



# **CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE**

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES  
AND FOOD SECURITY

## **Annex 9.3**

**Decision Document on**

**Session 9.3**

**Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group**

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**The 13<sup>th</sup> CTI-CFF SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING (SOM-13)**

**29 – 30 November 2017**

**Dusit Thani Manila Hotel**

**Makati City, Philippines**

**Adopted on 30 November 2017**

**by**

**the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea,  
the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste**

## I. Background

The Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (MEWG) received the following decisions from the last 12<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM-12):

11.3.1. Acknowledged the progress and adopt the proposed work plan towards the continued operation of the CT Atlas with support from the Regional Secretariat and recognize the urgency for sustainable financial resources for the operation of the CT Atlas;

11.3.2. Urged the Technical Working Groups on Goal 1 "Priority Seascapes" Designated and Effectively Managed and Goal 5 "Threatened Species Status Improving" to finalize its indicators prior to SOM-13;

11.3.3. Encouraged the Regional Secretariat to ensure that the Monitoring and Evaluation System is implemented and guided by the M&E System Operation Manual;

11.3.4. Tasked the Regional Secretariat to allocate budget for the hiring of an M&E Coordinator and agree that the M&E Coordinator, under guidance of MEWG, will develop a transition plan by SOM-13 on the eventual transfer of mandate from MEWG to the Regional Secretariat; and

11.3.5. Tasked the Regional Secretariat to ensure that the MOUs between WorldFish and CT6 Member Countries data sharing are signed by SOM-13.

### *CT Atlas*

Unfortunately, due to insufficient funds the CT Atlas could not be revitalised other than for Marine Protected Areas (MPA) data that were deposited voluntarily by various users. For the same reason, the M&E System Operation Manual could not be implemented as the M&E Coordinator could not be employed as it was not feasible to contract such position in the absence of a working M&E platform.

Several MOUs between WorldFish and CT6 members have expired and several member countries have not signed the MOUs to start with. WorldFish advised the Regional Secretariat that if the same were to be pursued, a Data Sharing Agreement should be pursued instead.

WorldFish submitted an approximate cost to further the work and add value to the current CT Atlas. The proposed work is to be implemented in stages:

- i. Full Proposal Development to seek financial support (2 months) – USD6,000.00
- ii. Short term plan to redesign CT Atlas (9 months) – USD160,000.00
- iii. Medium term plan to update and expand CT Atlas (15 months) – USD240,000.00
- iv. Long term plan (ongoing)

#### *Review of the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA)*

In the 2016 12<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-12), the following decisions were made under the Cooperation Arrangements session in relation to a review of the Regional Plan of Action that is due to expire in 2020.

The decisions were:

#### **14.6. Reviewed Regional Plan of Action in 2017 (due to expire 2020):**

- 14.6.1 Review of effectiveness rather than actions;
- 14.6.2 Aim is to consider major regional achievements and weaknesses in RPOA and make recommendations for developing strategic direction from 2020;
- 14.6.3 Review priorities for strategic action between now and 2020 to give focus to work plans – what regional actions are still to be achieved and are of high value; and
- 14.6.4 Partners willing and well-positioned to support this process.

A Partners Meeting was convened 23-24 May 2017 in Manila, Philippines in response to SOM-12 call for more transparency and communication between Partners and the Regional Secretariat.

One of the main agenda in the Partners Meeting was the offer of support from the Government of Australia to review the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action which is due to expire in 2020. The meeting recommended:

- i. That the review has an evaluative emphasis and focus, as first flagged at SOM-12;
- ii. That the scope includes the effectiveness of the current RPOA as a mechanism – its performance as a means of driving and guiding a multilateral effort, with benefits at regional and national levels;
- iii. That the review be independent, that is, contracted through a competitive process to an evaluation specialist ideally with expertise in evaluating multilateral fora, familiar with the policy, programmatic, financial and administrative instruments used to advance multilateral agendas, and with experience in the Coral Triangle region;
- iv. That the essential oversight process for the review be provided by a temporary Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to be comprised of representatives or Members from the National Coordinating Committees, the Regional Secretariat, and two Partners (NGO, donor). The TAG would develop the Terms of Reference for the evaluation, be part of the selection process for the consultancy, review the consultant's report, and make recommendations to SOM-13;
- v. That this review be considered as a key input to the process of renewal of the RPOA, scheduled to be completed by end of 2020; and
- vi. That this review be implemented as soon as possible with draft findings ready for presentation to SOM-13.

A letter of support was sent to the Chair of the Committee of Senior Officials (CTI-CSO); Atty. Jonas R. Leones on 29 June 2017 to seek guidance and initiate the review process.

In response, the Chair of CSO has responded in the form of offer to draft both the Terms of Reference for a Consultancy and for the establishment of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

## II. Decision

Referring to the discussion and consideration among the SOM-13 in session on Monitoring and Evaluation Working group (MEWG), *Attachment 9.3.a*, the Senior Officials hereby:

1. Acknowledged the Capacity Needs Assessment Report (CNA Report) presentation by GIZ and recommended CTI-CFF to build on the findings and recommendations in moving forward with the review of the RPOA (*Attachment 9.3.b*);
2. Urged the Regional Secretariat to secure funding to operationalize of the CT Atlas to function as a data-sharing and M&E platform;
3. Acknowledged the finalization of Goal 1 "Priority Seascapes" Designated and Effectively Managed" indicators in SOM-13;
4. Urged the Technical Working Groups on Goal 5 "Threatened Species Status Improving" to initiate the process of identification of indicators;
5. Noted on the status of Goal 2 "EAFM and other marine resources fully applied" indicators as pending further deliberations within the EAFM Working Group;
6. Tasked the Regional Secretariat to ensure compliance on the use of the Monitoring and Evaluation System Operations Manual as the guide for the Regional Secretariat's M&E System;
7. Tasked the Regional Secretariat to allocate budget for the hiring of an M&E Coordinator;
8. Tasked the Regional Secretariat to work with M&E Chair and partners to develop the TOR for the RPOA Review, with the approval of MEWG Chair by end of January 2018;
9. Acknowledged submission of the draft assessment report of the RPOA review by end of May 2018 to MEWG;
10. Approved the M&E 2018 workplan; and
11. Approved the Review of RPOA 2018 workplan.

### **Attachment:**

- 9.3.a. Annex 1 SOM-13 MEWG presentation
- 9.3.b. Capacity Needs Assessment Report by GIZ