



coral triangle initiative

Outcomes of the CTI Summit

(May 28, 2009; prepared by TNC)

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Report of Coral Triangle Initiative Summit

(May 28, 2009; prepared by TNC)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On May 15, 2009, in Manado, Indonesia, the leaders of the six Coral Triangle (CT) countries came together for an historic Summit at which they committed to a bold vision and concrete actions to conserve the richest and most abundant marine life on our planet. Along with the six leaders, 20 ministers and over 100 senior officials from the CT6 countries, along with senior representatives of 15 major partners (international NGOs, donor governments, and funding agencies) all came together in Manado to declare a new era in marine and coastal conservation for the Coral Triangle. The commitments and announcements made at the Summit and related events represent one of the most important advances in marine conservation in history, and could one day be described as a tipping point for transforming the way marine and coastal resources are managed in this globally important area. Major outcomes include:

- Leaders Declaration. A formal Declaration that binds the six governments to (i) take accelerated and collaborative action to address threats to marine, coastal and small island ecosystems in the CT region; and (ii) convene future Summits to ensure a high level of political commitment.
- Regional Plan of Action. A **Regional CTI Plan of Action that contains unprecedented, time-bound marine protected area (MPA), fisheries and climate change targets** – the most specific, comprehensive, and ambitious marine conservation action plan ever agreed by governments.
- Follow-up by ministers. Instructions to ministers to follow up on implementation of the Plan of Action.
- CTI Secretariat. Establishment of a Regional CTI Secretariat to support actions by the CT6 countries.
- Funding by public donors
 - ⇒ Reiteration of two large-scale, five-year funding programs announced last year to directly support CTI, totaling over **\$100 million** (ADB/GEF: \$63 million; USAID: \$40 million), as well as presentations of the design phases to determine how to allocate this money.
 - ⇒ Reiteration by ADB of an additional **\$300 million** of grants and loans – some providing more indirect support for CTI – that compose the co-financing package for the ADB/GEF grant.
 - ⇒ A new commitment by Australia of **\$1.6 million**, as a down-payment for multi-year support to the CTI.
 - ⇒ A new commitment by the U.S. of **\$1.6 million** for capacity building through NOAA.
- National budget commitments by CT6 governments. An initial total commitment of **\$13 million** by four of the CT6 governments (from national budget sources) to support CTI, along with an explicit commitment by Indonesia and Solomon Islands to a significant increase in their domestic budgets for marine conservation (e.g. commitment by Indonesia to double their budget over the next three years).
- Action on climate change adaptation for the marine environment. A commitment to take action on climate change adaptation in the CT and to take a strong, coordinated position on this issue at the December climate change negotiations in Copenhagen.
- Other announcements by CT6 governments
 - ⇒ Indonesia. Indonesia declared the **largest MPA in Southeast Asia and the third largest in the world -- the Savu Sea National Marine Fisheries Sanctuary (3.5m ha.)**. With this new MPA, Indonesia announced achievement of its 2010 MPA target of 10m ha (now at

- 13.5m ha) and announced a new goal of 20m ha. of MPAs across the country by 2020, with strictly enforced protection and sufficient financing.
- ⇒ Indonesia. Indonesian President Yudhoyono will sign a Presidential Decree creating a new **national committee of Ministers from across the government to address marine conservation**, to take immediate and coordinated action and to meet annually.
 - ⇒ Papua New Guinea. PNG Prime Minister Somare pledged to ensure that **CTI implementation will entail a “whole-of-government” response (i.e., involving all relevant ministries across the government)**. He also pledged that CTI will be incorporated into PNG’s *Long-Term Economic Development Strategy*.
 - ⇒ Solomon Islands. Solomon Islands Prime Minister Sikua announced that the Ministerial cabinet endorsed the **establishment of a new CTI Unit within the government, which is now staffed and operational**.
 - Strong support by partners. A Partners Dialogue was held, in which the current core CTI Partners reiterated their strong support for CTI implementation (i.e. TNC, CI, WWF, Asian Development Bank, Global Environment Facility, US and Australian governments). A group of seven new partners committed to support CTI, including France, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN Center for Biodiversity), IUCN-The World Conservation Union, Wildlife Conservation Society, UN Environment Program, UN Development Program, and WorldFish. TNC, WWF and CI committed to work even more closely together to support CTI implementation across the region. Also, a new capacity building alliance – to mobilize state-of-the-art science and provide tailored training -- was stimulated by CTI and the Summit, and currently involves TNC, CI, WWF, NOAA and James Cook University in Australia.

SECTION I: LEADERS IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“The Coral Triangle is a globally recognized treasure. It is unique; there is nothing like it on Earth. It is the global center of marine life abundance and marine life diversity. If its natural systems were to be damaged beyond repair, it would be a tragedy for the whole planet. That is why we are here today: to prevent the loss of that unique treasure and to enhance it for the sake of generations to come...Our six countries have therefore jointly developed a Regional Plan of Action, the boldest and most ambitious marine action plan ever agreed by governments. This will transform the way we manage our marine and coastal resources, and reshape our future.”

“I am also pleased to announce that just this week, my government formally established the Savu Sea National Marine Fisheries Sanctuary, covering some 3.5 million hectares in the southern seas of Indonesia.”

“Today, I am announcing a new target for Indonesia: to achieve 20 million hectares of marine protected areas across Indonesia by 2020! Their protection will be strictly enforced and sufficiently financed.” [Note: currently there are 13.4 million ha. of MPAs.]

**Statement at CTI Summit by H.E. Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
President of the Republic of Indonesia**

“...much is at stake here and a failure to act decisively today will be catastrophic to all our interests. This Summit is indeed “A Call to Action” to take practical steps to sustainably develop and manage our extremely important marine resources so as not to deprive our future generations the benefits of this resource.”

**Statement at CTI Summit by Rt. Hon. Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare
Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea**

“We believe also in the inter-generational aspect of CTI – that these resources are available to our children and our grandchildren after we have gone from the surface of Mother Earth... Let us ensure that it will always be the livelihood of our people – past, present and future – that will motivate us and energize us to implement the ideals of this new-found entity. Let not the greed of selfishness and corruption divert our attention from the noble intentions of CTI. CTI is no longer an idea. CTI is no longer a concept. CTI is reality in the CT6 countries.”

**Statement at CTI Summit by Hon. Dr. Derek Sikua
Prime Minister of Solomon Islands**

“The Coral Triangle is potentially the world’s most important “refuge” for marine life – but only if we do our part to keep it in good health. For too long, we have let our environment become degraded, our natural resources diminished, our social contract with nature destroyed. It is time to rebalance our approach: develop a strong economy, provide full employment and maintain the sacred relationship of human beings to Mother Earth.”

“At a time when the world seems mired in bad news, The Coral Triangle Initiative is genuine good news. Here we have nations coming together in common purpose to protect a vital segment of our common global environment...To a world struggling with global warming, we are showing the way toward a united front to keep our biodiversity intact, our food resources strong, and our environment pristine.”

**Statement at CTI Summit by H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Republic of the Philippines**

“Malaysia is very committed to ensuring that our marine ecosystem remains healthy so that this rich biodiversity can be enjoyed in perpetuity and sustainably utilized... This Summit will go down in the chapters of history for providing the highest political impetus to the conservation efforts of the region’s rich marine biodiversity...”

**Statement at CTI Summit by H.E. Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak
Prime Minister of Malaysia**

“The marine environment sustains the lives of tens of millions of our citizens and they are of crucial importance to the world’s biological diversity. It is crucial that we work together to ensure that these vital marine resources be conserved for the benefit of both present and future generations.”

**Statement at CTI Summit by H.E. Dr. José Ramos Horta
President of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste**

SECTION II: MAY 15, 2009 – IMAGES OF HOPE



Six leaders at the first-ever
Coral Triangle Initiative Summit



Signing of Leaders Declaration



Partners Dialogue Meeting following Summit



CTI Summit in progress



Larger CTI Partnership supporting CTI: TNC, WWF, Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, US and Australian governments, Global Environment Facility, Asian Development Bank, WorldFish, and others

SECTION III: INTRODUCTION TO OUTCOMES OF SUMMIT

An historic event took place in Manado, Indonesia on May 15 – a first-ever Summit meeting of the leaders of the six Coral Triangle countries, at which they committed to a bold vision and concrete actions to conserve the richest and most abundant marine life on our planet. The Summit marked the official launch of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI) (see Annex I for CTI background). Along with the six leaders, 20 ministers and over 100 senior officials from the CT6 countries, along with senior representatives of 15 major partners (international NGOs, donor governments, and funding agencies) all came together in Manado to declare a new era in marine and coastal conservation for the Coral Triangle. The commitments and announcements made at the Summit and related events represent one of the most important advances in marine conservation in history, and could one day be described as a tipping point for transforming the way marine and coastal resources are managed in this globally important area.

SECTION IV: OUTCOMES OF SUMMIT – A POSSIBLE TIPPING POINT

A set of extraordinary political commitments to marine and coastal conservation were made at the Summit, accompanied by a set of announcements by governments of concrete new actions and programs, as well as announcements by donors of funding commitments. Highlights include:

1. CTI formally launched

Leaders from all six Coral Triangle countries came to Manado and, together, formally launched the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI). (Note: The CTI represents the first time this specific group of six governments have come together around any type of collaboration.)

2. Adoption of Leaders Declaration

At a special ceremony immediately following the Summit, a formal Declaration was signed (Annex II) that binds the governments of the Coral Triangle to take action “...to address threats to the marine, coastal and small island ecosystems in the Coral Triangle region, through accelerated and collaborative action, taking into consideration multi-stakeholder participation in all six of our countries.” Of particular note, in the Declaration, leaders:

- adopted the CTI Regional Plan of Action;
- instructed their ministers to follow up on implementation of the Plan of Action;
- established a CTI Regional Secretariat to support implementation of the Plan of Action;
- called for the mobilization and effective allocation of sustainable financial resources to implement the regional and national CTI plans of action; and
- agreed to convene future Summits to ensure a continuing high level of political commitment.

3. Adoption of Regional CTI Plan of Action

Leaders formally adopted the *CTI Regional Plan of Action* – the most specific, comprehensive, and ambitious marine conservation action plan ever agreed by governments. (Table 1 below summarizes the commitments in the Plan of Action. Annex III, attached as a separate document, contains the full text of the Regional Plan of Action.)

The agreed *CTI Regional Plan of Action* contains unprecedented conservation commitments on marine protected areas (MPAs), fisheries, and climate change adaptation. In total, the Action Plan

contains some 40 specific, time-bound actions covering five major themes: (i) seascapes; (ii) ecosystem approach to fisheries management; (iii) MPAs; (iv) adaptation to climate change for marine and coastal ecosystems; and (v) threatened species.

