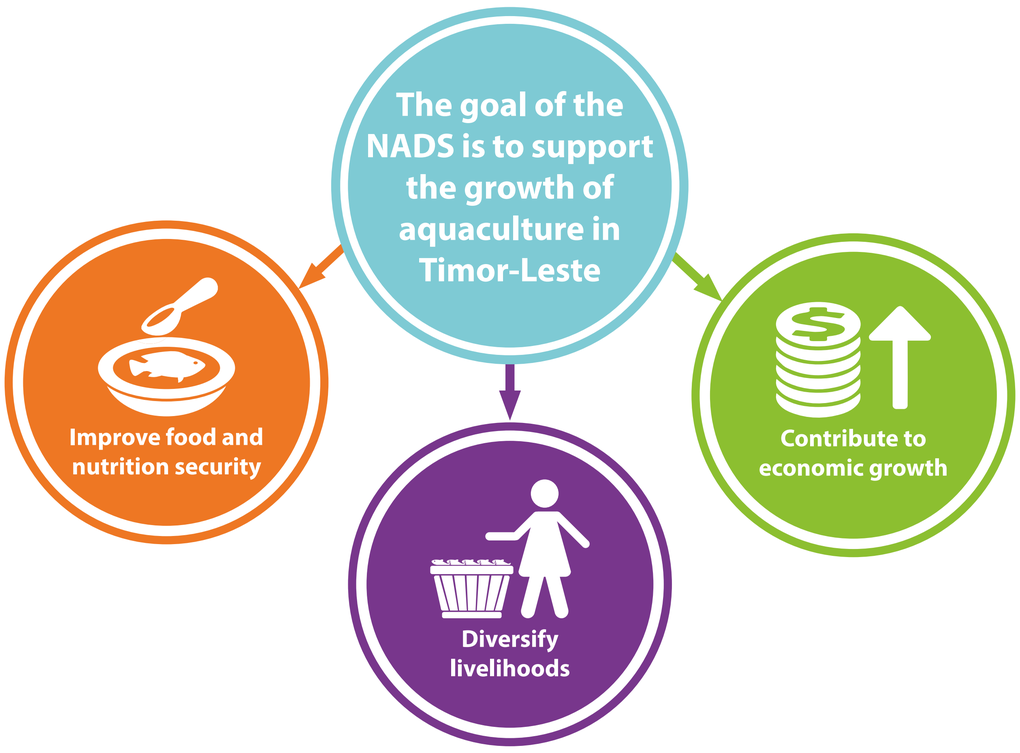
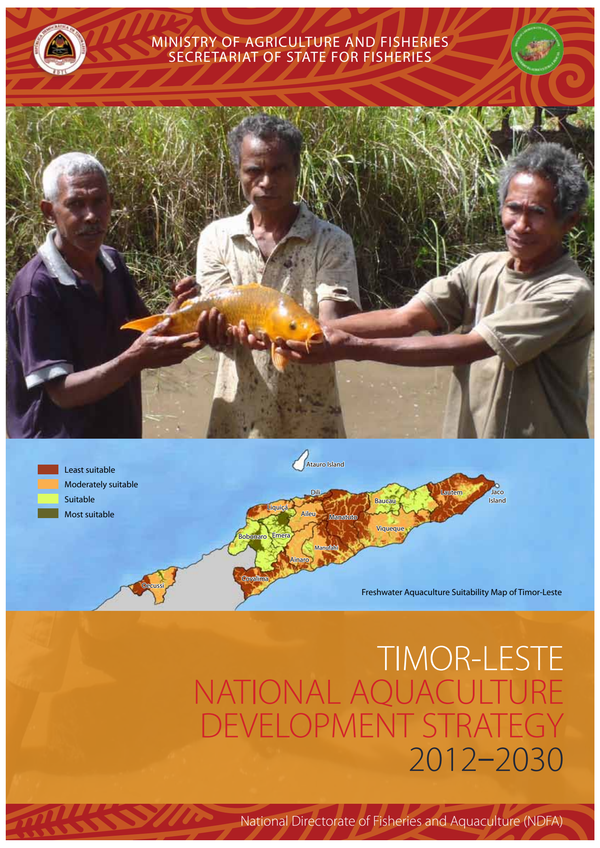
Partnership for Aquaculture Development in Timor-Leste (PADTL)

