

UNDP Fact sheet

Strategic Planning and Action to strengthen climate resilience
of Rural Communities in Nusa Tenggara Timor Province
SPARC

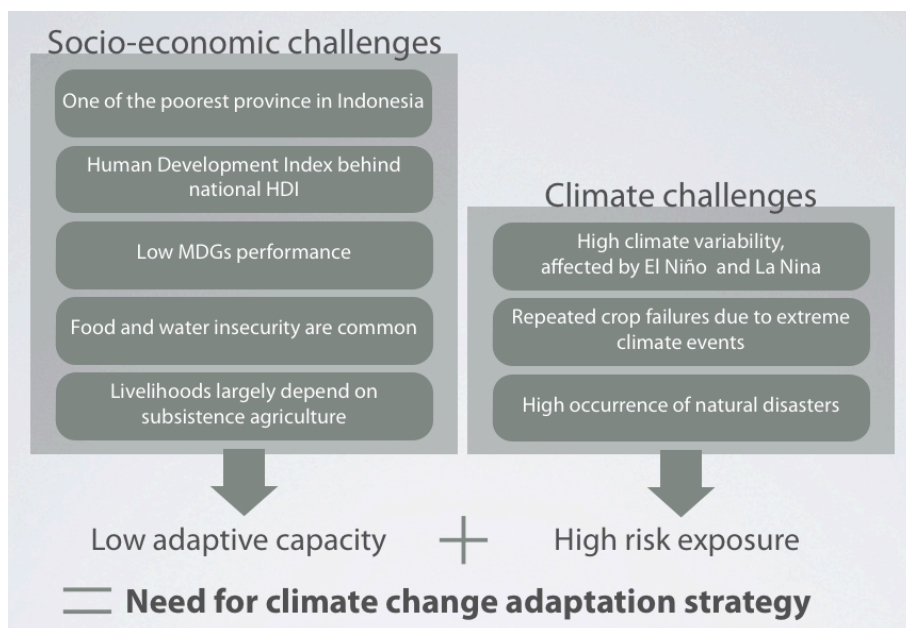


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Approach

The province of East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) is located in the eastern part of Indonesia. It consists of about 550 islands, with Flores, Sumba and West Timor as the main islands. NTT is one of the poorest provinces in Indonesia with a poverty incidence of 25.7%, compared to 16% nationally (Source: Central Statistics Agency, BPS – 2008). The comparatively high level of poverty is a chronic problem, and has been for decades. This is also reflected in the Human Development Index (HDI) for NTT which continues to be far behind the national HDI. While the national HDI today reflects the status of a middle income country, the HDI for NTT is at the level of a least developed country such as Lao PDR. The disparity between NTT and the rest of Indonesia is of concern in terms of social and political stability in the province.



Challenges facing rural communities in NTT province

communities in NTT are hence highly dependent on the climate for their subsistence agricultural production and water resources. Ensuring food and water security is already a major challenge. The impact of ongoing and future climate-induced perturbations will very likely exceed the coping capacity of many rural communities in NTT.

The SPARC project, led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with support from Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), focuses on strengthening and developing climate-resilient institutions and rural communities around livelihoods, food and water security. In partnership with the Ministry of Environment (KLH) at national level and the Regional Planning and Development Agency (BAPPEDA) of NTT Province, the SPARC project is expected to contribute to the development of national policies on climate change adaptation. In the three pilot districts of East Sumba, Manggarai and Sabu Raijua, SPARC is expected to also result in the development of 120 community action plans based on identified future climate risks and vulnerability assessments.



SPARC pilot districts in NTT province: East Sumba, Manggarai, Sabu Raijua

Livelihoods in NTT are overwhelmingly dependent on agriculture (80%), and rural incomes are around six times lower than urban incomes. Agriculture mainly takes place in the form of subsistence-based rain fed crop production. Rural

Based on these assessments, a community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategy will be prepared and the trained local facilitators will guide the implementation with the communities in order to manage the climate-induced risks affecting water, food and livelihood security. The implementation time frame of the SPARC project will be from the end of 2012 until the end of 2016.

Expected results

To enable the NTT province to strengthen the climate resilience of its rural communities, UNDP will take the following courses of action in line with the 2010-2014 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) and the upcoming National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation (RAN-API):

Developing institutional capacity to integrate climate resilience in sustainable development at provincial and district level

Due to the lack of systematic institutional capacity development for climate change adaptation, no local government officials are mandated to support the integration of climate resilience in provincial and district policies and programmes. UNDP will develop capacity by:

- Institutionalizing a **multistakeholder dialogue at provincial and district level** with representatives of government agencies, members of parliament, media, universities and CSOs that have been capacitated to address climate change adaptation;
- Providing training to at least **100 people** from central and local government that will be **mandated to support climate-resilient planning**;
- Strengthening the knowledge, systems and human resources of local institutions to better **address climate variability**;
- Supporting the **integration of climate change resilience in the NTT's Medium-Term Development Plan 2014-2018**, and policies and programmes on agriculture and water; and
- Facilitating the integration of key policies, programmes, and necessary budget allocations to **prioritize adaptation actions** by the provincial government and three district governments.

Strengthening the livelihoods of vulnerable rural communities in a changing climate

Currently, the majority of rural households in the target districts regard themselves as highly vulnerable to climate risks. This can be explained by the fact that limited climate risk reduction and awareness raising activities are carried out at local level. UNDP will strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities by:

- Developing a **community-based climate risk information system** covering at least 120 communities;
- Supporting at least 40 communities to **switch from subsistence farming to more flexible practices** taking into account variable and extreme climatic conditions to strengthen food security;
- Assisting at least 40 communities to become more resilient by **diversifying sources of income** which are less sensitive to climate change;
- **Improving the water resources infrastructure and management** in at least 40 communities, taking into account projected changes in rainfall patterns; and
- Introducing at least five types of **climate risk reduction measures** in the three target districts, of which at least three measures are **specifically targeting women**. As a result, at least 75% of the households that have implemented adaptation measures regard themselves less vulnerable to climate change related risks.

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