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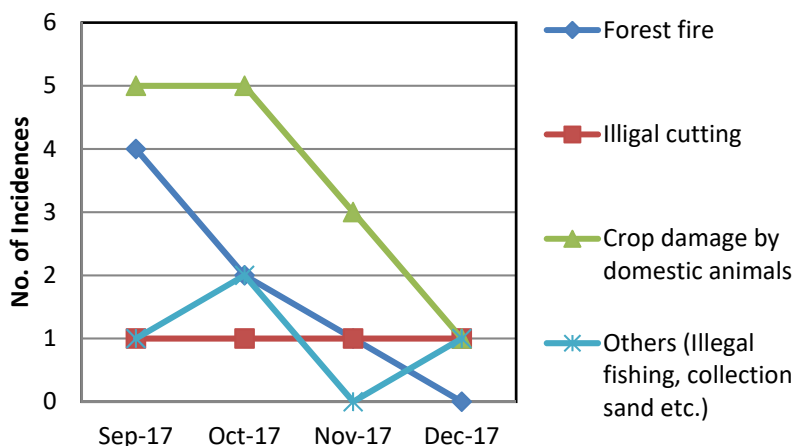
Life *with* Forest

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PLUP and Implementation of Village Regulation

Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) has been completed in all 7 nos. of Project villages. To inaugurate village regulations formulated by PLUP, Tara Bandu ceremony was organised in Maumeta, Manucasa and Cotelau during February 2018 participated by people from Aileu MAF Municipality, Administrators of Post Administrative, Police, MAF Caicoli, JICA CBNRM and NGOs. The communities pledged to implement their respective village regulations in the ceremony. Since September 2017, the Village Committees in 4 villages (Fahisoi – Liquidoe, Fahisoi – Remexio, Fatisi and Bocololo) have been organising monthly meetings to monitor and review the implementation of village regulations. These meetings are currently being facilitated by the partner NGOs, RAEBIA and HALARAE with the objective of building capacity of the village leaders to conduct these meetings on their own in days to come. In the monitoring meeting, each Chief of Aldeia presents the status of implementation of Future Land Use Plan and Village Regulation in his/ her Aldeia along with the issues and challenges. After their presentations the members of village committee discuss the issues to find some solutions. From the analysis of information presented in these monthly meetings for last 4 months, it was found that there is a reduction of incidences of forest fire and illegal cutting of trees.

Impact of Village Regulations in 4 Sucos



Tarabandu Ceremonies

Maumeta (Remexio)– Feb 08, 2018



Manucasa (Liquidoe)– Feb 09, 2018



Cotelau (Laulara) – Feb 22, 2018





In December 2017 and January 2018, no cases of forest fire and illegal felling of trees were reported by the leaders of 4 villages. Incidences of crop damage by animals because of free grazing are on the decline and during last two months minor crop losses have been reported in two villages. Notwithstanding, crop damage by wild pigs has become a major concern in two villages as reported during the monitoring meetings of January 2018 and the villagers are now trying to find out some solutions to address this problem.

Expansion of PLUP beyond project area

The Project has been sensitizing MAF and Development Partners for integration of PLUP into different programs and projects for CBNRM. The Conservation Agriculture Project of FAO took a lead in introduction of PLUP in 13 project villages (9 in Baucau and 4 in Manatuto) with the help of RAEBIA. USAID Avansa Agriculture Project has introduced PLUP in one village i.e. Hera in Dili Municipality with the help of RAEBIA. USC Canada supported RAEBIA to introduce PLUP in one village in Aileu i.e. Tulatakeo. RAEBIA also worked with GCCA-GIZ for introduction of PLUP in Makalaco village in Baucau. There is a possibility that the World Bank supported SAPIP will introduce PLUP in some of its project villages. Considering such perspective of the PLUP expansion, the Project, at present, is trying to document some of the good practices and lessons learnt from introduction of PLUP by other Development Partners.

Progress of Implementation of Micro Programs

Sustainable upland farming promotion has been the key micro program implemented from May 2017. 15 nos. of demonstration plots have been established in 13 Aldeias of 4 villages (Fahisoi – Liquidoe, Fahisoi – Remexio, Fatisi and Bocolelo); each plot is managed by a group of farmers between 10-40 nos. and efforts are made to demonstrate appropriate management of land, soil and moisture regimes, cropping patterns and package of practices for farming and farm maintenance, tree planting etc. Crops demonstrated in these plots are Maize, Beans, Cassava, Sweet Potato, Pumpkin etc. Quality seeds have been procured from the associations of farmers promoted by Seeds of Life Project. Compost making and its application is well internalised and adopted by the farmers. The results from compost application in farm are better than adopting only contour composting. Planting of fruit trees is in progress in the demonstration plots as well as in farms of the members.

Implementation of micro programs started in 3 villages (Maumeta, Manucasa and Cotelau) from February 2018. While sustainable upland farming promotion will be demonstrated in Maumeta and Manucasa, in Cotelau the villagers have decided to implement community nursery and tree planting. They will also try to integrate some aspects of sustainable upland farming promotion while going for tree planting on their farms.



Training and Capacity Building

The Project has been consistently making efforts for capacity building of Technical and Extension Staff of MAF (DGFCIP) and MAF, Aileu, community leaders in target villages, and partner NGOs through constant guidance, on the job training, facilitating periodical monitoring and review meetings and providing necessary resource materials etc. In Dec 2017, the project organised training programmes for the communities as well as Extension Staff of MAF Aileu on mushroom cultivation, production of mother spawns, and processing of mushrooms for preservation (salted mushroom). Two programs were organised, one each in Fahisoi Liquidoe and Fahisoi Remexio. The Project facilitated interaction between community leaders and restaurants for supply of mushroom. One Italian restaurant (Austeria, Campo Alor, Dili) has started buying fresh mushrooms from the communities and another (Agora Food Studio, Kampung Alor, Dili) has agreed to buy fresh mushroom. The Project also organised one day book keeping training for the women's group in Fadabloco in Nov 07, 2017.

The Project organised a training on basics of project cycle management, annual planning, creating a baseline, data analysis using MS Excel for 16 technical and extension staff of MAF (NDFWM and Aileu) and the training was conducted for 3 days in phases.

Second batch On The Job (OJT) on PLUP has been recently finished and 10 out of 14 participants successfully completed the training. The NGOs, which participated in this training program are OHM – Bobonaro, Hader, Liquica, PROSPEK, Lautem, Maharu, Ainaro, Malaedoi, Liquica and IMI, Ermera. The Development Partners such as USAID-Avansa and Conservation International sent their project staff to participate in the training program.

First batch OJT on Micro Program is in progress participated by the technical and extension staff of MAF (NDFWM and Aileu) and representatives for four NGOs (PROSPEK, OHM, MALAEDO and IMI). In addition, two teachers/ faculties from National Centre for Employment and Professional Training (CNEFP), Tibar, participated in the OJT on Micro Program especially for the modules on land preparation and sustainable upland farming in Suco Bocololelo. It is expected that these teachers could transfer the knowledge and techniques to their students in the Tibar Training Centre. The second batch OJT is starting from March 2018. There will be some participants from the Agriculture Training Schools/ Vocational Training Institutions of MAF participating in the OJT on Micro Program. Efforts will be made to include trainees from local NGOs to participate in OJT.

The Project organised training programs on soil test using a simple soil testing kit during February 2018 for the staff of NGOs (Raebia and Halarae), technical and extension staff of MAF Caicoli as well as MAF Aileu Municipality. They were also oriented on how to treat the acidic soil with sea shell and lime.





Roadmap on CBNRM

The Project helps Directorate General of Forestry, Coffee and Industrial Plants (DGFCIP), MAF to prepare a roadmap on expansion of CBNRM in the country. A taskforce/ working group has been constituted for this purpose and has been meeting periodically to discuss various issues and possibilities; carry out some exercises to prepare the content of the roadmap. Two meetings were conducted during last 3 months i.e. 5th meeting on Oct 03, 2017 and 6th one on Dec 12, 2017. During the 5th meeting, the working group thoroughly analysed the historical changes in forest and forest management in the country; current policies and legal frameworks having a bearing on forest management; identified the threats in sustainable forest management and debated on the possible options to reduce the threats. The working group analysed the profiles and functions of all the watersheds of the country (191 nos.) and identified 29 priority watersheds, where CBNRM needs to be established for forest conservation and sustainable forest management. These priority watersheds include 10 degraded watersheds cited in the Forest Policy of 2008. In the 6th meeting, the working group reviewed the results obtained during the previous meetings and worked on evolving the goals, objectives, strategies and targets of the roadmap.

Proposed Goal of the Roadmap

Forest and other natural resources (e.g., land and water) in the 14 high priority watersheds are protected and managed in collaboration with local communities in a sustainable manner.

Key Indicators

- More than 70 % of existing forests in the 14 high priority watersheds protected and managed in appropriate and sustainable manner by 2035.
- Long-term land use rights over forest resources given to local communities in all the Sucos with CB-NRM mechanism in 14 high priority watersheds by 2035.

Proposed Objective

All Sucos in 14 high priority watersheds will establish CB-NRM mechanism by the end of 2030.

Key Indicators

- PLUP conducted in all Sucos in 14 priority watersheds by the end of 2030;
- One or two CB-NRM-related techniques for sustainable natural resource management introduced in all Sucos in 14 priority watersheds by the end of 2030;
- Capacities of local leaders and authorities concerned with the 14 priority watersheds for sustainable forest management in the Sucos;
- Policy and legislative frameworks developed for long-term land use rights over forest resources to local communities by 2025; and implemented in targeted Sucos in 14 priority watersheds.



Meetings of Watershed Management Councils

Since September 2017 efforts are being made by the Project to sensitize, motivate and assist the Laulara Post Administrative administration and Suco leaders in Bemós Watershed to form a Watershed Management Council for overall management of watershed. The leaders went to Noru Watershed Management Council to understand the objectives, functions and achievements of the watershed management council and finally agreed to constitute the council and now **Bemos Watershed Management Council is in the process of establishment.** The members had series of meetings to discuss the structure and functions of the Council. A 2-day workshop was held on Dec 05-06, 2017 at Laulara Post Administrative Office to finalise the vision, mission, objectives and functions of the Council. The workshop was attended by leaders from 6 Sucos, Officials of PA, Laulara, staff of NDFWM and MAF, Aileu, JICA CBNRM, and HALARAE. The members had a very elaborate discussion on the general conditions of the watershed, changes happened in the natural and socio-economic conditions in past decades and identified the reasons for such changes and articulated a vision for future.

Noru Watershed Management Council (NWMC) had a review meeting on Nov 30, 2017 at Remexio Post Administrative (PA) Office attended by leaders from 8 Sucos from Remexio and Liquidoé PAs and both Administrators of PAs. The Chief of Suco of Liurai, which is not in Noru Watershed was invited to participate in the meeting for learning and then explore possibilities of adoption of some practices in his area. The members presented various activities relating to forest conservation, tree planting, regulation of free grazing of animals etc. Two cases of wildfire, one case of illegal tree felling, two minor cases of crop damage by animals were reported in the Noru Watershed in last two months and the respective communities had taken appropriate response to address these problems as per their village regulations. The Council members discussed the requirement of seedlings to be planted during January and February 2018 and a list was drawn up for submission to MAF. **NWMC had prepared a joint proposal with MAF for tree planting (10,841 nos. - forestry species - 8,401 nos., industrial plant species - 1,453 nos. and horticulture species - 987 nos.) and already received 9,000 seedlings till mid-Feb 2018.**

Vision of Bemós Watershed Management Council

The Bemós watershed management council is a non-profit alliance comprising sucos and post-administrative office of Laulara concerned and relevant government agencies with an aim to properly protect and manage forests, lands, and water resources in the Bemós watershed to improve living conditions and livelihoods of residents in the watershed and stabilize water supply to the downstream areas.

Mission

- to provide guidance and orientation to Suco leaders on sustainable management of forests and forest-related natural resources (e.g., NTFPs, lands, and water) in the watershed;
- to provide leadership in harmonizing the interests and activities of Sucos in the watershed to achieve sustainable forests and forest-related natural resource management;
- to take initiative in planning, implementation, and evaluation of watershed management plan to manage forests and forest-related natural resources in a proper and sustainable manner while improving local livelihoods;
- to help village leaders to enhance awareness on sustainable forest and forest-related natural resource management among communities in the respective Sucos;
- to promote necessary actions for sustainable forest and forest-related natural resource management in the watershed in coordination with relevant government and non-government organizations as well as international organizations;
- to help Suco leaders hand over the valuable forests and forest-related natural resources to the future generations in the respective villages; and
- to share the experiences with local government units (Sucos, Posts-administrative, and Municipalities) in other watersheds in Timor-Leste to promote sustainable forest and forest-related natural resource management at the watershed level.



