

## ***O MUNDO PERDIDO TIMOR-LESTE EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLICATIONS – 2004-2018***

*Bringing the Ancient History of Timor-Leste to Light (to Children, the Public including International Visitors)*

The report that follows sums up the assets that exist in Timor-Leste at present and is a result of a recent visit made by Patricia Vickers-Rich (Director of PrimeSCI! at Swinburne University of Technology and Monash University, both in Melbourne) and Wayne Chatwin (Exhibition Technician) – both of whom with their team continue to monitor and upgrade the several *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste exhibitions*. The success and efficiency of this visit was made possible by the support of Jose Ramos-Horta who provided a vehicle and an experienced driver, Arsinio Horta, who was far from just a driver but a great facilitator in upgrading and enhancing [as well as making connections] all of the exhibitions that were attended in Dili, Aileu and Baucau.



Arsinio Horta (l) and exhibition technician Wayne Chatwin.

The listing at the end of this report includes those groups and persons who have over the years and even recently had an interest in cooperating in programs that use these exhibitions in a variety of ways. This report is primarily to give some idea of the history of these assets. It is hoped that in the not too distant future, the two exhibitions based in Dili can be combined and housed in a permanent venue – perhaps the National Library when completed – and that a permanent highly-trained Curator can be funded so that these exhibitions in Dili as well as in the regional venues such as Aileu and Baucau can be regularly maintained, utilized and updated. The link with PrimeSCI! will remain forever, but the exhibitions truly need local ownership and funding. It is hoped that many of those mentioned at the end of this report can work together to craft a **Proposal** which will encourage maximum use of the *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste exhibitions* in Dili, Aileu and Baucau in concert with Swinburne University of Technology (Melbourne, Australia and Sarawak, Malaysia) and to underwrite one ongoing salary for a highly qualified Curator.



Today Timor-Leste is an island of beauty. But in the past, it lay for most of its “life” under a shallow sea. The rocks now exposed along its shores and backbone are the clues that allow us to know about this long, and complex history. It is what happened in Timor over all those long years that give it the beauty it has today as well as provide those resources so important to the future. And, the purpose of the exhibitions discussed in this brief is to tell the story of the long history of this *now island* – a long history of more than 250 million years.

## THE EARLY DAYS of the EXHIBITIONS AND OTHER *ROCK* PROJECTS – 2006-2008

The first exhibition on the fossils and the geology of Timor-Leste began in the old market place, the Mercado Lama, in 2008. This was a direct result of work that had begun in 2006, noted below, as a joint effort of the National Geographic Society and Monash University, assisted by the Australian Defence Force that had a presence in Timor-Leste at that time. The ADF, with the support of the then Defence Minister Brenden Nelson, managed to help transport both the casts of the fossil material and the furniture as well as the staff who set up this first exhibition. The Monash Science Centre, which was founded in 1993, had as its central goal the provision of up-to-date science lessons and exhibitions that were crafted by research scientists working with teachers, especially in primary and secondary schools, to deliver exciting, accurate and research driven information. Later, this group morphed into PrimeSCI! now working primarily from Swinburne University but also in cooperation with Monash University and Deakin University.



The first venue for the *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste Exhibition* at the Mercado Lama in Dili. The container on the side held all of our crates with exhibition materials inside, transported by the ADF.



Australian Defence Force personnel at the Mercado Lama, where the first *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste exhibition* was installed with the support of Xanana Gusmao, the TL Government, ConocoPhillips, the ADF, and the Monash Science Centre, then based at Monash University.



The setting up of the first *O Mundo Perdido Exhibition*.



Xanana Gusmao and Kirsty Sword Gusmao, along with the Alola Foundation and ConocoPhillips provided strong support for the set up of the first geology exhibition ever to exist in Timor-Leste, and with the four local “curators” served the school children and local visitors well for a number of months. Here Xanana *is having a word* with the big carnivore, a close relative of *T. rex*. Although no dinosaurs are known yet from Timor-Leste, this island now was underwater at the time 95 million years ago – but on the big land of Austerlalia not so far away, dinosaurs like this were known to be living.



While at the Mercado Lama the exhibition was easily accessed by school classes and the general public. Maubere Security kept a close eye on this as did the 4 curators whose salaries came from a variety of sources including the Monash Science Center at Monash University, private donations, UNESCO, the Alola Foundation, with ConocoPhillips assisting with maintenance and in the original installation.





## Geological Exhibition a First for TL

"The young people are so very grateful for this gift for their future and the response of young and old alike, from Timorese and Malai has been great awe and excitement."

The first geological exhibition ever established in Timor-Leste was launched in November 2008, with Monash University responsible for setting up the exhibition and ConocoPhillips providing valuable funding to the project.

The highly successful launch was attended by 50 dignitaries, officials and supporters, including President Jose Ramos Horta, Kirsty Sword-Gusmao, Australian Embassy officials, ConocoPhillips, Aloia Foundation and Professor Patricia Vickers-Rich from the Monash Science Centre.

The exhibition, featuring historical items significant to the Timorese culture, rocks and fossils, was met with great excitement and clearly impressed those at the launch.

"The young people are so very grateful for this gift for their future and the response of young and old alike, from Timorese and Malai has been great awe and excitement" said Professor Patricia Vickers-Rich the Director, Monash Science Centre. "This is definitely a first for this country and when I mention that the exhibition is to remain in Timor-Leste, the wonder in the eyes is quite visible. Thank you for your educational foresight and your commitment."

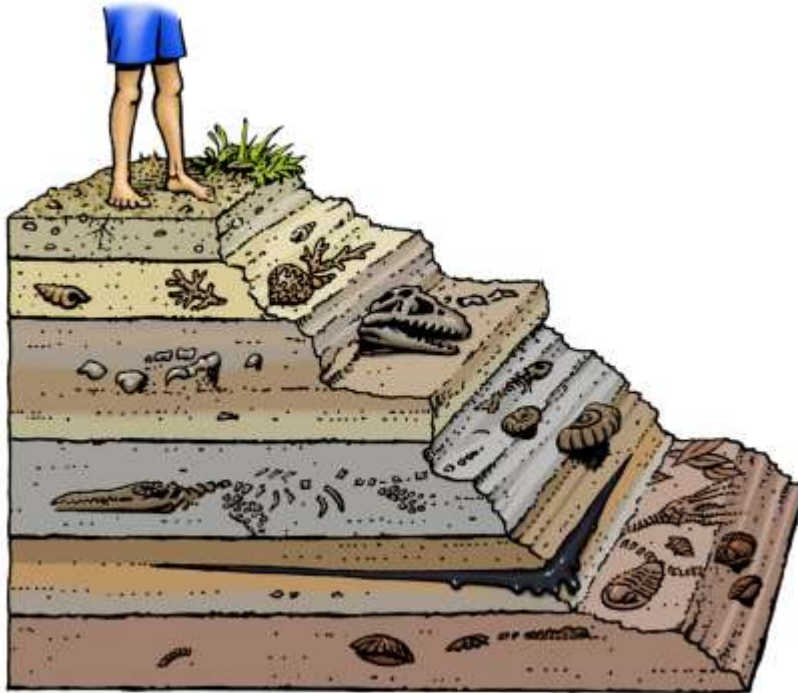
Aloia Foundation is contributing to the project by preparing and delivering science activities to school groups about the exhibition. Children will attend the exhibition and engage in a range of fun learning activities.

