



## FACT SHEET

### Ikan Ba Futuru – Fish for the Future

Supporting the development of sustainable small-scale fisheries in Timor-Leste with a focus on the south coast.

#### Introduction

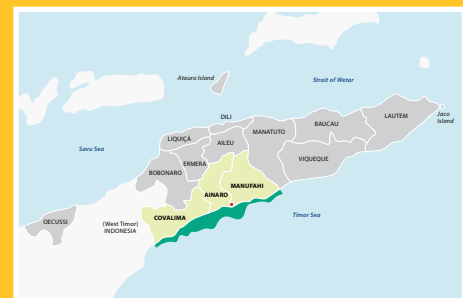
Sustainable fisheries can play a key role in the future of nutrition security and food sovereignty in Timor-Leste. Road development means that the south coast is opening up to new opportunities for trade and industry development. Resource management built around local knowledge, research and broad participation will be the key to a sustainable future for south coast resources. Ikan Ba Futuru will follow a holistic approach to integrate community and institutional development, science for ecosystem-based fisheries management, and traditional knowledge through community partnerships, ensuring sustainable utilisation of key fishery resources and ecosystems within the region.

#### Project goals

The long-term goal is to support equitable and sustainable development and management of key fishery resources in Timor-Leste, focussing on south coast fisheries, communities and habitats. This goal will be achieved by strengthening the institutional and policy landscape for managing and utilizing marine ecosystems and resources and by using local and scientific ecosystem knowledge to build sustainable management systems. Strengthening the collaborative, locally embedded partnerships between key stakeholders will be central to improved management outcomes.

#### Background

Timor-Leste is a part-island nation, with a large ocean territory, but makes relatively little use of its marine resources. Fisheries can play a greater role in livelihood support, nutrition security and nation building, but sustainability of fish stocks and habitats must be central to this. WorldFish and Blue Ventures, supported by the Minderoo Foundation, will work with government, other stakeholders and fishing communities to pilot equitable, sustainable co-management approaches to support the development of small-scale fisheries.



#### Expected impacts by 2028



Communities empowered to actively manage fisheries for sustainability



Sustainable fisheries operating in healthy habitats, supporting improved nutrition security



Improved legislative and policy environment for sustainable fisheries

#### Donor

Minderoo Foundation – Flourishing Oceans initiative

#### Partners

- Blue Ventures
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fishery and Forestry, Timor-Leste

#### Timeframe

April 2023 – June 2028

## Project components

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Ikan Ba Futuru will support national development of approaches to sustainable coastal environments and fisheries management, piloting tools and approaches in three fishing communities along the south-western coast of Timor-Leste.

The three main outcome areas of the Ikan Ba Futuru project are:

### **Improved tenure rights and empowerment of women and men fishers through active, equitable, and collaborative partnerships for coastal fisheries management.**

To build an effective apparatus for implementing identified management actions, community fisheries management groups will be established with an equitable representation of women and marginalised groups. The project will leverage Blue Ventures' experiences and successes with communities on the northern coast to establish women-led Community Fisheries Monitoring (CFM) teams to enhance the involvement and voices of women in decision-making and sustainable data collection.

### **Science based, locally embedded management of fish resources and habitats implemented for selected south coast fisheries.**

To address the complex challenge and interactions between malnutrition and sustainable ecosystems, the project will design and implement science-based management solutions that integrate local knowledge, ecological and social research, nutrition-sensitive approaches, and regional best-practice examples. This will be achieved by using an ecosystem-based fisheries management approach to determine the status of Timor-Leste's south coast habitats and marine resources and developing science-based south coast fisheries management approaches.

### **Institutional and policy landscape in place for improved people-centred ecosystem management for national fishery resources.**

To ensure effective fisheries management, strong institutional and policy measures are required. The recent approval of the National Oceans Policy (NOP) needs to be supported by a new National Fisheries Strategy (currently in draft) and matched reforms to the legal basis of fisheries and coastal environmental management. Ikan Ba Futuru will support these initiatives, where appropriate in collaboration with, or building on outputs from, related projects– ATSEA2, ISLME, IkanAdapt. In addition, Ikan Ba Futuru will help implement existing and new management plans for key marine resources.

## Acknowledgments

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