



**CORAL TRIANGLE  
INITIATIVE**  
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES  
AND FOOD SECURITY



## WELCOME REMARKS

by

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To be delivered at Coral Triangle Day  
2<sup>nd</sup> Webinar  
Women at Heart of Marine Conservation in Coral Triangle

18th June 2020 | 10:00 a.m.

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Good Day, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!

1. I am pleased to welcome all of you to the second Webinar Series in conjunction with the celebration of Coral Triangle Day which theme is “**Working together towards a plastic-free Coral Triangle**” and calls for cooperation and continuous collaborative actions: nationally on the ground, regionally and internationally towards addressing marine plastic pollution.
2. Today, the Webinar title is: ***Women at the Heart of Marine Conservation*** because we want to celebrate and honour the women and their significant contributions in the field of marine conservation, also as part of *Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) on Empowerment of Women and Girls*.
3. The CTI-CFF has a **Women Leaders’ Forum (WLF) Working Group** that has been very active in the field of Marine Conservation for about a decade now in the Coral Triangle region. WLF has a Chair, Ms Agnetha Vave Karamui from Solomon Islands (*Halo Agnetha if you are online!!!*), Co-chair Ms Laura from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and champions/focal points from each of the CTI-CFF Member Countries. Last year the WLF successfully produced a Competency Model Resources and Modules for training of women in marine conservation applicable within Coral Triangle and globally. It has a new Roadmap to be integrated with the draft RPOA 2.0 and has great plans for several years ahead. The WLF is in the process of engaging a Gender

Equity Social Inclusiveness (GESI) consultant to assist the CTI-CFF in the implementation of GESI by 2021.

4. **We will continue to cooperate with others, including Strategic Partners, Governments, local communities and the Private sector to achieve the WLF Roadmap.**
5. Several women presenters will impart their wisdom and insights on their marine conservation efforts, the successes and challenges. We are truly grateful for their dedication and sharing, and hope all of us will learn from them. Some work on conservation science, or administrative, or advocacy of Gender inclusion and empowerment, and some on transforming plastic wastes into something useful, etc.
6. Let me briefly mention that although it has been reported that the world now produces more than 380 million tonnes of plastic annually, with China contributing the highest share of plastics marine litter with 28% of the global total, followed by Indonesia at 10% and 6% for both the Philippines and Vietnam, **there is another side of the coin.**
7. Developed countries export their plastic wastes to our region for so-called 'recycling'. Much of the plastics could not be recycled and ended up in our region's illegal landfills, rivers and eventually also at sea. Therefore, developed countries are urged to ensure that adequate control of their plastic wastes is carried out at their own national level, prior to any transboundary movement of plastic wastes. Stricter control of plastic scrap wastes importations into the CT region from other parts of the world is urgently required.
8. Additionally, production and use of plastics in this region should be reduced with several strategies such as Reduce, Reuse and Upcycle, as well as new alternatives to plastics and new technologies.
9. The Regional Secretariat had been working regionally and internationally on plastic issues. For example: the 4th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) in Nairobi to address priority areas of common concern including marine litter; RS was invited as an Observer at the 24th Intergovernmental Meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) in Bali, Indonesia in June 2019. In fact, CTI-CFF had applied to be a member of the COBSEA.

10. RS hopes that CTI-CFF will have collaborations with **UNEP COBSEA Regional Action of Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI), RAP-MALI WG on Marine Litter, UNEP Regional Seas programmes, ASEAN, SPREP, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA), and Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2030 Agenda** (especially on SDG 14) as some of the implementation platforms for concerted actions in the region. RS also follows with interest on the amendments, including for a new waste category of plastics under Annex II of the Basel Convention.
11. RS notes the Bali Declaration adopted at the 4th Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the GPA (IGR-4), which stressed capacity building, sharing know-how and including various stakeholders, technology transfer and exchange of best practices on the protection of the marine and coastal environment, with several COBSEA member countries already promulgating their National Action Plans on Marine Litter.
12. Work at all levels, whether internationally, regionally or locally on the ground is very important. We thank our women resource persons from several CT6 Member Countries whom we recognize as women who have the courage, taken actions and made significant impacts on the ground towards addressing plastics pollution.
13. We also thank the participants who are joining us here via ZOOM Webinar and CTI-CFF Facebook Account for their interest and hopefully would be translated into action as we traverse to the New Normal.
14. Again, welcome and may this Webinar provides further recognition of women's huge contributions in marine conservation and the importance of empowerment of women and girls, as part of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 5).
15. Thank you and Happy Coral Triangle Day!

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