This was a beginning and over the years from 2006 onward a number of geological reconnaissance trips were carried out, in particular by groups including Monash University (led by Patricia Vickers-Rich), the University of Western Australia (led by geologists David Haig and Myra Keep), Melbourne University and others. Resulting from these research investigations, local fossil materials in TL rocks were added to the collection at the Mercado Lama, including Jurassic fish in marine siltstones from near Ossu in the highlands more than 140 million years old and a rich collection of ancient sea lilies, sea fans and the clam-like brachiopods from near Laleia to the east of Dili, the birthplace of Xanana Gusmao – these much older and from limestones of Permian age – more than 250 million years old! All of the new fossils discoveries were added to the original exhibition and can now be viewed in one or more of the several exhibitions now located in Dili (*Xanana Gusmao Cultural Center*

and the *President's Office*), Aileu (*the Bibliotech*) and Baucau (*Don Bosco Selesian Brothers Exhibition Hall* near the Baucau Posada).

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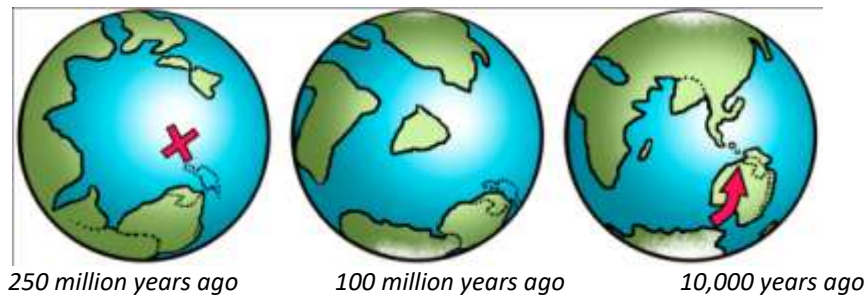
### ***A Brief Survey of Timor-Leste's Ancient History***



The rocks exposed in Timor-Leste hold the fossils that tell of the long history of this new island. Although the island of TL is no more than 7-8 million years old, the rocks tell of its history while still under water over 250 million years, from a time called the Permian by geologists. Four exhibitions put in place by Swinburne and Monash Universities beginning in 2008 plus a number of books crafted by Jose Ramos-Horta and Patricia Vickers-Rich tell this story, which is a treasure to be preserved for everyone – from children to adults, from locals to visitors and used to educate everyone in what has happened over millions and millions of years. (Artist Peter Trusler from *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste – a Boy and a Crocodile Travel Through Time* published in more than 18 languages as of 2018, some in Mother Tongues of TL)

*Timor-Leste's ancient past goes back more than 250 million years to a time when many strange animals lived in the seas that were above the sea floor, which was Timor-Leste at the time – all under water! This long history of what happened and how Timor became the island we know today has been worked out over the last century by scientists called **geologists**, who have studied the rocks of Timor-Leste for decades. They have been able to read the stories preserved in these rocks from all over the island and put them into some order.*

*Timor has not always been an island. In fact, for much of its history, it has been a seabed covered with a shallow, sunlit sea. Timor is really a part of the great continent of Australia. The seabed that has been Timor up until about 6-8 million years ago, was part of what geologists call the Australian Plate – a part of the Earth's outer "skin" or crust. Thus outer skin of the Earth is made of many different plates which are always moving with respect to each other. So, over time Australia and Timor have moved from the south to the north – beginning about 120 million years ago. Before that they were connected to Antarctica!*



*X marks the spot that is Timor-Leste. These sequence maps show how Timor-Leste and Australia have moved north from a connection with Antarctica over the last 250 million years.*

*As Timor and Australia moved northwards, they moved from the cold polar regions into the tropics. And as they moved they began to crash into Asia in the north. It was that major collision that caused the seabed Timor to rise and form the island it is today – beginning about 8 million years ago. At that time the old seabeds and the animals that had lived in those ancient seas were buried far underground, squashed and turned into rocks. The animals turned into fossils. Then, with the crash of Timor and Australia into Asia these underground rocks and fossils were pushed up from below, first above the sea and then high into mountains. This is why when you travel in the mountains, around places like Ossu and Maubisse, you find the fossils of corals and sea lilies and ancient fish high up on the land. These animals once lived underwater and now their fossils are exposed in the rocks far above the present sea.*



From the book *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste*, an imaginary view of Permian life of Sea Lilies, brachiopods and sea fans, fossils of which have been recovered from the hills to the east of Laleia to the east of Dili – rocks that are more than 250 million years old (artist P. Trusler).



The real thing – sea lily (crinoid) stem fragments (l) in rocks near the Timor Telecom Tower (r) near Laleia to the east of Dili. These limestones are the fossilized carbonate-rich sediments deposited in ancient seas when Timor lay under the ocean more than 250 million years ago.



## AILEU EXHIBITION – A Regional Venue

*2009 to present managed by the Aileu Bibliotech in cooperation with The Friends of Aileu, local Government, PrimeSCI! and the Maryknoll Sisters*



### The First Installation, 2009



Original launch of the *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste Exhibition* in Aileu, strongly supported by the Friends of Aileu, a group represented in the photograph above right by Chris Adams and one of the Maryknoll Sisters. Other photos, and that below illustrate the launch of the first Aileu exhibition with local officials, children and Patricia Vickers-Rich, Director of the Monash Science Centre. Other staff from the MSC not pictured included Dr Corrie Williams and Jeff Smith and later from PrimeSCI! Wayne Chatwin.





First venue of the *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste* Exhibition in Aileu. It was later moved to the Bibliotech.

### The Move to the Bibliotech



Bibliotech in Aileu in 2009 where regional exhibition of *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste* was moved from its original venue. Mana Diamantina (second from right), then Head librarian, was the “curator” in charge of this regional exhibition along with her staff (second from left). Staff from the Monash Science Centre in the photo include Corrie Williams and far left Patricia Vickers-Rich.



Martinho Cruz (left), the longest serving Curator, who began his Curatorial career as one of the staff at the Mercado Lama. He is now a flight attendant on Air North, but still has an interest in the exhibition. Here he is preparing the new panel for the outside of the Bibliotech. On the right is the team who came some time after the first installation in the Bibliotech to replace the panels – left to right, Sister Rosolva, Steve Thompson (long-time geologist volunteer along with wife Karis [not in picture]), Sabino Lere, Wayne Chatwin and two of the library staff.

### 2018 – The Exhibition Improved and Valued in the Bibliotech



February 2018 en route to Aileu from Dili – the road was a challenge. Arsinio Horta driving, a most able technical assistant and organizer.



The Aileu exhibition in February 2018. Technician Wayne Chatwin at the front of the Bibliotech in Aileu, site of the exhibition.

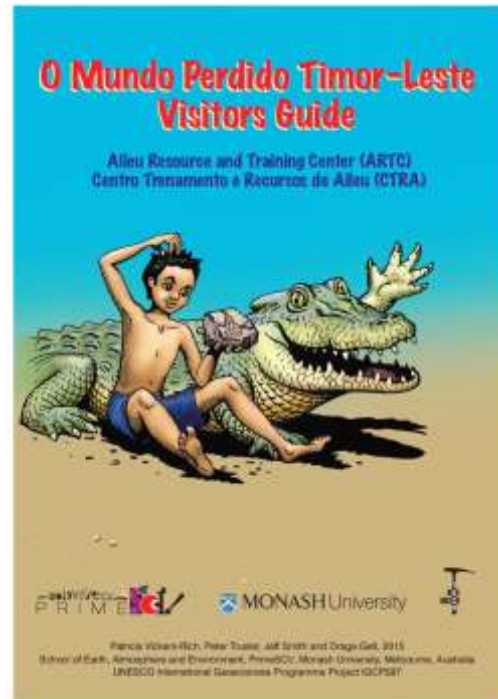
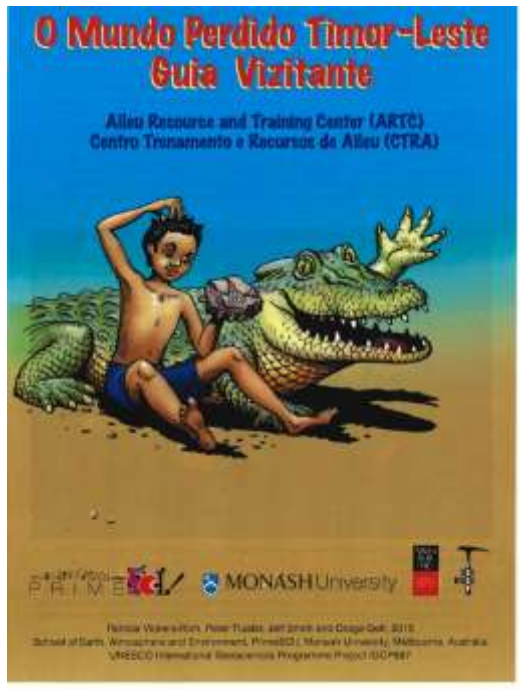


A view in the front door of the Aileu exhibition (I) and the contents of one of the display cases. The rocks in the top of this image are filled with ancient sea lilies and brachiopods (which look a bit like clams but are more closely related to sea fans). All of these ancient animals preserved in the rocks once lived in the shallow seas that covered all of Timor in times past, and their relatives still live in the seas around Timor today. The state of this exhibition shown in 2018 is excellent because of the care provided by the Bibliotech staff and the use of it by the schools for children, as well as for tourism, greatly encouraged by the Maryknoll Sisters, in particular Sister Rosalva and Sister Julia.



The team in 2018 who manages the Aileu exhibition: From left to right: Sabino Lere, Quintao Alves Mondonca, Patricia Vickers-Rich, Joel Timotio Dos Santos Sagmento, Natalia da Concerceio Simenes and Paulina da Conceicao Mendonco. In the foreground are the exhibition guidebooks for teachers in English and Tetun and on the right the new O Mundo Perdido book by Jose Ramos-Horta and Patricia Vickers-Rich in Tetun, Portuguese and English launched in February 2018 and published by Lidel Press in Portugal.





Teachers' guides to the Aileu exhibition in Tetun and English available for both teachers and other interested groups. These guides are produced regularly supported by private donations, the assistance of The Friends of Aileu and NewArtWorx, most recently in 2018.



Some of the local rocks near Aileu which make a good setting for taking students to visit. These are some of the oldest rocks in Timor-Leste and along the road cuttings are large pink boulders full of ancient sea lilies from the Permian Period – more than 250 million years old and similar to those exposed at the Telecom Tower near Lailea to the east of Dili on the way to Baucau.

### **Other Programs in Aileu which have potential to Enhance the O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste Exhibition**

It was a great pleasure when Wayne Chatwin, Arsinio Horta and I visited Aileu in early 2018 to find a project underway that truly has the potential to utilize and truly add great value to the *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste Exhibition*, the *Projeto Montanha*, a project underwritten by a group from Brasil. With their approach in training and involving the community in a variety of ways, I truly hope that our exhibition in future can become a part of their program. To be able to train youth in communicating science, including the “science of rocks and fossils” well could be of use in training of teachers as well as students and in widening the resources for tourism. There are lots of stories told by the rocks in this region, and I am excited about helping craft some of these new programs in cooperation with the Maryknoll Sisters, the Bibliotech and *Projeto Montanha* – as well as help craft some new dishes for their wonderful Café – perhaps dinosaur soup! Afterall, chickens and other birds are living dinosaurs!



In Aileu and working together with Sister Rosalva of the Maryknolle group as well as the Aileu Library, Projeto Montanha – a Brazilian group – creates items for sale, some from rubbish, trains children in science and other subjects as well as runs a beautiful restaurant which trains cooks and service personnel. It is a delight to see so many of the different organizations working in this village – creating jobs and services for the whole community and for visitors.



Staff and students at the restaurant of *Projeto Montanha* along with technician Wayne Chatwin (black shirt in front), Patricia Vickers-Rich (center back) and in the photo on right Sister Rosalva on the far right. She and her group of Maryknoll Sisters have been truly devoted to the *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste Exhibition* along with the librarians, and the Friends of Aileu. Science education is high on their lists, as it is on the forefront of PrimeSCI! making sure that the curiosity, so natural with young kids, is fostered.

## DILI EXHIBITIONS

### THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE EXHIBITION



Time came for a move, as the Mercado Lama was under renovation. So, the then President, Jose Ramos-Horta, as the new President's Office Building was under construction, met with Vickers-Rich and searched about as to where the exhibition could be moved. And, after exploring a number of possibilities around Dili, the President's Office Building became the prime venue. The move was made in 2009, where most of the exhibition remained for sometime.



The layout of the *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste Exhibition* in the new Office of the President, then Jose Ramos-Horta. The cases were locally crafted and the contents inside underlain by beautiful Timor-Leste tais. With Ramos-Horta as President, there was great encouragement for school visits and public access. At this time there were 4 curators for this exhibition, and the Office of the President paid their salaries. Some of the salaries until very recently have been partially underwritten by the President.





Jose Ramos-Horta speaking with the Head of the ADF just before the launch of the exhibition at his Offices. The light on the large theropod dinosaur at night gave an very interesting view to the passer-by.



A look inside one of the cases locally crafted for the relocation of the *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste Exhibition* to the Office of the President in 2009. The cases were lined with local tapestry and showcased material from the ancient reefs of TL along with terrestrial animals that lived at that time in the nearby, massive continent of Australia.



A gathering of students and the Australian Army group which helped move the exhibition in ADF vehicles (and of course under military protection!) from the Mercado Lama to the Office of the President. The ADF staff took part in many activities for children, in this case together with the Alola Foundation to make dino masks, a rather unique activity for active military personnel – beyond combat for sure! The move of material, so efficiently done by the ADF, did come with a few surprises, like the big army truck with the skull of the big dinosaur (in the photo above) happily riding in he passenger seat!



Office of the President in 2018 where all that remains of the once larger collection is the large relative of *T. rex*, on loan from Vickers-Rich. The hope is that in future, the entire collection that was once housed as a unit in the new Office of the President, can be re-united and relocated in the National Library or even a National Museum, if one is to ever be built. This treasure can be used for teaching of students from an early age to University level, can be a tourist attraction that wakes everyone up to the long history of Timor-Leste and the resources, geologically and environmentally that are so much a part of the beautiful island of TL.



