



AFoCO REDD+ Fact Sheet Series

Timor-Leste

Compiled in 2023

Asian Forest Cooperation Organization

ABBREVIATIONS

FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FREL	Forest Reference Emission Level
FRL	Forest Reference Level
GoTL	Government of Timor-Leste
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NRS	National REDD+ Strategy
SIS	Safeguard Information System
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
WRF	Warsaw REDD+ Framework

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

SUMMARY

Timor-Leste's forest cover has slightly decreased from 63.8% in 2000 to 61.9% in 2020. Timor-Leste has no mitigation and sectoral targets but considers forestry as one of the mitigation options. The country is interested in exploring opportunities to undertake REDD+ activities that should be led by domestic laws and regulations and based on national priorities. Timor-Leste is willing to explore options to address the key challenges and barriers for engagement with international programmes such as the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and UN-REDD Programme. However, Timor-Leste does not mention the Cooperative Approaches under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in NDC (2017). Regarding Warsaw REDD+ Framework (WRF), no WRF factors have not been identified. There also exists no REDD+ projects and REDD+ readiness initiatives.

1. COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (Timor-Leste) is a small country with a population of approximately 1.3 million in 2020 and a land area of 14,870 km² comprises of the eastern half of Timor Island and the small enclave of Oecussi located within West Timor. The climate is hot and humid as tropical region, and vulnerable to natural hazards, at high risk of cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis and heavy rainfall. Timor-Leste has undergone significant development in recent decades due to political stability and oil revenues¹. The country has a GDP per capita of \$1,457.8 (2021), growing rate was 4.4% (2020). Based on the World Bank database, forest cover in the country was 61.9% of the total land areas. The proportion of terrestrial key biodiversity areas that are covered by designated protected areas is 45.6% in 2020.

Table 1. General status of Timor-Leste

Official name (ISO code)	Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (TLS)
Capital	Dili
Population	1,343,875 (World Bank, 2021)
GDP per capita	USD 1,457.8 (World Bank, 2021)
GDP growth (annual)	4.4% (World Bank, 2021)
Climate	Tropical; hot, semi-arid; rainy and dry seasons
Land Area	14,870 km ²
Forest Area	9,211 km ² (61.9% of land area) (World Bank, 2020)
Important sites for terrestrial biodiversity protected	45.6% (UN, 2020)

¹ADB (2016). Country Partnership Strategy Timor-Leste 2016–2020. URL: <https://www.adb.org/documents/timor-leste-country-partnership-strategy-2016-2020>

