



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



CHAIR'S SUMMARY

16th SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING

13-16 December 2021 via ZOOM

adopted on 16th of December 2021

by

the Governments of Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, Independent State of
Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and
Timor-Leste

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The 16th Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM-16) of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) was conducted via the ZOOM online platform on 13-16 December 2021.
2. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), H.E. Dr. Melchior Mataki, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology of the Government of Solomon Islands.
3. The objectives of the SOM-16 were:
 - i. To acknowledge the SOM-16 Chair's Report
 - ii. To acknowledge the 2021 Country Reports
 - iii. To acknowledge the address delivered by the Executive Director of the Regional Secretariat
 - iv. To deliberate and endorse the reports and recommendations of the Governance Working Groups, Technical Working Groups and Cross-Cutting Initiatives
 - v. To acknowledge Partners' Presentation and endorse the recommendations
 - vi. To review and endorse the 8th Joint Ministerial Statement
 - vii. To review and endorse the SOM-16 Chair's Summary

CHAIR'S SUMMARY: DECISIONS

SESSION 1: OPENING CEREMONY

- 1.1. Acknowledged the Opening Remarks of the Chair of the CSO, Dr. Melchior Mataki, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology of the Government of Solomon Islands (Annex 1);
- 1.2. Acknowledged the participation of the Heads of Delegation and representatives of the CT6 Member Countries, CTI-CFF Partners and Regional Secretariat (Annex 2); and
- 1.3. Adopted the revised Agenda of SOM-16 (Annex 3).

SESSION 2: CHAIR'S REPORT

- 2.1 Acknowledged and accepted the Chair's Report (Annex 4) and recognized the observations from the Chair on (1) challenges on finalizing the Host Country Agreement (HCA) and Regional Plan of Action (RPOA 2.0); (2) need clarity on the issues for CSO Chair and RS to address; (3) need to strengthen and make RS independent to implement programmed activities; and (4) need to explore other funding modalities to support RPOA 2.0 apart from country contributions.

SESSION 3: COUNTRY REPORTS

- 3.1 Acknowledged the Country Reports of the CT6 Member Countries (Annex 5) and noted common issues such as challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, constraints on budget and finance and the prioritization of Regional and National Plans of Actions.

SESSION 4: ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RS

- 4.1 Acknowledged the address of Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin, Executive Director of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat (Annex 6) and recognized the efforts of RS in carrying out the activities of CTI-CFF despite the global pandemic.

SESSION 5: INTERNAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Acknowledged and accepted the report of the Internal Resources Committee (Annex 7);
- 5.2 Acknowledged the country focal points to the IRC (Annex 8);

Annual Report

- 5.3 Tasked the Regional Secretariat to incorporate 2020 Country Reports from Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands into the 2020 Annual Report;
- 5.4 Acknowledged and accepted the 2021 Progress Report (Annex 9) and tasked the Regional Secretariat to prepare and submit the 2021 Annual Report; and
- 5.5 Noted the Annual Reports of 2020 and 2021 shall be launched during the celebration of the Coral Triangle Day in June 2022.

Finance

- 5.6 Acknowledged the fund utilization report (unaudited) amounting to **USD \$603,685 or 55.23%** of the total 2021 approved budget amounting to USD \$1,093,023 as of 30 November 2021 due to incoming country contributions;
- 5.7 Acknowledged the status of 2021 Country Contributions (Annex 10) and noted the updates from member countries regarding their country contribution;
- 5.8 Approved the proposed 2022 budget of the Regional Secretariat of CTI-CFF amounting to USD 1,009,140, exclusive of the 2021 estimated budget surplus amounting to USD \$196,543;
- 5.9 Acknowledged the update on the status of the Restricted Fund for investment in the amount of USD \$ 467,526 as of 30 November 2021 (Annex 11);
- 5.10 Agreed that the 2021 surplus shall be carried forward to 2022 budget and approved that the 2022 Country Contribution (Annex 12) shall be calculated against the total budget amounting to USD \$812,597 subject to change after 2021 Financial Audit;
- 5.11 Acknowledged the preparation and timeline regarding the 2021 Audit and tasked the Regional Secretariat to appoint an external auditor to conduct an audit of the 2021 financial performance based on CTI-CFF Financial regulations; and

5.12 Acknowledged the challenges in completing the Audit Report and tasked the Regional Secretariat to complete the audited financial statements by end of April 2022.

