

BRAVE Project Theory of Change Narrative

1. Barriers

Communities in the Kupang and Sengkang watersheds are increasingly exposed to climate-induced flooding, ecosystem degradation, and declining livelihood stability. Communities have limited access to climate-resilient agricultural and aquaculture practices, reducing their capacity to adapt to changing environmental conditions. Watershed governance remains fragmented, weakening coordinated management of upstream and downstream water flows. In addition, limited market access and financial support constrain the adoption and scaling of climate-resilient livelihood systems.

2. Addressing the Barriers

The BRAVE project addresses these constraints through an integrated watershed resilience approach that combines climate information and risk analysis, participatory and climate-informed planning, ecosystem-based watershed management, climate-resilient livelihoods, and enabling institutional and market systems.

3. Activities → Outputs → Outcomes

Outcome 1: Development planning processes in Sengkarang and Kupang watersheds are participatory and climate-informed

The project conducts climate risk and impact assessments (Activity 1.1.1), ecosystem services valuation (Activity 1.1.2) to generate evidence on climate hazards, watershed dynamics, and ecosystem services. This information complements formation and capacity strengthening of local gender-inclusive community groups (Activity 1.2.1) and integrated community resilience plans (Activity 1.2.2). Hydrological analysis (Activity 1.2.3) of blue green spaces, securing permissions through site-level consultations assessments (Activity 1.2.4), along with landscape design of blue-green spaces (Activity 1.2.5), further inform planning and intervention design.

These activities generate **Output 1.1 (Climate-based evidence is available to targeted communities and project stakeholders for climate-resilient planning)** and **Output 1.2 (Community-based climate change adaptive management plans and designs have been developed to enhance community resilience)**, contributing to climate-informed planning tools and integrated watershed management plans. These outputs support **Outcome 1**, where development planning processes become participatory and climate-informed, enabling climate risks to be systematically integrated into watershed and water management strategies.

Outcome 2: Communities in the targeted watersheds implement climate-resilient livelihoods and integrated watershed/runoff management practices that reduce climate-related risks

The project promotes climate-resilient livelihoods through climate-smart field schools (Activity 2.1.1), expansion of Climate Information Systems (Activity 2.1.2), and strengthening financial and business capacity of farmer and fish-farmer groups (Activity 2.1.3). These are complemented by participatory conservation measures and demonstration plots (Activities 2.1.4 and 2.1.5), and village-level engagement for knowledge exchange (Activity 2.1.6).

These activities generate **Output 2.1 (Communities in the targeted watersheds are supported to implement the climate-informed and climate-resilient livelihood options).**

In parallel, the project spaces (Activity 2.2.1), establishes monitoring and operational systems (Activity 2.2.2), validates designs and forms management groups (Activity 2.2.3), and implements blue-green infrastructure informed by conducts sectoral risk and opportunity assessments (Activity 2.2.4). Flood contingency planning (Activity 2.2.5) and community training on flood preparedness (Activity 2.2.6) further strengthen adaptive capacity. These activities generate **Output 2.2 (Integrated runoff management and flood preparedness systems established in targeted sub-districts).**

Together, **Output 2.1 (Communities in the targeted watersheds are supported to implement the climate-informed and climate-resilient livelihood options)** and **Output 2.2 (Integrated runoff management and flood preparedness systems established in targeted sub-districts)** support **Outcome 2**, where communities adopt climate-resilient livelihoods and integrated watershed management practices, reducing climate-related risks.

Outcome 3: Enabling environment to replicate and scale-up climate-resilient IWRM exists

The project conducts policy analysis (Activity 3.1.1) and facilitates multi-level advocacy and policy dialogues (Activity 3.1.2) to strengthen alignment on climate-resilient watershed management. This is supported by the development of policy briefs (Activity 3.1.3), co-development of climate-resilient IWRM frameworks (Activity 3.1.4), decision-support tools (Activity 3.1.6). Media engagement (Activity 3.1.5) and amplification of learning (Activity 3.1.7) reinforce policy narratives and uptake, while also ensuring stakeholders are guided on how to apply tools and frameworks.

These activities generate **Output 3.1 (Government stakeholders (national, provincial, district, and sub-district levels), academia, private sector, community and media are informed of best practices of climate-resilient and climate-informed livelihood options, and policy recommendations).**

In parallel, market scoping (Activity 3.2.1), strengthening linkages with offtakers and financial actors (Activities 3.2.2–3.2.3), and development of bundled climate-resilient business models (Activity 3.2.4) are complemented by technical advisory services and monitoring (Activities 3.2.4–3.2.6). These activities embed climate-resilience criteria within business models and financing mechanisms and generate **Output 3.2 (Communities in the targeted watersheds have access to supports with climate-resilient livelihood business models and finance).**

Together, **Output 3.1 (Government stakeholders (national, provincial, district, and sub-district levels), academia, private sector, community and media are informed of best practices of climate-resilient and climate-informed livelihood options, and policy recommendations)** and **Output 3.2 (Communities in the targeted watersheds have access to supports with climate-resilient livelihood business models and finance)** support **Outcome 3**, enabling institutions and market actors to adopt, apply, finance, and scale climate-resilient watershed and livelihood practices, thereby creating an enabling environment for replication of climate-resilient Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

4. Co-benefits

Climate-resilient livelihood models also increase community income stability by approximately 20%.

5. Assumptions

The theory of change assumes that climate information systems remain accessible, communities and local governments are willing to adopt climate-resilient practices, ecosystem restoration measures function effectively, and policy institutions and financial actors continue supporting climate-resilient development.

6. Impact and Goal

IF communities, local governments, and market actors access and apply climate information to guide land use planning, water management, and climate-resilient livelihood practices across the Kupang and Sengkarang watersheds, AND IF enabling policies, institutions, and market systems support these practices, THEN households and ecosystems across the upstream, midstream, and downstream areas will experience sustained reductions in climate-induced flood and water-related risks, stronger and more diversified livelihoods, and improved watershed resilience, BECAUSE risk-informed decisions, integrated watershed governance, and climate-resilient value chains collectively address the underlying drivers of vulnerability—such as degraded land, unmanaged runoff, weak institutional coordination, and fragile local economies—resulting in systemic, scalable, and long-term adaptation benefits