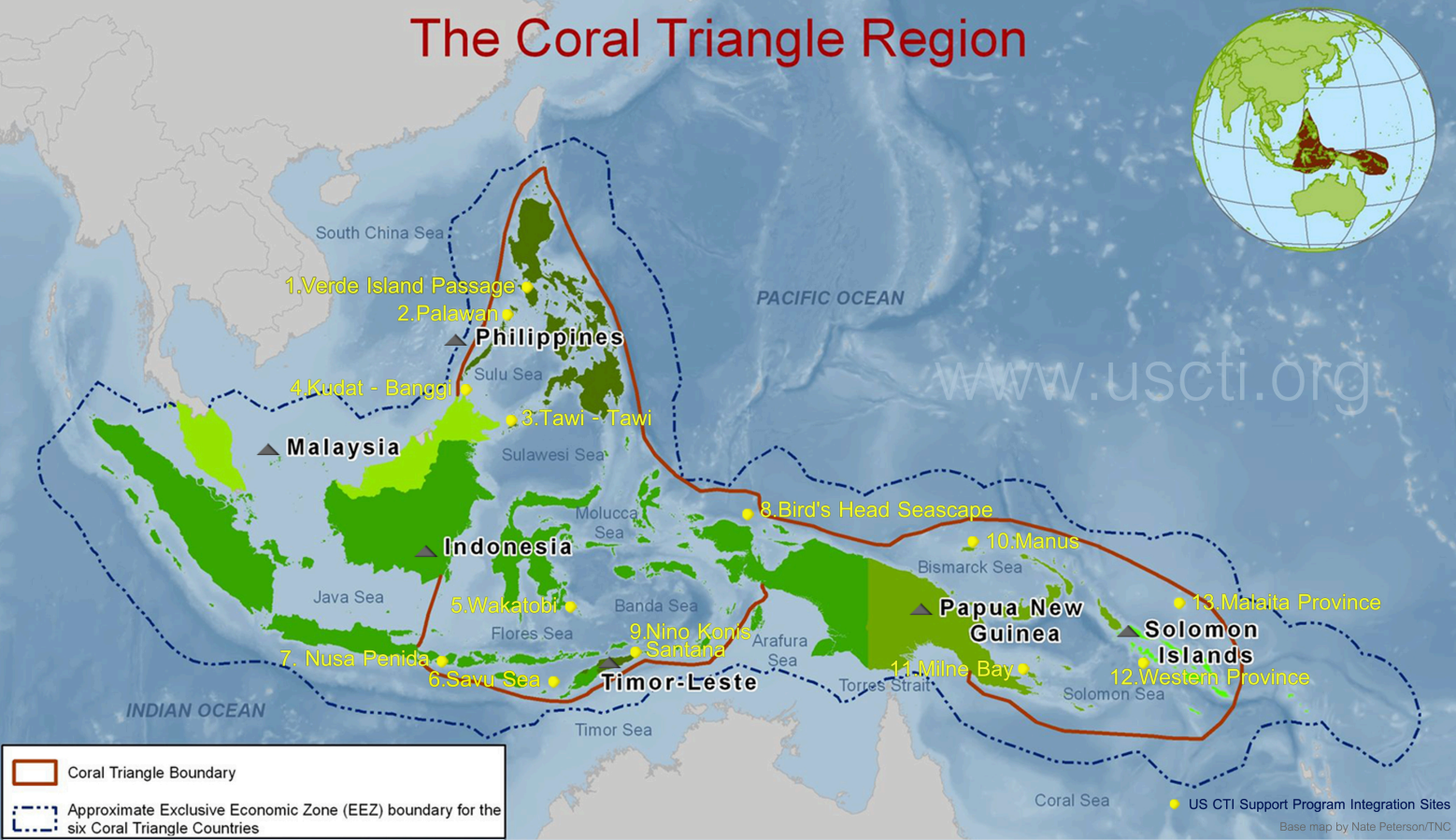



# The Coral Triangle Region

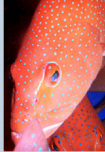


The US Coral Triangle Initiative Support Program seeks to improve the management of biologically and economically important coastal and marine resources in the Coral Triangle region by addressing critical issues such as biodiversity, food security and climate change. The program works at the regional level and in 13 priority integration sites in six countries. For more information, visit [www.uscti.org](http://www.uscti.org).


