



NINTH CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

Government Resolution No. 26/2025

of 13 of August

Legal Regime for International Marine Scientific Research

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), signed at Montego Bay on 10 December 1982, to which Timor-Leste is a State Party by virtue of National Parliament Resolution No. 17/2012 of 27 December, establishes in its Article 238 the right of all States and competent international organisations to conduct marine scientific research, and expressly recognises in Articles 239 and 242 that States and competent international organisations shall, in accordance with the principle of respect for the sovereignty and jurisdiction of States and on the basis of mutual benefit, promote and facilitate the development and conduct of marine scientific research, as well as international cooperation in the field of marine scientific research for peaceful purposes.

Likewise, the Agreement under UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), ratified by Timor-Leste through National Parliament Resolution No. 26/2024 of 20 September, and whose instrument of ratification was deposited with the United Nations on 26 September 2024, thereby consolidating Timor-Leste's commitment to the protection of marine biodiversity, provides that States shall promote international cooperation in the field of marine scientific research, scientific capacity-building and the development and transfer of marine technology, consistent with UNCLOS and in support of the objectives of the BBNJ Agreement.

The Programme of the Ninth Constitutional Government identifies compliance with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as one of its priority objectives, including in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14 – “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”, which calls for the enhancement of: i) scientific knowledge; ii) research capacity; and iii) marine technology transfer, in order to improve ocean health and increase the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, particularly Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, such as Timor-Leste.

The Government Programme also refers to strengthening internal coordination in order to promote the growth of Timor-Leste's Blue Economy, including the development of a broad range of activities such as marine scientific research. Accordingly, marine scientific research constitutes one of the pillars and objectives of the blue economy enshrined in the future Policy and Action Plan for the Promotion of a Resilient and Sustainable Ocean Economy (2025–2035).

Accordingly, and considering the provisions of Article 48(3) of Decree-Law No. 6/2020 of 6 February, approving the legal regime for the protection and conservation of biodiversity, which establishes that marine scientific research shall be subject to special legislation, the Government now intends to give effect to the international commitments undertaken within the framework of the United Nations, as well as to implement the important national objective of strengthening international cooperation and the scientific and technological capacity established in Timor-Leste.

Knowledge of the ocean is fundamental to combating the loss and degradation of the biological diversity of ocean ecosystems, due in particular to the impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems, such as ocean warming and deoxygenation, as well as ocean acidification, pollution, including plastic pollution, and unsustainable use.

Through this Decree-Law, the Government also intends to encourage the development of new areas of action that promote knowledge of the ocean in Timor-Leste and the training of Timorese scientific personnel, particularly young researchers, fostering cooperation and international exchange of knowledge relating to the ocean and, in particular, Timor-Leste's maritime space, which, due to its size and the natural resources and marine biodiversity it contains, constitutes a unique natural laboratory at the global level.

Within this framework, this Decree-Law aims to regulate the procedure for authorising marine scientific research activities carried out by foreign States or international organisations within the national maritime space, taking into account the framework established under UNCLOS and the recommendations and international best practices relating to marine scientific research, without prejudice to Timor-Leste's sovereign rights and jurisdiction.

Accordingly, the Government decrees, pursuant to Article 115(o) and Article 116(d) of the Constitution of the Republic, to have the force of law, as follows:

CHAPTER I **General Provisions**

Article 1 **Subject Matter and Scope**

1. This Decree-Law establishes the legal regime governing marine scientific research applicable to marine scientific research activities conducted within the national maritime space when carried out at the request of foreign States or international organisations.
2. Marine scientific research activities aim to promote knowledge of the ocean in Timor-Leste and to train Timorese scientific personnel, particularly young researchers, fostering cooperation and the international exchange of knowledge relating to the ocean and, in particular, the national maritime space.
3. The provisions of this Decree-Law shall not prejudice the rights and obligations of Timor-Leste arising under international agreements and conventions in force within the domestic legal order, or regulations and other instruments adopted within the framework of international organisations to which Timor-Leste is a State Party.
4. The application of this Decree-Law shall take into account Timor-Leste's rights and obligations under the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, including with regard to notification to the Clearing-House Mechanism established under that instrument of activities related to marine genetic resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction and digital sequence information relating to such resources, as well as safeguarding the rights to information, participation and involvement of local communities, namely where *Tara bandu* or any other traditional practice is concerned, or the sharing of their traditional knowledge associated with marine genetic resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction, as well as the need to obtain their free, prior and informed consent.
5. The application of this Decree-Law shall also safeguard the provisions of Article 47(2) and (3) of Decree-Law No. 6/2020 of 6 February, regarding scientific research programmes and the development of alternative technologies relevant to biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of its components.
6. The conduct of marine scientific research activities shall not create, alter, modify or prejudice any claim to sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction, namely in relation to any disputes or controversies concerning any part of the national maritime space, or concerning the legal status of any part of the national land territory and its adjacent maritime areas, and may not be invoked as a basis for asserting or denying any claim.

Article 2

National Maritime Space

For the purposes of this Decree-Law, the national maritime space extends from the baselines to the outer limit of the territorial sea and includes the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf, as identified in Law No. 7/2002 of 20 September.

Article 3

Definition

1. Marine scientific research activities shall include, in particular, any scientific studies or related experimental work conducted exclusively for peaceful purposes and intended to increase scientific knowledge of the marine environment for the benefit of all humankind, namely through the publication and dissemination of the methodologies used and results obtained, the development of marine scientific research by national scientific research centres, and the promotion of scientific capacity and marine technology.
2. The provisions of the preceding paragraph shall include marine scientific research activities carried out through the use or operation of equipment, vehicles or submersibles operating autonomously within and outside the marine environment, or through the use or operation of removable, floating or fixed equipment, dirigible equipment or equipment operated remotely or through global positioning systems, or aircraft, including drones and other similar equipment.
3. For the purposes of this Decree-Law, marine scientific research activities requiring the express consent of the Government shall include, in particular, the following activities:
 - a) Scientific research classified as “pure” and “applied”;
 - b) Any scientific studies or related experimental work, including those directly or indirectly relating to:
 - i) Surveys of any nature supporting or preparatory to naval, military or similar operations;
 - ii) Meteorological, hydrographic, geophysical, seismographic or oceanographic surveys and meteorological observations;
 - iii) Environmental monitoring and monitoring of pollution effects;
 - iv) The exploitation, use or collection of information or samples relating to marine natural resources, living or non-living, including genetic resources;
 - v) Research, prospecting and bioprospecting, drilling, excavation, geological or sediment sampling, and exploration of the marine environment;
 - vi) The laying of submarine cables and pipelines;
 - vii) The construction, operation and use of artificial islands or reefs, installations and structures in the marine environment, including all types of prior assessment surveys required.

Article 4

Methodology

1. Marine scientific research activities shall be conducted using appropriate scientific methods and compatible means consistent with such methods and with the purposes referred to in the preceding article, and in accordance with the applicable legal provisions and best practices, namely in matters relating to the conservation of marine biodiversity and the protection and preservation of the marine environment established under national legislation or applicable international agreements and conventions in force within the domestic legal order, or recommendations and guidelines of international organisations to which Timor-Leste is a party.

2. The provisions of the preceding paragraph shall not prejudice compliance with other obligations established under national legislation or applicable international agreements and conventions in force within the domestic legal order, or recommendations and guidelines of international organisations to which Timor-Leste is a party.

