

# Can a Sovereign Wealth Fund Prevent the Resource Curse? The Experience of Timor-Leste

**Charles Scheiner, La'ó Hamutuk**

Timor-Leste Institute for Development Monitoring and Analysis

At the webinar organized by the

**Centro para Democracia e Desenvolvimento**  
Maputo, Mozambique

Online, 27 August 2020



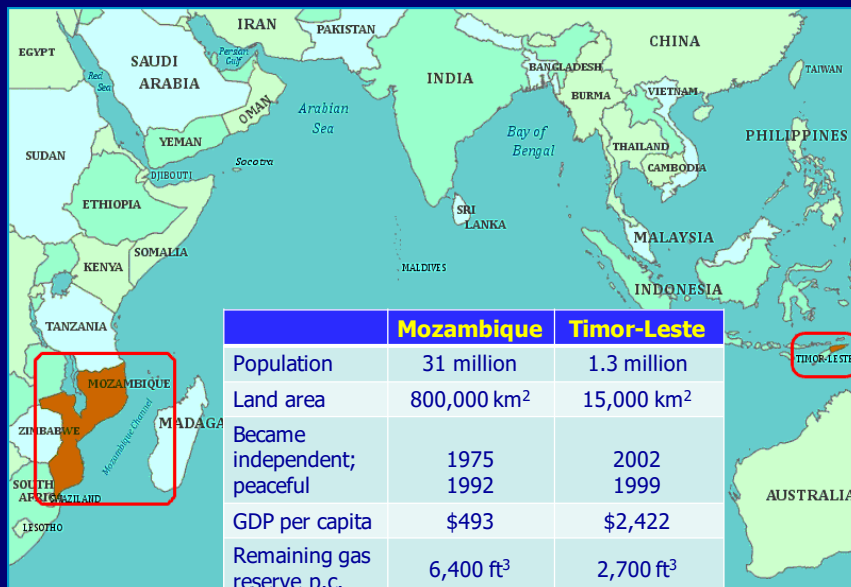
## Contents

**Timor-Leste created its 'Petroleum Fund' SWF in 2005 to avoid the 'resource curse' that afflicts many petroleum-export-dependent nations.**

### **Has it been effective?**

- 1. Introduction to Timor-Leste**
- 2. Timor-Leste's Petroleum Fund: goals and mechanisms**
- 3. How has it worked so far?**
- 4. Prospects for the future**

## 1. Introduction to Timor-Leste



## 2004: Why the "resource curse" could have been even worse in Timor-Leste

### No history of democracy or self-government

- Only a few people (returned exiles) had ever lived under a government that even pretended to serve the public interest.
- Tradition of resistance -- not constructive criticism, coalition-building, alternatives or compromise -- with top-down decision-making.

### New laws and public service with little experience of honesty, good governance or accountability

- Limited number of skilled people requires dual roles, reducing oversight and increasing appearance of nepotism.
- Just-invented government structures lack adequate oversight and separation of powers, with unclear and conflicting responsibilities.
- Learned inefficiency from Portugal, corruption from Indonesia and overpaid, unqualified personnel from the UN.

### Extreme (80%) dependency on oil and gas revenue

## And why it could be reduced

**We could learn from the good and bad experiences of other oil and gas producers.**

- Oil industry in TL was not yet large or entrenched

**People fought for and still value national sovereignty and democracy.**

- Many active NGOs and civil society groups

**Most reserves are offshore, processed abroad.**

- Lower social and environmental risks and impacts

## Petroleum Dependency (nominal USD)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Petroleum GDP	\$4,234 (75%)	\$2,591 (64%)	\$1,496 (48%)	\$820 (33%)	\$895 (36%)	n.a.
Non-oil GDP	\$1,396 (25%)	\$1,447 (36%)	\$1,597 (52%)	\$1,656 (67%)	\$1,610 (64%)	\$1,569
Productive (agric. & manuf.)	\$308	\$309	\$292	\$292	\$290	\$300

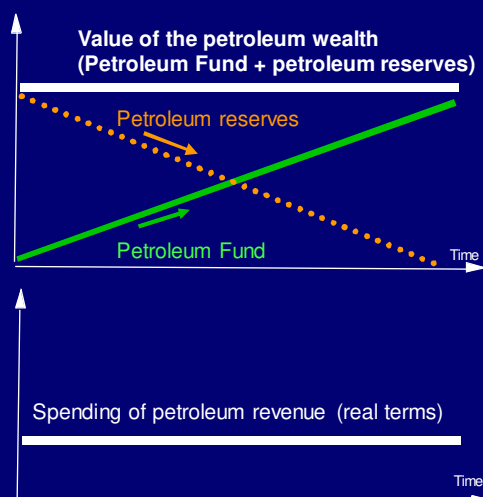
- State revenues in 2019:..... **\$3,043 million**  
 \$2,101 million from investing the Petroleum Fund  
 \$ 756 million from oil and gas revenues  
 \$ 186 million from non-petroleum sources
- Executed 2019 State Budget:..... **\$1,241 million**  
 \$969 million transferred from the Petroleum Fund  
 \$186 million from non-petroleum (domestic) revenues  
 \$ 50 million from loans which will have to be repaid  
 \$ 36 million carried over from 2018
- State activities, paid for with oil money, are nearly half of the 'non-oil' economy because some of this money circulates in the local economy.
- Petroleum doesn't provide jobs, subcontracts, or money for people – revenue goes to the State.  
 Only 0.1% of the workforce is in oil and gas: 339 Timorese and 287 foreigners.

## 2. TL's Petroleum Fund: goals and implementation

- Decouple oil revenues from state spending
- Stabilize against production and price fluctuations
- Earn investment return for sustainability when oil and gas are used up "for the benefit of current and future generations"
- Improve transparency and management of oil revenues, prevent corruption
- Ensure that decisions are open and democratic
- Investment is to earn revenues; withdrawals (through the state budget) can develop the country

## Theory behind the Petroleum Fund

- Petroleum revenue is not income in the usual sense – it is a conversion of wealth from one form to another.
- Government petroleum revenue is different from other tax revenues.
- Revenue from the oil and gas sector varies over time.



**Sustainable expenditure benefiting both current and future generations**

## 'Estimated Sustainable Income'

- Will provide steady revenue flow to the state budget.
- 3% of (Balance + NPV of future oil and gas revenues)
- Could provide constant revenues forever.

### But

- Investment real return has often been less than 3%.
- Population, prices and people's expectations grow.
- Overspending happens almost every year.
- The rules were weakened in 2011, 2018 and 2019.

## Petroleum Fund Law no. 9/2005

- All oil and gas-related income goes directly into the Fund.
- Invested in overseas liquid instruments: initially all U.S. gov't bonds; gradually included other bonds and stocks.
- Withdrawal requires Parliamentary approval (usually through the State Budget).
- Mandates regular reports, consultation and transparency.
- Petroleum Fund cannot be used as collateral for loans.
- Estimated Sustainable Income (ESI) guideline.
- Revised three times:
  - 2011: investment profile, ESI and collateral rules
  - 2018: extraordinary withdrawals
  - 2019: 5% invested domestically in a petroleum project

**Petroleum revenue peaked in 2012, and this is how it flowed in and out of the Petroleum Fund that year.**

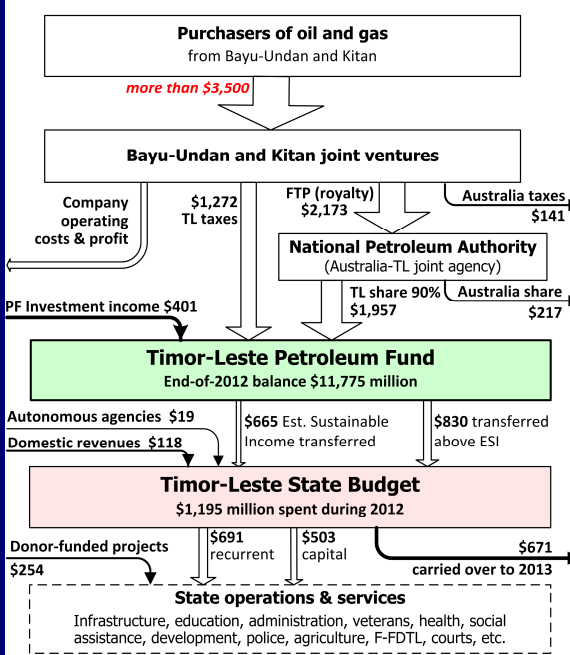
The basic structure hasn't changed, but details have.

