

Federation Business School

## Review of the Roadmap for Implementing the SDGs in Timor- Leste: Achievements and Limitations

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### Prelude

The key to future life is being free of past  
unsustainable development

- ‘*The Weighing of the Heart*’ comment by Pat Walsh
- Afterlife weighing of a person’s heart
- Public hearing on the source of evil or good by the feather of truth: “Reception and Reconciliation”
- Outweigh feather if filled with murder, violence and the like: face guilt and sanctions
- Heart free of major offences comes up light as a feather (human rights and sustainable rights)
- A country needs to address its past in both.

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## Report: The Research Questions

1. How has the Timor-Leste Government been able to harmonise the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the existing 2011-2030 Strategic Development Plan (SDP) that guides policy in the economy?
2. Has the harmonising process been able to specify a new transformative and innovative sustainable development path for the economy, or has the development path as set out in the SDP remain unaltered?
3. What are the achievements and limitations of the SDG roadmap, and how does this identify the challenges, opportunities and options to be negotiated in progressing towards a transformative and innovative sustainable development path as specified by the SDGs?

## This presentation

...will address RQs 1 and 2, and also address the achievements and limitations of the roadmap

The second part of RQ 3; on challenges, opportunities and options for the future will be presented as Keynote Address at the VU-UNTL conference on *Finding Pathways to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*, on Wednesday 5 July, 9.20am

Figure 1 is the eco-sustainable framework

Table 1, based on this framework, sets out the achievements and limitations.

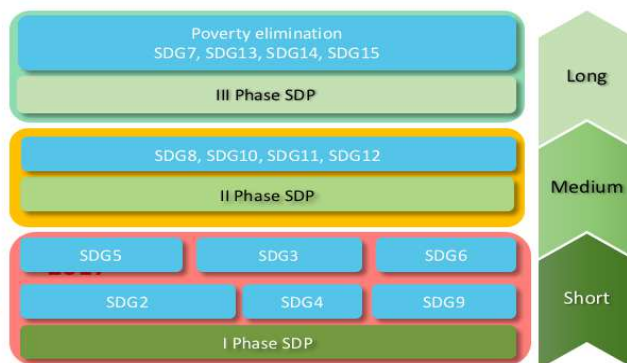
## Disclaimer by first author

- Independent academic undertaking this roadmap review while on sabbatical in TL
- Not commissioned or requested by anyone
- Review analysed on basis of previously researched and published “eco-sustainable framework”
- Thirty years of researching economic, social and ecological sustainable development (SD) globally
- Australia’s commitment to SDGs is totally invisible
- Its record on SD (as major fossil fuel exporter), and its inability to address many environment, indigenous, and human rights in my own country is noted with great disquiet

## The Roadmap: 2016 Version



### Aligning SDGs with National Priorities: Prioritization



7/4/16

SDG Working Group

28



## Answer to RQ 1

SDGs are being harmonised with the SDP in a linear approach

Top-down process, with no acknowledgment of the interconnected ecosystem of TL (and with the rest of the global ecosystem as an exporter).

This approach leaves the SDP unaltered from the more recent perspectives and information available since 2011

This approach ignores that the world is integrated and complex across all 17 SDGs

## Answer to RQ 2

No observed transformation towards a new diversified fossil fuel disinvestment future. Innovation outside of fossil fuel and construction works are virtually non-existent.

Import dependency continues to rise, and no increase in GDP per capita from agriculture, hospitality, manufacturing, trade and transport, and real estate sectors from 2003 to 2014.

SDP not modified despite new data (e.g. state of climate change and continued underlying weakness of agriculture) and new perspective (SDGs resolution).

Well-intentioned directive for each line ministry to have their own priorities aligned to all the SDGs has remained largely ignored.

## Answer to RQ 3 (part one only)

Table 1 sets out all the achievements and limitations identified in this research.

g7+ conference on the SDGs, 21-23 May 2017. As LH note on their blog on the conference, there was no objective reassessment at the conference of the SDP and its links to the SDG commitment (called “harmonisation”).

Preliminary version of report provided to UNDP (participants at g7+), but was dismissed due to it being independent of SDP and thus not consistent with TL Government’s objectives.

## Reflections #1 from media reports

In the context of that g7+ conference:

PM Dr Rui Maria de Araújo quoted as saying:  
“Every year, we prepare our state budget and action plan which follows SDGs principles.”

*Reflection:* Table 1 shows how this is done. SDGs are retrofitted after the SDP policy strategy is set in place. SDGs are addressed after, not before, SDP strategy.

## Reflections #2 from media reports

In the context of that g7+ conference:

President RAEOA (ZEESM-TL), Mari Alkatiri quoted as saying: “I am getting used to program from United Nations (UN) which has no significant results, so I am doubtful with SDGs.”

*Reflection:* The SDGs is not a UN program, but a set of goals that replaced the increasingly irrelevant MDGs.

It is up to each country to commit to SDGs and in what way. UN does not dictate commitment or approach.

Look at:

- Australia and US negation on both.
- Affirmation by US city majors and US major firms.

## Reflections #3 from media reports

In the context of that g7+ conference:

La'o Humutuk researcher, Juvinal Dias was reported as saying that he "...considered SDGs as good policies, but people failed in its implementation."

*Reflection:* SDGs are goals not policies, it is the government that signs up (along with major firms) and then they determine how to implement commitments; top-down, or bottom-up, or both.

A system needs to be set up for people to be able to participate in the SDGs. Table 1 shows what this system looks like in TL, and who (and to what extent) any people are involved.