TABLE 1. OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL CTI PLAN OF ACTION (5 goals, 10 targets)

Goal #1: Priority Seascapes (large marine areas) designated and effectively managed

- By 2012: “Priority Seascapes” designated, with investment plans completed and sequenced
- By 2020: Marine and coastal resources within all “Priority Seascapes” are being sustainably managed

Goal #2: Ecosystem approach to management of fisheries (EAFM) and other marine resources fully applied

- By 2012: Strong legislative, policy and regulatory frameworks in place for achieving an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM)
- By 2020: Improved income, livelihoods and food security in an increasingly significant number of coastal communities across the region through a new Sustainable Coastal Fisheries and Poverty Reduction Initiative (“COASTFISH”)
- By 2020: Effective measures in place to help ensure exploitation of shared tuna stocks is sustainable, with tuna spawning areas and juvenile growth stages adequately protected
- By 2020: A more effective management and more sustainable trade in live-reef fish and reef-based ornamentals achieved

Goal #3: Marine protected areas (MPAs) established and effectively managed

- By 2020: Region-wide Coral Triangle MPA System (CTMPAS) in place and fully functional

Goal #4: Climate change adaptation measures achieved

- By 2015: Region-wide Early Action Plan for Climate Change Adaption for the near-shore marine and coastal environment and small islands ecosystems developed and implemented
- By 2013: Networked National Centers of Excellence on Climate Change Adaptation for marine and coastal environments are established and in full operation

Goal #5: Threatened species status improving

- By 2020: Improved status of sharks, sea turtles, seabirds, marine mammals, corals, seagrass, mangroves and other identified threatened species

4. Highlights of Summit statements by CT6 leaders – announcements and priority issues

In their statements delivered at the Summit (see compilation of statements in Annex IV), the Leaders made announcements and emphasized priority issues:

Indonesia

- Immediate signing of a Presidential Decree creating a national committee of relevant ministers to meet annually to advance the implementation of CTI.
- Formal establishment that week (through ministerial decree) of the Savu Sea National Marine Fisheries Sanctuary, covering 3.5 million ha. – the largest MPA in Southeast Asia and the third largest in the world. The MPA will help to protect critical fisheries for millions of coastal community members in 14 districts in the area, and will protect one of the world’s most important migratory routes for whales.
- A new target to achieve 20 million ha. of MPAs across Indonesia by 2020, with strictly enforced protection and sufficient financing (currently, there are 13.4 million ha. of MPAs).
- Over the next three years, Indonesia will seek a doubling of the current national budget dedicated to specific programs and activities stipulated in the CTI Regional Plan of Action.

- Offer to host a permanent CTI Regional Secretariat in Indonesia, and provide full financial support for the day-to-day operations.
- Pledge of \$5 million to support CTI implementation.
- Instructing Indonesian government ministers to work with ministers in other CT countries to hammer out a common CT6 position on climate change and oceans / coastal resources (including ecosystem-based adaptation as outlined in the CTI Plan of Action).

Malaysia

- The Prime Scientific Sailing Expedition 2009 will be launched on June 15 (name of ship: KD Perantau) – a 52-day expedition to conduct various studies, including mapping of the marine flora and fauna (coral reefs, marine mammals, fish, and invertebrates) throughout the country.
- Pledge of \$1 million to support CTI implementation (Note: was not included in written statement).

PNG

- National cabinet of ministers has just endorsed \$2 million of budget support for national implementation of CTI.
- CTI will provide substance for the two major policy frameworks that will guide funding and governmental action in the coming years: (i) PNG's *Long-term Development Strategy*; and (ii) PNG's *Policy Framework on Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth*.
- A whole-of-government approach will be taken to CTI implementation (i.e. multiple ministries will be engaged).

Philippines

- Pursuing establishment of a joint fisheries consortium among private sectors in the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei (under BIMP EAGA process) to promote sustainable fisheries.
- Pursuing adoption of policies that call on the tuna industry to share the costs of caring for tuna spawning grounds.
- Recently signed Executive Order 797 mandating the Philippines National CTI Plan of Action.
- Earlier Executive Order 533, adopting integrated coastal management as a national strategy to ensure sustainable development of the nation's coasts, oceans and marine resources.
- National budget funding of approximately \$5 million for coastal resource management and climate change adaptation planning.
- Current fiscal year budget includes support for several threatened species and priority sites (i.e. Apo Reef Natural Park, Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary, and the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park).
- Need to carry the message of Manado into the ongoing climate change negotiations (Note: This message is centered around the need to incorporate marine issues, such as ecosystem-based adaptation covering the marine environment, into the post-Kyoto agreement).
- Joint effort currently underway with CI and WWF to identify a new priority seascape.

Solomon Islands

- Cabinet of Solomon Islands Government has recently endorsed the establishment of a new CTI Unit within the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology, with qualified officials deployed to staff the CTI Unit.
- Created a National Coordinating Committee (NCC) with members from relevant Government Ministries, environmental NGOs, and community-based organizations to provide technical guidance to the CTI Unit.
- Cabinet of Solomon Islands Government recently endorsed the National CTI Plan of Action (NPoA), which complements the CTI Regional Plan of Action (RPoA).
- In 2010, CTI activities will be mainstreamed in the Recurrent and Development Budget.

- A new project is currently underway, with national resources allocated in the 2009 budget, entitled: “Building Resilience and Adaptive Capacity of Small Low-lying Outer Islands in Solomon Islands to Combat the Impacts of Climate Change”.
- Next CT6 ministers meeting needs to be held before the Copenhagen climate change negotiations in December, in order to have a unified position on climate adaptation issues. Solomons offered to host this ministerial meeting (not in written speech).

Timor Leste

- Will engage stakeholders (communities, businesses and NGOs) in a dialogue on CTI, to help convince them of the importance of these issues and the need for action.
- Climate change is a priority issue, as food security and livelihoods are threatened and key industries such as fisheries and tourism are at risk. We must make concerted efforts to adapt to climate change.
- Another key issue is illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Proposed a new international task force on IUU fishing with neighboring countries (involving fisheries departments, naval forces and international NGOs) to develop and implement a new action plan to combat illegal fishing within the CTI area.

5. Announcements by donor governments and donor agencies

United States

- Presented progress to CT6 governments on the \$40 million CTI Support Program (over five years) announced last year. Also, presented current design phase to decide how to allocate most of this funding.
- Announced additional \$1.6 million through NOAA-supported capacity building activities.
- Announced that the NOAA research vessel, the Okeanos Explorer, will visit the CT region in 2010 to undertake climate-related observations (the US signed an MOU with Indonesia that the Explorer will visit Indonesian waters and US and CT scientists will undertake joint activities).

ADB/GEF

- Presented progress to CT6 governments on the \$63 million CTI Support Program (GEF grant over five years) announced last year, which is complemented by a \$300 million co-financing package of grants and loans providing direct or indirect support for CTI goals. Also, presented current design phase to decide how to allocate most of this funding.
- In a presentation to CT6 governments, ADB staff indicated that a much higher level of GEF funding could be available in the next phase (GEF-5).

Australia

- Launched a multi-year commitment to support CTI that will evolve over time in response to needs, focused on “knowledge, communities and people”. The commitment will start with a “down payment” of \$2 million AUD (\$1.6 million USD) for the following activities: capacity building, marine conservation training for government officials, addressing destructive fishing practices, and conservation of vulnerable species (including a call for a marine mammal conservation plan). They focused, in particular, on their desire to support “early actions”, notably training in Indonesia and PNG. (In follow-up discussions, we learned that their overarching goals are to target this funding on community engagement, Secretariat support and a potential “State of the Coral Triangle” report.) In his announcement, Environment Minister Peter Garrett noted: “We are with you for the long haul.”

Germany

- While the German government did not announce any new support, they were present at the Summit events, and did commit about \$1.5 million last year, explicitly in the context of CTI, to

support MPA activities in Indonesia (Savu Sea) and PNG (Kimbe Bay) – two TNC priority geographies.

6. National CTI Plans of Action (NPoA) and National CTI Coordination Committees (NCCs)

In order to translate these regional commitments into concrete actions on-the-ground, each CT6 country recently completed their NPoA, detailing specific actions that will be taken in their country under each goal and target in the Regional Plan of Action (RPoA). A partial list of these national-level actions can be found in Annex II of the full version of the RPoA – see separate attachment.

To develop these NPoAs over the past year, and to spearhead practical, well-coordinated actions to implement the agreements signed in Manado, each CT6 government established a marine conservation coalition (known by its acronym NCC) composed of a range of government agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders. Most of these NCCs now have staff and funding assigned to ensure that the coalition is fully operational and serves to galvanize and coordinate actions and funding on marine and coastal conservation in each country. Based on statements in Manado by leaders and ministers, NPoAs and NCCs have already become essential vehicles for organizing national action around CTI.

7. Roadmap for CTI Implementation Phase

At a meeting two days before the Summit, eight ministers from the CT6 countries adopted a new Roadmap for the CTI Implementation Phase (Annex V). The Roadmap outlines activities that will be carried out in each country to accelerate *national-level* action and activities at the regional level to accelerate *regional* collaborative action. Of particular note:

At the national level, governments agreed on the following key next steps:

- Identify priority actions and projects in their national plans of action and develop annual work plans, designating specific funding needed for specific activities (e.g., project level).
- Secure funding (national and external) to implement annual work plans, particularly identified priorities.
- Implement actions.

At the regional level, governments agreed on the following key next steps:

- Convene the next Ministerial Meeting by September (possibly in Solomon Islands) to decide on the following:
 - ⇒ arrangements for CTI coordination mechanisms, financial resources, and monitoring and evaluation;
 - ⇒ location of permanent Secretariat, and transition process;
 - ⇒ 2010 Roadmap of events and activities;
 - ⇒ possible establishment of a regional implementation working group that could focus on 3-4 key themes (e.g., goals or targets in the RPoA); and
 - ⇒ a unified position on climate change issues related to the marine / coastal environment for input into the Copenhagen negotiations in December.

8. Media coverage

Annex VI provides an initial sampling of wire stories. A comprehensive package of media coverage is currently being assembled by our communications team and will be circulated shortly.

9. Miscellaneous

- Unified position on climate change adaptation. At the ministerial meeting on May 13, there was a substantive discussion of climate change adaptation and agreement on the need to develop a unified position on this topic to insert into the negotiations in December in Copenhagen.
- WWF report on potential socio-economic impacts of climate change. WWF released a major study that they commissioned (*The Coral Triangle and Climate Change: Ecosystems, People and Societies at Risk*) describing the potential socio-economic impacts of climate change on the Coral Triangle Region. The study's conclusions:
 - ⇒ under an emissions business-as-usual scenario, reefs could disappear entirely from the Coral Triangle region of the Pacific Ocean by the end of the century, with an 80% loss of fish stocks, threatening the food supply and livelihoods for about 100 million people
 - ⇒ Averting catastrophe will depend on quick and effective global action on climate change coupled with the implementation of regional solutions to problems of over-fishing and pollution, and other threats to marine and coastal resources
- CTI film. A new film is available as public domain entitled: "CTI: A Call to Action" (available from Sheldon Cohen upon request, and soon to be available on the CTI web site – www.cti-secretariat.net)
- Decisions by CT6 on next steps related to financial resources. The two formal decisions on the topic of financial resources taken by the CT6 governments, which will help advance efforts toward sustainable funding for CTI, are outlined in Table 3 below.

TABLE 3. FORMAL DECISIONS BY CT6 ON FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Next steps at the national-level

In each CT6 country, we will establish a government-led, systematic financial planning process spearheaded by the CTI National Coordinating Committee (NCC) and involving partners, as appropriate. While each country will need to design this process based on specific country circumstances, the general objectives of these financial planning processes that we will pursue include:

- Short-term workplans defining immediate project funding needs and costs, along with identification of existing / projected financial resources (national and international) to support short-term workplans.
- Longer-term financial planning and sustainable finance strategy. Set in motion over the next three months a longer-term financial planning process, led by the NCC, to produce a sustainable finance strategy for the NPoA, covering national budget and international funding sources.