**1) Verde Island Passage (VIP), Philippines**  
**Location:** The VIP is bounded in the north by the province of Batangas, in the south by Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, in the west by the Lubang Islands and the Luzon Sea and in the east by Tayabas Bay. **Area:** Approximately 1,14 million hectares of land and sea **Population:** 1.76 million people **Biodiversity Features:** The VIP has the highest concentration of marine species of any region in the world's oceans. Including rare species such as whale sharks, giant clams and the iconic Banggai cardinal fish. **US CTI** supports the establishment of a management plan that will improve the management of 1,000 hectares of MPAs and 5,000 hectares of managed fisheries with in the VIP and the adoption of a provincial climate change adaptation plan for coastal communities within the area.




**2) Palawan Province, Philippines**  
**Location:** Araceli and Taytay Municipalities, Palawan, Philippines **Land Area:** Araceli - 17,680 hectares; Taytay - 139,000 hectares **Population:** Araceli - 13,233; Taytay 61,991, people. **Biodiversity Features:** Taytay has abundant coral reefs, mangroves and dolphins, including the rare Irrawaddy dolphin. It also serves as major source of live reef fish including the high-priced red groupers. Araceli has coral reefs, turtles, live reef fish, source of live reef fish. **US CTI** supports the establishment of a management plan for the Taytay marine protected area network, and guide the establishment of collaborative approaches that




**3) Tawi-Tawi Province, Philippines**  
**Location:** Sibutu-Sitangkai and Languyan Municipalities **Land Area:** Sitangkai - 12,750 hectares; Sibutu - 102,100 hectares **Population:** Sitangkai - 40,641 people Sibutu - 35,377 people **Biodiversity Features:** One of the major producers of seaweeds in the country; other marine resources like seagrass, mangrove, turtles, coral reefs **US CTI** supports the establishment of province-wide climate change adaptation measures and policies based on sound science and integrating the principles of ecosystem approach to fisheries management in with community fisheries management




**4) Kudat - Banggi Priority Conservation Site (Proposed Tun Mustapha Park), Malaysia**  
**Location:** The site comprises Kudat, Pitas and Marudu Districts in Sabah, Malaysia **Area:** 1.02 million hectares **Population:** 80,000 coastal inhabitants **Biodiversity Features:** It has complex, linked habitats including primary rainforest, coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds with 252 species of hard corals and 350 species of fish. It is also home to endangered green sea turtles and dugongs. **US CTI** supports the establishment of a multiple use zoning plan for the proposed Tun Mustapha Park that addresses fisheries, threatened species, coastal development and climate change. The program also assists in the establishment of a multi-stakeholder body that will guide live reef fish trade in the area.




**5) Wakatobi National Marine Park, Indonesia**  
**Location:** Composed of the islands of Wangi-Wangi, Kaledupa, Tomia, and Binongko, located in southeastern Sulawesi, Indonesia **Area:** 1.39 million hectares **Population:** 103,000 people **Biodiversity Features:** Wakatobi hosts 750 species of corals and 942 species of fish. It is also surrounded by major sea straits that function as migratory corridors for large marine species such as sea turtles and whales, many of which are listed as endangered. **US CTI** improves local capacity to enforce fisheries laws in the marine park and strengthen the capacity of the Wakatobi local government to incorporate coastal resource management as a basic service.




**6) Savu Sea National Marine Park, Indonesia**  
**Location:** Located at the intersection of the Pacific and Indian Oceans in the province of East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia **Area:** 3.5 million hectares of land and sea **Population:** 450,000 people **Biodiversity Features:** The park is home to 500 coral species and 300 recognized fish species and serves as a highway for migrating turtles and endangered cetaceans such as the blue whale. Act as nurseries and feeding grounds for dolphins and tuna. **US CTI** supports the establishment of a multi-stakeholder management body that will improve the management of the marine park using the principles of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management.




**7) Nusa Penida National Marine Park, Indonesia**  
**Location:** The park comprises the islands of Nusa Penida, Nusa Lembongan and Nusa Ceningan **Population:** 45,000 people **Area:** Nusa Penida 1,419 hectares of coral reefs, 230 hectares of mangroves and 108 hectares of sea grass. **Biodiversity Features:** It is frequently visited by charismatic fish like the ocean sunfish popularly known as Mola-mola. It is also home to the mantas, green turtles, Hawksbill turtles and several shark species including whale sharks, blacktip and white tip reef sharks, among others. **US CTI** supported the establishment of the area as a national marine park in November 2010. The program continues to work with various partners that ensure effective protected area management in the site.




