

# Session1: Opportunities and role of LINKS for STI policies in DRR

The Regional Workshop on Promoting Use of  
Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems  
(LINKS) in ICTs to deliver SDG 17 in Timor-  
Leste

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# Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems



## Definition of UNESCO:

- LINKS is understandings, skills and philosophies developed by societies with long histories of interaction with their natural surroundings. For rural and indigenous peoples, such knowledge informs decision-making about fundamental aspects of day-to-day life.



# Benefits of including LINKS in DRR

According to Shaw et al. (2008), the four primary arguments for including local and indigenous knowledge in disaster risk reduction policies are:

- Indigenous knowledge **can be transferred** and adapted to other communities in similar situations;
- Incorporating indigenous knowledge **encourages community participation and empowers communities** in reducing disaster risk;
- Indigenous knowledge can provide **invaluable information about the local context**; and
- The **non-formal means of disseminating** indigenous knowledge can serve as a model for education about disaster risk reduction.

# Session structure

- **Dr. Antero Benedito da Silva, *Director of Post Graduate in Peace and Conflict Studies, UNTL***

Pedagogy of the Earth about Local Knowledge  
or Pedagogy of the land and local knowledge (In Portuguese  
Pedagogia da Terra em Torno do Saber local)
- **Mr. Zenito Sandata, Director of Kdadalak Sulimutuk Institute, Timor-Leste**
- **Ms Natalia Saeed, consultant UNESCO Antenna Office Dili, Timor-Leste**

Asia-Pacific Facility for Accelerating Science and  
Technology in SDGs and Timor-Leste
- **Panel Discussion**



# LINKS activities in UNESCO



# Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems



## Objectives of LINKS (Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems) Programme

Advocate recognition and mobilization of the unique knowledge, know-how and practices of local and indigenous peoples in order to strengthen their capacity to make their own informed choices for a sustainable future

### The LINKS Programme

- Strengthens knowledge transmission between elders and youth
- explores pathways to balance community-based knowledge with global knowledge in formal and non-formal education

# Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems



## Key modalities for LINKS Action :

- Demonstration projects in collaboration with rural and indigenous communities
- Action research on key concerns and issues
- Information and communication technologies to record, manage and transmit indigenous knowledge and know-how
- Training to build local capacities in relevant multimedia techniques
- international workshops and seminars to promote reflection and dialogue

## LINKS Activities

- **Publication :**  
Water, Cultural, Diversity
- 
- Community-based research on traditional ecological knowledge, Community Learning Centres (CLCs) in Timor Leste (May - December 2011)
  - Strengthening Resilience of Coastal and Small Island Communities Towards Hydro-Meteorological Hazards and Climate Change Impacts in Indonesia, Philippines and Timor Leste (StresCOM) – 2011/2014

# SteResCom 2011- 2014

- **Recollection of LINKS** related to hydro-met hazards and climate change adaptation (KSI)
- **Development of material for educational** and awareness about local adaptation strategies by communities
- Development & implementation of **policy tool**: “Scientific Knowledge”: A checklist for communities, local and national governments (promote, support, identification, documentation, validation, and integration)





United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



## Local and indigenous knowledge for community resilience

*Hydro-meteorological disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in coastal and small island communities*



Figure 1.2: Activities of the StResCom project, phases 1-2



