



2nd Targeted Workshop for Asia and the Pacific

*Transforming Good Practices
from Demonstration
Projects into Scaled-Up
Investments and Financing*

ATSEA Regional Demonstration Project “Northern Australia Study Tour” Lessons Learned

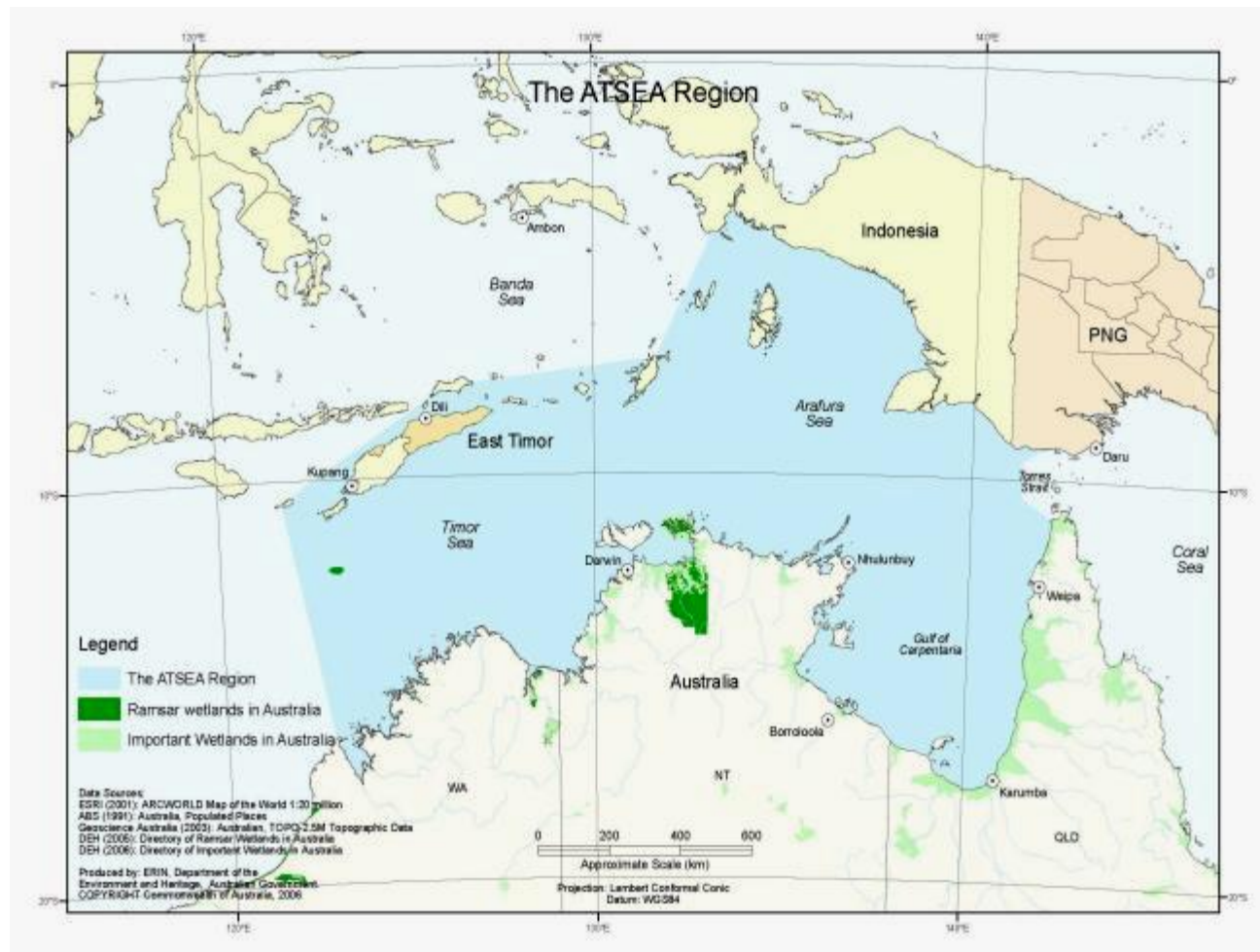
Subhat Nurhakim

Source: ATSEA Regional Demonstration Project Northern Australia
Study Tour 7th – 12th October, 2013 Report. Prepared by Johanna
Karam and Natasha Stacey



IW: LEARN Regional Workshop
Manila, The Philippines
10 – 12 March 2014

Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action (ATSEA) Program



Project Goal and Objective of ATSEA Program

Project Goal:

Ecologically sustainable use of the living coastal and marine resources, including fisheries and biodiversity, and improved, sustainable socio-economic conditions and opportunities for coastal peoples.

