Documenting endangered forms of cultural expression of the Fataluku people

Holly Schauble, Ildefonso da Silva, Tessa Toumbourou, Kim Dunphy
Cultural assets-based community development in Timor-Leste

Promoting cultural vitality as part of a creative, healthy, viable society

*MHI Director Holly Schauble, Team Leader Nelinha Pereira*
MHI’s objectives

We seek to make a positive contribution to communities with whom we work by:

- **Fostering cultural vitality** through supporting cultural maintenance and opportunities for creative expression.
- **Improving social cohesion** through activities that engender health, well-being and co-operation.
- **Stimulating economic development** through skills, job and enterprise creation in the arts, crafts and culture-based tourism industries.
- **Exemplifying environmental sustainability** through sustainable project design and implementation.
Our people

Volunteer Directors:
Dr. Kim Dunphy, Holly Schauble and Vin Ashcroft, former Head of AusAid, Timor-Leste, 2011-2014

Staff:
Nelinha Pereira, Team Leader;
Ildefonso da Silva, Researcher;
Thomas Lopes, Health Promotion Officer;
Cesario Lourdes, Youth Arts Officer

Tessa Toumbourou, researcher (Australia)
Centro Cultura Lospalos

Establishment of a community and tourist resource:

• performing arts centre,
• kiosk and ticket box,
• workshop spaces,
• studio and offices
Documenting Endangered Forms of Cultural Expression of the Fataluku people

The project sought to help re-invigorate critically endangered forms of cultural expression by
• recording those cultural forms;
• building local capacity to preserve cultural heritage; and
• providing Fataluku people with opportunities to view and learn more about their cultural heritage.

30 cultural heritage elements – many practiced in different forms - were recorded in the Lautem district between 2012 and 2013.
Presenting our findings

Ildefonso da Silva, Tessa Dunphy Toumbourou

researchers

www.manyhands.org.au
Disseminating our findings
Fahe peskiza ne’e

Dr Kim Dunphy, Director
Disseminating our findings
Fahe peskiza ne’e

• Presentations to participants across Lautem district
• Conferences and publications
• On-line resource- accessed mostly by Fataluku in UK
Access to the information: data analytics
### Access to the information: data analytics

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Disseminating our findings
Fahe peskiza ne’e

Return visits to communities with on-line resource

Sr Henrique Lopes of Malahara meets Australian musician Lina Andonovska
Disseminating our findings
Fahe peskiza ne’e

Future stages Centro Cultura Lautem:
museum, gallery, library/ learning centre, café and shop.
Disseminating our findings
Fahe peskiza ne’e

• supporting the work of SETAC, Ministry of Tourism
• inspiring other communities to record their own cultural heritage
• promoting cultural tourism
• informing school curricula and out of school arts training such as Academy of Arts
• diaspora communities
• other researchers
Future activities pending funding

- Translation of whole web resource into Tetun and Fataluku
- Many more elements as yet undocumented, including group activities like dance

Tutuala dance group
Future activities pending funding

- New research:
  - Publication of Sr Justino’s collection of *vaihoho* songs reported to be 1000

- Other cultural groups in Lautem, such as Makassae and Makalero, and others across face the same risks of cultural endangerment

*Vaihoho* singers at Festival Lautem 2013
Acknowledgements

MHI acknowledges the valued support of the US Embassy, US Ambassadors’ Fund for Cultural Preservation, Deakin University, RMIT and University of Melbourne.
Every nation has a culture that underpins the way of life. According to the traditions of Lautem, our culture enables us to have strong unity and friendship. If we lose our culture, we lose our identity. All the information we have collected in this project informs us about the original culture of our ancestors.

Sr. Justino Valentim, Senior Researcher, 1954-2014

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