

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2018 | ISSUE 5

# THE CTI-CFF

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CORAL TRIANGLE FOR INITIATIVE FOR CORAL REEF, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY

Photo credit: Erik Lukas/ Coral Reef Image Bank

## CTI-CFF pledges USD 1.3 million to improve marine resources management at OOC 2018

**Bali, Indonesia, October 2018** – The Coral Triangle Initiative for Coral Reefs Fisheries, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) pledges its full support and continued commitment to protect and sustain ocean’s resources, at the fifth Our Ocean Conference held in Bali, Indonesia last 29-30 October 2018.

The CTI-CFF, a multilateral partnership of six countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste – committed USD 1.3 million next year for the preservation and management of a healthy marine and coastal ecosystem in the face of climate change. The amount will be used for implementing the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action (RPOA), particularly activities such as strengthening networks of marine protected areas (MPAs) and sustainable fisheries, in ensuring food security in the face of climate change.

“The said amount is a continued commitment of the CTI since the past three years, where more than USD 2 million had already been contributed by the CT6 countries and utilized for similar activities,” CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Interim Executive Director Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry said.

“Further, the CTI-CFF will continue the implementation of the Guide for Vulnerability Assessment and Local Early Action Planning (LEAP Guide) and the CTI-CFF Region-wide Early Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation (REAP-CCA),” Dr. Siry said.

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## Prospects for Coral Triangle Initiative Discuss at Our Ocean Conference

**Bali, Indonesia, October 2018** – During the OOC Ocean Talk on Strategic Direction for Coral Triangle: Update and Way Forward for Regional Plan of Action, marine conservationists and experts discussed the prospects the Coral Triangle Initiative for Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) can focus into in the future after successfully implementing activities that have contributed to both conservation of marine resources and sustainable economic development in the Coral Triangle Region.

Dr. Nagulendran Kangaytkarasu, a CTI National Coordinating Committee (NCC) member, and also the Undersecretary of Strategic Technology and S&T Application Division at Malaysia's Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC) said that CTI-CFF is unique in that the six countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste, mostly fund their own activities and engagement but said: "While we have met the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) target globally, the CTI region offers opportunity to assess if the region can conserve further." He further stated that "an emerging issue is marine debris pollution. The CTI has to talk about this and work about this, through sharing case studies and lessons about what has and has not worked."

### Women's role in marine resource management

Jackie Thomas, WWF Coral Triangle Coordination Program Leader said that "in many communities, women don't have the opportunity to go to school or have certain gender roles places on them. So, we're missing a critical part of society in this whole Coral Triangle Initiative." She said that the Women Leader's Forum (WLF), a peer-learning network for women who play key leadership roles in sustaining the marine resources in the CT Region, is working to empower women, give them the skills and confidence to become leaders and celebrate their work. There are already many women doing incredible things, but they need more support and more resources to continue and strengthen their work. "We need to look at this further in the (CTI) development of the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) 2," Thomas said.

### Technology to fight IUU fishing

Farid Maruf, USAID Oceans Specialist on Catch Documentation and Traceability Component said that one area that CTI can further look into traceability technology to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.



CTI-CFF Interim Executive Director Dr. Hendra Siry announced CTI-CFF's commitment of USD 1.3 million at Our Ocean Conference (OOC) 2018 in Bali, Indonesia. Photo credit: Indonesia National Coordinating Committee/Imam Fitrianto/2018

The LEAP Guide is a comprehensive set of cutting-edge scientific and social instruments that local governments and communities can use to assess their vulnerability to climate change and develop their own local action plans to address these. On the other hand, the REAP CCA includes immediate regional and national adaptation measures that need to be taken across Coral Triangle to build coastal community resilience to climate change.

The CTI-CFF Pledge or Commitment was announced at the OOC Plenary Session on Climate Related Impacts to the Ocean on the first day of the OOC 2018, where His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco was present to chair the Session. (Janet Rosalie

Anne H. Polita)

“USAID Oceans has learned that countries have immense value to share with each other, like Indonesia and the Philippines. Currently, each country is working with USAID Oceans to advance their digital traceability systems but is (also) learning from each other about their unique solutions at each stage of the supply chain,” Maruf said.

Dr. Lida Pet-Soede, PT Hatfield Indonesia Marine Unit Leader added that “ we enjoy fish from the Coral Triangle, and with traceability we can have more information about which products are more sustainable, more responsible, and more supportive to the local communities.”

### Effective management of marine resources via spatial data

On the other hand, Dr. Sharifah Nora Ibrahim, CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Deputy Executive Director said that “The CT Atlas is useful in the design and planning of national MPAs, networks of MPAs, transboundary MPAs, transboundary Seascapes, marine World Heritage Sites and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) candidate sites, etc.”

“Who would like to join us and support our work on CT ATLAS?”, she asked the audience, in reference to the development of the RPOA 2.0.

The Coral Triangle Atlas is an online Geographic Information System database where governments, scientists and others can share and access the most complete and latest biophysical, socioeconomic and other data in the CT region, where these can also be used to quantify areas, distribution of resources and uses, and habitats or to visualize data at the regional scale and assist in decision-making and planning in Coral Triangle management efforts.

Dr. Pet-Soede added that “Perhaps the narrative in 2008-2009 was biodiversity. All of the data that was collected from this attention is captured within the CT Atlas and can be used at international conferences and forums to show the progress that the Coral Triangle region has made.”

