

Land Tensions in Timor-Leste

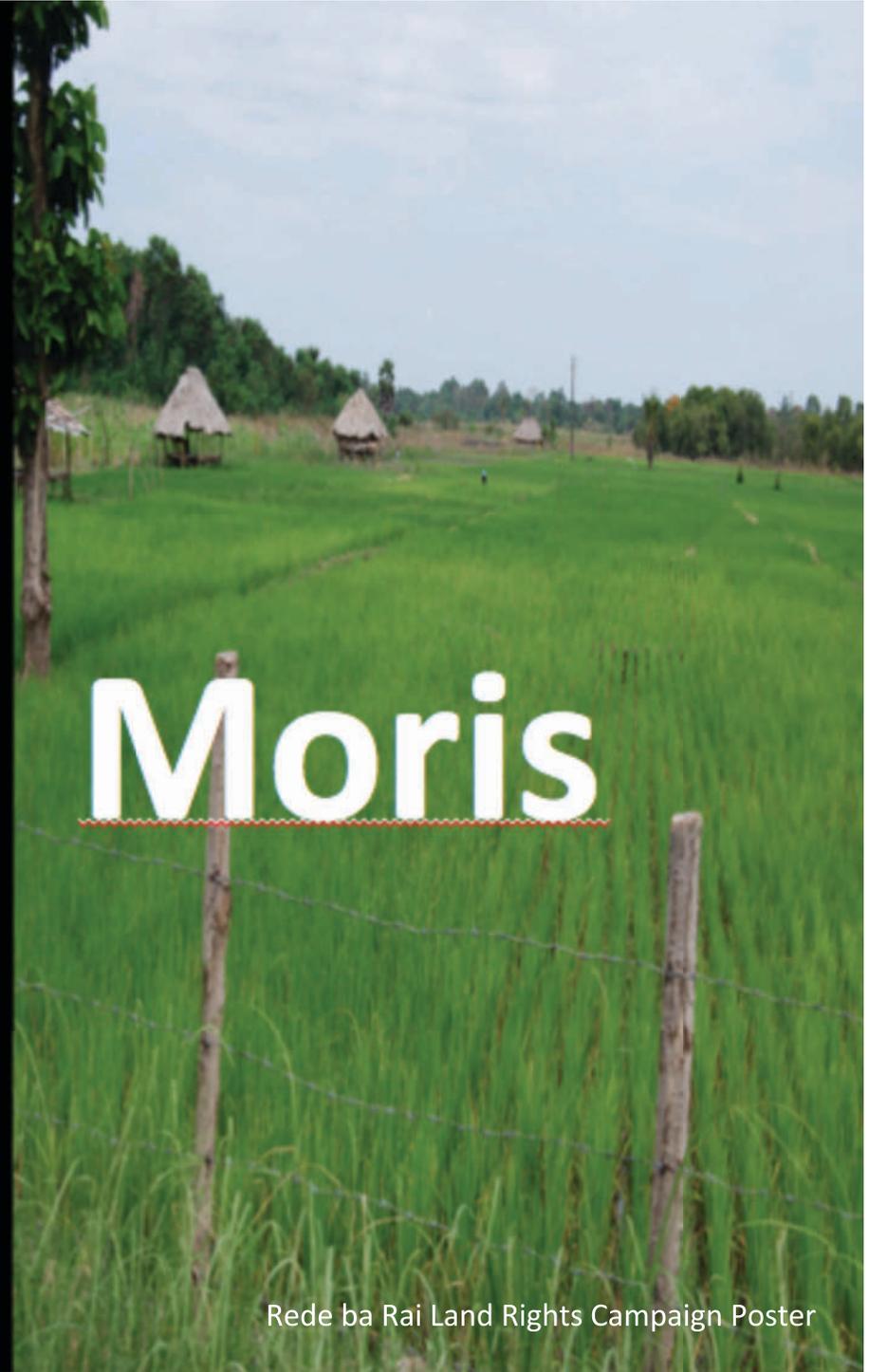
Meabh Cryan & Ines Martins

Timor Update

ANU, Canberra – 27 November 2013



Rai mak



Moris

Rede ba Rai Land Rights Campaign Poster

Tutuala Ratu

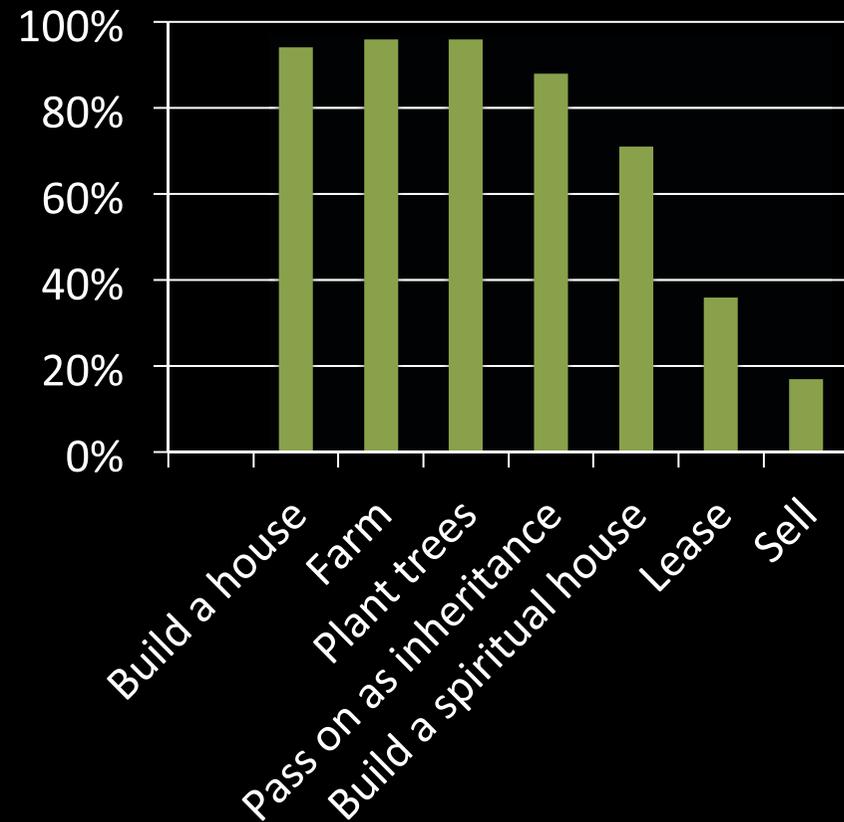


Matadalan ba Rai: Community Voices on Land, Haburas Foundation 2012

Land ownership perceptions

Do you have the right to:

- build a house on your land?
- farm your land?
- plant perenial trees?
- pass your land on as inheritance?
- build an spiritual house on your land?
- lease your land to an outsider?
- sell your land?



Major influences

- Complex colonial history leading to huge land inequality and a lack of clarity
- Layers of displacement and the lack of a coherent policy response
- The current state economic paradigm and new forms of rising inequality
- Corruption and clientelism

Land Law and Policy development

- 2002 Constitution
- 2000 – 2002 UNTAET Policy vacuum
- 2003 State Land Law
- 2008 – 2012 USAID funded land titling programme
- 2008 Draft Land Law
- 2010 Package of 3 laws approved by Council of Ministers – expropriation law, compensation fund law and the draft land law