Article 5

Other Uses and Activities

Marine scientific research activities shall not affect or interfere, directly or indirectly, with other uses or activities within the national maritime space, namely:

- a)* Freedom of navigation and overflight;
- b)* The right of innocent passage;
- c)* The laying of submarine cables and pipelines;
- d)* The construction of artificial islands and other installations and structures;
- e)* Activities relating to the conservation, use and harvesting of living marine natural resources, including genetic resources;
- f)* Activities relating to the exploration, prospecting, exploitation and use of non-living marine natural resources;
- g)* The common or exclusive use of areas or volumes within the national maritime space as provided by law;
- h)* Activities which, by their nature and purpose, are exclusively intended for the national defence, civil protection or internal security of Timor-Leste; or
- i)* Other activities or uses established under national legislation or applicable rules of international law in force within the domestic legal order.

CHAPTER II

Procedure

Article 6

Authorisation

1. Marine scientific research activities within the national maritime space conducted by foreign States or international organisations shall be subject to prior express authorisation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, following the prior opinion of the member or members of Government responsible for activities relating to the sea.
2. Without prejudice to Article 4(2) and Article 10(c), the use of vessels and the exercise of the right of innocent passage, the placement of artificial islands or reefs, and the use of installations and structures for conducting marine scientific research activities, as well as all marine scientific research equipment under the terms of Articles 21 and 22, shall be subject to prior express authorisation.

Article 7
Application

1. Foreign States or international organisations wishing to conduct marine scientific research activities within the national maritime space shall submit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation an application for authorisation in accordance with the model annexed to this Decree-Law, which forms an integral part thereof, together with all documentation necessary for the assessment of the respective application, in accordance with paragraph 3.
2. Applications for authorisation and requests for additional information provided for in Article 9, together with the respective documentation, shall be submitted in Tetum, Portuguese or English through the appropriate diplomatic channels.
3. Applications for authorisation shall identify the following elements:
 - a) The nature and objectives of the project and the marine scientific research activities to be carried out;
 - b) The methods and means to be used, including the name, tonnage, type and category of vessels, installations, artificial islands or reefs or other structures, as well as a description of the equipment to be used, and evidence demonstrating that the methods, means and equipment comply with the provisions of this Decree-Law;
 - c) The location and geographical coordinates of the areas or volumes where the project and marine scientific research activities will take place;
 - d) The expected date of first arrival and final departure of the research vessels, or the installation, construction and removal of equipment, installations, artificial islands or reefs or other structures assigned to the project and marine scientific research activities;
 - e) The identification of the sponsoring institution, its director and the person responsible for the project and marine scientific research activities, as well as, in the case of a grouping or consortium of different entities, institutions and/or persons, the identification of each such entity and/or person, their respective institutions and organisations, and the role to be performed by each within the grouping or consortium;
 - f) The extent to which the possible participation or representation of Timor-Leste in the project and marine scientific research activities is envisaged.
4. The submission and assessment of an application for authorisation by a foreign State shall not depend upon the existence of diplomatic relations between that State and Timor-Leste.

Article 8
Assessment and Tacit Approval

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Government to assess, on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations of the international organisations to which Timor-Leste is a party, whether marine scientific research activities fulfil the

purposes established under this Decree-Law and under the applicable international agreements and conventions in force within the domestic legal order.

2. Without prejudice to the provisions of the preceding paragraph, the Government shall, whenever possible and under normal circumstances, authorise marine scientific research activities within the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf, under the terms established in this Decree-Law.
3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation shall assess applications for authorisation of marine scientific research activities within a maximum period of four months from the date of their submission, and the application shall be deemed approved six months after the date of submission of the application, without prejudice to the provisions of the following paragraph.
4. The tacit approval provided for in the preceding paragraph shall not apply where the marine scientific research activities concern or may impact, directly or indirectly, maritime areas disputed by Timor-Leste and whose boundaries have not been delimited, or where the applicant is notified of any of the situations referred to in Article 10 within four months following the date of submission of the application, or where additional information is submitted by foreign States or international organisations under the terms provided for in the following article.
5. Any foreign State or international organisation may, at any time, request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation information regarding the status of its application for authorisation.
6. Without prejudice to paragraph 3, in the context of the assessment of applications for authorisation of marine scientific research activities, the member or members of Government responsible for activities relating to the sea shall safeguard the rights to information and participation of local communities, and the public consultation procedures provided for in Article 6(4) of Decree-Law No. 6/2020 of 6 February shall apply, with the necessary adaptations.

Article 9

Additional Information

1. Prior to the assessment of the application for authorisation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation may request from the foreign State or international organisation any additional information relevant to the assessment of the application, without prejudice to Article 10 (d).
2. The request for additional information shall indicate a reasonable and sufficient period for foreign States or international organisations to submit all additional information.
3. A foreign State or international organisation may also voluntarily submit additional information relevant to the assessment of its application for authorisation.
4. The request for, or submission of, additional information shall automatically suspend the period referred to in Article 8(3), and such information shall be assessed as expeditiously

as possible, taking into account its technical and scientific complexity, but never for a period exceeding four months from the date of submission of the additional information.

Article 10

Refusal

Without prejudice to other cases provided for under national legislation or international agreements in force within the domestic legal order, applications for authorisation of marine scientific research activities may be refused where, based on the application and the respective documentation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation concludes that such activities:

- a) May impact the implementation of measures for the conservation of marine biodiversity or the protection and preservation of the marine environment, or the exploration and exploitation of marine natural resources, including genetic resources, namely with regard to their location, monitoring and characteristics, as well as the economic viability of their exploitation and use;
- b) May involve drilling or excavation of the seabed and subsoil, the use of explosives or the introduction of harmful substances into the marine environment;
- c) May involve the construction, operation or use of artificial islands or reefs, installations and structures, whether removable or fixed;
- d) Where the information provided is inaccurate or insufficient regarding the nature and objectives of the marine scientific research activities;
- e) Where the applicant for authorisation has failed to comply with any obligation, or has breached any duty, in the context of marine scientific research activities previously conducted in Timor-Leste or abroad; or
- f) May impact any disputes or controversies concerning any part of the national maritime space, or the legal status of any part of the national land territory and its adjacent maritime areas.

Article 11

Withdrawal

Applicants may withdraw their application for authorisation of marine scientific research activities at any stage of the procedure, without prejudice to the payment of costs and other charges incurred in connection with the assessment of the respective application for authorisation.

Article 12

Notifications, Communications and Time Limits

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation shall notify the applicant of the decision granting or refusing authorisation, together with the respective grounds, through the appropriate diplomatic channels.

2. Other communications between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the applicant shall be drafted in Tetum, Portuguese or English and shall be deemed effected on the date of dispatch.
3. The time limits established in this Decree-Law shall run continuously and shall not be suspended on Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays.

CHAPTER III **Obligations**

Article 13

Obligations of the Holder of the Authorisation

1. The authorisation to conduct marine scientific research activities shall impose upon its holder the following obligations:
 - a) To guarantee the Timorese State the right to participate or be represented in the project and marine scientific research activities, including on board research vessels or installations, without giving rise to the payment of any remuneration to researchers designated by the Timorese State and without any obligation on the part of the Timorese State to bear any costs relating to the exercise of such right of participation;
 - b) To provide the Timorese State, as soon as possible, with preliminary reports, as well as the final results and conclusions once the research has been completed;
 - c) To grant the Timorese State access to all data and samples resulting from the project and marine scientific research activities conducted within the national maritime space, as well as to provide data capable of being reproduced and samples capable of being divided without prejudice to their scientific value;
 - d) To provide the Timorese State with an assessment of the data, samples and research results, or assist it in their assessment or interpretation;
 - e) To ensure that the results are made available as soon as possible;
 - f) Without prejudice to the provisions of the following article, to immediately inform the Timorese State of any significant change to the research programme;
 - h) To comply with the obligations established in Articles 21 and 22 of this Decree-Law.
2. The holder of the authorisation to conduct marine scientific research activities shall be liable under the terms provided for in the national legislation applicable to the conservation of marine biodiversity and the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

Article 14

Duty to Provide Information

1. During the conduct of marine scientific research activities, the holders of the authorisation shall provide the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation with all information requested, within the time limit established for that purpose.

