



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

The CTI-CFF countries:



Development partners:



We are for the wold, what the world can offer

**The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security:
A Platform for Delivering on the Rio+20 UN Conference on
Sustainable Development Commitments**

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A Platform for Delivering on the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development Commitments^{*)}

Presented by Dr. Suseno Sukoyono^{)}**

At Paviliun Indonesia on Tuesday, June 19th, 2012 time 2.00PM – 3.00PM.

Introduction:

The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) was launched in May 2009 with an ambitious and visionary 10-year Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to safeguard the region's marine and coastal biological resources. The establishment of the CTI-CFF has created a powerful platform for collaboration to deliver national and regional commitments on all multilateral conventions relevant for fisheries, oceans, biodiversity and climate.

Known as The Nursery of the Seas, the Coral Triangle is the most diverse marine region on the planet, matched in its importance to life on Earth only by the Amazon rainforest and the Congo Basin. No other place is as rich and varied as the Coral Triangle. Encompassing all or parts of the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of six countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste, it is home to more than 360 million people, 76% of all known coral species and over 3,000 fish species. Numerous species of marine turtles, cetaceans, shark, hump-head wrasse and other regional or global flagship species live within and migrate through these waters.

The Coral Triangle's vast marine resources are critical for both economic and food security, and as a global biodiversity conservation priority. The resources directly sustain the lives of more than 120 million people living in coastal areas and millions more globally, providing a range of essential goods and services that include wild catch fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, coastal protection, and transport. Tuna spawning and nursery grounds in the CT support a multi-billion dollar globalized tuna industry, are part of the largest tuna fishery in the world and have high-volume exports to

^{*)} this paper was prepared by the CTI-CFF Countries and development partners.

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Europe, North America and Asia. Healthy coral reef areas and associated species, including sea turtles and sharks, are a major national and international attraction in a growing nature-based tourism industry, generating billions of dollars annually. The region also holds incredible cultural diversity. While there are over 2,000 languages spoken across these waters, all of these cultures share a strong and essential traditional connection to the sea.

The leaders of the six Coral Triangle countries recognized that the economy, food security and the livelihoods of the people living in the region, were under threat from a range of impacts on the oceans and coasts, including climate change, unsustainable fishing practices, pollution, and ocean acidification. This provided the catalyst for the leaders to work together on a common platform for sustainable management of marine resources in the Coral Triangle. The CTI-CFF and its Regional Plan of Action together with the National Plans of Action for the six countries, provides an effective platform for regional collaboration and national priority delivery of critical marine commitments made through various multilateral environmental agreements including the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development.

Development partners including the Global Environment Facility, Asian Development Bank, USAID, the Australian Government and International NGOs including WWF, Conservation International and The Nature Conservancy have also included in their own programmes, strategies enabling them to interact in a regional manner and harness appropriate resources for this regional endeavour. The CTI member countries are currently focused on implementing regional priorities, and simultaneously forging ahead with their national priorities.

CTI-CFF as a Mechanism for Delivering UNCSD Outcomes:

On June 20-22, the “Rio+20” Conference on Sustainable Development will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It will be a significant global event in ongoing international efforts to achieve sustainable development. The Conference will focus on (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development with seven areas of priority attention such as decent jobs, energy, sustainable cities, food security and sustainable agriculture, water, oceans and disaster readiness. As awareness of these issues has increased in the last decades, governments in the Coral Triangle region have established a set of new multilateral cooperation mechanisms focused more sharply on marine and coastal resources. The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) was launched in May 2009 with an ambitious and visionary 10-year Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to safeguard the region’s marine and coastal biological resources.

As commitments in the RPOA are implemented through national level action plans and regional collaboration, Coral Triangle countries and their development partners anticipate achieving tangible and measurable improvements in the health of the region’s marine and coastal ecosystems, in the status of its fisheries, and in the food security and well-being of the communities which depend on them. The marine and coastal ecosystems of the region provide significant actual and potential economic benefits to the over 360 million people in the region, and the millions who live outside the region but rely on the benefits from the marine resources from the Coral Triangle.