The lone remains of a once much larger exhibition which tells the story of the long history of Timor-Leste, more than 250 million years.

## **XANANA GUSMAO CULTURAL CENTER (XGCC) EXHIBITION**

For a time, much of the original *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste Exhibition* remained in the Office of the President, while some still was stored in crates, also at the President's Office. It was clear that eventually the exhibit was again going to have to move somewhere else. When the time came to do that, the staff at the Xanana Gusmao Cultural Center graciously offered some space, and two of the regional venues also offered further space for that material which was stored in crates. So, as early as 2009 there were moves to take the crate contents to the regions and after that, when Ramos-Horta was no longer President, plans were made to move all but the big carnivore to the Gusmao Center.

For a time, the space at the XGCC was tight, but the staff there as well as UNICEF and UNESCO made every effort to support the exhibition. UNESCO also provided some of the salaries for the then two curators, so did I and so did the Office of the President. All together we made it work. And it still does, but we have in 2018 reached a point where there is a real need to find an ongoing and solid Curatorial salary that has some permanence. The cost of setting up and maintaining the exhibition has primarily been my responsibility, and I hope in the not too distant future the ownership can become that of Timor-Leste.

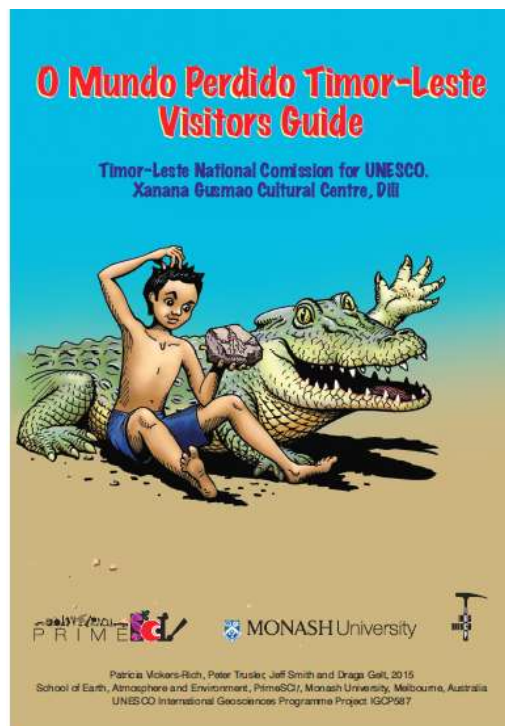


The new layout of the *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste Exhibition* in the space behind the front offices of the Xanana Gusmao Cultural Center, just put in place in early 2018. This new arrangement with its support from the Center and from the National Commission of UNESCO provides an excellent venue for school visits as well as that of tourists and the general public.





Another view of the exhibition at the XGCC (I) and the display case with material from the 250 million year old Permian rock sequence at the Telecom Tower near Laleia.



Teachers guide to the *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste Exhibition* at the Xanana Gusmao Cultural Center in Dili. After a number of years since most of the exhibition that had been at the Office of the President had to be moved, this new arrangement is so much better and is well looked after by the Center staff and the National Commission of UNESCO. It is hoped that in the future a permanent home can be found for both the material at the XGCC and the Office of the President, perhaps the new National Library.



This partial skeleton of *Leaellynasaura* (l) and the reconstruction of this little dinosaur by Peter Trusler, give a glimpse of life on the land to the south of Timor-Leste more than 100 million years ago. It is just possible that even though Timor lay under the sea that a bloated individual could have floated out into that very sea and one day a dinosaur might be found in Timor-Leste. There are Jurassic rocks on this island. We need more palaeontologists out there hunting!!!! A cast of this specimen is on display in the XGCC expo.



Education kits, such as these, one on dinosaurs and their companions and the other on minerals – both emphasizing the Australian record that is relevant to Timor-Leste – are available from PrimeSCI! and in future copies of these should be funded and on tap wherever the *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste Exhibition* is on show. And these can easily be linked to curriculum in TL.

## Stories Told by Rocks: The Most Ancient in Timor-Leste

### As Histórias Que as Rochas Contam: Rochas mais Antigas em Timor-Leste

The oldest rocks in Timor-Leste are of Permian age, around 252 to 298 million years old.  
As rochas mais antigas em Timor-Leste são do Permiano, mais ou menos entre 252 e 298 milhões de anos atrás.



The oldest rocks in Timor-Leste are of Permian age, around 252 to 298 million years old, the Alibon Formation and the Maubisse Formation deposited in the deep sea. The younger Cribas Formation rocks were laid down in shallower water.

Australia was mostly land during this time. Timor-Leste was the home of ocean dwellers – the trilobites, the ammonites, related to the beautiful living nautilus. The plant-like sea slug (ammonite) and the fish-like bryozoans were firmly attached to the sea bottom and filtering their food from the water.

In the cool seas were tiny, microscopic organisms of only one cell – foraminifera and the glass-shelled radiolarians. The weird blend of microscopic species and pollen of land plants living in the south in nearby Australia. One beautiful land plant was Glossopteris. It lived all over the great southern continent of Gondwana – Australia, India, Antarctica, South America and Africa.

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A Austrália, no sul, era em sua maior parte já terra firme naquela época. Timor-Leste era o habitat de animais marinhos como os trilobites e os amonites, parentes dos belos nautilus com os seus grandes olhos. Os filizes-do-mar (ammonites), similares a plantas, e os bryozoos, parecidos com vermes, firmemente presos ao fundo do mar e filtrando o seu alimento da água.

Nos mares frios, viviam pequenos organismos (foraminíferos) formados de uma só célula – os foraminíferos e os radiolários de concha de vidro. O weird mix de espécies microscópicas e pólen de plantas terrestres que viviam ao sul, nas terras australianas próximas. Uma bela planta terrestre de então era a Glossopteris. É uma grande conífera do Gondwana, Austrália, a Índia, a Antártica, a América do Sul e a África.



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In the cool seas were tiny, microscopic organisms of only one cell – foraminifera and the glass-shelled radiolarians. The weird blend of microscopic species and pollen of land plants living in the south in nearby Australia. One beautiful land plant was Glossopteris. It lived all over the great southern continent of Gondwana – Australia, India, Antarctica, South America, and Africa.

As rochas mais antigas em Timor-Leste são do Permiano, mais ou menos entre 252 e 298 milhões de anos atrás. A Formação Alibon e a Formação Maubisse estavam depositadas no mar profundo. As rochas mais recentes da Formação Cribas estavam em águas mais rasas.

A Austrália, no sul, era em sua maior parte já terra firme naquela época. Timor-Leste era o habitat de animais marinhos como os trilobites e os amonites, parentes dos belos nautilus com os seus grandes olhos. Os filizes-do-mar (ammonites), similares a plantas, e os bryozoos, parecidos com vermes, firmemente presos ao fundo do mar e filtrando o seu alimento da água.

Nos mares frios, viviam pequenos organismos (foraminíferos) formados de uma só célula – os foraminíferos e os radiolários de concha de vidro. O weird mix de espécies microscópicas e pólen de plantas terrestres que viviam ao sul, nas terras australianas próximas. Uma bela planta terrestre de então era a Glossopteris. É uma grande conífera do Gondwana, Austrália, a Índia, a Antártica, a América do Sul e a África.



