

# Environment Situation in Timor-Leste

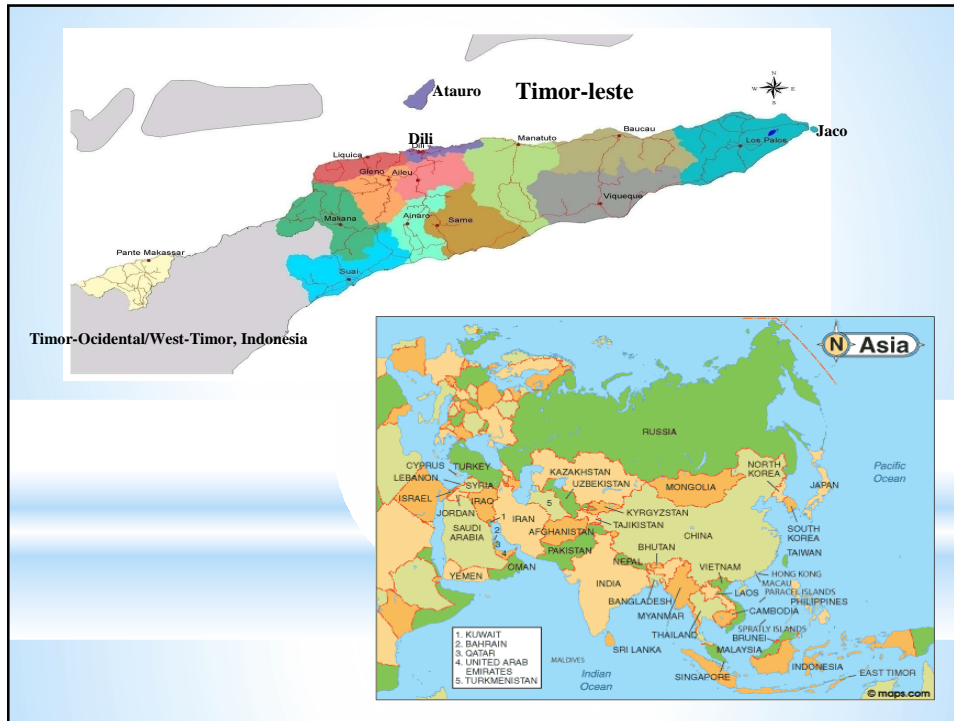
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## Historically;

1. East-Timor or Timor-Leste, the Portuguese name of the country.
2. It was colonised by Portuguese 450 years and Occupied by Indonesian 24 years.
3. From 2000 until May 2002 was under UN Administration.
4. It has been an independence country in 20th May 2002.

## Geography:

1. It occupies in area of 14,874 km<sup>2</sup> in the eastern a half of the island of Timor. It also includes the enclave of Oecussi on the North Coast, about 70 km to the west of the border, which is surrounded by Indonesian West-Timor. Timor-Leste also has 2 tiny islands : Atauro (114km<sup>2</sup>) & Jaco (8km<sup>2</sup>).



### Demography, Social & Economic

- \* Timor-Leste divided into 13 Districts 65 Sub-Districts, 442 Sucos/Vilages and 2228 Aldeias. The population are 1066409 based on census 2010. The largest number of inhabitants in Dili (234,026). The National Language is Tetum, official language is Portuguese.
- \* The situation of the economy is currently strongly influenced by International Investment specially imports from neighbor countries in Asia. The economy in other parts of the country relies on livestock and agriculture product.

\* Rugged mountains in most of the country: the highest being Tatamailau with 2,963 meters. The coastal plains are narrow & there are no major highland valleys & few permanent rivers.



\* Climate change into wet & dry season: the extent of these seasons varies between the north coast & south coast & the eastern of Lautem. Dry season from May to November, Wet season December to April.



\* The temperature between 20 - 38°C.



## Current issues of Environment

- ❖ Illegal logging is considered high, one of the effects the swift rivers in Timor-Leste has been discharged large amount of silt, nutrients and rocks during the wet season that is affecting the coastal zone environment.
- ❖ Forest fire and traditional agriculture system widely used along the country.



