



THE FIRST NATIONAL FMNR CONFERENCE IN TIMOR-LESTE

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

The first national Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) conference in Timor-Leste was held in the capital Dili on 7-8 April 2014. A post-conference field trip to a World Vision Timor-Leste FMNR project in Aileu district was part of the program on 8 April.

Among more than 220 participants were farmers, forestry officers, government officials, community leaders, students and staff from Timor-Leste's major universities, NGOs, UN organizations and diplomatic representatives, World Vision staff from grassroots, district, national and overseas offices, and speakers from in-country and abroad.

The speakers presented conceptual, methodological and practical aspects of FMNR. The conference also featured group discussions on issues related to applying FMNR in Timor-Leste.

After deliberating on all the issues outlined, conference participants agreed on the following declaration of the first national FMNR conference. They hereby call upon the government of Timor-Leste, NGOs, academic institutions, the diplomatic community, donors and the community at large to implement the following resolutions.

The conference participants call for:

I – Policy and governance to promote:

1. Restoration of degraded farmlands and forests, and the elimination of bush burning and unsustainable cutting of trees for fuel and income
2. Dynamic collaboration on land regeneration between government, international organisations, NGOs, civil society organisations, donors, and research and academic institutions

3. Re-instatement and revitalisation of the traditional *Tara Bandu* natural resource management system with full involvement of communities and local authorities
4. Establishment of legal and transparent means for communities to sustainably harvest and benefit from wood and non-timber forest products
5. Policy review to favour sustainable community-based reforestation and agroforestry activities
6. Establishment of a national FMNR taskforce to set goals, responsibilities and agenda
7. Establishment of a Timor-Leste FMNR network to accelerate the process of widespread adoption.

II – Projects and programs to promote:

1. Awareness raising, capacity building and exchange visits
2. Community mobilisation for land protection through capacity building and production of forest and agroforestry seedlings in nurseries
3. Enhanced collaboration between communities, NGOs, national and local government, and research and training institutions
4. Advocating for a favourable policy environment for community and individual FMNR, agroforestry and forestry activities
5. A legal, transparent and sustainable marketing mechanism for wood and non-timber forest products
6. Sensitization and orientation works to be conducted at the grassroots level
7. Encouraging active participation and best practice in FMNR.

III – FMNR techniques

In pursuing FMNR as one of the major methodologies for natural resources conservation and sustainable livelihoods in Timor-Leste, we promote FMNR activities focussing on resolving the following major environmental challenges in the country:

1. Reducing deforestation and increasing the vegetation cover
2. Enhancing biodiversity
3. Reducing soil erosion
4. Reducing landslides
5. Building resilience against climate change effects such as high rainfall, high temperatures, sporadic droughts and strong winds.

To reduce vulnerability and improve the livelihoods of farming communities, FMNR should address major livelihood issues by:

1. Contributing to food security through forest food promotion
2. Promoting sustainable timber and non-timber forest products
3. Promoting the production of export products from trees, shrubs, herbs and crops
4. Promoting productive on-farm natural regeneration
5. Promoting safe and productive usage of sloping lands.

Sensitization, awareness creation and education are crucial parts of FMNR promotion. Thus the following major training needs should be addressed:

1. Protected area establishment and sustainable management (including fire prevention and fire-fighting, livestock management, group leadership and marketing) with direct community benefits
2. Regenerating tree/plant management techniques for diverse timber and non-timber plant species and realistic potential of FMNR for better livelihoods in a Timor-Leste context
3. FMNR activities in cultivated/agricultural land
4. FMNR activities in forest land and grazing land
5. A simplified FMNR technical package for the diverse agro-ecological and farming systems of Timor-Leste.

IV – Applied research

For the FMNR interventions to address the real challenges that communities are facing, and to contextualize FMNR with the farming systems and agro-ecological zones of Timor-Leste, we promote the following agendas for applied research purposes:

1. Identification of potential trees, shrubs, herbs and crop species for FMNR purposes
2. Identification of suitable plant species that address specific economic or environmental challenges
3. Designing suitable FMNR measures for the diverse agro-ecological zones of Timor-Leste
4. Researching suitable protection, regeneration, and tree management techniques for diverse potential crops
5. Researching the integration of FMNR with other conservation and livelihood intervention techniques
6. Researching the impact of FMNR on water cycles, floods and droughts
7. Researching the impact of FMNR on crop yields on agricultural land
8. Researching the impact of FMNR on livestock production
9. Researching the impact of FMNR on household incomes
10. Satellite mapping for measuring the baseline and spread of FMNR over time.

V - Action plan

What will we do	Where will we do it	By when	How will we do it	Who will do it
Distribute conference learnings (proceedings)	To interested parties in Timor and to international participants/ external parties	1 May, 2014	Via email. Via website. Hard copy for selected audiences	World Vision TL
Establish national FMNR taskforce	Dili based	1 June	Follow-up meeting of interested parties. Financial support raised from interested, participating parties	World Vision TL national office and National Forestry Department.
Establish district level FMNR taskforces	District based (in each district)	30 June	Follow up meeting of interested parties. Financial support raised from interested participating parties	Local World Vision and district level Forestry Departments.
Establish national and district level FMNR networks	Dili and each interested district	15 July	Meeting of interested parties. Voluntary membership	Initiated by WV, but subject to network decisions thereafter.
Initiate awareness creation and capacity building campaign	Dili and each interested district	30 July	Project funding	FMNR project managers / FMNR taskforce / network delegation.
Encourage the implementation / practice of FMNR	Each interested district	15 August	Project funding. Pooled resources of participating parties	FMNR project managers. FMNR network members
Follow up and annual meetings.	Dili and each interested district	Annually	Project funds. Pooled resources of participating parties	FMNR taskforce and network members (nationally and by district)