Next steps at the regional-level

We will strengthen the Financial Resources Working Group, whose main purpose would be to develop a draft *Regional Strategy for Financial Resources* to be reviewed by the SOM. We are requesting the Working Group to address priority regional needs:

- CT6 government participation in FRWG. Each CT6 government will designate a representative, linked to NCCs and with relevant financial skills/knowledge, to participate actively in the Working Group.
- Short-term workplans defining immediate *regional* project funding needs and costs, along with identification of existing / projected financial resources.
- Regional workshop on financial resources. The FRWG will organize a workshop on financial resources, drawing upon the national financial planning efforts. Objectives, to be refined, could include:

- ⇒ Support national financial planning processes;
- ⇒ Identify common funding needs emerging from NPoAs;

- ⇒ Identify RPoA targets requiring regional collaboration on financial resources; and
- ⇒ Plan for a broader meeting with development partners.

ANNEX I: BACKGROUND ON THE CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

In response to alarming trends, in August 2007, President Yudhoyono of Indonesia proposed to other CT leaders a new multilateral partnership to safeguard the region's marine and coastal biological resources: the *Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF)*. This initial proposal set in motion a series of events that advanced this effort quickly and decisively, culminating in the CTI Summit on May 15, 2009:

- Letter from Palau President Remengesau to Indonesian President Yudhoyono. In early 2006, President Remengesau wrote to President Yudhoyono encouraging him to consider the need for greater collaborative marine conservation efforts in the Coral Triangle, citing the Micronesia Challenge as an example.
- COP-8 Message from President Yudhoyono. In March 2006, President Yudhoyono sent a public message delivered at the COP-8 meeting under the Biodiversity Convention, in which he committed to accelerate the development of MPAs and to formalize collaboration with neighboring countries to conserve the Coral Triangle's rich marine resources.
- APEC Summit. At the APEC Summit in September 2007, 21 heads of state from across Asia Pacific welcomed the CTI-CFF in their formal declaration.
- ASEAN and BIMP-EAGA Summits. In November 2007, the CTI-CFF was endorsed by leaders at two other summits: (i) the Third East Asia Summit attended by leaders from ASEAN countries as well as Japan, China and Korea; and (ii) the BIMP-EAGA Summit (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area).
- First CTI Senior Officials Meeting (SOM1). In Bali in December 2007, the CT6 governments held the first official meeting under CTI, and agreed to:
 - ⇒ pursue this new multilateral partnership (the only forum in which these six countries are members);
 - ⇒ develop a joint *Regional CTI Plan of Action*, to be adopted at the highest levels;
 - ⇒ a set of five over-arching goals for the Plan of Action; and
 - ⇒ a *CTI Roadmap* (timeframe and process) for developing the Plan of Action.
- GEF funding. In April 2008, with ADB as the Implementing Agency, the GEF Council approved a \$63 million, five-year CTI Support Program, with over \$300 million in co-financing (loan and grant projects) from various other sources.
- US government funding: In October 2008, the US government committed \$40 million over five years to support the CTI, with funding being channeled through a consortium of NGOs.
- CTI Partnership. During 2008 and 2009, members of the CTI Partnership (e.g., TNC, CI, WWF, Asian Development Bank, Global Environment Facility, US and Australian governments) met three times to discuss ways to coordinate and synergize financial and technical support.
- Second CTI Senior Officials Meeting (SOM2). In Manila in November 2008, the CT6 governments held the second senior official meeting under CTI, and agreed to the *Manila Resolution* and the near-final Manila Draft of the Regional Plan of Action.
- Townesville workshop. In November 2008, the Australian government hosted a major CTI workshop, to facilitate discussions by countries and NGOs on the major constraints, gaps and opportunities to implementation of the CTI goals.
- Meetings of CTI Coordination Committee (CCC). In May, September, and October 2008, and in January and March of 2009, at CCC meetings, the CT6 governments reviewed and recommended drafts of the CTI Plan of Action.
- Third CTI Senior Officials Meeting (SOM3) and first Ministerial Meeting (MM1). In March 2009, CT6 agreed a final draft of the Regional CTI Plan of Action and endorsed a joint Ministerial Statement.

- Summit Precom meetings. In April and May 2009, CT6 governments held meetings to prepare for the CTI Summit, and agreed on a final draft of the Regional CTI Plan of Action, along with the Leaders Declaration and plans around the Summit.

**CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE LEADERS' DECLARATION
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY**

Manado, Indonesia, 15 May 2009

We, the Leaders of Indonesia, the Philippines, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Malaysia:

ACKNOWLEDGING the vast marine, coastal and small island ecosystems and the unique biodiversity of the Coral Triangle region of the Indo Pacific, which provide invaluable livelihood and food security benefits for our people;

RECOGNIZING the urgent need to address the poverty afflicting our people, particularly our coastal communities, and to meet relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

EXPRESSING concern over the increasing level of degradation of marine, coastal, and small island ecosystems within the Coral Triangle region;

REAFFIRMING our common understanding to establish a cooperative arrangement to sustainably manage the marine, coastal, and small island ecosystems in the Coral Triangle region and to ensure that these efforts contribute effectively to strengthening food security, increasing resiliency, and adaptation to climate change;

REAFFIRMING ALSO our commitments to promote the sustainable management of our marine and coastal resources, and acknowledging the need for further action;

RESOLVING to take up the challenges of safeguarding the Coral Triangle's vast marine and coastal resources for present and future generations of our people;

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

1. **TO OFFICIALLY LAUNCH** the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) to address threats to the marine, coastal, and small island ecosystems within the Coral Triangle region, through accelerated and collaborative action, taking into consideration multi-stakeholder participation in all of our six countries;

2. **TO AGREE** that the Coral Triangle Initiative primarily focuses on areas of cooperation in relation to coral reefs, fisheries, food security, and adaptation to climate change;
3. **TO AFFIRM** the Joint Statement of the first Ministerial Meeting of CTI-CFF, held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 10 March 2009;
4. **TO ADOPT** the CTI Regional Plan of Action, a living and non-legally binding document to conserve and sustainably manage coastal and marine resources within the Coral Triangle region, that takes into consideration laws and policies of each country, as endorsed by the first CTI Ministers' Meeting in Port Moresby;
5. **TO RECOGNIZE** that the implementation of the CTI-CFF is a voluntary cooperation and without prejudice to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, sovereign rights of the six countries respectively over their marine resources, and the position of each state on the on-going and future negotiation on delimitation of maritime boundaries between the countries;
6. **TO EMPHASIZE** that cooperation of CTI-CFF shall be subject to the laws; regulations; national policies and priorities of the respective countries; and the application of relevant sustainable development principles to transboundary management, conservation and development within the Coral Triangle region; as well as taking into consideration the relevant multilateral, regional and bilateral environmental agreements;
7. **TO TASK** our relevant Ministers to formulate the implementation modalities of CTI-CFF with a view to enhancing the cooperation;
8. **TO ESTABLISH** a secretariat for CTI-CFF to service the ongoing CTI-CFF implementation process;
9. **TO CALL** for the mobilization and effective allocation of sustainable financial resources needed to implement the CTI Regional and National Plans of Action;
10. **TO EXPRESS** our appreciation to CTI-CFF Partners for their continuing support towards the successful implementation of CTI-CFF programs in the region, and welcome participation by new partners;

11. **TO CONVENE** the next CTI Summit when deemed necessary, on a date mutually agreed by the CTI countries, to help ensure that a high level of political commitment continues to be dedicated in furthering the attainment of the goals of CTI-CFF.

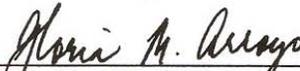
Signed on 15 May 2009 in Manado, Indonesia by:

Government of the
Republic of Indonesia



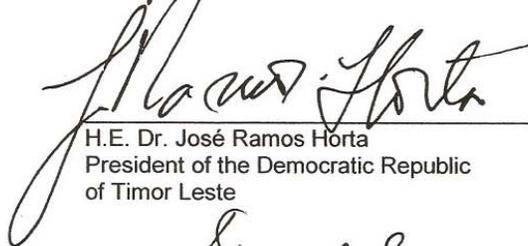
H.E. Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
President of the Republic of Indonesia

Government of the
Republic of the Philippines



H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Republic of the Philippines

Democratic Republic
of Timor Leste



H.E. Dr. José Ramos Horta
President of the Democratic Republic
of Timor Leste

Government of
Papua New Guinea



Rt. Hon. Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare
Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea

Government of
Solomon Islands

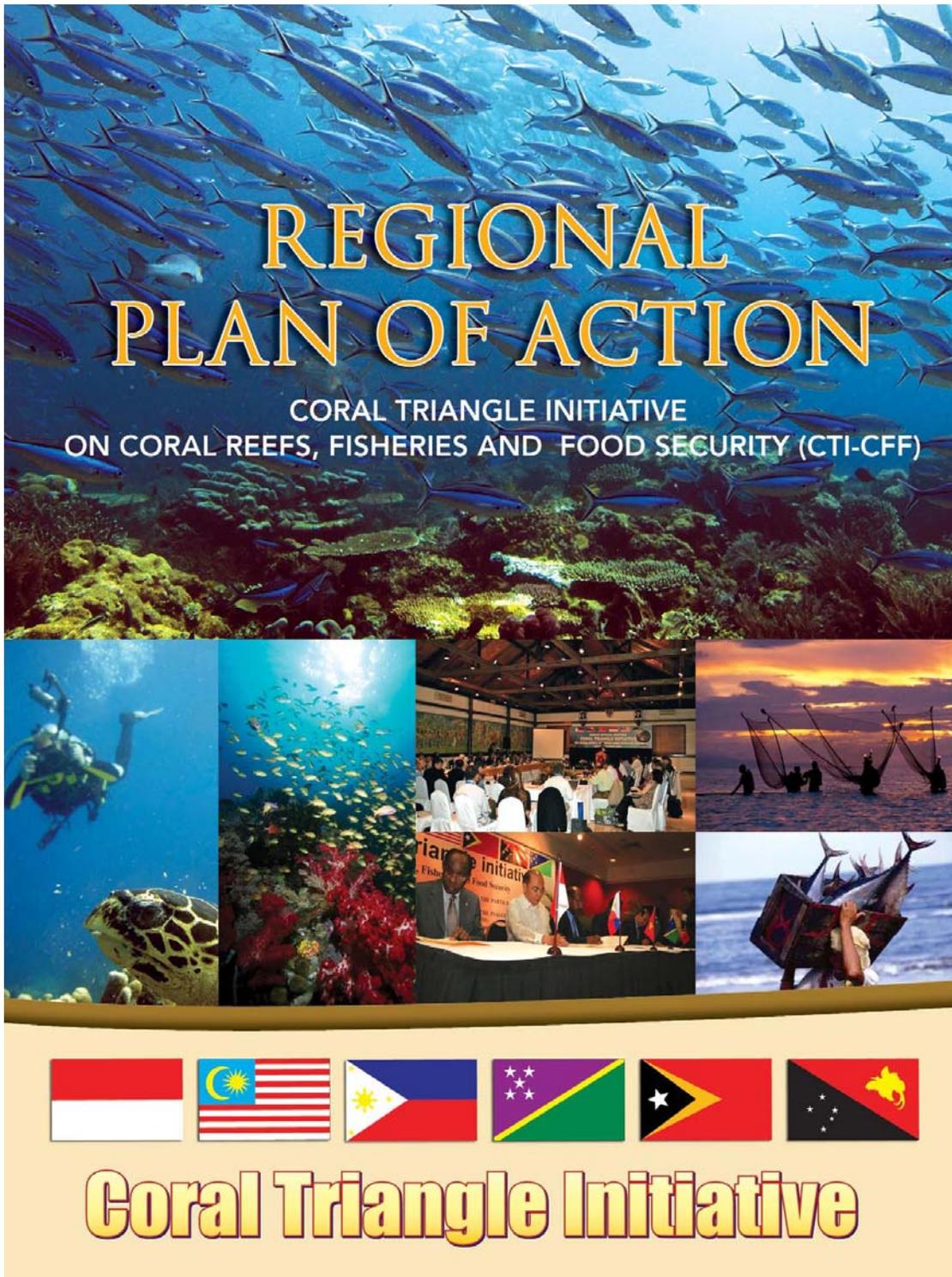


Hon. Dr. Derek Sikua
Prime Minister of Solomon Islands

Government of Malaysia



H.E. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak
Prime Minister of Malaysia