Project Objective:

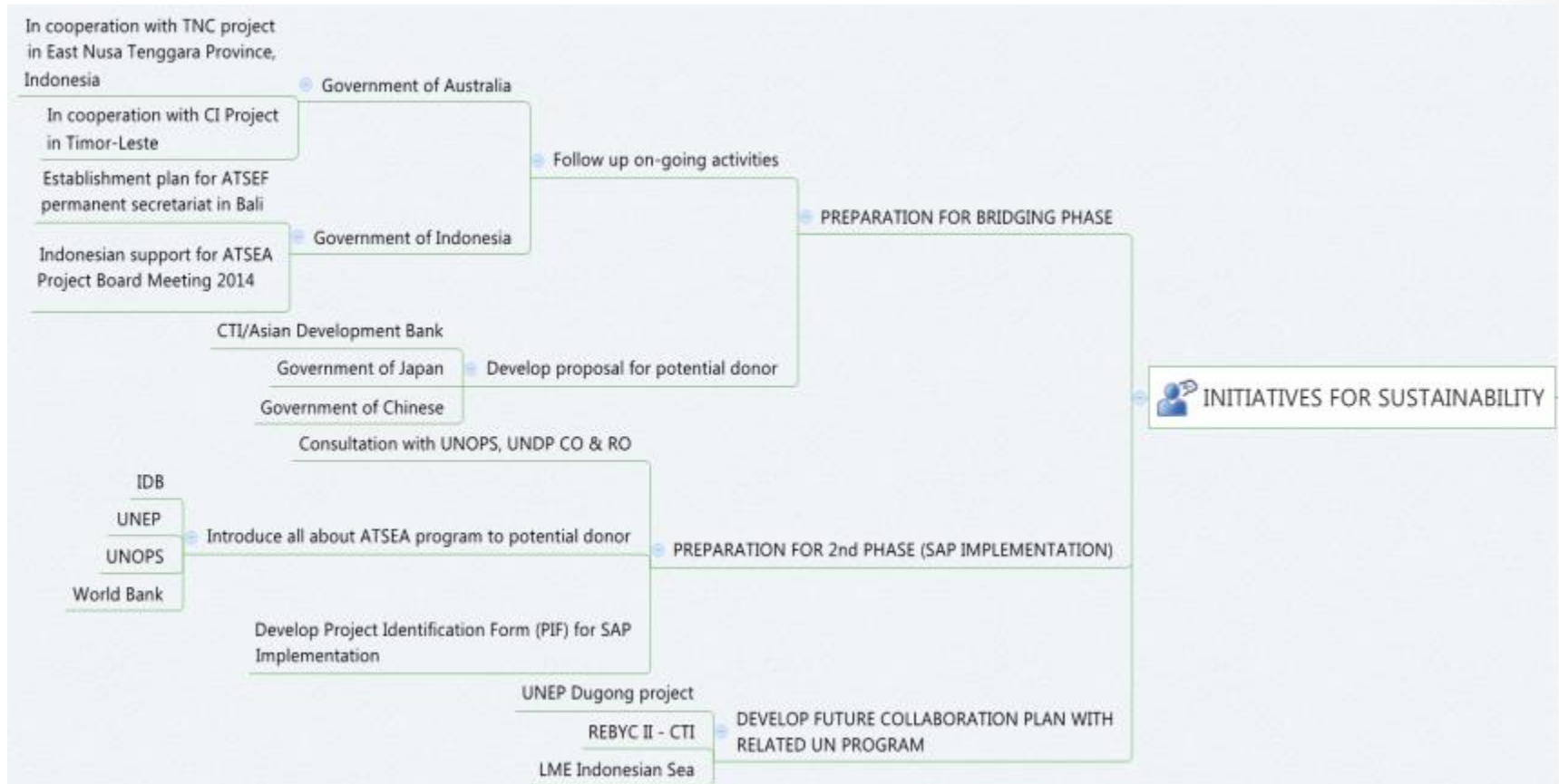
To ensure the integrated, cooperative, sustainable, ecosystem-based management and use of the living coastal and marine resources, including fisheries and biodiversity, of the Arafura and Timor Seas, through the formulation, inter-governmental adoption and initial implementation of a Regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and National Action Programs (NAPs).



ATSEA Component

- ☐ **TDA** *(have been completed and endorsed by the Project Board in Canberra on March 2012)*
- ☐ **SAP and NAPs** *(SAP & NAPs approved by Project Board Committee Feb. 2013; Draft of Ministerial Declaration for ATSEA SAP has been developed through series of consultation meetings, and currently under review by officials from ATSEA member countries; Endorsement of this declaration is scheduled in May 2014)*
- ☐ **SAP and NAPs Initial Implementation**
- ☐ **Regional Cooperation mechanism**
- ☐ **Project Coordination & Management**

Initiatives for sustainability



Draft of Ministerial Declaration for ATSEA SAP

DECLARATION ON STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME FOR THE ARAFURA AND TIMOR SEAS ECOSYSTEMS ACTION

We, the signatories to this Declaration, representing the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Government of Republic of Indonesia and the Government of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, participating countries in the Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystems Programme (ATSEA);

NOTING FURTHER that the Arafura and Timor Sea is a semi-enclosed sea under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

RECALLING Article 123 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which requires cooperation by States bordering semi-enclosed seas to among other things, co-ordinate the management, conservation, exploration and exploitation of the living resources of the sea, co-ordinate the implementation of their rights and duties with respect to the protection and preservation of the marine environment; co-ordinate their scientific research policies and undertake where appropriate joint programmes of scientific research in the semi-enclosed sea;

CONSCIOUS OF Articles 192 and 194 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which requires States to protect the marine environment, in particular rare or fragile ecosystems as well as the habitat of depleted, threatened or endangered species and other marine life and to cooperate to this effect;

NOTING the spirit of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972), the United Nations Declaration on Environment and Development (Rio Declaration) and its Agenda 21, the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995) and the four FAO international plans of action on IUU fishing (2001), fishing capacity (1999), seabirds (1999) and sharks (1999), the GEF Operational Strategy, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (GPA, 1995), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and its Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002), the Millennium Development Goals (2000) especially the National Poverty Reduction Strategies, and the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA), the Coral Triangle Initiative - Coral, Fisheries and Food Security (2009), the Rio + 20 "the future we want" (2012), respective national law and national strategic plan;

NOTING of the Manado Ocean Declaration adopted at the World Ocean Conference on 14 May 2009;

RECOGNIZING the unique character of the Arafura and Timor Seas in linking the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and as an important reservoir of marine biological diversity, which make a major contribution to livelihood and employment and are a veritable source of goods and services for economic growth;

WELCOMING the international support to regional initiatives and the joint-commitments to cooperate in facilitating integrated management of the Arafura and Timor Seas region, its littoral and estuarine areas and sustainable use of their resources through the development and implementation of the ATSEA (Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action) programme;

NOTING FURTHER the progress achieved in the establishment and implementation of the Coral Triangle Initiative;

CONSCIOUS FURTHER OF the importance of the "Blue Economy" in promoting the conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine environments;

ACKNOWLEDGING the significant contribution made through the preparation of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) in the development of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and towards integrating the information necessary for policy planning in the Arafura and Timor Seas region;

NOTING the progress achieved through ATSEA to enhance the sustainable management of the Timor and Arafura Seas;

NOTING the commitment in the SAP to establish new and governance arrangements through a non-legally binding arrangement, replacing existing ATSEA and ATSEF governance arrangements, to facilitate implementation of the SAP and NAPs.

