

### INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND

#### PROGRESS NARRATIVE REPORT

Beneficiary State(s) Party(ies): Timor-Leste

Project title:	Tais, Traditional Textile
Reporting period:	From: 01 November 2022 to: 15 April 2023
Budget:	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total: US\$ 163,529.37</b></p> <p><i>Including:</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: <b>US\$ 31,414.84</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">State Party contribution: <b>US\$ \$ 56,087.50</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Other contributions: <b>US\$ 76,090.03</b></p>
Implementing agency (contracting partner or UNESCO Field Office):	Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO
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Partner agency (in the case of a service from UNESCO project):	Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO
Implementing partners:	Timor-Leste National Committee of ICH: Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry, State Secretary for Arts and Culture, State Secretary for Equality and Inclusion, Timor Aid, Alola Foundation, USAID and UN WOMEN

## Background

*Provide a brief description of the situation existing at the time of the request and the need that the assistance aimed to address. For safeguarding of a particular element, provide a description of the element, its viability and why safeguarding measures were required. For preparation of inventories, strengthening of capacities, awareness-raising, visibility or other safeguarding not focussed on a particular element, identify gaps that were to be addressed. For emergency assistance requests, describe the nature and severity of the emergency at the time of the request.*

*Not fewer than 750 or more than 1000 words*

Tais, traditional textile is the first Timorese cultural element inscribed in the UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent safeguarding, via the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage by Decision 16.COM 8. a.6.

Tais has been passed down from the ancestors, and continues to be a key cultural component of all major life events, such as births, dowry in marriages, in funerals and for welcoming guests. It is also a vital income source for women weavers who are living in rural areas. Tais, is the hand-woven traditional textile in Timor-Leste, plays an important role in the life of Timorese people. The textile is used for decoration and to create traditional clothing with specific styles for men and women. People use Tais to welcome new-born as well as for traditional ceremonies and festivals. It is also a means of expressing cultural identity and social class, as the colors and motifs used vary from one group to the next. Furthermore, the textile is used as an object of value, such as for dowries or to strengthen ties between families in Timorese society.

Tais is traditionally hand woven using simple equipment, made from cotton dyed with natural plants and the production process is quite complex and time-consuming from preparing and dyeing the cotton and weaving the material. Although men may participate in the process by gathering plants to dye the cotton and making the equipment, the production of Tais is a role reserved for women, who are also responsible for passing the knowledge and skills on to the next generation. The practice is threatened by several factors, including a preference for modern clothing among younger generations, the replacement of local, handmade materials with industrial alternatives, inadequate income generation and an ever-decreasing number of weavers.

Within the nomination of the Tais to the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) list, the government of Timor-Leste requested an International Assistance from the ICH Fund in amount of US\$265,895, for the implementation of the safeguarding plan for 3 years. The fund is to financing the activities of Promoting Tais in fairs, Creating a television programme, Adding Tais to school curriculum, Conducting research on Tais to be published in three languages (Tetun, Portuguese and English), Producing brochure on Tais to promote to the international tourists, Developing a permanent exhibition which will also include live demonstrations by weavers. Other project activities; include holding a Tais weaving competition for youth, providing training on local cotton and natural dyeing,

supporting weavers' management skills and livelihoods through capacity building and a Developing formal certification system for Tais. These activities are expected to raise awareness about Tais among the public, motivate youth to take an interest in Tais and learn the weaving techniques, increase income opportunities for weavers, attract tourists' interest in Tais as part of Timor-Leste's culture, and strengthen weavers' networks.

Following the inscription of Tais on the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in 2021, the government of Timor-Leste through the National Committee for the ICH composed of several line ministers, local NGOs and International Agencies, having been emphasized the service in promoting Tais at the local and national levels. Disseminating the Tais safeguarding plan to the public in order to attracting the community's attention and involving them in the implementation of the Safeguarding activities. On the government side, it also provided budget to implement the activities, such as Promotion of Tais at fairs, Data research on Tais, Tais weaving competition for youth, Training on diversification of products made from Tais, and Training on business. Additionally, the International Agency supported the implementation of the activity of establishment of the Weavers' Network and providing the capacity building training.