“We see a shift from biodiversity discourse to geopolitical aspects, sharing information, safety at sea, maritime security. In the plenary session yesterday, we heard that to resolve [trans]boundary issues, we need to come together to build capacities as neighbours. The CTI-CFF has worked to establish so many relations and goodwill, which maybe started from biodiversity work but going forward can be used to solve many other challenging problems,” Dr. Pet-Soede said.

Present also in the Ocean Talk was Dr. Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, founding director of the Global Change Institute at the University of Queensland who also shared his insight on opportunities, especially in view of Climate Change, that may help CTI-CFF and its partners focus into for the next phase of the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA).

The CTI-CFF is currently undergoing a review in preparation for a strategic refresh taking into account its progress to date as well as the current regional and global drivers and new opportunities. *(Janet Rosalie Anne H. Polita)*

(From left to right) Ms. Jackie Thomas from WWF; Dr. Sharifah Nora Ibrahim from CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat; Dr. Nagulendran Kangayatkarasu from MESTECC; Prof. Ove Hoegh Guldberg from University of Queensland; Mr. Farid Maruf from USAID Oceans; and Dr. Lida Pet -Soede from PT Hatfield Group were panels of the CTI-organized Ocean Talk “Strategic Direction for Coral Triangle: Update and Way Forward for the Next Regional Plan of Action” held in Bali, Indonesia last 30 October 2018. Photo credit: Dr. Lida Pet-Soede

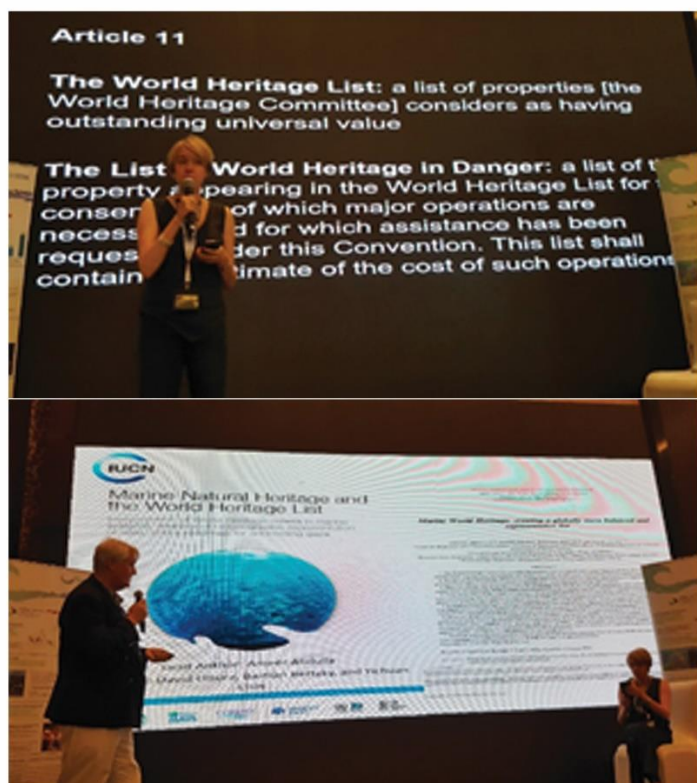


## Ocean Talk “Legacy for Coral Triangle – Towards International Recognition for Marine Megabiodiversity Area”

This OCEAN TALK provided information and awareness to the Coral Triangle Initiative Member Countries and others on:

- the ecological, socioeconomic, cultural and other benefits of Listing unique CT marine areas that fulfils the requirements as a marine World Heritage Site (mWHS) under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention;
- the ecological, socioeconomic, cultural and other benefits of unique CT marine areas that are vulnerable to damage from maritime activities or international shipping to receive special protection as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) under the
- International Maritime Organization (IMO);
- the procedures on how to go about the above, in achieving international recognition;
- Ways on how to involve coastal communities and women in the areas; and
- Ways on how to achieve sustainable funding for the WHS and/or PSSA.

Notable speakers were Dr. Fanny Douvere, UNESCO’s Coordinator for Marine Programme World Heritage Center, Mr. Carl Gustav Lundin, IUCN’s Director for Global Marine & Polar Programme, Dr. Sharifah Nora Ibrahim, CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Deputy Executive Director, and Dr. Vladimir Ryabinin, the Executive Secretary of IOC-UNESCO.



Top photo: Dr. Fanny Douvere, UNESCO’s Coordinator for Marine Programme World Heritage Center. Bottom photo: Mr. Carl Gustav Lundin, IUCN’s Director for Global Marine & Polar Programme  
Photo credit: CTI-CFF/Jasmin Saad/2018

## Job Opportunity

### FINANCE AND OPERATIONS MANAGER

(to be based in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia)

The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) is a multilateral partnership of six countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste) working together to sustain extraordinary marine and coastal resources by addressing crucial issues such as food security, climate change and marine biodiversity, seeks a self-motivated, diligent, detail oriented, highly organized individual and with good character as a Finance and Operations Manager to manage our financial and operations in the Regional Secretariat (RS) CTI-CFF in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia.

The candidate is up to the standard competency set by Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) with technical, business, people and leadership skills. The successful candidate provides leadership in streamlining current practices and identifying innovative solutions to the administrative requirements across CTI-CFF areas of work. In close coordination with the Program Services team, the successful candidate will manage all operational processes for CTI-CFF in accordance with CTI-CFF Rules and Regulations and Host Country laws, and other CTI CFF policies. The successful candidate will manage payroll management, finance, audits, contract and compliance, human resources and other related office administration.

Applications are open only to nationals of CT6 member countries.

Visit <http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org/content/finance-and-operations-manager> for further information.

The **deadline for submission** of application is on **3rd December 2018**. Please send (in English) your cover letter, CV and three professional references to [regional.secretariat@cticff.org](mailto:regional.secretariat@cticff.org).