As a result of the current negotiations by UNCSD Parties in the lead up to Rio+20 in June, there are a number of important priorities which reflect key thematic actions and commitments which will be the focus on negotiations around oceans and coastal marine resource governance. The international community has emphasised the important links between sustainable economic growth,

poverty eradication, food security and sustainable livelihoods, while at the same time protecting biodiversity and the marine environment, and adapting to climate change.

These important linkages between healthy oceans and coasts with sustainable economic development, poverty eradication, food security and sustainable livelihoods, have also been recognized in the CTI-CFF. Therefore, strategically, the CTI-CFF has developed goals and regional priority actions aimed at addressing the major threats to the Coral Triangle's marine biodiversity and resources many of which are common threats faced around the globe. The strategies developed to achieve the Coral Triangle Initiative objectives are also demonstratively effective actions which are helping to achieve Rio commitments made 20 years ago and are strategically placed to deliver on new emerging priorities in the lead up to Rio+20. The following section identifies some of these emerging priorities for the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development and the strategies employed through the CTI-CFF which are already being developed or implemented and will help to address those priorities.

Rio+20 Emerging Priorities and the CTI –CFF Strategies

- 1. *Rio +20 Emerging Priorities:*** Support international cooperation and frameworks directed at both conserving and realizing the social and economic benefits of coral reefs, such as the Coral Triangle Initiative.

CTI-CFF Strategies:

- In 2009, the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste launched the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security and endorsed a Regional Plan of Action to conserve and sustainably manage coastal and marine resources within the Coral Triangle region. Each of the national governments has developed corresponding National Plans of Action towards achieving the goals of the CTI-CFF and deliver national priorities.*
- Agreed to the establishment of a permanent CT Regional Secretariat to be hosted in Indonesia.*
- Established a CT Financial Resources Working Group which is developing a Financial Resources Strategy to support investment in the implementation of the Regional and National Plans of Action.*
- Secured approximately 400 million USD in investment from development partners including the US and Australian governments, Asian Development Bank, Global Environment Facility and consortium of NGO partners WWF, CI and TNC.*

- 2. *Rio +20 Emerging Priorities:*** Maintain the productivity and biodiversity of marine and coastal ecosystems; and conservation, sustainable management and equitable sharing of marine and ocean resources.

CTI-CFF Strategies:

- Establishing priority seascapes as a focus for cooperative management of coastal and marine resources and for targeted investments in sustainable management of these areas. Priority seascapes help guide international and domestic funding, the establishment of effective partnerships and for guiding governmental policy actions.*

- *A Seascapes Model Guide Book on "How to Select, Develop and Implement Seascapes" has been drafted by with support for the US and Conservation International.*
- *The Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion and the Arafura Timor Sea Marine Ecoregion are two priority seascapes for the focus of national and regional level actions. Sustainable financing scoping studies of the SSME MPAs have been completed for Malaysia and Indonesia with the Philippines component to be undertaken in FY12 with the assistance of WWF.*
- *Malaysia is largely focusing its CTI NPOA on implementation in Sabah as part of the SSME Seascape.*
- *Improving the status of threatened species such as sharks, sea turtles, seabirds, marine mammals, corals, seagrasses, mangroves and other identified threatened species through measures such as developing and implementing region-wide conservation action plans, protecting critical habitats, addressing international trade impacts and reducing by-catch related to commercial fishing operations.*
- *PNG has nominated Kimbe Bay as a high priority and pilot demonstration site, and is applying actions from 4 of the 5 CTI goals, already completing a series of consultation workshops with provincial and local governments, social mapping exercises and habitat (catchment) mapping. These activities will be replicated in Manus province.*

3. Rio +20 Emerging Priorities: A holistic and integrated approach to the governance of oceans, seas and coasts through the use of the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach as guiding principles and the development of cross-sectoral policy tools and approaches such as Integrated Coastal Zone Management .