The impact of the inscription of Tais in the ICH list and the implementation of the Urgent Safeguarding plan of Tais, successfully brought the community's understanding and passion for Tais, and at the same time attracted the community's interest for the promotion of Tais, especially those are living in the cities. In addition, at the national level many initiatives to promote this woven hand have been raised, public and private entities have carried out the activities to promote Tais at the events such; as fairs and exhibitions in the celebration of national and commemorative days, using Tais in official and formal ceremonies and so on. At the local level weavers and local authorities are working together in creating weaving groups in the villages in order to revive the tradition of making Tais within community.

In this second phase of the Tais safeguarding activities, 82 weavers from four (4) municipalities Manatuto, Aileu, Baucau and Ermera were beneficiated directly to the ICH Fund, through the implementation of the activities in their village such as Training on local cotton and natural dyeing and Tais weaving competition for youth. On the other hand, 39 weavers were beneficiated directly to the Tais fairs at national level and some weavers beneficiated form the activity of preparatory process of permanent exhibition through acquisition of objects and raw materials of Tais. Moreover, the activity funded by government such as Research on Tais and Promotion of Tais in fairs were engaged directly the local community and weavers, it was a very significant step for safeguarding of Tais in Timor-Leste.

The total number of weavers participated directly in the safeguarding activity of Tais in the second phase are 134 weavers, where the young female participation in the activities

represented 40%, from the age of 17 to 30 years old and another 60% represents of older women from the age of 31 to 72 years old. The young participants were more active in the activity of Tais weaving Competition and Promotion of Tais in fairs. In addition, up to March 2023, 149 weavers (147 females, 2 males) have increased their knowledge on Gender sensitive and leaderships, Tais quality include measurement, pricing standardize, weigh natural and industrial threads, proposal writing, and Product diversification and Natural dyeing, and Money minded (financial literacy).

### **Objectives and results attained**

*Overall, to what extent did the project attain its objectives? Describe the main results attained, focussing in particular on the perspective of the direct beneficiaries and communities. For each expected result identified in the request, explain whether it was fully or partially attained. Also describe any unexpected results, direct or indirect, whether positive or negative.*

*Not fewer than 100 or more than 500 words*

The safeguarding activity implemented directly by the Timor-Leste National committee members within their institutions and organizations. Then the project management team under the auspices of the NATCOM Timor-Leste is responsible for coordinating and supervising the implemented activities among committee members, monitoring, evaluation and reporting each project activities. On a monthly basis, the project management team held a committee meeting to update on the progress of activities in order to gather issues of the safeguarding activities and find solutions to the challenges encountered during the implementation of the activities.

Overall, four main objectives were achieved in this second instalment of the project. The first was encouraging young women to participate in the Tais process and in weaving Tais; secondly was increasing the weavers' capacity on use local cotton and natural dyes and strengthened the weavers' capacity in managing the weaving groups; third was creating space for the weavers to sell their products, and finally was promoting Tais toward international tourist.

In general, the safeguarding activities achieved the expected result in fully and partially. Producing the brochure on Tais is one of the main results attained fully, 1000 brochures produced in three languages such as Portugues, English and Tetun. The brochure have distributed to five tourist hubs in Dili. International and local tourists, few national entities and students have accessed to the brochure.

Following activities archived the results partially:

- a) With the completion of the data research on Tais in the municipality of Liquica, the research in the nine municipalities was completed. With this result, there are still four municipalities to be researched in the next phases in order to complete the program of Tais research on the national territory.

