State of Oceans and Coasts: TIMOR-LESTE
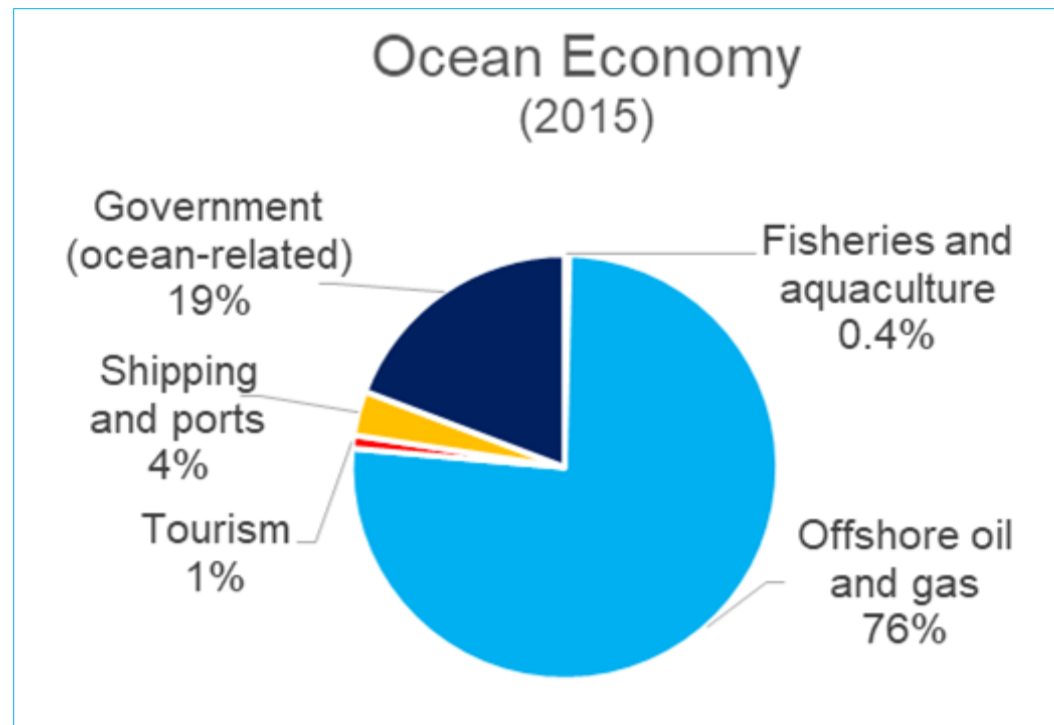
Abilio da Fonseca

PNLC and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

Ocean economy

- **US$1.97 billion or 87% of GDP**

Ocean Economy
(2015)

Government (ocean-related) 19%

Shipping and ports 4%

Tourism 1%

Fisheries and aquaculture 0.4%

Offshore oil and gas 76%

Ocean health

Valuation of coastal and marine ecosystems	**US$5.25 billion**
Marine protected areas (% of territorial waters)	**0.11%**
ICM (% of coastline)	**34.1%**

Coastal and Marine Habitats (square kilometers)
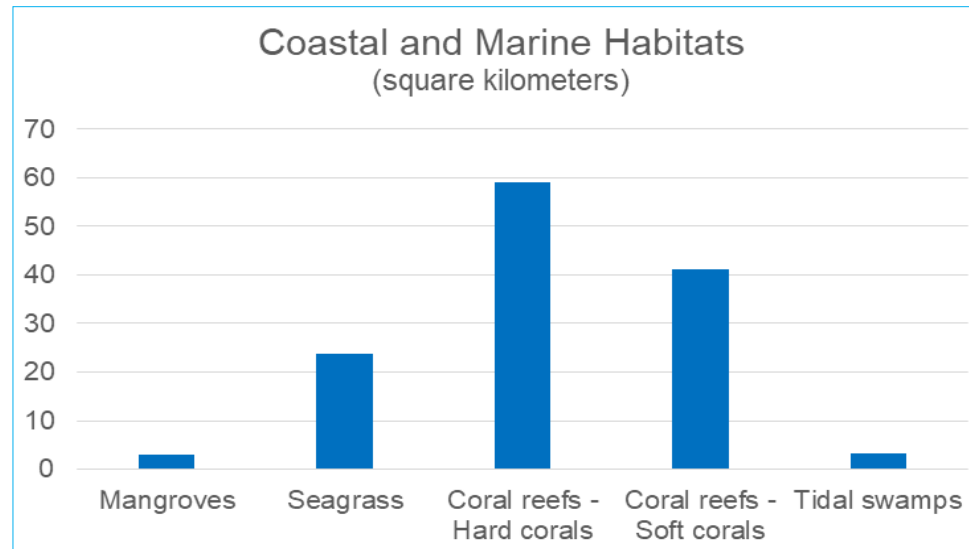
Ocean health

Marine water quality:

| Parameters	Rating
Dissolved oxygen (DO)	Good
Nitrates and phosphates	very low to undetectable near the surface; increasing concentration with depth
pH	8.12 (Good)
Heavy metals	Good
Total suspended solids (TSS)	Fair
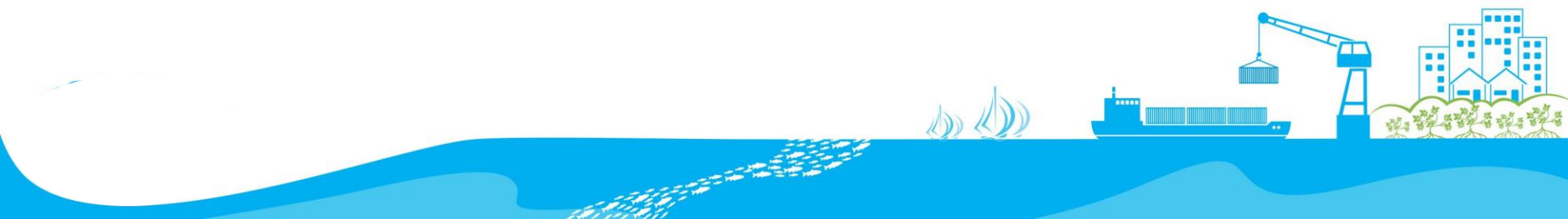
Blue economy initiatives
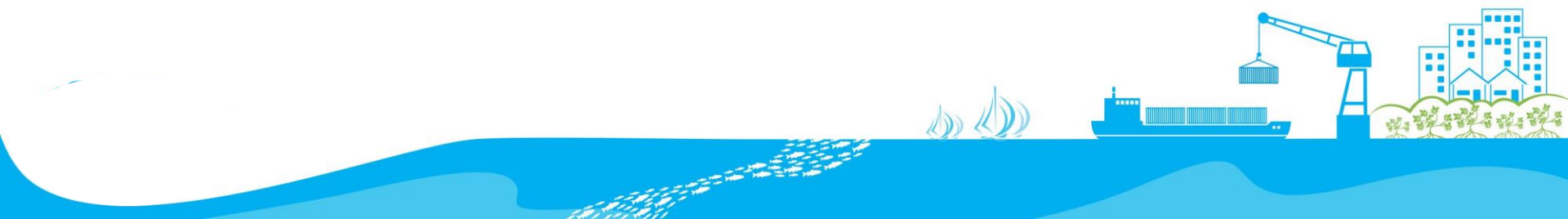
- **National Ocean Policy**

