

# CTI-CFF *newsletter*

October-December 2020 • Issue 17



**CORAL TRIANGLE  
INITIATIVE**

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES  
AND FOOD SECURITY



*Protecting the health of  
coastal and marine ecosystems*



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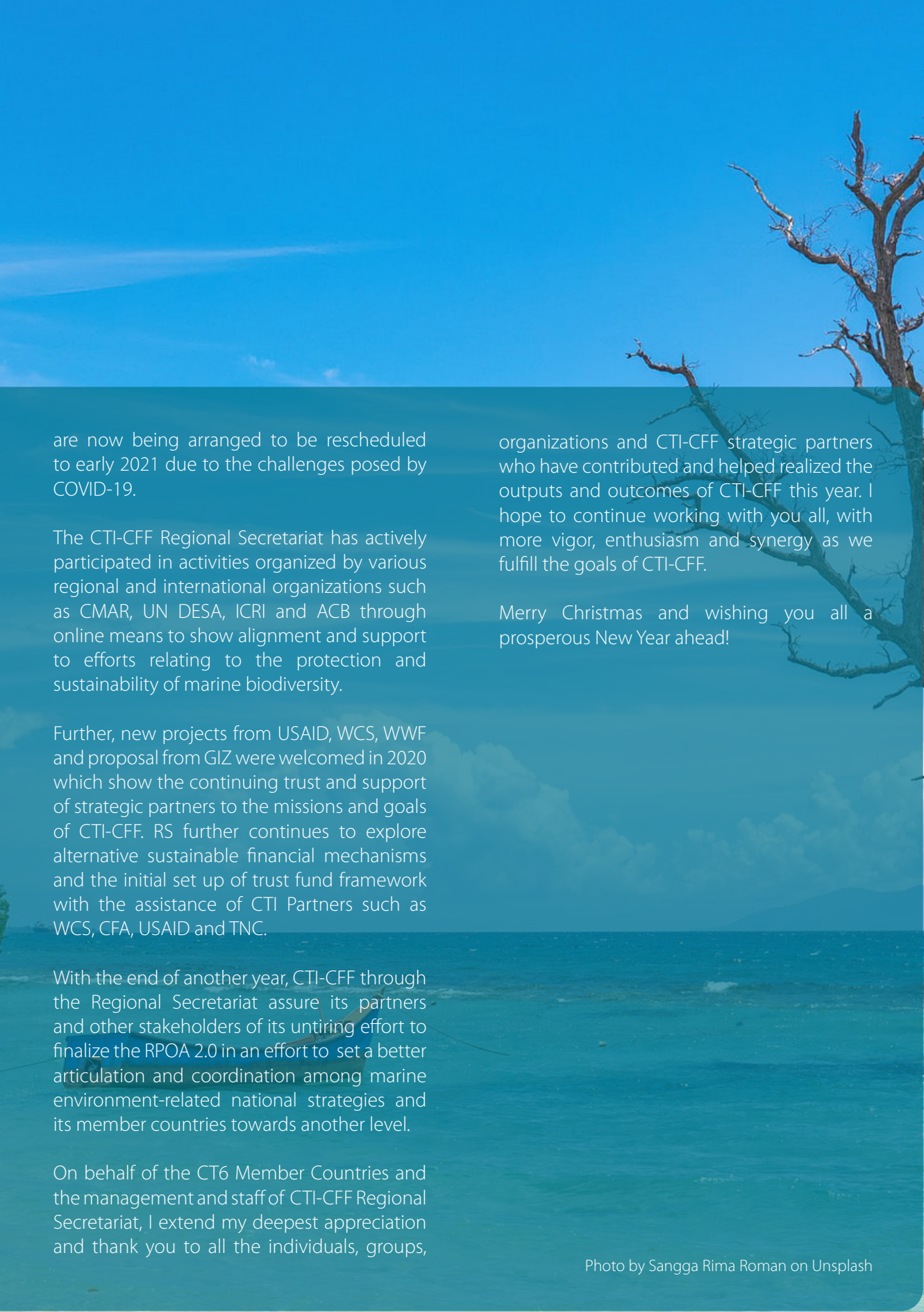
# YEAR END MESSAGE

**DR. MOHD KUSHAIRI MOHD RAJUDDIN**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**CTI-CFF REGIONAL SECRETARIAT**

The year 2020 has been a productive and challenging year for all nations around the world. This year, we saw how an invisible enemy, the corona virus (COVID-19) has crippled developed and developing countries in social, and economic aspects. Every individual, community, and society are grappling for survival. Lockdown and travel restrictions imposed by countries have limited movement, interaction and implementation of some important national and regional activities.