- b) The activity of Tais weaving competition successfully held partially in the municipality of Baucau and Ermera. The participation of young women was highlighted, among the 36 participant 20 persons were young women. Base on the timeline, another event of Tais weaving competition will hold at national level in the last phase of the project implementation.
- c) The training on local cotton and natural dying successfully held in Municipality of Manatuto and Aileu. The training was helpful for the weavers; they were capable to making natural colour with plant species that surrounded the community. In addition, the weavers were rise awareness for the protection the risk of chemical materials toward environment and health. Same activity of training will conduct in coming phases at different municipality, which are lack of knowledge in local cotton and natural dying.
- d) The promotion of Tais in fairs successfully implemented in context of celebration of National day of Tais, 14 December and Christmas fairs. This activity is remaining to conduct in every national day at local and national level.
- e) The weaver's Network from three municipalities such as Baucau, Covalima and Viqueque have increased their knowledge on Gender sensitive and leaderships, Tais quality include measurement, pricing standardize, weigh natural and industrial threads, proposal writing, and Product diversification and Natural dyeing, and Money minded (financial literacy). Moreover the Weavers Network in six municipalities have launched its brand, namely "Rede Soru Na'in" and also have announced the future Rede Soru Na'in store in Dili. This launching will enable the weavers from different regions in working together to consolidate the market strategy and allow them to get the business opportunity in order to sell their product.

In this phase, two activities did not achieve the result as expected such as Installation of the permanent Exhibition and Training on Business. The Exhibition was not completed at this stage due to failure in the technical preparation between working team in requesting the budget to the project management, the need for the expenses were greater than the budget requested. However, there has been progress moving forward, such as the preparation of the space for the Tais workshop, the collection of raw material for the production and weaving of Tais, the acquisition of Tais, and information related to the projects were acquired. The activity is on progress to be completed in the next phase, between May to November 2023.

On the other hand, the training on business activity could not be carried out due to the challenge of joining budget between the ICH fund and the State budget for the activity. The Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry, responsible for the activity, had a change in the financial system of budget settlement, so the expenses for the activity that should be

covered by the State Budget, were not settled in the proposed calendar. However, the activity is planned to be implemented in next instalment, May 2023.

The main results achieved in the second phase of the projects are raising awareness of the community to the Tais. At the national level, many initiatives to promote Tais have been raised; public and private entities are motivated in holding the activities of promoting Tais at events such as fairs and exhibitions in the celebration of national and commemorative days and wearing Tais in official and formal ceremonies and so on. In addition, at the local level weavers and local authorities are working together to create weaving groups in their villages to continue to revive the tradition of making Tais within their community.

One of the significant unexpected result in this phase was establishment of National Day of Tais, traditional textile. The National Parliament of Timor-Leste has established a resolution of the parliament *Resolução do Parlamento Nacional N.º 2/2022* in establishing December 14th of each year as Tais national day. The law calls upon the Government, communities, schools and the population in general to organize actions to promote Tais on December 14 of each year, to promote the knowledge, dissemination and use of Tais in the territory of Timor-Leste and among Timorese communities around the world. In addition, the resolution also appeal to the use the Tais in the various contexts of social life, particularly in official ceremonies.

### **Description of project implementation**

*Provide a description of the activities undertaken and the outputs they generated (e.g. trainings, consultation process, technical assistance, awareness raising, publications, toolkits, etc.). Also describe any problems encountered in project delivery and corrective actions taken. Describe the role of the implementing agency and of the partner agency (in the case of a service from UNESCO project) and the role of other implementing partners in carrying out activities and generating outputs.*

*Not fewer than 1000 or more than 1500 words*

Overall, seven main activities were carried out in the second instalment of the project, six of which were covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund together with the State budget and another one covered by the partner agency UNMOEN Timor-Leste.

#### **1. Permanent Exhibition**

At this stage, the activity of installing the permanent exhibition was considerably delayed and did not achieve the expected result, which was supposed to be completed by May 2023. In spite of this, the following work was carried out:

- a) Prepared a suitable space to set up the Tais workshop, to be used for live weaving once the exhibition opens. This space is located outside the exhibition hall and preparation work has been carried out, such as cleaning, assembling materials and redesigning the space.
- b) Settled the real live weaving miniature inside the exhibition hall. The miniature

composed of Creative painting of housing and environment, running water and half-finished of Tais weaving, which reflecting the traditional live of Timorese weavers.

- c) Gathered the information about the producing and weaving process of the Tais. 13 objects of the raw material to making and weaving Tais and 22 Tais objects were collected in the community and another 24 Tais objects offered by Timor Aid. The process of preparing and designing the print materials for the exhibition, such as banners, booklets and brochures, is underway.
- d) The building repair process is almost finalized. 6 Vitrines with acrylic to make the exhibition of original Tais and 6 exhibition boxes to hold the raw material and natural dye are produced.

These activities are considerably significant progress in this phase. With this, the team ensure to complete the permanent exhibition in forth coming period, even though some of activity planed cannot be realized in this phase.

## **2. Brochure on Tais**

The Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry through the National Directorate of Tourism Promotion and International Relations lead the activity. 1000 brochures produced in three different languages; English, Portuguese and Tetum. The content of the brochure shows the richness, characteristic and meaning of Tais, which represent the ethnicity in its uniqueness, representing the character of the Timorese people. Six different categories of Tais are placed in the brochure, namely; Tais Fehan (Tais from the Tetun Terik community), Tais Fataluku, Tais Kemak, Tais Bunak, Tais Baiqueno and Tais Makasae. The brochure also shows the abundance of meaning and colour variation present in Tais and its important information for the knowledge of the people of Timor-Leste. The brochure also indicates the location and contact.

In occasion of celebration of National Day of Tais, the brochure was launched officially, attended by more than hundred people. The brochure have distributed to five tourist hubs in Dili such as Hotel Timor, Hotel Timor Plaza, Hotel Novo Tuirsmo, International Airport Nicolau Lobato and Tourist Information Centre of the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry. In addition, the brochure also distributed to domestic and foreign tourist who participated at the launching ceremony and few national entities and students have accessed to the brochure.

## **3. Promotion of Tais in Fairs**

Tais promotion in the fairs was held twice in December 2022. The first was



organized by Minister of Tourism Commerce and Industry together with TL National ICH Committee, in the context of celebration of National Day of Tais. The fair ran for four (4) consecutive days in Dili, from 11 to 14 November 2022, participated by one hundred (100) weavers from all municipalities of the country. At the fair, the weavers were selling their Tais and other products made from Tais such as bag, hair scratches, small coin bag, pencil case, jewelry accessories and others utility for souvenir with Tais.

On December 14, which marked one year since the Inscription of Tais, in the UNESCO's list of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, more than hundreds of people, university students, members of cultural groups and public officials participated in a long march with Tais in Dili, the capital of Timor-Leste. Students from the National University (UNTL) organized an event called "One Day with Tais"; with various activities such as painting contest about Tais, photography contest with Tais, showcasing cultural performances such as traditional dance and music and dialogue about Tais among students from different universities.

The second fair of Tais is Alola Christmas Fair; it was the annual activity of Alola Foundation – Women's Economy Empowerment Program. Prior to the fair, on December 1, 2022, 16 women weavers, representatives of the artisan group from the municipalities of Ainaro, Baucau, Bobonaro, Dili, Liquica and Viqueque met and shared information during the half-day workshop on how to improve the products quality and practicing the process of making natural colours. After the workshop, continued with the Alola Christmas Fair, which took place on 3 – 4 December 2022. Fifth-three (53) artisan groups from the municipalities of Aileu, Ainaro, Baucau, Dili, Liquiça, Lautem, Viqueue and Oe-Cusse attended the fair. The products sold at the fair were vary i.e Tais, scarf bags with Tais, and others artisan products such as wood carving, palm weaving, local foods, virgin coconut oil, recycle products, accessories and others. At least more than five hundred (500) attendees visited fair; from local and international buyers as well as student.

#### **4. Training on local cotton and natural dyeing**

The activity of training on local cotton and natural dyeing held in two different municipalities in February 2023; implemented by Alola Foundation through its Women's Economy Empowerment program. The training aimed to encourage and motivate women, especially young women, to learn and use the natural colour and local cotton during Tais production. Moreover, as a way to spread the natural Timorese dyeing ingredient that the ancestors colored together in the times past.

