

## DRAFT Terms of Reference

### CTI Threatened Species Working Group (TSWG): Structure and Operations

#### 1.0 Background

The Coral Triangle Initiative for Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) is a unique multilateral partnership to maintain the biological diversity and the ecosystem services provided by marine and coastal resources that are particularly critical to income, livelihoods and food security of coastal communities and to support diversification strategies that build coastal communities resilience to climate change. The five goals are: (1) strengthening management of seascapes; (2) application of ecosystem approach to fisheries management; (3) developing and strengthening the management of marine protected areas; (4) implementing climate change adaptation measures; and (5) protecting threatened marine species. These goals are supported by clear sets of actions and timelines to specifically address regional marine resource conservation and sustainability priorities. The creation of technical working groups to facilitate progress on achieving these goals was approved through the NCCC Resolution, along with a general Terms of Reference for all the TWGs.

#### **CTI ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES, AND FOOD SECURITY NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION GOAL #5 THREATENED SPECIES STATUS IMPROVING**

##### **TARGET #1 IMPROVED STATUS OF SHARKS, SEA TURTLES, SEABIRDS, MARINE MAMMALS, CORALS, SEAGRASS, MANGROVES AND OTHER IDENTIFIED THREATENED SPECIES**

By 2015, populations of sharks, sea turtles, marine mammals, corals, sea grass, mangroves and other threatened marine species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species will no longer be declining, followed by a clear trend towards an improved status by 2020, as key steps for preventing their extinction and supporting healthier overall marine ecosystems.

**ACTION 1.** Conduct red list assessments of priority marine species in the Philippines under Global Marine Species Assessment (GMSA)

**ACTION 2.** Endorse and implement the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks and other Cartilaginous Fishes

**ACTION 3.** Support the establishment of the National Committee on marine turtles and dugong, and adopt National Plans of Action for the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and Dugong (NPOA-MT/D)

**ACTION 4.** Conduct surveys and monitor seabirds in priority marine key biodiversity areas (mKBAs) in the Philippines

**ACTION 5.** Support the establishment of the National Red List Committee on cetaceans and adopt a National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Cetaceans

**ACTION 6.** Conduct stock assessments, evaluate catch trends of commercially important species, and propose management recommendations for over-exploited fish species/populations by BFAR/NFRDI/ NSAP

**ACTION 7.** Develop a National Plan of Action on Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

## **2.0 Purpose and Tasks of the TSWG**

The RPOA has five Goals, and technical working groups are created to help facilitate progress on achieving these goals were approved at SOM5, along with a general Terms of Reference for all the Working Groups (WGs.)

The primary function of the TSWG, as provided by SOM6, is to provide technical inputs and recommendations to the Regional Secretariat and the National Coordinating Committees of the CT6 in achieving the over-arching goals that have been set forth in the RPOA. Generally as approved by the SOM6, the Working Groups shall:

- convene Working Groups meetings and discussions by creating CT6 team and partner for each theme.
- coordinate and assist identification, compilation, and consultation of thematic issues in CT6.
- assist regional exchange and workshop as public consultation.
- communicate with CT6 focal points, experts, partners, and other groups on specific theme.
- prepare technical and communication material on WG matters to be distributed to regional secretariat and CT countries.
- prepare conservation plan and roadmaps for the implementation of RPOA Goal No. 5.
- gather, review, and update existing management plans on Threatened Species
- provide recommendations to habitat management plans/other working groups
- review the list of threatened species
- encourage the conduct of activities towards the establishment of National Red List committees on specific taxa
- identify priority species
- re-evaluate the targets and actions on goal 5
- mobilize people working on threatened species

Specifically, the TSWG shall also perform the following functions:

- Track and report on the progress on the implementation of the regional priority actions especially pertaining to the Threatened Species goal and targets
- Guide and review progress on other actions in the RPOA as requested by SOM
- Collaborate with the CT Atlas in drawing the relevant map data layers as well as non-spatial attribute data
- Provide inputs and review of the regional State of the Coral Triangle Report especially the chapters relating to the Threatened goal and targets
- Prepare and review the TSWG inputs to the CTI Annual Progress Report

- Assist in the organization and conduct of regional exchanges and workshop as public consultations
- Review and make inputs on funding proposals, reports and other related CTI activities.

### **3.0 Membership and Structure**

- 3.1 Membership. The TSWG shall be composed of at least two representatives from each of the CT6 (Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste), a representative from the Regional Secretariat and CTI-CFF partners. The NCC of CT6 countries shall designate representatives to the TSWG meetings. An advisory group of technical/experts on different taxa will also be created to provide assistance in the decision-making of the TSWG. However, decision-making shall be lodged with the CT6 members.
- 3.2 Term of the Chair and Vice Chair. The term of the Chair and Vice Chair is two years starting on 01 January of the year, following the confirmation of the SOM. The TSWG will decide the subsequent Chair and Vice Chair.

### **4.0 Program Planning and Coordination**

- 4.1 Regular TSWG meetings. The TSWG shall conduct at least one meeting annually to prepare the annual report and submit to the SOM. The schedule of the meetings will take into consideration planned CTI regional events and SOM / MM meetings. In addition to the annual meeting, conference calls may be arranged among the TSWG focal points to keep the CT6 abreast with the developments on the TSWG work plans and progress towards the overall Threatened Species target across the CT6. The Chair shall inform the WG focal points of the CT6 at least two weeks prior to the date of the conference call and the agenda.
- 4.2 TSWG Annual Work Plan Preparation and Presentation to SOM. In coordination with and support from the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, the TSWG shall prepare an annual work plan showing directions and activities leading towards the successful completion of the priority actions set forth by SOM on Threatened Species goal and targets. The TSWG shall encourage the support and participation of the CTI-CFF development partners and other WGs in drawing the TSWG annual work plan.

Resource allocation needed to complete the activities presented in the annual work plan shall be integral in the work plan preparation. The funding sources from within the CT6 governments and development partner organizations will be identified and form part of the presentation of the work plan to SOM.

- 4.3 Collaboration with other WGs. The TSWG shall coordinate and collaborate with other CTI WGs and the Regional Secretariat in the planning and conduct of regional priority actions.

4.4 Collaboration with Technical Experts and Supporting Institutions and Organizations. The TSWG shall invite and duly recognize the technical experts and supporting institutions (e.g. academe and research organizations) as technical advisers to the WG. The Regional Secretariat shall assist the TSWG in putting together a pool of technical advisors which will be called on for specific questions or issues. The specific functions of the technical advisors are:

- To provide technical support in the compilation, review and analysis of data/information and provide decision support regarding issues relating to RPOA Threatened Species goal and targets
- To provide technical support in the preparation of communication messages including press releases, and other information and communication materials
- To provide external, independent advice in the the preparation and/ or review concept notes and or funding applications
- To provide advice in the the preparation of reports of CTI regional activities concerning threatened species
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4.5 Monitoring and Reporting of Progress. The TSWG shall develop an M&E system and indicators to track and report on progress of the TSWG work plan implementation and the achievement of the Threatened Species goal and targets. The TSWG shall review and provide inputs to the Threatened Species Section of the State of the Coral Triangle Report (SCTR).

5.0 Administrative Support to the TSWG. The administrative support for the WG shall be provided by the country chairing the WG. Coordination with other CT6 countries pertaining to schedules of activities, collaboration with other countries and other related activities should be coordinated with the regional secretariat.

## 6.0 **Financial Arrangements**

The TSWG will extend assistance in mobilizing financial resources in support to the implementation of the annual work plan as well as in the operations of the WG.

Approved, this \_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2014 in Manado, Indonesia.