



COMMUNITY-BASED IUU REPORTING SYSTEM IN TIMOR-LESTE

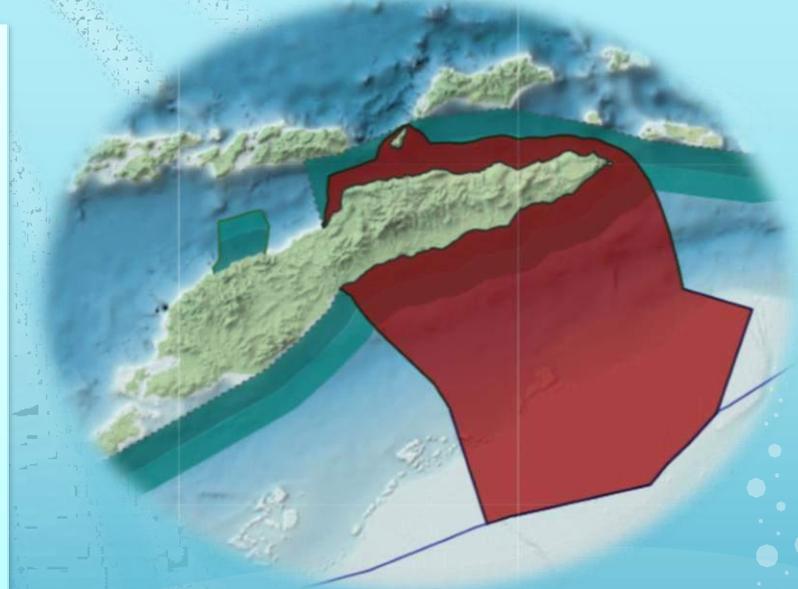
Pedro Antero Maria Rodrigues

Chief Department of Surveillance for Marine Resources Management, Fisheries
and Pisciculture

National Directorate of Inspection for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Directorate General of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Resources

Background of Timor-Leste

- ❖ **Land Area: 14,874 km²**
- ❖ **Coastline: 735 km**
- ❖ **EEZ: 75,647 km² (marine regions, 2019)**
- ❖ **Fishers: 6,244**
- ❖ **Fisher groups: 1,063**
- ❖ **Fishing centers: 160**



Marine Regions. 2019

Background of Timor-Leste Fisheries

- ❖ 99.5% categorized as small-scale fisheries
- a. Fibre glass & canoe boats with inboard & outboard engines as majority
- b. Length of vessel less than 12 meters



NPOA-IUU of Timor-Leste

The NPOA-IUU of Timor-Leste identifies four (4) main strategies in combating the IUU Fishing issues such as:

- ❖ Institutional strengthening
- ❖ Interagency cooperation
- ❖ International cooperation &
- ❖ **Community Partnerships**



Initial Step-Community-based Data Gathering

Gather the information from communities regarding the concerns including conflicts and challenges happen in each community (RFLP Project)



Use of SPOT Devices

- ❖ During the RFLP project, utilized the SPOT device
- ❖ Two (2) important buttons:
Illegal (help) and ***Ajuda(911)***
- ❖ ***Illegal button*** is pressed when sighting the illegal fishing activity in the national waters
- ❖ The **911** for seeking help during accident at sea
- ❖ First place winner for ***STOP IUU FISHING AWARD, 2014***



Outcomes of the SPOT devices

- ❖ Database on illegal reports and IUU fishing hotspot
- ❖ Improved communications and trust between the fishers and fisheries entities
- ❖ Enhance cooperation between fisheries and relevant agencies
- ❖ Reporting the accident at sea

Lesson Learnt using SPOT

- The vessel captain pressed the wrong button which he supposed to press the illegal but instead pressed the emergency (911) button.