2. The holders of the authorisation shall inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, as expeditiously as possible, of the presence or possible presence within the area designated for marine scientific research activities of any property of historical, paleontological, archaeological, architectural, linguistic, documentary, artistic, ethnographic, scientific, social, industrial or technical value, or any other such property, and of any indications or evidence of the presence of marine natural resources obtained during the conduct of marine scientific research activities.

Article 15

Disclosure and Confidentiality

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation shall maintain a public register containing the identity of the applicant or holder of the authorisation, the State of nationality and respective organisation, applications for authorisation submitted and under assessment, as well as those authorised, refused or amended.
2. Without prejudice to the provisions of the preceding paragraph, during the assessment phase of the application for authorisation and until notification of the decision granting or refusing authorisation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation shall safeguard the confidentiality of information considered sensitive by the applicant and relating to the applications for authorisation and the respective documentation.
3. Following notification of the decision granting authorisation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation may disclose all information relating to the respective marine scientific research project.
4. The authorisation to conduct marine scientific research activities shall impose upon its holder the obligation not to publish or disclose, in any manner or form, information and data resulting from research activities relating to the exploration and exploitation of marine natural resources, including genetic resources, without the prior express consent of the Timorese State, as well as any information relevant to national defence, civil protection or internal security.
5. It shall be for the Timorese State to assess and determine, in each case, the appropriateness and timing for publishing or disclosing partial or total results relating to marine scientific research activities concerning the exploration and exploitation of marine natural resources, including genetic resources.

Article 16

Non-Compliance and Liability

1. Notification by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of non-compliance with the obligations established under this Decree-Law attributable to the holder of the authorisation or to the entities or persons conducting marine scientific research activities shall constitute the holder of the authorisation in breach.
2. The notification of non-compliance provided for in the preceding paragraph shall identify the obligations not complied with and establish a time limit for compliance, except where

compliance becomes impossible or where the actual result of compliance would be contrary to the interests of the Timorese State or to those interests which such obligations seek to safeguard.

3. The holder of the authorisation and the entities or persons referred to in paragraph 1 shall be jointly and severally liable for non-compliance resulting from the acts or omissions of any entity or person conducting or participating in marine scientific research activities under the same authorisation.
4. Definitive non-compliance with any obligation established under this Decree-Law by the holder of the authorisation or by the entities or persons participating in marine scientific research activities shall constitute grounds for revocation of the respective authorisation.
5. Notification of the revocation of the authorisation to conduct marine scientific research activities shall imply the immediate cessation of marine scientific research activities, without prejudice to the other rights of the Timorese State, namely the right to compensation for damages resulting from the non-compliance.
6. The provisions of Article 12(1) and (3) shall apply, with the necessary adaptations, to the notifications provided for in this article.

CHAPTER IV

Amendment, Suspension and Termination

Article 17

Amendment

1. The holder of the authorisation may request the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation to amend the marine scientific research activities set out in the application for authorisation, by submitting the respective grounds and the elements referred to in Article 7(3) that are subject to amendment.
2. Applications for amendment shall follow procedures identical to those applicable to applications for authorisation to conduct marine scientific research activities.
3. Without prejudice to the provisions of the following article, in the event of a change in the holder of the authorisation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation reserves the right to require the cessation of the ongoing marine scientific research activities and the submission of a new application for authorisation in accordance with this Decree-Law.

Article 18

Assignment and Subcontracting

1. The authorisation to conduct marine scientific research activities shall not permit the total or partial assignment of the position of the holder of the authorisation, or of any entity or person forming part of the respective marine scientific research project, nor subcontracting to any other entity or person within that framework, except where the prior express consent of the Timorese State has been obtained.

