



# **CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE**

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY

## **Annex –1 Decision Document on:**

### **Summary of Progress Report from CTI-CFF Interim Regional Secretariat and Status of Signing and Ratification of Regional Secretariat Establishment Agreement**

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**The 9<sup>th</sup> CTI-CFF SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING (SOM9)**

**26 - 27 NOVEMBER 2013  
MANILA, PHILIPPINES**

**Adopted on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013  
by the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea,  
The Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste**

## I. Background

The IRS presented some highlights of its work, including: (1) facilitation of WG meetings and the 2<sup>nd</sup>RPW; (2) representation of CTI-CFF on the regional and global stage; (3) facilitation of CTI-COM activities; (4) organizing and coordination of Coral Triangle Day activities; (4) coordination with countries to expedite the signing and ratification of the Agreement on the Establishment of the Regional Secretariat of the CTI-CFF (CTI Agreement); (5) reorganization of the Secretariat and personnel.

The IRS facilitates meetings in collaboration with the host country, WG chairs, the NCCs and partners. Through its facilitation work, the Interim Regional Secretariat has:

- Established communication lines with host-countries for planning regional meetings, primarily to define the agenda, set dates and find a suitable venue;
- Assisted host countries in drafting invitation letters and agenda for regional meetings;
- Facilitated communication with partners on technical and financial support;
- Circulated progress workplans to CT6 and partners;
- Disseminated information on upcoming events;
- Served as resource persons in WG meetings; and
- Disseminated meetings outcomes through several media.

Some events that were facilitated by the IRS in the last 12 months are as follows:

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> RPW, 20-22 August 2013 in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia;
2. Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Regional Exchange and WG Meeting, 29 May-1 June 2013 in Dili, Timor Leste;
3. The CTI-CFF Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) WG meeting, 14-16 May 2013 in Bali, Indonesia;
4. The CTI-CFF Seascapes WG Meeting, 16-17 April 2013 in Bali, Indonesia;
5. The CTI-CFF Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) WG Meeting, 10-12 April 2013 in Manila, Philippines;
6. The CTI-CFF Financial Resources Working Group (FRWG) and Coordination Mechanisms Working Group (CMWG) Meetings 21-22 March 2013 in Bali, Indonesia;
7. The CTI-CFF 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Exchange on MPA, 12-15 March 2013 in Honiara, Solomon Islands;
8. CTI-CFF Live Reef Food Fish Trade Intergovernmental Forum, 31 January-1 February 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand;
9. CTI-CFF Partners Meeting, 16-17 January 2013 in Bali, Indonesia;
10. CTI-CFF Local Government Network Forum and CTI-CFF Executive Course Launch, 3-6 December 2012 in Manila, Philippines.

Through its representation function, the IRS works with partners and the CT6 to put CTI-CFF in the spotlight on the world stage. Toward this end, the IRS has:

- Developed concepts, technical notes and administrative documents on CTI-CFF contributions to the global effort to manage vital coastal and marine resources;
- Developed an outreach strategy to promote the CTI-CFF brand;
- Established communication lines with relevant organizing committees for planning events, primarily to set activity dates, venue and agenda;
- Managed the logistical aspects of the participation of the CT6 and partners in various events;
- Drafted outreach agenda and coordinated the involvement of the CT6 in international activities;
- Presented paper on CTI-CFF activities on specific issues/themes.

The IRS has participated in the following international forums:

1. RPOA-IUU 4th Sub Regional Meeting on the Southern and Eastern Areas of the South China Sea and the Sulu-Sulawesi, Manila, Philippines, 29 June 2013;
2. SEAFDEC and CTI-CFF LRFFT Intergovernmental Forum, Bangkok, Thailand, January 31-February 1, 2013.

The IRS also provided facilitation assistance to the CTI-COM through the CTI-COM Chair, currently held by Malaysia. Such assistance includes:

- Preparation of progress reports on CTI-CFF activities;
- Drafting and circulation of the CTI-COM Chair's reminder notes to CT6 about the signing and ratification of the CTI Agreement;
- Courtesy call to YB Datuk Dr. Ewon Ibin, the new Malaysian Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and CTI-COM Chair;
- Progress reports to CTI-COM Chair on the establishment of permanent Regional Secretariat;
- Briefing for the CTI-COM Chair on the role of CTI COM and Regional Secretariat;
- Consultations with the CTI-COM Chair and assistance on correspondence on the handover of the CTI-COM Chairmanship from Malaysia to PNG.

To assist celebrations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coral Triangle Day, the Interim Regional Secretariat:

- Sent out reminders to the NCCs to organize national and local events in observance of Coral Triangle Day;
- Prepared and disseminated CTI-CFF statements for Coral Triangle Day events;
- Provided information to the media on Coral Triangle Day celebrations.

In its effort to accelerate the process of signing and ratification of the CTI-CFF Agreement on the Establishment Secretariat Agreement, the IRS has taken the following actions:

- Sent out reminder letters to CT countries to speed up and provide updates on the signing and ratification status, and offering assistance as necessary;
- Visited PNG and Timor-Leste to discuss the signing and ratification process and explore the role the IRS can play to expedite process;
- Assisted Indonesia in completing ratification documents and contacting relevant ministries toward finalizing the ratification.

The IRS went through organizational restructuring in the first quarter of this year and is now led by a Chairman assisted by two Vice Chairmen and two Secretaries. A new person was also recruited in June 2013 to take over the Coordinator position that was vacated early the same year. The Coordinator provides facilitation and operation support to the Secretariat.

## **II. Decision**

Based on presentations made by the IRS and discussions during the session on *Introduction on and Overview of Progress at SOM9*, the Senior Officials hereby:

1. Acknowledge the progress and achievements made by the IRS since the 8<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM8) and 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting (MM4) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in November 2012;
2. Appreciate the effort made by the IRS to facilitate the signing and ratification of the CTI Agreement;
3. Note the need for the IRS to take timely actions and decisions in order to keep the momentum going as CTI-CFF transitions into the permanent Regional Secretariat.