The first training took place in Manatuto Municipality during three days, from 1-3 February 2023. Twenty-three weavers from "Buka Dalan" group participated in the

training, which is including three man weavers. Throughout the training, eight natural colours were produced, using plant species that surrounded the community such as Dark yellow, Light yellow, Blue, Dark green, Light green, brown, pink and red. And the second training carried out in Aileu Municipality from 15 – 17 February 2023. Traditionally, women in the municipality of Aileu are prohibited from weaving Tais, only married women from another region could weave, however through this training twenty-four weavers from “Lara Hicu” group attended the training during three days. During the training, the weavers have succeeded to produce ten natural colours using plant species that surrounded the community such as Red, Dark yellow, Light yellow, Blue, Green, Pink, Violet, Orange and Brown.

Generally, forty-seven weavers attended the training with enthusiasm and good willingness to learn new things. There were two main topics delivered during the training activities. Started with a small survey about the participants' knowledge of natural colours, identifying the plant species that surrounded the community based on the experience of the groups. Thereafter the trainer trained and facilitated the weavers to practice fixing natural colour with plant species that surrounded the community. The group members gave their full attention to receiving new knowledge from the Alola team about natural colour receipts and local cotton spinning.

Beyond training, the Alola Foundation distributed the Sewing Machine to the three groups that attended the training on local cotton and the dyeing and diversification of products made by Tais to support the group's growth and sustainability in the future.

## **5. Data research on Tais**

The Secretariat of State for Art and Culture (SEAC), as the government body responsible for the cultural sector in Timor-Leste, having established an action plan to safeguard the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Timor-Leste; one of the plans is the research on Traditional Tais Textiles throughout the country. From 2011 to 2022, SEAC, in cooperation with the Civil Society Organization, have already done research on Tais in eight (8) municipalities such as; Bononaro, Baucau, Covalima, Lautém, Oe-Cusé, Ainaro, Ermera and Viqueque, and the result of this research has been published in a book with three different languages, Tetun (National Language), Portuguese and English.

In accordance with the framework of urgent safeguarding of Tais, from September to December 2022, SEAC in cooperation with the Kor Timor Company conducted a research on Tais in Liquiçá Municipality, where it covered three administrative posts such as Liquiçá Villa, Maubara and Bazartete. The research focused on the identification of Tais based on the ethnic group of the community, the meanings and classes of Tais, and their cultural and historical value. In addition, documentation of

the Tais through filming and images was also part of the research.

The research found that, numbers of the weavers are commonly elder women and do not visible in whole municipality. In the administrative post of Maubara only found the weaver in village of Lukalai and Lisadila, in the administrative post of Liquiça Village found in Dato Village and Administrative post of Bazartete found in Maumeta Village. Despite that, with the support of local authority and community in general the research could find relevant information and data on Tais, traditional textile.

The data and information collected from the research are now in analysing and writing process and once it finalized, it will be publishing in three languages as the other previous publications of Tais from Municipalities.

## **6. Tais Weaving Competition for Youth**

This activity held in two different municipalities, in Ermera municipality the western part of the country and Baucau municipality the east part of the country during six days from 20 to 25 March 2023. The main objective of the event is to stimulate the attention of young people to the Tais weaving process in order to transfer the local knowledge of Tais weaving and to ensure the sustainability of Tais weaving for the next generation.

The competition was participated by twelve groups; each group in the contest consisted of two young women and one older woman, the young women weaving Tais and the older one accompanied and guided throughout the process. Six groups from Ermera municipality such as; Kultura Hamrik Metin Group, Halibur Kultura Group, Tane Kultura Group, Hatutan Kultura Group, Hadomi Kultura Group and Buka mak Hetan Group with a total number of eighteen weavers participated in the competition. On the other hand, six groups from Baucau Municipality such as Feto Tais Group, Calma Group, Domin no Dame Group, Na Afa Group, Sama Rai Metin Group and Sol Group with a total number of eighteen weavers were participated in the competition.

