Administrator Post Administrative Same	Ministry of Administration/STATAL
Same/Betano	31 May 2022	1 day	Frans Flores	Advisor of Fishery Cooperative	Fishermen Betano
Same/Betano	31 May 2022	1 day	Saturnina da Silva	Chief of Sub village Selihasan Betano	Ministry of Administration/STATAL
Same/Betano	31 May 2022	1 day	Hermenegildo Pereira	Representative Fishery department	Municipality Manufahi
Suai/Covalima	01 June 2022	1 day	Fernando da Silva	Representative Fishery department	Municipality Manatuto

Annex 6: List of persons interviewed

The list of persons interviewed are incorporated in Annex 5.

MTR has conducted several meeting with UNDP ATSEA-2 Timor-Leste Component and several meetings have made with local authorities from all visited municipalities and suco, including community focus groups in five municipalities (Lospalos Viqueque, Manatuto, Manufahi, Suai) with a total of 22 local stakeholder interviewed including women representatives. Moreover, some national stakeholder and project board members reluctant to participate in the interview stating as not a direct beneficiaries from the project.

Annex 7: List of documents reviewed

- Annual Work Plans Timor-Leste Component: 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022
- Audit reports
- BRIEF OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND THEIR COLLABORATION MECHANISMS WITH RELEVANCE TO ATSEA 2. PEMSEA ATSEA-2 PROJECT. October 2020
- Finalized GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools
- Financial and Administration Guidelines
- Minutes of the ATSEA-2 Project Board Meetings and other meetings
- Monitoring Reports
- Oversight Mission Reports
- PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERSESSIONAL REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ON THE ATSEA-2 PROJECT. August 18, 2020.
- Proceedings of the 2nd Regional Steering Committee Meeting of the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Project on Arafura-Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Program Phase 2 (ATSEA-2) November 25, 2020
- Project Implementation Reports
- Project Inception Report
- Project Operational Guidelines, Manuals and Systems
- Project Site Location Maps
- STAP Scientific and Technical screening of the Project Identification Form (PIF) March 2008
- UNDP Country/countries Programme Document(s)
- UNDP Project Document ATSEA 2 2019-2021
- UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) ATSEA 2-Programm

Annex 8: Signed UNEG Code of Conduct form

ToR ANNEX D: UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluators/Midterm Review Consultants¹

Evaluators/Consultants:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study limitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.
8. Must ensure that independence of judgement is maintained and that evaluation findings and recommendations are independently presented.
9. Must confirm that they have not been involved in designing, executing or advising on the project being evaluated.

MTR Consultant Agreement Form

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System:

Name of Consultant: Amorim Vieira

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant): _____

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at Dili Timor-Leste (Place) on 10-July-2022 (Date)

Signature:  _____