



coral triangle initiative

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

ON

CLIMATE CHANGE

2nd MINISTERIAL MEETING

19 NOVEMBER 2009

GIZO, SOLOMON ISLANDS

Coral Triangle Initiative On Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security

Adopted on 19 November 2009
by the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia,
Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste

PREAMBLE

1. We, the Ministers and representatives of the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste met at the second Ministerial Meeting of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security in Gizo, Solomon Islands on 19 November 2009 affirm that the oceans play a critical role in our lives and that marine hazards brought about by climate variability and change have become one of the greatest threats for the survival of the Coral Triangle countries.
2. We understand and agree:
 - 2.1 That our region is blessed by one of the world's most precious natural wonders - our magnificent and unique tropical oceans, coasts and small-islands rich in biodiversity. Yet their very existence, and the diversity of plants and animals that depend on them, is imperilled by the warming of our atmosphere and oceans. That climate change presents significant *direct* stressors to vulnerable marine and coastal ecosystems including coral reefs.
 - 2.2 That the most severe direct threats to marine, coastal and small islands ecosystems from climate change has already been experienced by the six countries. More specifically:
 - Increase of 1-2°C in water temperature, stressing our coral reefs and causing them to bleach and die
 - Many of our most low-lying islands are gradually losing significant territory, and may disappear altogether in the coming decades.
 - Our mangroves are beginning to submerge, and the critical nursery grounds for local reef fisheries and shrimp populations are deteriorating due to sea-level rise.
 - Increased frequency and severity of tropical storms from climate change resulting in flooding of coastal villages and nearby agricultural lands and other harmful impacts.
3. That our marine and coastal resources provide livelihoods and the living standards for more than 240 million people within 30 km of our coastal areas. Unfortunately, the relationship between people and coastal ecosystems is now under extreme pressure from climate change, and their food security and livelihoods are at increased risk.
4. That given the close dependence of our population on marine and coastal resources for their livelihoods and food security, adaptation to these climate change impacts has emerged as one of the pre-eminent issues that our governments are addressing under the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF).
5. That the concern our leaders share for the future security and health of our coastal communities in a changing and warming world underpins our nations' commitments as outlined in the Coral Triangle Initiative Regional Plan of Action (CTI-RPOA).

ACTIONS

1. We call upon world leaders to recognize and act upon the threat climate change poses to our marine environment, particularly its effect on coral reefs, fisheries and food security. Hence, we support the inclusion of marine element and issues into the negotiation text of the UNFCCC.
2. We stand ready, and will undertake steps to implement actions as stated in the CTI Regional Plan of Action (CTI-RPOA) adopted by our leaders at their Summit in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia in May 2009.
3. We consider climate change in all of our actions and specifically will pursue the following actions:
 - 3.1 Develop a region-wide *Early Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation* for the near-shore marine and coastal environment (including small island ecosystems).
 - 3.2 Establish a regional network of *National Centers of Excellence on Climate Change Adaptation for Marine and Coastal Environments* with national center operational in each CT country, designed to (i) improve understanding of future climate change impacts and related issues; and (ii) support comprehensive application of effective adaptation measures to mitigate these impacts, with a focus on biodiversity conservation and economic and livelihood needs of communities heavily dependent on marine and coastal resources.
4. We call for increased global community fund support prioritizing on the implementation of adaptation program in Coral Triangle countries on the following issues;
 - 4.1 Capacity-building, particularly in relation to the gathering and analysis of scientific information and policy development relevant for climate change adaptation programs
 - 4.2 Implementation of planning frameworks, national and regional development strategies and priorities on climate change adaptation. These frameworks need to emphasize the need for improved science and information to help inform decision-makers regarding the specific vulnerability of their population, leading to improved capacity to make effective ecosystem and structural adaptation plans - at the local, national and regional levels.
 - 4.3 Direct actions of adaptation effort for coastal communities and marine environment.
5. We urge world leaders to maximise their level of ambition and achieve a robust and effective global climate deal. The Bali Action Plan 2007 and other initiatives resulted in an agreement that developed countries would reduce their emissions significantly below 1990 levels by 2020.
6. The coral triangle leaders have shown high level commitment to lead our people to build natural, social and economic resilience, however our effort would be futile unless the mitigation measures are put into concrete actions.
7. This joint communiqué will be presented at the COP15 in Copenhagen

Signed on 19 November 2009 in Gizo, Solomon Island by:

Government of Indonesia

H.E. Dr. Fadel Muhammad
Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries

Government of Malaysia

Minister of Science, Technology and
Innovation
signed by H.E. Datin Blanche Olbery
High Commissioner of Malaysia to Papua New
Guinea, Solomon Islands and Rep. of Vanuatu

Government of Papua New Guinea

Hon. Benny Allen
Minister of Environment and Conservation

Government of Philippines

Secretary of Dept. of Environment & Natural
Resources and Secretary of Dept. of
Agriculture
signed by Hon. Manuel D. Gerochi
Undersecretary of Dept. of Environment &
Natural Resources and Senior Official in
charge of CTI affairs

Government of Solomon Islands

Hon. Gordon Darcy Lilo
Minister of Environment, Conservation &
Meteorology

Hon. Nollen Leni
Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources

Government of Timor-Leste

H.E. Marriano Assanami Sabino
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries