

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title	
Improving wetlands management for biodiversity and improved human-wildlife coexistence.	
Region	GEF Project ID
Timor Leste	11435
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Timor Leste	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
CI	
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
CI Timor-Leste	GEF Agency
Ministry of Tourism and Environment	Government
Vice Prime Minister and Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs	Government
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry	Government
Ministry of Health	Government
Ministry of Interior	Government
Ministry of Youth and Culture	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Multi Focal Area	10/18/2023
Project Sector (CCM Only)	
Taxonomy	
Mainstreaming, Tourism, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Focal Areas, Productive Seascapes, Productive Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Species, Threatened Species, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Beneficiaries, Gender results areas, Awareness Raising, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity Development, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Adaptive management, Climate Change, Climate Change Mitigation, Biomes, Wetlands, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Community-Based Natural Resource Management	
Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
2,689,908.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
242,092.00	0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
2,932,000.00	12,007,025.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
100,000.00	9,000.00
PPG total amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)
109,000.00	3,041,000.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? (iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

1. Timor-Leste holds a large number of globally significant ecosystems including tropical rainforests, mangroves, wetlands as well as remarkably rich marine ecosystems. Coastal wetlands (both freshwater and brackish), support both globally threatened and geographically restricted species of resident and migratory waterbirds and aquatic fauna, whilst coastal areas are home to many endangered species, particularly turtle species such as hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and green (*Chelonia mydas*), that are at high risk of extinction. Wetlands, which often include mangrove communities, also provide both a range of coastal protection functions as well as ecosystem services to support coastal livelihoods.
2. Ongoing habitat degradation and deforestation (mostly due to slash and burn agriculture) and increasing human populations puts wetlands and their inherent biodiversity at risk. Maintaining Timor-Leste’s endowed biodiversity is fundamental for many priority sectors, including agriculture and tourism. Addressing biodiversity loss and ensuring the sustainable use of biological resources is therefore a significant priority for the Government of Timor-Leste as is reducing human wildlife (particularly crocodile) conflict.
3. With an increasing human population and high demand for land, crocodile populations and crocodile-related human deaths have also increased. Saltwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*), are an apex predator and a keystone species that occupy all coastal wetlands. Improved wetland management and increased sustainable livelihoods for surrounding communities is crucial to address human crocodile conflict, especially given the crocodile’s cultural importance to the Timorese population. By supporting communities in their desire to coexist with their crocodile populations, the proposed project can use coexistence tactics, such as sustainable livelihoods that remove the need to encroach into crocodile habitats, to also conserve biodiversity. The proposed project will also provide first aid training, as incentives for the communities to be more involved in improved wetlands management.
4. In addition, improving wetlands will lead to the co-benefit of climate change resilience as wetlands have a natural capacity to buffer communities from the adverse effects of climate change. If managed effectively, freshwater ecosystems can have climate adaptation benefits by reducing other drivers of degradation and the risk of catastrophic loss due to natural disasters, protecting and conserving natural resources and increasing agricultural productivity.
5. The proposed project will therefore improve wetlands management and crocodile awareness to protect biodiversity and advance human-wildlife (and in particular, crocodile) co-existence. To

achieve this, the project will work with the government of Timor-Leste to improve the management of five wetland sites, improve government capacities to manage human crocodile conflict, create and implement a national biodiversity and crocodile awareness campaign, improve livelihoods that reduce human encroachment into sensitive wetland ecosystems and increase food- and water-security as well as reduce poverty (direct beneficiaries of all outputs are estimated at 3,376 people; indirect beneficiaries are 32,759).

6. The global environmental benefit of the project will be the improved management of five southern coastal wetlands (13,475 ha) in Aubeon, Modomahut, Bikan Tidi, Rai Mea, and Hasan Foun (see maps in Annex C). The area that lies within Protected Areas is 144 ha. Three of the proposed project sites are located within two Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA), Tilomar and Sungai Klere KBAs. In addition, four of the proposed project sites are located within two Important Bird Areas (IBA), Tilomar and Sungai Klere IBAs.

7. This work is transformative given the scope of the National Biodiversity Awareness Campaign, with human-wildlife coexistence messages (called for by Timor-Leste's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan) and the National Crocodile Management Plan, both of which have been a clear priority for the government for years, but without dedicated financial support have not been possible to deliver on this priority. The project is innovative for Timor-Leste as it will include the use of camera-traps, which have not been deployed in Timor-Leste before.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To protect biodiversity through improved wetland management and human crocodile co-existence.

Project Components

1. Improve coastal wetlands management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,151,154.00	2,873,800.00

Outcome:

1.1. Improved management of 5 wetland sites for biodiversity protection and enhanced human-crocodile co-existence

Outcome Indicator 1.1: # ha of Protected Area with improved management

Target 1.1: 144 ha

Outcome Indicator 1.2: # ha of non-Protected Area with improved management

Target 1.2:

13,331 ha

Outcome Indicator 1.3:

X percent increase in METT score of the 5 wetlands sites

Target 1.3: TBD during PPG phase

Output:

1.1.1. Biodiversity (including crocodile populations) in 5 wetlands is assessed

Output Indicator 1.1.1: assessment

Target 1.1.1: 1 assessment

1.1.2. GIS Assessment of full wetlands area.

Output Indicator 1.1.2: assessment

Target 1.1.2: 1 assessment

1.1.3. Site based management plan, focused on ecosystem and biodiversity conservation, designed and implemented

Output Indicator 1.1.3: # site based management plans;

Target 1.1.3: 5 plans

1.1.4. Communities provided with capacity building to implement management plans

Output Indicator 1.1.4: # of community members trained

Target 1.1.4: estimated to be 150 community members (to be confirmed during PPG)

1.1.5. Communities trained in wilderness first aid as incentives for biodiversity protection

Output Indicator 1.1.5: # of community members trained in wilderness protection with agreements to protect biodiversity

Target 1.1.5: estimated 3,275 community members (to be confirmed during PPG)

2. Improve livelihoods

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,204,225.00	3,102,500.00

Outcome:

2.1. Alternative, sustainable livelihood opportunities that reduce human encroachment into sensitive wetland ecosystems

Outcome Indicator 2.1: # of community members with newly acquired skills to implement livelihoods that reduce human encroachment into sensitive wetland ecosystems

Target 2.1: 300 community members

Output:

2.1.1. Gender-sensitive ecotourism options developed

Output Indicator 2.1.1: number Ecotourism options identified

Target 2.1.1: To be determined during PPG

2.1.2. Recommendations designed and tested for enhanced livelihoods (including marketing of products) for Women that will limit encroachment into wetlands

Output Indicator 2.1.2: # of women receiving livelihood trainings; # of agreements with markets in Dili to purchase products

Target 2.1.2: at least 50 women; # of agreements to be determined during PPG

2.1.3. Recommendations designed and tested for enhanced livelihoods connected to product cooperatives with youth that will limit encroachment into wetlands

Output Indicator 2.1.3: # of youth receiving livelihood trainings; # of youth groups linked to value-chain cooperatives

Target 2.1.3: at least 100 (60 women/40 men); # of youth groups linked to cooperatives to be determined during PPG

2.1.4. Recommendations designed and tested to implement more sustainable fishing techniques with Fisher-groups (including processing) to limit encroachment into wetlands

Output Indicator 2.1.4.: # fishers (gender disaggregated) with newly acquired skills to limit encroachment into wetlands

Target 2.1.4: 40 women/ 60 men (to be confirmed during PPG)

3. Create enabling conditions for government and citizens to improve human-crocodile co-existence

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)

5,115,903.00

Outcome:

3.1. Alternative, sustainable livelihood opportunities that enhance human-crocodile co-existence for local communities living near the lagoons

Outcome Indicator 3.1: # of community members with newly acquired skills to implement livelihoods that reduce exposure to crocodile habitats

Target 3.1: 300 community members

Output:

3.1.1. Gender-sensitive ecotourism options developed

Output Indicator 3.1.1: # Ecotourism options identified

Target 3.1.1: To be determined during PPG

3.1.2. Gender-sensitive national biodiversity awareness campaign, including messages of human-wildlife coexistence, implemented

Output Indicator 3.1.2: # of women receiving livelihood trainings; # of agreements with markets in Dili to purchase products

Target 3.1.2: at least 50 women; # of agreements to be determined during PPG

3.1.3. Recommendations designed and tested for enhanced livelihoods connected to product cooperatives with youth that will limit exposure to crocodile habitats

Output Indicator 3.1.3: # of youth receiving livelihood trainings; # of youth groups linked to value-chain cooperatives

Target 3.1.3: at least 100 (60 women/40 men); # of youth groups linked to cooperatives to be determined during PPG

3.1.4. Fisher-groups (including processing) enhanced livelihood program implemented

Output Indicator 3.1.4.: # fishers (gender disaggregated) with newly acquired skills to reduce exposure to crocodiles

Target 3.1.4: 40 women/ 60 men (to be confirmed during PPG)

4. Knowledge Management and Learning

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
78,349.00	128,646.00

Outcome:

4.1. sensitive knowledge generation, management and exchange

Outcome Indicator 4.1: Knowledge management system utilized

Target 4.1: 1 # of knowledge materials submitted to system (to be determined during PPG)

1.1. A functional gender-sensitive M&E framework in place

Outcome Indicator 4.2: Regular reporting with data from M&E system

Target 4.2: quarterly reports

Output:

4.1.1. KM System identified, utilized, tested and revised with stakeholder feedback

Output Indicator 4.1.1.: # of KM system identified and tested

Target 4.1.1: At least one KM system

4.1.2. Regular audits conducted to determine KM ease and frequency of use

Output Indicator 4.1.2.: annual audits

Target 4.1.2.: 5

4.2.1. A gender-sensitive M&E system developed and implemented to collect, analyze, and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation

Output Indicator 4.2.1: working M&E system

Target 4.2.1: 1 system

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
128,090.00	214,411.00

Outcome:

5.1. A functional gender-sensitive M&E framework in place

Outcome Indicator 5.2: Regular reporting with data from M&E system

Target 5.2: quarterly reports

Output:

5.1.1. A gender-sensitive M&E system developed and implemented to collect, analyze, and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation

Output Indicator 5.2.1: working M&E system

Target 5.2.1: 1 system

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1.Improve coastal wetlands management	1,151,154.00	2,873,800.00
2. Improve livelihoods	1,204,225.00	3,102,500.00

3. Create enabling conditions for government and citizens to improve human-crocodile co-existence		5,115,903.00
4. Knowledge Management and Learning	78,349.00	128,646.00
M&E	128,090.00	214,411.00
Subtotal	2,561,818.00	11,435,260.00
Project Management Cost	128,090.00	571,765.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	2,689,908.00	12,007,025.00

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

1. Global environmental significance of the project

8. The project area is situated within the Lesser Sundas part of the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot, which hosts a number of globally significant ecosystems and endemic species. Species from both Asia and Australasia colonized the islands within the region, but through long isolation have developed very high levels of endemism. The Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot has a total of 560 species classified by IUCN as globally threatened. Furthermore, Birdlife International has defined Timor-Leste and its associated islands as the “Timor and Wetar Endemic Bird Area (EBA)” because the islands support 35 bird species with restricted ranges including 23 that are only located within the EBA. Four of the resident bird species on Timor-Leste are threatened with global extinction while 11 are near threatened due to habitat loss. Important wetlands which support both resident and migratory waterbirds are also at risk. Whilst coastal areas are home to many endangered species, particularly turtle species (such as such as hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and green (*Chelonia mydas*)) that are at high risk of extinction. Maintaining Timor-Leste’s endowed biodiversity is fundamental for many priority sectors, including agriculture and tourism. Conserving biodiversity and sustainably using biological resources will ensure the natural environment, and in particular the services that ecosystems provide, such as the provision of freshwater and preventing soil erosion, will continue to provide the fundamental basis for livelihoods and food security in Timor-Leste, as well as promoting the health, well-being and culture of the Timorese people. Improving livelihoods, and in particular agricultural practices, will help reduce human encroachment into sensitive biodiversity-rich wetland ecosystems, even as the human population grows, as the lands currently used for agriculture will have higher production. Addressing biodiversity loss and ensuring the sustainable use of biological resources is a significant priority for the Government of Timor-Leste as is reducing human crocodile conflict (HCC).

9. Timor-Leste also holds a large number of globally significant ecosystems including tropical rainforests, mangroves, wetlands as well as remarkably rich marine ecosystems. The Lesser Sundas, in particular, also offer large areas of seagrass beds (covering more than 700,000 ha) concentrated in shallow coastal waters free from intense wave action and sedimentation. Seagrass areas function as a nursery for many invertebrate and fish species and provide rich feeding grounds for fish, mollusks, green turtles, and dugongs. In addition, they stabilize offshore sand reservoirs, act as sediment collectors, and prevent coastal erosion. Seagrass and coastal wetlands are the main habitat for the saltwater crocodile in Timor-Leste.

10. The proposed project sites overlap with protected areas, making them important for conservation of ecosystems including habitats relied upon by key species. Three of the proposed project sites are located within two Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA), the Tilomar KBA and the Sungai Clere KBA. These have been recognized as KBAs in accordance with KBA Criteria B2 (Co-occurring geographically restricted species). In addition, four of the proposed project sites are located within two Important Bird Areas (IBA), Tilomar and Sungai Clere IBAs, according to the IBA Criteria A1 (site is known or thought regularly to hold significant numbers of a globally threatened species) and A2 (site is known or thought to hold a significant population of at least two restricted range species – those having a global range size less than or equal to 50,000 km²).

11. The Hasan Foun wetlands are located within the Lagoa Hasan Foun Onu Bot Protected Area, as well as the Tilomar KBA and IBA. This area is dominated by tropical deciduous forest. Most of the coastal forest has been converted to rice and agriculture, but a small freshwater wetland and well-vegetated saline lagoons are present along the coast. Within this area, 25 restricted range

(RR) species have been recorded including the Critically Endangered (CR EN) Yellow-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*) and the Endangered Wetar Ground-dove (*Gallicolumba hoedtii*). Other biodiversity includes the vulnerable (VU) Javan Rusa or Timor Deer (*Cervus timoriensis*) and Estuarine Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*). Threats to this area include illegal timber cutting, forest conversion by agriculture and plantations, hunting and wildfires.

12. The Aubeon (Aubeon mangrove lagoon) and Modomahut (Lagoa Modomahut) wetlands are located within the Sungai Clere KBA and IBA, within which 25 RR species of birds have been recorded, including the CR EN Yellow-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*) and the EN Timor Green-pigeon (*Treron psittacues*). The main threats to biodiversity within the Sungai Clere area include forest conversion by local communities, fires, wood cutting and hunting. Forest conversion has led to extensive natural forest loss and fragmentation. Much of the lowland alluvial forest has been converted for agriculture (rice fields and dryland crops) and village expansion over the last thirty years. The remaining natural habitats are therefore small and highly fragmented patches.

13. Lagoa Modomahut is an extensive freshwater lake and a Protected Area. It is considered an internationally significant wetland complex and triggers RAMSAR Criterion 1 (Contains a representative, rare or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within appropriate biogeographic region) and Criterion 8 (Important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks, either within the wetland or elsewhere depend). Whilst the Aubeon wetlands trigger RAMSAR Criterion 8. Both of these wetland systems are an important source of livelihoods for local communities, however, are threatened by mangrove cutting and wildlife hunting.

14. Both the Rai Mea and Bikan Tidi wetlands fall within the Lagoa Bikan Tidi Protected Area. Little is known about this area, which the proposed project hopes to rectify. Given the location of these sites it is anticipated the area has significant biodiversity, particularly given the rate of crocodile attacks.

15. Coastal wetlands (both freshwater and brackish), which often include mangrove communities, are important coastal features that provide both a range of coastal protection functions as well as ecosystem services to support coastal livelihoods. Saltwater crocodiles occupy all coastal wetlands. Ongoing habitat degradation and deforestation (mostly due to slash and burn agriculture) and increasing human populations, in conjunction with the protection of crocodiles in 2002 (after independence), have led to an increase in HCC. Not only are crocodiles found closer to human settlements, but also humans are forced to move into crocodile habitats for livelihoods and to access water. Crocodiles live in areas where communities fish, gather water and bathe; these activities put community members at risk of attack, which are often fatal. However, there is evidence that if people had basic first aid training some deaths could be prevented.

2. Social-ecological systems description

16. Timor-Leste is an island positioned between Southeast Asia and Oceania. Home to nine ethnic groups, the country is both multi-ethnic and multilingual, with more than twenty Indigenous languages and dialects in active use. The vast majority of the population of Timor-Leste is of Malay-Polynesian (Tetum, Mambae, Tokodede, Galole, Kemak and Baikeno) and Melanesian-Papuan origin (Bunak, Fataluku, and Makasae). Timor-Leste is home to 1.3 million people spread across 14 Municipalities, of which 12 have coastlines and 11 have considerable crocodile populations. The current population is 1,341,296 (683,957 male and 657,338 female; 2022 data). The most recent estimates suggest that nearly 42% of the population in Timor-Leste falls below the poverty line (2014 figures; that was a reduction from the 2007 figure of 50%). The public health crisis of COVID-19 created an extended state of emergency with significant impacts on the economy of the country, with a contraction of over 7%. The Human Capital Index for Timor-Leste is at 0.45 as compared to the East Asia average of 0.59. Reporting on the overall Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) indicated that 46% are multidimensionally poor and 26% are classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty in Timor-Leste, while 16% are in severe multidimensional poverty.

17. Indigenous concepts such as lisan (customary law and practices) and lulik (sacred/spiritual/forbidden) form an integral part of and regulate everyday life for the vast

majority of the population, providing guidance both on the relationship between people and between people and nature. The notion of lulik as an indigenous spiritual moral order exists in different terms in all languages in Timor-Leste and its main objective is to ensure peace and tranquillity in society. Most Timorese depend on subsistence farming, and over 90 percent of the lands in Timor-Leste are governed through customary land tenure systems (rai lisan). Customary practices and traditions that govern property ownership and management in Timor-Leste date back to before the Portuguese colonization.

18. The Government of Timor-Leste has made efforts to address the complex issues relating to land in the country. The Constitution of Timor-Leste recognizes traditional norms and customs, which include customary concepts of landownership and management. That said, the Land Law states that the majority of land in Timor-Leste belongs to the state.

19. Climate change will also have (is having) a profound impact on Timor-Leste. Timor-Leste is at a relatively high risk of extreme temperature and heat stress when compared to global scores. The number of days with extreme heat is expected to increase by 106 days per decade. In addition, temperatures are expected to increase by 0.96 C by 2050 compared to the historical average (1970-2000) under an extreme climate change scenario (RCP 8.5). Timor-Leste is at a relatively low risk of extreme high levels of precipitation and associated hazards when compared to global scores, expected to experience five more days of high precipitation events per decade. In addition, average precipitation is expected to decrease by 2% by 2050 compared to the historical average (1970-2000) under an extreme climate change scenario (RCP 8.5). Timor-Leste is at a relatively medium risk of decreased precipitation and associated hazards when compared to global scores, expected to experience 11 more drought events per decade. In addition, average precipitation is expected to decrease by 2.4% by 2050 compared to the historical average (1970-2000) under an extreme climate change scenario (RCP 8.5). And although Timor-Leste is at a relatively low risk of storms and associated hazards when compared to global scores, the Red Cross Climate Change Assessment anticipates the intensity of cyclones will be greater.

20. Parts of Timor-Leste are already experiencing water shortages, soil erosion, and salinization of water supplies, large-scale flooding and an increase in vector-and water-borne diseases – which will likely to increase as the effects of climate change become more pronounced. In addition to the above hazards, species distribution, habitat features, and ecosystem structures indicate that a serious alteration of biological and ecological patterns in terrestrial, riparian and coastal ecosystems is already taking place and generating mostly negative impacts. Climate change therefore constitutes a major challenge for freshwater ecosystems.