Regulations, Policies and Procedures

5.13 Endorsed the revised CTI-CFF Financial Regulations (Annex 13);

5.14 Endorsed the amendments of the CTI-CFF Staff Regulations (Annex 14); and

5.15 Endorsed the amendments of the CTI-CFF Staff Policies and Procedures Manual (SPPM) (Annex 15) along with the proposed per diem, establishment allowance and housing allowance.

Human Resource

5.16 Endorsed the proposed Salary Scale Improvement (Annex 16);

5.17 Acknowledged the IRC's proposed annual fixed salary increment (Annex 17) however agreed to postpone any annual fixed salary increment due to the Covid-19 pandemic; and

5.18 Approved the proposed 2022 RS Organizational Structure (Annex 18) with the added new position, Data Compilation and Documentation Officer and noted that the original position titles shall be retained.

SOM-17 and Leaders' Summit

5.19 Acknowledged and endorsed that SOM-17 shall be conducted virtually in the 4th Quarter of 2022 and noted the recommendation that the Leaders' Summit shall be held in 2023;

Participation in International Events

5.20 Noted the presentation of some international events that could be attended by the RS/CTI-CFF in 2022 for enhancement of CTI-CFF visibility;

Chairship

5.21 Noted that the Chairship of the IRC shall be the Chair of the CSO or an individual nominated and authorized by the current Chair of CSO for the period of 2022-2023; and co-chaired by the Co-Chair of the CSO (or an individual nominated and authorized by the Co-Chair of CSO for the afore-mentioned period based on the TOR of the IRC; and

5.22 Acknowledged and appreciated the excellent chairship of Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste as the Co-Chair of the Internal Resource Committee for the period of 2019-2021.

SESSION 6: FINANCIAL RESOURCES WORKING GROUP

- 6.1 Acknowledged and accepted the report of the Financial Resources Working Group (Annex 19);
- 6.2 Appreciated and thanked the roles of Indonesia, Mr. Andre Omer Siregar as Chair of FRWG (2017-2019), and Malaysia, Dr. K. Nagulendran as Vice-Chair of FRWG (2017-2019; 2019-2021) for facilitating the crucial work of FRWG;
- 6.3 Accepted Indonesia and Malaysia to remain as Chair and Vice-Chair based on a consensus election result in the 29 April 2020 meeting and acknowledged the new Chair of FRWG, Mr. T.B.H Witjaksono Adji from Indonesia and Vice-Chair of FRWG, Dato' Jana Santhiran Muniayan from Malaysia for the period of 2021 – 2022;
- 6.4 Acknowledged the Country Focal Points to the FRWG (Annex 20) and the Technical Committee to CTI-CFF Trust Fund (Annex 21);
- 6.5 Recognized the need to assist CT6 Countries in their communication if virtual meetings for CTI-CFF activities shall be pursued due to COVID-19 pandemic to ensure full participation in all CTI-CFF activities/meetings;
- 6.6 Accepted the Revised Project Preparation Facility and endorsed the new proposed name as Project Preparation Flowchart (Annex 22) as discussed in the FRWG Meeting on 9 November 2020.
- 6.7 Acknowledged the draft Financial Strategy of the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action 2.0 and to include the costing estimates of the RPOA 2.0 (Annex 23);
- 6.8 Acknowledged the updates on the CTI-CFF Regional Conservation Trust Fund and appreciated the support provided by the Wildlife Conservation Society and Conservation Finance Alliance as well as the European Union and German Development Bank (KfW); and
- 6.9 Approved the proposed workplan and budget for 2022 of the FRWG.

SESSION 7: MONITORING & EVALUATION WORKING GROUP

- 7.1 Acknowledged and accepted the report of Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (Annex 24).