Despite this daunting scenario, Regional Secretariat (RS) and CTI-CFF have remained steadfast and focus on ensuring that CTI-CFF activities continue. RS has developed a Business Continuity Plan to endure changes brought about by COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that RS's management, services, and activities carry on. Prime activities such as the finalization of the draft Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) 2.0 within 2020 and the renewal of the draft on Host Country Agreement have been prioritized. Digital and online platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Google Meets have been fully utilized to ensure communications and coordinations continue among and between the CT6 countries and CTI Partners and annual meeting of the Working Groups and Cross-Cutting Initiatives are carried out. Due activities, such as the 16th Senior Officials Meeting and 8th Ministerial Meeting





are now being arranged to be rescheduled to early 2021 due to the challenges posed by COVID-19.

The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat has actively participated in activities organized by various regional and international organizations such as CMAR, UN DESA, ICRI and ACB through online means to show alignment and support to efforts relating to the protection and sustainability of marine biodiversity.

Further, new projects from USAID, WCS, WWF and proposal from GIZ were welcomed in 2020 which show the continuing trust and support of strategic partners to the missions and goals of CTI-CFF. RS further continues to explore alternative sustainable financial mechanisms and the initial set up of trust fund framework with the assistance of CTI Partners such as WCS, CFA, USAID and TNC.

With the end of another year, CTI-CFF through the Regional Secretariat assure its partners and other stakeholders of its untiring effort to finalize the RPOA 2.0 in an effort to set a better articulation and coordination among marine environment-related national strategies and its member countries towards another level.

On behalf of the CT6 Member Countries and the management and staff of CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, I extend my deepest appreciation and thank you to all the individuals, groups,

organizations and CTI-CFF strategic partners who have contributed and helped realized the outputs and outcomes of CTI-CFF this year. I hope to continue working with you all, with more vigor, enthusiasm and synergy as we fulfill the goals of CTI-CFF.

Merry Christmas and wishing you all a prosperous New Year ahead!



# Storybits

## CTI-CFF attends the virtual discussion on “Coral Reefs and the CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework”

CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and member countries of CTI-CFF attended the virtual discussion on “Coral Reefs and the CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework” on 3 November 2020 organised by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) for participants in the Asia Pacific region.

The session covered the content of the ICRI recommendations on the CBD post-2020 framework. The recommendations are as follows:

1. Calls for prominent recognition of coral reef ecosystems within the text of the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). ICRI agrees that the Global Biodiversity Framework should have goals and targets that focus on biodiversity at the ecosystem level. It is also important that the framework triggers actions that will enhance the integrity and resilience of these ecosystems, so they can continue to support human society into the future;
2. Encourages setting goals, targets and milestones with timescales appropriate for achieving the stabilisation and recovery of coral reef ecosystems, if immediate prioritization is achieved; and
3. Calls for the inclusion of a set of available, measurable coral reef indicators that are foundational in determining progress against goals and targets within the post-2020 GBF. The Recommendation identifies a set of six coral related indicators for adoption and highlights a further five indicators for priority development, particularly helpful in providing improved information on ecosystem integrity, function, intactness, and resilience.

## CTI-CFF attends the UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue on Science-based Solutions to COVID-19

The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat attended the Global Policy Dialogue Series entitled “Technological and Science-based Solutions to the COVID-19 Challenge organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

Dr. Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin, Executive Director of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat attended the online dialogue series. The online dialogue was intended to converse with global leaders in science and technology to assess the science-based policies and innovations that were developed during the pandemic, good practices as well as areas where work is still needed. Particularly, the discussion centered on the questions: What are concrete examples of innovations that helped people or institutions deal with the effects of COVID-19? What can the international community help to ensure that research and innovations related to COVID-19 are accessible to all. What needs to be done to better engage society, counter misinformation and overcome apathy towards science in policy-making was also brought forward.



▲ Screenshot of UN DESA Online Dialogue.  
 ▲ Screenshot of ICRI Virtual Discussion.



# Storybits



▲ Screenshot of ACB's Introductory Presentation.



▲ Screenshot of Plenary VI on Sustainability of The 2nd International Conference on Halal Issue, Policy and Sustainability.

## CTI-CFF joins ACB's Virtual Session on Transformative Change and Innovations in Biodiversity Conservation

The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat joined the third virtual session of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) 2020 "Transformative Change and Innovations in Biodiversity Conservation" which looked at the specific details of the transformations and innovations and provide the ASEAN Member States and their partners with a clearer perspective of the concrete steps that need to be taken to realise the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

The virtual session had speakers namely, Ms Ana Maria Hernandez, Chair of IPBES; Prof. Ma Keping, Chair of IUCN Asia Regional Members Committee; and Dr. Ruliyana Sustanti of the Research Center for Biology of Indonesia Institute of Sciences.

The event was also an opportunity to encourage the ASEAN governments, non-government entities, as well as other sectors of society to share best practices, to share and gather insights, and give recommendations that would increase visibility and strengthen the ASEAN's position in the upcoming CBD COP 15.

Dr. Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin led the Regional Secretariat team in joining the webinar.

The virtual session was organized by ACB together with the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (KeTSA) Malaysia as host.

## RS Executive Director speaks at the 2nd International Conference on Halal Issue, Policy, and Sustainability

Dr. Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin was invited as one of the keynote speakers in the 2nd International Conference on Halal Issue, Policy and Sustainability which was held virtually on 28 November 2020. Dr. Kushairi presented the Sustainability efforts of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat particularly in achieving the five (5) goals of the CTI-CFF in areas of seascapes, MPAs, EAFM, climate change adaptation and threatened species. He also talked about sustainability efforts of CTI-CFF in terms of food, culture, and communications. The event, which gathered lecturers, researchers, students and practitioners from 13 countries, was organized by the Universitas Muslim Indonesia, Makassar, Indonesia.

## Calendar of Events

### 26-27 January 2021 (tentative)

Continuation of the IRC meeting on draft CTI-CFF Staff Policies and Procedures Manual

### 3-4 February 2021

Continuation of the RPOA 2.0 Writeshop

### 9-10 February 2021

Continuation of the meeting on the draft Host Country Agreement

# FRWG endorses simplified Project Preparation Facility



Screenshot of participants of the FRWG Meeting on Project Preparation Facility.

The CTI-CFF Financial Resources Working Group (FRWG) agreed to endorse the revised Project Preparation Facility (PPF), CTI-CFF's mechanism for facilitating and managing project proposals/funding coming from CTI partners, donors, and other like-minded organizations and individuals.

The members agreed to endorse the revised PPF proposed by the Regional Secretariat which take into consideration the views from CTI-CFF Strategic Partners to improve and simplify the process.

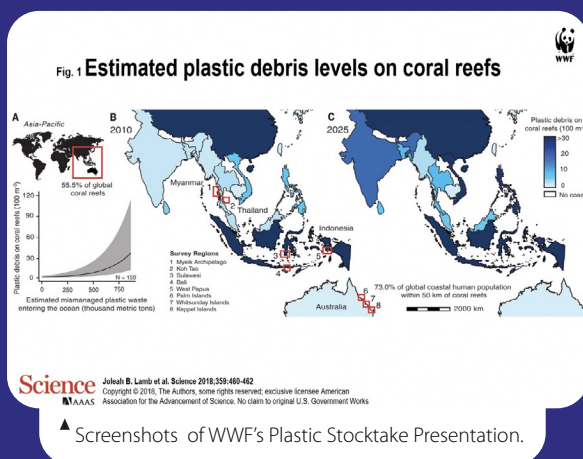
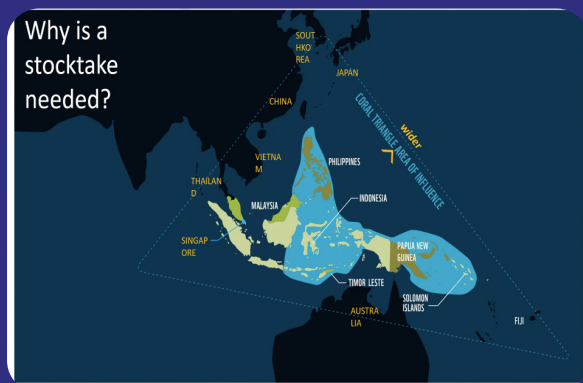
In the revised PPF, the entry point for the submission of the proposal relating to CTI-CFF shall be the Regional Secretariat. In case the proponent directly submit proposal to CTI-CFF member country, the country may decide whether to go through RS. An internal

review within the Regional Secretariat (RS) shall be implemented to determine if the proposal shall go to countries of interest (CTI-CFF National Coordinating Committee (NCC) or working group or specific group of interest for further evaluation. Draft memorandum of understanding or agreement shall be prepared once NCC or working group and RS agreed on the proposal. The timeline from the submission of the proposal to the review, preparation of draft MOU/draft MOA and approval in principle (no official signatory yet) is about 50 days.

The members of the FRWG agreed to endorse the revised PPF in the upcoming 16th Senior Officials Meeting. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Fajar Firdaus, from the Regional Pacific Desk of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who represented Mr. Andre Omer Siregar, Chair of FRWG.



# RS and WWF successfully conduct CTI-CFF Plastic Stocktake Webinar



The Regional Secretariat and WWF conducted a webinar on taking stock of marine plastic pollution in the Coral Triangle Region on 19 October 2020. Ms. Jackie Thomas of WWF who served as the resource person highlighted the importance of conducting marine plastic stocktake in the Coral Triangle region and presented the draft Terms of Reference and its implementation.

Dr. Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin, Executive Director of CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat expressed hope that through the webinar, CT6 member countries will be encouraged to move forward in addressing the plastics sources (land-based and shipping-based), imports and exports of plastic wastes, and their flows. He said that alternatives to plastic must be encouraged via R&D and innovations. He also said that transboundary movements (imports/exports of plastics wastes) should have stricter controls and supervision.

Regional Secretariat has circulated the webinar materials including the draft implementation plan and a list of questions from WWF, and RS is still awaiting for the CT6 Member Countries to respond.

The webinar was organized by CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat in collaboration with WWF on 19 October 2020.

## Finalisation of the Draft RPOA 2.0 still under way

The finalisation of the draft CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action (RPOA 2.0) continues to be reviewed and deliberated upon by the members of the CTI-CFF Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (MEWG). Objective C and the remaining of Objectives A and B as well as the institutional framework have yet to be completed.

Further, the group shall also attend to the completion of the full text of the draft RPOA 2.0, the Business Plan and the Strategic Communications Plan after all the objectives of the RPOA 2.0 are finalised.

The MEWG is set to meet again virtually on 3-4 February 2021 to continue the review and finalisation.

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## List of MPA Sustainable Marine Task Force complete

Members of the MPA Sustainable Marine Task Force from CT6 Member Countries are now complete. They are:

### **INDONESIA:**

Ms. Dieta Sofwatul Ulya, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries

### **MALAYSIA:**

Ms. Mary Malangking, Ministry of Tourism and Environment Sabah

### **PAPUA NEW GUINEA:**

Ms. Abigail Panginwen

### **PHILIPPINES:**

Mr. Warner M. Andrada, Office of Tourism Development Planning, Research and Information Management

Mr. Alain C. Quesa (alternate), Tourism Development Planning Development Division

### **SOLOMON ISLANDS:**

Mr. Bunyan Sivoro, Ministry of Tourism and Culture

Mr. Peter Kinelorea (alternate), Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources

**TIMOR-LESTE:** Ms. Alda Sousa Lemos Da Rosa, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

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## CT Atlas database re-verification with WorldFish experts and NCCs in progress

Experts from WorldFish and NCC Indonesia met online to re-verify the CT Atlas database which include names of the MPAs; geo-spatial data in the GIS application on data models coordinate; content of the attributes, traits and features; and geometry.

Also, during the meeting, WorldFish shared the correction of the Indonesia MPA data in terms of MPA point and MPA polygon.



# CTI-CFF welcomes new representatives at the Council of Ministers, Committee of Senior Officials

The CTI-CFF congratulates and warmly welcomes the new representatives of the Council of Ministers and the Committee of Senior Officials and looks forward to working closely and strengthening cooperation.



**H.E. Luhut B. Pandjaitan** is the new representative of Indonesia to the CTI-CFF Council of Ministers. He is the Coordinating Minister of Maritime Affairs and Investment and Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Ad – Interim, Republic of Indonesia.



**H.E. Atty. Jonas R. Leones** returns as the representative of the Philippines to the Committee of Senior Officials. He is the Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs of the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

# UPDATES

# USAID launches project to support sustainable fishing in Southeast Asia and the Pacific

BANGKOK, THAILAND — The United States Agency for International Development Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA) launched the two-year, USD \$1.9 million Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) project to improve the management of marine biodiversity and fisheries resources in the Southeast Asia and Pacific regions.