CTI-CFF Strategies:

- *The CT 6 countries prioritised applying the Ecosystem Approach to Management of Fisheries (EAFM) and to other marine resources by collaborating to develop a common regional framework for legislation and policy that would support EAFM.*
- *An EAFM Legislative and Policy Framework is being developed and regional exchanges have been conducted for shared learning and capacity building for Local Government and Fisheries Management agencies on EAFM.*
- *SEAFDEC, FAO, US/NOAA are collaborating to develop an EAFM training program and curriculum.*
- *On the national level national governments are taking steps to incorporate EAFM in fisheries programmes and legislation. Indonesia has passed several new regulations and Fisheries Management Plans are being developed applying EAFM. A moratorium on certain gears is likely to be set in place, a new multi-stakeholder forum to support EAFM in 11 fisheries management areas, and a set of indicators for EAFM.*
- *In the Philippines, EAFM principles are being applied in the Live Reef Food Fish Trade industry in Palawan, with local government investing in management and enforcement.*

- *Timor-Leste has adopted the LMMA (Locally Managed Marine Area) approach and program in order to integrate traditional knowledge and management and empowering local communities to manage their own resources and for applying EAFM in its seascapes and marine managed areas.*

4. Rio +20 Emerging Priorities: Maintain or restore depleted fish stocks, reduce over fishing and eliminate destructive as well as harmful fishing practices

CTI-CFF Strategies:

- *Building sustainable fisheries and encouraging responsible regional governance of key commercial species such as tuna and live reef food fish.*
- *In 2010 Malaysia hosted representatives from the six CT countries plus experts and partners to define regional-level collective actions for achieving more effective management and a more sustainable trade in live-reef food fish in the Coral Triangle. Key messages from the workshop were then delivered to an APEC Workshop on the Live Reef Food Fish Trade.*
- *Work is underway to scope the development of a CTI multi-stakeholder forum with the aim of improving the sustainability of the Live Reef Food Fish Trade. The forum will provide a venue for agreement on issues and impacts of the Live Reef Food Fish Trade and for developing collaborative solutions. It will provide a collective voice for interactions between CT6 producer countries and market countries and the non-CT private sector.*
- *Indonesia has taken steps to improve sustainable livelihoods related to fisheries. This includes creating revolving fund schemes and several livelihood programs for developing integrated coastal villages to achieve sustainable fisheries, developed restocking programs (“One Man-One Thousand Fries Program”) and is developing certification and best practices. In relation to tuna stocks and sustainability, Indonesia has initiated activities involving tagging, a cold-chain system, and monitoring and also has a focus on enhancing sustainable Live Reef Food Fish and ornamentals trade. It is finalizing and implementing a management plan for the Banggai Cardinal Fish, and is working on data bases for these fisheries and developing a strategic plan for the LRFT.*

5. Rio +20 Emerging Priorities: Combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by adopting and implementing effective tools, in accordance with international law;

CTI-CFF Strategies:

- *Improve enforcement of Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing through greater collaboration between the Coral Triangle countries.*
- *NOAA is supporting the CT6 to build capacity for collaboration on improved enforcement against IUU fishing. In-country and international training and consultations have been conducted and a review of the status of legal frameworks and capacity for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance has been completed and priority needs identified*
- *Indonesia has enacted legislation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.*

6. **Rio +20 Emerging Priorities:** Improve transparency and accountability in fisheries management by regional fisheries management organizations.

CTI-CFF Strategies:

- *Creation of the Coral Triangle Fishers Forum (CTFF), which brings together representatives from the fisheries sector ranging from community fishers to industrial scale fisheries, marketers and retailers. The CTFF is a potential vehicle for inputting policy recommendations on governance and management measures to the Indian Ocean and Western and Central Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organizations.*

7. **Rio +20 Emerging Priorities:** Create representative and resilient networks of Marine Protected Areas that protect and enhance biodiversity and are based on the best available scientific information.

CTI-CFF Strategies:

- *Establishing and managing a regional MPA network of prioritized individual MPAs and networks of MPAs that are connected, resilient, sustainably financed, and designed to generate income, sustain livelihoods, and provide food security benefits for coastal communities while conserving biological diversity.*
- *A framework and objectives for a CTI Marine Protected Area Network based on common principles is being developed.*
- *The Coral Triangle Atlas (www.reefbase.org) has been developed as an information system to track MPAs in the region.*
- *Capacity building and training has been undertaken to increase MPA Management Effectiveness*
- *Timor Leste has established an MPA within Nino Konis Santana National Park based on government and traditional law.*
- *In the Philippines, MPA achievements include: Creation of Enforcement Network in Batangas and Mindoro provinces and which are supported through agreements, including 12 municipalities with 33 MPAs in Batangas and 8 municipalities with 15 MPAs in Oriental Mindoro. In Verde Passage, mangroves have been rehabilitated and a SMART (Climate-Sustainably Managed Adaptive Resilient and Retargeted) MPA Network established with 1150 hectares, with a larger area (12255 ha) as a no-take zone or “fishery reserve”. A tool for assessing MPA management effectiveness was developed and is being tested, with a new MPA around Tubbataha Reefs established.*
- *Solomon Islands has developed a model for Community Based Resource Management and is looking to begin implementation in the latter part of 2012 as a means for co-management of coastal and marine resources including inshore fisheries.*

8. **Rio +20 Emerging Priorities:** Improve understanding of climate change impacts, including ocean acidification, on marine and coastal ecosystems and to build their resilience to these impacts.

CTI-CFF Strategies:

- *Developing and applying Climate Change Adaptation measures to address the expected impacts of climate change and to improve the resilience of communities, livelihoods, MPAs, coastal and marine resource systems, fisheries, and associated ecosystems.*
- *The Solomon Islands hosted the 2011 CTI Regional Exchange on Climate Change Adaptation Implementation which played a critical role in the development of the Region-wide Early Action Plan for Climate Change Adaption for the near-shore marine and coastal environment and small island ecosystems*
- *Timor-Leste has completed its National Adaptation Plan of Action and a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.*
- *As part of the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape a Vulnerability Assessment on the Verde Island Passage was conducted to assess the vulnerability of communities – and the marine biodiversity upon which they depend – to the effects of climate change so that adaptation plans can be developed. ICSEACChange VA tool for site-based application was developed in partnership with MERF. The tool is being rolled out by CTSP partners oriented and trained on the use of the tool. The VA tool was pilot-tested in Calatagan, Batangas.*
- *A series of training courses on Climate Change Adaptation for Coastal Communities and the Training of Trainers were held in Papua New Guinea, These regional exchanges have helped strengthen national government, local government, and assisting organization teams to identify climate change risks and assess adaptation options for critical coastal infrastructure, habitats and vulnerable segments in an integrated coastal management context.*
- *In Indonesia the CTI has helped to link the CCA program in the Ministry of Marine Affairs with the CCA program in the Ministry of Environment, with new joint activities. A roadmap to mainstream climate change issues in the National Development Plan is underway and there are now climate-change disaster resilient pilot projects on the ground. In addition, Indonesia is joining the Global Ocean Observing System with establishment of its own hardware stations, and is working on the ground with communities on awareness and remote sensing training.*

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development is an important event for CTI-CFF countries, because it captures the joint priorities and commitments of the governments, and reflects their regional and national plans of action. The corresponding themes and priority attentions in Rio+20 present an opportunity for CTI-CFF as a collaborative framework to speed up implementation and action on coral reef, fisheries and food security related issues. The marine and coastal ecosystems of the region provide significant actual and potential economic benefits to over 360 million people in the region, and many more beyond the region. With its focus on “people centred biodiversity conservation”, CTI countries are keen to discuss and work with other participants to be able to deliver a strong outcome for oceans, fisheries and biodiversity in light of their economic, social and environmental significance.

The private sector, a critical stakeholder and partner in the sustainable management, use and protection of oceans, coasts and marine resources, are now an integral part of the CTI-CFF. Industry engagement first became a major focus in 2010 through two CTI events - the CTI Business Forum and the Coral Triangle Fishers Forum. These events have resulted in significant commitments from the business sector and national governments to improving business practices and governance policies aimed at improving sustainability of fish stocks and the fishing industry in a number of Coral Triangle countries. In 2011, the CTI countries moved towards establishing a Coral Triangle Business Council which will provide a mechanism for direct engagement with key industry sectors for policy advice, information sharing and collaboration on sustainable business practices.

Government processes developed in past years, are ready now for supporting various roles for regional collaboration. The six Coral Triangle countries are already exchanging lessons and approaches, building capacity of government agencies, NGOs, coastal communities and the fishing sector for improved marine resource management. They are already collaborating for conservation priority setting on Climate Change Adaptation, Ecosystem Approaches to Fisheries Management, for Seascapes and Marine Protected and Marine Managed Areas. New platforms are being developed for Coral Triangle communications and promotion, knowledge management and sharing, and sustainable financing.

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