**ANNEX IV:
COMPILATIONS OF STATEMENTS
DELIVERED BY LEADERS AT THE CTI SUMMIT**

CORAL TRIANGLE SUMMIT

Opening and Keynote Address by

**H. E. Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
President of the Republic of Indonesia
Manado, 15 May 2009**

*Bismillah Hirrahmanirrahim,
Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.,
Peace Be Upon Us,*

Excellency President Arroyo,
Excellency President Ramos-Horta,
Excellency Prime Minister Somare,
Excellency Prime Minister Sikua,
Excellency Prime Minister Najib,

Coral Triangle Initiative Partners,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome all of you to this first-ever Coral Triangle Initiative Summit. I am grateful to the distinguished leaders of the Coral Triangle countries for their support and cooperation that made this endeavor a reality.

I also deeply appreciate the presence of representatives of Coral Triangle Initiative Partners. Their crucial support in various forms has made this Initiative feasible.

Our aim today is to ensure a brighter future for the people of the Coral Triangle. Our oceans are beneficial to us in many aspects – as a supplier of food security, provider of economic livelihood, and an important player in the struggle against global warming.

We are also here to correct an oversight.

Seventeen years ago, the Earth Summit convened in Rio de Janeiro. In that Summit, world leaders signed landmark agreements to halt the loss of biodiversity, to safeguard the world's climate and to better manage the world's forest.

But they signed no agreement on the one environment that covers about 72 percent of the earth's surface and provides sustenance to humankind – the oceans. They also signed no agreement that would particularly address the problems of the environment where half of the world's population lives – the coasts.

This is not to say that nothing has been done about our oceans and our coasts. Our governments have taken important steps in our national policies to protect these oceans and their invaluable living resources. We have all established marine protected areas. We have all put in place laws and policies to manage our fisheries.

Collectively, we have taken some important actions together such as the tri-national agreements on the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas and the Bismarck-Solomon Seas; the Regional Plan of Action on Responsible Fisheries; and, within the framework of APEC, the Seoul Oceans Declaration and the Bali Ministerial Plan of Action on Oceans and Coasts.

But these efforts are not enough.

As we sit here today, scientists warn us that our marine and coastal resources are being depleted by over fishing, destructive fishing practices, unsustainable coastal development, pollution and climate change. In parts of the Coral Triangle, they have already caused significant depletion of coastal and pelagic fish stocks. They have caused massive losses of mangrove forests and vast degradation of coral reef systems. Now, many of our marine and coastal species are on the brink of extinction.

Scientists have advised us that we have so much to lose if we do not pay attention to the fate of our corals. The Coral Triangle is a globally-recognized treasure. It is unique: there is nothing like it on earth. It is the global center of marine life abundance and marine life diversity. If its natural systems were to be damaged beyond repair, it would be a tragedy for the whole planet.

That is why we are here today: to prevent the loss of that unique treasure and to enhance it for the sake of generations to come.

This Summit therefore is more than just an effort to secure present and future welfare of our peoples. It is about ensuring food security for humankind. Our citizens and citizens of other nations rely on tuna, reef fish, shrimp, seaweed farming, and marine-based tourism for their livelihood. The international trade in marine-based commodities is a major contributor to the growth of our GDP.

We can and we must increase the productivity of these resources as demand and consumption grows with the growth in population.

This Summit is also about the conquest of poverty in our part of the world. This is about reaching and surpassing the Millennium Development Goals.

And, finally, this is about our moral obligation to care for the greatest wealth of marine life on the planet. We have a moral obligation to nurture these animals, plants and ecosystems.

The attainment of these goals will be a high point in the journey that the six Coral Triangle governments began in Bali just a year and a half ago. That was when we committed to a common vision to sustainably manage the marine and coastal resources of our region.

We also invited partners to join us in that effort. The governments of the United States and Australia, the Asian Development Bank, the Global Environment Facility, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International and the World Wildlife Fund readily accepted this role. Since then, interest in our initiative has grown enormously and the number of support partners has increased.

And since then, within the CTI Roadmap process, our six governments and our partners have achieved a new level of common understandings.

First, our six countries have formally recognized that the Coral Triangle is the very centre of marine life abundance and marine life diversity on the planet. And over 100 million of our citizens depend every day on these critical marine resources for their income, their livelihoods, their food security, and the protection of their coasts.

Second, our six countries have recognized that the threats to these precious marine and coastal resources are growing each day. These threats stem from climate change that is causing the sea level to rise and the sea surface temperature to increase. We must therefore adapt to these climate change impacts. We need a risk reduction strategy.

Third, our six countries have recognized that we must address these threats and reverse these trends. Our six countries have therefore jointly developed a Regional Plan of Action, the boldest and most ambitious marine action plan ever agreed by governments. This will transform the way we manage our marine and coastal resources, and reshape our future.

On the part of Indonesia, and as demonstration of our commitment to the CTI Regional Plan of Action, my Government is immediately taking several vigorous measures.

Immediately after this Summit, I will sign a Presidential Decree creating a national committee of relevant ministers to meet annually to advance the implementation of the Coral Triangle Initiative.

I am also pleased to announce that just this week, my government formally established the Savu Sea National Marine Fisheries Sanctuary, covering some 3.9 million hectares in the southern seas of Indonesia, bordering Timor-Leste. We have thus created some 13.4 million hectares of marine protected areas, considerably exceeding the target set some years ago of 10 million hectares of marine protected areas across Indonesia by 2010.

Today I am announcing a new target for Indonesia: to achieve 20 million hectares of marine protected areas across Indonesia by 2020! Their protection will be strictly enforced and sufficiently financed.

Over the next three years, the Government of Indonesia will seek a doubling of the current national budget dedicated to specific programs and activities stipulated in the CTI Regional Plan of Action.

At the same time, we are offering to host a permanent CTI Secretariat in Indonesia to support the implementation of the CTI Regional Plan of Action. If the other Coral Triangle countries accept this offer, we are prepared to provide full financial support for the day-to-day operations of that Secretariat.

I am also pleased to announce that the Government of Indonesia is now ready to pledge 5 million US dollars for the CTI program.

Finally, I am instructing my ministers to work with their counterparts in the other Coral Triangle countries to hammer out a common position for negotiations toward a new climate change regime in Copenhagen later this year. That position will have to be based on our shared vision in caring for our ocean and coastal resources. And I appeal to all governments and all nations to support that position. I call on all stakeholders – civil society, non-governmental organizations, the mass media, the academia, and the private business sector – to join us in promoting that position. For no regime on climate change will work if it does not take into account the reality of our oceans and coastal areas, and the severity of their distress.

Excellencies,

None of us can escape the deeper truth: that the long-term survival of human life depends a great deal on the capacity of our oceans to sustain life.

From this Summit, therefore, let us send forth to the world this simple but urgent message: let us now take care of our oceans – our marine and coastal resources – so that they will, in turn, take care of us.

I thank you.

Wassalamualalkum Wr. Wb.

CORAL TRIANGLE SUMMIT

Leader's Statement
H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of Republic of the Philippines
Manado, 15 May 2009

Your excellencies, President Yudhoyono, President Ramos Horta, Prime Minister Somare, Prime Minister Sikua, Prime Minister Najib, development partners, delegates, ladies and gentlemen: Thank you, President Yudhoyono for making this summit happen.

At a time when the world seems mired in bad news, the Coral Triangle Initiative is genuine good news. Here we have nations coming together in common purpose to protect a vital segment of our common global environment. During times of economic hardship, the pressures are greatest to abandon our obligation to the environment or to loosen the rules. That is precisely why, now, we must be even more vigilant in advancing the CTI program.

To a world struggling with global warming, we are showing the way toward a united front to keep our biodiversity intact, our food resources strong and our environment pristine. The Coral Triangle is potentially the world's most important "refuge" for marine life – but only if we do our part to keep it in good health. For too long, we have let our environment become degraded, our natural resources diminished, our social contract with nature destroyed.

It is time to rebalance our approach: develop a strong economy, provide full employment and maintain the sacred relationship of human beings to Mother Earth. This is not an either-or proposition. This must be a win-win solution to not just stopping the degradation, but also improving, restoring and enhancing our ecology. We rely on the sea for food, jobs and pleasure. Let us not destroy this resource. President Yudhoyono's CTI proposal was welcomed at the 2007 APEC, ASEAN and BIMP-EAGA summits. CTI ministerial and senior officials developed a joint regional plan of action which we are slated to adopt today.

We in BIMP-EAGA reinforced the synergies with the CTI. We are pursuing the establishment of a joint fisheries consortium among our private sectors. We are pursuing the adoption of policies that call on the tuna industry to share the costs of caring for tuna spawning grounds in the Coral Triangle. Funding and technical assistance is being provided by the Global Environment Facility, or GEF, the Asian Development Bank, and the Australian and United States governments, among others. International non-governmental organizations such as Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy and the Worldwide Fund for Nature are also joining forces to work with the Coral Triangle governments in pursuing the Regional Plan of Action as well national action plans.

I have signed executive order 797 mandating the Philippine National Plan of Action that follows the general outline of the CTI regional plan and adopts the guiding principles enunciated by our six Coral Triangle countries in 2007. My earlier executive order 533, adopting Integrated Coastal Management as a national strategy to ensure the sustainable development of our nation's coasts, oceans and marine resources, is further adherence to the CTI.

We have taken decisive action at the community, local government, provincial, district and national levels on coastal resource management and multi-sectoral climate change adaptation planning, with national budget funding equivalent to what President Yudhoyono has committed for Indonesia. We have also allocated funds this year in our national government appropriations to support the conservation of important species and management of several protected areas including the Apo Reef Natural Park, the Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary and the renowned Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, a UNESCO World Natural Heritage site. If we are going to impact the climate change dialogue, we must strive to carry the message of Manado into the ongoing meetings of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We must call on all countries, but most importantly the major industrialized nations and the rest of the developed world, to live up to their UNFCCC obligations, particularly those related to access to affordable and appropriate technology and the provision of funding for climate change management programs.

In the Philippines we are carrying out a joint effort of our government, Conservation International and WWF to identify a new priority seascape in line with the regional plan of action and our own national plan. This is a true government-NGO partnership that is successfully working to protect our marine resources. We hope to continue our collaboration with our development partners, particularly in expanding opportunities for private sector participation in the CTI. We have initiated constructive dialogues with global players in the tuna and tourism industries at an event we co-hosted with our international NGO partners.