COMMITTED to taking concrete actions individually and collectively to ensure transboundary cooperation for the integrated management, protection and sustainability of the living resources of the Arafura and Timor Seas region in accordance with their international obligations;

SAP and NAPs Initial Implementation

A pilot project is intended to be a small-scale, issues-based project designed to demonstrate best practices and methodologies offering potential for replication in other locations – perhaps in follow-up larger projects. The pilot project could be an entirely new project or a project in partnership with an existing program or project as long as it was compatible with objectives of the ATSEA program

- ❑ **Two National Demo Projects** in Indonesia and Timor-Leste are being implemented.
- ❑ **Regional Demonstration Project** was conducted in October 2013.



National Demonstration Project

INDONESIA

- Introduce Mud crab culture, strengthen mangrove rehabilitation and management, as well as strengthen local wisdom the in Tanimbar Island
- Seaweed culture, mangrove rehabilitation, climate change adaptation and improvement capacity and knowledge coastal comonities in Aru Island

TIMOR-LESTE

- . Mud crab culture & mangrove rehabilitation in Beacou
- Fish product processing in Beacou



Regional Demonstration Project

Through a targeted “**regional demonstration project**”, the objective of the Study Tour was to demonstrate the capacity of the littoral nations to cooperate in implementing joint activities, as the foundation for implementation of a full Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

The demonstration activities should:

- deliver lessons to those responsible for implementing the SAP and NAPs.
- must also be linked to the regional challenges in the TDA-SAP, and
- respond to regional priorities.
- design and evaluate an approach for successful cooperative exchange visits in the future.

The aim of the study tour was to bring together participants from Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Australia to build partnerships and share knowledge and ideas.



The overarching theme of the visit

Community-based management planning for marine and coastal related livelihoods and biodiversity conservation,

with two key objectives:

- ❑ To generate ideas, innovations and partnerships which can build community capacity for sustainable livelihoods through improved marine management and aquaculture.
- ❑ To improve shared understanding of community-based marine and coastal management and livelihood issues between the three countries



Locations and area of interest

- ❑ The study tour was geographically centered around two areas of the Northern Territory, that is, Darwin and North East Arnhem Land, specifically the Nhulunbuy/Yirrkala region.
- ❑ Key areas of interest included:
 - ✓ *Community based land and sea management, aquaculture – with trepang of particular interest – and community livelihoods development.*
 - ✓ *Marine and coastal management and livelihood issues between the three countries*

Lessons Learned

Preparation

- ❑ Information regarding participant profiles and their areas of interest must be completed prior to the study tour, to produce a brief introductory document to be distributed to participants and hosting organizations prior to their arrival in Australia.
- ❑ More information about participants should have been obtained prior to the visit, including contextual information about communities and their specific interests and what they would like to learn about during the visit.
- ❑ Participants did not seem to have an understanding of the amount of travel required for the study tour and the conditions in the locations to which they were travelling. Despite all participants coming from locations with similar climates to northern Australia it seems that they were challenged by the hot conditions when visiting the field.



Lessons Learned

Study Tour Format

- ☐ It would have been beneficial to have more 'hands on' sessions. Participants expressed an interest in participating in practical training which could provide them with specific skills to take home to their communities.
- ☐ The Study Tour would have benefited from being longer such as 2 weeks.
- ☐ Greater attention should have been paid to ensuring that host groups such as the Dhimurru and Yirralka Rangers received clear benefit from the Study Tour.



Lessons Learned

Logistics

- ❑ Much of the translation tasks fell to the Visit Coordinator which presented some difficulties in organising logistics while ensuring participants got the most out of discussions.
- ❑ The logistics of transporting, feeding and accommodating a group of 17 people was also problematic at times. A smaller group size and more time would likely address these issues.
- ❑ Careful consideration prior to the study tour of age and health of participants to ensure undue stress is not put on people to participate in the visit is needed.



Lessons Learned

Evaluation and Communication Methods

- ❑ More time should have been allocated within the schedule specifically for both evaluation and communication activities throughout the duration of the Study Tour. Semi-formal debriefing sessions at the end of each day would have been beneficial for both evaluative processes as well as provided structured reflection opportunities for participants. Time did not permit this. The use of such sessions was demonstrated by the enthusiasm of participants during the discussions on the final day.
- ❑ The time allocated for production of these materials was insufficient, particularly due to the additional time required for production of materials in multiple languages (i.e. English, Tetum and Bahasa Indonesia).



General Lessons

- ❑ Visit should ideally be linked from the outset to specific actions or activities in home communities and resources to support action in communities after the Study Tour.
- ❑ Ideally there should be an opportunity for a return exchange, providing Indigenous Australian land and sea managers an opportunity to see and contribute to activities in Indonesia and Timor-Leste.
- ❑ Outcomes of the Study Tour could have been improved with a clearer understanding between the ATSEA Program anagement Unit and the organising committee regarding follow-up plans after the Study Tour. Expectations for participants and the resources available for them after the visit to northern Australia were not entirely clear.

General Lessons

To optimise benefits from an exchange or study tour it is useful to monitor the following after the visit:

1. Progress of ideas from exchange visits;
2. New ideas that have evolved from the exchange visits;
3. New partnerships and projects and potentially; and
4. Increased adaptive capacity of communities and livelihoods.



Conclusion

- ❑ To enable more cooperative exchange visits among the three countries in the future.
- ❑ There are always many valuable lessons to be learned from an activity such as this.
- ❑ The main challenge project was to identify an effective and economical way to involve the three participating nations in collaboratively addressing regional issues.
- ❑ The Study Tour demonstrated that organisations (the University, Indigenous organisations, government agencies and not-for-profit organisations) in Darwin and the Northern Territory more broadly, have many skills and management experience that are of interest to marine managers in Indonesia and Timor-Leste.



Conclusion

- ❑ The participants would have like to have been given the chance to participate in some specific technical training.
- ❑ Activities throughout the study tour were generally aimed at introducing topics and tools for which participants may later seek further support for activities in their home communities.
- ❑ Participants were able to identify specific training needs they require in their home countries following the visit.
- ❑ In order to effectively achieve significant training outcomes a study tour such as this should run for a longer period.
- ❑ Outcomes may also have been enhanced by having a smaller group of participants or increased opportunities to break into smaller groups for some of activities, then regrouping for discussions at various stages of the visit..



Conclusion

- ❑ There was also strong feedback from both participants and host Indigenous communities that a reciprocal opportunity for Indigenous Australians to experience an exchange trip to Indonesia and/or Timor-Leste was highly desirable.
- ❑ This regional demonstration project was effective in providing participants from the three countries an opportunity to come together and discuss common marine management issues.
- ❑ It is anticipated that the relationships built throughout this process will facilitate greater cooperation and collaboration into the future



Regional Demonstration Project Follow up

Exchange Visit of Timor Leste and Northern Australia indigenous communities to Rote Ndao District (Eastern Nusa Tenggara – Indonesia)

Objectives

- Visiting communities groups whoes implement “local wisdom” on the management and utilization of natural resources and the environment in Rote Ndao district.
- Visiting community groups that carry out businesses on (1) natural iodized salt production, (2) mud crabs aquaculture, and (3) processing of squid and fish drying.
- Meeting with the Rote Ndao Marine and Fisheries Service to understand Rote Ndao local government programs in managing natural resources and coastal.
- Meeting with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to know the TNC program in the management of natural resources and coastal at Rote Ndao district.



Regional Demonstration Project Follow up

Exchange Visit of Timor Leste and Northern Australia indigenous communities to Rote Ndao District (Eastern Nusa Tenggara – Indonesia)

Expected outputs

- Exchange of information and knowledge on the natural resource and environmental coastal management and utilization among participants.
- The participants are expected to acquire additional knowledge in the management and utilization of resources and the environment that may be applicable in their region of origin.

Expected outcome

- Strengthen the communication among coastal communities in Arafura and Timor seas region in the management and utilization of marine and coastal natural resources and environment as well as livelihood diversification.
- Increase the income of coastal communities and provide a positive impact on the state of marine and coastal resources and the environment in Arafura and the Timor Seas region.





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THANK YOU

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