**8) Bird's Head Seascape, Indonesia**  
**Location:** Bird's Head Seascape comprises 180,000 km<sup>2</sup> of 2,500 islands and submerged reefs in northwest Papua **Population:** 31,000 people **Biodiversity Features:** It has 1,500 species of reef fishes and 600 hard coral reef species, which accounts for 75% of the world's known species. It contains critical habitats for threatened marine species, including the largest Pacific leatherback turtle nesting site in the world. It is also home to green and hawksbill turtle rookeries and is migratory highway for Bryde's whales, orcas and numerous dolphin species. It has healthy populations of dugongs, estuarine crocodiles, giant clams, and manta rays. **US CTI** supported the site from Year 1-Year 3 of the program and continues to work with partners in improving the capacity of local communities to manage their unique marine resources.




**9) Nino Konis Santana National Park, Timor-Leste**  
**Location:** Com, Mehara, Tutuala, Bauro, Maupitine and Lore 1 Villages **Area:** 68,000 hectares of land and 55,600 hectares of sea **Population:** Approximately 12,700 people **Biodiversity Features:** Extensive coral reefs and one of the largest remaining intact tropical lowland and monsoon forest in the region. The park and Timor-Leste as a whole provide an important corridor for economically important pelagic fish, 21 species of cetaceans including blue and sperm whales and six threatened turtle species **US CTI** supports the establishment of a zoning system for NKS using co-management approaches and building local capacity to enable community-based monitoring of a marine protected area.




**10) Manus Province, Papua New Guinea**  
**Location:** The province is composed of Wuvulu Island and Admiralty Islands - a group of 18 islands in the Northern Bismarck Sea **Area:** 2,100 km<sup>2</sup> total area of which 220,000 km<sup>2</sup> is at sea **Population:** 43,387 people **Biodiversity Features:** As part of the Northern Bismarck Sea, Manus hosts 425 species of high hard coral as and serves as spawning ground for various reef fishes including large rare species such as the thumphead wrasse. **US CTI** supports the design of a fisheries management plan for the province, build local capacity to implement climate change adaptation activities and support the legislation of policies that improve the status of coastal habitats providing a model for national approaches.



**11) Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea**  
**Location:** The province is composed of 600 islands at the eastern tip of Papua New Guinea, of which only 160 are inhabited. **Area:** The province covers 16,202 km<sup>2</sup> of land and 252,990 km<sup>2</sup> of sea **Population:** 250,000 people **Biodiversity Features:** The province is home to 430 species of corals, 950 species of mollusks and over 1100 species of fish including rare marine species such as the hawks bill turtle and the napoleon wrasse. **US CTI** supports the application of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management and the adoption of sustainability principles that inform live reef fish trade. The program also develops local capacity to implement local early action plans for climate change adaptation.



**12) Western Province, Solomon Islands**  
**Location:** Western Province is the largest province in the Solomon Islands composed of 36 islands. It is home to the several of the country's marine biodiversity hotspots. **Area:** 5,475 km<sup>2</sup> **Population:** 63,000 people **Biodiversity Features:** Western Province is rich in marine biodiversity and is home to Njari Island, location of the world's second highest fish diversity with 279 species surveyed. It also has Tetepare Island, a popular nesting ground for the critically endangered leatherback turtle. **US CTI** improves the management effectiveness of the free marine conservation areas in the province and install a monitoring and management protocol. The program also builds local capacity to implement an early action plan for climate change adaptation for near-shore and marine coastal environments.



**13) Malaita Province, Solomon Island**  
**Location:** Lau Lagoon, Ontong Java and Sikaiana Atolls **Area:** Lau Lagoon comprises 60 man-made islands within a 35km stretch of land. Ontong Java comprises 122 small coral islands with a land area of 1,400 km<sup>2</sup>. Sikaiana comprises four reef islands 14 km in length with 2 km<sup>2</sup> of coral reefs. **Population:** Lau Lagoon - 1,500 people Ontong Java - 2,000 people Sikaiana - 300 people **Biodiversity Features:** Lau Lagoon is known for its dolphins, Ontong Java is famous for producing trochus shells and beche de mer from sea cucumbers and Sikaiana is a rich fishing ground. **US CTI** supported Malaita Province from Year 1-Year 3 of the program providing technical support and capacity building programs in sustainable fisheries, marine protected area management and climate change adaptation.