  "A healthy ocean that sustains the livelihoods and prosperity of the people of Timor-Leste in a fair and equitable manner."
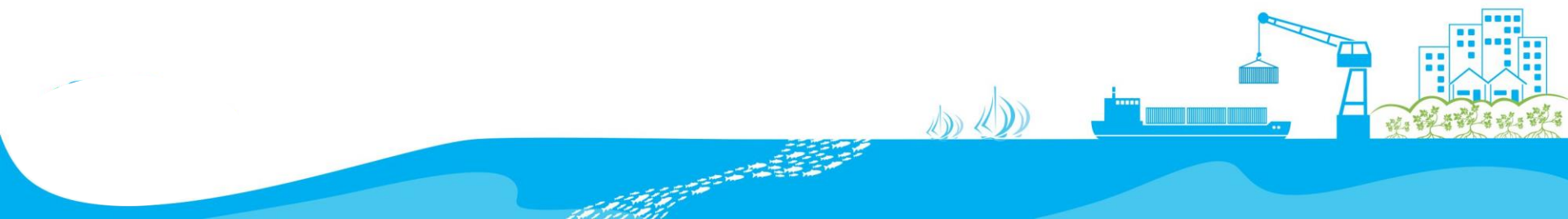
Blue economy initiatives

Objectives of the National Ocean Policy

- Working together
- National security and sovereignty over our oceans
- Our future: a diverse blue economy based on the sea
- Strengthening our natural defense
- Investing in our people
- Climate change vulnerability, adaptation, and mitigation

National Ocean Policy Implementation (NOPI)

- **National objectives for management of the TL oceans in line with international commitments (Conventions/Protocols ratified by the GoTL)**

- **To support the implementation of SDP 2011-2030 and the roadmap – SDG the agenda 2030 (goal 14)**

- **The implementation requires an integrated efforts & coordination to share best practices, experts, financial resources, data etc. (SDG goal 17)**
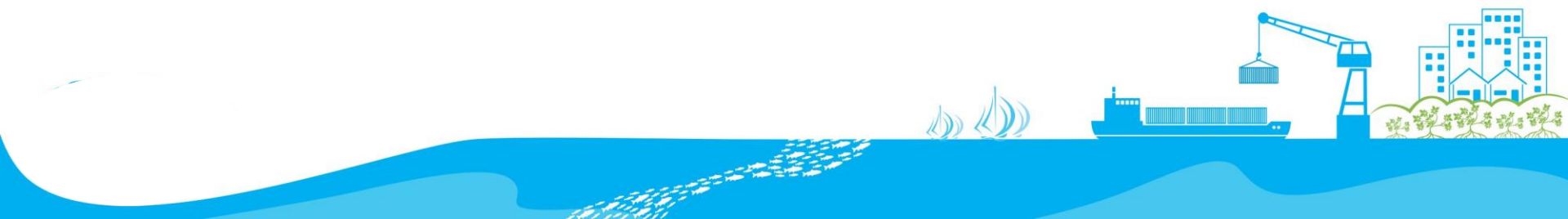
Top priority of the NOPI

- **Identify & promote new areas of blue economy growth in close collaboration with key stakeholders,** this is because the blue economy provides an overarching framework through which TL can explore new & emerging ways to derive economic benefits from its ocean resources

- **Targeted biophysical, social and economic research which aims to evaluate the current TL ocean economy and identify areas of potential growth and development which are matched with social & environmental conditions of TL**

- **Promote & strengthen business /private sector partnerships and participation & investment in Blue Economy planning and development.**

Address climate change issues

- **Identify climate change vulnerability & its impacts on biophysical & socio-economic (SDG goal 13)**

- **Climate smart as an integrated approach to address interlinks challenges: ensuring food security – through effective and sustainable utilization of marine & coastal resources**

- **A blue economy approach must fully anticipate & incorporate the impacts of climate change on marine and coastal ecosystems**

- **All above are part of the blue economy model, aim for improvement of human wellbeing & social equity, while significantly reducing environmental threats**

Conclusion

- **TL will enhance the direction of future ocean use & management and will also assist external support to understand national ocean priorities**

- **Increasing long-term benefits of the sustainable use of marine & coastal resources in TL**

- **The "blue economy" concept in TL seeks to promote economic growth, social inclusion, & the preservation/improvement of livelihoods, job opport. while at the same time ensuring environmental sustainability of the oceans & coastal areas**

- **The blue economy has diverse components: fisheries, tourism, aquaculture, renewable energy, marine biotechnology & coastal protection, waste disposal, ocean ecosystem & services provided**

Thank you for your attention

Obrigado e bom trabalho