Our national plan uses the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion Program, the SSME, as its platform in such areas as the management of marine protected areas and networks, and the use of an ecosystem approach to sustainable fisheries management. Our current SSME efforts include the development and planned implementation this year, with Malaysia and Indonesia, of the Tri-national Sulu-Celebes Seas small pelagic fisheries management project. This project, with funding support from GEF through UNDP, supports the goal of the CTI regional plan of action on sustainable fisheries management. The Philippines is honored to take the lead in its implementation. We are also working to strengthen our bilateral relations with CTI countries. We signed separate MOU's on fisheries cooperation with Timor Leste and with Papua New Guinea as part of our commitment to the sustainable development of the fishing industry. These exchanges will contribute to capacity building in each of our nations. We are interested in Papua New Guinea's leadership in innovative and effective tuna fisheries management as we look at ways to effectively protect the juvenile and spawning grounds of tuna in our own part of the Coral Triangle.

In the next few years, we will work to improve practices and policies towards achieving sustainability of the live reef fish trade in Palawan, a major source of live reef fish for restaurants all over Asia. We have made great strides in engaging the traders and industry players active in Palawan with the help of WWF. We look forward to the day when Palawan seafood will be recognized as sustainable seafood.

The Filipino people love the environment. They embrace the need to invest in keeping our environment clean, our seas full of fish and our coral free from exploitation and degradation. That is why we have the Green Philippines Initiative. This includes a national commitment to clean air, clean water and clean land. We are also working to find harmony between jobs and the environment and to find new ways to provide clean energy. We have a moral obligation to ensure that the beauty and bounty of the land, air and sea remain for the rest of time.

Let us continue our efforts towards sustainable development of our shared coastal and marine resources. There is no higher calling than the protection of our environment. The CTI is central to our individual sense of self-worth, the prosperity of our nations and our commitment to a sustainable globe.

CORAL TRIANGLE SUMMIT

Leader's Statement
H.E. Dr. José Ramos-Horta
President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
Manado, 15 May 2009

Good morning, Excellencies, Heads of States of the Coral Triangle countries, Development Partners, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. I am delighted to be here today at the Joint Declaration of the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) to collaborate on ways to improve our marine environment and to ensure we all achieve sustainable development.

Before I outline my comments on the CTI, I would just like to thank the Government of Indonesia and staff for the outstanding efforts to host this CTI Summit. I also want to thank all development partners who have supported the CTI since the beginning. The support of the development partners is extremely important, not only for the success of the conference today but also beyond it.

I am particularly excited to be involved here because Timor-Leste is currently an "organic country" with limited environmental impacts upon the global economy and it is something we want to maintain in all aspects of our country's activities.

Despite being a small developing country, the Government of Timor-Leste has committed itself to participating actively in the Rio de Janeiro Conventions and to establishing a goal to "significantly reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010". Our passage of the Kyoto Protocol and the creation of our first new national park last year in eastern Timor-Leste are further confirmations of this commitment.

I think that today's conference is a very important step in our journey to improved biodiversity because it creates a heightened awareness across our nations about the importance of the marine environment and biological resources especially fisheries and coastal zone resources that people are so dependent upon to sustain their livelihoods.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Recent global studies have shown that the world stock of fish stocks have peaked, ocean habitats are under threat from over fishing and marine biodiversity is being compromised by the every expanding engagement by man into our oceans.

Indeed, the living resources of the marine and coastal zone are the single most important source of food for humankind and these issues are particularly heightened for the countries in this room. The marine environment sustains the lives of tens of millions of our citizen and they are of critical importance to the world's biological diversity. It is crucial that we work together to ensure that these vital marine and coastal zone resources be conserved for the benefit of both present and future generations.

Collaboration is even more important in marine environments because the ocean's inhabitants are generally not constrained by borders or barriers and can move freely across vast regions of our globe. The ocean is a great creator of life, but it also easily transmits pollution and contaminants from place to place. Chemicals spilt in the Pacific can travel around the world and impact on countries and regions far from the first instance. Diseases identified in one area can spread with migrating species to areas far beyond the borders from which the marine inhabitants originally came.

Therefore, we need to develop a system for mutual cooperation amongst the CT-6 countries to ensure the promotion of sustainable fisheries and to ensure that persons can sustain their lives and livelihood from the sea without suffering from environmental degradation.

Of course any collaborative effort must be based on sound scientific knowledge, involve the use of international standards and provide for the proactive surveillance and enforcement. Moreover, there is a need for the full range of stakeholders, particularly the fishermen, to be encouraged and empowered to use the ocean in a

sustainable way and to learn the real economic benefits of maintaining a clean environment, while simultaneously harvesting the bounty of the oceans.

For me, success at this Conference will be defined by a public reiteration by all the CT-6 countries to accelerate the cooperation amongst countries, academia, national and international experts, fishermen and a range of private firms to ensure there is a single vision for sustainable use of marine resources and a clear plan for working to ensure we have an effective system for the conservation and management of marine resources that also supports the economic livelihood of our citizens.

Co-operation will be needed to protect the marine resources and shoreline environment, address health and safety issues, ensure the resources are not harvested beyond their sustainable levels and protect the health of those who consume the products.

Our CT-6 countries have to agree, to promote and facilitate scientific and technological collaboration across the six nations at all levels to raise awareness of the issues, to improve the capacity of the staff to address the issues and to facilitate the development and spread of new technologies that will promote sustainable use and preservation of marine and coastal resources.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The CTI Regional Plan of Action (RPoA) is the first step in this process. The plan is a basic roadmap for moving forward on the journey to sustainability and we need to ensure that there is a common willingness to implement this plan of action. The success of this Action Plan will depend upon the governments and policy maker's willingness to implement the key elements of the plan and for all stakeholders to play an active role creating a success.

As I have mentioned, we have to engage communities, business and NGOs in a dialogue on Coral Triangle Initiative development. If the people are convinced about the need for, and the value/importance of the CTI, they will be much more willing to accept measures that may impose on their lifestyles and economic endeavors in the short term. And if the policy-makers create the right conditions and encourage citizens and NGOs to integrate CTI and social considerations in all their activities, policies for sustainable development will be created.

Though Timor-Leste has a financial constraint we will make every effort to contribute financially for our joint efforts. We register our sincere appreciation for those countries and the institutions that have already pledged their financial contribution. I would like to most strongly add that Timor-Leste has enough experience and sense of responsibility to manage our financial obligations and programs and any share of the financial aid for Timor-Leste from donors must be channeled either through a collective mechanism of the six or bilaterally to Timor-Leste based on our needs. Timor-Lest does not need additional intermediaries.

Let me mention two other main challenges to the CT nations.

First, it is irrefutable that the Earth is warming up and the impacts are already being felt by human, marine and wildlife habitats across the planet. Global warming will have significant impacts on all types of species and the potential to bring a range of endangered species to extinction.

It is not just the plants and animals that would be adversely affected by climate change. Entire industries that have been built around these species, such as fishing and tourism, will be significantly affected as global warming continues over the next century. In the 21st century, governments will need to take additional steps to ensure biodiversity remains a key priority along with efforts to protect endangered species and to improve the environment of others species that will come under threat.

As a new country struggling with the multiple challenges of nation building, Timor-Leste remains committed to tackling climate change. We must make concerted efforts to adapt to these changes because we will otherwise face major financial costs to our citizens due to challenges of drought, loss of biodiversity and property loss due to natural disasters. We need to take actions to support our fisheries, aquaculture and related industries along our coast, while providing proactive marine policies that support the protection of the marine environment.

Second is the issue of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. IUU fishing is one of the most serious problems facing the management of marine fish stocks at present. Developing countries, like those in this room, are victims of illegally caught fish that takes jobs away from coastal regions and undermines viable markets and state revenue.

Timor-Leste is one of the world's poorest countries and a developing nation that has been a victim of IUU activity since its inception. Just a few weeks ago, more than 32 vessels were operating illegally and with impunity in Timor-Leste's territorial waters because we simply didn't have the ships and staff to properly monitor our coastal waters.

The Timor-Leste Fisheries Department estimated that in 2008, some 20 metric tonnes of fresh fish and other marine life worth more than US \$36 million were illegally harvested from our country, endangering our natural resources base and denying our citizens access to vital food stocks. Given the abject poverty in which many of our citizens live, the loss of these vital sources of food and income to vulnerable coastal communities threatens the lives as well as the livelihood of our citizens. Such action must not and cannot be tolerated. To really be successful, however, we need the support of the CT-6 nations and all those nations in the region.

We need to take urgent action in accordance with international law as reflected in the relevant provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to cooperate to conserve our collective marine resources. To this end, I would like to encourage that neighboring countries like Indonesia, Australia and Papua New Guinea establish an international task force through the various fishing departments, naval forces and international NGOs to develop and implement an action plan to combat illegal fishing within the CTI area without prejudice to countries' sovereignty.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

To sum up: the CTI-6 marine environments are critical global habitat and we need to work collectively to identify and support efforts to manage the resources within this region in order to support sustainable development. Given the commonality of resources, it is critical for the CT-6 countries to work in a united manner to ensure effective resource management and monitor the marine environment.

No one can be certain about the future, but I believe the CT-6 government(s) should agree today to work with our stakeholders to implement a common Action Plan. I believe that we should have a single effort to share experiences, ideas and initiatives and create a single task force to provide a united front to addressing overfishing and the negative aspects of global warming.

Thank you for your attention.

CORAL TRIANGLE SUMMIT

Leader's Statement
H. E. Rt. Hon. Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare
Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea
Manado, 15 May 2009

My fellow leaders, Ministers, Senior Officials and Distinguished Guests of the CTI.

Let me, at the outset, take this opportunity to thank our host and President of the Republic of Indonesia for the warm hospitality extended to all of us, including my delegation, by his Government and people since our arrival here in Manado.

I am pleased to be here in Manado, Indonesia to formalize Papua New Guinea's commitment to the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security.

As our Officials and Ministers have underscored in their meetings preceding this Summit, much is at stake here and a failure to act decisively today will be catastrophic to all our interests. This Summit is indeed "A Call to Action" to take practical steps to sustainably develop and manage our extremely important marine resources so as not to deprive our future generations the benefits of this resource.

The area covered by the Coral Triangle Initiative is widely acknowledged as the "*global epicenter of marine life abundance and diversity*".

The biological resources of the Coral Triangle directly sustain the lives of millions of people living within this area and benefits millions more worldwide.

We are here today because these marine biological resources are at risk; threatened by a range of factors, such as overfishing, destructive fishing practices, pollution and climate change.

The Regional Plan of Action that we will formally adopt today, complemented by our National Plans of Actions, aims to address these threats and ensure long-term benefits from the marine biological resources of the region.

I note that these actions – under the Coral Triangle Initiative – complement efforts under various existing international, regional and sub-regional marine and environmental management arrangements.

The Coral Triangle contains some of the healthiest and most climate change-resistant coral reefs in the world. Healthy reefs are more likely to survive or recover from future climate change impacts – making the Coral Triangle region "*the world's most important refuge for marine life*".

The extraordinary biological wealth of the Coral Triangle area forms a compelling reason for the protection and conservation of the Coral Triangle.

There is an urgent need to address and manage the challenges of climate change and its impact on the Coral Triangle.

