



**CORAL TRIANGLE
INITIATIVE**
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES
AND FOOD SECURITY



THE 20TH SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING

COUNTRY REPORT TIMOR-LESTE

Presented By

1. **Acacio Guterres/Committee Senior Official (CSO)**
2. **Constancio dos Santos Silva/National Coordination Committee**

Presented To:

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting
Bali, Indonesia | 10 -11 December 2025

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1. Country Focal Points

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NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Constancio dos Santos Silva

Chief of Marine Spatial Planning and Aquatic Resource Management – MALFF

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Mr. Faustino Resi Bere

Chief of – MTE

(Alternative) Mr. Junior Pascoal Soares de Carvalho

Director National at – MALFF

Women Leaders Forum

Mrs. Alda Sousa Lemos

Chief of Cabinet of DG PAGRA – MALFF

(Alternative) Mrs. Esmeralda

Staff for DGPAGRA – MALFF

EAFM

Mr. Orlando Halek Kalis

– MALFF

(Alternative) Mr. Antonio Soares Pinto

Staff at – MALFF

THREATENED SPECIES

Mr. Constancio dos Santos Silva

Chief of Marine Spatial Planning and Aquatic Resource Management – MALFF

(Alternative) Mr. Pedro Pinto

Director National for Forestry – MALFF

SEASCAPE AND LSS

Mr. Fidelino Sousa Marques

National Director of Aquaculture – MALFF

(Alternative) Mr. Timotio Alves

Professional Technical Staff for National Directorate of Fisheries at MALFF

MARINE PROTECTED AREA

Mr. Jose Monteiro

Chief Department of Marine Conservation – MALFF

(Alternative) Mr. Abrao M

Staff of Marine Conservation at MALFF

CT ATLAS

Mr. Fidelino Sousa Marques

National Director of Aquaculture – MALFF

(Alternative) Mr. Delio da Costa Freitas Belo

Technical Staff for Department Marine Spatial Planning and Aquatic Resource Management – MALFF

IRC

Mr. Acacio Guterres

Chief Cabinet for National Directorate of Aquaculture – MALFF

(Mr. Teotonio Siqueira Lemos

Chief Cabinet for National Directorate of Aquaculture – MALFF

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Mr. Teotonio Siqueira Lemos

Chief Cabinet for National Directorate of Aquaculture – MALFF

(Alternative) Mr. Tomas Gama Alves

Chief Cabinet for National Directorate of Fisheries – MALFF

M&E

Mr. Pedro Anteiro Maria Rodrigues

Chief of Department for Inspection – MALFF

(Alternative) Mr. Dani do Carmo

Senior Staff for National Directorate for Aquaculture – MALFF

Cross-cutting

Technical Working Group

Governance

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02. Country Profile



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03. Technical Working Group Progress / Accomplishments Towards NPOA



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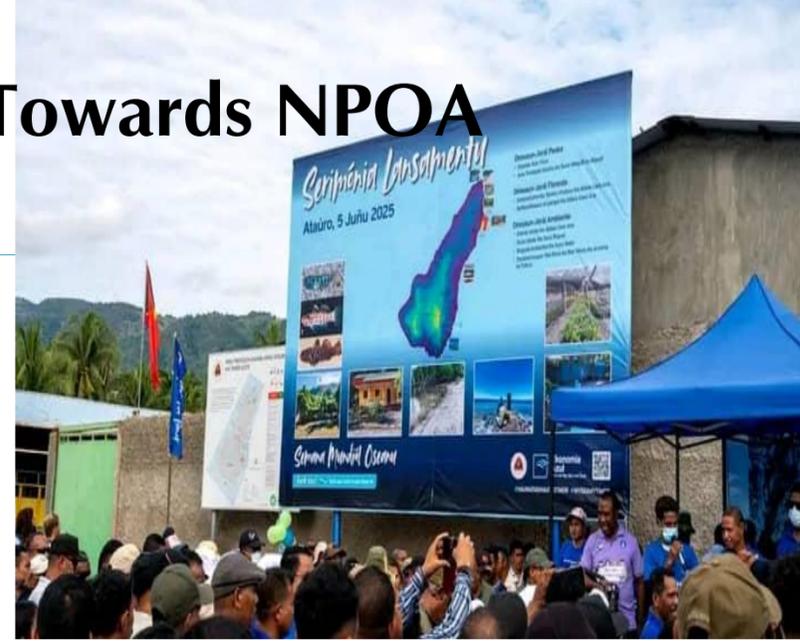
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Technical Working Group MPA Progress / Accomplishments Towards NPOA