From 2005 thru 6/2020:  
 \$23.0 bn oil & gas revenues  
 + \$ 6.9 bn investment returns  
 - **\$11.8 bn withdrawn\***  
**\$18.1 bn balance**

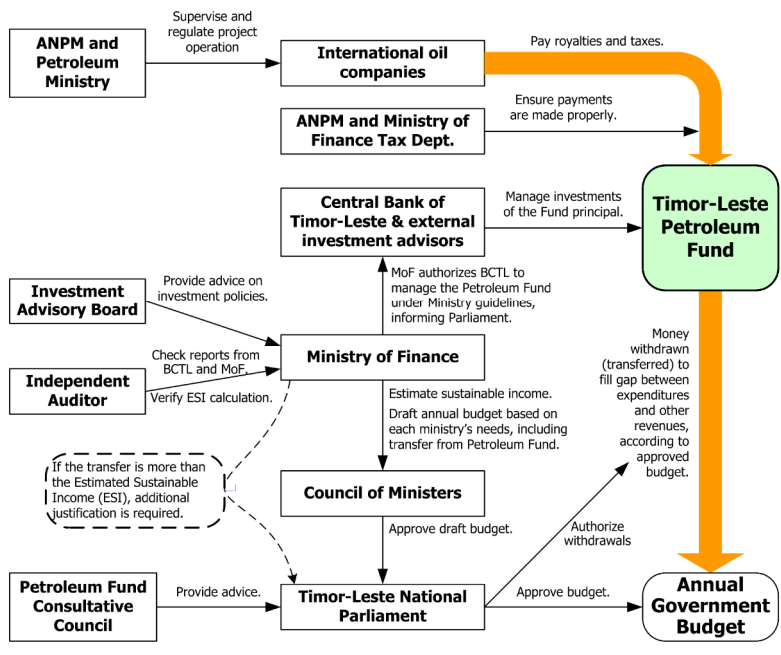
\*\$7.4bn ESI, \$4.4bn above ESI

**Timor-Leste's Petroleum Revenue Streams**

Totals for 2012. Millions of U.S. dollars, estimates in *italics*.



**Agencies involved with Timor-Leste's Petroleum Fund**



### 3. How has it worked so far?

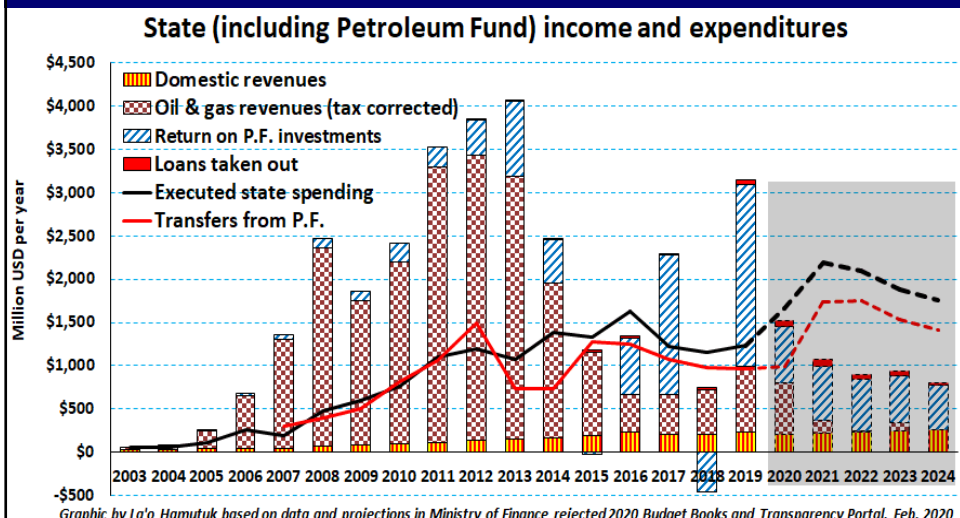
#### Timor-Leste has avoided

- Spending the money as fast as it comes in
- State budgets fluctuating with oil prices and production
- Significant oil money being diverted or stolen
- Having nothing left when the oil and gas runs out
- Invasion, occupation and war

#### But

- The fund is being depleted by overspending.
- Investment returns are unpredictable.
- Rules were weakened to enable insecure investments.
- The TimorGAP Nat'l Oil Company escapes accountability.

### Spending now exceeds income.

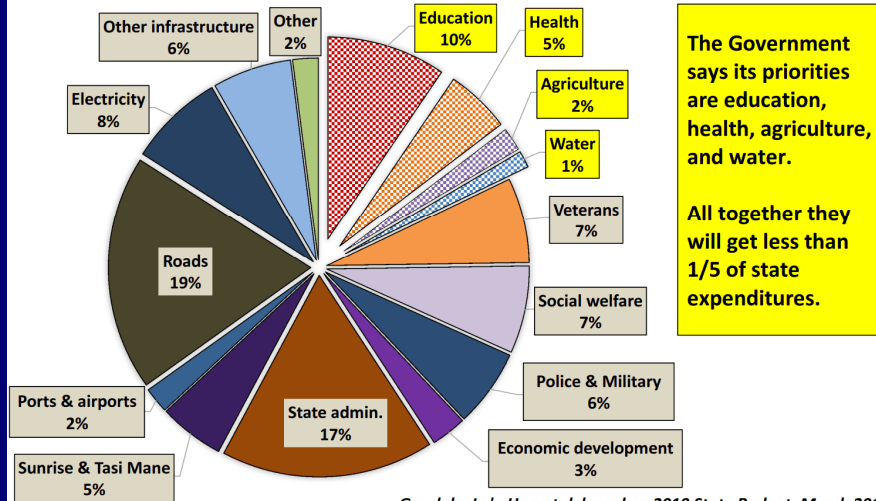


Graphic by La'o Hamutuk based on data and projections in Ministry of Finance rejected 2020 Budget Books and Transparency Portal. Feb. 2020

Figures from 2020 on are Ministry of Finance projections.

## The money doesn't match the promises.

### Appropriations in the promulgated 2019 State Budget \$1.482 billion total



## 2019: withdrawal called 'investment'

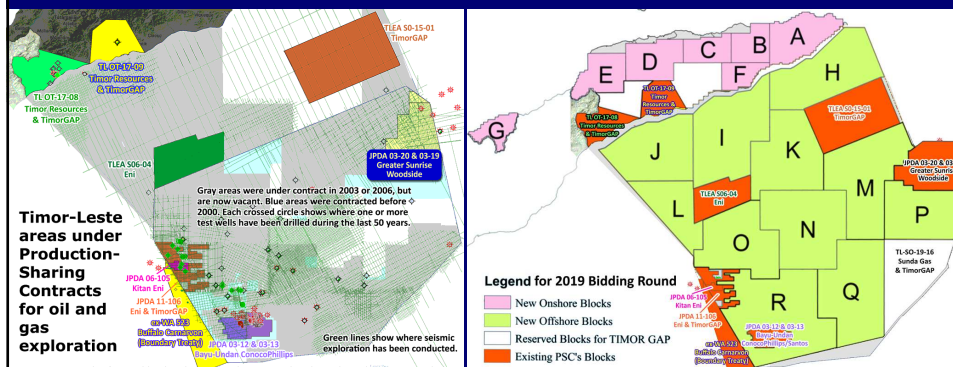
- In 2018, Timor-Leste agreed to pay \$650 million to buy into the Sunrise offshore petroleum Joint Venture.
- In early 2019, the Central Bank and Government revised the Petroleum Fund investment policy.
- In April 2019, the Petroleum Fund 'loaned' \$650 million to the TimorGAP NOC for 18 years at 4.5% interest, repayable starting in 2027.
- TimorGAP bought 57% of Sunrise, and has to come up with more than \$15 billion for capital expenditures.
- No outside investors are interested in the project.
- It's possible, but uncertain, that Sunrise will be financially viable and able to repay the investments.



## 4. Prospects for the future

Since 1910, oil companies drilled 95 exploration wells and found eight commercially viable reserves. Only one was discovered in the last 25 years, and it's now empty.

The government wants companies to look in the same places again, but they might not find any more.



## Current context and developments

- Very little future oil income; 97% of money from producing fields already received. Future fields are likely to provide less annual income than past ones.
- Population, expectations, maintenance costs and salaries keep going up.
- U.S. and global financial markets are volatile and uncertain.
- About 5% of the Petroleum Fund is no longer liquid or tradeable.
- Renewable energy is getting cheaper, and growing awareness of the climate emergency will make fossil fuels less valuable in the future.

