



MINISTÉRIO DA
AGRICULTURA
E PESCAS



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Dili, October 2020

To: Mr. Ko Goto,
Chief Representative
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Timor-Leste office
Dili, Timor-Leste
and
The Green Climate Fund "GCF"

Re: Letter of commitment to sustaining the project: 'Community-based Landscape Management for Enhanced Climate Resilience and Reduction of Deforestation in Critical Watersheds' in Timor-Leste

Dear Madam/Sir,

This letter serves to confirm that the Directorate General of Forestry, Coffee and Industrial Plants (DGFCIP), Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) of the Government of Timor-Leste supports to the proposed project submitted to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) entitled 'Community-based Landscape Management for Enhanced Climate Resilience and Reduction of Deforestation in Critical Watersheds'. The project was designed under the guidance of our department and involved national, district, and local stakeholders over a year of consultations. The proposed project is therefore grounded in meeting stakeholder needs and is aligned with national interests of reducing deforestation and forest degradation, and climate resilience. It clearly will reduce the GHG emission by avoiding deforestation and forest degradation, and also will improve livelihoods of farming communities grappling with climate extremes induced by global climate change, through CBNRM implementation and enhancement activities linked to sustainable natural resource management, restored ecosystems, and expanded livelihoods, and private sector induction.

It is to this end that I inform you that DGFCIP is committed to sustaining the project activities in Lacro, Comoro, Tafara, and Caraulun watersheds and expansion of the CBNRM mechanism to other watershed areas, while maintaining the equipment and systems developed through the GCF investment. Specifically, the DGFCIP will proactively ensure funding available for the following activities. Please be noted that some of them have been already undertaken by DGFCIP, which will enhance its commitments more than what it has been doing until today.

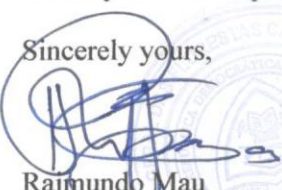
- To maintain and further expand the development of the CBNRM mechanism established by the proposed projects, including updating of the village NRM regulations, follow-up technical training (e.g. on climate resilient agriculture and seedling production/ tree planting/ forest management), the selection of the best-

practice farmers for extension purpose and/or support for community monitoring in the project area (Laclo, Comoro, Tafara, and Caralun watershed areas) at least until 2030 (Note: around 10 CBNRM-introduced villages /year have been supported by DGFCIP since 2016)

- To expand the CBNRM mechanism to other critical watersheds with TL government's own initiatives and in collaboration with other Development Partner (DP)s and private sectors through arranging and leading the CBNRM Platform once every year at least until 2030 (Note: more than 100 villages have been supported or put in the process of the support for the CBNRM establishment, particularly since 2018)
- To facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration among the DPs for the CBNRM expansion through arranging and leading the DP coordination platforms as coordination platform once every year at least until 2030 (Note: DP coordination platforms have been organized since 2017 with semi-annual regular meeting and other ad-hoc technical meetings with more than 10 DPs working in the forestry sector)
- To support the operation of (Sub-)watershed platforms (watershed management councils), including provision of seedlings for joint tree planting in the project area (Laclo, Comoro, Tafara, and Caralun watershed areas) at least until 2030 (Note: so far 7 watershed management councils have been established, including the national inter-ministerial committee, and more than 1,500,000 seedlings / year have been provided to local communities and watershed management councils from the government nurseries).
- To provide technical training on the CBNRM mechanism to at least 100 officials of the MAF and Municipality-MAF officials, who are technical relevant to the CBNRM mechanism, especially the new graduates (Note: on average around 300 persons /year are newly employed by MAF and Municipality-MAF projects)

Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation.

Sincerely yours,



Raimundo Mau
General Director



Copied:

His Excellency Mr. Eng. Pedro dos Reis, M.M, Minister of Agriculture e Fisheries,
His Excellency Mr. Abilio Xavier de Araujo, Lic.Ed, M.Ed, Vice Minister of Agricultura e Fisheries
His Excellency Mr. Eng. Cesar Jose da Cruz, PG-GSRNA, Secretary General Ministry of Agricultura e Fisheries