

Integrating GESI Principles in CTI-CFF

The Coral Triangle Initiative's effort on GESI

The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF), is a multilateral partnership of six countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste, that work together to sustain extraordinary marine and coastal resources. CTI CFF aims to safeguard the region's marine and coastal biological resources. Through the CTI-CFF, the six Coral Triangle (CT6) countries have agreed to support people-centred biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, poverty reduction, and improve Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI).

Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin, CTI-CFF Executive Director, emphasizes CTI-CFF's efforts in ensuring that gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) are practised and promoted in all facets of CTI-CFF endeavours and initiatives. On one occasion at the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, Dr. Kushairi highlighted the importance of GESI integration in managing marine resources with this statement: "We believe that GESI mainstreaming improves livelihoods and social security and contributes to higher economic productivity and more efficient governance of marine resources."

CTI-CFF's Women Leaders' Forum (WLF), established and launched in Manado in 2014, successfully paved the way for member countries to support activities that actively benefit women, such as through capacity building and leadership development, as well as to spearhead the movement towards gender integration across the overall CTI-CFF programs and activities.

CTI-CFF through the WLF developed and published its GESI Policy in 2021 to provide direction for promoting and integrating GESI in all activities among CT6 member countries, strategic partners and the Regional Secretariat. The GESI Policy is intended to address the current gender inequalities, reduce disparities and ensure equal opportunities, rights and respect for all individuals regardless of their gender and social identity in the Coral Triangle region.

One of the ways that CTI-CFF practises integration of GESI values is acknowledging and encouraging more women representatives in different strategic positions. As a result, country Focal Points for Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and Regional Secretariat Staff have 63% and 33% women, respectively.

SUFIA LCD supports GESI integration in CTI CFF activities and organization

Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) Local Capacity Development (LCD) Activity, a project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, is centred on collaborative capacity strengthening approach with regional organizations including the CTI-CFF. USAID SUFIA Local Capacity Development Activity supports CTI-CFF by providing capacity building services on GESI, and the development and dissemination of GESI-related information and communication materials.

One of the activities implemented was the training on *Communication and Implementation Strategy Plan* for CTI-CFF that encouraged the integration of GESI values and principles. The purpose of the training did not only improve participants' communication skills in producing news worthy information on different media to a specific audience, but also provided

techniques on how to incorporate gender equality and social inclusion in every communication product we will produce. Country representatives from CTI-CFF WLF, National Coordinating Committee (NCC) and CTI-CFF RS staff participated in the training.

SUFIA LCD also supported CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat (RS) in developing the *Code of Ethics and Business Conduct* which includes GESI-related policies. This effort is a testament of RS's commitment in creating a workplace culture that embraces GESI principles and values. CTI-CFF acknowledges the importance of increasing awareness on GESI principles among its staff, members and partners; being proactive and deliberate in ensuring that participation and decision-making reflect its commitments to GESI; and monitoring, evaluating and reporting on progress towards its GESI commitments and indicators, particularly in alignment with the Regional Plan of Action 2.0 and GESI Policy. Indeed, gender equality and social inclusion in the Coral Triangle region are key components to the sustainable growth of the fisheries sector, contributing to improved livelihoods and food security.