



Timor-Leste Fishery Sector Support Program-Phase I (FSSP-TL)

Project brief

July 2015 to April 2019

Project Summary

The Fisheries Sector Support Program has made substantial and lasting progress in the core areas in the four years since project inception. This progress has made substantial and lasting contributions to building the pre-conditions for sustainable management of coastal resources, and highlighted significant opportunities for the future development of the sector to support improved livelihoods and nutrition for the people of Timor-Leste.

Prior to the FSSP-TL there was very little information available to inform marine resource management decision-making in Timor-Leste. Now, at the end of the first phase of FSSP-TL, Timor-Leste boasts one of the most advanced SSF monitoring systems in the world as a result of co-designed digital catch monitoring, high resolution effort tracking, and a near real-time decision dashboard displaying analytics automatically for fisheries managers. More importantly, over the past year, the sense of ownership by the Timor Leste Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) partners has increased dramatically and they have invested in hiring data collectors to their staff for each of the 11 coastal municipalities, with associated budget applications for their continued employment and the maintenance of PDS boat trackers and services. WorldFish has trained these collectors and continues to provide supervision and technical support given our close relationship based within the ministry.

Future priorities should be to work with MAF to formalise the registration system for small-scale fishers in Timor-Leste. Currently the only missing link in a clear picture of fisheries in the country is an accurate estimation of the number of people fishing for their livelihoods - either full time or part time.



Research country
Timor-Leste

Donor
Government of Norway

Project duration
2015 – 2019

Budget
USD 1.56 million

Partners

- Directorate General for Fisheries, Government of Timor Leste
- Timor Leste Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Empreza Di'ak

Contribution to Outcomes



995 People trained of which **21%** are women



1 Innovations

Nearshore fish aggregating devices (FADs) for food and nutrition security and distributive justice in Timor-Leste

[\(Read more\)](#)



2 Policy contribution

- I. Revision of the legal regime for the management and regulation of fisheries in Timor-Leste [\(Read more\)](#)
- II. Inclusive, evidence-based development of a National Fisheries Strategy for Timor-Leste that sets the direction for future fisheries and food security investments [\(Read more\)](#)



1 Publication

Tilley, A., Wilkinson, S.P., Kolding, J., Lopez-Angarita, J. Pereira, M., Mills, D.J. (2019) **Nearshore Fish Aggregating Devices Show Positive Outcomes for Sustainable Fisheries Development in Timor-Leste** *Frontiers in Marine Science* 6, 487
DSpace: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/3811>



References

Mills, D.J. *et al.* FSSP Timor Leste Final Technical Report. July 2015—April 2019
Link: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4097>

Acknowledgements

This work was undertaken as part of the [CGIAR Research Program on Fish Agri-Food Systems \(FISH\)](#) led by [WorldFish](#). The program is supported by contributors to the [CGIAR Trust Fund](#).

Funding support for this work was provided by Government of Norway in the framework of Fisheries Sector Support Program (FSSP-TL).

Contact

Project Manager: David Jonathan Mills <D.Mills@cgiar.org>

Led by



In partnership



This publication is copyrighted by WorldFish. It is licensed for use under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

April 2020