Permian rocks in Timor-Leste are of Permian age, around 252 to 298 million years old. The Alibon Formation and the Maubisse Formation deposited in the deep sea. The younger Cribas Formation rocks were laid down in shallower water.

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P

Examples of two of the panels used in the *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste* exhibit. All panels are in Tetun, Portuguese and English.



## BAUCAU EXHIBITION – Another Regional Venue

The Baucau exhibition resulted from the move of material from the Mercado Lama to the Office of the President. Not everything could be housed in the space at the new venue, and so some of this material was stored in crates at that venue and covered with lovely tais while trying to find another place where these materials could be on show. Two venues were eventually found, one in Aileu courtesy of the friendship between that community and its long-term partner in Australia, The Friends of Aileu. That friendship yet remains strong, and the exhibition first housed in one of the community halls is now permanently on show at the Bibliotech, and used by a number of different groups in the area – the schools, the Maryknoll Sisters, primarily for education and training, and is open to passing tourists as well. In Baucau, the exhibition is primarily used for education, and it is hoped in future that there may be more opportunities to engage tourists as the venue is right next door to the beautiful Portuguese Posada.

### 2009 – The Exhibition is Launched



Selesian Brothers compound, Baucau, Dec. 2010, in readiness for the launch of the *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste* Exhibition, one of two regional exhibitions put in place when the exhibition originally in the Mercado Lama was too large to re-locate in the Office of the President. Some material had been in storage there for months and it seemed best to find it a new home. Baucau and Aileu provided opportunities.



Padre Palomo, Don Bosco Salesian Brother in charge of Science Education in Baucau and the person who made it possible to emplace a small regional exhibition in the church hall associated with the local school. Palomo also had an impressive cooperation with the South Korean, who set up a working laboratory on the Don Bosco premises. Both the exhibition and the laboratory are still working in 2018 as Padre Agnelo, the successor to Palomo, has made sure when his mentor returned to the Philippines to take up another position there.



The exhibition hall in Baucau before renovation. Unloading exhibition boxes in Baucau, PDLToll Karan Yadav was in charge of Toll at the time and particularly interested in dinosaurs, so he facilitated us in every way to move our crates with bones and rocks in them to the Baucau Don Bosco Center.





Craftsmen repairing floor and volunteers painting the walls and generally cleaning up the venue in preparation for launch of exhibition.



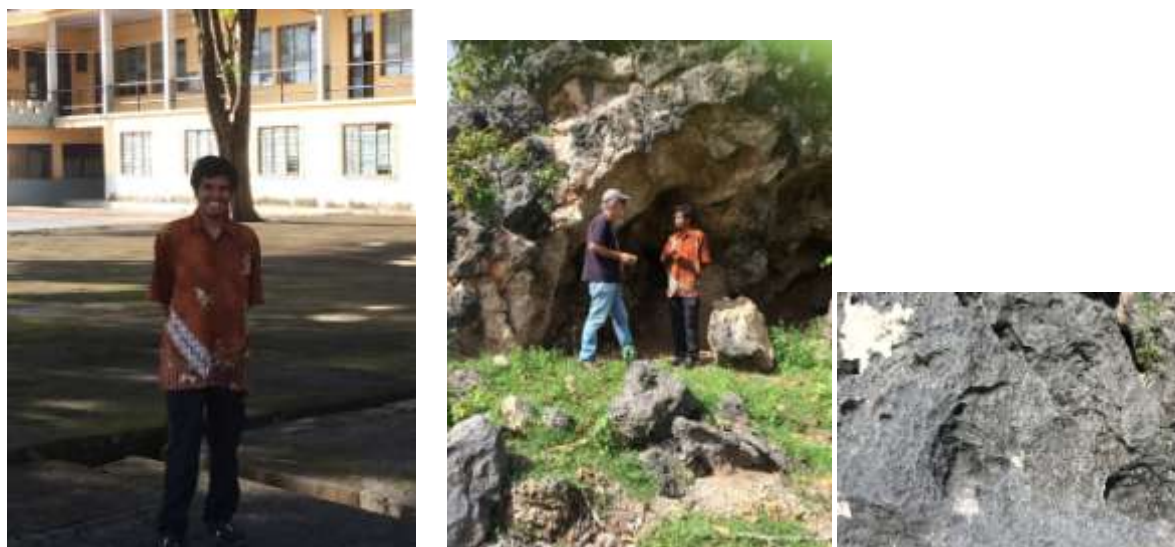
Selesian Brothers compound, Baucau, Dec. 2010. Launch of regional exhibition of *O Mundo Perdido Timor Leste*



Patricia Vickers-Rich and local government official cut the cake to launch the Baucau *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste* Exhibition as Padre Palomo blesses the occasion.



## 2018 – the Exhibition Still Treasured



Padre Agnelo (left) stepped into the shoes of Padre Palomo and has carried on the dedication of the Don Bosco group to Science education. Agnelo is also interested, in particular, in geology, and we visited one of his discovery sites along the Baucau coast where the remains of fossil giant clams are enclosed in the limey sandstones. Wayne Chatwin (to the left in the center image) together with Agnelo (right) collected some of this material, and it has now been included in the exhibition at the Don Bosco Centre. The image on the right is one of the corals preserved in the rocks where the giant clam was found – these rocks likely a few hundred thousand or even a million years old.

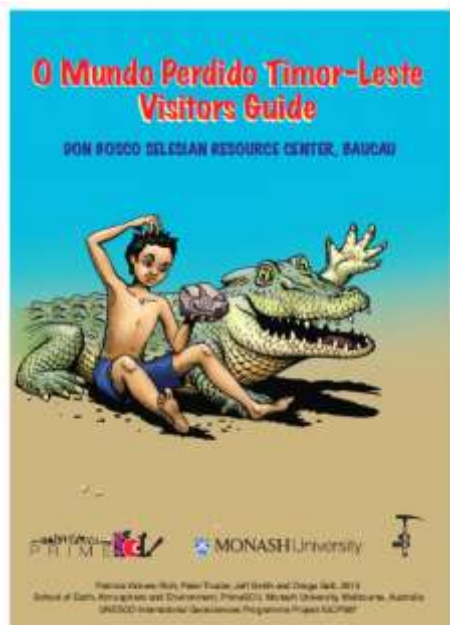


Justine (Ameta) (left), an assistant to Padre Agnelo, is fastidious in looking after the venue. The showcase on the right has been well looked after, and the kids in the nearby school are fascinated by its contents. What is so needed is in future is to have a series of professional development sessions for the teachers so that they understand the true value of this expo, and thus a teachers' guide was presented to the Don Bosco group on this trip in 2018. See below.

The exhibition in Baucau is looked after by Padre Agnelo and his assistant (above left) who worked with me and Wayne Chatwin to add some new material to the exhibition this year. The one over-riding problem at this venue is the leakage in the roof, which truly needs to be repaired before it begins to damage this unique collection that is used by the local schools and occasional tourists. On the right above is one of the giant birds (*Genyornis*) that used to live on nearby Australia at the time TL was just beginning to rise above sea level. It is not impossible that one day such a fossil might just be found in Timor.

Each year our team returns to the Dili and regional museums to make sure all is kept in order. What is needed in this case to enhance such maintenance and upgrade is for there

to be one position based in Dili, where the large exhibition is located, a Curator who could oversee all of the exhibitions both from the point of view of maintenance and continue to make sure that these treasures are used by multiple groups. The main purpose for all involved is education.



Teachers' guide to the exhibition at the Don Bosco facility in Baucau. Translations in Tetun and Portuguese are underway funded by PrimeSCI! at Swinburne and Monash Universities in Melbourne.

## HOW DID THIS ALL BEGIN..... THE COLOURING BOOK – – 2004-2006

My own commitment to Timor-Leste really began in 2004 and built on the shoulders of a project that I had carried out in Afghanistan – the colouring book project. In a world so fragile, especially in countries just rising from a past that has left some challenges, my heart goes out to youth and to encouraging them to think and trust their own judgement as well as their own assessment of the world around them – not just taking what someone else tells them to be the reality. Thus, from a researcher's view, opening the eyes to the wonder of nature and the world right there before them has driven me to do what I do. Having grown up under rather poor conditions, which in many ways was a blessing as one had to be resourceful and independent – I was given the greatest opportunity of an education from primary school through University and with little money of my own. So, working with others in the same sort of situation is my greatest pleasure, and I have experienced it personally. Thus, when times were a bit fragile at the beginning of the new nation of Timor-Leste, I embarked on a project to open the eyes of the kids of Timor to how special the animals of their land were and what this told them about the past of their country.



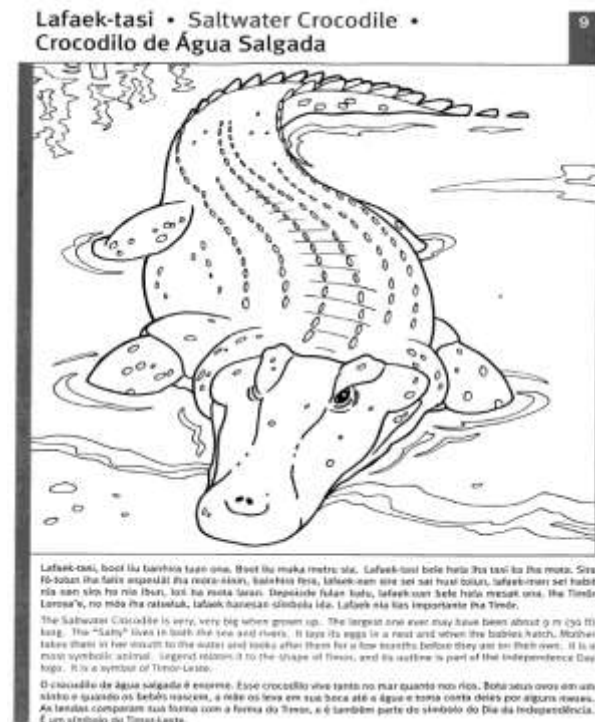
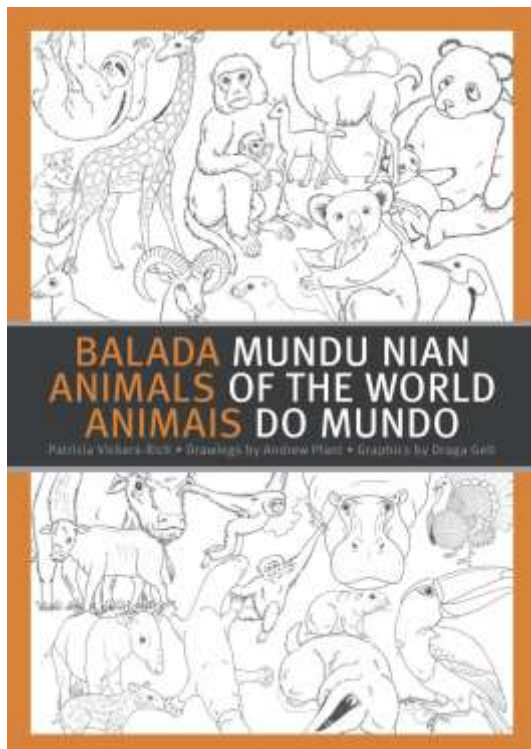
Chris Santos with a reporter around the time of the Balibo incident, 1975.



A reunion in Dili after the independence of (l to r) Jose Ramos-Horta, John Hamilton, and Chris Santos, 2009.

And, I honestly cannot just remember what sparked this off, but I do think that Chris Santos, a Portuguese soldier who remained in Timor as the times changed in the early 1970's, married a lovely Timorese lady, continued his devotion to this country and in doing so met John Hamilton (and saved his life), a well-known newsman – I think this is how it all got started. John's wife, Kay Hamilton, I had worked with the early 1990's on an exhibition of Russian fossils and well..... having dinner one night at their home in Melbourne .... I met Chris and there the story begins I think! Chris was a good friend of Jose Ramos-Horta and that made a connection that is still alive and well today.





A colouring book that investigates the global distribution of animals with an emphasis on those of Timor-Leste. It is interesting that this region of the planet is a real mixture of Australian and Asian animals, with a stark dividing line between Bali and Lombok with Asian animals on the west and Australian animals to the east – almost if there was a wall separating these two areas, a wall called Wallace's Line. The reason is due to the fact that Australia once lay very far south and has moved over time to the north, now in collision with Asia. Timor is on the leading edge of Australia, and the rocks and animals that are in Timor are a reflection of this dynamic past.

In order to get the show on the road to produce the 20,000 copies of this book on the distribution of animals of the world, and to get it translated into Tetun and Portuguese from the version that I had produced for Afghanistan, I had to raise some funds and find people who were able to do the translations for me. One of my colleagues, Roberto Weinberg and his wife Deborah helped with the Portuguese, and Cipi Morgan and Aderito Guterres provided the Tetum. Our graphics designer at Monash University, Draga Galt organized the layout and a friend, Andrew Plant provided the art. Noone was paid a cent to do this – it was all provided free. And then the money. Somehow because I had long been sponsored in my research by National Geographic that group provided some of the accessories that accompanied this little colouring book – rulers with a magnifying glass and an angle measure – and I talked the only company in Australia who produced coloured pencils into giving us a good price on 20,000 pencil sets – made in Australia.

John Hamilton again came into the picture by somehow managing to get Carlton & United Brewery to provide us a venue (and the beer!) in Sydney where celebrity singer Jimmy Barnes and some of his family came to entertain a crowd one evening. That evening we raised all the money needed for the project and together with all the help from friends, colleagues, singers, Jesuits, ALOLA and especially the National Geographic Society (especially Anne Chesher and her brother Tony Chesher) – we got the project off the ground and had the books up in Timor-Leste in 2006, just in time for significant social turmoil. Most of the colouring books, originally to be distributed to schools around Timor-Leste, ended up in DPI camps where we were used to set up temporary schools until things settled down.



Colour A Kid's World\* and the Australian Jesuit Foundation invites you to a special evening to support the children of East Timor.

Featuring Entertainer **Jimmy Barnes** Master Of Ceremonies **Mike Hammond**

A night of good friends, fun and games, live and silent auctions and great prizes.

Thursday 11 November 2004

8:30pm to 11pm

Carlton & United Brewery, Broadway

\$65 pp includes canapés and drinks till 8:30pm (then by donation). To purchase your ticket please forward the attached credit card form to the Australian Jesuit Foundation.