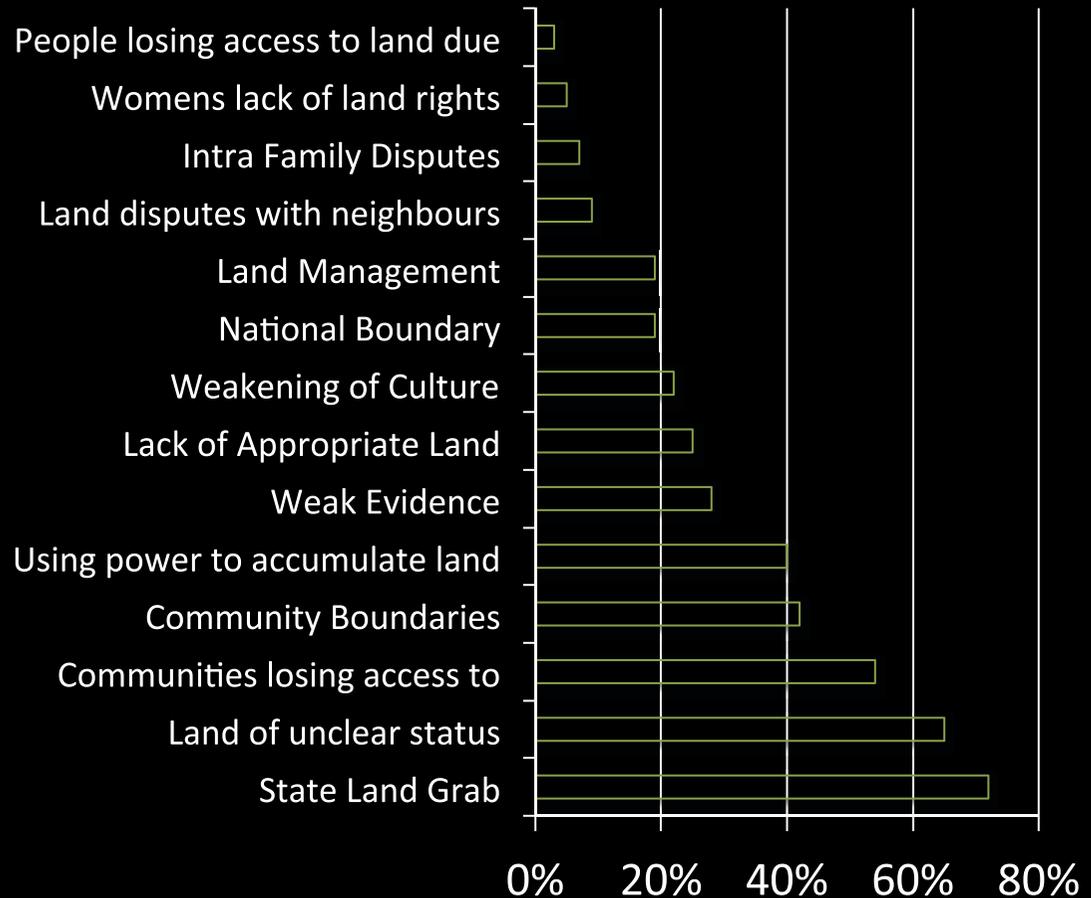
Policy situation to date...

- 2010: Council Parliament Ministers approve the laws
- 2012: Parliament approves the laws
- March 2012: Presidential veto
- June 2013: Approved by Council of Ministers
- Now awaiting parliamentary debate in the new year