21. Timor-Leste's main barriers to achieving middle-income status are environmental and economic, both of which can be seen when dealing with the issue of biodiversity protection and crocodile-human coexistence in the island nation. Human encroachment into wetlands and other wildlife habitats is a threat to biodiversity and it also puts humans in dangerous proximity to crocodiles. This encroachment is due to the growing human population as well as a reduction in agricultural productivity. The barriers that must be overcome to address these root causes are several. Poor agricultural practices are a major issue in Timor-Leste. Three-fourths of the population relies on agriculture for their livelihoods, but agricultural productivity is very low due to poor soil quality, water shortages, weeds, etc., which could be controlled with improved practices such as crop rotation.

22. Under Indonesian rule (and Portuguese before that) crocodile culling was the norm. However, crocodiles are sacred to the Timorese, so once the country gained independence, the government granted saltwater crocodiles a protected status (through the formulation of UNTAET Regulation 2000/19) as they sought to rectify a sense of national identity and culture. Culling became outlawed in 2002, and the effect was detrimental to many communities, the majority of which rely on subsistence fishing. The saltwater crocodile population skyrocketed, growing to such an extent that there has been a dramatic increase in HCC. This has rendered many beaches in Timor-Leste largely un-swimmable and many communities live in constant fear of crocodile attacks. Recently, more than one person a month has been attacked by a saltwater crocodile, and more than half of

the attacks have resulted in death. It was reported that between 2011 to 2020 there was a total of 74 crocodile attacks, 50 of them being fatal. The majority of the attacks (82.5%) occur while people are fishing, according to researchers, with bathing (7.5%) and water collecting (4.2%) being the next most dangerous activities.

3. Key System Drivers

23. Timor-Leste's biodiversity is under considerable pressure, with over-exploitation and unsustainable use of biological resources, and habitat degradation, fragmentation and loss caused by deforestation, land conversion, unsustainable agricultural practices, mining of rivers and pollution, invasive alien species and climate change, all contributing to the loss of biodiversity. Between 1940 and 2008, 80% of mangroves were lost mainly due to harvesting for timber and fuelwood. Studies show that in 1972 approximately 25% of the land area was covered in primary forest, and a further 26% was secondary. By 1999 only 12% of Timor-Leste's land area was dense forest, 24% agricultural land, 22% degraded woodland and 19% woodland. During almost 30 years of Indonesian occupation, much of the country's most valuable timbers such as sandalwood, mahogany, ebony and redwood were cut and exported. Forest exploitation and unsustainable land management practices across the country have transformed large expanses of Timor-Leste's terrestrial ecosystems into low productivity agricultural landscapes and degraded rangelands. Slash and burn agriculture is widely practiced by farmers today. Population growth and development in the region is increasing rapidly, and demand for land is high. The fragmentation of the forests caused not only isolation of species and loss of biodiversity, but also a reduction in the forest ecosystems ability to maintain self-regulation, and therefore there has been an increase in landslides, soil erosion, and sedimentation of the waterways. The global average for deforestation during this era was around 0.3%. In Timor-Leste it was calculated at a staggering 1.1% per year.

24. Timor-Leste harbors unique and abundant biodiversity. A key impact of climate change on biodiversity is the shift in geographical range in which climate conditions are suited to species survival. This is particularly problematic on islands, where suitable alternative habitats are either not available or accessible. For some species, thresholds may be present, where lower intensity climate changes can be tolerated, however, beyond a certain threshold species may be lost or become extinct. Most of the forest loss and land cover changes are primarily caused by deforestation activities widely practiced by farmers in order to expand their crop production areas.

25. Timor-Leste is also suffering from sea level rise, which the World Bank's Climate Change Knowledge Portal estimates is about 3 mm per year, or 9 mm per year as estimated by USAID. This rise in sea level will increase salinization of groundwater sources near the coast, which will in turn increase food in-security as agricultural production will decrease. Scarcer potable water will also increase the human-wildlife conflict, as people (mostly women) will venture further into crocodile habitat seeking clean water. The rise in sea-surface temperatures will also affect the migration of reef fish, pushing them further from shore and thus negatively affecting artisanal fisherman whose smaller boats may not be able to handle deeper seas.

Climate Stressors	Risks
Sea level rise	Saltwater intrusion and seawater flooding of coastal agricultural lands
Increased variability and intensity of rainfall	Increased soil erosion, runoff, landslides
Rising sea temperatures	Increased crop loss from floods and droughts
Greater cyclone intensity, stronger storm surges	Increased erosion of beaches, shorelines and coastal land; loss of breeding and nesting habitats
Amplification of anthropogenic effects by climate change	Damage to coral reefs and infrastructure; increased loss of life from storm surges
	Biodiversity loss of fisheries and other marine species due to habitat damage

26. To-date, approximately 64% of the rural population is food insecure, relying heavily on natural resources, with agriculture and (semi-) subsistence fisheries being the major sources of income for the population. Long periods of drought seriously impact access to fresh water and during the dry months when water becomes scarce the water shortage has severe implications for irrigation and hence the agricultural output. Climate change, including droughts and extreme rainfall events, will have an adverse effect on agricultural productivity, and is likely to drive shifts in the suitable growing areas of certain crops. Increased temperatures and evaporation of surface water (streams, rivers and lakes) are already having a negative impact on Timor-Leste's rivers, and changes in surface water flow have significant impacts on people and livelihoods especially those reliant on (rainfed) agriculture. Scarcer potable water, as a result of climate change, will result in women – who are already spending an average of 2-3 hours per day – having to walk longer distances and venturing further into crocodile habitats in order to seek clean water which will further increase human-wildlife conflicts.

27. The combination of environmental circumstances and limited economic resources, in addition to increasing pressure on available natural resources, will continue to increase Timor-Leste's vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters.

28. With an increasing human population and high demand for land, crocodile populations and crocodile-related human deaths have also increased. Given the crocodile's cultural importance to the Timorese population, simply reducing the crocodile population is not a solution, but alternative actions needed to address HCC, such as improved wetland management and increased sustainable livelihoods for surrounding communities, also support protecting habitat for the biodiversity that exists in crocodile habitat. While crocodiles in Timor-Leste are sea-faring and can be found anywhere along the coast, they are concentrated in wetlands (see map).

The human and crocodile populations are projected to grow, so managing the landscapes, educating the population on means to stay away and also to treat people who have been attacked, while building sustainable livelihood programs that reduce communities' need to enter crocodile habitats, can provide solutions to the key system drivers while also improving human-crocodile coexistence.

4. Baseline understanding and projects

	Baseline Project (include name of donor if applicable)	Period of Performance/Years active
GEF	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): IKAN Adapt: Strengthening the adaptive capacity, resilience and biodiversity conservation ability of fisheries and aquaculture-dependent livelihoods in Timor-Leste 2. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): Adapting to climate change and enabling sustainable land management through productive rural communities in Timor-Leste 3. UNDP: Building shoreline resilience of Timor-Leste to protect local communities and their livelihoods 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. approved in 2021; 2022-2027 2. approved in 2023; 2023-2028 3. August 2016- May 2021
Non-GEF	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Green Climate Fund: Safeguarding rural communities and their physical assets from climate induced disaster in Timor-Leste 2. Green Climate Fund: Community-based Landscape Management for Enhanced Climate Resilience and Reduction of Deforestation in Critical Watersheds 3. FAO: Strengthening National Forest Policy and Participatory Forest Management in Timor-Leste 4. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA): Toward Sustainable Watershed 5. JICA: Project for Community-based Sustainable Natural Resource Management 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2019-2026 2. approved, not started 3. Mar-Jun 2015 4. 2007-2010 5. 2010-2015 6. 2015-2018

	<p>6. Margaret A. Cargill Foundation (now Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies): Developing Small Island Management Approaches in the Sunda Banda Seascape Management</p> <p>7. Zona Especial de Economia Social de Mercado (ZEESM): Terrestrial Rapid Assessment Program for Atauro Island</p> <p>8. The Rufford Foundation: Community-Based Monitoring of Saltwater Crocodile (<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>) in Timor-Leste</p>	<p>7. May-Aug 2015</p> <p>8. 2016-2017</p>
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29. The ongoing GEF projects implemented by FAO and UNDP respectively, include components of livelihood diversification through improved and climate-resilient aquaculture and agriculture practices. The proposed project will directly benefit from these to-be-tested new practices and technologies and the information and knowledge sharing proposed. The project will also incorporate lessons learned from a recently completed GEF project (2016-2021) led by UNDP; focused on mangrove protection and reforestation, it promoted mangrove-supportive livelihoods and raised awareness about the importance of mangroves. The proposed project has the potential to build on some of the policy and community engagement frameworks that were established for coastal watersheds.

30. Two Green Climate Fund projects are currently providing investment to safeguard rural communities from climate change and degraded natural resources, with one specifically focusing on the reduction of deforestation in wetlands. The latter, implemented by JICA, uses Community-based Natural Resource Management approaches to facilitate participatory land use and forest management planning, in which the proposed project will engage. Other completed non-GEF projects offer important additional biodiversity-specific references for this project, including a past terrestrial biodiversity assessment and a community-monitoring effort of saltwater crocodiles; both of which will inform the further design of methods to be used in the proposed project.

31. As a signatory to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (2007), UN Framework on Convention on Climate Change (2007), Kyoto protocol to the UNFCCC (2008), and the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC (2017) the government of Timor-Leste is aspiring to fulfill its commitments to address the environmental challenges facing the nation. The importance to protection of the environment is also highlighted in the constitution and as such these aspirations are also highlighted in the National and Sectoral Plans and Programmes of Timor-Leste (2011-2030) where economic growth is achieved in tandem with an environmentally sustainable society. The responsibility for the governance of biodiversity and natural resource management sits with three Ministries: the Ministry of Economy and Development; the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAF); and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Environment (MCIE), and their respective directorates. All three ministries will be involved in this project given the scope and their commitments to biodiversity conservation.

5. Baseline futures

32. Although there is significant cofinancing from the government for this project, that funding is not adequate to identify the wetland management needs of the project area, nor can it address the human encroachment that is occurring there. Without focused support to address these needs, the biodiversity of the area will continue to be threatened. The government, given its limited resources, needs assistance to assess this area and to identify the actions required to improve both the management and protections for the biodiversity of the area. The Government of Timor-Leste has established the Crocodile Task Force with members from the MCIE and the MAF and the Ministry of Interior (MI). The purpose was to approach the conflict and to elaborate a strategy to enable coexistence of crocodiles and people with respect to traditional beliefs. The government, however, has limited funding and has not been able to prioritize the task force or the actions required to improve human-wildlife co-existence.

33. Conservation International (CI) is proposing to work in partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste in its efforts to improve the management of five coastal wetlands in the southern part of

Timor-Leste and improve human-wildlife coexistence. Under traditional law the communities within a Suko have the rights to resources and are therefore responsible for their management. The communities also need support to improve the management of this land and improve their awareness to prevent crocodile-human conflict. Media attention in 2019 ([New York Times](#) and [Guardian](#) articles) spurred hopes of additional resources to combat this issue, but the pandemic soon reduced these hopes of finding the financing needed.

34. GEF investment will also allow the first use of camera traps in Timor-Leste. Camera traps will be utilized at regular intervals in key terrestrial areas adjacent to wetlands for biodiversity assessments (Output 1.1.1.), and also to monitor crocodile movements (Output 3.1.3.). The monitoring system will allow the government to alert its citizens when crocodile populations are nearby, thereby preventing unnecessary contact. During the PPG the costs of extending the monitoring system to include on-going biodiversity monitoring will be reviewed and possibly included in the project.

35. Without GEF investment, the proposed project will not occur, which will result in further degradation of the wetlands and more human lives lost, particularly given the anticipated growth in both populations and the climate change risk of more intense water shortages and salination of agricultural lands.

6. Objective and barriers to achieving it

36. The project's objective is to protect biodiversity through improved wetland management and human-crocodile co-existence. The project will support the Global Environmental Benefits of sustainable use of the components of globally significant biodiversity and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in productive landscapes. In addition, the project will directly contribute to improving the adaptive capacity of protected areas and, in particular, freshwater ecosystems. The project will also deliver several co-benefits, including food and water security to these communities, improving the living conditions of the communities and reducing the number of people below the national poverty line, given the livelihood work. The entire project is intended to be gender responsive.

37. By addressing synergies between biodiversity and climate change while simultaneously considering the social impacts thereof, protected areas offer an opportunity to support global development goals and maximize benefits. Protected areas are an important tool for biodiversity conservation and maintaining ecosystem services that are critical for communities' food security, livelihoods, wellbeing and cultural identity and practice, as they represent areas of reduced human pressure and concentrated conservation efforts. Well-designed and managed protected area networks can therefore improve the health of ecosystems, reduce biodiversity loss and provide benefits to the people who depend on them. Protecting and restoring biodiversity plays an important role because higher genetic species and ecosystem diversity help to reduce climate risks and enable adaptation. Therefore avoiding (and reversing) degradation and loss of carbon and species rich terrestrial and marine ecosystems (for example, through the improved management of protected areas) is of increasing importance for biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation actions with significant climate change adaptation benefits.

38. Wetlands are among the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world and their natural capacity to buffer communities from the adverse effects of climate change is integral to increasing climate resilience. As a biodiversity hotspot, they provide shelter, breeding and nesting grounds for many species of birds and aquatic fauna. They also play an important role as natural disaster management systems, alleviating flooding by absorbing excess water and precipitation, acting as a buffer during storms and providing a safe haven for biodiversity during and after storm events. Furthermore, wetlands help sustain local communities by providing building materials and combat food insecurity by supporting fisheries, agriculture and livestock. Unfortunately, the continuing loss and degradation of wetlands can result in significant losses of their stored carbon and consequently carbon emissions.

39. Wetlands in Timor-Leste are threatened mostly by human encroachment due to the poor agricultural practices, lack of land use planning, poor management of natural resources, and lack of

governance and institutional capacity to manage wetlands. The project area is also encumbered by a lack of effective management for Protected Areas in Timor-Leste. By improving the management of the area's wetlands through detailed management plans, the project can address a number of barriers. To incentivize the communities to contribute to this work and implement the management plans, support will be provided to the community to reduce human-crocodile conflict. These means of reducing this conflict will also address human encroachment into the biodiversity-rich wetlands given that avoidance is a key measure for both. Sustainable livelihoods for key demographics will also reduce both human-crocodile conflict and human pressure on the wetlands as this pressure is directly related to the poor agricultural practices.

40. Protected areas are a nature-based solution offering the opportunity to tackle biodiversity loss and climate change simultaneously. A workshop held by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the IPCC highlighted that the implementation of nature-based solutions creates co-benefits for climate change adaptation, nature and society and that by enhancing the adaptive capacity of ecosystems, nature-based solutions can also mitigate the impacts of climate change driven by ecosystem change. Ecosystem-based approaches in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation include maintaining or restoring ecosystems to a good ecological state, protecting ecosystems from being damaged by disasters and using ecosystems as naturally 'engineered' landscapes to help lessen the impacts of climate change. Protecting and restoring critical ecosystem services through the application of nature-based solutions is central to biodiversity protection and climate change adaptation in Timor-Leste. The maintenance of ecosystem integrity will engender many benefits (both direct and indirect) enabling the ecosystem to withstand stress and disturbances such as floods, drought and disease. Such capacity increases the resilience potential of the environment.

41. If managed effectively, freshwater ecosystems can have climate adaptation benefits by reducing other drivers of degradation and the risk of catastrophic loss due to natural disasters, protecting and conserving natural resources and increasing agricultural productivity. In this context, Timor-Leste has a long history of community participatory governance and inclusive, community-driven management measures. Traditional management approaches, such as the use of Tara bandu have protected biodiversity and ecosystem health for centuries.

42. Because of habitat loss and degradation, there is a considerable amount of unplanned contact between wildlife, humans and livestock, which causes conflict and, in many cases, death. The barriers to this root cause are a lack of government and institutional capacity to manage wetlands and the human-wildlife conflict in Timor-Leste (for example, there is only one government employee trained in crocodile handling) and a lack of awareness. With increasing pressure for resource extraction and use, strengthening the governance capacity, cooperation and management of freshwater ecosystems will help to conserve and protect biodiversity, secure food and water security, as well as the livelihoods of the local communities within the proposed target sites.

43. Population growth, currently 1.8% per year (a slight drop from the 2010-2015 census), puts additional pressure not only on the social infrastructure but further exacerbates the environmental threats with which Timor-Leste is afflicted. With few alternative employment opportunities this growing population is increasingly dependent on natural resources for its survival at the same time as the available resources are becoming scarcer and more threatened. As the human population has grown, so too has the crocodile population and with this growth, crocodile attacks have increased. Between 1996-2014 there were 130 crocodile attacks reported, with 52% being fatal. The highest risk activities for crocodile attacks are subsistence fishing (82.5% of all attacks), bathing (7.5%) and water collecting (4.2%). Without intervention these attacks will continue to increase. Although the government is committed to working on this issue, without GEF funding the actions proposed in this project will not occur.

44. Poverty and the lack of sustainable livelihoods are contributing factors to the ongoing environmental threats to Timor-Leste's natural resources, particularly its wetlands. Despite the country's rich oil reserves and exportation of gas to Australia, the number of people living below the poverty line has increased over the last two decades and is now close to 50%, though a small decrease has been seen in recent years. The economy on the other hand has been expanding, GDP growth in Timor-

Leste was 7.10% in 2014. GDP Annual Growth Rate in Timor-Leste averaged 6.61% from 2001 until 2014, mainly due to the exploration of oil and gas. Slash-and-burn farming is the predominant livelihood in Timor-Leste. Due to the intense dry season in Timor-Leste, slash-and-burn agriculture is the greatest contributing factor to fire events. FAO's remote sensing analysis found that 80% of the national territory is affected by fire events; 44% of those events were moderate to severe. Slash-and-burn is also known for reducing soil's ability to hold water and, over time, reducing the fertility of soil. As soil becomes less fertile, and the human population continues to grow, farmers will burn forests and other habitats to grow their crops, which is a major contributor to habitat loss in Timor-Leste.

7. Key stakeholders consulted

45. The table below is a summary of stakeholder groups that have been engaged to date. A full list of stakeholders, date of engagement and their future involvement is included in Section D: Policy Requirements, under stakeholder engagement. Greater engagement will occur during the PPG, as well as a full gender analysis and socio-economic assessment.

Stakeholder Groups	Proposed Role in the project	Consultation Process to date
Women	Beneficiaries	Two community groups, with good representation of women, were consulted on 13 and 15 th of June 2023 to ensure interest in project.
Youth	Beneficiaries	Above, plus Permatil was consulted (14 Sept. 2022, an ongoing partner of other projects) to ensure interest in working with youth on livelihoods
Traditional Communities	Beneficiaries	The Communities that were consulted are the Covalima Community Group and the Viqueque Community Group. All community groups in the target area will be consulted and involved in design during the PPG.
Private Sector	Partner	A television company was consulted on 8 June 2023 to determine interest in working on the awareness campaign.
Government	Key partner and proponent for this proposed project and beneficiary	Meetings to discuss government priorities for crocodile management. The Ministries that have been consulted thus far include the Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry; Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture, Ministry of Interior
Civil Society	Partners	Several nonprofits and other civil society groups have been consulted on various aspects of the project (i.e. Konservasaun Flora Fauna to support management planning, biodiversity monitoring and tourism work; Esperansa Timor Oan to support community awareness campaign, etc.)

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

46. The proposed project aims to protect biodiversity through improved wetland management and human crocodile co-existence. The environmental problems that contribute to the root causes and barriers this project addresses are habitat loss and degradation, climate change, particularly sea level rise and salinization, and HCC. These problems have been explained above. The root causes of the problem the proposed project is responding to are reduced ecosystem services provided by degraded wetlands, unplanned contact between wildlife, humans and livestock; parallel growth of populations of crocodiles and humans that leads to conflict, and poverty and inequality; also explained above.

47. As the human population has grown in Timor-Leste, greater awareness of the need to improve land management, particularly for biodiversity conservation, has also grown. A key solution to protecting the unique biodiversity is to improve coastal wetlands management (Component 1). The project has identified five wetland sites, Aubeon, Modomahut, Bikan Tidi, Rai Mea and Hasan Foun, as key areas to improve management given the threats to these areas and the increased HCC there (Outcome 1.1.). The baseline for the METT of the 5 wetlands will be established during the PPG phase. These targeted areas are part of the National Protected Areas system as stipulated in law No. 5/2016 on National Protected Area System. To better understand the biodiversity in the area, ecosystems and species, a biodiversity assessment will be conducted in all five sites (Output 1.1.1.). A full GIS assessment of the wetlands (Output 1.1.2.) is also necessary to provide the data needed to create adequate management plans that consider the specific requirements of the hydrology, seasonal lagoons, climate vulnerability, etc. With these assessments in hand, the project will then work with stakeholders to participatorily design and implement site-based management plans for each of the five wetlands (Output 1.1.3.). Management plans will be developed in an inclusive manner and will consider the use of natural resources by all members of a community. The management plans will consider the adaptation needs of the wetlands as well as promote the adaptation benefits the healthy wetlands can provide to the community (thus, adding more incentive for the behavior change needed to reduce threats to the wetlands and the biodiversity). The Management Plans will also include human-crocodile co-existence features, such as where signage should go for highly populated crocodile habitats (determined through the biodiversity assessment). The human-crocodile coexistence measures will provide incentives to the communities to actively support the management plans development and implementation (as will the livelihood work in Component 2). The government has not had the financing available to take a more holistic view of the management of these areas. The Management Plans will include recommendations for the government, with an emphasis on cost-efficient actions, to be taken to improve the management of the Protected Areas.

48. Communities will be provided with capacity building to enable sound implementation of the management plans (Output 1.1.4.). As an incentive to do the work needed in the management plans, the communities will be trained in wilderness first aid (Output 1.1.5.). There is a belief (currently an assumption that has not been seriously studied) that the reason so many people perish in Timor-Leste from crocodile attacks is because it takes too long to obtain medical help. If citizens understand how to treat crocodile attacks, more lives can be saved. Given the great interest in obtaining these skills in the communities, the project will use this training as an incentive to increase participation in Outputs 1.1.1 – 1.1.3. (first aid instruction will also be combined with community engagement, to further enhance participation). All community trainings and engagement will include accommodations to ensure participation by women and youth and other vulnerable populations.

49. Support will be provided by the Director General of Environment, the National Director of Biodiversity and the Director General of Forestry, Coffee and Industrial Plants. CI Timor-Leste has had previous success working directly with women's community groups to engage women and youth in this work and will continue to do so with this project. These actions will contribute to better managed wetlands, better protected biodiversity and improved coexistence between the human and crocodile populations. Initial stakeholder engagement has shown the communities, particularly the Covalima and Viqueque community groups, who have already been engaged via stakeholder engagement for this project, to be receptive to this work and it is assumed they will continue to be so, particularly given the greater awareness in general of the need to protect ecosystem services. The project will contribute to better managed wetlands (13,475 ha), and with that, improved climate resilience for the communities and biodiversity conservation.

50. Livelihoods, such as slash and burn agriculture contribute to habitat loss, while activities like fishing are extremely dangerous in terms of HCC. The proposed project can support better land use and alleviate extreme poverty, as well as improve human-wildlife co-existence, by implementing improved livelihoods (Component 2). A gender analysis and a socio-economic assessment of the communities will be conducted during the PPG, which will greatly inform the design of this component. Stakeholder engagement during the PPG will also gauge interest and expectations from the communities related to all livelihood activities. The project will train and provide the materials needed to implement alternative, sustainable livelihood opportunities that limit encroachment into wetlands and biodiversity rich areas for local communities living near the wetlands (Outcome 2.1.)

51. The government has identified the need to develop gender-sensitive ecotourism options in this area (Output 2.1.1.) but has been unable to finance this work. The area is ideal for such work given the beautiful coast of Timor-Leste and the significant wildlife of the region. Crocodiles are often considered an attraction to tourists, and it is possible to view crocodiles in a safe manner by training guides, building viewing platforms, etc. All trainings and engagement with community members in the ecotourism actions will accommodate women's participation and will include SEAH training.

52. In addition to ecotourism, the project will deliver specially designed livelihood programs for women (Output 2.1.2.), youth (Output 2.1.3.) and fisher groups (Output 2.1.4.). The targeted groups for livelihood work have been divided into separate outputs to ensure each unique group's needs are understood, met and that they are provided with all the accommodations needed for their participation. These communities live on the edge of poverty and cannot afford to invest in sustainable livelihoods, but their current livelihoods threaten the biodiversity of the area, particularly agriculture and the need to expand agricultural lands given the current unsustainable methods used. Thus, the livelihood work will most likely be farm-based, including training on raising poultry and goats, sustainability methods and rotational crop instructions, and also work related to specific, cultural arts that could be marketed alongside the ecotourism (specific livelihood actions will be determined during the PPG with full stakeholder engagement participation in the design and actions). All proposed livelihood work will be climate change resilient or enhance the communities overall climate change resilience. The intention and assumption is that by providing communities with sustainable livelihoods the project can reduce encroachment into biodiversity habitat and consequently reduce HCC, while also increasing incomes and alleviating poverty (thus building resilience against the drivers of habitat loss and the risk of climate change). The livelihood work will consider the climate change adaptation needs of the community that will be assessed in Outcome 1 and will include livelihood activities that are resilient to climate change impacts. Previous projects have shown that many communities not only need training in alternative livelihoods, but they need support in marketing products to move them to more lucrative markets (such as Dili). Initial stakeholder engagement has shown communities are interested in this work. It is assumed that the ecotourism projects can be implemented sustainably and safely, and the Director General of Tourism will support this work. Several local civil society organizations will also be involved in this outcome, including Permatil, Konservasaun Flora Fauna and Esperansa Timor Oan. The project will contribute to improved livelihoods for the communities in the wetlands (estimated 300 direct beneficiaries), which will reduce encroachment on wetlands (mostly associated with agricultural

land expansion) and improved human well-being as the threat of crocodile attacks will be reduced – a fear they live with daily – and improved ecosystem services (estimated 3,276 (1,714 women; 1,562 men) direct beneficiaries).

53. In Timor-Leste, the saltwater crocodile, (*Crocodylus porosus*), is considered an icon and sacred animal to many communities. Its significance to the people of Timor-Leste, through traditional lore, and cultural ceremonies, saw it declared a protected species once the country gained independence in 2002. Since its protection, there is anecdotal evidence that the crocodile population has been increasing, alongside a noticeable escalation of human-crocodile conflicts (HCC). Between 1996 and 2014 there were 68 crocodile attacks formally reported, but it is clear that not all attacks are reported. Brackhane et al., found through community engagement and official records that figure should be 130 attacks, in 45 Sukus (villages), within 11 of Timor-Leste's 13 districts. Many of these attacks were concentrated in the proposed project site area, the southeastern coastal area of Timor-Leste. Between April 2007 and April 2014, there were 21 attacks on the southern coast, 17 fatal (the rest were near-fatal), 81% male victims and 19% female, 66% were fishing. The proposed project seeks to alleviate this human-wildlife conflict as an incentive to motivate the communities to also protect their surrounding biodiversity.

54. A lack of governance and institutional capacity to manage HCC, as well as the lack of general awareness and understanding to prevent HCC are what could be called the obvious barriers to preventing conflict. If the government had the means to manage the crocodile population (in a culturally sensitive manner given their cultural importance) and the population were better informed of how to prevent and treat crocodile attacks, there would be less conflict, or at the very least, less deaths caused by crocodile attacks. By creating the enabling conditions for the government to manage human-crocodile conflict (Component 3) the proposed project will address these barriers. The government has already outlined its needs to improve their ability to manage HCC (Outcome 3.1.). In Timor-Leste there is currently one government official who is trained in crocodile management and handling. The proposed project intends to increase the number of government officials trained in crocodile management (Output 3.1.1.). The training will be designed in a gender-inclusive manner and women will be encouraged to participate (data disaggregated, minimum 30% women). Aligned with this need is a need for tools and equipment that municipalities need to better manage their crocodile populations. This includes such simple equipment as waterproof gaiters and bang sticks to warning signs for high crocodile population areas.

55. In addition, Timor-Leste needs a gender-sensitive, national crocodile management plan that is designed, approved and implemented by key stakeholders (Output 3.1.3). The management plan was initially discussed by the Crocodile Task Force, but given the lack of funds, it has not been created. An activity within the management plan output will be to redefine the Task Force, possibly pursuing the creation of a "commission" with the government, to ensure a group of people is tasked and empowered to continue the work beyond the life of this project. The project will provide accommodations to ensure all voices are heard in the stakeholder engagement required to develop this plan, particularly those of women, youth and other marginalized members of society. It is assumed that to implement the management plan there will also be a need for a monitoring system, which the project will design in consultation with the government (Output 3.1.3.). The monitoring system will utilize camera traps at strategic locations and engage local communities in monitoring crocodile populations and movements by regularly tracking and counting crocodile tracks and footprints to gather site-specific data on their numbers, size, and movements within and around wetlands and water sources. With this information, the communities will also be empowered to alert authorities about crocodile sightings or incidents to facilitate timely responses to potential conflict situations. [It should be noted that the community engagement related to the monitoring system will not occur until the communities have been through the trainings noted above in Output 1.1.4.]

56. The Task Force also identified a need for citizens to have increased awareness of how to prevent HCC. The path to this awareness involves implementing a gender-sensitive national awareness campaign (Output 3.1.2.). Timor-Leste's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2011-2020) also called for a national awareness campaign "...to systematically promote the values of biodiversity..." The project will design, with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Art and Culture an awareness campaign that couples biodiversity conservation awareness

with crocodile-human conflict awareness, given that the actions to accomplish both often overlap (like avoiding certain areas). Group Media National TV has been engaged and their support will be further detailed during the PPG. With this work the government will have a plan to communicate with its citizens, and the people of Timor-Leste will have greater awareness of crocodile behavior and greater awareness of their local biodiversity. All community trainings and engagement will include accommodations to ensure participation by women and youth. It is assumed that the coastal communities and general citizenry of Timor-Leste will be receptive to the campaign and will utilize the lessons learned beyond the life of the project.