Draft RPOA 2.0

- 7.2 Acknowledged and appreciated the progress of the draft RPOA 2.0 (Annex 25) and task the Regional Secretariat to conduct an online writeshop to finalise the content/narrative of the Regional Plan of Action 2.0. by 2nd quarter of 2022;
- 7.3 Acknowledged and appreciated the support statement by the CTI Partners during the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group Meeting back-to-back with Regional Plan of

Action 2.0 Writeshop and the Continuation of Regional Plan of Action 2.0 Writeshop. Noted the need for Financial Strategy and Communication Strategy to accompany the Regional Plan of Action 2.0;

7.4 Tasked the Regional Secretariat to prepare a new Roadmap for the Completion of the RPOA 2.0 by 1st Quarter of 2022;

7.5 Tasked the Secretariat to continue the discussion with CT6 on the institutional set up of the RS by 2nd Quarter of 2022; and

7.6 Recommended to launch the Regional Plan of Action 2.0 and a CTI-CFF Regional Conservation Trust Fund (RCTF) during the 2nd CTI Leaders' Summit, and noted the intention of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia to launch the new Host Country Agreement in the said Summit.

Monitoring and Evaluation

7.7 Approved the revised M&E Data Collection and Information Sharing Mechanism and M&E Plan Framework template (Annex 26.a. and Annex 26.b.) and tasked the Regional Secretariat to organize a webinar to fine-tune the draft M&E Data Collection and Information Sharing Mechanism and complete the M&E Plan Framework by 2nd Quarter to 3rd Quarter; and

7.8 Tasked the Regional Secretariat to conduct an online M&E Writeshop on M&E Plan framework, back-to back with the webinar on M&E Data Collection and Information Sharing Mechanism.

CT Atlas

7.9 Acknowledged and appreciated the update of the CT Atlas. (link: <http://ctatlas.coraltriangleinitiative.org/>); and encouraged NCCs and RS to utilize the platform.

7.10 Acknowledged and appreciated the No Cost Extension (NCE) provided by the WorldFish for the agreement on CT Atlas migration, and the GIS expert assistance up to December 2020 for the correction/updating the MPA data on the CT Atlas Database for NCCs.

SUFIA LCD Activity

7.11 Acknowledged and appreciated the support of the USAID –SUFIA RTI in engaging with and seeking support from the private sector in the improvement of CT Atlas features and technologies; and

7.12 Noted and accepted the incorporation of SUFIA activities into the MEWG workplan 2022 for implementation.

Marine Litter

7.13 Acknowledged the progress by WWF on proposed draft Terms of Reference and proposed draft Implementation Plan on CTI-CFF Marine Plastic Stocktake;

- 7.14 Noted the progress of the marine plastic pollution stocktake report by WWF (Annex 27) and acknowledged the Coral Triangle Plastic Pollution Stocktake report as a working draft;
- 7.15 Tasked the RS to circulate the working draft report to the NCCs and Strategic Partners for feedback by 31 March 2022; and
- 7.16 Tasked WWF/RS to circulate the working draft and revise the working draft according to feedback submitted by 31 March 2022 and prepare the final stocktake report for publication and launch by 30 June 2022.

MEWG Workplan

- 7.17 Approved the 2022 Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group Work Plan (Annex 28).

MEWG Change in Chair

- 7.18 Endorsed the handover of the MEWG Chair from Philippines to Malaysia and Co-Chair from Malaysia to Papua New Guinea based on the provisions stipulated in the Terms of Reference of the CTI-CFF MEWG (Annex 29); and
- 7.19 Acknowledged and appreciated the excellent chairship of Philippines as Chair and Malaysia as Co-Chair of the MEWG Working Group for the period of 2019-2021.