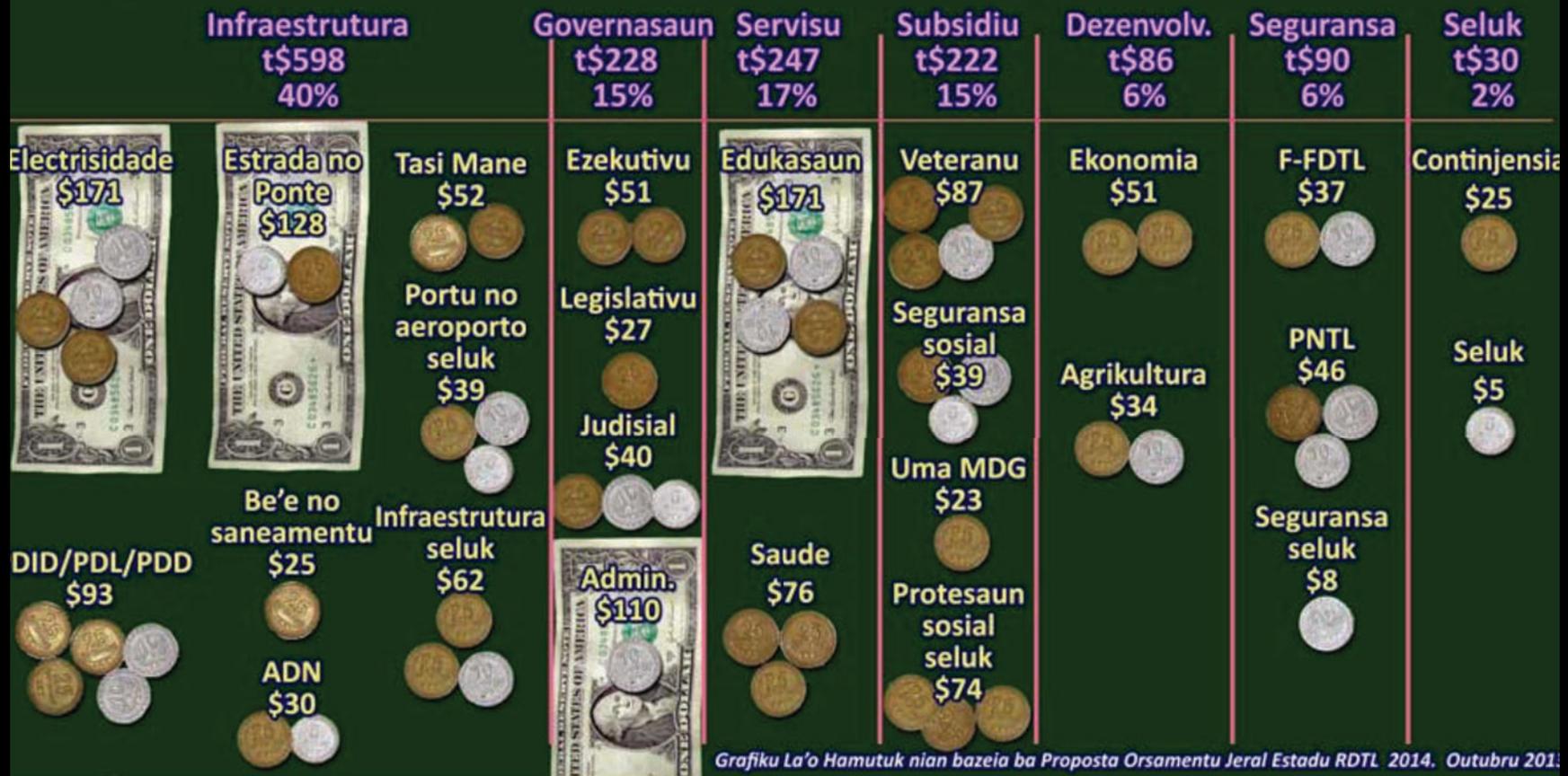
State Pardadigm: Land Grab

- 72% of people ranked 'state land grab' as their biggest land problem in 2011



State Paradigm: 2013 State Budget

Proposta Orsamentu Estadu 2014 (\$1,500 token dolar EUA)



State Paradigm: Strategic development plan

'Reform of the law relating to land tenure is of crucial importance for long-term private sector development'

'Timor-Leste faces three types of land-reform challenges: farm land now under customary practices; urban land in need of zoning and clear property rights; and government land that can be used for public and private investment such as tourism or petroleum development.'

South Sea Development



Timor Plaza Evictions



Photo: Meabh Cryan, Rede ba Rai

Bidau Lecidere Eviction



Betano



Obrigado Wain

- For more information please go to:
 - www.laohamutuk.org
 - Check out the Matadalan ba Rai: Community voices on land report at www.haburas.org
 - Follow the land rights network on facebook at www.facebook.com/redebarai