- ❑ Established two (2) **Tara Bandu** and Two (2) **LMMAs** in Atauro, **one (1) LMMAs Ainaro** Municipality and **One (1) in Manufahi** Municipality.
- ❑ On Proses and consultation for establishment **2 no take zone** in Bobonaro Municipality and Manauto Municipality.
- ❑ **Community Empowerment** and the last three locations in collaboration
- ❑ **Demarcation of the outer boundaries** of the Dili, Manufahi, and Metinaro Mangrove Protection Areas to prevent mangrove forest conversion
- ❑ **Coral reef health Monitoring** in Atauro's Marine Protected Area
- ❑ **Establishments MPA** guidelines Document
- ❑ **Establishment METT** guidelines Document
- ❑ **MPA diagnosis based** on the IUCN Green List self-assessment tool for two MPAs in Timor Leste (Atauro and Nino Konis Santana National Park/NKS Park)
- ❑ **Monitoring Coral reefs** to strengthen marine conservation in Liquica Municipality.
- ❑ Tarabandu System is an the customary practices can be integrated in to the modern conservation framework such OECM



Success Story:

- The community conservation group Established conservation office
- MPA management entry fee in Beloi- Village \$8,000-Atauro per year (YTD as of November)



Technical Working Group EAFM Progress / Accomplishments Towards NPOA

- Capacity building for women in fish processing and value-added product development to strengthen household income and community livelihoods.
- Small scale fisherman support – provision of small boats, 15 HP engines, Cold Box and Ice Maker to improve fishing capacity and safety at sea.
- Capacity building for fisher groups on sustainable fishing methods, appropriate fishing gear use, and safety-at-sea training
- Rehabilitation and Maintenance of the fish market in the Dili Municipal
- Construction of mini fish market in Liquica Municipality.
- Promoting of Sustainable Coastal Fisheries for Blue Economy.
- supporting fisheries through MPAs and LMMAs
- Supporting Activities Protect Marine Ecosystems through (Tara Bandu) and Safety at sea training to fisherman
- Capacity building for women to Increasing Knowledge For Income And Nutrition From Aquatic Foods: Fish Processing And Business Skills Training
- Fisher associations, Villages councils, traditional leaders (tara bandu).
- Conduct vessel inspections and monitor illegal fishing
- Capacity buildings for fishermen, boat making, mini purse Seine and FAD; Small grants Allocation for Community Group including women,
- *Fibers glass boats Buildings*
- Data management system available Timor-Leste's Fisheries peskas.org

