

## **Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **for the Establishment of Sub-Group<sup>1</sup> for Priority Seascapes in the Coral Triangle**

#### **I. Overview and Objectives of the CTI-CFF Priority Seascapes**

Goal 1 of the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action states: Priority Seascapes Designated and Effectively Managed. The Seascapes General Model and Regional Framework for Priority Seascapes provides guidelines on the establishment and implementation of seascapes<sup>2</sup>. Though the framework and model was developed in the context of CTI, many parts of the document is applicable to any large-scale marine area management in any region of the world. The General Model provides the member-countries initial steps and guidance for the identification, selection, designation, and planning of seascapes. The Regional Framework, on the other hand, embodies the agreed upon criteria, operational process, designated bodies, and the monitoring and evaluation metrics that will be used to govern the CTI- CFF priority seascapes.

In the context of CTI, a seascape is defined as a large, multiple-use coastal and marine area, scientifically and strategically defined, in which governments, communities, private organizations, and other stakeholders cooperate, collaborate, and coordinate to manage for sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and human well-being. To date, CTI has endorsed three priority seascapes in the region, namely: the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape (SSS), the Lesser Sunda Seascape (LSS), and the Bismarck Solomon Seas Ecoregion (BSSE). These priority seascapes were endorsed through SOM decisions<sup>3</sup>.

Seascapes are ecologically valued and serve multiple purposes such as fishing and other livelihood activities for people living in the area, tourism, recreation and many more. Seascapes can also serve as a vehicle for integrating all the efforts in the Coral Triangle region to protect the coastal and marine habitats, the management of fisheries, mitigating the negative impacts of climate change, and to protect and improve the status of the threatened species.

As the countries learn and share their insights in managing the seascapes, it is hoped that through this mechanism, the economic, social, and environmental benefits will be gained in the future, benefits that will exceed from merely doing marine resource management.

CTI member countries may nominate and establish additional priority seascapes in the future. This Terms of Reference presents the functions, tasks, and the process for establishing a sub-group to oversee the management of a seascape in the CTI region. It also outlines the composition of the sub-

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<sup>1</sup> CT6 agreed to use the word sub-group to be consistent with the term used in the *CTI Seascapes General Model and Framework*,

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org/library/seascapes-general-model-and-regional-framework-priority-seascapes>

<sup>3</sup> SSS was endorsed through SOM9 decision while the LSS and the BSSE were endorsed through SOM14 decision 8.2.

group and its functions. Lastly, it proposes an outline to guide the sub-groups in developing their respective terms of reference.<sup>4</sup>

## **II. Process in establishing a Sub-group**

Once a geographic area is designated as a priority seascape in CTI, countries surrounding the seascape shall come together to discuss ways forward and to establish a sub-group to oversee the management and protection of the seascape.

Step 1: Concerned countries meet together to develop the Terms of Reference for the establishment of the sub-group for that particular seascape.

Step 2: Have the TOR approved by the respective NCCCs.

Step 3: The NCCC Focal Points shall present the approved TOR to the SWG Chair for concurrence.

Step 4: Once concurred by the SWG Chair, concerned countries will now designate their official focal points to the sub-group and submit the names to the SWG.

Step 5: SWG Chair to officially communicate to the CTI Regional Secretariat the establishment of the sub-group and the names of the focal points. A copy of the TOR will also be submitted to RS for reference.

## **III. Composition of the Sub-group**

3.1 The sub-group shall be composed of representatives from the countries surrounding the seascape. The country representatives are responsible for reporting to their respective countries the progress of the sub-group and the seascape, in general. Likewise, they are also tasked to relay any concerns or ideas of the member country to the sub-group.

3.2 The sub-group may determine and define in their TOR additional members of the sub-group.

3.3 Non-government organizations, funding agencies, donor-assisted projects, academe, and other institutions may be nominated to become members of the sub-group. The sub-group, however, are urged to clarify the roles and functions of the partners and collaborators in the TOR.

3.4 Once the sub-group is established, a Convenor shall be nominated to convene the group. Its TOR shall be integrated in the sub-group TOR.

3.5 One of the primary functions of the Convenor is to ensure that all members of the sub-group are well represented during meetings and other events.

3.6 The sub-group may designate a Coordinator to coordinate all the activities of the priority seascape. Its TOR shall be integrated in the sub-group TOR.

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<sup>4</sup> Based on SOM15 Decision 10.1.5 where the Senior Officials tasked the Seascapes sub-group to develop its Terms of Reference, it is imperative that once an area is designated as a CTI priority seascape, then a sub-group shall be established to ensure the proper management and protection of the area.

#### **IV. Functions and Tasks of the Sub-group**

- 4.1 The primary function of the sub-group is to develop plans, programs, among others for the protection and management of the seascape and the resources within as well as to address the issues confronting the area.
- 4.2 Recommend policies and legislations to address the issues and problems in the area, improve the current status of the seascape and the resources within, and to address the compounding factors.
- 4.3 Identify appropriate strategies and approaches to manage the large marine area.
- 4.4 Another important function of the sub-group is to develop investment plans and to secure funding opportunities to ensure the proper implementation of the priority seascape plans and programs.
- 4.5 Link with various sectors such as the academe, scientists, international organizations, donor-assisted projects and others who can provide technical assistance or guidance.
- 4.6 Identify capacity building programs and activities to enhance the knowledge and skills in managing and protecting large marine ecosystems.
- 4.7 Monitor and evaluate the progress of the priority seascape.
- 4.8 Report the progress of the seascape to the SWG and through their respective NCCC focal points.
- 4.9 The sub-group may identify and formulate other functions they see fit and elucidate this in the TOR.

#### **V. Coordination and Implementing Mechanism**

- 5.1 The sub-groups are encouraged to conduct periodic call meetings and in-person meetings to address issues and concerns and also to keep all the members updated on the progress and development of the seascape.
- 5.2 Sub-groups are encouraged to establish their communication mechanisms and protocols deemed effective and efficient for all members of the sub-group.
- 5.3 All sub-groups are urged to conduct their annual meeting before the Senior Officials' Meeting so that the progress of the seascape implementation shall be reported through the SWG report.
- 5.4 Sub-groups are encouraged to develop their respective annual work plan and submit this to the SWG for reporting to SOM.
- 5.5 Sub-group members may communicate directly with each other on concerns of the seascape. However, any recommendations, requests, or concerns addressed to the Regional Secretariat or SOM shall be coursed through the SWG Chair.
- 5.6 Sub-groups are urged to develop and engage new partners and collaborators to progress the plans and programs of the seascape.
- 5.7 All official communication about the seascape shall be signed by the SWG Chair.
- 5.8 A copy of any approved seascape plans, programs, proposals, investment plans, and others must be submitted to the RS for filing and reference.

5.9 The sub-group shall follow CTI approved processes and protocols.

## **VI. Guidelines for the development of the TOR for the Sub-group**

This section presents an outline on how to develop a TOR for the sub-group, a requirement based on a SOM15 decision.

### **I. Introduction and Overview of the Priority Seascapes**

- *Brief introduction of priority seascapes in CTI.*
- *Basis for the establishment of the seascape as a priority seascape of CTI*
- *Geographic location*
- *Vision, Goals and Objectives*
- *Map of the seascape*

### **II. Purpose, Functions, and Objectives of the Sub-group**

- *General objectives of the RSWG*
- *Countries, partners, collaborators involved in the RSWG*
- *Roles and functions of the RSWG*

### **IV. Composition and Structure**

- *Membership*
- *Functions of the Members*
- *Convenor*
- *Functions of the Convenor*
- *Partners and Collaborators*
- *Others*

### **V. Coordination and Implementation Mechanism**

- *Rules of procedure, conduct of meetings and other events*
- *Internal coordination mechanism*
- *Coordination with the SWG, partners, collaborators and others*
- *Organizational Chart*