

Project for Community-based Sustainable Natural Resource Management Phase II

Overview

In the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, about 13,000 ha of forests had disappeared and 171,000 ha of dense forests had been degraded to sparse forests between 2003 and 2012. Such deforestation causes soil erosion, land slide, and flash floods, affecting the lives of communities in river basins. To combat this situation, JICA has been assisting the government of Timor Leste (GOTL) in promoting the sustainable management of forest and other natural resources.

From 2010 to 2015, GOTL and JICA conducted the Project for Community-Based Sustainable Natural Resource Management (CB-NRM Project Phase I), which developed the model of the CB-NRM mechanism in six villages in the Laclo and Comoro watersheds. With introduction of the mechanism, they have successfully demonstrated the reduction of forest fires, illegal tree cutting and free grazing. For scaling up this mechanism over the country, GOTL and JICA started Project Phase II, which entails the following components:

To formulate the roadmap for the expansion of the CB-NRM mechanism;

To establish the platform to enhance communication and collaboration among key actors (GOTL, development partners, NGOs and community representatives); and

To develop the capacities of the key actors for implementation of the CB-NRM mechanism through actual engagement of field activities.



Project Site

Laclo and Comoro watersheds and other watersheds

Purpose

To expand the CB-NRM mechanism over critical watersheds in Timor Leste through collaboration with key actors and their capacity development.

Activities/Outputs

CB-NRM mechanism consists of Participatory Land Use Plan (PLUP) and Micro Programs (MPs).

In PLUP, communities develop a future land use plan and village regulations for natural resource management.

Through MPs, communities learn techniques on forest management and agricultural/ livelihood development. During Project Phase I, around 56,800 seedlings were planted by 400 farmers. 600 farmers have applied sustainable upland farming techniques, improving crop production. Women groups enjoyed additional sources of income, e.g. earning US\$ 3,000 from the sales of cassava chips.

The village with the CB-NRM mechanism run a local watershed management council, namely Noru Watershed Management Council.

Project Phase II offers various opportunities of on-the-job training on the CB-NRM mechanism. So far, 20 officials from 14 organizations (international/national NGOs and development partners) have participated.

PLUP receives the highest interests from other key actors. For example, it is being employed by FAO, GIZ, USAID and UNDP in their project activities.

