



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

DAI
Shaping a more livable world.

DCCP
DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY &
CYBERSECURITY PARTNERSHIP

ADVANCING TIMOR-LESTE'S AUTONOMOUS TELECOMMUNICATIONS LANDSCAPE (ATLATL)

Works with the Government of Timor-Leste to create a legal and regulatory framework to support a growing, safe, and secure internet and telecommunications ecosystem in Timor-Leste.



Photo by Maahid Photos

Mission

ATLATL, implemented by DAI's Digital Frontiers under the [Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership \(DCCP\)](#), advances Timor-Leste's Autonomous Telecommunications Landscape (ATLATL) to promote business-friendly policy and investment in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector.

Objectives



Catalyze the development of Timor-Leste's information and communication policy and related laws.



Enable expansion of ICT infrastructure, products, and services by creating a policy and legal environment conducive to increased investment and related growth in the sector.

Country

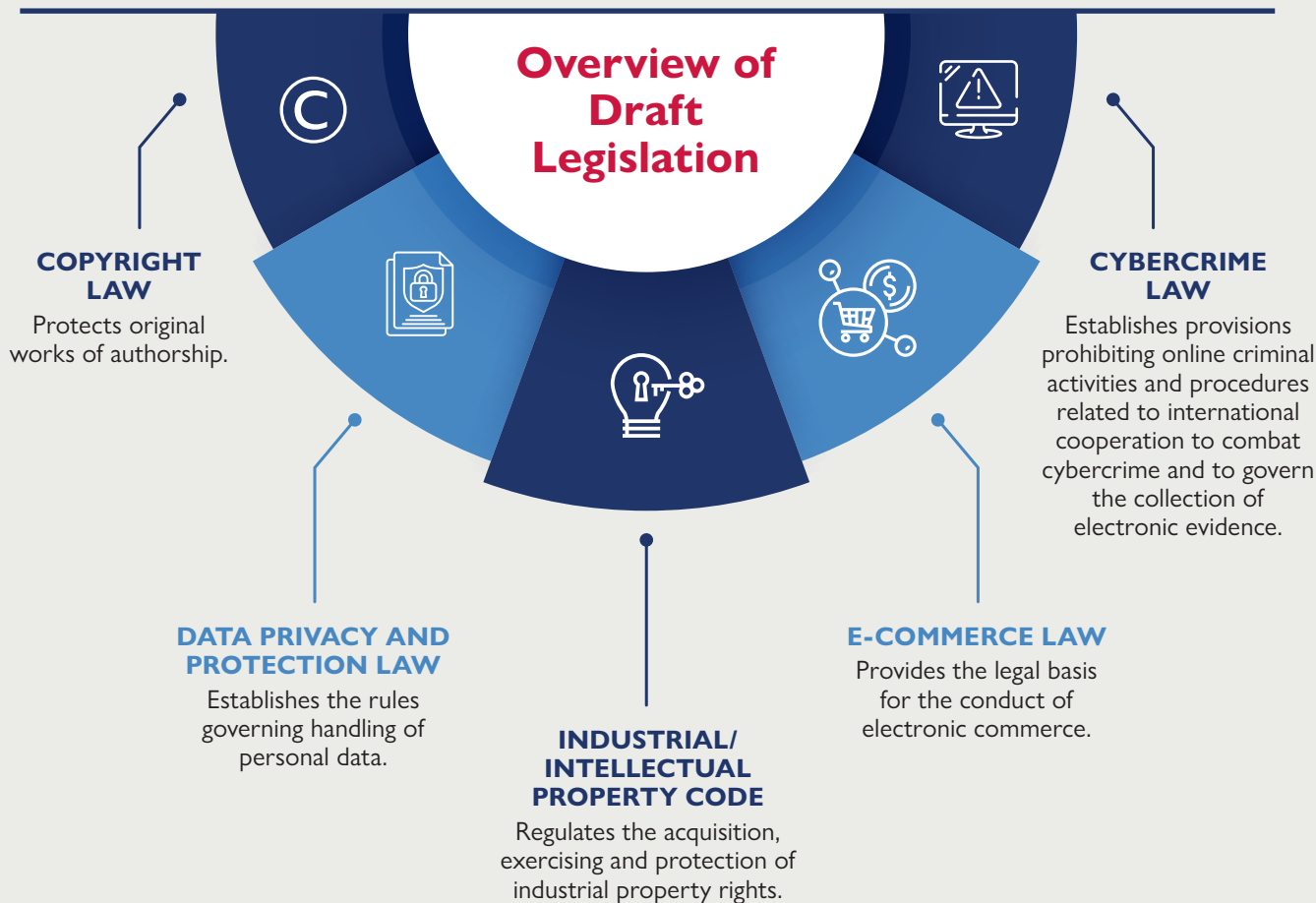
Timor-Leste

Funding: \$3 million

Timeline: October 1, 2019–January 31, 2023

Key Collaborations:

- U.S. Department of State
- USAID/Timor-Leste
- GOTL Office of Technology, Information, and Communication (TIC Timor)
- Prime Minister's Office
- Ministry of Tourism, Commerce, and Industry (now Tourism, Trade, and Industry)
- Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC)
- Private Sector ISPs and ICT service providers
- Da Silva Teixeira & Associados



Looking Back

The ATLATL team supported the development of Timor-Leste’s ICT and cybersecurity policy framework by engaging collaboratively with an array of stakeholders—government ministries and officials, private sector leaders, and local advocacy organizations. ATLATL’s ability to prepare comprehensive legislation relevant to the nation’s cultural and legal context primed the Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) for enactment of the drafted laws. Notable achievements of ATLATL’s activities include:



Updating the National ICT Policy

The ATLATL team initially supported the preparation of an updated, revised, and comprehensive National ICT Policy. Provisions in the new Policy strengthen the mandate of TIC Timor (Tecnologia da Informação e Comunicação Timor), fortifying this national agency’s ability to lead strategic directions for the country’s ICT sector and facilitating closer GoTL engagement with private sector stakeholders. The revised Policy provides the basis for new legislation for the sector (see below).



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

DAI
Shaping a more livable world.

DCCP
DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY &
CYBERSECURITY PARTNERSHIP



Drafting the National Cybersecurity Strategy

ATLATL experts prepared a draft National Cybersecurity Strategy that was adopted by the Council of Ministers and is now being implemented by decree of the Prime Minister through the creation of the inter-ministerial Working Group on Cybersecurity. The Working Group will coordinate cybersecurity activities of 22 GoTL ministries, public administrations, and agencies. The Strategy identifies priorities, objectives, and lines of action for an effective legal, policy, and action framework to enable effective cyber-crisis management, coordination of cyber-attack responses, necessary workforce development, and coordination of institutional capabilities designed to increase regional and international cooperation and meet continuously expanding cybersecurity challenges.



Preparing ICT Legislation

ATLATL experts' assistance on the updated National ICT Policy was extended to the drafting of five essential laws in the following areas: (1) Copyright; (2) Data Privacy and Protection; (3) Industrial/Intellectual Property; (4) E-commerce; and (5) Cybercrime.

In December 2022, the country's first Code of Copyright and Related Rights passed and was signed into law by President José Ramos-Horta. The Parliamentary committee with jurisdiction over copyright had prepared a draft law that did not comply with related requirements of the World Trade Organization. Because Timor-Leste is a candidate for WTO accession, the Government was required to enact a copyright law that conforms with related international treaties administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). ATLATL's team of legal experts provided revisions to the Parliament's draft that brought the enacted law into compliance with related WIPO requirements, thus advancing Timor-Leste's WTO accession.

The ATLATL legal team also prepared a draft industrial/intellectual property code that is necessary for WTO accession and prepared draft e-commerce data privacy, and cybercrime laws that are harmonized with Timor-Leste's specific ICT sector needs and reflect related international best practices. As of October 2023, the draft industrial/intellectual property code and the e-commerce law were being prepared by the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry (successor to Tourism, Commerce and Industry) for submission to the new Parliament. The draft data privacy and protection law and the draft cybercrime law are currently being analyzed by the Ministry of Justice.



Forging Trusted Relationships

ATLATL recognized that establishing reciprocal relationships with Timor-Leste's stakeholder groups was key to informing appropriate ICT policies and laws. The consultative approach taken by the ATLATL team, and specifically, by the team's lead who served as an embedded advisor for TIC Timor, ensured that relevant stakeholders were afforded opportunities to provide input to the draft policies and laws. USAID/Timor-Leste noted that there are newer, stronger, and more positive working relationships with several parts of the GoTL because of ATLATL. The ATLATL team spent significant time listening to, gaining understanding of, and building trusted relationships to support technical advice that was well researched, culturally relevant, and compatible with international best practices—thereby ensuring the longevity of the architected framework.