In addition, during the contest the participants also exchange and share their experiences, knowledge of Tais weaving skills and different techniques acquired with each other. As the competitions were held in the village, the local authorities and communities were attracted and enthusiastic to attend the program; many expectations arose among the communities to continue the activity regularly.

## **7. Training for Weavers' Network**

UNWOMEN in collaborating with Timor Aid and Alola Foundation through the program of Institutional capacity building of the weaver's network "Rede Soru na'in"

carried out following activity:

- a) Continue conducting capacity building for weavers Network in the municipality of Viqueque, Baucau and Covalima.
- b) Developed the brand for Rede Soru Na'in and communication supports through video filming, contracting with legal services for Legal Registration of Rede Soru Na'in
- c) Developed the Rede Soru Na'in Facebook page #Rede Soru Na'in#
- d) Supported the participation of Rede Soru Na'in representative and local authorities in attending the event of launching the Rede Soru Na'in branding and announcement of the future Rede Soru Na'in store in Dili, on 11th of April 2023.

### **Community involvement**

*Provide a description of the mechanisms used for fully involving the community(ies) concerned. Describe not only the participation of the communities as beneficiaries of the project, but also their active participation in the planning and implementation of all activities.*

*Not fewer than 300 or more than 500 words*

Basically, the urgent safeguard plan for Tais was raised by weavers, community and local authorities, guardians and holders of Timor-Leste's cultural heritage at the national consultation forum held in April 2019, prior to the nomination process. Representatives of Tais weavers from all municipalities raised their voices to safeguard

The Tais and addressed the main challenges that endanger the Tais as well as proposing the main activities to be carried out. The TL ICH national committee implemented the safeguard activities within the communities, and prioritized the full participation of weavers in all stages of activity implementation.

In this phase of project implementation, the two activities carried out such as; Training on local cotton and natural dyeing and Tais weaving competition for youth were proactively participated by more than eighty weavers from different municipalities. Besides being beneficiaries, the weavers actively supported the National ICH committee members in organizing the activity held at their region, encouraged the community especially young women to participate at the safeguarding activities. Identify and organize the trainees at the community to attend the trainings activity were the main role played by existing group weavers.

During the training sessions, the weavers had the opportunity to exchange and share their experiences, knowledge, Tais weaving skills and different techniques acquired with each other. The recommendations and suggestions raised by the weavers during the training sessions recorded, most of the weavers suggested that the training should continue with more days possible in order to gain more knowledge and experience and gain relevant technique from each other is important for them to develop themselves and their groups.

The weavers' network established in six municipalities, such as Baucau, Bobonaro, Covalim, Lautem, Oé-cusse – RAEOA and Viqueque continues the extension of the

network, bringing together weavers from different administrative posts and villages, in order to raise the voices of all weavers within the community. Recently, more than 600 collective weavers actively in the weaver's network established.

Throughout the implementation of the weavers' network activities, the community leader "Xefe Suku" and the local authorities expressed their support in order to guarantee the sustainability of the networks in particular for the well-being of the weavers and the community in general. The concrete action taken by the authority was the assignment of land to the weavers' network in Lautem Municipality in order to create the plant ecosystem for the sustainable production of Tais traditional.

### **Sustainability and exit/transition strategy**

*Describe how the benefits of the project will continue after the project has been completed. Where appropriate, describe the steps undertaken to ensure the following:*

- *Sustainability of activities, outputs and results, including with reference to how capacity has been built under the project. Also describe any planned follow-up measures to ensure sustainability.*
- *Additional funding secured as a result of this project, if any. Indicate by whom, how much and for what purpose the contributions are granted.*

*Describe how the ownership (of activities, outputs, results) by stakeholders and the community(ies) in particular has been promoted.*

*Describe, if relevant, how tools, processes, outputs, etc. have been adopted, adapted, replicated and/or extended for future use (e.g. in other regions, communities, elements, or fields of intangible cultural heritage).*

*Not fewer than 100 or more than 500 words*

Generally, all safeguard activity remains to be completed in the next phase of project implementation. To guarantee the sustainability of the entire activity, the result achieved should be fully, however most of the results attained in this phase are partially.

The project implementation in this phase, the production of the brochure on Tais has been fully completed at this stage; hence, the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry, through the Tourism Information Centre, is responsible for reprinting the brochure as soon as the brochure is out of stock. Reproduction of the brochure on Tais will be one of the annual action plans of Tourism Information Centre in order to promote Tais to the tourist and visitors.

Furthermore, some activities have already generated their sustainability, for example through the training activities, the weavers are trained and empowered to continue to find their way to transmit the knowledge to the other members of the group, especially to the young generation and engaged the young female into the weaving group was highlighted. After the trainings conducted, the weavers transmit the knowledge of weaving not only through oral traditional, but also by providing some training to group members. The Tais weaving competition encouraged and motivated the young women to participate actively in the weaving group existing in different municipalities.

Getting involved in weaving groups is like acting in the labour market in order to earn income and it is a business opportunity to promote and sell their products. And there have been advantages to the weavers in receiving assistance from the ICH Fund, government and NGOs to facilitate the improvement of the quality of the Tais, to continue passing on the knowledge to the youth, and to advocate for the preservation of the tradition.

At the national level, many initiatives to promote Tais have been raise; public and private

entities are motivated in holding the activities of promoting Tais at events such as fairs and exhibitions in the celebration of national and commemorative days and wearing Tais in official and formal ceremonies and so on. On the other hand, the TL National ICH Committee is committed to implement all the activity of the urgent safeguard plan from 2022 to 2025.

## Lessons learnt

*Describe what are the key lessons learnt regarding the following:*

- *Attainment of expected results*
- *Ownership of key stakeholders and community involvement*
- *Delivery of project outputs*
- *Project management and implementation*
- *Sustainability of the project after the assistance*

*Not fewer than 300 or more than 750 words*

The main lessons learned from how to attain the expected results in the implementation of this second period is collaborative work between project implementer and beneficiaries was essential to carry out successfully the activity; conducting consultation and consent with the beneficiaries and local authorities before implement the activity in the municipality.

In regards to the joining fund, it was necessary to assure the liquidation of the state budget ahead, because the bureaucracy of the government's financial system caused the delay in the implementation of project activities. For instance, the activity of Training on Business could not implement in this phase due to the delay of cash out the state budget.

The involvement of the individual weavers in a group, practically contributed to the implementation of the training activities in the project. The collaborative action among weavers, mutual support and mutual help in training allowed the participant to grow-up and motivate to continue the process of making Tais within the community. Public awareness about Tais in the country rose, through the various safeguard activities implemented, the media involved in activities also played a crucial role in making sure that, from the local community to government entities, and international agencies in Timor-Leste are aware.

Regarding the management of the project's execution, it was necessary to proceed to a budget readjustment in the headings. The project management have to breakdown the budget of some item. For instance, the budget of "rental service" item in the "Tais Weaving Competition for Youth" had to use for additional expenses needs, such as payroll tax, cash handling fee and social security. In addition, it fractioned the budget also needed in order to obtain the specific objects that the project required.

Finally, the ministerial lines integrated in the TL National ICH Committee have planned in their annual activity of 2023 to implement the Tais safeguarding activity. All activity funds by ICH fund and State budget are remain to implement in the next period. The safeguard activity, whose implementation at this stage has been completed, the government of Timor-Leste and national NGOs are responsible for continuing to carry out in order to safeguard

and promote the Tais at local, national and international level.

## Annexes

*List the annexes and documentation included in the report:*

- *publications, evaluation reports and other outputs, when applicable*
- *progress reports prepared during the contract period*
- *list of major equipment provided under the project and status after termination of contract period*
- *other (please specify)*

## Name and signature of the person having completed the report

Francisco Barreto

Executive Secretary of Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO

Date: June 06, 2023

Signature:

