



## **NINTH CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT**

---

### **Government Resolution No. 17/2026**

**of 27 of March**

#### **APPROVING THE POLICY AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROMOTION OF A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY IN TIMOR-LESTE [2025–2035]**

The Ninth Constitutional Government defined, as one of the priorities of its Programme, the preparation of Timor-Leste's Blue Economy Policy, a public policy aimed at implementing the national vision for the ocean, identifying and defining the opportunities related to this sector, as well as the economic, social and environmental benefits for the country, while ensuring a balance between economic activity and the long-term capacity of ocean ecosystems and resources to sustain it.

Under the Organic Law of the Ninth Constitutional Government, the Prime Minister is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Blue Economy Policy through the Land and Maritime Boundary Office.

Specifically, pursuant to the law, the Land and Maritime Boundary Office is responsible for developing Timor-Leste's Blue Economy Policy and the respective implementation strategy, as well as coordinating all matters related to the implementation of Timor-Leste's Blue Economy Policy, in cooperation with the relevant ministerial departments.

This strategic policy aims to contribute to strengthening the maritime identity, culture and values of the Timorese People, promoting knowledge and appreciation of the ocean.

Likewise, it also affirms the national commitment to the definitive delimitation of Timor-Leste's maritime boundaries.

Accordingly, the Government has developed a policy centred on investment in traditional economic sectors and in new sectors capable of promoting sustainable development and the well-being of the population, through investment in the training of qualified professionals and essential infrastructure, while also promoting civic education and the behavioural changes necessary to prevent environmental destruction, through the development of a "blue generation" and the promotion of ocean literacy, with the ultimate objective of fostering national cohesion around the preservation of the Ocean as a universal common good.

In this context, in accordance with the Programme of the Ninth Constitutional Government, the policy and action plan now defined constitute a public policy instrument that sets out a national development strategy based on the preservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services and marine resources.

Furthermore, considering that the ocean is global and without physical borders, as are the challenges it faces, its preservation requires cooperation and solidarity at the international level.

This Policy will therefore also enable Timor-Leste to position itself regionally and globally, namely within the organisations of which it is a member, such as the CPLP and ASEAN, and within the Coral Triangle region, as a nation committed to the preservation of the ocean and marine ecosystems and resources, to the rights of Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, and to combating climate change.

The Blue Economy Policy is divided into three parts: Part I is dedicated to the introduction and general framework, containing the country's geographical, demographic, socio-economic, historical, cultural and political characterisation related to the Blue Economy; Part II contains the strategic framework of the Policy, including the strategic axes, pillars and objectives; and finally, Part III presents the Action Plan, consisting of a table in which the pillars, strategic objectives and specific actions are presented schematically, identifying the entities responsible for their implementation and the indicative timeframes for execution in the short, medium and long term.

The implementation strategy for the Blue Economy Policy is based on four Main Axes: i) Axis 1: Research, Education and Communication – Understanding the Ocean; ii) Axis 2: Marine Preservation and Conservation – Respecting the Ocean; iii) Axis 3: Sustainable Use of the Ocean – Living with the Ocean; iv) Axis 4: Supporting the Implementation of the Blue Economy – cross-cutting measures for implementing the Policy.

Following its approval in principle by the Council of Ministers on 25 June 2025, and in accordance with the fundamental principles underlying the definition of environmental policies and legislation, the Policy was subject to an extensive public consultation process during the month of September 2025, within the framework of which all citizens, civil society organisations and development partners, national and international, had the opportunity to express their views and submit criticisms, suggestions and recommendations, which, after due consideration, were incorporated into the Policy where relevant.

Likewise, the Policy was presented and discussed in a public session held on 21 October, attended by municipal authorities and community leaders, during which they had the opportunity to express the concerns and suggestions of communities throughout the country, which were also duly considered in the final version of the Policy.

In continuation of this process, and because this is a Policy to be developed and implemented with the participation of all citizens, from the mountains to the coastal areas, awareness-raising and dissemination sessions on the Policy will be held throughout the country during 2026 by the Prime Minister, with the support of the Land and Maritime Boundary Office and the relevant ministerial departments.

The period 2025–2035 is established as the first phase for the implementation of the Blue Economy Policy and for the execution of the measures and actions set out in the Action Plan.

Within the framework of its long-term implementation, and beyond the ten-year period now established, the Policy is affirmed as a dynamic instrument that requires dynamic action. In this way, its articulation with other strategic and planning instruments is

ensured, while also guaranteeing that it remains aligned with best practices and takes into account the most up-to-date scientific knowledge.

The Government hereby resolves, pursuant to Article 115(a) and (o) and Article 116 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic, as follows:

1. To approve the Policy and Action Plan for the Promotion of a Resilient and Sustainable Ocean Economy in Timor-Leste (2025–2035), attached to this Resolution and forming an integral part thereof.
2. To determine that the Policy and Action Plan for the Promotion of a Resilient and Sustainable Ocean Economy in Timor-Leste (2025–2035) shall be widely disseminated throughout Timorese society through the available communication channels.
3. To determine that this Resolution shall enter into force on the day following its publication.

Approved on 20 February 2026.

To be published.

The Prime Minister,

---

**Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão**