

The Project for Community-Based Sustainable Natural Resource Management

We are pleased to share the progress of our project, the Project for Community-Based Sustainable Natural Resource Management, as described hereinafter. In this issue, we would like to introduce the project target villages and major progress made by the Project as of July 31, 2011.

Target Villages

In full consultation with National Directorate for Forestry and MAF District Office in Aileu, the MAF and JICA Project Teams selected the following villages as the target villages among those located in the priority sub-watersheds designated by the preceding JICA Study in 2009.

Noru sub-watershed in Lacro River Basin

- Suco Faturasa (Remexio Sub-district)
- Suco Fadabloco (Remexio Sub-district)
- Suco Hautoho (Remexio Sub-district)

Bemos sub-watershed in Comoro River Basin

- Suco Tohumeta (Laulara Sub-district)
- Suco Madabeno (Laulara Sub-district)
- Suco Talitu (Laulara Sub-district)

The Project will work in the target villages to introduce a mechanism on community-based natural resource management in the villages until March 2015.

Village Profiling Survey

In February and March 2011, the Project conducted Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) in the following four villages: Suco Faturasa, Suco Fadabloco, Suco Madabeno, and Suco Talittu, to assess the characteristics of the villages. Local communities in the four villages discussed the following topics in PRA:

- a. Resource mapping;
- b. Transect walking;
- c. Trend analysis;
- d. Seasonal calendar;
- e. Group discussion on shifting cultivation;
- f. Group discussion on present land use;
- g. Group discussion on natural resource use;
- h. Institutional Venn Diagram; and
- i. Group discussion on traditional rules/norms.



Resource Mapping at Fadabloco Village

Discussions in RPA became good opportunities for the communities to review and reconsider the current situations of the villages, especially those of natural resources in their localities.

Major Features of the Villages

The major features of the four target villages are summarized below.

Suco Faturasa

Suco Faturasa is one of the villages where the preceding JICA Study had implemented the pilot projects in



2008 and 2009. The village is located about 2 and half hours north-east from Dili. The major features of the village are as follows:

Items	Descriptions
Land use	Shifting cultivation, Permanent farm, Eucalyptus forests, Coffee plantation
Land tenure	A few clan groups own all the lands in the village.
Major crops	Maize, Cassava, Coffee, and Orange
Major issues	Crop damage caused by animal has been the crucial issue in the village.
Traditional rules on NRM	The traditional rules have been effective from 2008 with the written regulations.
Strengths on NRM	The traditional regulations and future land use plan are already in place and have been implemented effectively. The suco leaders have regularly monitored the implementation of the regulations.

Suco Fadabloco



Suco Fadabloco is located next to Suco Faturasa but has slightly good accessibility from Dili. It is located about 2 hours north from Dili. The features of the village are similar with those of Suco Faturasa as shown below.

Items	Descriptions
Land use	Shifting cultivation, Eucalyptus forests, Coffee plantation, Orange plantation
Land tenure	All households own the lands in the village. On average, one household holds one to seven plots for shifting cultivation.
Major crops	Coffee, Vegetables, Oranges, Maize and Cassava
Major issues	Frequent forest fires
Traditional rules on NRM	The traditional rules have not been effective since the Indonesian occupation.
Streangths on NRM	The village leaders are keen to revive the traditional rules. Hence, their expectation for the Project is very high.

Suco Talitu

Suco Talitu is located at the uppermost catchment of the Bemós river, which is the source of water to



Dili city. Suco Talitu is the closest village among the target villages and located less than 1 hour from Dili. The area is famous for the production of industrial crops, such as coffee, clove and pepper. The major features of the village are given below.

Items	Descriptions
Land use	Coffee, Coffee mixed with clove/pepper, Eucalyptus forests, Shifting cultivation
Land tenure	All households own the lands in the village.
Major crops	Coffee, Clove, Pepper, Maize, Cassava
Major issues	Parts of the village are not suitable for production of coffee and clove and still need to practice shifting cultivation.
Traditional rules on NRM	Traditional rules have not been effective since the Indonesian occupation.
Streangths on NRM	The communities in Suco Talitu are eager to protect their plantation from any damage.

Suco Madabeno

Suco Madabeno is located between Dili and Aileu and about 1 hour from Dili. One of the remarkable features of the village is that the village has already developed the village regulations on their own initiatives in 2010.



Items	Descriptions
Major land use	Shifting cultivation, Eucalyptus forests, Coffee plantation
Land tenure	All households own the lands in the village. On average, one household holds one to seven plots for shifting cultivation.
Major crops	Coffee, Maize, Cassava, Vegetables, and Sweet potato
Major issues	Although the village revived the traditional rules in 2010, many communities in the village have yet understand them well.
Traditional rules on NRM	The traditional rules were revived and developed in writing in October 2010.
Streangths on NRM	Since the village regulations were not as effective as expected, the village leaders wanted to improve and reinforce the existing regulations through the Project.

Participatory Land Use Planning

The participatory land use planning (PLUP) is well known as the process where local communities can prepare a future land use map with the associated management plan in a participatory manner. PLUP has been successfully applied in many community-based forest management projects in Asian and other regions in the world so far.

PLUP is also designed as the entry activity on a village level in the Project since it is effective in identifying the needs for sustainable natural resource management in the localities as proved in the preceeding JICA Study in 2008 and 2009. What makes the Project unique is to integrate the results of PLUP, namely, the future land use plan and the rules on natural resource management into the traditional rules (*Tara Bandu*) in the villages and publicly announce them in a traditional manner.

A series of discussions and group works, as listed below, have been and will be organized at the target villages from May to August 2011 in the process of PLUP.

