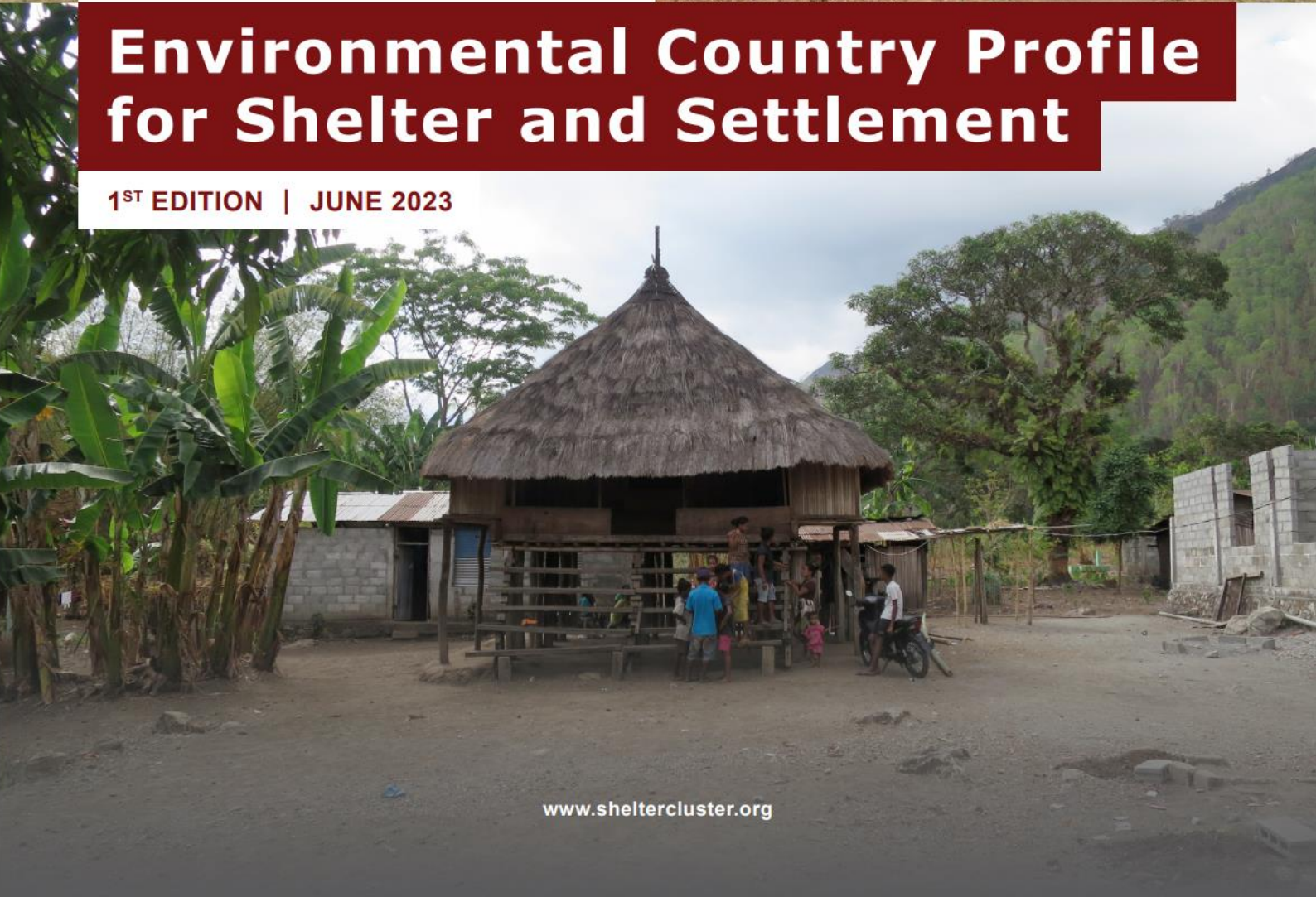




# TIMOR LESTE

## Environmental Country Profile for Shelter and Settlement

1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION | JUNE 2023



# Timor Leste

## Environmental Country Profile for Shelter and Settlements

Version 1: June 2023

The Shelter and CCCM Cluster Timor Leste has developed the “*Environmental Country Profile for Shelter Response*” to fill a gap in the knowledge base of the cluster highlighted during past responses. The profile informs environmentally sustainable shelter programming by making key information about environmental considerations, impacts, concerns, and opportunities relevant to shelter and settlements programming available and accessible to Shelter Cluster partners.