2. The assignee or subcontractor referred to in the preceding paragraph shall satisfy all requirements necessary for carrying out the marine scientific research project and shall safeguard all conditions established for that purpose under this Decree-Law.
3. The consent of the Timorese State referred to in paragraph 1 shall be communicated to the holder of the authorisation.
4. In the event of subcontracting of any other entity or person within the framework of the marine scientific research project, the holder of the authorisation or any entity or person forming part of the said project shall remain fully liable before the Timorese State under the terms established in this Decree-Law and other applicable legislation.

Article 19

Suspension of Marine Scientific Research Activities

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation may suspend marine scientific research activities taking place within the exclusive economic zone or the continental shelf in the following cases:
 - a) Where such activities are not conducted in accordance with the information provided pursuant to Article 7(3);
 - b) Where the foreign State or international organisation competent to conduct the marine scientific research activities fails to comply with any of the obligations established in Articles 13 and 14.
2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation shall notify the holder of the authorisation of the suspension decision provided for in this article and shall determine, in each case, the need for cessation of the marine scientific research activities.
3. Upon notification of the suspension decision provided for in this article, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation shall grant the holder of the authorisation a reasonable period for remedying the irregularities referred to in paragraph 1(a) and (b).
4. The suspension provided for in this article may be revoked, allowing the continuation of the marine scientific research activities, if and when the foreign State or international organisation demonstrates that the irregularities referred to in paragraph 1(a) and (b) have been remedied.

Article 20

Termination of Marine Scientific Research Activities

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation may determine the termination of marine scientific research activities taking place within the exclusive economic zone or the continental shelf in the following cases:
 - a) Where such activities are not conducted in accordance with the information provided under Article 7(3) and this implies a fundamental alteration of the project or marine scientific research activities;

- b) Where the irregularities constituting grounds for suspension of the activities under Article 19(3) are not remedied accordingly.
2. Notification of termination shall imply the immediate interruption of the marine scientific research activities, except where the conservation of marine biodiversity, the protection and preservation of the marine environment, or the safety of persons and property is at stake.

CHAPTER V

Marine Scientific Research Equipment in the Marine Environment

Article 21

Placement, Use, Removal and Reuse

1. The placement and use of artificial islands and reefs, installations and other structures, whether fixed or movable, submarine cables or pipelines, or marine scientific research equipment in the marine environment shall be subject to the prior express consent of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and shall comply with the conditions and requirements established under national legislation and international agreements and conventions in force within the domestic legal order, or recommendations and guidelines of international organisations to which Timor-Leste is a party.
2. The holder of an authorisation to conduct marine scientific research activities under the terms established in this Decree-Law shall be responsible for complying with all conditions and requirements applicable to artificial islands and reefs, installations and other structures, whether fixed or movable, submarine cables or pipelines, established under national legislation and international agreements and conventions in force within the domestic legal order, or recommendations and guidelines of international organisations to which Timor-Leste is a party.
3. It shall be for the Timorese State to determine, in each case, either on its own initiative or at the request of the holder of the authorisation, the removal or reuse of artificial islands and reefs, installations and other structures, whether fixed or movable, submarine cables or pipelines, or equipment used in the conduct of marine scientific research activities.
4. The removal or reuse of artificial islands and reefs, installations and other structures, whether fixed or movable, submarine cables or pipelines, or equipment used in the conduct of marine scientific research activities shall comply with the conditions and requirements established under national legislation and international agreements and conventions in force within the domestic legal order, or recommendations and guidelines of international organisations to which Timor-Leste is a party.
5. The holder of an authorisation to conduct marine scientific research activities shall bear the costs and other charges relating to the operations for the removal or reuse of artificial islands and reefs, installations and other structures, whether fixed or movable, submarine cables or pipelines, or equipment used in the conduct of marine scientific research activities.