## **Many challenges lie ahead.**

- **Accessing and analyzing public information**
- **Resisting the temptation to overspend or make unwise investments**
- **Ensuring that children, rural poor, women and other vulnerable people's rights are respected**
- **Preventing lenders and companies from robbing the people**
- **Making the national oil company transparent and accountable to public needs**
- **Developing a diversified, sustainable economy**

## **The "resource curse" remains.**

- **Unsustainable spending levels**
- **Denial that the oil and gas will run out soon**
- **Neglect of human resources and non-oil sectors**
- **Poor planning**
- **Different rules for 'petroleum operations'**
- **Preference for showy mega-projects**
- **Increasing gap between rich and poor**
- **Greed, corruption, mismanagement**

## Lessons from Timor-Leste's petroleum revenue experience

- Sovereign Wealth Fund and transparency help, but cannot prevent the resource curse alone.
- It's easy to make rules before oil money pours in, but hard to follow them after it arrives.
- People expected too much from the Fund.
- Politicians can change laws easily.
- The temptation to overspend is very powerful.
- Non-government actors need to be stronger.

## Muito obrigado.

You will find more and updated information at

- La'ó Hamutuk's website  
<http://www.laohamutuk.org>
- La'ó Hamutuk's blog  
<http://laohamutuk.blogspot.com/>

**Timor-Leste Institute for Development Monitoring and Analysis**

Rua D. Alberto Ricardo, Bebora, Dili, Timor-Leste

Mailing address: P.O. Box 340, Dili, Timor-Leste

Telephone: +670 7234330 (mobile) +670 3321040 (landline)

Email: [laohamutuk@gmail.com](mailto:laohamutuk@gmail.com)



The following slides include additional information for questions and discussion.

Use [www.laohamutuk.org](http://www.laohamutuk.org)

Instituto ba Analiza no Monitor Dezenvolvimento iha Timor-Leste  
 Timor-Leste Institute for Development Monitoring and Analysis  
 Institut Pertantauan dan Analisis Pembangunan Timor-Leste

Bulletin | Surat Popular | Topic Index | Reports & Announcements  
 Reference | Presentations | Mission Statement | LH Blog | Home

La'ó Hamutuk

PO Box 340, Dili, Timor-Leste  
 Wired phone: +670-3321040, Mobile: +670-77234330 [laohamutuk@gmail.com](mailto:laohamutuk@gmail.com)

Go to the [Topic Index](#) to look up any posting by subject.  
 Go to the [Updates Page](#) to see new items on this website.  
 Go to the [Reference Index](#) (also Tetum) to find documents.

Type in this box to search La'ó Hamutuk website and blog:

ENHANCED BY Google

**Pagina indise**

- Estado Emergência (7/20)
- Orsamentu Estado 2021 (8/20)
- Orsamentu Estado 2020 (8/20)
- Orsamentu Estado 2019 (8/20)
- Fundu Petróleiru (8/20)
- Rádio Javaldêde podcasts (6/20)
- Prosesu Kona-ba-Sai (10/17)
- Orsamentu Estado 2017-2018 (2/20)
- Kodisau Ministru (10/19)
- Fronteira marítima (5/14)
- Konferénsia daader nian (8/19)
- Puntu Tibax (10/18)
- Vozu Korupsaun Bobby Boye (1/16)
- Proposta minis / de Tasi Marcu (9/12)
- Base Konsensamentu Iha Sasi (10/13)
- Sunrise LNG (7/11)
- Kontra-ba fabe produsaun petroleru (8/20)
- Lei Imprensa (6/17)
- PPP no Aeroportu Dili (6/14)
- Fabrika enerjia átomu assasú (1/12)
- Dokumetu hani UNHCR no UN (12/12)
- TL lama the deen (2/12)
- Lei Ambiental (8/18)
- Plánu Estratéjiku Dezenvolvimentu (7/11)
- Projetu minis Kitar (8/16)
- Constituinte (10/18)

**Recent Postings**

- Aug 2020: State budget for 2021, including *Jornada Orsamental* presentation
- Aug 2020: Proposed Criminal Defamation Law / Proposta Lei Penal Defamaasaun, including LH Submission (English or Tetum) and text of Law
- Aug 2020: State of Emergency / Estado Emergência with many documents
- Aug 2020: Australia Prosecutes Bernard Colliery and Witness K chronology and links
- July 2020: State budget for 2020, including October 2019 LH Submission (also Tetum), second proposed law and budget books, January LH Submission (also Tetum), duodecimal regime, and process for third budget proposal
- July 2020: VIII Constitutional Government and its 2018 Program (also Tetum or Portuguese) and 2020 Members and organic law
- June 2020: Agricultura Familiar nudár: Dalan ida ba Timor-Leste hodi Atinje Soberania AI-han
- June 2020: Vídeo Kuitadaku Natuereza salva ita nia Futuru (22 MB MP4), ka bele hare ita YouTube ka ita high-resolution (87 MB MP4)
- June 2020: Karta aberta kona-ba Problema Ambientál no Impaktu Mudansa Klimátika
- May 2020: Rights and Sustainability: LH briefing on key issues facing TL: 20 MB Powerpoint or 8 MB PDF. Also Tetum, 1.9MB Power-Point or 7 MB PDF
- May 2020: Maritime boundary disputes with Australia 2016-2020
- Apr 2020: La'ó Hamutuk press release on Open Budget Survey (also blog and Tetum and Tetum blog)
- Apr 2020: La'ó Hamutuk Annual Report for 2019

**Index pages**

- State of Emergency (8/20)
- 2021 General State Budget (8/20)
- 2020 General State Budget (8/20)
- 2019 General State Budget (8/20)
- Maritime boundaries and Colliery case (7/20)
- Petroleum Fund (8/20)
- 2017 and 2018 General State Budgets (2/20)
- Minna Code (10/19)
- Land processes (7/16)
- Donors' conference (8/19)
- Tasi Marcu oil/gas project (4/19)
- Beacu LNG plant (7/15)
- Sasi Pumpy Base (4/19)
- Sunrise LNG (8/20)
- Betano refinery LTA (9/16)
- TimorLestemtl.comesaun (8/20)
- Tibar Port (10/18)
- Petroleum production-sharings contracts (8/20)
- Kitan oil project (8/16)
- TL Going into debt (4/19)
- Overdue petroleum taxes (2/20)
- Bobby Boye Fraud (4/20)
- Media Law (6/17)
- Dili airport and PPPs (6/14)
- National electricity project (8/14)

<b>In 2018:</b>	<b>Timor-Leste</b>	<b>Mozambique</b>
<b>Population</b>	1.3 million, 31% urban	27 mill., 36% urban
<b>Land area</b>	<b>15,000 km<sup>2</sup></b> 10% arable, 2% irrigated	<b>800,000 km<sup>2</sup></b> 6% arable, 0.1% irrig.
<b>Land borders</b>	<b>250 km</b>	<b>4,800 km</b>
<b>Coastline</b>	<b>700 km</b>	<b>2,500 km</b>
<b>2017 total GDP/capita (PPP)</b>	<b>\$9.2 bn</b> <b>\$7,400 pc</b>	<b>\$37.1 bn</b> <b>\$1,300 pc</b>
<b>State revenues</b>	<b>\$0.2b</b>	<b>\$3.4b</b>
<b>State expenditures</b>	<b>\$1.1b</b>	<b>\$4.1b</b>
<b>Foreign debt</b>	<b>\$0.4b</b>	<b>\$11b</b>
<b>All exports</b>	<b>\$3.0b</b>	<b>\$5.4b</b>
<b>Non-petrol. exports</b>	<b>\$0.2b</b>	<b>\$3.0b</b>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>\$1.1b</b>	<b>\$6.2b</b>

<b>2018 UNDP Human Development Report</b>		
<b>Data (most from 2016)</b>	<b>Mozambique</b>	<b>Timor-Leste</b>
<b>HDI rank out of 189 (and index)</b>	<b>180 (.437)</b>	<b>132 (.625)</b>
<b>Life expectancy (years)</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Mean years of schooling</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>Gross National Income (GNI) p.c. PPP</b>	<b>\$1,093</b>	<b>\$6,846</b>
<b>Median age</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Gini coefficient (inequality)</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Gender Development Index</b>	<b>.904</b>	<b>.855</b>
<b>Child mortality (per 1,000)</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Malnutrition (under 5 stunting)</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>People in multidimensional poverty</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>People in severe multidimen. poverty</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>16%</b>

## What is La'ó Hamutuk?

- The Timor-Leste Institute for Development Monitoring and Analysis, founded in 2000.
- Timorese and international people “walking together” on the journey to create a new Nation.
- An independent, Timorese, non-governmental organization which does research, policy analysis, public education and advocacy.
- A force for participatory, equitable, sustainable and evidence-based policies and practices.