Benefits of SPOT to fishers

- ❖ Seeking for help during emergency
- ❖ Anonymous report-the reporter does not need to worry about its identity
- ❖ Safer for the reporter where the violator did not know about being reported
- ❖ It is portable type and can be brought everywhere
- ❖ Preventing the IUU-F activity in the national and territorial waters
- ❖ Provide information on location where the illegal fishing activity occurs
- ❖ Identify the location of the boat capsized or the accident at sea

Benefits of SPOT to Government

- ❖ Affordable- cheap cost, US\$ 165/unit/year
- ❖ Save times, fuel, money and cost while enhance the surveillance activity at low cost
- ❖ Cost-effective of patrolling, increase the likelihood of catch the IUU Offenders
- ❖ Build the relationship and trust among fishers and the government
- ❖ Facilitate the SAR activity by provide the initial location of the vessel face the accident at sea.

Current-Community Based IUU Reporting System



FISHER/ COASTAL COMMUNITIES



EXTENSION WORKER/ DFOs/LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE AND MARINE RESOURCES

MARITIME POLICE UNIT & NAVY

Objectives:

According to the Timor-Leste National Plan of Action, the engagement of the local community program has four (4) objectives such as;

- ❖ Building trust and opening communication between fisheries enforcement authorities and local communities;
- ❖ Educating the coastal communities on the threats, costs, laws and response processes for IUU fishing;
- ❖ Strengthening the IUU reporting systems; and
- ❖ Collecting maritime intelligence.



Benefits

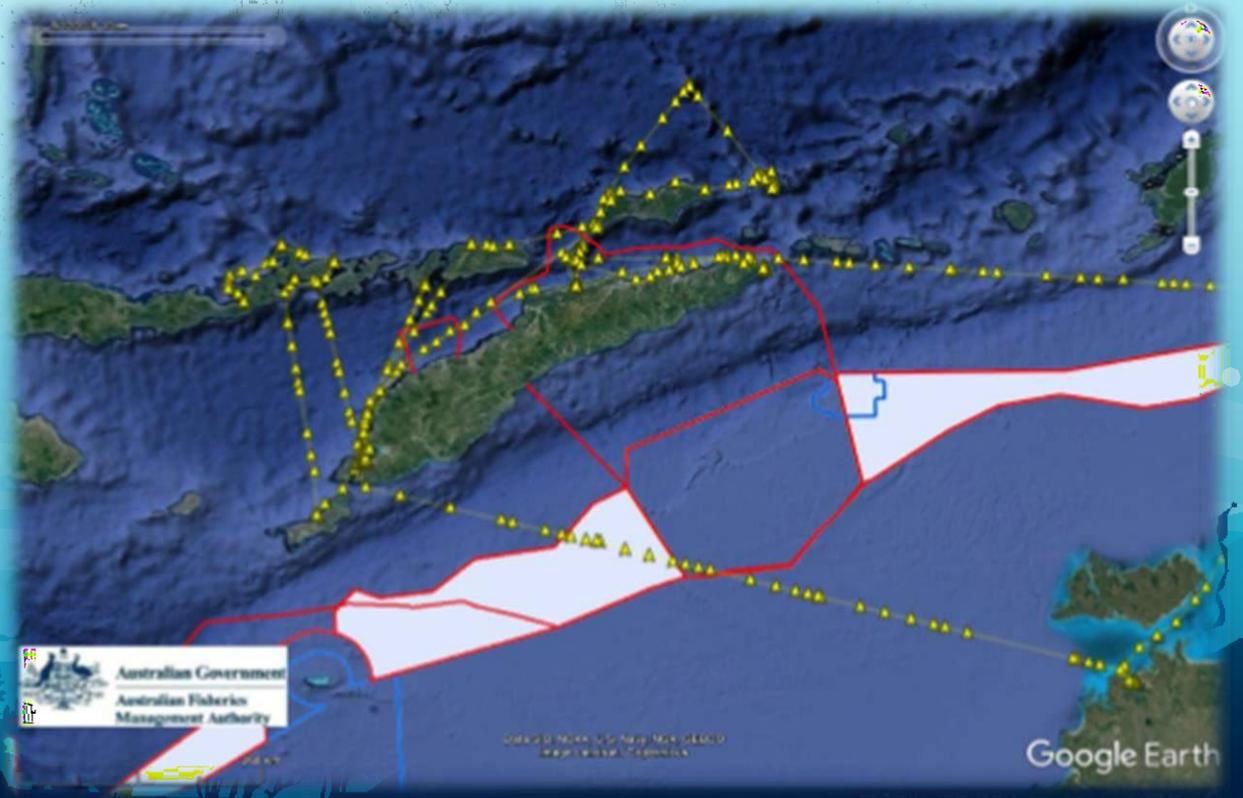
- The local coastal communities are willing to collaborate with the national fisheries staffs after learning about the Community-Based IUU Reporting System.
- Due to the simplicity of this system which is easily adopted by the local communities mostly fishers.
- Moreover, it is also very useful for reporting the IUU Fishing issue and the accident at sea in which the local fishers unexpectedly face during fishing activity in the sea.