SESSION 8: TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

Seascope Working Group

- 8.1 Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by Seascope Working Group (Annex 30);
- 8.2 Agreed the Sub-Regional Working Groups for Priority Seascope (Annex 31), Sulu-Sulawesi Priority Seascope Sub-Regional Working Group Terms of Reference (Annex 32), Terms of References for Lesser Sunda Priority Seascope Sub-Regional Working Group (Annex 33) and Bismarck Solomon Sea Ecoregion Priority Seascope Sub-Regional Working Group (Annex 34);
- 8.3 Acknowledged and appreciated the support of USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership to the Regional Planning and Consultative Workshop for Priority Seascapes (In conjunction with the EAFM SSS Planning and the Regional Strategic Action Plan);
- 8.4 Acknowledged and appreciated the update on SOMACORE project by the Seascope Working Group (Annex 35a & b), and requested GIZ to officially update and discuss with each CT6 NCCs and SWG particularly on the Steering structure and management of the project once it is approved;

- 8.5 Acknowledged and appreciated the update on the proposal of University of Queensland, CI Philippines and UNDP on the *Seascope Approach to Securing Coral Reef Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope* Strategic Action Plan;
- 8.6 Agreed to endorse the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) on *Seascope Approach to Securing Coral Reef Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope* (Annex 36);
- 8.7 Urged the NCCs (IN, MY) to procure the Federal/National Ministerial level signatures for the SAP on *Seascope Approach to Securing Coral Reef Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope* (Annex 37) as well as the GEF Country Nodes signatures for the PIF to the SAP on *Seascope Approach to Securing Coral Reef Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope* (Annex 38);
- 8.8 Acknowledged and appreciated the support of USAID RDMA through the Sustainable Fish Asia (SuFIA) project and programs related to Seascope;
- 8.9 Acknowledged the current situation caused by the Covid-19 Global Pandemic which affects the Seascope Working Group to implement the Work Plan of 2020;
- 8.10 Noted the postponement of the 7th Seascope Working Group Meeting back-to-back with Seascope Working Group Regional Exchange to be undertaken in 2022;
- 8.11 Approved the Seascope Working Group 2022 Workplan (Annex 39);
- 8.12 Supported the recommendations of the Seascapes Working Group to turn over the Chair from Malaysia to Papua New Guinea and the turnover of the Co-Chair from Solomon Islands to Timor-Leste, based on the provisions stipulated in the Rules of Procedure of the CTI-CFF Seascapes Working Group (Annex 40); and
- 8.13 Acknowledged and appreciated the excellent chairship of Dr Norasma Dacho from Malaysia as Chair and Ms Agnetha Vave-Karamui from Solomon Islands as Co-Chair of the Seascapes Working Group for the period of 2018 – 2020.

EAFM Working Group

- 8.14 Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by EAFM Working Group (Annex 41);
- 8.15 Acknowledged and appreciated the support of USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership to the Planning Workshop on Implementation of Sub-Regional Plan in Sulu Sulawesi Seascope (Annex 42);
- 8.16 Acknowledged and appreciated the support of the USAID RDMA and recognized the implementation of Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) Local Capacity Development Activity and programs related to fisheries;
- 8.17 Acknowledged and appreciated the update on the proposal by Professor Peter Mumby of University of Queensland and his work together with CI Philippines on the *Seascope*

Approach to Securing Coral Reef Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Strategic Action Plan (Annex 43).

- 8.18 Acknowledged the recommendation of the EAFM Working Group to handover the Chair from Timor-Leste to Malaysia and the handover of the Co-Chair from Malaysia to Papua New Guinea, based on the provisions stipulated in the Rules of Procedure of the CTI-CFF EAFM Working Group (Annex 44);
- 8.19 Acknowledged and appreciated the excellent chairship of Dr Jose Lucas da Silva from Timor-Leste as Chair and Dr Norasma Dacho from Malaysia as Co-Chair of the EAFM Working Group for the period of 2018 – 2020; and
- 8.20 Approved the EAFM WG 2022 Workplan (Annex 45).

