



ENABLING TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE INDONESIAN SEAS

The Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem (ISLME) is a highly productive and biodiverse large marine ecosystem among the 66 large marine ecosystems around the world. It is part of the western Indo-Pacific marine biogeographical region and covers five Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs) of Indonesia and the north coast of Timor-Leste. Aquaculture is a major industry in some areas of Indonesia, and there are many expectations that it can provide alternative livelihoods for coastal communities. In Timor-Leste, aquaculture is not highly developed, but the country's National Aquaculture Development Strategy (NADS) 2013-2030 has set a goal to provide up to 40 percent of the country's fish production from aquaculture. These important socioeconomic and environmental benefits generated by marine and coastal ecosystems in the ISLME were identified as being under pressure from a variety of threats, from illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing to extreme weather events, among many others. All of these threats will impact to some degree on coastal and fishery natural resources and the livelihoods of those who depend upon them. Against this background, the project aimed to strengthen regional cooperation and to support the effective and sustainable management of the ISLME region.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project assisted Indonesia and Timor-Leste in addressing transboundary concerns and in sustaining coastal and marine fish stocks, biodiversity and dependent livelihoods. The major project achievement was the development of a detailed Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the ISLME and a forward-looking Strategic Action Programme (SAP), which were both endorsed by Indonesia and Timor-Leste. Other key results comprised strengthening the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), aquaculture and marine resources management in Indonesia and Timor-Leste, particularly in Indonesia, where existing EAFM plans were enhanced within the ISLME area; harvest strategies for selected species were produced; and detailed analysis related to monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) to combat IUU fishing and a road map was developed, all contributing to Indonesia's policy on measurable capture fisheries. In addition, in Indonesia, harvest strategies were formulated for lobster, blue swimming crab, snapper and grouper, and fisheries management plans were developed for four fisheries management areas. Capacity building was a core component of the project, comprising various training activities in the two target countries on EAFM, Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA), fishing management, MCS, and fishing port debris management for national and provincial-level officers.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 4 000 000

Duration
July 2017–September 2024

Resource Partner
Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Partners
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), Indonesia and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry ([MALFF] formerly Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries [MAF]), Timor-Leste

Beneficiaries
National, provincial and local authorities and institutions responsible for fishery management; private-sector fishers and aquaculture producers; small-scale fishers and the coastal communities they live in

IMPACT

The resilience of coastal communities within the ISLME was strengthened through the promotion of responsible fishing practices and livelihood enhancement and diversification, contributing to food security and poverty eradication.

In addition, the project contributed directly to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)14 (Life below water), which aims to conserve and sustainably use the ocean seas and marine resources for sustainable management.

ACTIVITIES

- Detailed causal chain analysis conducted for five priority environment concerns and finalized.
- Socioeconomic drivers addressed under the TDA causal chain analysis and in the two thematic studies developed for Indonesia and Timor-Leste respectively.
- Priority actions for addressing each of the five priority environment concerns identified in the TDA developed, comprising 63 action plans for Indonesia, 25 action plans for Timor-Leste, and 97 common action plans.
- Direct technical assistance provided to provincial and district governments on implementation of EAFM of mud crab, snappers and groupers, taking into account local stakeholder viewpoints.
- Scoping study conducted for fisheries management in three pilot areas in Timor-Leste
- In Timor-Leste, Public Information Campaign organized on IUU fishing, MCS and safety at sea on northern coast of Timor-Leste at six locations, covering 328 participants.
- Draft aquaculture decree developed for Timor-Leste.
- Two separate sets of training conducted on post-harvest fisheries and on seaweed products, with specific women focus, on pilot sites in Timor-Leste.
- Four policy briefs developed on: i) Fisheries MCS; ii) marine resource management vis à vis fisheries zoning; iii) marine resource conservation; and iv) advanced village planning finalized.



Project Title

Enabling Transboundary Cooperation for Sustainable Management of the Indonesian Seas

Project Code

FAO: GCP/RAS/289/GFF
Donor: 5768

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