

00.00-00.12 Welcome to East Timor, one of the world's newest countries. And, for the few, an emerging tourist destination with natural beauty.

00.13-00.37 Ann Turner We just booked a week's holiday here and went for three or four dives, and I think it us 36 hours to make our minds that this would be where we'd hope to spend the rest of our lives.

We were absolutely by the quality of the marine life here, the healthy coral, the lack of environmental damage and a huge diversity of marine life.

00.38-00.45 Hundreds of fish species have been recorded in East Timor's waters, a diversity that's enhanced by having very deep water so close to shore.

00.46-01.15 East Timor is a former war zone and lacks a lot of basic infrastructure.

After East Timor's vote for independence in 1999, Indonesia's militias rampaged through the island. The recovery effort has been painfully slow.

There are many changes to be made if tourism run by is to boost East Timor's meagre economy.

The government is anxious that new tourism developments don't ruin East Timor's greatest : it's natural beauty. A spokesperson for the Ministry of Tourism has this message for developers.

01.16-01.35 Jose Teixeira We are still developing policies and regulations in relation to, say, the environment, for example, and environment protection. So what they should do is they should be very careful to talk to government and not to move ahead without government and local administration knowing exactly what they are doing and then getting the full go-ahead.

01.36-01.48 So as this new nation struggles to build its economy, it faces an age-old : how to make the most of its natural assets without destroying them in the process.