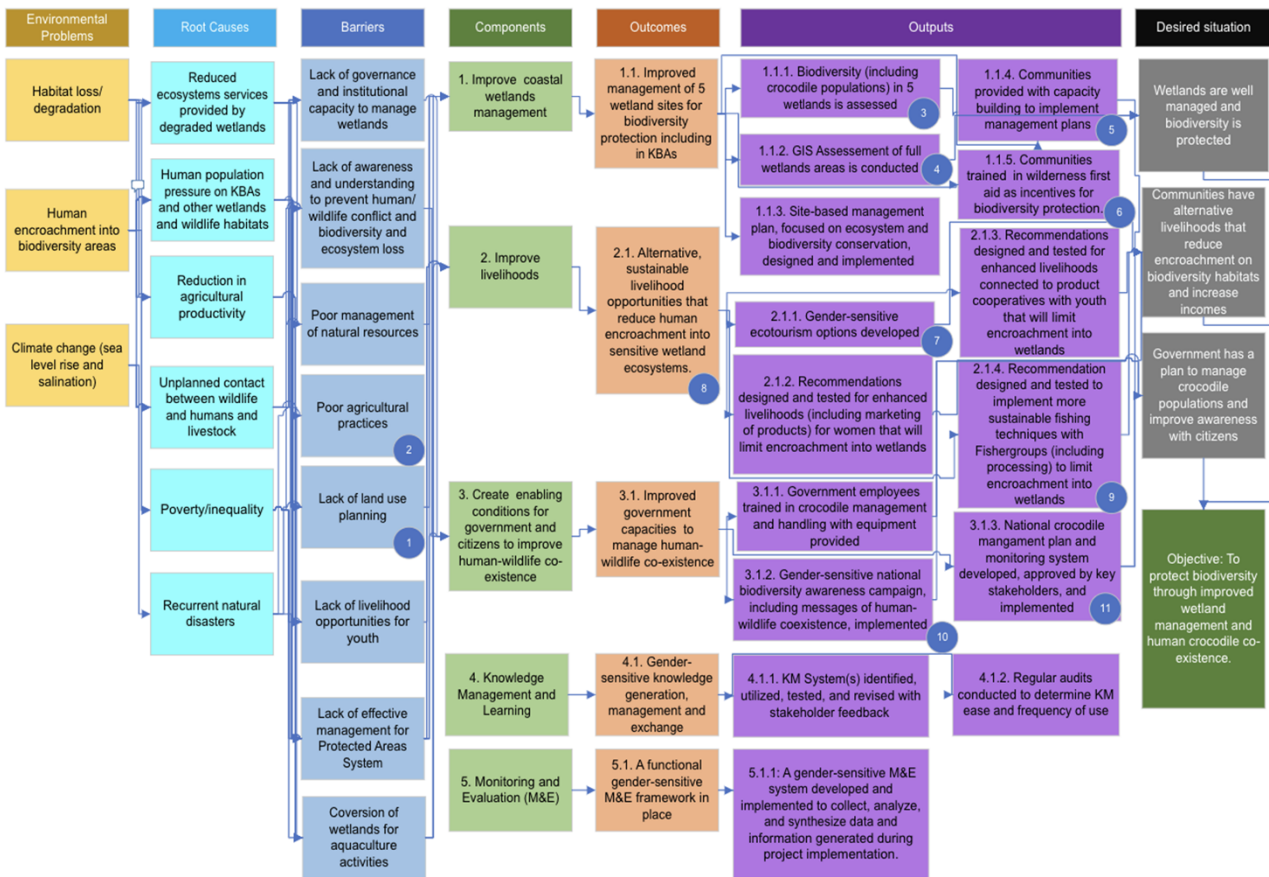
57. The awareness campaign will affect behavior change on a national level, which is transformational for this country of 1.3 million people. Although GEF funding will not be deployed for Component 3, it is an important means to leverage additional cofinancing to support this work and help the government to act on a long-sought goal to reduce HCC. National crocodile management plans will be designed with all stakeholders, and implementation will include location monitoring of crocodiles through camera traps to adapt and inform communities on wildlife hotspots – an innovation given camera traps have not been deployed in Timor-Leste before. This work will also inform scaling-up if successful.

58. Component 3 will be co-implemented by many government ministries, including active involvement from the State Secretary of the Environment, Director General of Forestry, Coffee, and Industrial Plants (under the MAF), the Director General of Fisheries and the Director for Biodiversity. It is assumed the government will continue to be dedicated to improving human-crocodile co-existence (a major priority as of this writing) and will continue to implement the Crocodile Management Plan and the Biodiversity Awareness Campaign beyond the life of this project.

59. The project is committed to knowledge management and learning (Component 4). The project will generate a great deal of gender-sensitive knowledge, particularly given the assessments, awareness campaigns and management plans to be produced. To ensure these products live on after the life of the project, during the PPG the project team will identify the appropriate knowledge management systems to use; for example, the GEF 6 project is developing a National Protected Area knowledge management system, which could be utilized for the five wetlands management plans. During project implementation, the project team will test the identified knowledge management systems (Output 4.1.1.) and conduct regular audits to determine the ease of using this system and the frequency of use (Output 4.1.2.). Utilizing an already established system will improve the likelihood of the products being used again. The knowledge management strategy for the project includes producing informative knowledge products, enhancing access to the knowledge, and mainstreaming knowledge products and services created via current systems and postings on Timor-Leste's government websites related to biodiversity and land management. These efforts will be designed to facilitate ownership and to ensure sustainable institutional and financial support following completion of the planned project activities. Ultimately, the desire is that the system(s) used will provide access to the data collected, increase efficiency, streamline decision-making related to human-crocodile co-existence and wetlands management, and reduce duplication of effort.

60. And to ensure the project is progressing well and meeting targets, a functional, gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework will be built (Component 5, Outcome 5.1) to collect, analyze, and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation, to monitor project progress and to guide project changes as needed (Output 5.1.1.).

61. With GEF support, the proposed project will support the government to develop the plans and campaigns necessary to improve wetlands management, therefore protecting biodiversity, while also providing communities with sustainable livelihoods and improved human-wildlife coexistence. While it is true that there are other donors who may support this work, little investment has reached these specific communities and landscapes.



Assumptions and Additional Information

- 1. Lack of land use planning includes the barrier of a lack of rural infrastructure. The project will not be able to address rural infrastructure, but the management plans may include recommendations to the government related to infrastructure.
- 2. Poor agricultural practices is compounded by the growth in human population in Timor-Leste, which together limit the availability of adequate land for cultivation.
- 3 & 4. The current biodiversity data and ecosystem information, even in the KBAs and IBAs, is outdated. The project assumes it can rectify this problem.
- 5. Legally the area the communities can manage is 519 ha (to be reassessed during the PPG). That said, the management plans will cover the full area and will include recommendations for the government to improve management of the Protected Areas. The potential for the community to support the implementation of those recommendations will be explored during the PPG.
- 6. Given the communities expressed interest in receiving first aid training to survive crocodile attacks, the project team assumes these trainings can be used as incentives to involve the community members in the improved land management actions required by the project.
- 7. The project team and the government of Timor-Leste assumes an increase in international tourists based on the global increase in tourism post-pandemic. The project does not rely on this increase for this work to be successful as there is local tourism that could increase to the area should there be better protections from crocodiles.
- 8. The project assumes there are alternative livelihoods that can limit human encroachment on sensitive ecosystems. The project will use the awareness built in Component 3 related to crocodiles to further influence limitations on human encroachment.
- 9. Sustainable fishing practices will include coral awareness, even though it is not a focus of this project. This set of livelihood actions will also include support for processing and marketing to improve incomes.
- 10. The National Biodiversity Strategy for Timor-Leste documented a need for general awareness related to biodiversity conservation. The project team has coupled this awareness campaign with the need for awareness on human-crocodile coexistence tactics, which the government has also identified as a great need for Timor-Leste. It is assumed both these messages can be relayed in one campaign.
- 11. It is assumed that the monitoring system could be expanded to also include general biodiversity monitoring. This will be explored during the PPG.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

Yes

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

62. CI Timor-Leste and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment will co-execute this project with support from (i) Vice Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister of Economic Affairs; (ii) Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry; (iii) Ministry of Health; (iv) Ministry of Interior; (v) Ministry of Youth and Culture. The Ministries will be responsible for oversight of procurement processes (including managing/tracking equipment), safeguards, work-plans/budgets, management of implementation budget, annual co-financing updates, and annual audits of sub-grantees. The CI Timor-Leste Country Program will support the Ministries with technical input and facilitation of implementation activities, specifically:

- Operational planning and day-to-day implementation of project field activities
- Executing procurement plan
- Preparing annual and quarterly project workplans and budgets
- Field monitoring of project activities
- Annual and quarterly reporting on project outputs and outcomes
- Collaboration and coordination of project activities in the field
- Execute grants provided to sub-grantees
- Participate in mid-term and terminal evaluations
- Document and share lessons learned and best practices
- Prepare for and support Project Steering Committee Meetings

63. This is similar to the execution arrangements for Timor-Leste in the GEF 7 Management of Indonesian and Timor-Leste Transboundary Watersheds (MITLTW), which was requested by the government of Timor-Leste and accepted by the GEF.

64. CI and the government of Timor-Leste have a very strong relationship, regularly share expertise, and are open to sharing staff should it be needed. Most of the work that CI does in Timor-Leste is in full cooperation and collaboration with the government. For example, the Kiwa Initiative Project, which is listed in the indicative co-financing chart, was designed in partnership with the government, in particular the Ministry of Tourism and Environment; the Kiwa project includes a government-to-government exchange (that project involves Samoa and Fiji also).

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
144	0	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
144	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Lagoa Bidan Tidi			110.00						
Lagoa Hasan Foun Onu Bot Protected area			12.00						
Lagoa Modomahut Protected Area			22.00						

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
13331	0	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
13,331.00			

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	68,779			
Male	68,626			
Total	137,405	0	0	0

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

65. Total area of the five wetlands, which will have improved management is 13,475 ha. The area within this area that is protected is 144 ha.