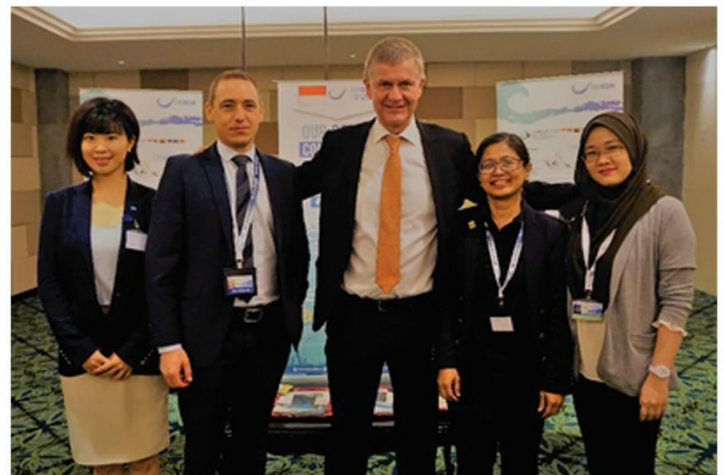
## Other Highlights from Our Ocean Conference 2018 Bali, Indonesia



CTI-CFF Interim Executive Director Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry with His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco. Photo credit: CTI-CFF/ Dr. Sharifah Nora Ibrahim/2018



The CTI-CFF had a bilateral meeting with UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on the side of Our Ocean Conference in Bali, Indonesia. Dr. Hendra Siry, in his capacity as the Interim Executive Director introduced CTI-CFF to Mr. Erik Solheim and explored potential collaboration with UNEP within its existing programs. Dr. Hendra also expressed interest for CTI-CFF's presence at the upcoming Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) in March 2019 on behalf of CT6 member countries. Photo: CTI-CFF/2018



From left to right: Ms Hao Chen, Special Advisor to the Head of UN Environment; Mr. Jerker Tamelander, Head of the UNEP Coral Reef Unit; Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of the UN Environment; Dr. Sharifah Nora Ibrahim, CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Deputy Executive Director for Program Services; and Ms. Jasmin Saad, Senior Strategic Consultant of CTI-CFF. Photo: CTI-CFF/2018



Top: Aurelia Micko from USAID shared her insights on how women are contributing immensely in the management and conservation of oceans' resources in the region during a Side Event at the Our Ocean Conference 2018 in Bali. She is joined by Coral Triangle Center Director Rili Djohani; CTI Regional Secretariat Interim Executive Director Hendra Siry; and Nicole Coombe from the Australian Department of Environment and Energy; Bottom: Participants of the "Women Leaders Breaking Waves in Ocean Conservation," a Side Event at the Our Ocean Conference 2018. Photos: USAID Oceans/Melinda Donnelly/2018



VVIPs such as H.E. Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy for Ocean; H.E. José María Figueres, Former President of Costa Rica (top) and H.E. Amena Yauvoli, the Director General for the Melanesian Spearhead Group visited the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat booth at the OOC 2018 held in Bali, Indonesia. Photos: CTI-CFF/2018

## CT6 Agreed to Further Evaluate Lesser Sunda and Bismarck Solomon Sea Ecoregion for Nomination as Priority Seascapes

**Banten, Indonesia October 2018** – Seascapes are areas in which the management and conservation of natural resources can coexist to provide a pathway towards sustainable economic development. They are also areas of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and aesthetic value.

In the October meeting, members of the CTI Seascapes Working Group (SWG) further evaluated and agreed to propose the nomination of Lesser Sunda and Bismarck Solomon Sea Ecoregion (BSSE) as priority seascapes in the 14th Senior Officials' Meeting to be held in December in Manila, Philippines.

### *The Lesser Sunda and Bismarck Solomon Sea Ecoregion (BSSE)*

The Lesser Sunda is located in the southwestern part of the Coral Triangle, covering waters of two countries: Indonesia and Timor Leste. It sits at the crossroads of the Indian and Pacific Oceans and has a combination of unique conditions – channel depth, currents and temperatures – which makes it an extraordinary rich hub for marine life.

Based on researches, Lesser Sunda coral represent 76% of all reef building coral species; 22 species of marine mammal which include seven dolphin species, 14 whale species and one dugong species. Lesser Sunda also has approximately 25,901 hectares of mangrove forest. Yet, despite its ecological importance, local reefs and their associated ecosystems have been threatened with overfishing, pollution, destructive fishing and coastal development. On the other hand, BSSE is known as the 'Western Indo-Pacific cradle of coral biodiversity.' The BSSE supports a variety of ecosystems like coastal lowland and swamp forests, mangroves, deltas, lagoons and the like. It is also home to various marine species such as leatherback turtle, hawksbill, green, olive ridley and loggerhead sea turtles as well as whales, dugongs, giant clams and finless porpoises.

Once Lesser Sunda and BSSE are approved as priority seascapes by the Committee of Senior Officials, the SWG will focus on its management for next year along with the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape, the first and only priority seascape so far. The SWG is also expecting collaborative programs and activities involving all CT countries in the three priority seascapes.

The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Interim Executive Director Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry said that "by nominating both seascapes as our priority seascapes, I believe it



*Top photo:* The CTI Seascapes Working Group members together with Development Partners and officials of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat at the 5th Seascape Working Group Meeting in Banten, Indonesia.

*Bottom photo:* Members of the Seascape Working Group along with Development Partners listened to the presentation of Nilda Baling from the Philippines NCC with regard to the Philippines' experience on benefits and lessons learned from Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape. Photos: MMAF/Dinah Yunitawati/2018

would bring much needed investments and opportunities from all aspects – from sustainable financing, economic development, efficient management and conservation of natural resources, societal well-being, to improved opportunities for research, Dr. Siry said.

The meeting also endorsed the Rules of Procedures of the CTI-CFF Seascapes Working Group, including the development of sub-working group for priority seascapes under the Seascapes Working Group for reporting to SOM14. According to SWG Chair IR. Suharyanto, the document is essential to play as a guidance for decision making process within the Seascapes Working Group in the future.

Also, the meeting acknowledged the work of Philippines National Coordinating Committee (NCC) with support from the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Project in developing the coordination mechanism on the Seascape sub-working Group.

The 5th Seascape Working Group Meeting which was hosted by Indonesia NCC and supported by the Australian Government was held last 18-19 October 2018 in Banten, Indonesia. (Janet Rosalie Anne H. Polita)

## 7th MPA Regional Exchange Revisits Plans to Effectively Manage Marine Protected Areas in the CTI Region

The importance of marine protected areas contribution to economic sector is obviously seen in Raja Ampat islands. As one of natural wonders in the world, Raja Ampat offers a community-based management on marine protected areas contribution to economic sector is obviously seen in Raja Ampat islands. As one of natural wonders in the world, Raja Ampat offers a community-based management on marine protected areas."

Dr. Gregory Bennett, CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Technical Senior Program Manager cited that the fieldtrip was an opportunity to see the importance of how the stakeholders at Raja Ampat are protecting their local marine resources as part of promoting sustainable tourism. "Sustainable coastal tourism can help preserve artisanal fishing communities, allow for subsistence fishing, protect the environment and make positive contributions to sustainable economic development," Dr. Bennett said.

He added that increasing the size of marine protected areas (MPAs) has significantly contributed to the ability of the local people to manage their coastal marine resource and at the same time uphold food security with a healthy ecosystem. He called it "community self-governance," which takes on a community-based approach and encourages local people to take ownership and become environmental custodians.

Furthermore, Dr. Bennett highlighted that "threats are increasing due to rapid population growth, expanding commercial interests and decision-making constrained by incomplete information. Events such as climate change and coral bleaching, cyclones and tidal waves have devastating impacts on the region's biodiversity. MPA Regional Exchange is an opportunity for participants to come together and discuss the current pressing issues affecting our coral reefs and associated fisheries. Also, he noted the importance of looking for opportunities to address the challenges and call for collaboration to ensure sustainable resources and livelihoods of the millions in this region is properly managed.

The 7th MPA Regional Exchange is organized by the MPA Technical Working Group with support from the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, Indonesia National Coordinating Committee and SEA Project Indonesia.

*(Janet Rosalie Anne H. Polita)*



*Top photo:* During the Marine Protected Areas Regional Exchange (MPA REX), members of the MPA Technical Working Group discussed among others the status of the MPA M&E indicators, CTI-CFF Regional MPA database and initial criteria for Sustainable Marine Tourism and Branding. The Regional Exchange is organized by MPA Technical Working Group with support from CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, Indonesia National Coordinating Committee and SEA Project-Indonesia. It runs from 30 September – 5 October 2018 in Sorong and Raja Ampat, Indonesia.

*Below photo:* The members of the TWG joined in a Study Tour to Raja Ampat, a MPA Learning Site on Sustainable Marine Tourism. Photos: CTI-CFF/2018

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## Announcements

### **Sustainable Blue Economy Conference**

26-29 November 2018

Kenyatta International Convention Centre  
Nairobi, Kenya

Sustainable global development greatly depends on the strength of our blue economy. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development outlines strategies to protect our aquatic ecosystems and communities as we develop our marine resources.

