



CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY

Annex –2
Decision Document on:
Seascapes Working Group and Priority Actions

The 9th CTI-CFF SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING (SOM9)

**26 - 27 NOVEMBER 2013
MANILA, PHILIPPINES**

**Adopted on 26th November 2013
by the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea,
The Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste**

I. Background

The Seascapes WG formally met only for the first time last 16-17 April 2013 in Bali, Indonesia, following the earlier adoption of its report and 2013-2014 work plan by the 8th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM8) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 22 November 2012. A key output of the Seascapes WG meeting is a Terms of Reference (ToR), which describes the Seascapes WG's establishment and mandate, activities and work plan, as well as seascapes that have been designated in the Coral Triangle region and their guiding principles and objectives (see Attachment 1).

The ToR notes the considerable progress made in seascapes management in several large marine managed areas in the region, particularly in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape, which encompasses portions of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines; Bird's Head Seascape in Indonesia; and Bismarck-Solomon Sea Ecoregion, which includes Solomon Islands, PNG, and Indonesia. Management arrangements have also been established to support some seascapes, such as the Arafura-Timor Sea Ecosystem Action Cooperative Program involving Timor-Leste, Indonesia and Australia.

Four other seascapes are identified in the ToR for the Seascapes WG to focus on. These are the West Philippine Sea Seascape in the Philippines, Lesser Sunda Seascape in Timor-Leste and Indonesia, Banda Seascape in Indonesia and the Bastunamata (Anambas-Natuna-Karimata) area, also in Indonesia. Because these areas vary in their characteristics and are at different stages of development and implementation, the ToR, pursuant to *Target 2 under Goal 1 of the CTI-CFF 2010-2020 Regional Plan of Action (RPOA)*, prescribes the development of a seascapes general model to provide guidance on the full and effective implementation of existing seascapes commitments throughout the CT6. Upon SOM approval of the general model, the ToR also mandates the Seascapes WG to develop a regional framework for the implementation of seascapes at regional and national levels.

Along those lines, the 2nd CTI-CFF RPW held in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia last 20-22 August 2013 also identified as priorities the adoption of a general model for the sustainable management of seascapes and the establishment of mechanisms for seascapes capacity building and learning. The Seascapes WG has taken the initiative to form an inter-sessional sub-committee to draft a general seascapes management model that will be presented to the SOM for endorsement. To support the establishment of a capacity building and learning mechanism for seascapes, the WG has also proposed the conduct of the 1st Seascapes Regional Exchange (REX) in Philippines and a 2nd REX in Papua New Guinea.

II. Decision

Based on the presentations made by the Seascapes WG and discussions during the session on *Thematic Working Group Reports (Seascapes and EAFM)* at SOM9, the Senior Officials hereby:

1. Acknowledge the progress report of the Seascapes WG;
2. Endorse in principle the adoption/approval of the Seascapes ToR;
3. Note the Seascapes WG's initiative to form an inter-sessional sub-committee to draft a general model for sustainable seascapes management, which will be presented in the next SOM;
4. Acknowledge the implementation of SSME as CTI priority seascape;
5. Endorse the Seascapes WG's priority actions and workplan.

References:

1. Seascapes WG Terms of Reference (ToR) and Work Plan for 2013 – 2014
2. Summary outputs from the first Seascapes WG Meeting, April 16-17, 2013, Bali, Indonesia
3. Summary Report: CTI-CFF 2nd Regional Priorities Workshop, Manado, Indonesia, August 20-22, 2013