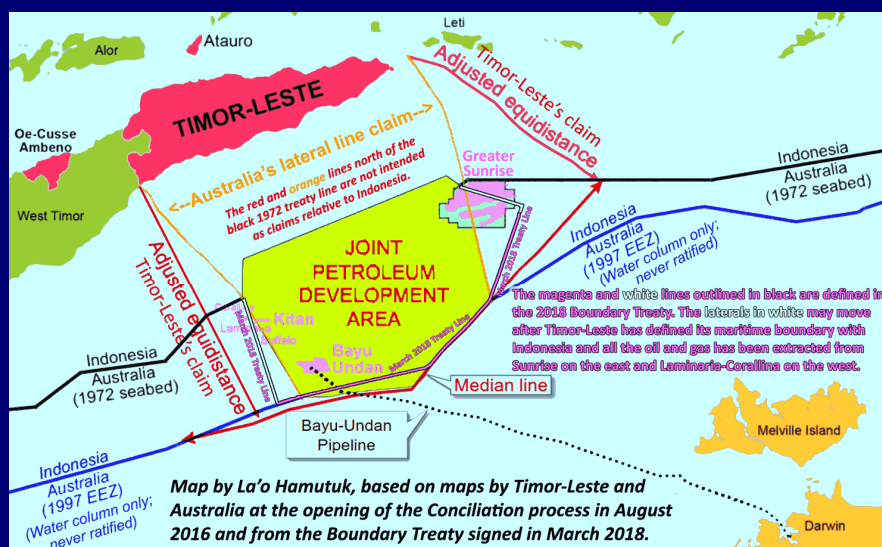
## History in one slide

- People have lived in Timor-Leste for at least 5,000 years.
- **Portugal colonized 500 years ago.**
  - They brought Catholicism but little development or education.
  - **Onshore oil exploration started in 1890s.**
- **Australia, then Japan, invaded in 1941-45.**
  - About 50,000 Timorese people died in WWII, which didn't involve them.
- **Portugal's military dictatorship resumed control in 1945.**
  - **Offshore oil exploration began in the 1960s.**
- **Portugal began decolonizing in 1974.**
  - After Carnation Revolution brought down Portuguese dictatorship
  - TL declared independence 28 November 1975 ... but 10 days later
- **Indonesia invaded on 7 December 1975.**
  - Mozambique provided crucial sanctuary and diplomatic support for the resistance.
  - Indonesia killed more than 100,000 Timorese during 24-year occupation.
  - **Timor-Gap Treaty 1989; oil production started 1998.**
- **Referendum 30 August 1999, then 2½ years of UN rule.**
- **Finally restored independence on 20 May 2002.**
  - **Oil income surged after 2005, but peaked in 2012 and is 95% finished.**
  - **National Oil Company TimorGAP founded in 2011.**
- **Peaceful elections in 2001, 2002, 2007, 2012, 2017 and 2018.**

## Basic Statistics for Timor-Leste

- Nearly half of Timor-Leste's people live in poverty, 46% in multi-dimensional poverty.
- Two-thirds of people live in rural areas, largely by subsistence farming.
- Poor sanitation and malnutrition are endemic.
- About 1,200 Timorese children under 5 years old die from preventable conditions every year ...  
30 times as many people as die from homicide.
- In 2019, TL exported \$24 million in non-oil goods (coffee).
- In 2019, TL imported \$536 million in goods (everything).

## Australia and Timor-Leste have agreed on a boundary and on Sunrise revenue sharing – but the gas pipeline is still unresolved.

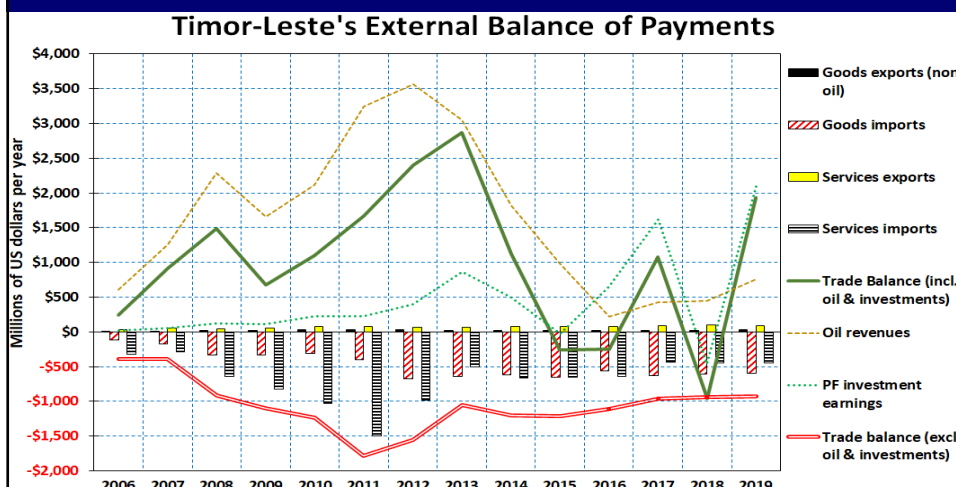


## But we don't have very much oil.

	Timor-Leste (70% Sunrise)	TL without Sunrise	Australia	Brunei
Proved oil and gas reserves per person at end of 2018	653 barrels	42 barrels	744 barrels+ (730 without Sunrise)	6,360 barrels
How long reserves will last at 2018 production rates	22 years	1.4 years	20 years+	23 years

## Since 2015, more money goes out than comes in.

2019 trade:	services	non-oil goods	total
Imports	\$448m	\$592m	\$1,040m
Exports	\$ 91m	\$ 26m (79% coffee)	\$ 117m
Deficit	-\$357m	-\$566m	-\$ 923m

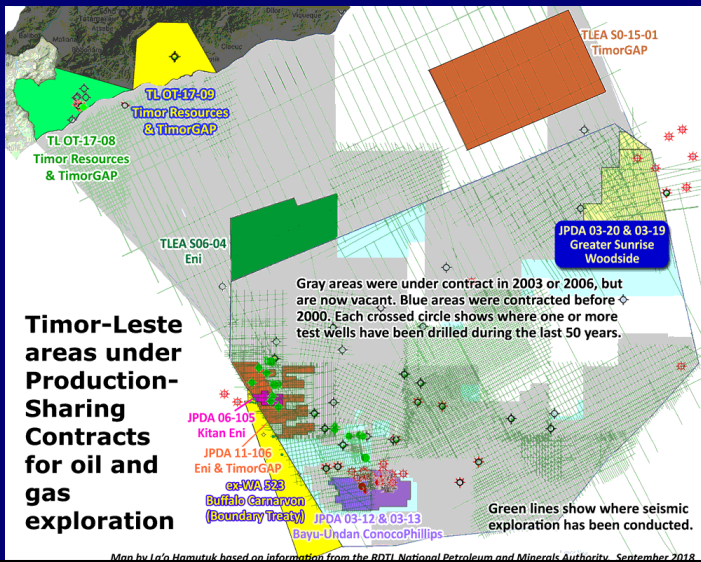




# Our seas have been explored for half a century, and our land for longer.

Three fields have provided revenue.

There may not be any others.

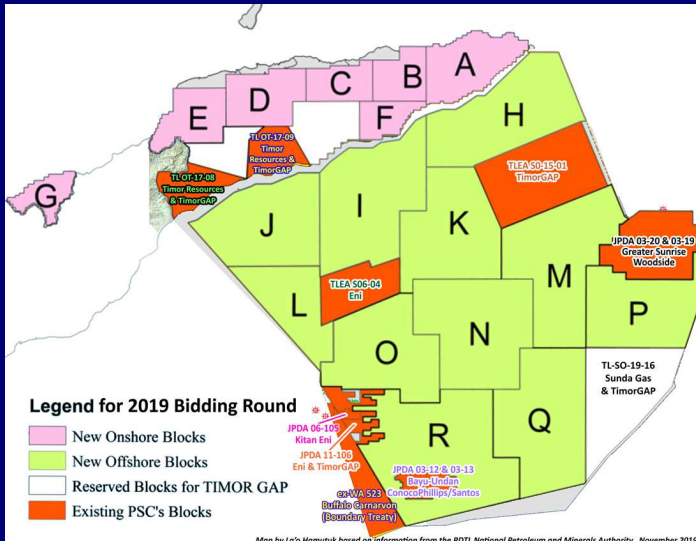


# In the 2019-2021 Bidding Round, ANPM hopes companies want to keep looking.

Nearly all these areas have already been explored.

Due to Covid-19 and the falling price of oil, most countries have cancelled or delayed bidding rounds.

Timor-Leste extended theirs by one year.



## TL has lived through bad examples

- Inefficient Portuguese bureaucracy; corrupt and violent Indonesian occupation
- History of confusing government services with personal favors (corruption, patronage, nurturing local contractors)
- UN missions focused on short-term fixes, with inexperienced and unqualified "experts"
- Donors and advisors promote private-industry, "free trade" economic model
- The UN, WB, ADB and IMF are not transparent or accountable

## Limited checks and balances

- Weak mechanisms to control corruption
- Political parties are weak and inexperienced, few alternatives or compromises offered
- Media don't do independent research or question officials
- Civil society has limited education and experience

## Challenges from the past (1)

### • Post-colonial

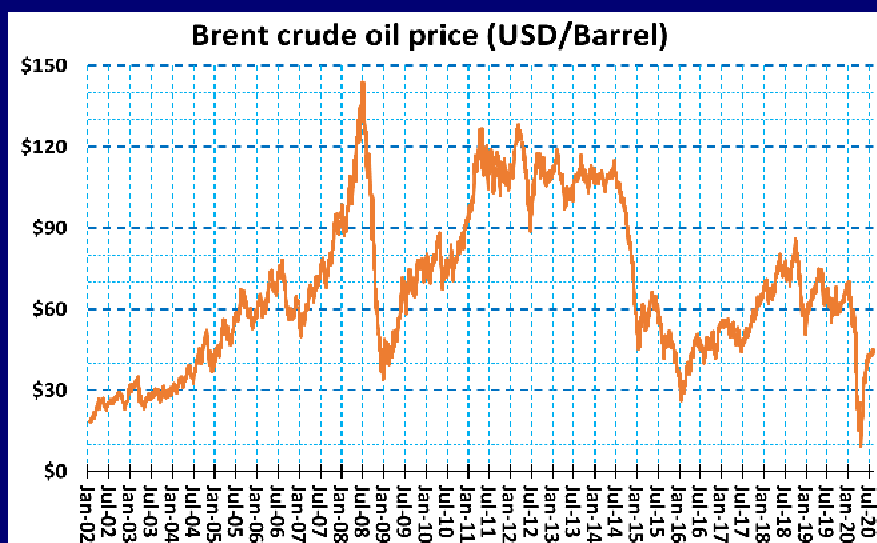
- Language controversy
- Land ownership in chaos
- Illiteracy
- Underdevelopment
- People never lived under rule of law
- Never had power to make decisions for ourselves
- "To Resist is to Win" – lobbying and persuasion impossible
- Internalized Portuguese and Indonesian traditions
- Bureaucracy, corruption, "entitlement," military companies
- Incorporating returned exiles, collaborators
- Public officials all just learning their jobs
- Skilled people gone: education, health, governance
- Getting neighboring countries to respect sovereignty

## Challenges from the past (2)

- **Post-conflict**

- **Pandemic Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**
- **Infrastructure and property destroyed**
- **No experience of predictability or long-term planning**
- **Poverty**
- **High birth rate**
- **Domestic violence**
- **Respecting veterans; dealing with collaborators**
- **Police and soldiers come from different sides of the struggle.**
- **Leading in peacetime requires a different skill set.**
- **Differences of opinion are personalized. Loyalty and betrayal paramount; long memories**

## State services shouldn't rise and fall with world oil market prices



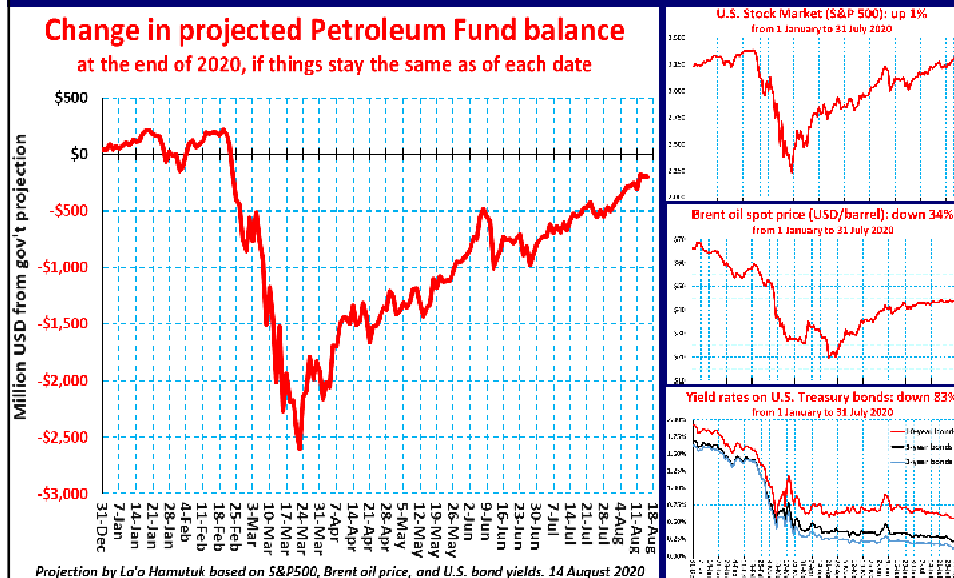
## Signs of the 'resource curse' (1)

- **Believing that the oil money will last forever**  
Kitan is empty; 97% of Bayu-Undan revenues have been received.
- **Dreaming of more wealth from underground**  
'Rentier income' will come in without doing hard work.
- **Borrowing today, to repay some day**  
TL may borrow billions for projects with little chance of return.
- **Lack of realistic long-term planning**  
The Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 is but a dream;  
Tasi Mane's costs may be less than its benefits.  
As in all democracies, politicians' planning horizon is the next election.
- **Spending without thinking**  
Waste, inefficiency and corruption are common.

## Signs of the 'resource curse' (2)

- **Using money to 'solve' every problem**  
It's easier to buy a scholarship than to manage a university.
- **Import dependency**  
TL's non-oil trade deficit is about a billion dollars every year.
- **Benefits flow to the urban and political elite**  
Most people won't use highways, airports and oil facilities ...  
but will share the costs of paying for them.
- **Ignoring non-oil development and revenues**  
Farming is too hard to envision, even if oil may not last very long.
- **Petroleum captures decision-making**  
Agriculture, tourism, small industries, etc. aren't competing on a level playing field.'

## Covid-19 affects the Petroleum Fund



## 2002: Timor-Leste Constitution

### Artigo 139.º

#### (Recursos naturais)

1. Os recursos do solo, do subsolo, das águas territoriais, da plataforma continental e da zona económica exclusiva, que são vitais para a economia, são propriedade do Estado e devem ser utilizados de uma forma justa e igualitária, de acordo com o interesse nacional.
2. As condições de aproveitamento dos recursos naturais referidas no número anterior devem servir para a constituição de reservas financeiras obrigatórias, nos termos da lei.

## 2005: Petroleum Fund Law

**The Petroleum Fund shall contribute to a wise management of the petroleum resources for the benefit of both current and future generations.**

**The Petroleum Fund shall be a tool that contributes to sound fiscal policy, where appropriate consideration and weight is given to the long-term interests of Timor-Leste's citizens.**

## 2005: TL Petroleum Activities Law no. 11/2005

- Petroleum exploration and production contracts must be published.
- Standard Production-Sharing Contract template: no bonuses or other special payments.
- Open, transparent bidding rounds.

### But

- It does not apply to the two largest fields, which had contracts before 2005.
- All contracts since 2012 were awarded to TimorGAP with no open bidding.

## Timor-Leste and the EITI process

- 2003: Prime Minister Alkatiri speaks at founding EITI conference in London, commits Timor-Leste.
- 2005: Petroleum Act and Petroleum Fund Act passed, with good transparency provisions.
- 2007: EITI qualification process starts; after elections new government continues it.
- July 2010: EITI certifies T-L as the third compliant country in the world (after Azerbaijan and Liberia).
- TL has published EITI reports through 2017. Recent ones have been late and less detailed.