To address the challenges of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing practices in the project's regions, SUFIA aims to enhance the capabilities of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs Fisheries (CTI-CFF) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC); and identify private sector investment in and adoption of sustainable fishing and fair labor practices in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

The project is implemented by Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International in concert with SEAFDEC based in Bangkok, Thailand, and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat based in Manado, Indonesia.

USAID's support will help CTI-CFF and SEAFDEC meet international financial and compliance standards to enable growth and expansion of their technical and sustainable financial resource base. As a result, CTI-CFF

and SEAFDEC will be equipped to serve their constituents, including fisheries national agencies, private companies, and civil society organizations working in the fisheries sector.

"We appreciate the support that USAID and the SUFIA project provides to enhance SEAFDEC's ability to achieve our long-term goals towards collective regional development and management of sustainable fisheries," said Malinee Smithrithee, Secretary General of SEAFDEC.

"The SUFIA project aligns well with our new Regional Plan of Action 2.0, which is focused on enhancing marine biodiversity conservation, food security, and sustainable livelihoods in the Coral Triangle region. As such, I welcome the cooperation and assistance from USAID in this project, and I am grateful to work together with SEAFDEC and USAID," said Dr. Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin, CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Executive Director.

SUFIA's private sector research and engagement efforts aim to bring more private resources to the work of CTI-CFF and SEAFDEC partners and increase industry investment to sustainable fishing in Southeast Asia and the Pacific region.



Photo by Yayat Lerr on Unsplash





◀ Screenshot of the Opening Part of AIS Forum.

◀ Screenshot of Dr. Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin delivering his remarks as Observer at AIS Forum.



## CTI-CFF attends as Observer in the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of the AIS Forum

The CTI-CFF through the Regional Secretariat attended as Observer in the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of the Archipelagic and Island States (AIS) Forum with the theme “Fostering Solidarity Between Archipelagic and Island States: Towards a Sustainable Ocean Future.” The meeting was held on 25 November 2020. In the meeting, Dr. Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin, Executive Director of CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat expressed CTI-CFF’s desire to be part of a collaborative action group to address the common challenges in the areas of climate, blue economy, sustainable fisheries and marine plastic pollution.

Dr. Kushairi also conveyed to work towards actionable and tangible partnerships with relevant stakeholder such as youths, women, private sectors, philanthropists, and non-government organizations to achieve sustainable development, improve livelihoods and food securities of coastal communities.

He also shared the current work in CT Atlas which serves as a tool in management, planning and decision-making in areas of fisheries, biodiversity, natural resources as well as socioeconomics.

Prior to the conduct of the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of AIS, the 5th Senior Officials Meeting of AIS was conducted on 10 November 2020. Mr. Gustaaf A Lumiu, Deputy Executive Director of Corporate Services and Dr. Gregory Bennett, Technical Program Senior Manager represented CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat in the meeting.

The AIS Forum brings together 47 archipelagic and island states to collaborate on (1) climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster management; (2) blue economy; (3) marine plastic debris; and (4) good maritime governance.

## WLF pursues development of GESI Policy

Recognizing that gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) can help achieve the CTI-CFF mission when applied in a specific cultural and socio-economic context, the CTI-CFF through the Women Leaders Forum (WLF) supported the development of the draft GESI Policy for CTI-CFF.

Dr. Ria Fitriana, GESI consultant engaged by WLF, presented the initial draft GESI Policy in a meeting of WLF on 16 October 2020. The structure of the draft GESI Policy included among others glossary of terms, the purpose and rationale, some key facts and alignment with international and regional commitments and GESI Policy goals and objectives.

The strategy of mainstreaming GESI Policy is also cited which includes promotion of women's economic empowerment and contribution in marine related activities; reinforcing GESI mainstreaming through policy, target and planning in CTI-CFF, and strengthening institutional arrangement, development of communication products; identifying strategic partnerships; and investing funds and resources.

The draft GESI Policy cited four levels in mainstreaming of GESI in the CTI-CFF. These are strategic, country partnership, programmatic and project levels.

Dr. Fitriana shall be presenting the GESI Policy at the CTI-CFF 16th Senior Officials Meeting.



▲ Screenshot of Ms. Laura Milena Camacho Jaramillo of CMAR (top, leftmost) with the Regional Secretariat team.

## CTI-CFF and CMAR continue talks on collaborative activities

The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and Corredor Marino del Pacifico (CMAR)/The Eastern Pacific Corridor had a successful virtual meetings on Sustainable Tourism and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as a follow-up activity.