DGFCIP Coordination meeting with NGOs

On Feb 15, 2018, DGFCIP organised a coordination meeting with NGOs based in Dili, who are working on forestry and watershed related field. The meeting was attended by 13 NGOs. Mr. Pascoal from the office of DGFCIP facilitated the meeting and introduced the purpose of the meeting. Mr. Adalfredo d Ferreira, National Director, NDFWM in his initial remark welcomed the participants and explained the purpose of having a regular coordination meeting with NGOs working in forestry sector. He informed the NGOs that DGFCIP is having regular coordination meeting with Development Partners for information sharing among all DPs and for collaborations. The MAF also updates the DPs on its activities. Each NGO presented its key areas of interventions, operational areas and partnership with different Development Partners. Mr. Yoji Mizuguchi from JICA-CBNRM made a presentation on the purpose of the meeting and explained the importance of having a networking/ platform with NGOs by the DGFCIP for expansion of CBNRM. He introduced the basic concept of CBNRM and how it has helped in sustainable forest management. Hence, DGFCIP wanted to have Standard Operating Procedure on sustainable forest management using CBNRM. The platform would help in sharing of information, knowledge and techniques on CBNRM as well as sustainable forest management, and it would also help in building capacity of NGOs on CBNRM and sustainable forest management. Some of the participants raised questions on a) the structure and functions of the network, b) whether it is going to involve the network members in implementation of projects, c) what will be the role of NGOs, d) preparatory actions before formation of a network etc. It was clarified that this is going to be an informal information and knowledge sharing network. This will also help in avoiding duplication of efforts in the same geography. There may be possibility of building linkages with DPs for capacity building of NGOs in CBNRM and sustainable forest management.

NGOs participated in the coordination meeting

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. SANTALUM | 9. AMAR |
| 2. TIMOR VERDE | 10. NAROMAN TIMOR |
| 3. ETADEP | FOUN |
| 4. TIDEN | 11. EUCALYPTOS |
| 5. KSI | TIMOR |
| 6. RAEBIA TL | 12. FETO HADOMI |
| 7. HALARAE | FAMILIA Foundation |
| 8. SOHA FITUN | 13. ALFA STAR |



DGFCIP - DP Coordination Meeting

The Office of DGFCIP organised the 4th coordination meeting with the Development Partners (DPs) working on forestry and watershed management on Feb 06, 2018 at Caicoli. The meeting was attended by representatives from EU Agroforestry Project, UNDP Mangroves Project, UNDP DARD C Project, JICA-CBNRM Project, GCCA – GIZ, GCCA Camoes, Hivos, AI-Com, Conservation International and MercyCorps. From the DGFCIP the meeting was attended by the Director General, National Director, NDFWM, Chief of Department of Reforestation, Chief of Department, Watershed Management and Chief of Department, Biodiversity Conservation. The meeting was facilitated by Mr. Adalfredo d Ferreira, the National Director, NDFWM. Mr. Manuel Mendes, Director General provided a brief update on the activities undertaken by MAF/ DGFCIP and the current situation of the Government. He informed the DPs about the National Forest Day celebrations done on Jan 13, 2018 in different places. Sandalwood planting ceremony was organised in Loes on this day and he requested DPs, for the next year, to celebrate this important national day in their respective Municipalities/ project operational areas. The DPs also provided an update on their interventions during 2017 and also plan for 2018. Discussions were held on updating of DP database and its use. The findings from piloting of revised methodology for PLUP after integration of climate change vulnerability analysis etc. were presented by JICA-CBNRM and GCCA-GIZ. Mr. Mendes, Director General informed that the concept note including the methodology for piloting of sustainable fuel wood management has already been finalised and he requested DPs to provide financial support for conducting pilot studies on this. The progress of drafting of common guidelines on watershed management was discussed by the working group (NDFWM, Camoes-GIZ, Hivos, JICA-CBNRM, and UNDP) and the group will circulate the outline of the guidelines to all the DPs for their comments and suggestions.



Upcoming Events

1. CBNRM Workshop and Study Tour in March 2018
2. OJT on Micro Program in Cotelau, Maumeta and Manucasa
3. MAF/JICA-CBNRM Joint monitoring



For further details, please contact us:-

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