

## **Endorsement of the Strategic Action Program (SAP) for the Seascape Approach to Securing Coral Reef Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape (SSS)**

**The Sovereign States of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines;**

**In Recognition** of the urgency to arrest environment degradation in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape due to the causes identified in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) entitled, “*Transboundary Diagnosis of the Sulu-Celebes (Sulawesi) Large Marine Ecosystem*” undertaken by the UNDP/GEF Sustainable Fisheries Management Project.

**Recognizing** also the co-ordination mechanism of the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines through the Coral Triangle Initiative for Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security;

**Appreciating** the support and assistance provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the Conservation International-Philippines in facilitating the preparation of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and also appreciating the support of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) on the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) entitled *Seascape Approach to Securing Coral Reefs Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape*;

Following the inclusive consultations with relevant government agencies and key stakeholders in the region, Endorse the *Seascape Approach to Securing Coral Reef Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape*.

## FEDERAL MINISTERIAL SIGNATURES

### Indonesia

Name: Victor Gustaaf Manoppo on behalf of Minister  
Designation: Director General for Marine Spatial Management  
Ministry: Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia

Signature: 

### Malaysia

Name: H.E Nik Nazmi bin Nik Ahmad  
Designation: Minister  
Ministry: Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change, Malaysia

Signature: 

### Philippines

Name: Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga  
Designation: Secretary  
Ministry: Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



The countries of the Sulu-Celebes (Sulawesi) Large Marine Ecosystem – Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines – formally collaborate in the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF), and identified priority challenges and formulated a Regional Plan of Action (RPOA)<sup>1</sup>. The RPOA goals are: (1) Priority Seascapes Designated & Effectively Managed, (2) Ecosystem Approach to Management of Fisheries (EAFM) and other marine resources fully applied, (3) Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) established and effectively managed, (4) Climate Change Adaptation Measures Achieved, and (5) Threatened Species Status Improving.

In 2014, a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of SCS-LME<sup>2</sup> identified six priority problems as (1) unsustainable exploitation of fish, (2) habitat loss and community modification, (3) marine pollution, (4) freshwater shortage, (5) climate change, and (6) alien and invasive species.

The Strategic Action Program (SAP) herein addresses three of the problems identified by the TDA: unsustainable exploitation of fish, habitat loss and community modification, and climate change. It also addresses four of the five RPOA goals of the CTI-CFF (Seascapes, EAFM, MPAs, climate change) and how they intersect on coral reefs and communities of the SCS-LME. A separate but complementary SAP for the Sustainable Fisheries Management of the SCS-LME<sup>3</sup>, supported by the GEF/UNDP initiative and endorsed by CTI-CFF, specifically targets action on the first problem identified by the TDA; unsustainable fisheries. Specifically, it focuses on small pelagic fisheries in the SCS-LME. While both the previous and current SAPs target the TDA problem 1 on unsustainable fisheries, they focus on different fisheries. The current SAP presented here focuses on the conservation and management of coral reefs and their immediate fisheries, while the previous Sustainable Fisheries Management Project focuses on the pelagic fisheries sector.

This SAP for the *Seascope Approach to Securing Coral Reef Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope* delineates the program of work needed to meet the shared goals of the TDA and RPOA for coral reefs and reef associated fisheries within the SCS-LME.

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<sup>1</sup> Regional Plan of Action, Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security. 2016. CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, Manado Indonesia

<sup>2</sup> Sulu-Celebes Sea Sustainable Fisheries Management Project Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis. 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion Tri-National Committee 2013. Strategic Action Program for the Sulu-Celebes Sea Large Marine Ecosystem. Prepared for the Sulu-Celebes Sea Sustainable Fisheries Management Project under GEF/UNDP/UNOPS.