- ❖ Solid and liquid waste are one of the issues in the country specially in Dili as Capital;
  - Air pollution resulting from rubbish rotting and fire,
  - Flooding resulting from drains that have been blocked by rubbish, and
  - Rubbish becomes the breeding place of disease vectors; flies, mice and cockroaches
- ❖ Untreated of some workshops have been impacted ground water, soil contamination, etc.



- Sand extraction, mining and oil exploration also one of the big issues for NDE.
- Air pollution from vehicles; burning of fuel in internal combustion engines releases different pollutant to air such as nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), hydrocarbons (HC), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), particulate matters and lead (Pb).
- Particulate emissions arising from incomplete combustion of diesel-powered vehicles such as trucks, buses and taxis are causing serious air pollution in urban areas (mostly in Dili).

### Challenge;

- ❖ Less of staff's capacity to analyze the environmental issues from all sectors of development activities.
- ❖ Financial support for International Advisors, training for staff, office's facilities and equipment is one of the big issues for NDE.
- ❖ The environmental protection is less priority than education, health, agriculture and development.
- ❖ Weak of environmental law enforcement implementation.

## Government Priorities (Env. related) (cont.)

<b>Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Address forest degradation with an integrated, watershed-based approach to land management in cooperation with other arms of MAFF, rural communities and NGOs</li><li>• To set in place a firm national forest policy, forest law and regulations</li><li>• Establishment of Protected Areas Network</li><li>• Detailed biological information on the major marine species in East Timor (to support conservation and sustainable management)</li></ul>
<b>Energy Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Currently analysing indigenous energy resources for potentially economical power generation.</li><li>• Sustainable Energy Sources projects (Hydropower, Wind power, Solar power, Natural Gás) to meet the power demands with the less environmental impacts possible</li></ul>
<b>Health Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health policies and programs recognise the need to develop linkages with other sectors in working to improve the health status of the community (i.e: MTCOP, MDE, MAFF)</li><li>• Permit identification and attention to the root causes of health problems, which often are outside the health sector.</li></ul>

## **Environmental Law Framework**

### **Untaet Regulation No 1/1999**

- **Ministry of Environment Decree on Guidelines on Coastal Water Quality Standards (1988)**
- **Regulation on the Control of Water Pollution (1990)**
- **Regulation on Environmental Impact Assessment (1993)**
- **Regulation on Hazardous and Toxic Waste Management (1994)**
- **Environmental Management Act (1997)**
- **Government Regulation on Marine Pollution and Degradation Control (1999)**

## **2. UNTAET Regulations (Environment)**

**Regulation N° 17/2000 – Illegal Logging**

**Regulation N° 19/2000 – Protected Places**

### **3. UNTAET Guidelines (Div.Environment)**

- \* **GUIDELINE#1 - Environmental Requirements for Development Proposals**
- \* **GUIDELINE #2 - Mechanised Sand and Gravel Extraction from Rivers and Borrow Pits**
- \* **GUIDELINE #3 - Small Landfill Siting Guidelines (Environmental)**
- \* **GUIDELINE #4 - Interim Tibar Landfill Operation Guidelines**
- \* **GUIDELINE #5 - Prescribed Activities for Pollution**
- \* **GUIDELINE #6 - Environmental Screening**
- \* **GUIDELINE #7 - Storage of Fuel and Oil**
- \* **GUIDELINE #8 - Ambient Noise from Stationary Sources**

## 4. NDE Guidelines (New)

- \* **GUIDELINE#1** - An overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment process and guidelines
- \* **GUIDELINE #2** - Development proposals and Pollution License application
- \* **GUIDELINE #3** - Screening of development proposals
- \* **GUIDELINE #4** - Scoping and preparation and Terms of Reference
- \* **GUIDELINE #5** - Public engagement
- \* **GUIDELINE #6** - Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements
- \* **GUIDELINE #7** - Preparation of Environmental Management Plans
- \* **GUIDELINE #8** - Issuance of Pollution Licenses
- \* **GUIDELINE #9** - Issuance of enforcement notice and legal proceedings
- \* **GUIDELINE #10** - Standards and best management practices