66. The number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender has been calculated by taking ten percent of the total population of the five Municipalities: Covalima, Ainaro, Manufahi, Manatutu and Viqueque which is a total of 32,759 with 17,138 women and 15,621 men. The area includes 14 Suko and 46 Aldea (sub-village). These population figures were verified by Suko chiefs. The project team anticipates at least ten percent of the population of the five wetlands will participate in the management planning, livelihood work, crocodile monitoring etc. In addition, the project should have a great impact on the general population, given the National Crocodile Management Plan and a National Awareness Campaign. Thus, ten percent of the total population of the country, which is 1,341,290 citizens (evenly split between men and women) has been included. This figure will be further refined during the PPG.

Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation

Summarize risks that might affect the project preparation and implementation phases and what are the mitigation strategies the project preparation process will undertake to address these (e.g. what alternatives may be considered during project preparation—such as in terms of consultations, role and choice of counterparts, delivery mechanisms, locations in country, flexible design elements, etc.). Identify any of the risks listed below that would call in question the viability of the project during its implementation. Please describe any possible mitigation measures needed. (The risks associated with project design and Theory of Change should be described in the “Project description” section above). The risk rating should reflect the overall risk to project outcomes considering the country setting and ambition of the project. The rating scale is: High, Substantial, Moderate, Low.

Risk Categories	Rating	Comments
Climate	Low	Risk: There is very little risk of climate change impact affecting project preparation. It may impact implementation as work given that

		community engagement suffers when natural disasters occur. Mitigation Measure: Although the risk of natural disasters/climate impacts during project preparation/implementation is low (according to the climate change safeguard screening) the timeline will include buffers to account for delays.
Environment and Social	Low	Risk: The risk is very low that any environmental or social impacts will delay project preparation or implementation. In fact, the project should improve wetlands and increase food- and water-security for the communities. Mitigation Measure: The project will ensure full and equitable stakeholder involvement in all management plan development and livelihood work to ensure the objectives and outcomes of the project are successful.
Political and Governance	Low	Risk: The government is very interested in seeing the development of this project as it has long sought support to prevent human-crocodile conflict. Mitigation measure: CI team will keep the government informed as the project is developed, seek their guidance and incorporate their ideas and solutions into project design.
Macro-economic	Moderate	Risk: The government hasn't been able to tackle this work because of funding, but it is providing significant cofinancing to the project. Mitigation measure: CI will seek additional sources of funding to fill any gaps that may occur.
Strategies and Policies	Moderate	Risk: Timor-Leste's current policy environment is very welcoming to the work proposed in this project. That said, there is always some risk involved when developing management plans that as the world changes very rapidly, the plans

		<p>become outdated before they can be implemented. Mitigation measure: The project team will work with stakeholders to create management plans that allow for flexibility to stay current, while still guiding communities to manage their wetlands for current biodiversity needs, and future climate resilience.</p>
Technical design of project or program	Low	<p>Risk: The risk of poor technical design is low as this work is not new to CI, nor to the government of Timor-Leste. BUT as has been seen in the past, there is a risk of delay as project design is sometimes too ambitious for the pace or is delayed due to other urgent issues (i.e. Covid). Mitigation measures: The current project design has been reviewed for realism and allows for significant application of lessons learned from previous projects, including how to push project objectives while facing other urgent issues (there are many lessons learned from the recent global pandemic that will be applied).</p>
Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability	Low	<p>Risk: CI and the government have successfully implemented a biodiversity GEF project that will end prior to the start of this project. That project build capacity at the government level and increased CI's ability to implement these large projects. All CI projects have sustainability build into them. Mitigation measure: During Project Design CI and the government will consider additional sustainability measures that can be integrated into the project.</p>
Fiduciary: Financial Management and Procurement	Low	<p>Risk and Mitigation measure: Very low as CI has the necessary systems and safeguards in place to reduce this risk.</p>

Stakeholder Engagement	Moderate	Risk: Stakeholder engagement is critical to the success of this project. There is an underlying assumption that in couching the wetlands management as a means to reduce human-crocodile conflict this will create a greater interest in stakeholders. Previous engagement has shown this interest is great, as well as in sustainable livelihoods. Mitigation measure: As noted, by addressing the current risk of human-crocodile conflict the project has already mitigated this risk as there is great interest nation-wide in solving this problem. The additional of livelihood work will further engage stakeholders to also contribute to the wetlands management work.
Other	Moderate	welfare risk due to work near crocodiles Risk: There is inherent risk (well documented in this PIF) to working within crocodile habitats. Mitigation measure: The project team will adhere to the advice being provided to communities to avoid conflict with crocodiles. This is a major output of the project.
Financial Risks for NGI projects		
Overall Risk Rating		

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

67. The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste's constitution states that, "everyone has the right to a humane, healthy and ecologically balanced environment and the duty to protect it and improve it for the benefit of future generations." As Timor-Leste's recently updated Nationally Determined Contribution (2022-2030) states, "Timor-Leste is resolute in its commitment to protecting national wellbeing and achieving the priorities set out by National Climate Change Policy (2021), and the Sustainable Development Goals." Timor-Leste lists wetlands as a priority ecological zone for ecosystem-based adaptation from climate change. Timor-Leste's now outdated Biodiversity Plan also notes that by 2020 the people of Timor-Leste would have the capacity to effectively manage

their wetlands. Wetlands are already federally protected by United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) Regulation 200/19. The proposed project will support the Sustainable Development Goals of: 1) no poverty; 2) zero hunger; 3) good health and well-being; 5) gender equality; 8) decent work and economic growth; and 15) life on land (additional goals may be added as the project is further developed during the PPG). Timor-Leste is a signatory to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (2007), UN Framework on Convention on Climate Change (2007), the Kyoto protocol to the UNFCCC (2008) and the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC (signed 2016; ratified 2017).

68. The project directly addresses several Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework 2030 targets in the following ways: Target 1) the wetlands of the project area will now have a participatorily-designed management plan that will address land and sea-use changes and it is hoped will bring the loss of biodiversity to zero by 2030; Target 3) the target areas are already protected, but the project will strengthen those protections through greater community awareness and project activities that limit encroachment into the areas; Target 4) the project directly addresses human-wildlife conflict through co-existence; Target 8) the management plans will most likely include actions to minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on the biodiversity of the wetland sites; Target 10) the livelihoods work will ensure that areas under agriculture and fisheries are managed sustainably; Target 20) the project team will seek collaboration and partnership with entities in Australia to share lessons learned, scientific information and guidance related to human-crocodile coexistence and wetlands and biodiversity protections; and Target 22 and 23) the project design calls for the full, equitable, and inclusiveness of all genders in the decision-making and engagement of the project.

69. The proposed project aligns with the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area, and Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), particularly Goal B “Nature’s contributions to people are valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use supporting the global development agenda for the benefit of all.” The project will conduct biodiversity assessments in the wetlands area, work with local communities to further protect the biodiversity of the area and support livelihoods that sustainably utilize the biodiversity. Wetland conservation will further secure benefits to communities in the form of natural and cultural resources access, sustainable livelihoods and nature-based tourism. The biodiversity awareness campaign will further instill the need and value for protecting Timor-Leste’s unique biodiversity.

70. Regionally, the proposed project is aligned with the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) Regional Plan of Action, which highlighted the need for a crocodile management plan for Timor-Leste under Goal-5 in the List of National Actions excerpted from National CTI Plans of Action. Also, in Goal 5, under “threatened species status improving,” the regional plan highlighted that human-wildlife conflict and protecting threatened species such as crocodiles, are important issues and guidelines will be developed for their management.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

Stakeholder	Date of engagement	Future involvement in project
Government Stakeholders		
State Secretary for Environment	14 October 2022	Government project implementing and executing Partner Provide support through GEF
Director General (DG) Environment and GEF Operational Focal Point	22 August 2022	Co-implementor
Director for Biodiversity, DG Forestry, Coffee and Industrial Plants under the Ministry of Agriculture, livestock, Fisheries and Forestry	15 August 2022	Proponent of project scope and will be involved in improving management of 5 coastal wetlands, National Crocodile Management Plan development and the National Crocodile Awareness Campaign Co-Implementor
DG Fisheries	07 July 2022 And June 5, 2023	Co-implementor, involved in improving management of 5 coastal wetlands, National Crocodile Management Plan development and the National Crocodile Awareness Campaign
Ministry of Health	08 June 2023	Training to the health care unit staff to address victim from HCC Improve access to basic health care services facilities at local clinic
Ministry of Youth, Sport Art and Culture	08 June 2023	Support awareness campaign for youth on HCC
Ministry of Interior	08 June 2023	Support identifies cultural value of the project implementation site Support capacity building for local communities addressing the HCC
State Secretary for Civil Protection	22 June 2023	Support capacity building for local communities addressing the HCC

DG Tourism	22 June 2023	DG Tourism is one of the main co-financing partners, there will also be collaboration on complementary, parallel initiatives, collaborating on capacity building, technical advisory, and other functions. A MCIE official will be included on the project steering committee (this Ministry was recently reorganized, but CI is sure an appropriate representative will still be actively involved)
Civil Society Organizations		
Permatil	14 September 2022	(Executing Partner) Youth engagement through youth camp events Mangrove conservation and community-based Tourism, Biodiversity monitoring Promotes and community awareness campaign at national level Mangrove conservation and community awareness campaign Community awareness campaign
Konservasaun Flora Fauna	19 August 2022	(Executing Partner) Mangrove conservation and community-based Tourism, Biodiversity monitoring Promotes and community awareness campaign at national level Mangrove conservation and community awareness campaign Support and actively engage in project implementation
National University of Timor-Leste	07 June 2023	Partners in research and data information collection
Private Sector		
Grupo Media National TV	08 June 2023	Support on national awareness campaign
Esperansa Timor Oan	08 June 2023	
Tatoli (local online media)	08 June 2023	
Traditional Community Groups		
Covalima community group (Youth, women and traditional community)	Município Covalima 15 June 2022	Support and actively engage in project implementation

Viqueque community group (Youth, women and traditional community)	13 June 2022 Municipio Viqueque 2022	
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(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
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Medium/Moderate

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
CI	GET	Timor Leste	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	1,367,889.00	123,111.00	1,491,000.00

CI	GET	Timor Leste	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	588,074.00	52,926.00	641,000.00
CI	GET	Timor Leste	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	733,945.00	66,055.00	800,000.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						2,689,908.00	242,092.00	2,932,000.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

100000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

9000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
CI	GET	Timor Leste	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	100,000.00	9,000.00	109,000.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)						100,000.00	9,000.00	109,000.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
CI	GET	Timor Leste	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,600,000.00
CI	GET	Timor Leste	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	641,000.00
CI	GET	Timor Leste	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	800,000.00
Total GEF Resources					3,041,000.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	1,367,889.00	12007025
BD-1-1	GET	588,074.00	
BD-1-1	GET	733,945.00	
Total Project Cost		2,689,908.00	12,007,025.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	Conservation International Foundation	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	530070
GEF Agency	Conservation International Foundation	Grant	Investment mobilized	476955
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Coordinator for Economic Affairs and Minister of Tourism and Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5000000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4500000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Interior	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Health	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Youth, Sport, Art and Culture	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500000
Total Co-financing				12,007,025.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Investment Mobilized is defined as new funds, which have a clear scope of work and it is time-bound. In addition, each Agency has worked with governments, and its respective partners and donors to identify investment mobilized. The identification of investment mobilized will be further defined during the full ProDoc development.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Orissa Samaroo	9/28/2023			osamaroo@conservation.org

Project Coordinator	Prapti Bhandary	9/28/2023			pbhandary@conservation.org
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Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Mr. Joao Carlos Soares	Director General of Environment	Secretariat of State for Environment	11/15/2023

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Project's targeted wetlands

No.	Wetlands	Suco	Municipality	Area (ha)	Watershed	Total Area (ha)
1	Hasan Foun	Lalawa	Covalima	512	Salele	15,474
					Tafara	34,329
					Suai	15,211
2	Rai Mea	Raimea	Covalima	24	Foura	7,678
					Zol Peri	5,578
					Loumea	26,570
					Molo	23,150
					Raimea	7,465
					Be Lulic	38,155
					Buitu	10,486
3	Bikan Tidi	Leolima	Ainaro	41	Buitu	
4	Modo Mahut	Clacuc	Manufahi	208	Clerec	38,114
5	Aubeon	Aubeon	Manatuto	313	Natarbora	11,594
					Dilor	23,614
					Luca	38,868
				591		296,286

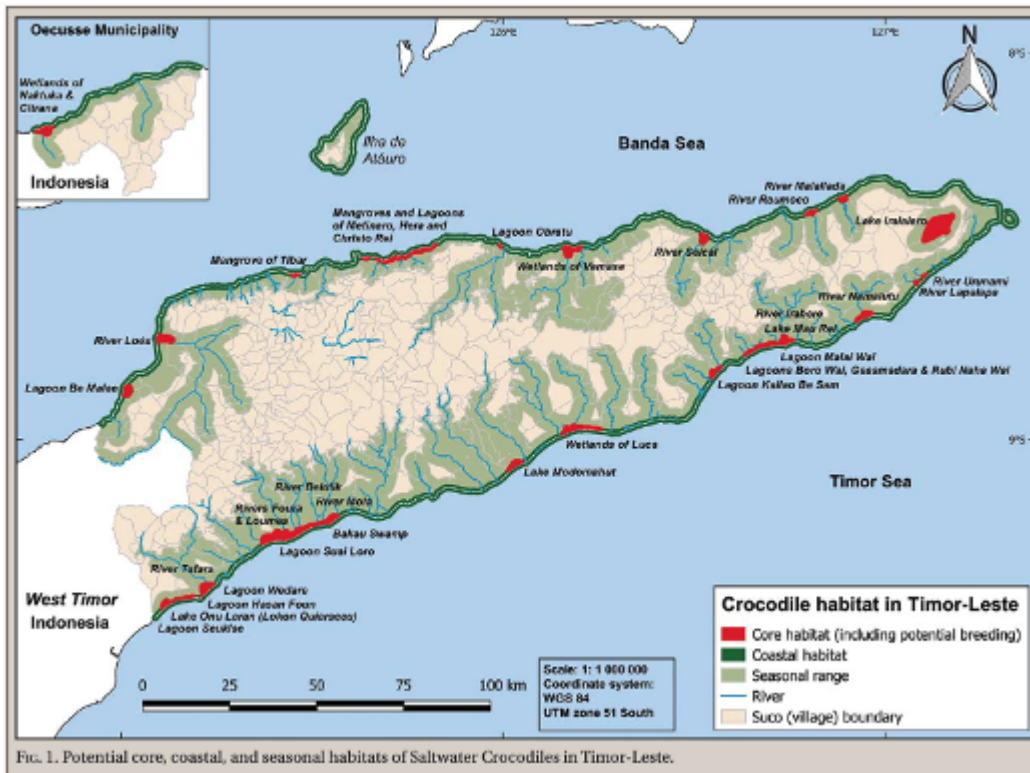
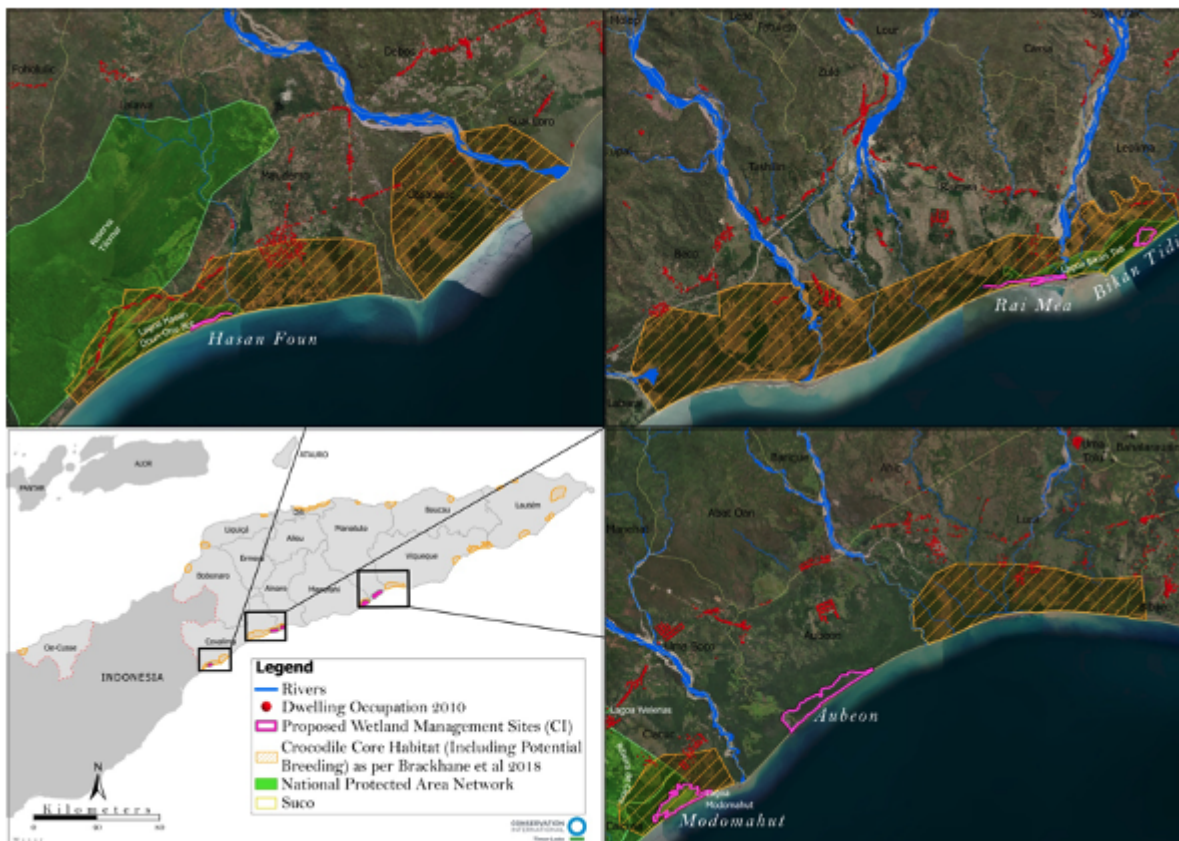


FIG. 1. Potential core, coastal, and seasonal habitats of Saltwater Crocodiles in Timor-Leste.



ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title

11.20.2023 Timor Leste ESS

GEF-8 PIF Crocodile Timor-Leste ESS

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	No Contribution 0

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing Models	Strengthen institutional capacity/ decision making	Convene multi-stakeholder alliances	
Stakeholders	Local communities	Civil Society	Knowledge and Learning
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Capacity Development	Learning	
Gender Equality	Gender Mainstreaming	Gender result areas	
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Protected Areas and Landscapes	Terrestrial protected areas
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Protected Areas and Landscapes	Productive Landscapes
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Protected Areas and Landscapes	Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Protected Areas and Landscapes	Productive seascapes
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Protected Areas and Landscapes	Community based natural resource management
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Mainstreaming	tourism
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Mainstreaming	Agriculture and agrobiodiversity
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Mainstreaming	Fisheries
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Species	Threatened Species
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Biomes	Mangroves
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Biomes	Sea grasses
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Biomes	Wetlands
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Biomes	Rivers
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Biomes	Lakes
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity	Biomes	Tropical dry forests
Focal Area/Theme	Forests	Forest	Drylands
Focal Area/Theme	Climate Change	Climate Change Adaptation	Least Developed Countries
Focal Area/Theme	Climate Change	Climate Change Adaptation	Small Island Developing States
Focal Area/Theme	Climate Change	Climate Change Adaptation	Sea-level rise
Focal Area/Theme	Climate Change	Climate Change Adaptation	Climate Resilience

Focal Area/Theme	Climate Change	Climate Change Adaptation	Ecosystem-based adaptation
Focal Area/Theme	Climate Change	Climate Change Adaptation	Community-based Adaptation
Focal Area/Theme	Climate Change	Climate Change Adaptation	Livelihoods
Rio Marker	Climate		