Details are available at

<http://www.blueeconomyconference.go.ke/>

### **33rd ICRI General Meeting**

5-7 December 2018

Yacht Club de Monaco, Monaco

To learn more about the meeting, visit

<https://www.icriforum.org/ICRIGM33>

### **PreSOM-14**

10-11 December 2018

Dusit Thani Manila

Makati City Philippines

### **14th Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM-14)**

12-13 December 2018

Dusit Thani Manila

Makati City Philippines

### **7th CTI-CCF Ministerial Meeting (MM-7)**

14 December 2018

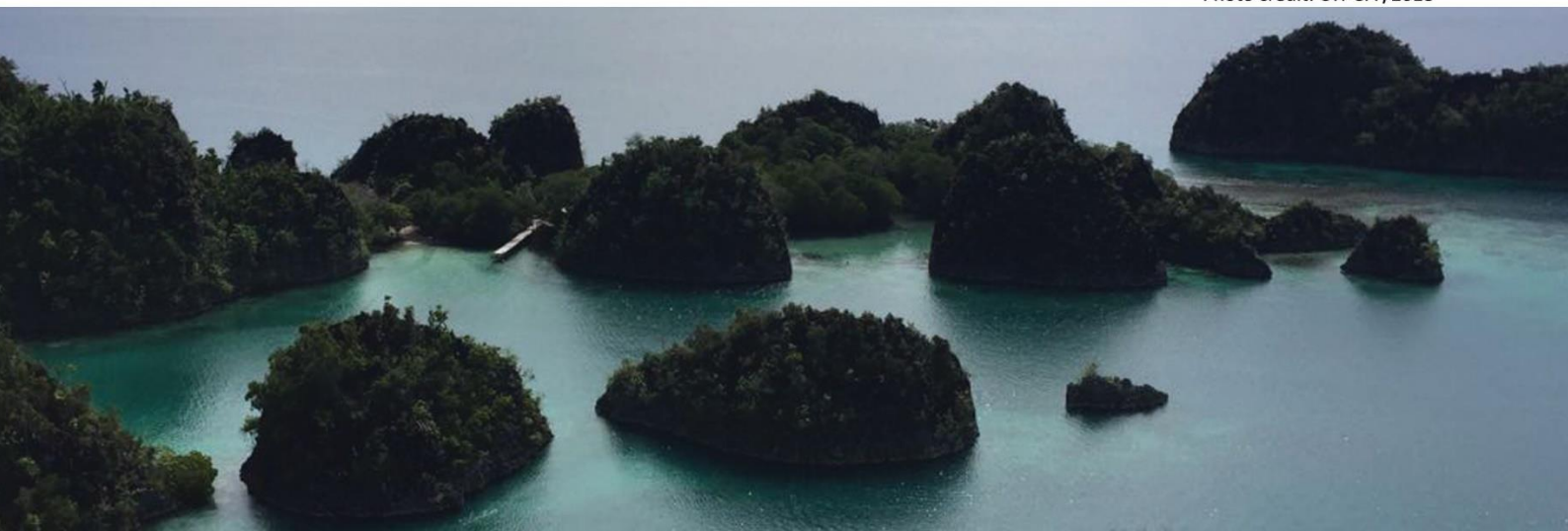
Dusit Thani Manila

Makati City Philippines

The 7th MPA Regional Exchange is organized by the MPA Technical Working Group with support from the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, Indonesia National Coordinating Committee and SEA Project Indonesia.

*(Janet Rosalie Anne H. Polita)*

Photo credit: CTI-CFF/2018





## Samoa Partnership Dialogue

**Apia, Samoa, 29 October 2018** - The Samoa Partnership Dialogue convened representatives from more than 38 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as diplomatic and international observers in Apia, Samoa last 29 October 2018. The Dialogue was part of the inter-regional preparatory meeting for the small island developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway mid-term review undertaken by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), with support from the Government of Italy, and under the overall guidance of the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships.

The Dialogue was a culmination of a broad consultative process through three regional SIDS partnership dialogues, held in the margins of the 2018 preparatory meetings of the SAMOA Pathway mid-term review in Mauritius for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS), in Tonga for the Pacific, and in Belize for the Caribbean SIDS.

The discussions in the Samoa Partnership Dialogue were hinged on the following: Island Resilience Partnership; SIDS University and Research Institutions Network; Pacific Islands Universities Research Network; International Decade of Ocean Science; A Global Observatory of Changing Environments in SIDS; ICT4SIDS Partnership; and Beyond the Stars (BTS).

The CTI-CFF through its Regional Secretariat (Dr. Gregory Bennett) participated in this event and took note of the importance of maintaining dialogue with all partners including communities, throughout the lifetime of our commitments. Particularly, the importance of involving NGOs and civil society in the dialogue is crucial especially when securing support and cooperation from communities. Moreover, involving the academe and help improve scientific basis of partnerships as well as their design and monitoring. Cooperation of government entities should also be considered as well as involvement of private sectors in all regions, including through the use of evidence based information and data. *(Janet Rosalie Anne H. Polita)*



Photo credit: CTI-CFF/Dr. Gregory Bennett/2018

# A Warm Welcome to New CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Interim Executive Director

The CTI-CFF welcomes Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry as the Interim Executive Director (IED) of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat. He will serve as the IED until a new Executive Director has been appointed by the CTI-CFF Council of Ministers (CTI COM).

Prior to joining the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, Dr. Hendra assumed several leadership roles as a Deputy Director for Coastal Disaster Mitigation and Climate Change Adaptation of the Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) for eight years and Deputy Director for Spatial and Zoning Plans Region II for almost a year in the same ministry. He was responsible in developing strategic inputs and recommendations; providing policy coordination and technical advice/support for the formulation of standard operating procedures (SOPs); overseeing partnership management and resource mobilization; including managing development, implementation and management of programs in coastal disaster mitigation and climate change adaptation.

He completed his PhD under the Resources Management in Asia-Pacific Program (RMAP), Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies (RSPAS) of the Australian National University under the Australian Development Scholarship (ADS) and holds a Master Degree from the School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD) – Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) with the support of the Ford Foundation Grant, AIT Partial Scholarship and CUC-CIDA Assistantship programs.

He was the recipient of numerous academic grants such as the United Nations – Nippon Foundation Fellow, Asian Scholarship Fellow, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) Fellow and Ford Foundation.

Dr. Hendra was part of the CTI-CFF Interim Regional Secretariat and member of Transition Team of CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat. He served as Secretary for Coordination and External Affairs from January 2013 up to March 2015 when the permanent Regional Secretariat was established.



Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry, CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Interim Executive Director.

**“On behalf of the CTI-CFF, I thank all the staff of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat for their commitment, hard work and dedication to be able to deliver the targets of the organization. I would also like to thank the CT6 member countries and development partners for their continuing trust, confidence and support to the organization to carry its mission.**

**Rest assured that the organization will intensify its efforts to further advance and promote marine conservation and protection of the Coral Triangle.”**

**-Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry**

# Preparatory-SOM Signals Path to More Agile CTI

The recent Preparatory Senior Officials meetings (SOM) held in Jakarta, Indonesia featured an engaged group of CT6 representatives who dealt decisively with a series of issues arising from significant changes at the CTI Regional Secretariat, outstanding financial and management tasks, and strategic considerations connected to the recently completed Review of the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA).

The meetings drew on the expertise and reporting of two main consultants – Mr. Danang Widodo (team leader – management and finance review of the Regional Secretariat) - and Dr. Lida Pet-Soede (team leader - RPOA Review). Highlights of the meetings included:

### Finances

- The Audits (2014-17) and management review showed that the Regional Secretariat (RS) finances are in good shape overall – no deficit.

- Accounting and HR procedures are being upgraded, gaps are being addressed. Early choices made at the RS in set-up of accounting and related systems created some accounting and HR issues but there is a clear, affordable and achievable pathway for their resolution in the short term. There are some legacy issues but these are manageable within the RS 2019 budget.

- Financial Resources Working Group (FRWG) Terms of Reference were adopted particularly internal (Budget and Operations) considerations. There is increased clarity around needs and responsibilities.

### Staffing

- Dr Hendra Yusran Siry will serve as Interim Executive Director (IED) until a new ED is appointed by the CTI Council of Ministers. Pak Hendra has deep history with the CTI having supported the Interim Regional Secretariat at Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) until 2014.

- Recruitment of the new ED is targeting an April 2019 timeline, with a TOR to be developed by the RS and tabled at SOM-14. Early recruitment would also allow the new ED to be materially involved in the development of the RPOA 2.0.



*Top:* Representatives from the CTI-CFF National Coordinating Committees and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat as well as CTI-CFF's development partners recently gathered together to be briefed and deliberate on the findings from the Review of Regional Plan of Action activity as well as the financial and administrative standing of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat including Audit findings; discuss and approve the 2018 and 2019 financial forecast budget; finalize institutional documents on Financial Regulations, Financial Rules and Procedures, Staff Regulations and Staff Rules and Procedures among others. The meetings were held from 9-12 October 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

*Middle:* Dr. Lida Pet-Soede, Project Review Manager presented the findings and recommendations from the Review of the CTI-CFF's Regional Plan of Action during the recently concluded Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group and Financial Resources Working Group Meetings held in Jakarta, Indonesia. Seated beside Dr. Soede is CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Interim Executive Director Hendra Yusran Siry.

*Bottom:* (From left to right) NCC of Indonesia (Mr. Agus Dermawan); Malaysia (Dr. Nagulendran Kangyatkarasu); Papua New Guinea (Yvonne Tio); Philippines (Ms. Nilda Baling); Solomon Islands (Alick Misibini); Timor-Leste (Celestino da Cunha Barreto); and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Interim Executive Director Dr. Hendra Siry held hands as sign of support and cooperation towards achieving the agreements made in the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group and Financial Resources Working Group Meetings.

## Continuation of Preparatory-SOM...

- A constructive iterative discussion of the RS staffing organigram and potential hiring reflected the related considerations of the 2019 budget; the management consultant's recommendations for a leaner and more agile management structure; and findings of the RPOA Review around CTI's organisational agility and the need for form (staffing structure) to follow from function (objectives). Delegates agreed on a solution that balanced the desire for limiting expenditure with recognition that the RS carries lots of expectations and unfunded mandates or "taskings" and needs more people/staff to do this annually growing body of work. A proposed 2019 budget and organigram was agreed for SOM approval in December.

### RPOA Review

- Review of the RPOA mandated at SOM 13 was presented by Dr. Pet-Soede, who over several months led the wide-ranging study by a multidisciplinary team of nine consultants who visited all the CT6 countries. Key findings were focused on effectiveness and included conclusions about not just the thematic focus of the RPOA but its implementation – and so recommended corresponding institutional reforms and leadership capabilities if the CTI is to mature to the next level of its potential, and in doing so, become financially sustainable.

- Following from the recommendations, delegates agreed that a Terms of Reference (TOR) for a renewed RPOA 2.0 to be developed in 2019 should be tabled at SOM-14. The TOR would set out recommendations on how the RPOA could be developed – scope, process, and means of considering any contingent institutional reforms. The Australian Government has subsequently contracted Dr. Pet-Soede to produce the TOR for SOM-14.

### Engagement

- The Development Partners (DP) were represented by Dr. Andrew Chek (Australian Government) who acts as DP Coordinator. He thanked the meeting for inclusion of the DP in this Prep-SOM noting that the Partners had in recent years felt less central to strategic and operational considerations, and part of key information flows. He welcomed the delegates' desire to reverse that trend and once again open strong links of communication and broad central participation by the DP to accompany the CTI on its development path.



Photo (seated from left to right): Representatives from the CTI-CFF National Coordinating Committees (NCC) of Philippines (Ms. Nilda de Sesto Baling); Malaysia (Ms. Salwa Abdul Latiff Al Yamani); Indonesia (Mr. Okto Irianto); Papua New Guinea (Mr. Oroqkor EPH Inerehu); Solomon Islands (Mr. Alick Misibini) and Timor-Leste (Mr. Celestino da Cunha Barreto) led the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group and Financial Resources Working Group Meetings. Standing behind them are development partners, staff of CT6 NCCs and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat management.

The meetings were held from 9-12 October 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Photo: CTI-CFF/October2018

- Dr. Chek also conveyed the DP's strong support for the findings of the RPOA Review and its overarching message –that reform of governance, operations, and strategy is urgently needed if the CTI is to retain a competitive position among other initiatives. Dr. Chek observed that the Prep-SOM itself and the significant decisions taken during the meeting were welcome signals of a CTI open to such reform.

The spirit of the meetings remained high throughout with delegates keen to work through implications and possibilities and come to substantive options that SOM could discuss. This reflects SOM-13's desire for the SOM to return to including more strategic considerations. The meeting acknowledged with gratitude the financial support of the United States Government in making Prep-SOM possible. *(Dr. Andrew Chek, Australian Government)*



## New FRWG Chair, Mr. Andre Omer Siregar

The CTI welcomes the new chair of the Finance and Resources Working Group, **Mr. Andre Omer Siregar**.

Andre Omer Siregar is a career diplomat and has been part of the Indonesian Diplomatic service since 1998. He is currently the Director for Asia-Pacific and African Intra and Inter Regional Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.

Prior to his current position, Andre was Consul of the Republic of Indonesia in Darwin, Northern Territory Australia. Between 2011-2014, Andre served as the Interpreter/Assistant Special Staff for relations for the President of Indonesia. He has served as interpreter for three other Presidents since 2002.

Mr Siregar has been involved in various related issues on international humanitarian and disaster relief since working in the Ministry, including the Bali Process on People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons in 2002, and also the Humanitarian Assistance to the Indian Ocean Tsunami Resolution in United Nations General Assembly in 2004-2007 and also part of the review team on the humanitarian assistance in Aceh with UKP4/Presidents Delivery Unit for Development Monitoring and Oversight in 2013.

Mr Siregar held various portfolios in the Directorate General of Multilateral Cooperation at the Ministry, including:

- Humanitarian Issues: People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons, NGO accreditation, NAM, OIC, IOM, ICRC;
- Economic Development & Financial Issues: OECD, G20, UN-ESCAP, ADB, World Bank, IMF.

Prior to working in the Ministry, he was Assistant Brand Manager to Procter and Gamble Indonesia managing Rejoice shampoo.

Here are some insights from Mr. Sigar as new FRWG Chair:

### 1. What are the opportunities and challenges he sees in terms of ensuring a realistic, workable and sustainable financial architecture for CTI-CFF?

A: Population around the world depends on coral reef. It provides food, protection and employment. Coral reef has vast economic importance as it provides resources and services worth billions of dollars every year. Awareness of the importance of coral reef shared by many in the world. CTI-CFF must be able to gain from this condition to attract support for the works of to sustain extraordinary marine and coastal resources. As a relatively young regional organization that is still on the process of developing, we must first ensure that CTI-CFF works in an effective and efficient manner in terms of financial management. In that case, the challenge is to ensure the practice of an accurate mechanism on financial management, in particular by implementing the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

This is surely an important measure to lift up the CTI-CFF's posture to a higher standard of an international organization. We are also advising the Regional Secretariat that the budget is to be well-managed, and focusing more to the implementation of technical programs, that in the end will serve to achieve the Regional Plan of Actions (RPOA) of CTI-CFF.

### 2. How does he intend to lead the Working Group?

A: The FRWG needs to be working in an open and constructive manner, with the common spirit to further maintain the continuity of CTI-CFF. The works of FRWG will be in line with the guidelines of RPOA. In addition, it is equally important to ensure and improve coordination among members. Working collaboratively, all members are expected to contribute to the goals of FRWG.

This organization was born from noble commitments made by our six Leaders back in 2009, and CT6 must be able to fulfill it.

### 3. What is his goal for the FRWG, if any?

What should be underlined is that the FRWG must be able to support the Regional Secretariat in seeking broader network with other relevant institution and organization at global level. CTI-CFF has potential to invite partners and collaborators to solve one of the biggest challenges in the world currently, which is food security. The healthiness of our corals and our ocean environment serves a bigger purpose in providing food to millions of people in the whole Pacific Ocean.

## The “Coral Triangle”: Action Plan on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security Set to be Refreshed

**Manado, Indonesia, October 2018** - Ten years into implementation, the “Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF)” has been reviewed by independent experts and will be subject to course-setting changes to adapt to changing needs of the region.

The CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action was endorsed and adopted by leaders of the six member the nations – Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor Lester - in 2009. The plan set the foundation for the program’s long-term vision, goals, and actions to protect the economic and environmental assets in the Coral Triangle—the global epicentre of marine life, abundance, and biodiversity. But given the political, social, environmental, climate and economic dynamics of the region, the plan needs to change accordingly.

A group of multidisciplinary experts, engaged by various CTI-CFF development partners and supported by the national governments of the Coral Triangle, will soon table a report which charts new directions for the CT.

### The Wealth of the Coral Triangle

Occupying only 1.5% of the world's total ocean area (132,636 kilometers) across Asia and the Pacific, the Coral Triangle has the highest diversity of coral species (76%) with fifteen of the 605 known species endemic to the region. It contains more coral reef fish species than can be found anywhere (37% of the world’s 6,000 coral reef fish species) and six of the seven marine turtle species.

Also known as “the nursery of the seas,” the Coral Triangle provides critical habitat and spawning ground for the region’s tuna fisheries that produce most of the world's tuna catch with landed value of US\$ 2 billion annually. Resources of the region support the food and livelihood needs of around 410 million people that live in these countries, and millions more outside the region. Fisheries, travel and tourism, and other industries provide employment and income to more than 130 million coastal people and generate US \$3 billion worth of annual export receipts from fishing and another US \$3 billion annually from coastal nature-based tourism. In addition to food, travel and tourism, coral reefs and related coastal ecosystems provide other services such as protection from storms (and related damages), water purification and filtration, etc, which are incalculable.

