



Enabling transboundary cooperation for sustainable management of the Indonesian Seas

EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS

BACKGROUND

The project aimed to play a catalytic role in addressing transboundary concerns to strengthen regional cooperation and support the effective and sustainable management of the Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem. The project was designed to address strategic issues and priorities of the Governments of Indonesia and Timor-Leste. The core of the project aimed to strengthen capacities and institutional frameworks on ecosystem approaches to fisheries and aquaculture, as well as regional and subregional cooperation for sustainable marine resources management.



PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT CODE

GCP/RAS/289/GFF

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Indonesian Seas

START/END DATE

July 2017 / January 2024

FUNDED BY

FAO, GEF, Governments of Indonesia and Timor-Leste

PRIORITY AREAS

- Better environment

PARTNERS

Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry of Timor-Leste



ABOUT THE EVALUATION

KEY EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The evaluation answered five questions:

- To what extent are the project outcomes congruent with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) focal areas and operational programme strategies?
- To what extent were the project objectives achieved?
- Were there any unintended results?
- To what extent were stakeholders involved?
- To what extent was the project implemented efficiently and cost-effectively?

EVALUATION METHODS

Mixed methods were used to gather data from various sources and assess the GEF criteria: outcome; implementation and execution; monitoring and evaluation; and sustainability. The process was participatory and transparent, and involved a variety of stakeholders: a Project Task Force; central and local governments; relevant FAO offices; knowledge partners; and beneficiaries.

EVALUATION FINDINGS



WHAT DID THE PROJECT ACHIEVE?

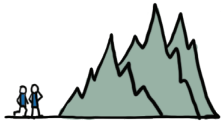
The development of the transboundary diagnostic analysis and the strategic action programme (SAP) was fundamental and at the core of the project. Before the project, there had been an inadequate understanding of transboundary issues, their root causes and their impact. Also, there had been no shared vision, cooperation or institutional arrangement between the two countries regarding the Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem. Overall, the project produced both the transboundary diagnostic analysis and SAP.



LESSONS LEARNED

Good stakeholder engagement ensures inputs from diverse stakeholders and broader ownership. In fact, the translation of key knowledge products and communications material into the national language could lead to wider reach, uptake, use and readership. Further, interministerial collaboration is required to make some SAP activities a success. Vertical collaboration among both governments and institutional mechanisms is required to reach and support small-scale fishers. This ensures local buy-in and ownership.

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WHAT WERE THE CHALLENGES?

The signing of SAP by the two governments highlighted governmental interest and ownership. The next step is to secure funds in order to implement SAP and its national action plans.



NEXT STEPS



FAO and the GEF: continue good stakeholder engagement and practices in SAP implementation. Use the evaluation and good practices from the project to convene and engage stakeholders, including the private sector, to reflect on progress, collectively work on critical next steps for SAP and identify the most productive resourcing options.



FAO and the governments: promote SAP to mobilize funding from the GEF or other international agencies. At the same time, ensure that the national budget is available for SAP activities.



FAO: be innovative in knowledge management and communications to reach a wider audience.



FAO and the governments: raise awareness among government counterparts about co-financing and reporting requirements, and have a streamlined process.

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