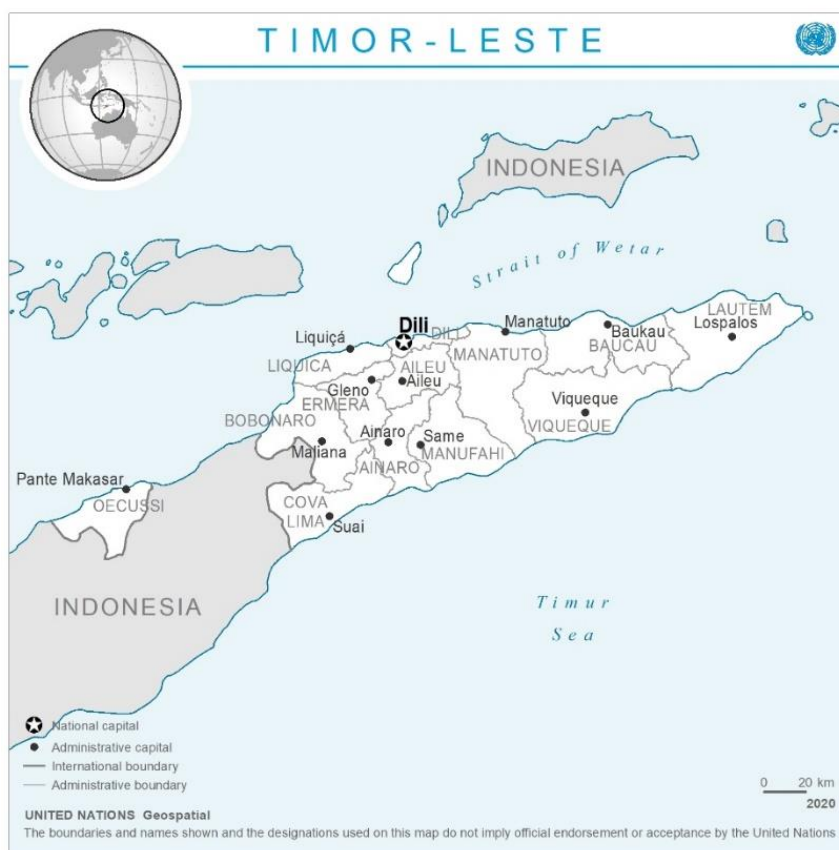


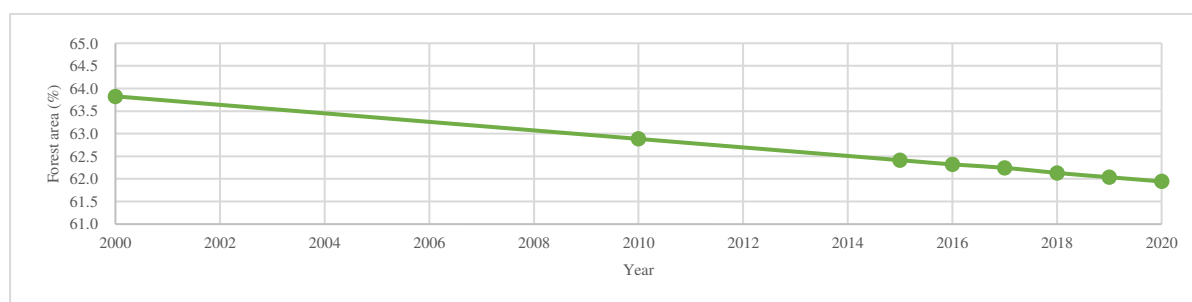
Figure 1. General Map of Timor-Leste

Source: <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/timor-leste-0>

2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

According to the SDG 15 Life on land, Timor-Leste’s proportion of land area covered by forest was 61.9 % in 2020, which shows the decreasing trends since 2000.

Figure 2. 15.1.1. Forest area as a proportion of total land area (%)

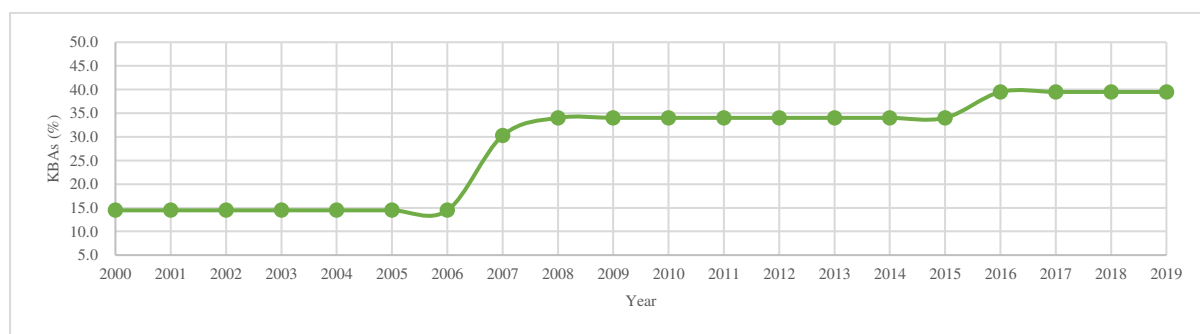


Year	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Forest area (%)	63.8	62.9	62.4	62.3	62.2	62.1	62.0	61.9

Raw data: UNSTATS SDG Indicators

The average proportion of terrestrial key biodiversity areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas was 39.5 % in 2019.