Community Based IUU Reporting System-Example of Cases

1) Anti Podean Australian Cruise Ship, 2018

- Information from community



Community Based IUU Reporting System-Example of Cases

2) Apprehension of Beach Seine Net which is banned according to Article 87 of Decree Law No.6/2004, Batugade, Bobonaro Municipality in 2020.

After receiving the report, the DG-PARM should conduct the identification in the first place, then conduct the apprehension



Community Based IUU Reporting System-Example of Cases

3) Cutting off the FADs in Beacou, Municipality of Bobonaro in 2021

- Apply the Tara bandu as a customary law for the sanctions



Community Based IUU Reporting System-Example of Cases

4) Use of Compressor for Fishing Activity

- Government Decree Law no.5/2004 of 28th of July 2004 which is described in article 130
- Apprehension of the 2 units of compressor, 12 spear guns, 2 units of hose and gillnet of 2 ½ and 3 inch 1 piece each (February 2022)



Community Based IUU Reporting System-Example of Cases

5) Apprehension of mesh size less than one inch Net which is banned according to Article 87 of Decree Law No.6/2004, Vemasse, Baucau municipality, 2022

- The length of net is 12,710.16 m which is equal to 6,86 nm



Community Based IUU Reporting System-Example of Cases for Accident at Sea

6) Saving life of Likisa fisher and other same case



Lesson Learnt- Positive and Negative CB-IUU RS

	(+) Lesson Learnt	(-) Lesson Learnt
CB-IUU Reporting System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anonymous reporter• Direct Reporting in the site• Simple method of reporting• Willingness to cooperate and ownership of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Network coverage and unstable connection in the rural coastal area• Lack of enforcement due to resources constraints• Lack of budget to cover all fishing centers across Timor-Leste
CB Accident Reporting System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fishers are aware of the importance of mobile phone during fishing• Fishers start to give the importance for preparation before fishing such as charging mobile phone, top up the credit and informing the family members before going fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of facilities for search and rescue, therefore it takes time for the fisheries officials and maritime police unit to save them• The condition of fishing boats is not suitable for enduring the rough weather• No life jacket available in the boat, alternatively, they use the jerry can of 5 liters.• The fishers do not use the proper

Beneficiaries

PIC Activity	Participants	Men	Women
ATSEA-2 UNDP	218	208	10
ISLME-FAO 2021	328	310	18
2023 General State Budget	195	168	27
	741 Fisher	686 Fisher	55 Fisher

Way Forward

- Seeking support to continue expand the CB-IUU reporting structure to the local communities through the public information campaign
- The public information campaign should be held in all fishing centers across Timor-Leste, however, due to lack of budget the Public Information Campaign still only cover several fishing centers.
- Currently we cover 22 FCs out of 160 FCs, which means 741 fishers learn about this structure.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH
OBRIGADA UA'IN