MPA Working Group

- 8.21 Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by MPA Working Group (Annex 46);
- 8.22 Acknowledged and appreciated the CT6 Member Countries for the submission of their nominations for the Sustainable Marine Tourism Task Force focal points and project pilot sites (Annex 47);
- 8.23 Agreed to postpone to 2022 the CTMPAS 3rd Round of Nomination for Categories 3 and 4, and the Award for Categories 1 to 4, due to COVID situation;
- 8.24 Agreed on the final list of External Review Panel (Annex 48);
- 8.25 Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of the Virtual Learning Exchange Event on the Ocean Governance project on 3-5 November 2021 organized by the European Union, WWF and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and recommended to endorse the WWF-EU Ocean Governance project (Annex 49);
- 8.26 Acknowledged and appreciated the inputs and suggestions from MPA Working Group members for the potential collaborative activities with Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR);
- 8.27 Acknowledged and appreciated the WorldFish Consultants for their technical assistance to the Regional Secretariat to correct Indonesia NCC MPA data in CT Atlas until December 2020 and encouraged other NCCs to also provide their data and conduct the correction with the Regional Secretariat;
- 8.28 Supported the recommendation of the MPA Working Group to handover the Chair from Solomon Islands to Timor-Leste and the handover of the Co-chair from Timor-Leste to

Indonesia, based on the provision stipulated in the rules and procedure of the CTI-CFF MPA Working Group (Annex 50);

8.29 Acknowledged and appreciated the excellent chairship of Mr. Peter Husiáú'ana Kenilorea from Solomon Islands as Chair and Mr. Orlando Halek Kalis from Timor-Leste as Co-Chair of the MPA Working Group for the period of 2019 – 2021;

8.30 Approved the MPA Working Group 2022 Work Plan (Annex 51); and

8.31 Acknowledged PNG to host the Virtual MPA Regional Exchange in 2022.

CCA Working Group

8.32 Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by CCA Working Group (Annex 52);

8.33 Acknowledged the draft Climate Change Communique noting that it would be further discussed in the working group (Annex 53);

8.34 Acknowledged the progress of the webpage for the virtual Center of Excellence (COE) and tasked the Regional Secretariat to work with CCA working group to finalize the draft webpage (link: <http://vcoe.coraltriangleinitiative.org/>);

8.35 Agreed to hold online events in 2022 for the 7th Regional Exchange back-to-back with 7th CCA Working Group Meetings due to the COVID pandemic situation;

8.36 Acknowledged the support of the USAID/RDMA through the Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) project to support the activities of the CCA Working Group;

8.37 Supported the recommendations of the CCA Working Group to handover the Chair from the Philippines to Papua New Guinea and the handover of the Co-Chair from Papua New Guinea to Indonesia;

8.38 Appreciated the active contributions of Commissioner Noel Antonio V. Gaerlan as Chair from the Philippines and Co-Chair Ms. Luanne Losi-Yawingu of Papua New Guinea for the period of 2018-2021; and

8.39 Approved the CCA Working Group 2022 Workplan (Annex 54).

Threatened Species Working Group

8.40 Acknowledged and accepted the report of the Threatened Species Working Group (Annex 55);

- 8.41 Encouraged the CT6 Member Countries to complete their National Assessment Report and Conservation Plan for Threatened Species by April 2022, to enable the Regional Assessment Report and Regional Conservation Plan to be compiled by the Regional Secretariat;
- 8.42 Acknowledged and appreciated the support of World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in finalizing the Distribution Map of Threatened Species from CT6 Member Countries for CT Atlas, which has been uploaded by Regional Secretariat on the CT Atlas and for conducting the Training for Trainers on Rapid Assessment Toolkit (RAT) for Shark and Rays and MPA for Sharks in April 2021;
- 8.43 Acknowledged and appreciated the finalized List of Threatened Species Pool of Experts on the draft webpage of CTI List of Experts;
- 8.44 Appreciated the Regional Secretariat's efforts to coordinate with IUCN SSC for submission of the Threatened Species List of Pool of Expert and encouraged the Threatened Species Experts to individually apply/register at this IUCN SSC link: <https://bit.ly/35ghuzX>;
- 8.45 Acknowledged the opportunity under the TRIPOD Project (Annex 56) for three of the CT6 Member Countries (Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines), and tasked the Regional Secretariat to work with WWF and TRIPOD Partners' to explore CTI-CFF's participation in Project TRIPOD for the remaining CT countries (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste)';
- 8.46 Appreciated the excellent contribution of Mr Vagi Rei as Chair from Papua New Guinea and Co-Chair Mr Andi Rusandi of Indonesia for the period of 2018-2021; and
- 8.47 Approved the TSWG 2022 Workplan (Annex 57).