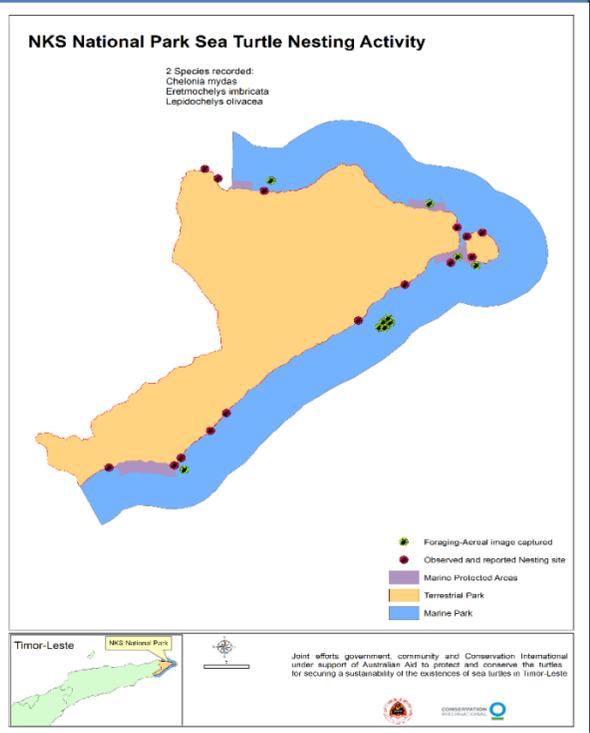
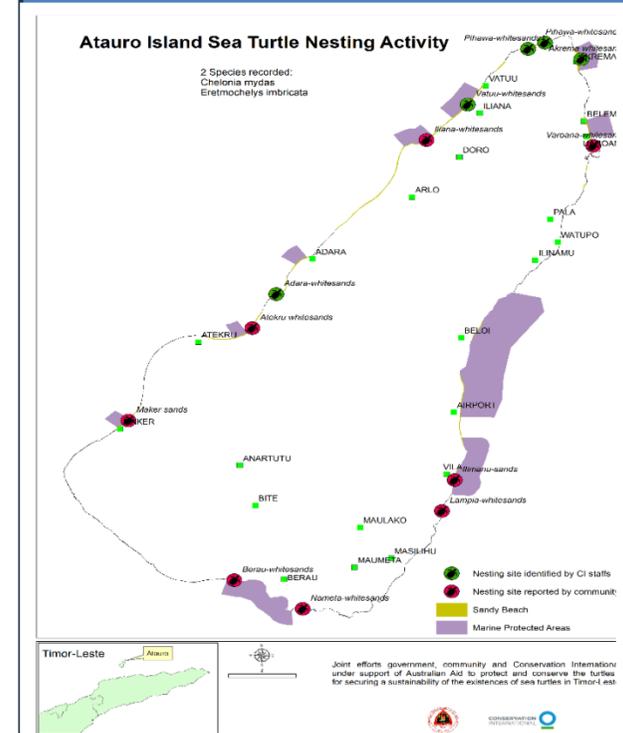


Technical Working Group Threatened SPECIES Progress / Accomplishments Towards NPOA

- ❑ Public awareness Campaign for Marine Protect Species in Timor-Leste
- ❑ Encourage for Sea Turtle Conservation Groups In Conserving (Atauro, Liquica and Lautem)
- ❑ Interministerial consultation related to the document whales watching guidelines
- ❑ Campaign to raise awareness on climate change, and Importance of the ocean, Ecosystems, and Protected Animals for School Children
- ❑ Migratory species studies at the LSS seascape level for marine mammal, turtle, shark and ray species
- ❑ Protection for pristine areas and threatened species in Lautem, Likuisa, Atauro, Bobonaro
- ❑ Monitoring marine pollution – focus on marine plastic impact to threatened species
- ❑ Ghost fishing removal di NKS Liquica, Bobonaro

Succes History

- ✓ Protection and turtle release activities are community-based and independent, information on turtles that are released and rescued



Technical Working Group SEASCAPE Progress / Accomplishments Towards NPOA

Land and Maritime Boundary Office

Blue Economy
My Sea, My Timor

BLUE ECONOMY:
POLICY AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE
PROMOTION OF A RESILIENT AND
SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY OF THE
SEA IN TIMOR-LESTE [2025-2035]

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

IKI CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL Timor-Leste UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA CRUZ

SCOPING REPORT

Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning of Timor Leste: Current Status, Challenges, and Ways to Move Forward



NATIONAL

Blue Economy Policy

- Blue Economy Policy is approved by Council of Ministers and publicly consulted
- Blue Economy Working group is developed by the Prime Minister, led by Blue Economy Unit – Land and Maritime Boundary Office
- MoU between Prime Minister and OceanXplorer, to collect biophysical data in 4 municipalities

Marine Spatial Planning

- First draft of MSP legal basis is consulted within the Blue Economy Working Group
- Scoping study to assess the current status, gap, and recommendation has finalized under SOMACORE support
- Data collection on existing use and socio-economic for MSP: Baucau, Lautem, Viqueque, Manufahi