Figure 3. 15.1.2. Average proportion of Terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%)



Year	2000	2006	2007	2008	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
KBAs (%)	14.5	14.5	30.3	34.0	34.0	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5

Raw data: UNSTATS SDG Indicators

3. NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (NDC)²

Forestry plays an important role in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as part of country’s commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Since Timor-Leste submitted its first NDC in 2016, the government of Timor-Leste has formalized the national, institutional arrangements for an integrated response to climate change risks, and some required policy has been in place and several responsible stakeholders accessed to environmental and climate funds to respond to the issues of climate change in the country.

In this regard, Timor-Leste updated its 2nd NDC. This revised and enhanced NDC to the UNFCCC Paris Agreement builds on Timor-Leste’s original NDC (2016) and further articulates national intentions to integrate climate risk management into all sectoral policies, planning processes, implementation strategies and investments in an effort to insulate national well-being from a growing number of direct and indirect threats posed by anthropogenic climate change. This updated NDC reflects a further matured strategy for supporting livelihoods, protecting environmental integrity, improving social cohesion, addressing food and water security and scaling up access to financing while providing the basis for diversifying economic activities and

²Timor-Leste Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2017, pp.8-20.

creating a green economy.³

Table 2. Role of forests reported in NDCs

Mitigation		Adaptation
Unconditional	Conditional	
Y	N	Y

* Y: reported/ N: unreported

3.1. Mitigation Targets

Timor-Leste’s NDC did not mention Mitigation Targets, Sectoral Targets. The country focuses on potential mitigation options. However, the country is interested in exploring opportunities to undertake REDD+ activities that should be led by domestic laws and regulations, and based on the national priorities. Timor-Leste is willing to explore options to address the key challenges and barriers for engagement with international programmes such as the FCPF and UN-REDD Programme. The Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) will strive to better understand requirements for participation in the UN-REDD and FCPF programmes and to assess the potential for mitigation through REDD+ activities.

Table 3. Forest-based mitigation targets in NDCs

Afforestation	Reforestation	Conservation	REDD+	SFM
Y	N	N	N	N

* Y: reported/ N: unreported

Source: <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>

Table 4. Forest-based mitigation Targets, Policies, Plans, and Actions in NDCs

	Afforestation	Reforestation	Conservation	REDD+	SFM	SLM	Wetlands
Policies	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Plans	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Actions	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

* Y: reported/ N: unreported

Source: <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>

³Updated Nationally Determined Contribution 2022-2030, pp.1-74.

Table 5. Potential Mitigation Options in Forestry⁴

Sector	Options
Forestry	REDD+: Explore opportunities to participate in international REDD+ programmes.
	Rehabilitation of degraded lands: Sustainable forest management and land degradation neutrality.
	Customary Forestry: Promotion of customary forestry practices like “Tara Bandu” and better management of forestry resources through natural regeneration.
	Mangrove plantations: Enhancing coastal resilience and exploring carbon sequestration in mangroves.
	Protected Areas: Sustainable management of 44 Protected Areas of Timor-Leste.
	Afforestation and reforestation: One million trees are expected to be planted every year based on National Strategic Plan.

3.2. Adaptation Plan

Timor-Leste's adaptation measures need to focus on reducing the adverse effects of climate change, promote sustainable development and reduce poverty. Priority adaptation measures proposed by Timor-Leste in key sectors are Food Security, Water Resources, Natural Disasters, Forests, Biodiversity and Coastal Ecosystems Resilience, Livestock Production, Physical Infrastructure, Oil and Gas Production, and National Institutional Capacity Development for Climate Change.

Table 6. Forest-based adaptation commitments in NDCs

Afforestation	Reforestation	Conservation	REDD+	SFM
N	Y	N	N	N

* Y: reported/ N: unreported

Source: <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>

Table 7. Adaptation Measures⁵

Sector	Measures
Forests, Biodiversity and Coastal	Maintain mangrove plantations and promote awareness raising to protect coastal ecosystems from sea level rise, Enhance coastal resilience with mangrove plantation and protection

⁴GCF report, (2019). COUNTRY PROGRAMME DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE. pp.6-9.

⁵GCF report, (2019). COUNTRY PROGRAMME DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE. pp.6-9.