It is important to ensure that temperatures do not rise to levels that will worsen the global situation. Collective resolve is needed to deal with issues that cross national maritime boundaries such as:

- Illegal fishing;
- Management of endangered migratory species such as marine turtles and dugongs; and
- Important economic resources such as migratory tuna.

Important in all this is the need to help each other with compliance issues and surveillance challenges.

As pointed out previously during the CTI Ministerial Meeting in Pt. Moresby, my Government is developing a forward-looking policy frame work: the *Long Term Development Strategy*.

This strategy basically aims to change the reliance of Papua New Guinea's economy on non-renewable resources to that of renewable resources.

Papua New Guinea is also developing a policy framework on *Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth*.

The Government's aim is to improve the management of existing resource industries and to develop innovative industries which utilize and add value to our renewable resources.

This broad policy framework targets key economic sectors like the fisheries and marine sector; forestry; mining; agriculture and urban environments.

Papua New Guinea's passionate advocacy for financial incentives to be provided under a post- Kyoto Protocol arrangement to resource owners, so as not to cut their forests, underlie our new approach to development.

This is reinforced by our commitment to the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) initiative which, I would like to think, my country helped develop.

Papua New Guinea sees the Coral Triangle Initiative as one of those new initiatives which will assist in putting substance into our Long Term Development Strategy and be a major focus of the Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth agenda.

This will require a whole-of-government approach to the Coral Triangle Initiative design and implementation.

If we are to take advantage of the enormous opportunity that our healthy marine environment provides we need to manage it carefully in the face of the many development pressures.

We need to come up with new creative options of achieving our development objectives without further harm to our marine resources.

Strengthening institutional and human capacity is among our major challenges and the key to ensuring Papua New Guinea develops an effective enabling environment for the implementation of CTI.

Developed partners and other stakeholders in this enterprise need to transfer appropriate technology and assist us with adaptation issues.

New whole-of-government systems and processes will need to be developed to identify effective solutions to issues such as climate change and increasing land-based marine pollution.

It is critical that we manage this initiative carefully and move forward with a sense of urgency. Strengthened aid coordination mechanisms and partnerships with key stakeholders are essential to achieving the aims of the Coral Triangle Initiative. However, aid delivery and coordination must be done in conformity with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

In this context, my Government would want to see all funding for activities under the Coral Triangle Initiative directed to supporting the PNG National Plan of Action and coordinated through our national arrangements.

It is pertinent to point out that ownership of this initiative rests with the six governments of the CTI. The Leaders Declaration recognizes this and affirms the primacy of the decisions of sovereign governments under the Coral Triangle Initiative.

I cannot overstate the importance of this issue which will determine whether our limited human resources are successful at achieving shared goals or spent on resolving problems created from poorly coordinated and planned activities.

If there is anything to be learnt from past experience, governments and non-government actors must work together in a spirit of mutual respect if the Coral Triangle Initiative is to succeed.

I am confident that many of the issues I have raised here are shared with our CT6 partners and look forward to cooperating through the Coral Triangle Initiative to find effective solutions.

In conclusion, Papua New Guinea stands committed to supporting and cooperating on the further development and implementation of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security.

I wish to announce that to strengthen Papua New Guinea's commitment to this Initiative, my Cabinet endorsed a few days ago 2 million dollars to support the national implementation of the Coral Triangle Initiative.

Thank you.

CORAL TRIANGLE SUMMIT

**Leader's Statement
H. E. Derek Sikua
Prime Minister of Solomon Islands
Manado, 15 May 2009**

Honourable Chair
Colleague CT5 Leaders
CT6 Ministers
CT6 Senior Government Officials
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good Morning,

On behalf of the Government and half a million people of Solomon Islands, I wish to take this opportunity to express the profound gratitude of the Government and people of Solomon Islands to the Government and people of Indonesia for hosting this memorable occasion.

I wish also to convey the sincere appreciation of the Government and people of Solomon Islands to the Government and people of Indonesia for the warm and cordial hospitality accorded to my delegation since our arrival in Manado.

Hon. Chair,

Let me also join other colleagues in congratulating you for assuming the Chairmanship of this first CTI Leaders Summit. This is a historical moment - historical, I say because Indonesia is not only the founding chair but also host of the first meeting of the CTI Leaders Summit.

Once more, congratulations, for a job well done.

Hon. Chair,

The CTI is a dream come true for the CT6 countries.

I am aware that the dream of CTI was conceptualized by your leadership. It was a thought inspired to us by you. In this respect, we acknowledge, Hon. Chair, the authentic leadership advanced by Indonesia.

I am aware also that the dream was molded by the hard working senior officials of the CT6 countries. It was endorsed by our Ministers during the Port Moresby Ministerial Summit. To this end; we recognize, Hon. Chair, the genuine commitment displayed by all of the CT6 countries.

We the CT6 Leaders have now assembled in Manado, Indonesia, the 'dream place' of the CTI to render our formal support of the Initiative. The ball is now on our court!

Hon. Chair,

Solomon Islands is proud to be associating itself with other CT6 countries to work in-partnership with you, to ensure sustainable environmental management, to ensure conservation of our fisheries and marine resources and to ensure preservation of the ecological ecosystems of the CT6 countries.

Solomon Islands, as an island-based ecosystem, depend heavily on marine resources for the growth of our economy and sustenance of livelihood of our people. We are small in size but, also, we are very productive in replenishing our human population. In light of that high productivity, Hon. Chair, Solomon Islands supports the 'Call to Action' made this morning by Indonesia.

Hon. Chair,

In supporting the 'Call to Action' by Indonesia – I wish to make a number of important announcements to the CT6 countries:

- a. First, let me announce that the Cabinet of Solomon Islands Government on 3rd of March 2009 endorsed the establishment of a CTI Unit within the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology (MECM). We have also deployed qualified officials to staff the CTI Unit.
- b. Second, in addition to the CTI Unit we have also created a National Coordinating Committee (NCC) with memberships from relevant Government Ministries, relevant environmental Non Government Organizations and relevant Community Based Organizations to provide technical guidance to the CTI Unit. The NCC is operational and so far has provided useful technical inputs to the Government of Solomon Islands, through the CTI Unit in the MECM.
- c. Third, let me inform you that the Cabinet of the Solomon Islands Government also endorsed the Solomon Islands National Plan of Action (NPoA) on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security. This NPoA compliments the CTI Regional Plan of Action (RPoA). Let me assure you that come 2010, we will mainstream CTI activities in the Recurrent and Development Budget.
- d. Fourth, we are at the moment working on **Building Resilience and Adaptive Capacity of Small Low-lying Outer Islands in Solomon Islands to Combat the Impacts of Climate Change**. This is a national project funded by the Solomon Islands Government under its 2009 Approved Development Budget and conforms to the goal of climate change adaptation in the RPoA. The project was identified through extensive consultations by the NCC.

Hon. Chair, these are some national initiatives that are being undertaken in Solomon Islands that showcase the importance of CTI to the Government and people of Solomon Islands.

Hon. Chair,

Solomon Islands Government has undertaken these national initiatives mainly because we see CTI as an important cornerstone to develop, manage and conserve our coral reefs and fisheries resources. We believe also on the inter-generational aspect of CTI - that these resources are available to our children and our grandchildren after we have gone from the surface of mother earth. These announcements I believe are significant contributions of the Government and people of Solomon Islands to the ideals of CTI.

Hon. Chair,

I concur that the road ahead is not easy. There will be conflicts to resolve and disputes to settle, but life we must grow and develop. Despite these indomitable challenges, life must go on. We pledge our undisputed contribution to support the growth and development of CTI in the CT6 countries.

We will work in-partnership with other CT6 countries to enhance the growth of CTI and develop CTI into a reputable and formidable regional initiative. We will sail on the rough seas and raise the flag of CTI in our national waters. We will live on and harness the goals of CTI in our daily lives.

Hon. Chair,

The Ministerial Meeting in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, marked the laying of foundation for CTI partnership. This Leaders Summit in Manado, Indonesia, seals that deal.

CTI is no longer an idea. CTI is no longer a concept. CTI is reality in the CT6 countries.

Finally, Hon. Chair, let us cherish this reality as we drive this dream forward. Let us ensure that it will always be the livelihood of our people – past, present and future - that will motivate us and energize us to implement the ideals of this new found entity. Let not the greed of selfishness and corruption divert our attention from the noble intentions of CTI.

We must strive for the good of everyone.

We must have ownership of this new found entity and declare that no foreign agenda or agent must assume the driver's seat. We must be owners and drivers of the CTI partnership.

We must ensure that CTI survives the challenges that may come after Manado.

Long live CTI. Long live CT6.

Thank you

CORAL TRIANGLE SUMMIT

Leader's Statement
H. E. Yab Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak
Prime Minister of Malaysia
Manado, 15 May 2009

Distinguished Chairman,
Excellencies, Honourable Ministers,
Ladies and gentlemen,
A very good morning to all of you.

1. Let me begin by thanking His Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, for hosting this Coral Triangle Initiative Summit and for inviting me to this important event which I consider as a timely step in the cooperative management of our rich marine biodiversity in this region.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. Malaysia being a biodiversity rich nation has always taken various measures to conserve and sustainably utilize our rich biological resources. The National Policy on Biological Diversity launched in 1998, gives clear direction for the management of biodiversity in the country. Malaysia as an active member of the Convention on Biological Diversity has also played an important and leadership role in promoting and implement the objective of the Convention domestically, regionally as well as at the international level.

3. As we are all aware, "*One Nature, One World. Our Future*" was the motto of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Bonn in May 2008. At COP-9, the Parties to the Convention reaffirmed that our future lies in the ocean and recognized the need for urgent action to protect biodiversity in selected seabed habitats and marine areas in need of protection. Hence, this Coral Triangle Initiative is important as it complements and enriches national and regional efforts in managing the world's richest marine biodiversity area though it covers approximately only 2% of the world's oceans.

4. It is indeed unfortunate that knowledge about the oceans is still very limited and that the development of maritime countries often depends on the potential to exploit sustainably the marine resources. Enhancing the knowledge and understanding of the connectivities of large marine ecosystems, ocean dynamics, air-sea interaction, seabed changes and coastal processes are prerequisites for managing the marine environment and ecosystems in a more precautionary way towards supporting sustainable economic opportunities from ocean resources. Results from marine scientific research provide inputs for policy makers in pursuing developmental options which will benefit society. For example, in terms of ocean data management, measuring and monitoring the status of health of coral reefs and its resilience, bio-resources and food security as well as weather forecasting, would help nations to adapt mitigative measures towards the prevention of natural disasters, thus withstanding stressors and threats to climate change in this changing marine environment.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

5. This area which houses nearly 75% of all coral reef species and 40% of coral fish species known to mankind has also an important socio-economic dimension which has to be sustained for the well-being of countries in this region. Due to the high species diversity and the discovery of many more new species, this area of ours provides enormous commercial potential for its traditional use as well as the application of new technologies such as biotechnology for wealth creation of the nations in this region.

6. In this context, I believe that the CTI Project must be implemented based on national priorities and in line with national policies to ensure that countries participating in the CTI project can contribute and benefit meaningfully from this initiative. The Project should build upon existing initiatives and projects in this area to avoid the duplication and wastage of resources. There must be tangible outputs which are implementable and sustainable beyond the duration of this project.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

7. We, too, must recognize the role of local and indigenous communities in this area and integrate their traditional, scientific, technical and technological knowledge in this project. This is to ensure the relevancy of this project on the ground, and that recommendations and outputs of this project are implementable at the grass roots level for meaningful outcomes of this project.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

8. In connection with the CTI project, Malaysia is happy to announce that we have many on-going efforts in managing our marine biodiversity including areas covered under this CTI project. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight one project which has a significant positive impact on the Coral Triangle Area. The project is called the *Prime Scientific Sailing Expedition 2009*. This integrated scientific expedition will be launched on the 15th of June 2009, and the sailing on KD Perantau will be carried out for a total of 52 days. The Expedition route will also include the Coral Triangle region. Various oceanographic studies will be carried out including mapping on the marine flora and fauna such as coral reef, marine mammals, fish and invertebrates that inhabit within the Malaysian seas in the South China Sea, especially in the Sulu and Sulawesi Seas. The expedition is also to explore and discover through collection of intensified data by application of state-of-the-art technologies in the field of physical, geological, chemical and biological oceanography.

9. Coincidentally, the Sulu Sulawesi Sea is part of the designated areas in Sulu-Sulawesi Seascapes Programme. This area is a melting pot in the region. Conscientious efforts to innovate, regulate activities to minimize conflicts and disasters, stimulate economic activities as well as facilitate marine life conservation are of prime importance. Towards this end, smart partnerships and strategic alliances and cooperation between coastal communities, government agencies, non-governmental organizations and other related stakeholders at the national and regional level are of high priority.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

10. I believe that this Malaysian Pilot Project will contribute to the enhancement of marine resources and help maintain the sea-based revenue for the communities. This will give a positive impact to the targeted groups such as the fisherman, marine aquaculture breeders, resort managers, and the ecotourism industry. It is my firm belief that this project will also contribute towards the overall CTI objectives and goals for sustainable resources management and in enhancing the socioeconomic well-being of the communities in these areas.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

11. Malaysia is very committed to ensuring that our marine ecosystem remains healthy so that this rich biodiversity can be enjoyed in perpetuity and sustainably utilized for wealth creation in line with our objective to be a fully developed nation by 2020.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

12. Finally, I would like to thank the donor agencies and countries as well as other partners for their participation and contribution towards the CTI. I believe, together, we can make this Initiative a success. This Summit will go down in the chapters of history for providing the highest political impetus to the conservation efforts of the region's rich marine biodiversity and which is in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

13. I would like to extend my profound gratitude to the Government and the people of the Republic of Indonesia for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for the meeting in this beautiful city of Manado.

Thank you.

ANNEX V: ROADMAP FOR CTI IMPLEMENTATION

DATE AND VENUE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
2009		
Immediate and ongoing	CTI National Coordination Committees (NCCs) institutionalized and operating in each CT country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTI structure, membership and operations defined • Coordinator(s) designated for NCC • Resources secured to support NCC operations • Regular meetings of NCC being held to advance implementation of the National Plan of Action (NPoA)
Immediate and ongoing	Implementation of National Plan of Action in each CT country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities in NPoA identified and annual work plans developed, designating specific funding needed for specific activities (e.g., project level) • Funding (national or external) secured to implement annual work plans, particularly identified priorities • Implementation of actions in NPoAs and the RPoA
Immediate and ongoing	Interim Regional Secretariat supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CT6 governments and partners continue to provide support* <p>* This needs to be clarified</p>
By August	Mobilizing existing policies or adoption of CTI as national policy according to national circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on specific country circumstances, this could entail some appropriate form of formal government adoption such as Presidential decrees, Cabinet endorsements papers.
Back-to-back with SOM4 (2 days; venue tbd)	Meeting of Coordination Mechanisms Working Group (CMWG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth discussions on this topic by all CT6 and partners • Agree on terms of reference and other operational details for a set of coordination mechanisms, drawing on results of Senior Officials Summit Prepcom • Agree on the operational aspects of the Regional Secretariat, and the procedure for selecting the permanent location of the Secretariat
Back-to-back with SOM4 (2 days; venue tbd)	Meeting of Financial Resources Working Group (FRWG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth discussions on this topic by all CT6 and partners • Develop Regional Strategy on Financial Resources • Support national financial planning processes
Back-to-back with SOM4 (2 days; venue tbd)	Meeting of Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (MEWG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth discussions on this topic by all CT6 and partners • Reviewing and building on Section VI of the current RPoA, and on the work to date of the MEWG, agree on recommendations for a more detailed M&E Plan
September (2 1/2 days; venue tbd)	Fourth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth discussions and decisions on three operational topics: Coordination Mechanisms, Financial Resources, and Monitoring and Evaluation • Decide on location of permanent Secretariat, and transition process • Decide on 2010 Roadmap • Consider establishment of regional implementation working group that could focus on 3 -4 themes (e.g., goals or targets in RPoA)
September (1 day; venue tbd)	Second Ministerial Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and review of progress report • Other objectives to be determined • Scheduled around other events and relevant factors

2010		
* Activities outlined during 2010 are <i>indicative</i>, and will be adjusted at SOM4.		
August (2 days; venue tbd)	Fifth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth discussions on regional focal themes, drawing on recommendations of Working Groups • Agreement on concrete collaborative actions
December (2 days; venue tbd)	Sixth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparations for Ministerial Meeting • Review of annual progress report
To be determined (1 day; venue tbd)	Third Ministerial Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and review of progress report • Other objectives to be determined • Scheduled around other events and relevant factors

ANNEX VI: SAMPLING OF MEDIA COVERAGE AROUND THE CTI SUMMIT



Coral Triangle Leaders Declare Action to Protect Marine Resources for People's Well-being

Fri May 15, 2009 2:40pm EDT

Plan of Action is Critical to the Income, Livelihoods and Food Security of More Than 120 Million People Who Depend on Healthy Marine Ecosystems WASHINGTON--(Business Wire)—

A new, six-country Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI) was launched today at a Leaders' Summit in Manado, North Sulawesi; a series of new commitments by the six governments to an unprecedented cooperative effort to safeguard the world's richest marine resources and ensure the income, livelihoods and food security for millions who depend on these resources.

In their Leaders Declaration, the Presidents and Prime Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor Leste formally adopted one of the most comprehensive and specific plans for ocean conservation. The 10-year Regional CTI Plan of Action sets time-bound steps to address growing threats to the region's coral reefs, fisheries, mangroves, threatened species and other marine and coastal living resources.

This Initiative recognizes the urgent need to address the poverty afflicting the people of the Coral Triangle countries, in particular the coastal communities, and to meet relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. All six leaders also recognize the urgency of a strong climate change focus to this important Initiative.

Covering only 2% of the world's ocean, the Coral Triangle contains 76% of all known coral species. It is also brimming with an extraordinary variety of fish due to this high coral diversity. Over 120 million people directly depend on the bounty of these seas for their food and income. The value of fisheries, tourism and shoreline protection from coral reefs, mangroves and associated habitats is estimated at US\$2.3 billion annually. This area also supports the largest tuna fisheries in the world, which generate billions of dollars in global income every year. Healthy reef systems help buffer coastal communities from severe storms and tsunamis.

Protection of reefs and mangroves in the Coral Triangle will be vital to help people adapt to increasing storm severity, an effect of climate change. These precious marine resources are threatened by overfishing, illegal fishing, unsustainable coastal development, pollution and climate change. All these threats are leading to depleted fish stocks, large-scale loss of mangroves and degradation of coral reef systems.

Conservation International (CI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and WWF, congratulate and welcome the leaders' declaration to address the threats to the marine, coastal and small island ecosystems within the region. The three NGOs are strongly committed to support the countries in achieving their priority goals as stated in their Plans of Action.

Conservation International's Chairman and CEO, Peter Seligmann, said, "In 30 years of conservation work, I have never seen anything like this; six leaders signing a commitment to protect their marine resources for the well-being of their citizens and future generations. We extend our deepest congratulations and commit to supporting these nations as they embark on this unprecedented global initiative to secure human livelihoods and adapt to climate change through the conservation of their individual and shared marine heritage."

TNC's Chairman of the Board of Directors, Roger Milliken Jr., said, "We are inspired by the bold vision of the CTI and the significant commitments that the six leaders made today. Our continued engagement, building on nearly two decades of conservation in this region, with governments, regional institutions and local communities we hope will contribute to this extraordinary initiative for the benefit of nature and people living in this region and beyond."

The Summit was followed by a "Partners Dialogue" with the six Coral Triangle governments, at which a large number of donor governments, international funding agencies, nongovernmental organizations, community-based organizations, private foundations, private sector companies, and others expressed their intentions to support the implementation phase of this Initiative.

"WWF urges world leaders meeting at the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen later this year to support Coral Triangle countries in their efforts to protect their most vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change and the loss of food and livelihoods," said WWF Director General James P. Leape. "Reaching a strong agreement on greenhouse gas reductions is critical as is robust support for regional adaptation. The transformational CTI Plan of Action provides a framework for engaging the private sector in adaptation through public private partnership," added Mr. Leape.

The three organizations look forward to continuing to support the countries of the Coral Triangle in an effective and collaborative manner.

Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy and WWF are working together with other NGOs, bi- and multi-lateral agencies and governments around the world to support regional governments, businesses and communities to conserve the marine treasures and resources of the Coral Triangle for the benefit of all.



Indonesia launches Southeast Asia's biggest marine park

Thu May 14, 2009 6:20am EDT

By Lenita Sulthani

MANADO, Indonesia, May 14 (Reuters) - Indonesia has opened Southeast Asia's largest marine park in the Savu Sea, a migration route for almost half the world's whale species and home to vast tracts of rare coral, the country's fisheries minister said.

Environmental groups, The Nature Conservancy and WWF will help set up the reserve, where efforts will be made to stamp out illegal practices such as dynamite and cyanide fishing. Tourism activities and subsistence fishing by locals will be allowed but restricted to certain areas.

The Savu Marine National Park, launched at the World Ocean Conference in Manado, Sulawesi, will cover 3.5 million hectares (8.649 million acres) in an area of 500 species of coral, 14 species of whales and 336 species of fish living in the Savu Sea near Flores in eastern Indonesia.

"(It is) potentially one of the largest marine protected areas in the Coral Triangle," Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Freddy Numberi said on Wednesday.

He was referring to the biologically diverse coral reef network bounded by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

"About 14 species out of 27 -- meaning 50 percent -- species of whales in the world migrate using this route from the Pacific Ocean, passing through the Banda Sea, Flores Sea and Savu Sea to the Indian Ocean," said Numberi.

Rili Djohani, The Nature Conservancy's marine expert, said the park will protect sea turtles, dolphins, sharks and could help boost tuna stocks by protecting their spawning grounds.

"It's a beautiful place and it's now the largest marine protected area in the Coral Triangle," she said. "However, enforcement is one of the key questions we need to work out. It could be a combination of community-based

and government patrols."

Indonesia has a rich marine environment, but the environment often faces pressure from pollution and loose law enforcement make it difficult to stop practices such as using explosives to catch fish.

The Coral Triangle also faces pressure from climate change and reefs could disappear by the end of this century unless countries slash carbon emissions from their current levels, a report commissioned by the WWF warned this week. (Additional reporting by Sunanda Creagh in Jakarta, Editing by Ed Davies and Sugita Katyal)

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

Nations launch plan to save Coral Triangle

Updated May 16, 2009 12:00 AM

MANADO, Indonesia – Leaders from six nations agreed yesterday to work jointly to save Southeast Asia's massive Coral Triangle, considered the world's richest underwater wilderness.