## **We led the world, but not any more**

**In 2010, Timor-Leste scored 70.5 on the Revenue Watch Index, 12<sup>th</sup> in the world and the best in the Asia-Pacific region.**

**In 2013, Timor-Leste scored 68 on NRGi's Resource Governance Index, ranking 13<sup>th</sup> of the 58 countries included, and third in the Asia-Pacific region.**

**In 2017, Timor-Leste scored 49, ranking 43<sup>rd</sup> of 89 countries and 8<sup>th</sup> in Asia-Pacific.**

## **2018-2019 changes to Petroleum Activities Law**

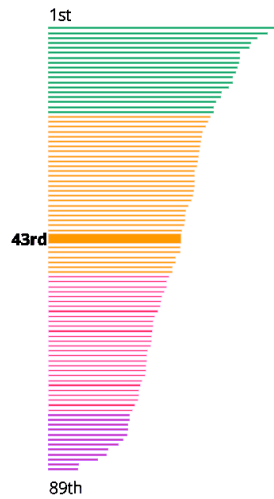
- **Prohibits prior Audit Court review of petroleum-related contracts and agreements.**
- **Allows TimorGAP to own more than 20% of a project (which it already did for several projects).**
- **Overrides the Petroleum Fund Law to enable up to 5% of the Fund to be invested in petroleum operations within TL.**
- **It took many efforts, including Presidential vetoes, before legal changes came into force. They are internally inconsistent, but they are being applied.**
- **In June 2020, TL appointed new Ministers of Finance and Petroleum, and new heads of TimorGAP and ANPM. Things could change again.**

## We led the world, but not any more

### Timor-Leste

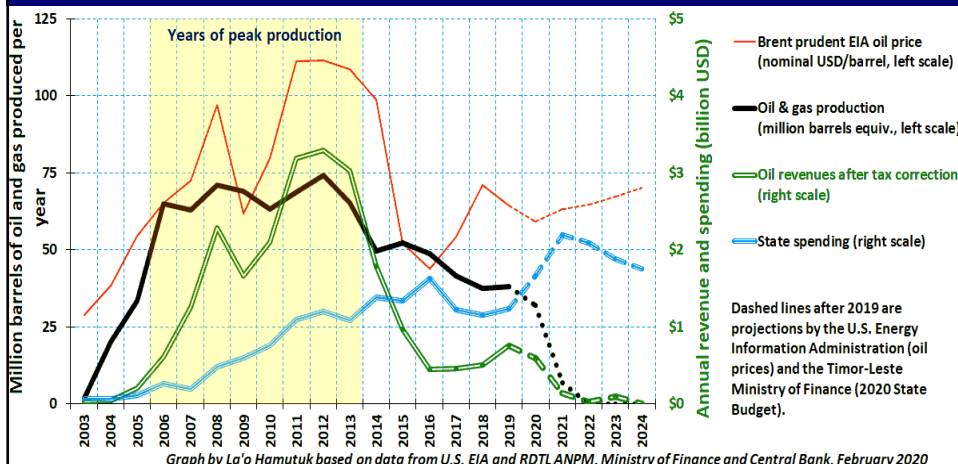
#### 2017 RESOURCE GOVERNANCE INDEX

Timor-Leste's oil and gas sector scores 49 of 100 points in the 2017 Resource Governance Index (RGI), ranking 43rd among 89 assessments and eighth among 15 assessments in the Asia Pacific region. This overall score is lowered by a poor score in the enabling environment component. Even though both extractive sector components, value realization and revenue management, achieve similar scores, there is great variation in performance at the subcomponent level. The oil and gas sector constituted 98 percent of exports and 97 percent of government revenues in 2013, making this sector a key facilitator of economic development.<sup>1</sup>



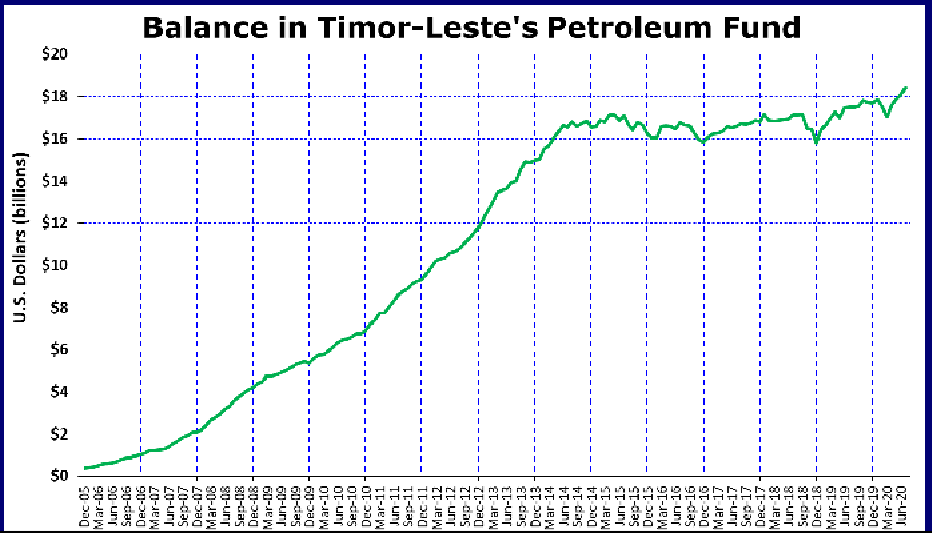
## Oil and gas income has been falling since 2012.

**Production is dropping faster than prices, and will not go back up.  
The price will be irrelevant when we have nothing left to sell.**

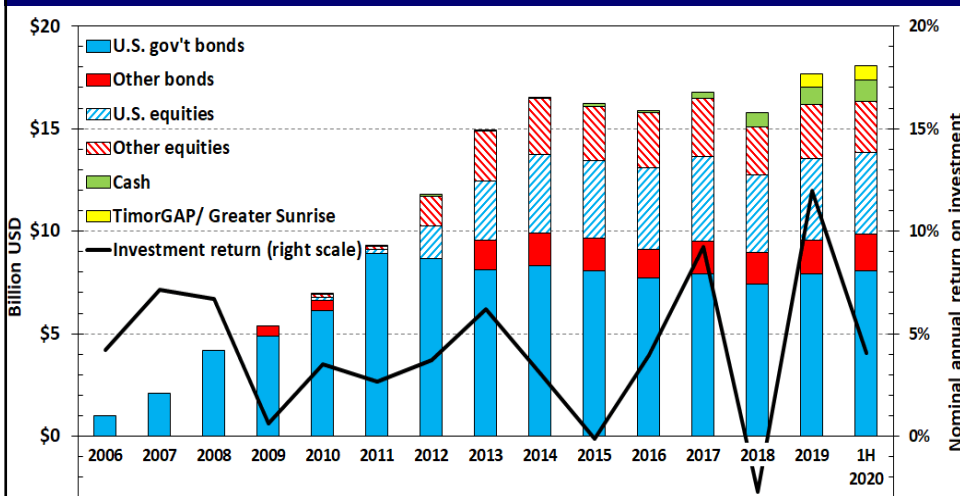




## We've moved from oil dependence to relying on our declining savings.

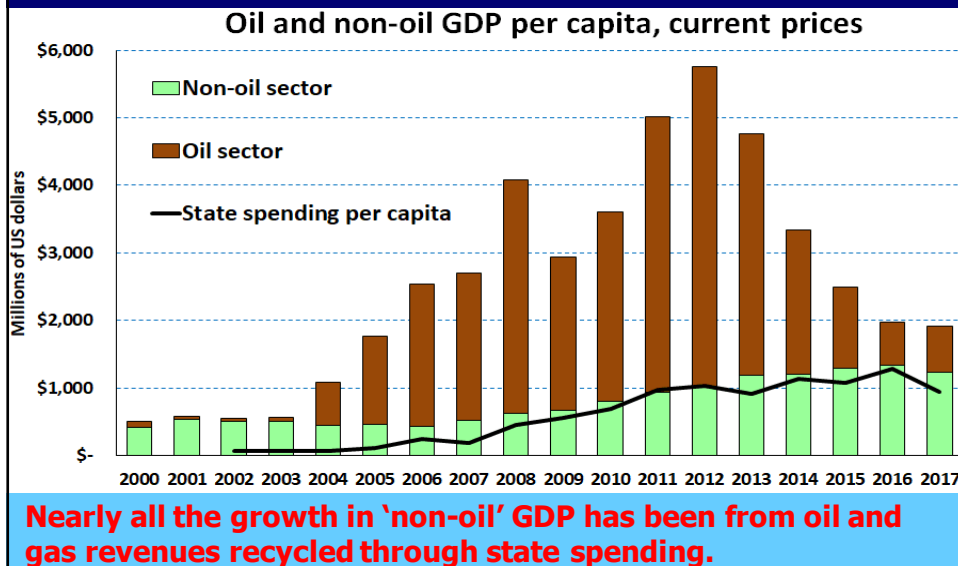


## Diversification of P.F. investments



**The 2011 revision allowed up to 50% in equities (stocks) and the 2019 change allowed 5% in domestic "Petroleum Operations".**

## Oil GDP fell 85% between 2012 and 2016.

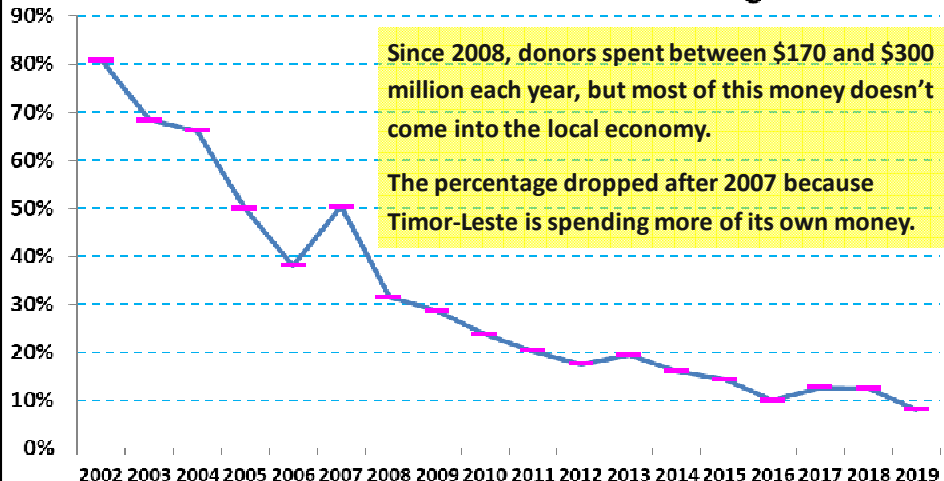


## Women face even more challenges

- Domination by patriarchal and political systems
- Responsible for household: water, fuel, food.
- Barlaki (Bride-price)
- Colonial and Church traditions
- Domestic violence
- Many children in each family
- 2012 election law:  $\frac{1}{3}$  of new MPs are women

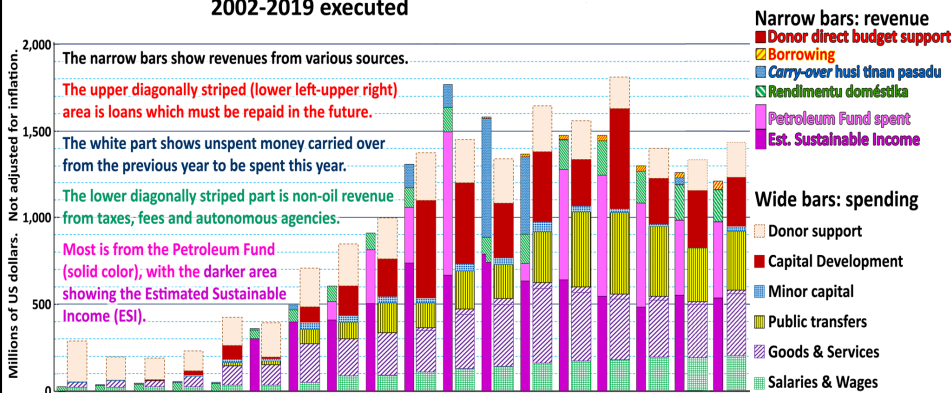
## Donor support fell as oil revenues grew.

Percentage of Donor Support in Timor-Leste's Combined Sources Budget



## State Budgets 2002-2019

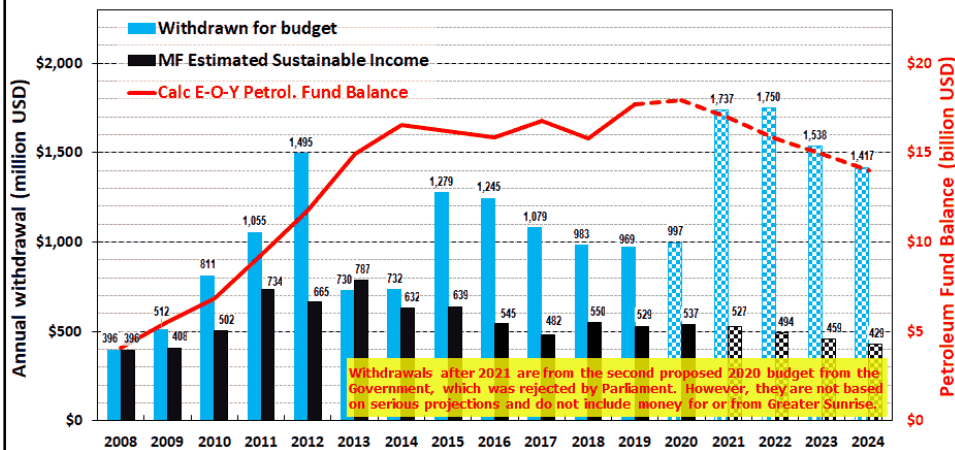
State Revenues and Expenditures (including autonomous agencies) 2002-2019 executed



The 2020 Budget was rejected and we under an interim system until it passes.

## Exceeding ESI depletes the Fund.

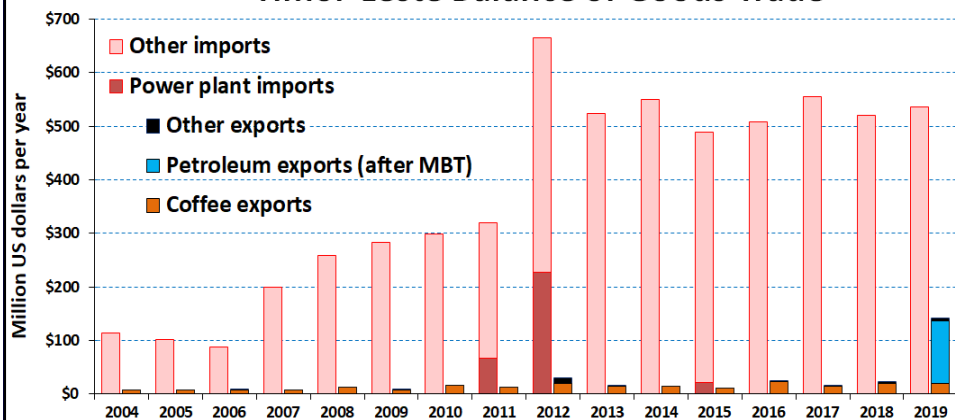
Historic and planned withdrawals from the Petroleum Fund



The Petroleum Fund reached \$17.1 billion in mid-2015 and fell to \$15.8 bn by the end of 2018, the lowest balance in 5 years. It recovered in 2019 and fell in 2020, but the future is uncertain.

## Import Dependency

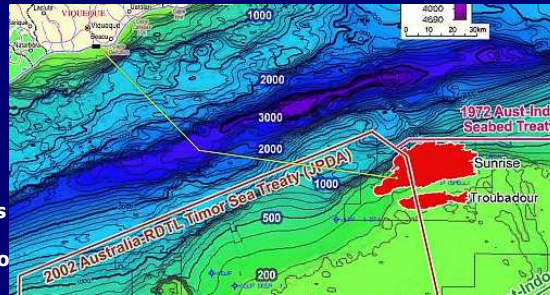
Timor-Leste Balance of Goods Trade



The graph shows legal goods trade only. Three-fourths of donor spending and two-thirds of state spending leaves the country.

## The Greater Sunrise stalemate

- This offshore gas and oil field was discovered in 1974.
- Development was stalled because Timor-Leste and the companies do not agree on where to liquefy the natural gas.
- Woodside and its partners believed that floating LNG or a pipeline to the Australian LNG plant (used for Bayu-Undan) is more profitable.
- Timor-Leste wants a pipeline from Sunrise to its shore, to get more tax revenues and anchor the Tasi Mane project.
- Under contracts and treaties, the companies propose the path, but both governments need to approve it.
- Because of Australian spying, TL persuaded Australia to invalidate CMATS in 2017.
- The negotiations for the 2018 Boundary Treaty could not agree on where the pipeline will go.
- In 2019, Timor-Leste bought Conoco-Phillips' and Shell's shares of Sunrise to control the decision. They need more than \$15 billion to finance the project.



## PF Law Article 15: Investment Rules

1. Under the criteria in this article, to qualify as eligible investment, the investment instrument must be issued or the investment be located abroad, in an internationally recognized jurisdiction.
4. No more than 5% of the Petroleum Fund should be invested in other eligible investments, provided that:
  - a) The Minister has included such other asset class, which is part of the investment, in the proposed distribution of portfolios submitted to the National Parliament under Article 14.5, and
  - b) The rules and criteria for selection, management and evaluation of each individual financial instrument within a certain asset class, have been approved by the Minister and published.
5. The exposure of the Petroleum Fund to:
  - a) Any company or the issuing entity for the eligible instruments, with the exception of sovereign states, can never exceed 3% of the total value of the Petroleum Fund;

*The pink words were revoked by the proposed amendments.*

## Petroleum Activities Law, new clauses added in 2018. Article 22: State Participation

6. The Petroleum Fund may be applied directly in **Petroleum Operations, in the national territory** or abroad, through the execution of commercial transactions, through Timor Gap, E.P., pursuant to Article 15.4 of Law no. 9/2005 ... republished by Law no. 12/2011.
7. **Contracts** for purchase and sale, acquisition, assignment, transfer, transfer, novation, merger, encumbrance or any other legal transaction entered into or payments made by Timor-Leste or any other Timorese public corporation, including entities wholly owned or controlled by controlled by them, **designed to allow the participation of Timor-Leste** or any other Timorese public legal person, including through entities fully owned or controlled by them, or of the Petroleum Fund, **in Petroleum Operations** and, as well as for the conduct of these, **are not subject to prior inspection by the Audit Chamber** of the High Administrative, Tax and Audit Court.

*The green words are the key changes.*

## Problems with the Tasi Mane project

- It prolongs TL's dependency on oil and gas.
- Dubious concepts and planning; it is unlikely to provide a reasonable return on investment. Projections have not been updated for Covid-19 realities.
- It neglects sustainable development (agriculture, tourism, small industries etc.), exemplifying the obsession with oil.
- It requires \$10-\$20 billion in capital investment, which traditional financiers (WB, ADB, JICA) are unwilling to lend.
- Nearly all the money spent will go to foreign companies, providing hardly any local livelihoods or subcontracts. The petroleum industry creates fewer jobs than any alternative.
- It will create social conflict, take up land, displace people, worsen health and degrade and endanger the environment.
- Cost projections leave out 90% of investment obligations.

**The Government has made many unrealistic promises about revenues, profit-sharing, jobs and other benefits.**

## Public consultation & deliberations

Legislation	When	Days	Consultation	Parliament & President
Petroleum Fund Law no. 11/2005	2004-5	304	Three rounds of hearings nationwide, 25 submissions	Unanimous passage after two months of hearings and debate
Petroleum Activities Law no. 9/2005	2004-5	335	Many workshops, one round of hearings, nine submissions	Pending in PN for seven months, no hearings before enactment
Revisions to Petroleum Fund Law	2010-11	457	Many workshops, two hearings, four submissions	Discussed for two weeks, passed with few changes
\$70m extraordinary transfer from PF	May 2018	0	No legislative process, probably illegal	Not submitted for approval
\$140m extraordinary transfer from PF	July 2018	10	None. LH commented on rumored draft, which was replaced by a one-time transfer	One-off transfer approved
Revisions to Petroleum Activities Law	Oct-Nov 2018	23	1 Secret draft. Brief Parliamentary hearing on preliminary version	Major addition just before final vote. Vetoed, overridden, challenged in court. Retroactive
Attempted revisions to Petroleum Fund and Petroleum Activities laws	July and Oct. 2019	15	2 None. Rushed in July. Second try, unchanged, in October.	Both passed and vetoed in July. PFL vetoed, PAL promulgated in December.
\$250m extraordinary transfer from PF	Mar-Apr 2020	4	None.	Approved. Transferred in April and May.
\$286m extraordinary transfer from PF	June 2020	20	None.	Approved. Not yet transferred.

## 2011: TL's Transparency Pillars

1. Best practice Petroleum Fund and revenue management
2. EITI + PWYP, global standards
3. Transparency portal
  - Budget Execution
  - Procurement
  - Foreign Assistance
  - Government results
4. Broadcast Parliamentary budget debates
5. Publish Council of Ministers decisions



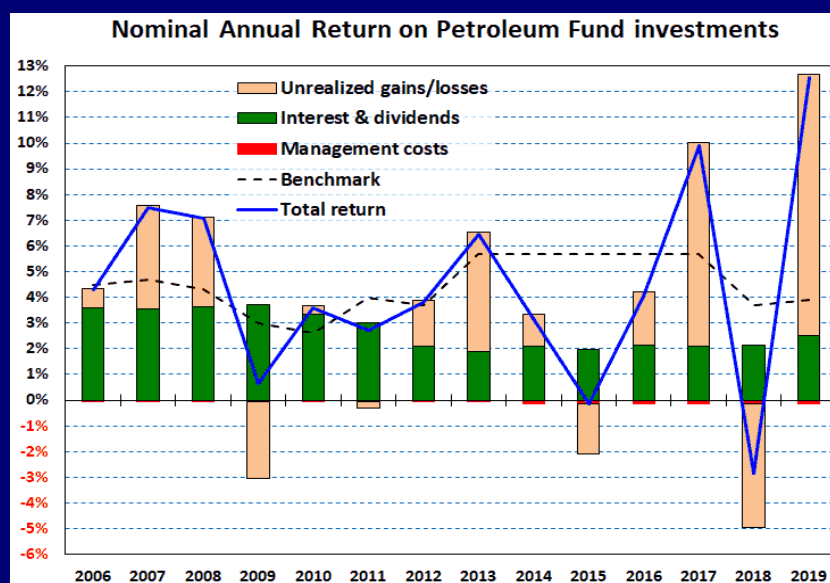
**These are Government promises.  
Practice is not consistent.**

## We find information in many places.

- ✓ Transparency portal
- ✓ Central Bank Petroleum Fund Reports
- ✓ ANPM, IAB and MoF reports on Petroleum production and revenue management
- ✓ Budget documents & execution reports
- ✓ EITI reports
- ✓ IMF, World Bank, ADB and oil company reports
- ✓ Budget hearings and debates
- ✓ Unofficial sources and leaks

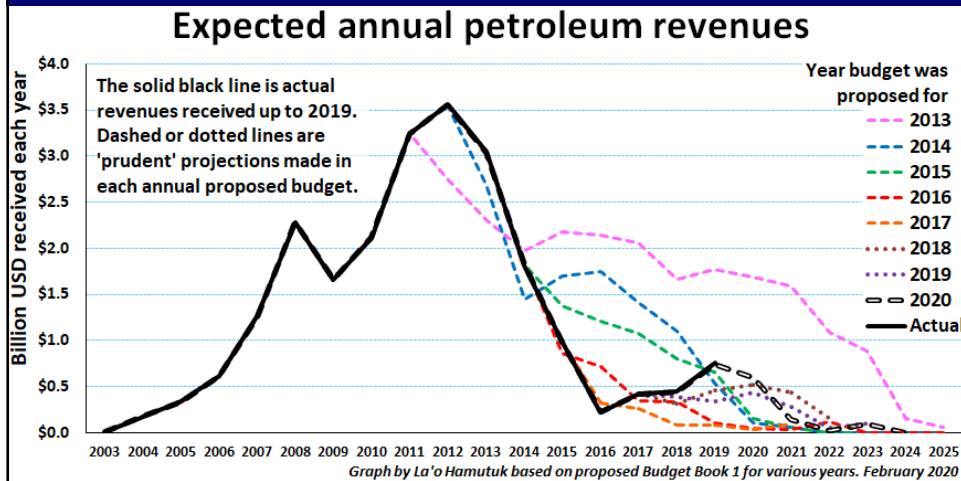
**But the National Oil Company TimorGAP is less transparent and accountable.**

## More stocks bring more volatility





## Oil income was higher than predicted until 2014, but much lower since then.



**TL has already received 95% of the revenues it will get from Bayu-Undan and Kitan, and they will end entirely by 2023.**

## What will Tasi Mane really cost?

This estimates capital expenditures only, not operational costs. Most have never appeared in state budget forecasts.

Money spent, budgeted and required to build the Tasi Mane project (millions of USD)							
Component	Location	Status	Spent through 2019	Budgeted 2020	Budgeted 2021-2024	Estimated total capital cost	Percent budgeted
Airport	Suai	Constructed	75	9	4	100	88%
Supply base	Suai	Tender pending	51	5	705	850	89%
Highway	Suai-Fatukai	Mostly built	305	4	4	340	92%
Highway	Fatukai-Beaçu	Not started	3	4	18	1,320	2%
Airport	Viqueque	Not started	-	-	-	75	0%
Oil refinery & pipelines	Betano	Pending design	3	5	6	1,500	1%
Gas pipeline, LNG plant & port	Sunrise-Beaçu	Pending design, seeking financing	12	35	19	6,000	1%
57% share of Greater Sunrise Joint Venture	Offshore	Borrowed directly from the Petroleum Fund	650			650	100%
Interest on loan to buy into Sunrise JV	Offshore	Debt accrued in Petroleum Fund	21	30	135	512	36%
57% of Sunrise upstream capital expenditure	Offshore	Pending design, seeking financing	-	25	-	6,840	0%
Administrative and other costs	Dili	Ongoing	64	10	-	500	15%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,184</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>18,687</b>	<b>12%</b>

**In four years, the loan to TimorGAP could exceed the 5% legal limit.**

