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Setting the scene: objectives and expectations

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Rationale

- Water flows through all around us – giving life to the environment that sustains us, underpinning all human activity;
- **Sustainable Development Goal 6** seeks to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
- While water is the key driver of economic and social development, it also has a basic function in maintaining the integrity of the **natural environment**;
- If we are to **achieve water security**, we must protect vulnerable water systems, mitigate the impacts of water-related hazards such as floods and droughts, safeguard access to water functions and services and manage water resources in an integrated and equitable manner.





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Water in Timor-Leste

- Timor-Leste is **prone to water scarcity** – placing SDG centrally in the development agenda.
- Progress is being made, but **much remains to be done**, in particular in rural areas – home to 70% of the population - where inadequate water supply acts in combination with limited access to sanitation and hygiene.
- If managed sustainably and effectively, **Timor-Leste's water resources can meet the water demands** of the country's growing population with good quality.
- **Implementing SDG6 is essential** not only to Timor-Leste's water sector, but to the sustainable development of the country as a whole.





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Dialogue background

- The regional UNESCO Malaysia Funds-in-Trust project **AP-FAST** (Accelerating Science and Technology to Foster the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific) was launched in Dili in June 2017;
- Produced recommendations on optimizing and accelerating the **role of science** towards implementation of the SDGs in the region;
- Helped launch exchanges between UNESCO, WHO, ADB, government and partner agencies in Timor-Leste on the **centrality of water** for sustainable development;
- In recognition of the need to align **efforts and develop joint objectives and strategies for action, a national dialogue was proposed.**





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Contributions welcome!

- This event is dialogue – all **contributions are welcome**, interactive engagement is encouraged;
- An opportunity to **share, to learn and develop ideas**, inspired by new perspectives;
- We have representatives from multiple Timor-Leste government departments, development agencies, donors, academia and others;
- **Make the most of the opportunity** – both within and outside the formal sessions





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Objectives - in brief

- National and international water stakeholders and experts will:
 - Exchange views, identify priorities and **prepare project concepts for action** that will strengthen the management of Timor-Leste's freshwater resources and reduce negative impacts on human well-being and the natural environment;
 - Foster **increased understanding** of Sustainable Development Goal 6;
 - **Share results** of ongoing water sector projects and initiatives and discuss their further development;
 - **Share ideas** on future networking and cooperation on water.





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We will...

- ...share our **experiences and best practices**, which will be documented to consolidate the knowledge base on water and sustainable development in Timor-Leste
- ...**enhance awareness** in our respective organizations, use the knowledge to prepare national and institutional strategies, and implement sectoral and inter-sectoral sustainable development programmes.
- ...**draft proposals** for the development of national water sector **management plans**, for **technical studies** and **development of capacity** in Integrated Water Resources Management and river basin management; and on planning and capacity building for wastewater management.





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How will we do it?

- Today – (mainly) by listening
- Three sessions – three themes:
 1. Strategic planning for water security
 2. IWRM for water security
 3. Wastewater management for water security and safety
- International and national perspectives

- Tomorrow – by acting
- Addressing Priority Water Security Challenges: Drafting Proposals for Targeted Interventions:
 - Working in groups under the three themes
 - Developing project concepts for consideration by donors

- The concepts will form components of a **programme to implement water goals in Timor-Leste**





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Thank you

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