6. The holder of an authorisation to conduct marine scientific research activities shall be liable, under the applicable national legislation and, in the absence thereof, under international agreements and conventions in force within the domestic legal order, for the deterioration or abandonment, and the consequences thereof, of artificial islands and reefs, installations and other structures, whether fixed or movable, submarine cables or pipelines, or equipment used in the conduct of marine scientific research activities.

Article 22

Use of Aircraft

The use of foreign aircraft, including drones and other similar equipment, in marine scientific research activities shall be subject to obtaining the prior express consent of the Timorese State, in accordance with the provisions established under national legislation and international law and under international agreements and conventions in force within the domestic legal order, or recommendations and guidelines of international organisations to which Timor-Leste is a party.

CHAPTER IX

Final Provisions

Article 23

Repeal Provision

Any provisions contrary to this Decree-Law are hereby repealed.

Article 24

Entry into Force

This Decree-Law shall enter into force on the day following its publication.

Approved by the Council of Ministers on 25 June 2025.

The Prime Minister,

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

The Vice-Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister of Tourism and Environment,

Francisco Kalbuadi Lay

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation,

Bendito dos Santos Freitas

Promulgated on

To be published.

The President of the Republic,

José Ramos-Horta

ATTACHMENT
(Referred to in Article 7)

Application Form for Authorisation to Conduct Marine Scientific Research Activities

1. Informações gerais / General information

1.1. Designação do cruzeiro científico / Cruise name:

1.2. Estado requerente / Requesting State:

1.3. Instituição promotora / Sponsoring institution:

Nome / Name:

Morada / Address:

Diretor / Director:

1.4. Cientista responsável pelo projeto / Scientist in charge of the project:

Nome / Name:

Nacionalidade / Nationality:

Instituição / Affiliation:

Morada / Address:

Telefone / Telephone:

Endereço eletrónico / Email:

1.5. Cientista(s) do Estado costeiro envolvido(s) na preparação do projeto / Scientist(s) from coastal State involved in the planning of the project:

Nome / Name:

Instituição / Affiliation:

Morada / Address:

Telefone / Telephone:

Endereço eletrónico / Email:

2. Descrição do projeto / Description of project

2.1. Natureza e objetivos do projeto / Nature and objectives of the project:

2.2. Anteriores ou futuros cruzeiros científicos relevantes para o projeto / Relevant previous or future research cruises:

2.3. Publicações prévias relacionadas com o projeto / Previous publications relating to the project:

3. Métodos e meios a serem utilizados / Methods and means to be used:

3.1. Características do navio / Particulars of vessel:

Nome / Name:

Nacionalidade (Estado de bandeira) / Nationality (flag State):

Proprietário / Owner:

Operador / Operator:

Comprimento total (metros) / Overall length (meters):

Calado máximo (metros) / Maximum draught (meters):

Arqueação bruta /Gross tonnage:

Propulsão / Propulsion:

Velocidade máxima e de cruzeiro / Cruising and maximum speed:

Indicativo de chamada / Call sign:

Número INMARSAT e método e capacidade de comunicação (incluindo frequências de emergência) / INMARSAT number and method and capability of communication (including emergency frequencies):

Nome do capitão / Name of master:

Número de tripulantes / Number of crew:

Número de cientistas a bordo / Number of scientists on board:

Outra informação relevante / Other relevant information:

3.2. Aeronaves ou outros veículos a serem utilizados no projeto / Aircraft or other craft to be used in the project:

3.3. Características dos métodos e instrumentos científicos / Particulars of methods and scientific instruments:

Tipos de amostras e dados a recolher / Types of samples and data

Métodos a usar / Methods to be used

Instrumentos a usar / Instruments to be used

3.4. Natureza e quantidade de substâncias que serão libertadas para o meio ambiente marinho / Nature and quantity of substances to be released into the marine environment:

3.5. Indique se (em que circunstâncias) serão feitas perfurações no leito marinho / Indicate whether (and in what circumstances) drilling will be carried out:

3.6. Indique se serão utilizados explosivos. Se sim, especifique a tipologia e nome comercial, características químicas, dimensões, profundidade e frequência da detonação, bem como posição em latitude e longitude / Indicate whether explosives will be used. If yes, please specify type and trade name, chemical content, size, depth of detonation, frequency of detonation, and position in latitude and longitude.

