

# MIKE SHARROCKS CONSULTANCY

Tourism Feasibility • Development Planning • Urban Design • Urban Regeneration • Environmental Appraisal

## Timor-Leste

### SUSTAINABLE TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING (STAGE 1)

**For the World Tourism Organization, 2005**

Timor-Leste's first national tourism master plan was funded by the United Nations Development Programme with the World Tourism Organization (WTO) acting as the executing agency. The plan would help to reduce poverty in one of the poorest countries in the world. It would also aim to enhance community development and to contribute towards the country's economic growth with environmentally sustainable policies.



The project was to be divided into two stages. Stage 1 would provide a policy framework for long-term tourism development strategies. During Stage 2 a long-term tourism structure plan (2006-2020) would be prepared that would incorporate short and medium-term actions and implementation programmes.



Mike Sharrocks was appointed by the WTO to be the Community Tourism Planner on the multi-disciplinary team for Stage 1 of the project. As part of this role he reviewed the context for promoting community-based tourism in Timor-Leste. The primary tourism products focussed on diving and marine activities (especially along the northern coast), the variety of landscape scenery, the cultural attractions of various ethnic groups and the availability of wildlife. The country's pristine rural and marine environment, as well as its image as the world's most recently-formed nation, also provided a sound basis for developing community-based tourism.



Mike Sharrocks prepared a Stage 1 report that set out a SWOT analysis for community-based tourism; outlined the aims, objectives and policies for it; and provided some good practice principles for implementation in Timor-Leste. An approach and methodology for work during Stage 2 was set out, together with specific project activities defined. An initial long list of candidate projects was drawn up from which two or three case studies could be taken forward for implementation in Stage 3. These would help to implement some of the good practice community-based tourism principles.

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