Tourism, MPAs, Science, and Fisheries are the focus areas of collaboration agreed both by the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and CMAR. Both CTI-CFF and CMAR plan to conduct a webinar in February or March 2021, highlighting CTI-CFF's experiences and lesson learned on marine park tourism and CMAR's experiences on the internationalization/international recognition of MPAs.

Also, a virtual workshop together with strategic partners of CTI-CFF and CMAR is planned to be held on 1st week of April 2021. The workshop shall focus on on CTI-CFF and CMAR future initiatives which can involve the interest and help from Strategic Partners .



# RPOA-IUU 13<sup>TH</sup> COORDINATING MEETING

*Monday, 16 November 2020*

## Addressing IUU in the Coral Triangle Region

### CTI-CFF presents efforts in addressing IUU at the RPOA-IUU 13th Coordinating Meeting

CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat presented its efforts in addressing the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Coral Triangle (CT) region during the RPOA- IUU 13th Coordinating Meeting conducted virtually on 16 November 2020. The Regional Secretariat was invited as an observer.

Dr. Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin, Executive Director of CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat highlighted the impact of CTI-CFF's partnership with USAID and US Department of Interior in combating IUU in the CT region. Particularly, the partnership has resulted in strengthening the capacity of CTI-CFF Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Technical Working Group in the effort of combating IUU fishing through Catch Documentation and Tracking (CDT) scheme development and integrated EAFM plan.

A regional guidance on the design and implementation of e-CDT highlighting the experiences of Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines as well as SEAFDEC member countries was also prepared by USAID. CTI-CFF

is planning to customize the e-CDT technical guidance specific for all member countries that could be branded and implemented within the context of CTI-CFF.

In addressing IUU in the CT region, the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat has promoted and supported innovative mechanisms and collaborated with international organizations and NGOs in implementing cooperative activities to combat IUU fishing. The Secretariat has also facilitated and coordinated capacity building activities as well as regional exchanges to sustainably manage fisheries and combat IUU.

The RPOA-IUU 13th Coordinating Meeting was aimed at reviewing the progress of the 2019-2020 RPOA-IUU work plan, identifying any emerging priorities and agreeing on the 2020-2021 work plan. Further, the meeting aimed to strengthen RPOA-IUU cooperation with relevant organizations through the identification of further linkages and areas of mutual interest.



# Welcome new members of RS Team

The Regional Secretariat warmly welcomes the new members to the team.



**Ms. Reita Kalalo** is the new Finance Assistant Manager of CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat. Ms. Kalalo previously worked as a General Manager and Finance Manager at PT WLN, a Swiss environmental company which has a head office in Manado and branch office in Bogor-West Java, Indonesia. She brings with her 13 years of experience in the fields of finance and accounting.



**Mr. Md. Anjum Islam** is the new Monitoring and Evaluation Manager. Prior to joining the Regional Secretariat, Mr. Md. Anjum Islam worked as Consortium MEAL Manager at CARE Bangladesh. He had more than 5 years' experience to monitor and control quality of WASH, livelihood, climate change, disaster emergency response and early recovery projects. Among his skills include project management, M&E tools development, data management and analysis, M&E, and reporting & documentation. He also has knowledge on SPSS, GIS, and Remote Sensing. Mr. Anjum has two Master's degrees – one in the field of Governance Studies and the other in Master of Economics (Environmental Economics) both from University of Dhaka.

## Thank you and farewell to a former colleague

The Regional Secretariat extends its appreciation and thanks to Ms. Inri Tamarindang who had devoted her time and skills to serve the organization. The Regional Secretariat wishes her well in her endeavours in Japan.



**Ms. Inri Tamarindang**  
Finance Assistant Manager  
(Temporary Staff until 31 October 2020)





Photo by Matt Curnock  
Coral Reef Image Bank





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## **Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security**

The CTI-CFF is a multilateral partnership of six countries working together to sustain extraordinary marine and coastal resources by addressing crucial issues such as food security, climate change, and marine biodiversity.

The CTI-CFF was established formally during the Leaders' Summit in 2009 with approval of the leaders from the CT6 countries. They adopted the CTI Regional Plan of Action (CTI RPOA) which is a strategic action plan with five goals: (1) designation of effectively managed seascapes; (2) application of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management; (3) establishment of a fully functional marine protected area system; (4) strengthening climate change adaptation and resilience; and (5) improving the status of threatened species.

 Coral Triangle Initiative

 @cticff

 @cticff

[coraltriangleinitiative.org](http://coraltriangleinitiative.org)



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