

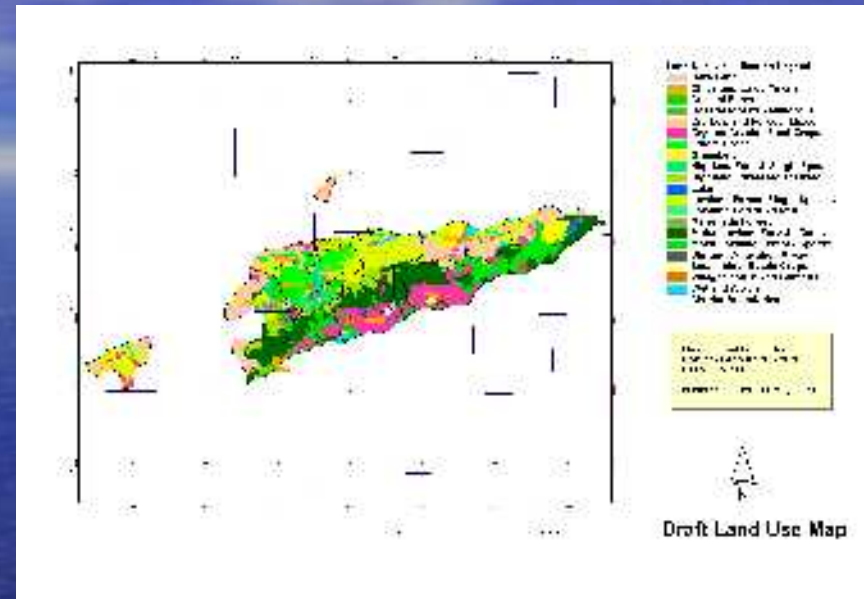
# **Timor – Leste's (East Timor) Reflections Related to CFM**

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# Background Information

- East Timor: the newest country of the millennium
- 450 years under Portuguese colony and 24 years under Indonesian occupation. Independence was restored on May 20, 2002
- Land area: 15,000 km<sup>2</sup> (57% considered as forest area)
- East Timor's forest area can be classified as dry forest, dry deciduous forest and evergreen (resembling to tropical forest). Important forest products includes teak , sandalwood and non-timber forest products



Map of East Timor

- **Population: 900,000 people, 75 – 80% of the population lives in the rural area and they are dependent on farming mostly in the form of upland agriculture. The agriculture production is low and people depends on available forest resources to increase their income.**



*Forest vegetation in the Southeast portion of the country*

- **Problems in forest management includes: shifting cultivation, fuelwood gathering, forest fire, indiscriminate cutting of timber, inadequate staff and limited capacity, lack of facilities and funding, lack of policy and regulations, unclear classification of land and lack of forestry information**



*Forest vegetation in the Northwest portion of the country*



*Topography and vegetation in the inner part of the country*

- The forest of East Timor is fragile. The country experiences long dry season and the topography is mountainous with almost half of the island is with the slope of  $> 40\%$
- As the results of the fragile condition of the land and existing problems: deforestation has accelerated (FAO estimated deforestation to be at  $1.1\%/year$ , 4 times higher than the global average); soil erosion and sedimentation of river; low forest productivity; etc.

# Applicability of CFM in East Timor

- **CFM is one of the appropriate strategies for East Timor and the country is now moving towards the adoption of this strategy**
- **Other countries experiences that East Timor can learn from (both providing good example and bad experience to learn from)**
  - **Philippines .... About the implementation of CBFM & CFM in watershed areas (about 10% of East Timor's forest area is within the watershed)**
    - ..... **About the use of traditional knowledge in forest management (local tradition called "Tara Bandu" is still intact in some areas in East Timor)**

- Indonesia ..... About the implementation of reforestation & agroforestry (these activities have been identified as priority activities in the rehabilitation of degraded areas in East Timor)
- Thailand ..... About the involvement of community in the management of protected areas (14 areas identified in East Timor as protected area have the communities living within or adjacent to the area)



*Forest fire*



*Indiscriminate cutting of trees*

- Cambodia ..... About the establishment and operation of CF Network (coordination with NGOs and other CF implementors is weak in East Timor)
- Vietnam ..... About the rehabilitation of limestone area (some area in East Timor is limestone area)



*Shifting cultivation*



*Siltation of river*

# On Going Activities Heading Towards the Adoption of CFM

- Policy framework

..... East Timor's Constitution – emphasis on sustainable resource management in the attainment of food security and participation of community in society's development

..... Agriculture Policy and Strategic Framework - mentions about working with rural communities to increase food production, and improve forest rehabilitation, watershed protection and biodiversity conservation

- **Legal framework ... *continuation***

- ..... **Forestry and Watershed Sub – Sector Policy** – puts emphasis on community – based natural resource management strategy in the rehabilitation and conservation of remaining forest areas. The policy is now for final review at MAFF level and for presentation and approval at the Council of Ministers

- **CFM is already integrated in the government structure – CFM is one of the Sections under the Division of Reforestation and Forest Rehabilitation of MAFF – DFWR**
- **Implementation of reforestation and agroforestry activities involving community – these activities are often integrated in community development activities implemented by NGOs, government and international agencies**

- Establishment of linkages and signing to international conventions and treaties – example: linkage with AFN, signing in the agreement to combat desertification, etc.



*Sandalwood trial planting*



*Candlenut and teak planted in individual farm of small group members*

# What remains to be done?

- **Needs to develop CFM Regulation and implementing guidelines once the forestry and watershed sub-sector policy is approved**
- **Strengthening of coordinations between the government, NGOs, donors and international agencies**
- **Capacity building of forestry staff**
- **Establishment of more linkages to institutions working on CFM related issues**
- **Collection of forestry data and identification of forest area boundary**
- **Implementation pilot CFM Project**
- **Etc.**

“ The fact that we got involved our local people in our fought for independence, the same way that we will get them involve in the management of our forest resources”

**OBRIGADO BARAK**

(Thank you very much)