Leaders of the Philippines, East Timor, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands signed proposals to expand maritime sanctuaries and no-fishing zones during the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food (CTI-CFF) Security Leaders' Summit held at the Grand Kawanua Convention Center in Manado, Indonesia.

The Coral Triangle Initiative calls for stronger international cooperation to combat illegal fishing and environmental destruction in an area half the size of the United States and home to half the world's coral reefs.

"The Coral Triangle is a globally recognized treasure. It is unique, there is nothing like it on Earth," Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said of the region, which has been compared to the Amazon rainforest for its biodiversity.

President Arroyo called on countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific to ensure the protection of the endangered Coral Triangle. According to her, at a time when the world seems mired in bad news, "the CTI is genuine good news."

"Here we have nations coming together in common purpose to protect a vital segment of our common global environment," she said. "The Coral Triangle is potentially the world's most important refuge for marine life – but only if we do our part to keep it in good health," Mrs. Arroyo said. "For too long, we have let our environment become degraded, our natural resources diminished, our social contract with nature destroyed."

"It is time to rebalance our approach: develop a strong economy, provide full employment and maintain the sacred relationship of human beings to Mother Earth," she said.

Scientists say a combination of climate change, over-fishing and pollution is destroying ecosystems in the Triangle, which is a vital source of food for millions of people and a nursery for maritime life from turtles to tuna.

Under the initiative, the littoral countries agreed to expand protected ocean reserves by millions of hectares and establish joint strategies for identifying key ecosystems and species for conservation. The initiative calls for fishing to be banned from 20 percent of each major coastal habitat in the Triangle such as coral reefs, mangrove forests and seagrass areas, but set no specific time target. It also sets targets ranging between 2012 and 2020 for the designation and establishment of "priority seascape" marine reserves and stronger legislation and planning to curb over-fishing and protect threatened species.

The agreement also calls for the establishment within four years of a plan to help coastal and small island ecosystems adapt to consequences of climate change such as rising sea levels, warming waters and increases in acidity.

Indonesia – a massive archipelago of 17,000 islands – said it would set aside 20 million hectares (49.4 million acres) of maritime conservation parks by 2020, up from 13.4 million currently.

The overall plan, however, contained no solid combined target on the protected areas.

Environmental groups praised the agreement as a rare example of high-level leaders backing an ambitious conservation plan.

“In 30 years of conservation work, I have never seen anything like this: six leaders signing a commitment to protect their marine resources for the well-being of their citizens and future generations,” Conservation International head Peter Seligmann said in a statement.

A report by environmental group World Wildlife Fund (WWF) this week said climate change could wipe out the Coral Triangle by century’s end if nations do not commit to deep cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases blamed for global warming.

The death of the reefs could leave more than 100 million people without livelihoods, triggering destabilizing mass migrations to cities and neighboring countries, it said.

A new round of international climate change talks to replace the Kyoto Protocol will take in the Danish capital Copenhagen in December. – **Paolo Romero, AFP**

ANTARA NEWS SERVICE – INDONESIA

Coral triangle declaration signed

Manado, N Sulawesi (ANTARA News) - Six heads of state/government participating in the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) Summit signed a declaration here on Friday approving the CTI.

The six heads of state/government signing the declaration were Indonesian president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Timor Leste President Ramos Horta, Solomon Islands Prime Minister Derek Sikua, Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Michael Somare and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak.

In his speech President Yudhoyono said he welcomed the declaration as an ambitious government-level action plan to preserve marine resources. He said the aim of the CTI Summit was opening up a brighter future for the next generation in the region.

He said 17 years ago when the East Summit was first held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, world leaders did not sign any deal for the preservation of oceans which cover 72 percent of the earth.

"That is why we are gathering here now to prevent the destruction of the riches and safeguard them for the next generation," he said. President Yudhoyono considered preserving ocean riches a moral obligation for future generation.

Solomon Islands Prime Minister Derek Sikua meanwhile said on the occasion that with the signing of the declaration the CTI was not longer an idea and a concept but a real action.

Philippine President Arroyo said the declaration confirmed the commitment of the six countries to protect the sea and find harmonious relationship between life and the environment.

President Ramos Horta underlined the importance of the commitment with regard to protecting the sea from illegal fishing and climate change. Prime Minister Somare said the CTI declaration was a positive solution to prevent natural degradation in the region.

Malaysian Prime Minister Razak meanwhile considered the declaration a political commitment for marine preservation.

Under the cooperation the six countries located on the 5.7 million square kilometers area agreed to coordinate protection of marine resources. With its width only two percent of the world's ocean, the Coral Triangle is home to 76 percent of the world's known coral species.

The region is full of various fish species because of its coral diversity. More than 120 million people directly depend their livelihood on the riches of the sea in the region. The invaluable resources however are now under threat due to climate change, overfishing, illegal fishing, unsustainable coastal development and pollution.

All of them have caused a fish supply decline and destruction of mangrove forests in a large scale and degradation of coral system. The six countries had answered the challenges by agreeing to develop an action plan to implement the initiative.

In the next few years to come the countries would cooperate with their partners to implement the strategy in sea conservation, sustainable marine resource management, protection of endangered species and adapting to climate change.

XINHUA – CHINA

Coral Triangle Initiative summit opens in Indonesia

MANADO, Indonesia, May 15 (Xinhua) -- The Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono opened the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) Summit on Friday, attended by his five counterparts.

They were President Gloria Arroyo from the Philippines, President Jose Ramos Horta from Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Michael Somare, the Solomon Island's Prime Minister Derek Sikua and Prime Minister of Malaysia Najib Razak.

President Yudhoyono said that the summit was aimed to create a brighter future for all people of the Coral Triangle. The summit was also aimed to call attention to the importance of ocean. At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 17 years ago, world leaders signed landmark agreements to halt the loss of biodiversity, to safeguard the world's climate and to better manage the world's forests but they did not sign any agreement on ocean.

Following the agreement, Indonesia and its neighbors took some important actions together such as the tri-national agreement on the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas and the Bismarck-Solomon Seas, the Regional Plan of Action on Responsible Fisheries and within the framework of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Seoul Oceans Declaration and the Bali Ministerial Plan of Action on Oceans and Coasts.

"However, these efforts are not enough," Indonesian president said. He also said that scientists warned them that their marine and coastal resources were being depleted by overfishing, destructive fishing practices, unsustainable coastal development, pollution and climate change.

That was why, he added, the leaders held meeting to prevent the loss of the treasure and to enhance it for their next generation. We also invited partners to join us in the effort. The governments of the United States and Australia, the Asian Development Bank, the Global Environment Facility, Nature Conservancy, Conservation International and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature readily accepted this role," he said.

President Yudhoyono said that the six governments have achieved a new level of understanding.

First, they have formally recognized that the Coral Triangle was the very center of marine life abundance and

diversity on the planet.

"Over 100 million of our citizens depend every day on these critical marine resources for their income, their livelihoods, their food security and the protection of their coast," he said.

Secondly, they recognized that threats to these precious marine and coastal resources were growing each day.

"These threats stem from climate change that is causing the sea level to rise and the sea surface temperature to increase. We must therefore adapt to these climate change impacts. We need a risk reduction strategy," the president said.

Thirdly, they identified that they ought to address these threats and reverse the trend of rising sea level and increasing sea surface temperature.

"Our six countries have therefore jointly developed a Regional Plan of Actions, the boldest and the most ambitious marine action plan ever agreed by governments. This will transform the way we manage our marine and coastal resources, and reshape our futures," he said.

On the part of Indonesia, and as demonstration of its commitment to the CTI Regional Plan of Action, the government was immediately taking vigorous measures.

"Immediately after this summit, I will sign a presidential decree creating a national committee of relevant minister to meet annually to advance the implementation of the CTI," he said.

The president announced that Indonesia formally established the Savu Sea National Marine Fisheries Sanctuary. The sea garden covers some 3.9 million hectares in the southern seas of Indonesia, bordering Timor-Leste.

"We have thus created some 13.5 million hectares of marine protected areas, considerably exceeding the target set some years ago of 10 million hectares of marine protected areas across Indonesia by 2010," he said.

The president also announced a new target, namely to achieve 20million hectares of marine protected areas across Indonesia by 2010. Over the next three years, the Indonesian government will seek a doubling of the current national budget dedicated to specific programs and activities stipulated in the CTI Regional Plan of Action.

He also said that Indonesia offered to be the host of permanent CTI Secretariat to support the implementation of the action plan. "If the other Coral Triangle countries accept this offer, we are prepared to provide full financial support for day-to-day operations of the secretariat," he said.

The president said that Indonesia was ready to pledge 5 million U.S. dollars for the CTI program.

The CTI summit was held as an effort to save coral reefs in the Coral Triangle to guarantee the livelihood of coastal people. Coral Triangle is a globally-recognized treasure containing marine life abundance and diversity.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANADO, Indonesia - Six Asia-Pacific countries agreed Friday on a wide-ranging plan to protect one of the world's largest networks of coral reefs, promising to reduce pollution, eliminate overfishing and improve the

livelihoods of impoverished coastal communities.

The agreement at the World Oceans Conference creates a voluntary management plan for an area defined as the Coral Triangle, which spans Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and East Timor. It accounts for a third of the world's coral reefs and 35 percent of coral reef fish species.

Several governments committed money to the plan during the two-day meeting, including the United States, which pledged \$40 million over five years.

The agreement, known as the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security, follows a symbolic memorandum signed earlier in the meeting by government officials from 80 countries. It calls for improved efforts to protect oceans from overdevelopment and illegal fishing.

Much of the discussion has focused on the vital role seas play in absorbing greenhouse gas emissions and how they are affected when higher temperatures melt polar ice sheets, cause sea levels to rise and fuel devastating and more frequent storms.

Scientists, activists and government officials warned that climate change could wipe out entire ecosystems and destroy the livelihoods and homes of up to 100 million people this century in Southeast Asia as fish are killed off and coastal communities flooded.

"The changes we expected to see are actually happening faster than we thought," said Mary M. Glackin, U.S. deputy undersecretary for oceans and atmosphere. She pointed to quickly melting ice sheets as an example.

And because oceans take up carbon, they are becoming more acidic, eroding sea shells, bleaching coral and killing other marine life, she said, "so that is an unexpected thing."

Other countries that pledged money ranging from \$1.7 million to \$5 million to help protect Southeast Asia's coral reefs included Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Australia, among others.

"This starting pledge is the first proof that all these countries intend to follow through with action," Indonesia's Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Freddy Numberi told reporters.

Those gathering in Manado noted that climate change was not the only thing jeopardizing the world's oceans: Pollution from overdevelopment and industrial runoff along with destructive fishing techniques using dynamite and drift nets were also playing a devastating role.

The leaders vowed to address some of those issues immediately, but calls for action were short on specific commitments.

"We will strive to reduce pollution of the ocean, coastal and land areas and to promote sustainable management of fisheries," they wrote in a declaration, calling also for the protection of mangroves, wetlands and coral reefs.

Efforts also will be made to protect the most vulnerable communities that "fully depend on marine resources" and to seek to improve technology needed to answer the many questions that remain about oceans. They also called for additional funding to help countries adapt to climate change and create sustainable jobs.

One of the hopes of attendees is that the conference will help heighten awareness about the need to include oceans into the larger debate about global warming. Many scientists want oceans on the agenda when governments gather in December at a U.N. climate change meeting in Denmark to draft a successor to the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012.