4. Instalações e equipamentos / Installations and equipment

Detalhes sobre instalações e equipamento a utilizar (datas de colocação, ações de manutenção, remoção; exata localização e profundidade) / Details of installations and equipment (dates of laying, servicing, recovery; exact locations and depth):

5. Áreas geográficas / Geographical Areas

5.1. Indique as áreas geográficas onde o projeto será conduzido (referências de latitude e longitude, incluindo coordenadas sobre a rota do cruzeiro) / Indicate geographical areas in which the project is to be conducted (with reference in latitude and longitude, including coordinates of cruise track/way points):

5.2. Junte carta(s) a uma escala apropriada (1 página, elevada resolução) que revele as áreas geográficas onde se pretende realizar as atividades de investigação científica e, sempre que possível, a localização e a profundidade das estações de amostragem, traçado das linhas de sondagem, bem como a localização das instalações e equipamentos / Attach chart(s) at an appropriate scale (1 page, high-resolution) showing the geographical areas of the intended work and, as far as practicable, the location and depth of sampling stations, the tracks of survey lines, and the locations of installations and equipment.

6. Datas / Dates

6.1. Datas previstas de primeira entrada e última saída da área de investigação / Expected dates of first entry into and final departure from the research area of the research vessel:

6.2. Refira se estão previstas várias entradas / Indicate if multiple entries are expected:

7. Escalas / Port calls

7.1. Datas e identificação dos portos de escala previstos / Dates and names of intended ports of call:

7.2. Alguma necessidade logística especial nos portos de escala / Any special logistical requirements at ports of call:

7.3. Nome, morada e telefone do agente marítimo (se disponível) / Name, address and telephone of shipping agent (if available):

8. Participação do representante do Estado costeiro / Participation of the representative of the coastal State

8.1. Modalidade da participação do representante do Estado costeiro no projeto de investigação / Modalities of the participation of the representative of the coastal State in the research project:

8.2. Datas e portos propostos para o embarque e desembarque / Proposed dates and ports for embarkation/disembarkation:

9. Acesso a dados, amostras e resultados da investigação / Access to data, samples and research results

9.1. Datas previstas para a entrega ao Estado costeiro do relatório preliminar, que deverá incluir as datas previstas para a entrega dos dados e resultados da investigação / Expected dates of submission to coastal State of preliminary report, which should include the expected dates of submission of the data and research results:

9.2. Datas previstas para a entrega ao Estado costeiro do relatório final / Anticipated dates of submission to the coastal State of the final report:

9.3. Meios propostos para o acesso, por parte do Estado costeiro, aos dados e às amostras / Proposed means for access by coastal State to data and samples:

9.4. Meios propostos para garantir ao Estado costeiro uma avaliação dos dados, amostras e resultados da investigação / Proposed means to provide coastal State with assessment of data, samples and research results:

9.5. Meios propostos para garantir apoio na avaliação ou interpretação dos dados, amostras e resultados da investigação (incluindo através da transferência de tecnologia) / Proposed means to provide assistance in assessment or interpretation of data, samples and research results (including transfer of technology):

9.6. Meios propostos para garantir que os resultados serão disponibilizados internacionalmente / Proposed means of making results internationally available:

10. Outras autorizações / Other permits submitted

10.1. Indique outras autorizações cuja obtenção junto do Estado costeiro é necessária para a realização desta investigação / Indicate other types of coastal State permits anticipated for this research:

11. Lista de documentos de apoio ao pedido / List of supporting documentation

11.1. Lista de anexos / List of attachments: