



Involving community in water conservation in Timor-Leste

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Introduction

- Timor-Leste relies for its water supply on a combination on household tap water in urban areas and public taps, wells and springs in rural areas.
- During the dry season, communities suffer from lack of water for drinking as well as cooking, washing, cleaning and other household uses.
- Rural areas are particularly at risk as their main water supply system from wells and springs produces very less water and some communities much collect water across considerable distances.
- This may in turn negatively affect education in cases where children have to sacrifice time for school in order to help carry water from one village to another.



Kids collect water for garden in Turiscai-Manufahi
(Photo by: E. Lemos, 2015)

Objective

This water conservation activity is aim to.

- Create community awareness to protect their water springs and reservoir by increase very selective vegetation and prohibit people clear land around water source;
- Train community on how to conserve their water springs and reservoir;



Process of community engagement in water conservation



Continue...



Permatil water conservation sites in Timor-Leste

Name of Place/ year/ working with	Number	
	Spring	Reservoir
Caimauk-Turiscail, Manufahi, Oct 2005, working with local community and INGO Concern	1	
Sagadati-Laga, Baucau, April 2013	3	
Mertutu, Ermera, Oct 2013	1	
Letefoho, Ermera, from 2014 – 2016	4	5
Dare, Vera-Cruz, Dili Apr – Nov 2016	2	2
Vila-Maumeta, Atauro, Dili Sept - Oct 2016	1	
Quelikai, Baucau 2017, working with local community and INGO GCCA-GIZ	2	2
Venilale, Baucau 2017, working with local community and INGO GCCA-GIZ	1	1
Babulu-Watulari, Viqueque, working with local community and INGO CRS	1	1
Maucatar, Covalima, 2016, working with local community and INGO Oxfam	1	1
TOTAL	17	12

Conclusion/ recommendation

- As we know water is the key driver of economic and social development; it also has a basic function in maintaining the integrity of the natural environment.
- The social, economic and environmental impact of improved water supply will benefit and contribute all development sectors.
- Investment for water need to balance between water infrastructure water conservation.
- Need to identify all the springs and reservoir in order to protect them, because people always clearing the land plant trees that consume too much water and nutrient around springs. Example; teak tree.
- Need to include water education in the curriculum from basic education to higher education.

Thank you