*Purchase your tickets by credit card before November 03<sup>rd</sup> and you'll be in the draw for a 1-month membership to Fitness First!*

For further information please contact

Tony Chesher 0417 457 829	Michael Brooks 0413 155 521
Eddie Moore	Richard Scott
Mike Hammond	Michael Punch

\*Colour a Kid's World is a voluntary group that provides educational resources to kids in need. This year, help us lighten the world of the kids of East Timor.

So, with books, pencils, rulers, home-made bags to contain all this and the colouring book, our team headed to Timor where we joined Kirsty Sword Gusmao and a team of ladies who assisted in putting together all 20,000 kits. Kirsty, my daughter and I headed up to the hills after all this, and our first distribution was Dare – but social unrest was rife for a time, and the rest of the books went to the DPI campus that had quickly been set up in Dili, where thousands of people took shelter overnight to avoid the growing violence. I would like to do another run of this book in the future – this time for schools!



Distribution of the colouring books began at Dare, but after that, with social unrest rife, most all other copies were used in the DPI camps. In the left photo from left to right is my daughter Leaelyn, our guard well-armed and me. Meredith Budge in the background from ALOLA. On the right are two little girls who have just receive their copy of our book.





Kirsty Sword Gusmao handing out books to all the students at the Dare Primary School, (l) our first and almost only school visit and at one of the DPI camps with the CEO of ALOLA.



Boxes of the *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste* book being readied to hand out at one of the DPI camps with the CEO of the ALOLA Foundation and Kirsty Sword Gusmao..



## ANOTHER OUTCOME – THE BOOKS GIVING STRENGTH TO THE EXHIBITIONS

Along with the development of the exhibitions, the idea came to me that another way of communicating the idea of geological time that would be understood by children was to use a local story that most kids would have heard from very early years. There was a perfect story that immediately came to mind after having spent some time in Timor, and that was the story about a young boy (could be a girl too and I need to update my books with Ramos-Horta!) and a baby crocodile. The little crocodile was trying to get to the sea after having just hatched and was clearly not going to make it – and a little boy walking along that beach saw the struggling baby and took him to the water. Years later when they were both teenagers, the croc was swimming along in the sea and saw the most delicious looking dinner walking along the beach – the young man. But, being a wise crocodile he consulted his friends about eating this young man – and the resounding answer was “You are an idiot – this fella saved your life!” So, instead of eating the nice looking bit of dinner, the crocodile shoved ashore and asked politely – “How would you like to come travelling the world with me?” Well, the world at that time was Timor, and the young man nodded that such an adventure sounded like a great idea – so he hopped on the crocs’ back and off they went. So, when I heard this story, I thought – why not travel back in time – and that, in short, is what led to these books.

The books have been written by Ramos-Horta and me in two versions, one for young kids in primary school and the other in late primary or early secondary. When Ramos-Horta was in the Presidency, all of these books were available on his website ([thepresidency.tl](http://thepresidency.tl)) designed and upkept by his media guru, Jose Merellies.



There were a number of issues, of launches of these books, including a major version for the World Expo in Shanghai in 2010. Hundreds of thousands of these little books were published in Chinese, Portuguese and English, and during this Expo in the Timor-Leste Pavillion the Monash Science Center (now PrimeSCI!) carried out activities for the children passing through (upwards of 60,000 per day!) as well as organized the collection of some large rocks from Timor that were put on display with explanation in the Pavillion. These rocks with contained fossils were at the finish of the Expo donated to the Shanghai Natural History Museum, so there is a bit of Timor history permanently in China.



Arabic



Baikeno



Chinese



Tetun



English



French



German



Hebrew





Portuguese



Russian



Spanish – an below a letter that explains how this translation was inspired. The young Argentine woman, a geologist, was Leonor Sorrentino, who completed her post-graduate degree at Monash University.



Melbourne, Australia, November, 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010

His Excellency  
President Fidel Castro  
Republic of Cuba

It is a great honour and privilege to present 'Your Excellency with this little childrens' book that President Jose Ramos-Horta and I have written for the children of Timor-Leste and the world. The original version was written in Tetun, Portuguese and English. A translation for the Expo Shanghai-2010 for the Timor-Leste Pavilion was made in Chinese. And this version in Spanish has been made especially for your Excellency, President Fidel Castro.

What Your Excellency and the Republic of Cuba have provided for Timor-Leste is remarkable. I have seen so many children in very isolated areas being cared for by Cuban doctors and health care people! Your Excellency and the Cuban people are great heroes in Timor-Leste and to me here in Australia.

It is most fitting that this translation in Spanish has been made for Your Excellency and your countrymen and women. My Spanish translator is a young Argentine lady so it may not be perfect Cuban Spanish, but she has worked hard to get this ready so that Your Excellency is the first to receive it.

As President Ramos-Horta will explain to Your Excellency, the book is all about where Timor-Leste came from, looked about by geologists and the story is based on a well-known children's legend about how a young crocodile and a young boy became friends for life and travelled the world. We just took them back in time.

I wish Your Excellency good health and further success in guiding the People of the Republic of Cuba in the path of peace and prosperity.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest admiration.

Prof. Patricia Vickers-Rich  
Director, Monash Science Centre  
And  
Palaeontologist, School of Geosciences  
Monash University  
Melbourne, Australia  
Pat.rich@monash.edu