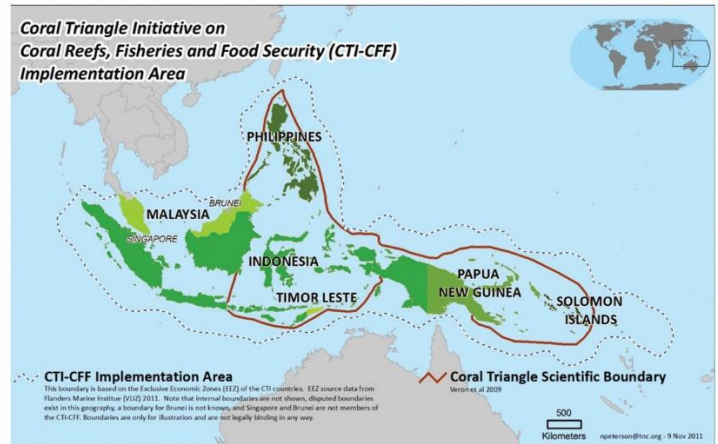


Photo credit: Top (CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat); Middle and Bottom photos: IYORBank

### Making Strides

Over the past 10 years, some important steps have been taken by member countries and their partners to address the critical threats to healthy and sustainable coastal and marine ecosystem, such as weak governance, increasing pressures on natural resources from population growth and economic development, and climate variability and change. The program has strengthened policy and regulatory framework; forged a “CTI” brand identify across the region; improved ecological indicators in a number of selected sites where investments have taken place; tested a number



Photo: Yen-Yi Lee/Coral Reef Image Bank

of selected sites where investments have taken place; tested a number of replicable and scalable tools and approaches, such as ecosystems-based fisheries management (EAFM); brought together a strong coalition of technical and financing partners willing to continue investments in these critical natural capital assets; put in place ways to learn and share knowledge across the region and beyond; and importantly, established a regional secretariat, which is supported by financial contributions of the six countries themselves. But clearly, more work needs to be done. The review recognizes the need for change and fine-tuning to keep up with the times.

### Charting the Future

The draft Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) review provides a recommended pathway for engineering the priority areas of focus of an RPOA 2.0 along with changes in its implementation arrangements to increase its effectiveness, relevance, and agility. This starts with the institutional structure – which has featured a central regional secretariat based in Manado, Indonesia. The implication is that a leaner, more agile secretariat with shorter strategic and operational plan cycles will be able to respond better to the needs of its countries and so enhance its value add. A closer look at comparator regional technical service delivery structures in other parts of the world will help inform this process. Second, the review finds that operational improvements to the way the CTI-CFF conducts its business are in order; a shift away from overly bureaucratic frameworks, and ensuring that list of actions are duly. In parallel, efforts to create a regional trust fund need to be accelerated, and these will benefit from an improved ability to demonstrate impact through monitoring efforts.

Finally, improved communications are needed so that the CTI can avoid duplicating work that is already done by other regional organizations and focus on its core competencies or where it holds a competitive advantage. Aligning more strategically with other organizations will also allow the CTI to work towards better complementing work done by others. Critical here, will be efforts to engage the private sector. Businesses will need to understand the economic value that is provided through coral reef ecosystems services, and internalize sustainable practices into their operations.

### High Level Commitment

Recommendations of the review will be tabled for discussion at the 14th CTI-CFF Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), followed by the 7th Ministerial Meeting (MM) in 9-12 December 2018, hosted by the Government of the Philippines in Manila. A second Heads of State meeting is contemplated in 2019 to mark the 10th anniversary of the CTI's founding and provide a renewed focus on this important endeavor.

Undersecretary Jonas Leones, chair of the CTI Senior Officials and Undersecretary of the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources said that updating the RPOA would be very timely to consider pressing matters. Also, he highlighted the importance of upgrading existing tools such as the CT Atlas as information gateway for coastal and marine resource and continues its intended functions to support programs.

He urged that the work towards the development of RPOA version 2.0 would gain momentum with involvement from all partners and adds value to existing programs. *(Mr. Arunkumar Abraham, ADB and Dr. Andrew Chek, Australian Government)*

## CTI-CFF welcomes new members to the Regional Secretariat Team!

The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat warmly welcomes the new members of the team who will help the Secretariat until December 2018 based on the decision last Preparatory Senior Officials' meetings held in Jakarta, Indonesia:



**Drs. Asa Patia Silalahi** is the new Executive Officer of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat. Before he joined the Secretariat, he worked as a Mid-career Functional Diplomat at the Directorate General for Asia and Pacific and Africa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. He also worked at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Brussels where he assisted and advised the Head of Representation of the Republic of Indonesia in delivering and implementing missions related to public affairs. He also worked in the Embassy of Indonesia in countries like South Africa, Mexico and South Africa in different capacities such as Economic Counsellor, First Secretary for Economic Affairs and Third Secretary for Economic Affairs and Protocol. Pak Asa has a Masters Degree in International Relations from the University of Tasmania in Hobart, Australia and Bachelor's Degree in Political Science in University of Indonesia in Jakarta, Indonesia.



**Wiwin Joko Winarbo** is the new Finance Assistant Manager of CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat. "Wiwin" is an accountant, finance, procurement, administration and operation specialist with more than 17 years of professional experience. He worked for developmental organizations namely The Nature Conservancy and Conservation International both as Finance and Account Coordinator. As part of his professional development, he took trainings in taxation, web cash manager application, grant management, logistic and procurement system among others.



**Ayodya Satryo Anggrojati** is the new Technical Program Assistant of the CTI-CCF Regional Secretariat. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Marine Biology from the University of Brawijaya Malang in Indonesia. He previously worked at the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat as Office Management Assistant for more than a year. Yodi is also into photography and diving.

**We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and find it interesting and informative.**

**We welcome your comments and suggestions to help us improve the CTI-CFF Newsletter. You can email us at [regional.secretariat@cticff.org](mailto:regional.secretariat@cticff.org).**

**Thank you!**