- i) Organization of a working team in each vilage
- ii) Exposurue vistit to Suco Faturasa
- iii) Present land use mapping
- iv) Future land use planning
- v) Review of the traditional/customary rules in the past
- vi) Discussion on the draft village by-laws including the rules on natural resource management
- vii) Consultation meetings with local communities at each sub-village (Aldeia) of the village
- viii) Announcement of the village by-laws in Tara Bandu ceremony.

Process of PLUP

Results of PLUP in the Villages

As of July 31, 2011, local communities in the target villages have completed the procedures from items i) to vii) described above with the assistance of two NGOs based in Timor-Leste. Some highlights of the respective activities are summarized in the following sections.

Organization of Working Groups

In the beginning of June 2011, each village organized a working group selecting about 20 persons composed of the members of the village council, traditional leaders and other elders in the village. The working group of each village functions as a core group in making the future land use plan and village regulations of the respective villages.

Exposure Visit to Suco Faturasa

The NGOs took the working groups of Sucos Fadabloco, Talitu, and Madabeno to Suco Faturasa to enable them to get a clear picture of the process and outputs of the PLUP activities by introducing the results of PLUP conducted in Suco Faturasa in 2008 and 2009.



Exposure Visit to Suco Faturasa

The exposure visit helped the members of the working group deepen their understandings of

PLUP and envisage the outcomes from the forthcoming activities.

Present Land Use Mapping

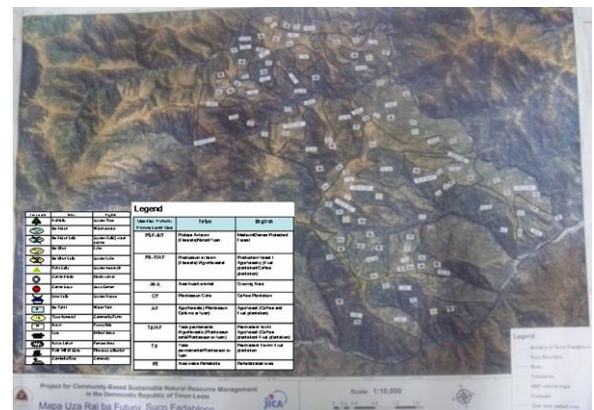
The second week of June, 2011, the working groups of the target villages except Suco Faturasa developed the present land use maps using aerial photo maps covering the target village.



Present Land Use Mapping at Suco Talitu

Future Land Use Planning

The working groups further discussed how to manage and use the existing forests and other land uses in the villages. All of them decided to i) protect dense natural forests, ii) rehabilitate degraded natural forests; iii) use sparse forests for production purposes, namely production forests, agro-forests, or coffee/orchard plantations, iv) convert the areas for shifting cultivation into permanent forms of use, such as coffee/orchard plantations, farms with soil conservation measures, and agro-forests; and iv) protect water sources in the village.



Future Land Use Map in Suco Fadabloco

Preparation of the Draft Village By-laws

The working groups drafted the village by-laws including the rules on natural resource management reviewing the traditional rules that they had obeyed in the Portuguese era in the beginning of July 2011.



Review of Village Regulations in Suco Faturasa

As the traditional rules used in the Portuguese era were not in a written form, the review of the past rules was not always easy for the members. However, “strong but coercive and undemocratic” was their common understanding of the past rules. Having reviewed the past traditional rules, the working groups came up with the village by-laws discussing not only the rules on natural resource management but also those related to social norms as well as a mechanism to implement the village by-laws. The outlines of the draft village by-laws of Suco Fadabloco are given below as an instance.

Chapter 1: General and Definition
Chapter 2: Objectives and Coverage
Chapter 3: General Rules
Chapter 4: Future Land Use in the vVillage
Chapter 5: Rues on the Use and Management of Natural Resources
Chapter 6: Rules on Management of Livestock Animals
Chapter 7: Institutional Framework for Implementation
Chapter 8: Implementation System of the Regulations
Chapter 9: Monitoring of Implementation and Information Dissemination to Communities
Chapter 10: Financial Management
Chapter 11: Fines and Penalties
Chapter 12: Final Provision and Effectiveness

Outlines of the Village By-laws of Suco Fadabloco

Consultation Meetings with Communities

From the middle to end of July 2011, the working groups of the villages have held the consultation meetings at sub-village level with the assistance of the NGOs. In the meeting, the

members of the working groups have explained the draft village by-laws to local communities and replied the questions raised by participants in the meetings. A total of 1,027 persons participated in the consultation meetings in the target villages as shown below.

Suco Faturasa: 206 persons for 4 days
Suco Fasabloco: 347 persons for 4 days
Suco Talitu: 257 persons for 3 days
Suco Madabeno: 217 persons for 3 days

Although there were a few minor collections required as a result of the consultation meetings, all the working groups were able to gain a consensus on the village by-laws and future land use plans from local communities in the respective target villages.



Consultation Meeting at Suco Fadabloco

Next Steps

In August 2011, each target village is planning to organize a traditional ceremony (Tara Bandu) to announce their village by-laws to the communities residing in and around the villages. The traditional ceremony will be the moment when the members of the working groups feel a sense of accomplishment, but this will also be the time when the real challenge starts. Their governance capacities including those for natural resource management will be substantially developed in the process of the implementation of the village by-laws. We will keep helping them implement the village by-laws and future land use plans in the target villages together with the NGOs until March 2015.

For more information or any valuable comments, please contact us at: JICA Project Team,
1st Floor, Directorate Nacional das Floresta, Caicoli, Dili,
Timor-Leste.
Land line: 333-1125 (Tel/Fax)