Ecosystem Resilience	<p>Include ecosystem management in national planning to develop sustainable, ongoing programme, nurseries and community awareness development -1st year assessment, 2nd year plan, 3rd year implementation and maintenance.</p> <p>Mangrove plantation and protection to enhance coastal resilience</p>
Food security	Develop integrated agroforestry and watershed management including climate change dimensions
Water Resources	Build climate proofed and environmental sustainable infrastructure to protect water resources in order to provide safe water access for food production, sanitary uses, ecosystems and industry development, and water supplies during climate change extreme event periods.
Human health	Establish an integrated disease surveillance, response and early warning system
Livestock production	Improve the planning and legal framework for promoting sustainable and balance food for livestock production under changing climatic conditions
Physical infrastructure	Review existing laws, regulation and standards
Oil and gas production	Protect offshore infrastructure against strong wave damage that impacts the distribution of gas and oil, reduce accidents and destruction of offshore oil and gas infrastructure, including through early warning systems, improved data on frequency and intensity of events, and mechanisms to protect equipment.

3.3. International market-based cooperation

No Market Mechanisms and Cooperative Approaches.

3.4. Relevance to forestry Sector

Mitigation options also would be possibly conservation of forests, enhancing and expanding carbon sinks, and fuel wood substitution for household cooking and lighting practices with biomass energy. The country is interested in exploring opportunities to undertake REDD+ activities that should be led by domestic laws and regulations, and based on the national priorities. Regarding Adaptation Measures, the country focuses on maintaining mangrove plantations and promoting awareness raising to protect coastal ecosystems from sea level rise, Enhance coastal resilience with mangrove plantation and protection. Also, the country concentrates on the ecosystem management in national planning to develop sustainable, ongoing programme, nurseries and community awareness development.

4. UNFCCC WARSAW FRAMEWORK

To achieve forest conservation and management mitigation targets, Timor-Leste submitted the Forest Reference (Emission) Level to build an implementation framework among four factors as of 2023. National REDD+ Strategy (NRS), National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), and Safeguard Information System (SIS) need to be developed.

Table 8. Submission of UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+ elements

National Strategy / Action Plan	National Forest Monitoring System	Forest Reference Level (FRL)/ Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL)	Safeguards Information System
N	N	Y	N

4.1. National REDD+ Strategy / Action Plan

Not available.

4.2. Forest Reference (Emission) Levels

Some of the key milestones on the development of the REDD+ (FRL) for Timor-Leste included establishment of a Technical Working Group to facilitate with the objective of finalizing the National FRL Report before its submission to the UNFCCC. Specific workshops to define the forest definition and other parameters, training to progress on National Forest Inventory (NFI) design and Activity Data, and meetings continually update stakeholders on progress.⁶

4.3. National Forest Monitoring System

Information not available

4.4. Safeguard Information System

Information not available

⁶Timor-Leste's National REDD+ Reference Level (2023)

5. REDD+ PROJECTS / INITIATIVES

5.1. REDD+ Projects

Table 9. REDD+ Projects Lists⁷

Project name	Propo- nent	Partners	Project Period	Project area (ha)	Amount of emissions reductions and removals (tCO ₂ e)		Certificat ion
					Annual	Total	
WithOneSeed Timor Leste Community Forestry Program (ARR)	Xpand Founda- tion	Melbourne Royal, Botanic Gardens, Australian Agroforestry Network, Greening Australia (Northern Territory), Melbourne University, Monash University, Swinburne University, Baker & McKenzie	2009 - 2059	20,541	10,692	427, 688	Certified (Gold Standard)

5.2. REDD+ Initiatives⁸

Timor-Leste is willing to explore options to address the key challenges and barriers for engagement with international programmes such as the FCPF and UN-REDD Programme. The GoTL will strive to better understand requirements for participation in the UN-REDD and FCPF programmes and to assess the potential for mitigation through REDD+ activities.

⁷International Database on REDD+ projects and programmes Website:
<https://www.reddprojectsdatabase.org/view/projects.php?id=626&name=Timor-Leste&type=project>

⁸Timor-Leste Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2017, pp.8-20.

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