Quality programming includes understanding, preventing, and mitigating negative environmental impacts. If environmental issues are not taken into account, shelter and settlement programmes may ultimately be inefficient since short-term outcomes can cause new problems, requiring further investment  
– Sphere handbook 2018

This profile covers the country-wide context and is intended to provide a quick basic understanding of the country-wide context and the most crucial factors that are relevant for environmentally sustainable shelter related operations. It is particularly to support humanitarian shelter actors with little knowledge of the environmental situation in Timor Leste. It aims to save the user time in investigating these issues by compiling existing information and pointing to key issues, additional sources of information and further references. After a disaster, the information in this profile will need to be contextualised based on the impacts of the disaster. The information in this document can serve as a baseline of environmental issues facing the country of relevance to humanitarian shelter and settlements interventions.

The profile was developed in partnership with the Global Shelter Cluster. A technical working group (TWG) was established in 2023 to ensure that the process of drafting this profile draws on the extensive knowledge of CCCM and Shelter Cluster partners and Government counterparts working across Timor Leste, to develop relevant and up-to-date country-specific guidance. The TWG continues to provide a common platform for partners to contribute to the content of the profile and pilot in future responses. Current members of the TWG include chair Timor Leste Red Cross (CVTL), Secretary of State for the Environment, Civil Protection Authority, IFRC, IOM, Caritas, Mercy Corps, Care, Oxfam and Australian Red Cross. For a list of contact details see [Annex 2](#). The profile was developed with financial support from DG ECHO and USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.

The checklist and annexes are living documents that can be revised and added to by the Shelter Cluster over time as new information becomes available. Future revisions will help to ensure that environmental and shelter and settlement related issues and practices which vary greatly across the country are captured.

## Structure of the profile

Building off the 2018 Sphere Standards, the profile contains a **checklist** outlining key actions to be taken by the coordination team, program managers and field staff during each phase of the humanitarian program cycle, and **annexes** (see below) which provide further guidance on each of the actions. The structure is designed to be as operational as possible and allow users to easily access relevant information without having to read the entire document. The annexes can also be read as one country profile.

### **Sphere Shelter and Settlement Standard 7: Environmental sustainability**

“Shelter and settlement assistance minimises any negative programme impact on the natural environment.”

~ Sphere Handbook 2018

It is recommended that coordinators, program managers and field staff be familiar with the content of the whole profile. Given the role of shelter and settlements in promoting health, supporting family and community life, and providing dignity, security and access to livelihoods, and environment being a cross-cutting issue, this profile is also relevant to other sectors. Issues of livelihoods, WASH, food security and energy are referenced, but not presented in the same level of detail.

## Checklist and annexes

00	<a href="#">Checklist</a>
<b>Annex</b>	<b>Title and link</b>
01	<a href="#">Environment, hazard, conflict, security and housing context</a>
02	<a href="#">Key actors</a>
03	<a href="#">Regulatory requirements and institutions</a>
04	<a href="#">Ecologically Protected Areas</a>
05	<a href="#">Hazards &amp; Maps</a>

06	<a href="#">Environmental impact assessment for shelter and settlements programming</a>
07	<a href="#">Environmental Management &amp; Monitoring Plan</a>
08	<a href="#">Project management cycle and sustainable construction</a>
09	<a href="#">GIS for enhanced shelter programming</a>
10	<a href="#">Environmental considerations in site selection &amp; planning</a>
11	<a href="#">Security of Tenure and environment</a>
12	<a href="#">Site decommissioning</a>
13	<a href="#">Green building practices and most common building materials</a>
14	<a href="#">Green Logistics &amp; Procurement</a>
15	<a href="#">Greening household items</a>
16	<a href="#">Key considerations for energy</a>
17	<a href="#">Debris and waste management, recycling, reuse and repurposing</a>
18	<a href="#">Climate risk management and adaptation &amp; nature-based solutions</a>

For further information, to input to the country profile, or to provide any feedback please contact Emidia Belo: [emidiabelo\\_cvtl@redcross.tl](mailto:emidiabelo_cvtl@redcross.tl) or the Global Shelter Cluster Environment support team: [EnvironmentOperations@sheltercluster.org](mailto:EnvironmentOperations@sheltercluster.org).



## Authors and Institutions

### AUTHORS

The **Timor Leste Environmental Country Profile for Shelter and Settlement response** was developed via a technical working group of the Shelter and CCCM Cluster Timor Leste. The profile was authored by Mandy George (Senior Environmental Advisor, Global Shelter Cluster) with support from Emidia Belo (Disaster Management Coordinator, Timor Leste Red Cross) and Robbie Dodds (Focal Point for Shelter Cluster Coordination in Asia Pacific).

### INSTITUTIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

The following institutions and organisations contributed to the development of the profile:

**Timor Leste Red Cross (CVTL)**  
**Civil Protection Authority**  
**Secretary of State for the Environment**  
**Australian Red Cross**  
**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**  
**IOM**  
**Mercy Corps**  
**Care International**  
**Oxfam**

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