SESSION 9: CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVES

Women Leaders' Forum

- 9.1 Acknowledged and accepted the Women Leaders' Forum report (Annex 58);
- 9.2 Acknowledged and accepted the nominations for WLF country focal points;
- 9.3 Accepted the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy (Annex 59);
- 9.4 Acknowledged and appreciated the excellent work by Dr Ria Fitriana as the consultant for the development of the GESI Policy; and further noted and agreed that the final deliverables of this assignment will be submitted to RS and WLF after SOM-16;

- 9.5 Acknowledged and appreciated the WLF partners for their excellent contributions to the development to the draft GESI Policy, and further agreed to the inclusion of GESI policy to any interventions or programs being implemented by the CTI-CFF;
- 9.6 Noted and accepted the incorporation of Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) activities from August to November 2021 into the WLF workplan 2021; and subsequently agreed to endorse SUFIA projects related to WLF and GESI Policy for 2022 implementation;
- 9.7 Appreciated the contribution of USAID RDMA towards the SUFIA activities to support the WLF and GESI implementation;
- 9.8 Agreed to change the WLF Secretariat from the Coral Triangle Center to CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat;
- 9.9 Agreed with the merging of the revised TORs of Chair and Co-chair of WLF (Annex 60);
- 9.10 Appreciated the active contributions by Ms. Agnetha Vave–Karamui of Solomon Islands as Chair (2018-2021), Ms Laura Whitford of TNC as WLF Co-Chair (2019-2021) for their excellent chair- and co-chairships, and Malaysia WLF Focal Point Dr. Aazani Mujahid who volunteered as Co-Chair, upon Ms Whitford’s withdrawal, from 24 February 2021 until SOM-16;
- 9.11 Endorsed the handover of chairship of the WLF Chair from Solomon Islands to Timor-Leste and WLF Co-Chair to the Coral Triangle Center, based on the provisions stipulated in the Rules of Procedure of the CTI-CFF WLF Working Group; and
- 9.12 Endorsed the WLF Workplan for 2022 (Annex 61).

Scientific Advisory Group/University Partnership

- 9.13 Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation on University Partnership and noted the CT List of Experts (Annex 62);
- 9.14 Acknowledged that the CT6 Member Countries prefer to have Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) based on the discussion in MEWG Meeting;
- 9.15 Acknowledged the progress on the draft webpage of CT list of experts and encourage the CT6 Member Countries to provide their comments (link: <http://ctexperts.coraltriangleinitiative.org/>); and
- 9.16 Agreed for Prof Grevo Gerung to continue his term as Chair of University Partnership for the next two years or until the next SOM.

Sustainable Business Forum

- 9.17 Acknowledged and accepted the report of the Sustainable Business Forum (SBF) (refer to Annex 63);
- 9.18 Acknowledged the country focal points to the SBF and noted that other member countries will submit their focal points;
- 9.19 Acknowledged the actions undertaken by the Regional Secretariat following SOM-15 Decisions (Annex 64);
- 9.20 Acknowledged and appreciated the support and cooperation of the Coral Triangle Center and World Wide Fund for Nature in developing the Concept Note for the SBF;
- 9.21 Acknowledged that the members of the SBF will ensure that the goals of the SBF is aligned with and will contribute to the goals, objectives and outcomes of the RPOA 2.0;
- 9.22 Acknowledged and accepted the workplan for 2022 of the SBF and encouraged CTI Partners to provide technical and funding support to the planned activities; and
- 9.23 Tasked the Regional Secretariat to coordinate and facilitate the creation of the Steering Committee and Task Force by CTC/WWF to ensure the implementation of the SBF activities.

SESSION 10: PARTNERS' PRESENTATION

International Policy

- 10.1 Acknowledged the presentation of the three (3) position papers namely, International Policy, Capacity Building and Conservation Trust Fund by the CTI Partners (Annex 65);
- 10.2 Acknowledged the objective of increasing the efficiency and relevance of the CTI by identifying and aligning with national policy frameworks and international frameworks such as CBD 30x30;
- 10.3 Agreed that the partners should proceed with an analysis of policy opportunities/events (e.g. those focused on ocean and coastal protection and management and/or climate change) and recommendations;
- 10.4 Requested the MEWG with Partners to examine how relevant policy framework can be leveraged; and
- 10.5 Tasked the RS to work with the Partners and CT6 to identify events that can show the synergy between the RPOA 2.0 and the complementary policy framework.

Capacity Building

- 10.6 Acknowledged the objective to develop institutional capacity to support international commitment to protect the coastal and marine resources (e.g. CBD 30x30 and other international framework);
- 10.7 Supported the development and implementation of a 10-year roadmap and partnerships to build human capital complementary to ongoing capacity building programs in the CT6;
- 10.8 Tasked the RS to establish a team with partners to conduct a regional capacity building assessment; and
- 10.9 Agreed to the development of innovative and cost-effective learning mechanisms for CTI-CFF that can be systematically scaled.

Conservation Trust Fund

- 10.10 Acknowledged the efforts outlined in the Partner paper to design, establish and operationalize a Regional Conservation Trust Fund;
- 10.11 Tasked the RS to invite additional Partners to support the Technical Advisory Group in the development of the Trust Fund;
- 10.12 Acknowledged the Technical Advisor Group's recommendations for the Trust Fund Mission, Strategic Objectives, and Governance Structure; and
- 10.13 Tasked the RS to work with Partners to design a resource mobilization plan, a pipeline of bankable projects, and increase the visibility of the Trust Fund to potential donors

USAID: Sustainable Fish Asia (SuFIA) Project

- 10.14 Acknowledged the implementation of SuFIA project as well as the consideration of USAID/RDMA Grant through PIO of USD 2 million for 3 years project to CTI-CFF; and
- 10.15 Acknowledged the SuFIA/TS as a new activity and the consideration of USAID (SuFIA/TS) of USD 10 million for 4 years project to CTI-CFF.

SESSION 11: 8th MINISTERIAL MEETING AGENDA AND THE DRAFT JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

- 11.1 Agreed and approved the agenda for the 8th Ministerial Meeting (Annex 66);
- 11.2 Agreed to review the application of the Maritime LGN to be CTI Partner in accordance with the sets of criteria for CTI Partners' as guided by the CTI-CFF rules and procedures (Rule 20) prior to be considered by COM;
- 11.3 Agreed to postpone the virtual 8th Ministerial Meeting on 16 December 2021 and rescheduled it on the First Quarter of 2022;

- 11.4 Reminded CT6 Member Countries to submit letter of credentials signed by the Minister if duly authorized representatives are to attend the Ministerial Meeting on behalf of the Minister in accordance with Rules of Procedures of CTI-CFF; and
- 11.5 Tasked the Regional Secretariat to circulate the draft Joint 8th Ministerial Meeting Statement to CT6 Member Countries and submit inputs to RS by mid-January 2022 as reference in revising the Ministerial Statement.

SESSION 12: COMPLETION OF THE TERM OF THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR PROGRAM SERVICES(DEDPS) AND UPDATE ON THE RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION OF THE NEW DEDPS

- 12.1 Appreciated the excellent contribution of Dr Sharifah Nora Asfiah Binti Syed Ibrahim as Deputy Executive Director of Program Services of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat for the term 15 November 2017 – 14 November 2021 (Annex 67). Her efforts to deliver high-quality work for the organization are commendable and CTI-CFF wishes her all the best as she charts a new chapter in her professional journey; and
- 12.2 Acknowledged the update on the recruitment and selection of the new Deputy Executive Director for Program Services (Annex 68) and tasked the Regional Secretariat to continue assisting the Appointment Committee that the Committee would best to meet as scheduled to complete recruitment and selection process.

CLOSING

Appreciated the support of the Government of Solomon Islands in the conduct of the virtual 16th Senior Officials Meeting and the excellent chairing of the meeting by the CSO Chair, Dr Melchior Mataki.

Acknowledged and appreciated the participation of the CT6 Member Countries and CTI-CFF partners which contributed to the successful conduct of the virtual SOM-16.

Appreciated the efforts and logistics support of the Regional Secretariat in the conduct of the virtual SOM-16.