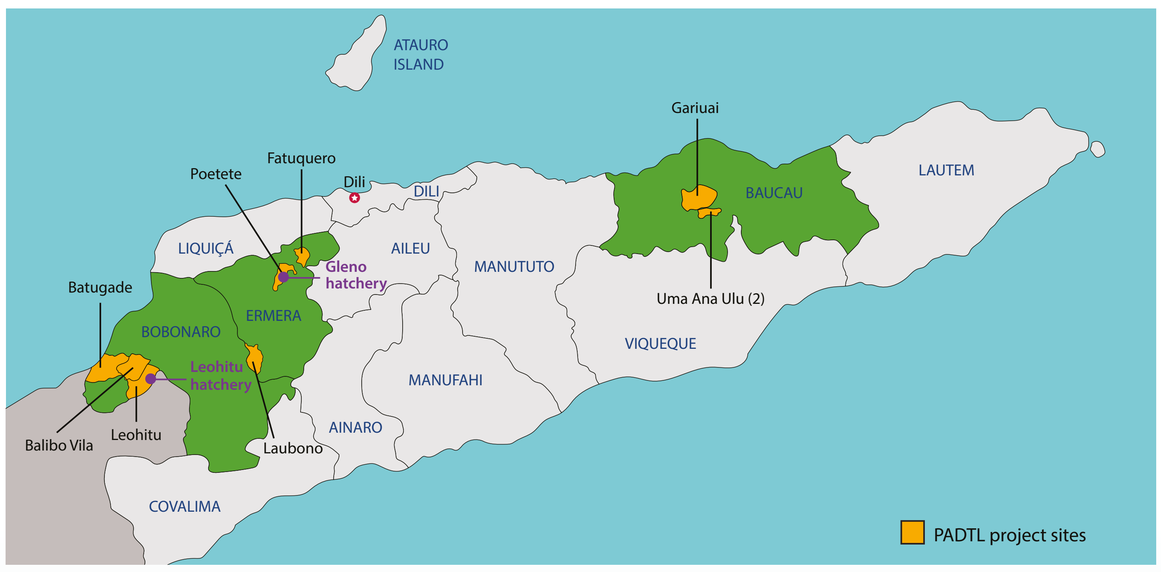
Development of a sustainable aquaculture industry to reduce poverty and malnutrition and diversify rural livelihoods

Timor-Leste National Aquaculture Development Strategy (NADS)

In 2012, the National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NDFA), Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) Timor-Leste developed the National Aquaculture Development Strategy (NADS) 2012-2030 with technical assistance from WorldFish.







PADTL project: Key achievements

The New Zealand Aid Programme funded a 5-year project to support development activities identified within the NADS. The National Directorate of Aquaculture (NDA) takes a pivotal role in implementing the project, with WorldFish providing technology and training/mentoring support. The project, following a holistic approach, aims to greatly increase the amount of fish produced by aquaculture in Timor-Leste. Increasing supply will reduce the price of fish, making it more affordable for rural and urban poor.

Seed

- Upgraded government hatchery at Gleno with enhanced capacity to produce, maintain stock and distribute fingerlings of superior Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT) since 2016.
- Private hatchery established through public-private partnership (PPP) at Leohitu of Suco Balibo in Bobonaro municipality started its operation in April 2019 to complement government hatchery in GIFT fingerlings production for wider distribution to farmers.

Feed and Pond Fertilization

- Four feed formulations based on locally-available ingredients tested on-farm and promoted in combination with greening of pond water through manure and fertilizer application resulted in 3-fold increase in fish yield.

Better Management Practices (BMP) & Technology Transfer

- A suite of better management practices (BMP) appropriate for farming GIFT in Timor-Leste developed, tested and validated on-farm following a farmer field schools (FFS) approach — a group-based learning using participatory tools and techniques and published for dissemination.
- Nine GIFT FFS clusters trained and functioning as self-help groups in Baucau, Bobonaro and Ermera municipalities.

Capacity Building

- NDA staff trained and mentored (both in-country and overseas) at central and local levels.
- Online hatchery database system established for NDA.
- Opportunities availed to locals for advanced hatchery and grow-out management training at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand.

RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Fish
Led by WorldFish