REGIONAL

Lesser Sunda Working Group

- Draft joint workplan within the LSS sub-group (NCC Indonesia and Timor Leste about) is available
- Science Hub Workshop
- Ecological surveys of migratory species (including seabirds) through rapid assessment and satellite tagging

SUCCESS STORY

- Thematic program collaboration in LSS sub-group: MPA Network, Marine Migratory Corridor Protection, Small Scale Fisheries Management, University partnership (Science Hub)
- The Joint Workplan Development within the LSS sub-group
- Area of Interest of LSS Sub-group (Share the maps)

Technical Working Group CCA Progress / Accomplishments Towards NPOA

- ❑ **The distribution of Solar Panels** in Uacala Village Baguia Administrative Post in Baucau Municipality, a total of 34 solar cell households.
 - ❑ **Planting trees for carbon sequestration** in Suco Uatu-Haco, Venilale Administrative Post, Baucau Municipality, the total number of people involved in this group of beneficiaries is 15 (Fifteen).
 - ❑ **Integrated Vulnerability Assessment (IVA)** activities in Suco
 - ❑ **Water security activities, clean water supply** to vulnerable communities
 - ❑ Green School implemented the program **reuse-reduce-recycle** for Plastic waste
 - ❑ **Ecosystem Mangrove Reforestation** in Metinaro, Suai, Viqueque and Atauro.
 - ❑ **Community assistance** for alternative livelihoods through mangrove nurseries in Metinaro in Viqueque and Atauro
 - ❑ **Public awareness** to communities related burning fire in debt
 - ❑ **Inter-ministerial consultation** activities to better understand how to integrate aspects of climate change and disaster risk management into sub-national development plans and harmonization with sectoral plans
 - ❑ **Strengthen the management network** for climate change adaptation in communities through awareness and VAT activities in Dili in response to disasters.
 - ❑ **Beach Clean Up** every weekend all communities and
- **Success story**
 - ✓ Adaptation activity by making water **desalination** in Jaco (to provide drinking water for land animals and tourists) and Atauro (community) during the dry season





04. Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group



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❖ **Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group**

- M&E team is appointed by the MALFF Minister to monitor, evaluate and integrate all the projects in Directorate General of PAGRA
- NPOA 2.0 for TL is being finalized and the M&E framework is being finalized
- Coordination mechanism with university partnership and NGO in TL is initiated
- A database is launched by the MALFF Minister to monitor the Small-scale fisheries
- Spatial database management system in NCC and MSP is initiated
- METT is being evaluated as a tool to M&E on MPA





05. National Update on Financial Progress



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Summary of Financial Progress :

No	Area	Country Update
1	Partnerships with donors, NGOs, or private sector	Coordination mechanism and network with university and NGO in TL is initiated and coordinated by NCC Partnership with Caltex for collected Plastic Botel waste in Atauro and Dili
2	Development or implementation of national trust fund / sustainable finance mechanism	A community based sustainable finance mechanism from tourism activities to fund village and conservation activities in MPA Atauro and MPA NKS are established Initiation of sustainable financing mechanism in draft blue economy roadmap in Timor Leste (blue bond, public private partnership, blue carbon credit and environment fees)
3	Integration of blue economy or innovative finance into national plans	Initiation of sustainable financing mechanism in draft blue economy roadmap in Timor Leste (blue bond, public private partnership, blue carbon credit and environment fees)
4	Climate finance or ecosystem-based adaptation initiatives	Initiation of sustainable financing mechanism in draft blue economy roadmap in Timor Leste (blue bond, public private partnership, blue carbon credit and environment fees)
5	Financing for marine pollution / waste management programs	Initiation of sustainable financing mechanism in draft blue economy roadmap in Timor Leste (blue bond, public private partnership, blue carbon credit and environment fees)
6	% of MPA management costs covered by sustainable / innovative financing	____% (the percentage will be calculated by MALFF community based sustainable finance from tourism activities), Beloi village already received \$ 8.000 / year



06. Potential Regional Program and Support Required



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Potential Regional Program and Support Required

- Support will be available to implement an agreed LSS workplan through SOMACORE on (i) **marine migratory threatened species**, (ii) MPA and local **community conservation initiative network**, (iii) **small-scale fisheries management**, (iv) **university partnership**, (v) **marine spatial planning**, (vi) **raising awareness on marine and coastal adaptation**

- Support and required to improve TL's NPOA implementation:
 - ✓ Management plan is required to manage an integrated land-sea of NKS Park

- Propose to the Regional Secretariat, provide regular updates to member countries on the financial progress of initiatives under the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) 2.0, based on the specific financial indicators outlined within the RPOA 2.0*.



07. National Roadmap 2025 For Each Working Group



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The drafted National Plan of Action (NPOA 2.0) 2025-2035 for Timor-Leste includes provisions to establish a detailed national roadmap tailored to the objectives of each working group. Once officially approved and endorsed by the Government of Timor-Leste, the roadmap will be provided including strategic guidance and actionable frameworks to facilitate the implementation of initiatives across various sectors. Each working group, will be align with the priorities outlined in the NPOA, will have a specific set of milestones, timelines, and responsibilities aimed at achieving the overarching goals of sustainable development, environmental conservation, and socio-economic progress. This structured approach is expected to ensure coordination among stakeholders, optimize resource allocation, and promote accountability in achieving the NPOA's targets. The endorsement will also formalize the roadmap as a guiding policy document for national and regional development



Timor-Leste's National Plan of Action 2.0



"One Triangle, Infinite Beauty"

08. Coral Triangle Day Celebration



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CT Day

World Ocean Day and Coral Triangle Day are celebrated together as Ocean Week or “*Semana Mundial Oseano*”.

Activities -> Ocean Parade; Beach and Underwater Dive clean ups; *Tara Bandu* and Green School launching; Outdoor art gallery; Cultural Performance; School-based ocean art project



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09. Communication and Publications



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10. Story From The Field



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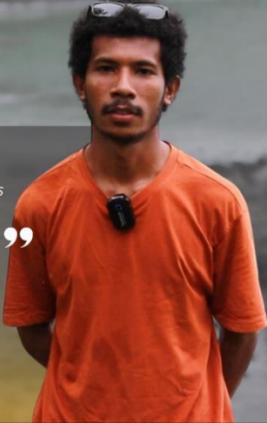
VOLUNTEER STORIES

SOMACORE

SOLUTION FOR MARINE AND COASTAL RESILIENCE IN THE CORAL TRIANGLE

Patricio Ximenes
Universidade Oriental Timor Lorosa'e
Faculty of Agriculture and Department of Fisheries
SOMACORE Volunteers

"Through this volunteer, I learned more about the ecosystems of seagrass, mangroves, and coral reefs. This was based on the theory that we learned and applied in practice alongside the SOMACORE team. Following this, we continued to socialization, sharing information on how to protect our threatened resources. We also reminded our communities of the importance of preserving ecosystems that are currently being damaged".



VOLUNTEER STORIES

SOMACORE

SOLUTION FOR MARINE AND COASTAL RESILIENCE IN THE CORAL TRIANGLE

Maria Lacerda Rosa
Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e
Department of Fisheries and Marine Science
SOMACORE Volunteers

"As a student with a passion for conservation and the protection of marine resources for well-being and sustainability, I am very pleased to volunteer at the Conservation International for the SOMACORE project.

My role is to raise awareness and knowledge among coastal communities and fishermen about protected aquatic species that are considered endangered. The importance to the marine ecosystem in maintaining ecological balance and their potential as tourist attractions and study centers".



VOLUNTEER STORIES

SOMACORE

SOLUTION FOR MARINE AND COASTAL RESILIENCE IN THE CORAL TRIANGLE

João Ratão
Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e
Departamento de Pesca e Ciência Marinha
Voluntáriu SOMACORE

I am very pleased to be part of the SOMACORE team, where I can share my academic experience on marine protected areas (MPAs) with communities in the municipalities of Manatutu, Likisa, and Bobonaro. My involvement in this program includes sharing experiences related to fisheries laws with these communities, as well as discussing the importance of ecosystems in protected areas.



SOCIALIZATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MARINE PROTECTED AREA AND DISSEMINATION OF FISHERIES LAW TO THE COMMUNITY

I am truly grateful for the information you have shared with the technicians and fishermen of Manatutu regarding the Marine Protected Area (MPA) and its relation to mangroves, seagrass, and coral reefs. Therefore, as fishermen, we must effort to work together to implementing our program effectively.

Andre Soares
 Fisherman Aiteas Village



SOCIALIZATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MARINE PROTECTED AREA AND DISSEMINATION OF FISHERIES LAW TO THE COMMUNITY

I learned valuable insights from the SOMACORE socialization that was shared in Suku Ailili. We can learn how to protect the ocean, particularly about coral reef, mangroves, and other ecosystems. Hopefully, we can also share this knowledge with other communities, especially with fishermen, so they can effectively care for the seabed.

Basilio Tavares
 Community of Ailili Village



THE BASELINE SURVEY ON ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC

During our volunteer work on research conducted by SOMACORE, we learned how to measure and identify different types of seagrass found in the ocean. I was particularly excited, as it was my first time participating in a project with SOMACORE.

Fidelia Martins
Bacou Sub-Village
Group on Seagrass Survey



SOCIALIZATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MARINE PROTECTED AREA AND DISSEMINATION OF FISHERIES LAW TO THE COMMUNITY

As a Chief of Beacou Sub-village, we participated in a socialization about Marine Protected Area (Tara Bandu), because Tara Bandu on certain marine resources such as mangroves, sea turtle and coral reef is important and are strictly prohibited from being taken arbitrarily, by preserving it, we can preserve it from disappearing in the future.

João Dasi-Bau
 Chief of Beacou Sub-Village



SOCIALIZATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MARINE PROTECTED AREA AND DISSEMINATION OF FISHERIES LAW TO THE COMMUNITY

This socialization is crucial for us at Suku Ma'abat because the areas of Lamsana and Hatununu belong to the Suku Ma'abat and Aiteas. The partners are coming to help develop these areas to benefit future generations and provide support to the communities that depend on these resources for their livelihoods.

Maria Santos da Silva
 Community of Ma'abat Village



SOCIALIZATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MARINE PROTECTED AREA AND DISSEMINATION OF FISHERIES LAW TO THE COMMUNITY

Thank you to SOMACORE for sharing valuable information about the marine area. Through this socialization, our community learned about the importance of marine ecosystems and the necessity of protecting marine species, ultimately benefiting our community.

Madalena Soares dos Santos
 Community of Ailili Village



THE BASELINE SURVEY ON ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC

There are advantages because I have been given opportunities for hands-on experiences that I haven't tried or seen before. When I joined the SOMACORE group to conduct research on mangroves in the Lamsana area, I felt that it would be beneficial for me. I can also encourage other women, my brothers, and my children who are fishermen to join this group as it could help them as well.

Maria de Carvalho Soares
Aiteas Village
Group on Mangroves Survey




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11. Acknowledgments



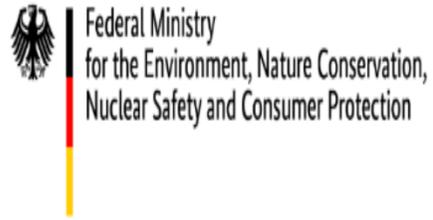
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12. Challenges



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- ❑ Limited Budget Financial resources for the implementation**
- ❑ Formalizing and Implementing the National Plan of Action (NPOA 2.0) and Roadmap**
- ❑ Integrated Management for Key Conservation Areas**
- ❑ Lack data sources and data collection**



13. Recommendations



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- To Finalize Timor-Leste's Marine Spatial Plan guidelines**
- Capacity Building regarding the data Management**
- Enhance Protection of Threatened Species and Pristine Areas**
- To Identify potential and Mapping of the threatened Species**
- Strengthen Institutional Capacity and Coordination**
- Learning Exchanges for Students children related**
- Expand MPAs area**
- To Finalize Management Plan for NKS**



THANK YOU OBRIIGADU

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