Tamil



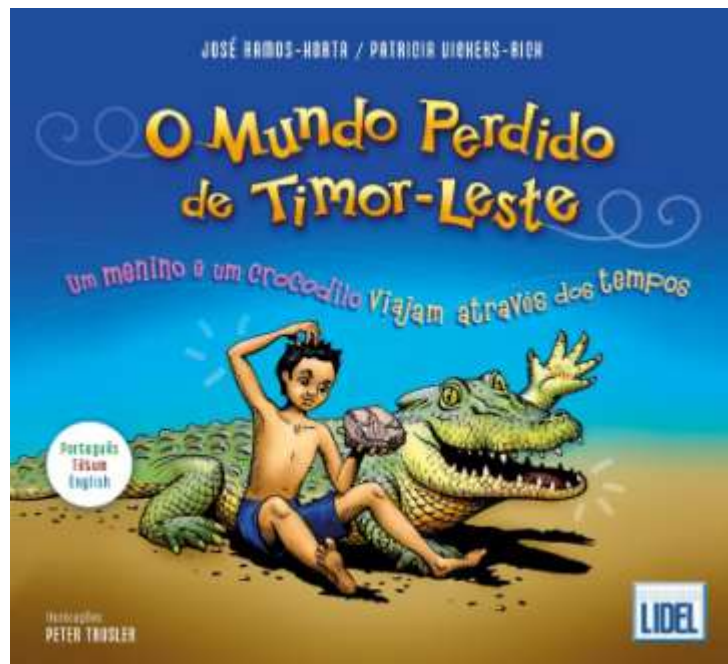
Slovenian



Bengali, published in 2018



Bahasa, published in 2018



Trilingual – Tetun, Portuguese and English, published in 2018

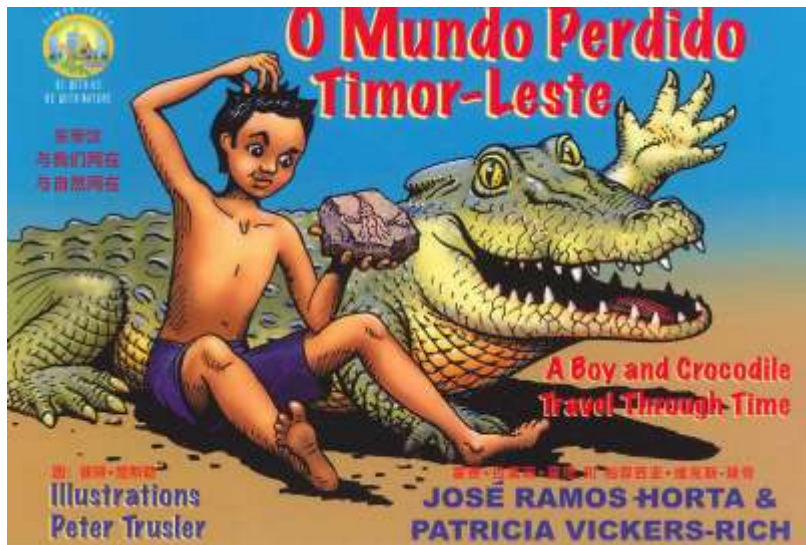


Peter Trusler crafted all of the art for the *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste* books and many of the art pieces used in the exhibitions. Peter holds a PhD in Earth Sciences and combines up to date, detailed science with his art. David Attenborough here is discussing one of the fossils that Peter has just crafted a reconstruction of. Attenborough is the Patron of PrimeSCI! (photo by Steve Morton)



A second edition, 2010, a joint venture by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education, TL – one of the many re-printings and re-launching of the Crocodile book – *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste. A Boy and a Crocodile Travel Through Time.*





Several hundred thousand copies of *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste* were published by the Chinese Government in three languages (Chinese, Portuguese and English) and at two levels (simple and complex) for the World Expo held in Shanghai, 2010.



Timor-Leste Pavillion at World Expo 2010



Children making casts of dinosaur teeth and footprints



World Expo Timor-Leste Team at Pavillion in Shanghai, 2010



Children colouring pages out of *Animals of the World Colouring Book* originally funded by National Geographic and Carlton United



## ANOTHER OUTCOME, SHOWCASING EXHIBITIONS AND BOOKS

A Conference Poster has been used at several venues and meetings, which summarizes the reasons for Valuing Education of Youth in science. All of the exhibitions and publication programs undertaken by PrimeSCI!, a group based at Swinburne University of Technology and Monash Universities, have been driven by this paradigm.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION

Patricia VICKERS-RICH<sup>1,2</sup> and José RAMOS-HORTA<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Geosciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia and <sup>2</sup>Paleontological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia. Email: nat.rich@monash.edu; <sup>3</sup>Past President and Nobel Peace Prize Recipient, Dili, Timor-Leste.

Geoscience education, and Science education in general, is urgently needed for the growing young population of planet Earth. In times of significant increase of a population that demands more and more natural resources, especially those that are energy producers, the youth of today need to be informed concerning the cost to the planet (especially the climate) and the predicted availability of these resources in the future. Thus, from an early age, an education in the basics of science (not just geoscience) and beginnings of understanding of the impact imposed by the use of natural resources, can serve as a solid foundation ground for a people that in the future will be making solid decisions about the future of the planet. A necessary step towards this is to have an academic and a Natural Science/Literature to educate the young people of the new country Timor-Leste serves as an example of how such geosciences education can be enacted. © Muxaddi Pineda; Timor-Leste, A Ray and Crocodile Travel Through Time, now in more than 15 languages - and this is only one of many that are being crafted by PinedaSCP at Monash University, Melbourne, both in Australia and around the globe.



## LOOKING FORWARD

Possible participants in crafting a **Proposal** for utilizing the *O Mundo Perdido Timor-Leste exhibitions* in Dili, Aileu and Baucau in concert with Swinburne University of Technology (Melbourne, Australia and Sarawak, Malaysia) and hopefully funding a permanent Curator of this collection of assets to insure increased use and appreciation and self-sustainability.

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Mimi Belo Godes ([mimi\\_godes@yahoo.com](mailto:mimi_godes@yahoo.com))

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## BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR AN O MUNDO PERDIDO TIMOR-LESTE EXHIBITIION CURATOR AND EDUCATOR (CONTINUING)

Description	U/M	Qty	Unit Cost	Total
<b>Dili exhibit</b>				
Curator's salary	Monthly/ 1 person	13.00	500.00	6,500.00
communication for curator	Monthly/ 1 person	10.00	12.00	120.00
transport for visits	12 transport/ 12 months	144.00	40.00	5,760.00
snacks on visits	50 Student/ 12 visits/ 12 months	7,200.00	0.30	2,160.00
maintenance	Monthly	12.00	20.00	240.00
printing, publicity and materials for activities	Monthly	12.00	50.00	600.00
<b>Sub total</b>				<b>15,380.00</b>
<b>Baucau (Exhibits in districts, curator to visit once/month, renting cars)</b>				
Car + petrol	1 trips/2 day/ 12 months	24.00	140	3,360.00
Driver stipend and per diam	1 trips/2 day/ 12 months	24.00	50	1,200.00
Per diam for curator	1 trips/2 day/ 12 months	24.00	40	960.00
Maintenance, printing, materials for activities	Monthly	12.00	20	240.00
<b>Sub total</b>				<b>5,760.00</b>
<b>Baucau (Exhibits in districts, curator to visit once/month, using NatCom cars) 100%</b>				
Car + petrol	2 trips/1 day/ 12 months	24.00	35	840.00
Driver stipend and per diam	2 trips/1 day/ 12 months	24.00	40	960.00
Per diam for curator	2 trips/1 day/ 12 months	24.00	40	960.00
Maintenance, printing, materials for activities	Monthly	12.00	20	240.00
<b>Sub total</b>				<b>3,000.00</b>
<b>Aileu (Exhibits in districts, curator to visit once/month, renting cars) 100%</b>				
Car + petrol	1 trip/1 day/ 12 months	12.00	140	1,680.00
Driver stipend and per diam	1 trip/ 12 months	12.00	35	420.00
Per diam for curator	1 trip/ 12 months	12.00	20	240.00
Maintenance, printing, materials for activities	Monthly	12.00	20	240.00
<b>Sub total</b>				<b>2,580.00</b>
<b>Aileu (Exhibits in districts, curator to visit once/month, using NatCom cars) 100%</b>				
Car + petrol	1 trip/1 day/ 12 months	12.00	30	360.00
Driver stipend and per diam	1 trip/ 12 months	12.00	20	240.00
Per diam for curator	1 trip/ 12 months	12.00	20	240.00
Maintenance, printing, materials for activities	Monthly	12.00	20	240.00
<b>Sub total</b>				<b>1,080.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	Dili			15,380.00
	District visits 50% using NatCom cars, 50% renting:			6,210.00
<b>Total Dili and district exhibits</b>				<b>21,590.00</b>
NatCom commitment				2,600.00

Remaining to raise				18,990.00
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(In-kind support already in place: office space, admin support, volunteers and volunteer coordinator, exhibit space, utilities, water dispenser and cups, etc.)



Patricia Vickers-Rich, March 15 2018