



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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Week of 9 May 2005

Programme No. 956

Length: 3'01"

## ENVIRONMENTAL TOURISM HOPE FOR TIMOR-LESTE'S FUTURE

### VIDEO

VIEW OF ATAURO ISLAND

DESTROYED BUILDINGS

JOSE TEIXEIRA

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

Pristine beaches...underwater diving....  
breathtaking scenery...One of the world's most  
beautiful tourist spots? Far from it.

#### (NATURAL SOUND)

Decades of occupation and deadly waves of  
violence after a vote for independence in 1999  
left Timor Leste in South East Asia devastated  
(18.5)

#### TEIXEIRA: (In English)

"It is a post-conflict country and post conflict  
countries generally do not have that reputation of  
being tourism destinations."

#### NARRATION

But that's exactly what Timor Leste's Secretary of  
State, Jose Teixeira, is planning to make this  
small country of just under a million people.  
Teixeira believes that showcasing its varied

terrain, from mist-wrapped mountains...to miles of rugged coastline, is one of the best ways to rebuild a nation where the average person makes just fifty-cents a day. (20)

TEIXEIRA:

TEIXEIRA ON-CAMERA

“What we want to create here is a high value, low volume tourism industry which has the maximum participation of our citizens and that provides maximum economic benefit to them.”

NARRATION

SCENIC MOUNTAINS/RUGGED  
ROADS

For that to happen thousands of Timorese now receive training as part of a twenty-year, multi-million dollar national tourism plan funded primarily by the United Nations Development Programme. (11)

CRAFTSMEN MAKING STATUES  
ETC.

They're trained as trekking guides...and diving instructors. Local artisans and weavers have rediscovered their crafts – creating items for sale to tourists. And using instruments passed down from earlier generations, local musicians gather to play at hotels, bringing age-old songs alive again. (18.5)

HOTEL

Timorese also learn to work in environmentally friendly hotels like this one, made entirely of locally produced, all natural material. (8)

HOTEL OWNER ON-CAMERA

HOTEL OWNER:

"It certainly has been surprisingly successful, economically."

NARRATION

Hotel owner Gabrielle Samson. (1.7)

HOTEL OWNER ON-CAMERA

HOTEL OWNER:

"All of the funds are going back into something that the whole community can enjoy, that has a long term benefit for the whole community."

NARRATION

Benefits -- like a portion of the money earned from the hotel -- go into building new schools, paying teachers' salaries, and improving and updating health clinics. (9)

And for many Timorese, there seems to be another -- unexpected -- benefit. In the effort to open the country to outsiders, this nation has rediscovered a long-forgotten part of itself --- its heritage. (12.5)

LOGO

This report was prepared by United Nations Television. (2.5)