

# INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE TIMOR-LESTE

## Seleleo-Seo /Kosok-Koso

**Type of element: Traditional tale**

### Description

The element is practiced in traditional wedding ceremonies, inherited from ancestors, commonly in Fataluku Ethnic and other neighborhood, located in eastern part of the country. Seleleo-Seo /Kosok-Koso is a kind of dowry agreement expression between the family of groom and bride within community. This practice is used to make the dowry negotiation between families in an attractive and interactive atmosphere. People in this community believes that Seleleo-Seo /Kosok-Koso is an important practice in wedding ceremony therefor to make family to be more blessed and to strength the family ties.



## Fui (Flute)

**Type of element: Traditional Musical Instrument**

### Description

The Fui is an ancestral musical instrument legacy made of bamboo, used and practiced by oxen and buffalo keepers to care for their oxen and buffalos. Caretaker of oxen and buffalo is a solitary job where playing the flute is the only way to get rid of loneliness. Keepers of buffalo and oxen play the flute to gather their livestock in one place before taking them back to the corral or water source. Oxen and buffalo know the flute sound of their keepers and follow it. The Fui is also played in traditional ceremonies; Funeral of "Liurais" high personality in society. Playing with the rhythm of melancholy and loneliness to comfort the deceased's family and to give hope.

## Sau batar / Celesipile (Corn Harvest)

**Type of element: Ritual ceremony**

The livelihoods of Timorese people are agriculture. Corn Harvest is a Timorese harvest ceremony practiced by farmers in various regions in the country. People in Timor-Leste are grateful for what they collect by the hard work sacrificed especially for their plantation in their farm. The corn harvest ceremony is a traditional thanksgiving ceremony to offer the best and first harvest to Lord and to other divines who believe that protects the plantations from the pest and other degradative agents.



## Tais (Textile)

**Type of Element: Traditional Handcraft**

### Description

Tais is an integral component of Timorese culture. Within communities, Tais is woven predominantly by women, who work as individuals or in groups. There are a large number of weaver groups across Timor-Leste. Tais is a cultural element that is inherent to all Timorese people. Tais can be found across the territory of Timor-Leste (in all municipalities, namely; Aileu, Ainaro, Baucau, Bobonaro, Covalima, Dili, Ermera, Lautem, Liquiça, Manatuto, Manufahi, Oecusse and Viqueque). Within the territory, Tais has variety of colors and motifs based on ethnic groups.

Tais has an important role in Timorese people's life, starting from their birth until death. They use Tais to welcome guests, as well as to show their cultural identity and social class. It is also used as an object of value, for example, 'barlake' (dowry) which is given from family of bride to family of groom. Tais is used not only as an element to tighten the relationship between families, but also to pay penalty when people did not follow the rule within the community.

Tais has been a meaningful element in Timorese people's life. It has been used in ritual ceremonies, such as, funeral, "koremotan" (a ceremony held one year after death), "sau-batar" (corn harvest ceremony), welcoming newly born babies, dowry, and inauguration of sacred house. It is also used as presents, welcoming guests, attire for cultural festivals, and others.

