

The Study on Community-Based Integrated Watershed Management in Laclo and Comoro River Basins in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

(Period of the study: 3 months from Jan., 2007 Our assignments: Livestock Production / Agro-Forestry)

Background

Between 1972 and 1999, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (Timor Leste) had reduced its forest cover at a rate of 1.1 % per annum or by 24 % in total. At present, forests in the country cover only about 35 % (or 0.5 million ha) of the total land of the country (1.5 million ha). The Laclo river basin, which is a target watershed of the Study, is one of the most deteriorated watersheds in the country due to the prevalence of illegal cutting, fuel wood collection, and cattle grazing in the upper part of the watershed. The lower part of the basin is also known as the major rice production area in the country. Under the circumstances, the Government of Timor-Leste officially requested the Government of Japan to conduct a development study on community-based integrated water management in Laclo and Comoro river basins. In other words, how deforestation/ watershed degradation affected the human life, which ironically, has been mainly caused by human activities. Furthermore, what made this problem difficult to solve is that those human activities are mainly undertaken by poor upland farmers who subsist on those activities.

Outline of the study

The field work was postponed until January 2007 due to the internal disturbances that took place in Dili in 2006. The main objectives of the Study are to:

- formulate a community-based integrated watershed management plan for Laclo and Comoro river basins;
- prepare watershed management guidelines for MAFF to formulate a community-based watershed management plan in any basin in the country; and
- develop the capacities of the stakeholders involved in watershed management (MAFF staff, local farmers, NGOs, etc.) to formulate a watershed management plan for another river basin in the course of the Study.

Our Assignments

- Collection of documents and analyses regarding livestock production and agro-forestry in the target area
- Potential for and constraint of development for livestock production and agro-forestry
- Formulation of development plan regarding livestock production agro-forestry

