

6th CTI-CFF Seascape Technical Working Group Meeting

Pasay City, (Danila, Philippines | 3-4 September 2019



Acknowledgements

The 6th Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) Seascape Working Group (SWG) Meeting was held at Hotel Jen Manila, Pasay, Philippines from 3 to 4 September 2019. The working meeting was organized by the CTI-CFF Seascape Working Group and hosted by the Government of the Philippines with support from the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat.

Special thanks go to the Coral Triangle countries (CT6): Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste for their active participation; and to all the development partners and collaborator for their invaluable support.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADB Asian Development Bank

BFAR Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Philippines)

BMB Biodiversity Management Bureau (Philippines)

BOL Bangsamoro Organic Law (Philippines)

BMU Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety

(BMU) of the Federal Republic of Germany

BSSE Bismarck Solomon Sea Ecoregion

CI Conservation International

CSIRO Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization

CT Coral Triangle

CT6 Coral Triangle countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines,

Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste)

DENR Department of Environment and Natural Resources

EAFM Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

FMA Fisheries Managed Area (Philippines)

GEF Global Environment Facility

GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

IED Interim Executive Director

LLG Local-Level Government (PNG)

LME Large Marine Ecoregion
LSS Lesser Sunda Seascape

MOU Memorandum of Understanding

MPA Marine Protected Area
MSP Marine Spatial Planning

NCCC National CTI Coordinating Committee

NGO Non-government organization

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

PNG Papua New Guinea REX Regional Exchange

RPOA Regional Plan of Action

RS Regional Secretariat

RSAP Regional Strategic Action Program

SEAFDEC Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

SDG Sustainable Development Goals

SOM Senior Officials Meeting

SSME Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion

SSS Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape

SWG Seascape Working Group

TIWS Turtle Island Wildlife Sanctuary

TOR Terms of Reference

TWG Technical Working Group

UNESCO United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization

USAID United States Agency for International Development

US DOI United States Department of the Interior

WG Working Group

WWF World Wide Fund for Nature

Executive Summary

The two-day working group meeting was held at Hotel Jen Manila, Pasay City, Manila, Philippines from 3-4 September 2019 and was attended by Seascapes Working Group focal points from the CTI member countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste), development partners and collaborator.

The SWG meeting started with a convergence meeting with the EAFM WG to discuss the Sulu Sulawesi Sub-regional EAFM Plan. Afterwards, the SWG meeting focused on five sessions which aimed to update the Seascape Workplan for 2019, update and discuss RPOA 2.0 and pre-SOM, update on the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Sub-Regional EAFM Plan and update on the Regional Strategic Action Program Sulu-Celebes Sea Sustainable Fisheries Management Project.

With a focus on the three priority seascapes (Lesser Sunda Seascape, Bismarck-Solomon Sea Ecoregion, Sulu Sulawesi Seascape), each of the CT6 provided country presentations on each priority seascape they are involved in. Discussion on the establishment of sub-working groups for each priority seascape then ensued as well as the discussion on sub-regional plans. This meeting also discussion the proposed budget of the SWG for 2020. Substantial outputs were generated by this meeting which will serve as inputs to the 15th CTI-CFF Senior Officials Meeting.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

DAY 1: CONVERGENCE OF EAFM AND SEASCAPE WORKING GROUPS TO DISCUSS THE REVIEW OF SULU SULAWESI SUB-REGIONAL EAFM PLAN

Dr. Gregory Bennett, Technical Program Senior Manager of the CTI-CFF RS, called the meeting to order. He informed the participants that today is both the 2nd day of the EAFM WG Meeting and the 1st day of the Seascapes WG meeting. To formally welcome the participants, he directed the body to Dr. Norasma Dacho, Head of the Malaysian delegation, who is also concurrently the Chair of the Seascape WG and Co-chair of the EAFM WG.

WELCOME REMARKS

Dr. Norasma Dacho thanked Dr. Bennett and she welcomed everyone to the Seascapes Working Group Meeting. She noted that if the participants have been involved in the development of the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action 2.0 then they would have noticed the absence of goals on the draft versions. She emphasized that while the group is not yet sure whether seascape technical working group will be retained or not in the RPOA 2.0, the participants should still pour their heart and soul to the task at hand. She then requested for a round of introduction that will be followed by the blended meeting of the two WGs.

PARTICIPANT INTRODUCTION

The delegates from each of the CTI member countries introduced themselves by stating their name, designation and institution. The Chair also requested the development partners, collaborator and observes to do the same. The complete list of participants is attached as **Annex** 1.

OVERVIEW OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Norasma Dacho referred to the agenda that is flashed on screen. She noted that the focus of the day is the joint EAFM-Seascape session on the development of the Sulu Sulawesi Sub-regional EAFM Plan which has been on the pipeline for a long time. She then requested Mr. Len Garces of USAID Oceans to provide an overview of the EAFM Plan without using any power point presentation.

Mr. Len Garces of USAID Oceans provided a brief history of the EAFM Plan. He shared that the discussion on the EAFM Plan started during the June 2015 Manado, Indonesia Meeting which was participated by Indonesian and Philippine delegates together with the EAFM WG. This was followed by the August 2017 Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand where USAID Oceans met with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) to talk about the development of a sub-regional plan for the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape. Towards July 2018, USAID Oceans partnered with GIZ Sulu Sulawesi Seascape Project to generate a more detailed version of the EAFM Plan. Finally, during the 14th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), the EAFM WG tackled the draft version of the EAFM Plan and the official report of the EAFM WG stated that Malaysia and Philippines are ready to implement the plan while Indonesia needs more time to review the document. Accordingly, the USAID Oceans project, through the RS, received Indonesia's comment on the Plan on March 2019. They addressed the comments, incorporated changes in the document and submitted the updated version to the RS for circulation to the CT6 NCCCs.

The SWG Chair thanked Mr. Garces for the overview of the EAFM Plan's history. A discussion on the iterations of the Plan followed. After plenary discussions among the RS, Indonesia NCCC and the USAID Oceans project, it was deduced that the EAFM Plan have undergone the following revision process:

Date	Activity
March 2019	USAID Oceans project, through the CTI-CFF RS, received Indonesian NCCC's comments on the EAFM Plan.
	indonesian Nece 3 comments on the EARW Plan.
	USAID Oceans addressed the comments and sent the
	updated version of the plan to CTI-CFF RS
April 2019	CTI-CFF RS sent the March 2019 version of the Plan from
	USAID Oceans to the Indonesian NCCC
August 2019	The Indonesian NCCC forwarded their final comments on
	the EAFM Plan to the CTI-CFF RS

The SWG Chair then handed over the mike to the EAFM WG Chair, Dr. Jose Silva, for further discussion of the Sub-Regional EAFM Plan.

The EAFM Chair thanked the SWG Chair and he requested Indonesia to discuss on plenary the edits that they have suggested on the draft EAFM Plan.

The EAFM Chair noted Indonesia's remark that USAID Oceans did not address their comments on the March 2019 version. Mr. Garces then replied that the March 2019 version that they have forwarded to the RS changed all references to transboundary and included all the necessary edits suggested by Indonesia.

Malaysia suggested that the draft EAFM Plan, with Indonesia's edits, be printed and shared to the body. PNG concurred and requested for a recess.

After the break, the EAFM Chair invited the Philippine NCCC to share their views on the suggestions presented by Indonesia.

The Philippines shared that they consider EAFM as an overarching framework that will foster regional and sub-regional collaboration, hence, they have already endorsed the December 2018 version of the EAFM Plan during the SOM 14. However, in view of Indonesia's proposed edits which was not previously circulated to the Philippine NCCC, they need to go back to their principals to discuss certain terminologies of the updated version. Finally, Philippines expressed hope that the group will still uphold the spirit of collaboration among CTI countries.

For Malaysia, they abide by the December 2018 version of the EAFM Plan too. They appreciate Philippine's need to go back to their colleagues and to discuss the edits proposed by Indonesia. Malaysia, on the other hand, would like to share their comments on plenary. Essentially, Malaysia suggested that all Indonesia-proposed edits referring to "in each country" be reverted to "Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape" thereby highlighting the migratory nature of the tuna species which were the original focus of the draft EAFM Plan.

The EAFM Chair then requested Indonesia to react on the suggestions put forward by Malaysia and Philippines.

Indonesia stated that their main concern is the terminology on 'transboundary' since usage of such term is already prohibited in their country.

To come up with a solution, the Philippines suggested to use the term 'EAFM' instead of 'transboundary'. The Philippine delegates also supported the Malaysia-proposed edits of replacing all 'in each country' phrases with 'Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape'.

In view of these suggestions, Indonesia requested the RS to circulate the inputs and suggestions from Philippines and Malaysia to the CT6 countries. They will then use the document in consulting with their national working group so they can come up with an official response by end of September 2019.

At this juncture, Mr. Garces explained that the EAFM Plan is not owned by the USAID Oceans project but by the Coral Triangle member countries. If terminologies make Indonesia uncomfortable then he expressed that the edits proposed by Malaysia and Philippines will be acceptable to the Indonesian national working group.

When asked by the SWG Chair on the future of USAID Oceans support, he shared the following activities which will be done in partnership with Conservation International-Philippines: (1) conduct of a regional planning workshop to identify priority activities to be implemented under the Sub-Regional EAFM Plan in Sulu Sulawesi Seascape, (2) facilitate the establishment of the Sub-Regional Mechanism for Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape and the development of TOR, and (3) provide coordination support to promote the engagement of Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines in the implementation of Sub-Regional EAFM Plan in Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape and continue support for Seascape and EAFM Working Groups.

Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines appreciated and welcomed the potential support offered by the USAID Oceans.

The EAFM Chair then invited the Pacific countries to comment on the updating of the Sub-Regional EAFM Plan in Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape.

Timor Leste understood the need for Indonesia to consult with their national working group and mentioned that the development of the plan is a lesson learned for them.

Solomon Islands also took these discussions as an opportunity to learn. Solomon Islands also reminded the participants to think of the applications of the EAFM Plan in an inclusive rather than specific manner. This means that the EAFM Plan should be viewed not only as a Sulu-Sulawesi tool but a regional EAFM Plan that will be applied in the region and will be a model for the six countries.

Papua New Guinea noted the significance of the discussions which serve as a lesson and reminder for PNG to have the Pacific seascapes moving. In terms of wording, PNG respect the countries' comments and suggestions and hope that a conscientious agreement will be reached soon. PNG also emphasized that the EAFM Plan will entail regional efforts and whatever is done in the countries reflect to the activities in the region.

Mr. I Wayan Veda Santiaji of WWF also shared his thoughts on the development of the Sub-Regional EAFM Plan. He cited the recent meeting in Bali, Indonesia where the second version of the RPOA was discussed. Having the need for a stronger institutional mechanism can be addressed by the body by working together and improving their knowledge. He encouraged the CT colleagues to finalize and use the Sub-regional EAFM Plan as a reference to contribute or participate in seascape. He reminded the group of the reasons why working at the regional level, through seascapes, is important specially for the management of tuna fishery. He also encouraged the participants to use the momentum to see the bigger picture, improve understanding on seascapes, knowledge impact and fishery status, and finally, to be reminded of the objective of improving coastal communities.

DAY 2: 6TH SEASCAPE WORKING GROUP MEETING

SESSION ONE

WELCOME REMARKS

The Chair of the Seascapes WG, Dr. Norasma Dacho of the Malaysian delegation, mentioned that this is the 2nd day of the SWG Meeting as the 1st day focused on the development of the Sulu-Sulawesi Sub-Regional EAFM Plan. She welcomed everyone to the Meeting, and she expressed gratitude to the Philippine NCCC for hosting the week-long meetings of the CTI-CFF. She also thanked the CTI-CFF RS for the excellent facilitation. She also noted the contribution and participation of partners and collaborator. As part of the Malaysian delegation, she mentioned that five of them are present in the meeting. The Chair clarified that formal introductions had been done yesterday so she invited the CTI-CFF Interim Executive Director, Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry, to give key remarks.

KEY REMARKS

Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry, CTI-CFF Interim Executive Director, welcomed everyone to the Meeting. He expressed gratitude to the Philippine Government for hosting the event. He also thanked the development partners and collaborator for the continued interest to work and partner with the CTI. He reminded the participants that threats continue to increase, and that climate change, coral bleaching and tidal waves impact the region's biodiversity. Dr. Siry emphasized that conservation works best when it is at scale, and seascapes management is an essential method to manage the marine and coastal resources. By integrating ecological, social, economic and institutional perspectives of resource management, the seascapes approach allows governments, communities and local organizations to see the big picture and follow a sustainable development path, instead of reacting to immediate problems with no thought for long-term consequences. The contributions of the SWG to the Sub-Regional EAFM Plan provided an interesting exchange of insights. Lastly, Dr. Siry enjoined the participants to actively participate and share their country experiences in order to enrich the output of the meeting. He finally reminded the group to make the most out of today's meeting.

OPENING MESSAGE

Ms. Nilda Baling of the Philippine delegates mentioned that it is currently the budget season in the Philippines, so the officials were pulled out of the meeting. Hence, on behalf of the BMB Director, she read the opening message from the Philippine NCCC. Ms. Baling conveyed the sincerest appreciation to everyone for attending the meeting. With the 15th SOM scheduled this November 2019; it is imperative that CTI-CFF WGs work collaboratively. With regards to the updating of the Regional Plan of Action, the Philippines already conducted a review of the version 2.0 and upon consideration of DENR's Undersecretary Jonas Leones, Philippine's review of the RPOA 2.0 document will be submitted and circulated by the RS for CT6 comments. Accordingly, the Philippines enjoined the CT6 to conduct a detailed review of the RPOA 2.0 too. With climate change exacerbating effects, large marine areas are in dire need of protection, and seascape management is a method to achieve this task. The newly recognized priority seascapes, Lesser Sunda and Bismarck-Solomon, can take advantage of the learnings and best practices of the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion. Lastly, the Philippines invited the members of the delegation to explore this side of Metro Manila particularly the sunset at Manila Bay. Philippines finally wished for a meaningful and productive meeting.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Chair thanked Ms. Baling for delivering the opening message of the Philippine NCCC. She called the meeting to order and she also recognized each of the CT member countries. With the provisional agenda flashed on screen, **Annex 2**, the Chair requested the body for comments or suggestions on edits or additional items for discussions.

Malaysia replied by requesting for the agenda on the 'Update on the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape Sub-Regional EAFM Plan' be allotted with more time for discussion. Philippines concurred. The Chair then requested the RS to adjust the agenda based on Malaysia's request. At the same time, the Chair mentioned that there is still enough time for the countries to ponder on this topic from morning until afternoon.

The Chair requested the Pacific countries to comment on the provisional agenda. Timor Leste replied by expressing concern on the agenda's closure at 6pm since some participants might need to fly back to their home countries today. The Chair eased Timor Leste's concern by assuring that efficient time management and facilitation will be done to finish the meeting ahead of schedule.

SESSION TWO: UPDATE ON 2019 WORKPLAN

Dr. Gregory Bennett presented on plenary the updates on the status of SOM-14 decisions and Seascape Workplan for 2019. For the SOM-14 decisions, Dr. Bennet showed that the RS has properly addressed and completed the necessary actions to accomplish each decision except on the decisions to 'Adopt Lesser Sunda Ecoregion and Bismarck Solomon Sea Ecoregion (BSSE) as CTI-CFF Priority Seascapes', 'Approve sub-working groups of Sulu-Sulawesi, Lesser Sunda and Bismarck-Solomon (BSSE) under the structure and coordination mechanism of CTI-CFF Seascapes Working Group', and 'Call on development partners to support the management of priority seascapes, including collaborative programs and activities involving related countries' which were tagged as ongoing activities. He emphasized that the workplan for 2019 are basically the same set of activities listed on the SOM-14 report. Dr. Bennett also noted that \$25,000 was allotted to this meeting and he emphasized that any leftover from this budget can be allotted for the Seascape TWG preparatory meeting prior to SOM. None of the CT countries commented on the 2019 workplan.

She then requested the RS to facilitate the group photo session.



Fig.1. The attendees of the 6th Seascapes Working Group Meeting on 3-4 September 2019 at Hotel Jen Manila, Pasay City, Philippines.

SESSION THREE: COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS ON EACH PRIORITY SEASCAPE THEY ARE INVOLVED IN

The Seascapes WG Co-Chair, Solomon Islands headed by Ms. Agnetha Vave-Karamui, presided the third session of the SWG. She invited the countries to commence with their respective presentations.

NCC INDONESIA

Ms. Nilfa Rasyid presented Indonesia's updates on the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape, Lesser Sunda Seascape and Bismarck- Solomon Sea Ecoregion. She started off by reminding the body of the technical definition of a 'Seascape' and by sharing the National Seascape Working Group of Indonesia. Ms. Rasyid then described the Lesser Sunda Seascape as a seascape shared by Indonesia and Timor Leste which covers about 35 million hectares and 10,000 km coastline. In Indonesia, LSS spans over four provinces and its total MPA network in the country is 7.56 million hectares. The Indonesian government intend to use Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) as a tool for achieving comprehensive planning that will integrate the existing and future government plans, include conservation and economic development which will balance the conservation objectives and economic interests of the fisheries, tourism and mining sectors. Ms. Rasyid also emphasize the Indonesian Government's clamor collaborate with the Government of Timor Leste for the effective management of LSS' marine resources.

Ms. Rasyid then proceeded with her presentation of the Bismarck Solomon Seas Ecoregion (BSSE) which is a shared seascape among the countries of Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. BSSE is home to leatherback turtles and other species of endangered marine turtles. Zooming into the area of BSSE that lies within Indonesian waters, the Birds' Head Seascape is characterized by several MPA networks thoroughly designed by the Indonesian government together with development partners. Indonesia also hope to foster collaboration among the governments of PNG and SI to reach effective management of BSSE.

With respect to their workplan for 2019, Indonesia aims to develop action plan for each priority seascape, conduct in-country collaboration for the management of priority seascapes and work with RS and CT6 towards the achievement of SWG goals. Indonesia's immediate next steps include the drafting of their official inputs to RPOA 2.0 and endorsement process for the GEF-7 application. Their previous attempt for GEF-7 application was initially turned down since, they were informed that, the activities in the BSSE that they are applied for are already being done by SI.

Comments and clarifications from the CT6

The Chair welcomed comments and clarifications from the CT6 on Indonesia's presentation. Timor Leste replied by suggesting that country presentations should not be done alphabetically but according to the priority seascape. Philippines expressed acceptance of TL's suggestion and noted that they are happy with the smooth progress of BSSE and LS at Indonesia.

Philippines also emphasized that while the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape is considered as an advanced seascape, it still has a lot to learn in order to move forward.

The Interim ED commented that he also supports the suggestion of TL on the order of presentations based on the priority seascape. He also shared that for the GEF-7 proposal, Indonesia got pre-screening proposal where the RS was also a proponent at that time. The position of the RS in the proposal is to make sure that the mandates presented in the SOM are observed in the proposal. He advised Indonesia to tackle Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Plan instead of topics on international waters. He also encouraged the countries to find priority focus for the benefit of BSSE. He expressed the need to formalize the proposal and supports Indonesia to be the proponent of the project.

The Co-chair thanked the RS IED. Indonesia then asked the co-chair on the GEF-7 process.

The Co-Chair replied that for GEF proposals, in country dialogues must be done. Right now, for the GEF-7 cycle, in-country consultations are being conducted. Initial discussions on international waters are avoided and the need to reposition priorities for GEF-7 are needed. The Co-chair informed that she will share other details in the country presentation of Solomon Islands. She also welcomed the order of presentations suggested. TL is then requested to share their country updates.

NCC TIMOR LESTE

Mr. Horacio dos Santos Guterres presented Timor Leste's initiatives towards the strengthening of Lesser Sunda Seascape. First, he honored his colleague, Antonio, a previous attendee to SWG meetings, who passed away. Afterwards, he proceeded by presenting the country's achievements towards the fulfillment of the national and regional plan of action. At the national level, TL has built national perspectives on the seascape management concept, built spatial data set, developed scenario of seascape referred to approximate line on the exclusive economic zone, and divided the country EEZ into north seascape and south seascape. As contribution to the RPOA, TL has officially endorsed the readiness of the country to propose the country seascape into the Lesser Sunda regional seascape management. Accomplishing these tasks was not easy since TL is in a transition government and politicians have varying views on transboundary cooperation. Further, several government staff in TL are confused on the seascape definition. Success stories of the country focus on the establishment of national level 'Road Map of Seascape Design' which is accomplished through the ADB-funded Technical Assistance 7753 as implemented by Conservational International-Timor Leste. Under the said TA, Timor Leste received about \$700,000.00 assistance for seascape, MPA and EAFM activities. For ways forward, TL needs to improve capacity building for human resources, needs to achieve financial support and needs to product seascape mapping in high resolution.

The SWG Co-Chair welcomed clarifications or comments from the CT member countries. Indonesia replied by clarifying the definition between Large Marine Ecoregion (LME) and seascape as the former is related to areas for fishery management while the later is concerned on the CTI-CFF terminology on transboundary connectivity. Timor Leste acknowledged the

definition but for their part, being a small country, same set of areas will be covered by the LME and seascape.

The Philippines noted the challenges on funding faced by Timor Leste. They also queried on the role of the government on implementing the ADB-funded project. Timor Leste replied that with regards to projects, the government acts as the facilitator while partners serve as the implementer. In the case the ADB funding, the money went to the government and the project was implemented by CI-Timor Leste.

Papua New Guinea, on the other hand, thanked TL and they recognized that there are indeed challenges and difficulties. PNG also acknowledged the partners who have been very supportive of the CTI. For Solomon Islands, they suggested that they can help so both countries can identify their seascape targets. The Co-Chair noted all the comments and asked PNG to proceed with their presentation.

NCC PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Ms. Yvonne Tio presented PNG's country updates. PNG has selected two priority seascapes, BSSE and Coral Seascape. For BSSE, they got funding from the Australian Government's science agency, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), for the implementation of the 'Building Capacity for Sustainable and Responsible Development in the Bismarck Sea, PNG Project'. Implemented from 2015 to 2017, the project helped conduct visioning exercises and zoning report cards with local-level governments (LLGs). Through the zoning activities, ridge to reef assessment for east and west borders of BSSE was executed and best practices for commercial agriculture were documented. Still, Ms. Tio emphasized that two years of implementation was too short to implement all the seascape targets in BSSE.

The SWG Co-Chair thanked PNG and invited the other member countries to comment on the presentation. Malaysia responded by recognizing that PNG already did a lot of activities for BSSE but, since the seascape is composed of three countries, it is important that Indonesia, PNG and Solomon Islands sit together to formulate comprehensive proposal that will be submitted to donors.

The Co-chair thanked Malaysia for the comment and invited Solomon Islands for their country presentation.

NCC SOLOMON ISLANDS

Ms. Agnetha Vave-Karamui presented Solomon Island's initiatives on seascapes. She started by sharing that seascapes was not a priority for the last 10 years but in recognition of the NPOA and RPOA, SI learned to move forward with seascapes. She recalled that whenever BSSE is mentioned, they think about the basis of how it was developed, back in 2006 when a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by Indonesia, PNG and Solomon Islands. The basis of the MOU is the migration path of leatherback turtles, *Dermochelys coriacea*, in the

Bismarck Solomon Seas Ecoregion. Today, it is important for the country to always bear in mind why BSSE is termed as a seascape, and eventually as a priority seascape in the CTI. Since policymakers have argued why the government need to continue activities based on the inactive tri-national MOU, the general model of a seascape is a practical tool to gather support at the national level. Ms. Vave-Karamui agreed with Indonesia's proposal to regionalize seascape and revive talks among Indonesia, PNG and Solomon Islands where cross border talks may be an attractive, although controversial, topic. There is also a need for Solomon Islands to actually plan the EEZ of their country. With regards to institutional and policy developments, Solomon Islands is updating its National Ocean Policy and Marine Spatial Plan (by 2020). Future prospects include the inclusion of BSSE in the new Marine Spatial Plan, updating of the NPOA in recognition of RPOA 2.0 where seascapes will be highlighted, and lastly, researches on connectivity and coral reef resilience.

The Co-Chair welcomed comments and questions. The RS IED commented on coral reef resilience. He shared that he just had a meeting with CI's Head Quarters where they have a coral reef resilience network. He suggested that we can enhance the CT Atlas with what has been going on in the coral reel resilience network. He also shared that there are also discussions on coral resilience at the UN Coral Network. He reminded the group to take note of these ideas as possible follow on agenda. The Co-Chair acknowledged that the RS IED needs guidance on how to package coral resilience. Malaysia is then invited to share their country updates on seascapes.

NCC MALAYSIA

Dr. Norasma Dacho presented Malaysia's seascapes updates. She recalled the seascapes mini-Regional Exchange (REX) in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia in 2015 where they have chosen the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape as their priority seascape. She also recalled the departed Dr. Subandono Diposaptono, former Chair of the SWG, who presided the mini-REX. She recalled the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) concept which was developed 30 years ago by the University of Rhode Island and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States of America (NOAA). Sulu Sulawesi Seascape is one of the 64 LMEs identified, particularly LME no. 37. Dr. Dacho explained that GEF will support proposals for funding if it will indicate the LME number in the proposal.

She then proceeded with the list of seascape projects and program implemented in the SSS. She highlighted the BMU-funded project, 'Sulu Sulawesi Seascape Project' which helped Malaysia socialize the concept of seascape with other ministries. She shared that in socializing the idea to their bosses, they metaphorically discuss that if seascape is a room, the lights are the output of the TSWG while the chairs are the output of the EAFM WG and if everything works well, then the seascapes is working properly too. The usage of the said metaphor helps their team get the support of political leaders and Ministers. Dr. Dacho then shared the strengths and opportunities. She emphasized that the past experiences with SSME is useful in implementing CTI activities within the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape. Continued support and commitment of ministries and agencies in implementing CTI programs and projects in Sabah is essential as well

as strong cooperation and cooperation at national and regional level. Further, officials and partners should understand the legal basis of the cooperation in order to facilitate efficient coordination among partners and stakeholders. Last but not the least, Sabah has flexibility in project implementation since they do not need dwell with the federal government for SSS activities. Challenges include the transboundary nature of a seascape, the need for collaboration beyond national jurisdiction and the need to utilize the seascapes goal as an umbrella of other goals.

The Co-Chair commented that Malaysia's country updates was such as powerful and comprehensive presentation. She also shared that most Asian seascapes are referred to by the Pacific countries. She then welcomed comments from the participants.

Mr. I Wayan Veda Santiaji of WWF expressed appreciation of Dr. Dacho's presentation. He mentioned that ocean literacy is a challenge for every country to achieve Sustainable Development Goal no.14 (SDG 14). He shared that the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) currently invests on ocean literacy programs. Since a lot of terminologies are not understood by policymakers, engaging UNESCO's ocean literacy program will help countries to better communicate with their politicians. He supported the need for the SSS countries to foster cooperation through frequent communication, support to ecosystem governance, support to ecosystem restoration and coastal areas development. He also expressed that the SSS is a learning site for transboundary cooperation. He also emphasized the commitment of WWF to work together with the CT6.

The RS IED thanked Dr. Dacho and declared that if Malaysia is truly Asia then Dr. Norasma Dacho is truly seascape. He recognized WWF's suggestion to improve ocean literacy. He suggested that the SWG can come up with informative materials about seascapes which can be presented to policymakers and potential donors. He suggested that the materials should be simple and can be formatted as 'Seascapes for beginners', or 'Seascape for Idiots/Dummy'. He also requested the help of development partners on the production of the materials.

The Co-Chair acknowledge the suggestion of the RS IED and she invited Philippines for their country updates.

NCC PHILIPPINES

Ms. Nilda Baling presented the Philippine's country updates. She first commented that Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines share the same set of issues and challenges. She also thanked Dr. Dacho and noted that she was indeed a valuable resource person. She also acknowledged the suggestion of the RS IED on the information materials. Ms. Baling highlighted that the entire country of the Philippines is a seascape. She shared that the 'Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018' or Republic Act 11038 will place the management of a seascape on a sharper lens. She also updated that most of the provinces in the Philippines that are included in the SSS are now under the recently enacted Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) or Republic Act 11054. BOL is relevant because it will create the Bangsamoro Regional Muslim Mindanao which will automatically get 5% of the national internal revenue. Authority on their

areas of jurisdiction will be under them, this means that the management of the Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary (TIWS) will be transferred to the Bangsamoro government.

With regards to activities within the Philippine priority seascape, the PH NCCC has already conducted the review of the RPOA 2.0 and the development of framework for a national plan of action on marine litter. Ms. Baling also enjoined the CT5 to conduct in-country review of the RPOA 2.0. She also shared that they have mainstreamed the marine protected area network budget in the national budget. In line with this, Dr. Santos of Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) updated that they have established fisheries management areas (FMA) which are spatial delineation of Philippine waters that are dedicated for fisheries management. FMA 3, 4, and 6 are covered in the SSS. BFAR is also facilitating regular conduct of stock assessment and research-related activities in SSS. Philippines also opted to share good practices, instead of best practices. These include the rollout of national programs and policies at the operational level, conduct of regular PH NCCC meetings, promote convergence of national government agencies and engagement of new partners, mainstreaming project initiatives into the regular work of the department and lastly, crafting of legislation to ensure protection and management of biodiversity. Ms. Baling also shared that the Minister of the Bangsamoro environment unit is happy to learn marine protected area management from the national office because, for the longest time, they have only been involved on forest management. Among the challenges are the completion of the MPA networking in southern Palawan and the prioritization of the West Philippine Sea as a seascape despite the diplomatic issues with China. For the ways forward, the PH NCCC intend to focus on the finalization of the RPOA 2.0, national plan of action on Marine Litter, crafting of new MPA networks and the development of the management plans of newly legislated protected landscape and seascapes.

The SWG Co-Chair thanked Ms. Baling and noted the need to provide more platforms so NCCCs can share progress. She then invited comments from the other CT countries. Malaysia answered by saying that it would be interesting to work with the Bangsamoro government since their area of jurisdiction is very near Sabah. Dr. Santos of the Philippines responded that he shares the optimism. He further elaborated that the creation of the BOL will be the answer to Mindanao's problems. He also shared that a former attendee to CTI Meetings, Dr. Macmod Mamalangkap, now holds an assistant ministerial position in the Bangsamoro fisheries unit.

As a wrap-up, the Co-Chair thanked the CT6 for their respective country presentations and she noted that the issues presented were properly documented and will be considered. The RS IED, on the other hand, noted that the presentations were enlightening, and it reminds him to make CT Atlas be more relevant for the countries.

The Chair requested Dr. Montebon for the presentation on the sub-WG and TOR.

Discuss/establish the sub-working group for each priority seascape, including Terms of Reference (TOR)

Dr. Rex Montebon of CI-Philippines started his presentation using the technical definition of a seascape. He mentioned that the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape is the first priority seascape in the CTI. During SOM-13, LSSE and BSSE were endorsed as priority seascapes and were later approved

during SOM-14. It was also during SOM-14 when the creation of sub-WGs for each priority seascape, including TOR, was decided by the CTI Senior Officials. The Rules of Procedure of the SWG, on the other hand, was developed after SOM-14 and Convergence Meeting. Accordingly, the goal of the session is to create the TOR for the sub-WGs and to clarify the proposed coordination mechanism for each priority seascape. Dr. Montebon further explained that the current version of the proposed coordination mechanism was conceptualized during the Convergence Meeting on July 2018 in Cebu, Philippines. Dr. Montebon then requested the countries to ponder on the members of the sub-WG per priority seascape with emphasis on the role of the coordinator. The Rules of Procedure stipulated that the coordinator will be appointed but it was not defined who will accomplish the appointment.

Discussions on the following topics then ensued: inclusion of seascapes mechanism in the RPOA 2.0, the coordinator role in the sub-WGs, and the role of the RS in sustainable financing.

For the inclusion of seascapes mechanism in RPOA 2.0, Dr. Montebon was the first to flag that seascapes and even EAFM were not mentioned in the current version of the RPOA 2.0. Solomon Islands emphasized the need for the body to push the inclusion of seascapes mechanism in the RPOA 2.0 and Philippines agreed to SI's suggestion.

Dr. Montebon shared, on plenary, his query why the RS can't directly access funds from donors. He wondered that if the RS can legally propose projects for funding by development partners, many of the tasks with regards to sustainable financing that are specified on the rules of procedure can be addressed. The RS IED welcome the idea of strengthening the RS through the role specified by Dr. Montebon, however, his role as interim ED does not cover resource mobilization. The SWG Chair also acknowledged the suggestion of Dr. Montebon but she emphasized that such suggestion is beyond the role and TOR of the SWG. The SWG Chair then suggested for the body to draft a recommendation to SOM stating the suggestion of Dr. Montebon on the RS potential role on sustainable financing.

Concerning the coordinator position for each sub-WG, Philippines suggested that the body can learn from the SSME Trinational Committee and sub-committee. PNG, on the other hand, suggested that the CTI-CFF RS should assume the coordinator role while Malaysia declared that no coordinator is needed but a focal from each country only.

At the end of the discussion, through the Chair's guidance, the SWG collectively agreed that the (1) TOR of each sub-working group will be developed by each sub-working group, (2) RS will assume the role of the coordinator at the regional highlighting fundraising role which will be realized and finalized once the transition of the Rs is accomplished, and (3), SWG Chairman's summary will include a recommendation for the seascapes mechanism to be included in the RPOA 2.0.

Discuss the planning on each priority seascape

Acknowledging the issues and challenges presented during the country presentations, the Chair noted that the concerns on GEF-7 proposals and Lesser Sunda Seascape are the pressing ones. For the former, the SWG agreed to encourage Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon

Islands to continue its discussion on BSSE until the three countries have come up with a solid proposal to be submitted to GEF 7 and other potential opportunities. With regards to LSSE, the SWG encouraged Indonesia and Timor Leste to continue to develop a program on the development of Lesser Sunda Seascape despite recognized challenges, especially on border crossing.

This session also agreed to revise specific stipulations on the SWG Rules of Procedure. This agreement is in recognition of the decisions on the sub-WG coordinator and TOR of the sub-WG. The specific revisions are stated as follows:

- Amend Rule 3, Nos.3. and 4 to be read as follows:
 Rule 3 No. 3. Each of the sub-working group may appoint a coordinator.
 Rule 3 No.4. The focal point of each sub-working groups shall report to the Chair.
- Add another item in Rule 3 to be read as follows:

 Rule 3 No. 2. Each sub-working group shall develop its own terms of reference.
- Delete Rule 3 No. 4. The coordinator of each sub-working group shall report to the Chair

SESSION FOUR: RPOA 2.0 UPDATE AND SOM

Upon the request of the SWG Chair, Ms. Janet Polita presented updates on the drafting of the Regional Plan of Action 2.0. She emphasized that the RS hired a consultant to conduct incountry consultations, collate results and draft the updated version of the RPOA. She shared that the first consultative workshop for the RPOA 2.0 was conducted on April 2019 in Manado wherein the outputs include the lessons learned from the RPOA 1.0. Aside from this, online survey containing 64 questions was also conducted. The last workshop facilitated by the RS for the RPOA 2.0 was completed in Bali, Indonesia on 13-15 August 2019. Essentially, all activities relating to the review of the RPOA 2.0 document were already completed and that the latest version was already circulated to the NCCs prior to endorsement to SOM 15.

The Chair then requested the countries to comment. Timor Leste commented that he has not yet received the copy of the latest version of the RPOA 2.0 while Philippines proposed to extend the deadline of review so that the countries can have more time to deliberate on their proposed revisions. PNG, SI, Indonesia and Malaysia agreed with PH's proposal on the extension of deadline. The RS then clarified that the countries can submit revisions on the document prior to pre-SOM and SOM 15.

Philippines also requested that the copy of the Country Consultation conducted by the consultant be shared with the CT6.

SESSION FIVE: UPDATE ON SUB REGIONAL PLANS

With regards to the Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP), the RS was requested to assist in the follow-up with Indonesia. Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines will then meet to discuss plans on the RSAP and the Pacific countries are welcome to participate for cross-learning.

Activity Report: 6th Seascapes Working Group Meeting | 14

Discussions then proceeded regarding the SWG Workplan for 2020. The planned activities include a regional planning and consultative workshop for priority seascapes by Quarter 1 2020, 7th SWG Meeting by Quarter 2 2020 and an SWG Regional Exchange for CT6 by Quarter 2 or Quarter 3 2020. The proposed budget for each event is \$25,000. Afterwards, the RS requested the CT member countries to update the list of SWG focal points.

The Chair then requested each CT member country for their closing message.

PNG commented that good things have come out of the meeting and that they are very fortunate to be present in the 6th SWG Meeting. Malaysia congratulated everyone for the productive discussions. Indonesia thanked the RS for the excellent facilitation and, also thanked Dr. Dacho for the light atmosphere of facilitation as Chair. Timor Leste thanked the Philippine government for hosting meeting and expressed special thanks to Dr. Dacho. Solomon Islands considered this meeting as an opportunity to move forward with the BSSE. Philippines is happy to note that the meeting ended with the participants smiling. Everyone was also invited by the host country to catch up the Manila Bay sunset.

From the RS, the IED expressed gratitude to the Chair and he recognized the RS team for their hard work. He also thanked the development partners, collaborator, the host country and the Coral Triangle member countries.

The Co-Chair reminded everyone that seascapes work is not a one-off meeting but an ongoing process. For the past 10 years, seascapes was not the focus but through this meeting, we have seen that there are several opportunities. It is also good that we start to transfer knowledge to the younger generation. She also expressed Solomon Island's readiness and enthusiasm to host SOM 15.

The Chair appreciated all the commitments and thanked the host country and the RS. She thanked development partners and collaborator. She is happy that the meeting went smoothly and light, not rigid and stiff as it was before. She noted that the meeting achieved a lot of outputs and she finally directed the RS to proceed with the review of the Chairman's Summary.

- 1 Requested the Regional Secretariat to assist in the follow-up of the final approval of Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) to Indonesia, and once approved, for Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines to meet and discuss the plan with invitation to other CT6 member countries for cross-scale learning; and
- 5. 2 Acknowledged and appreciated the Government of Philippines for hosting the 6th Seascapes Working Group Meeting.

ANNEX 1: List of Participants

EAFM Working Group (September 3)

- a. Mr. Marezo Alfathoni Putasa (Indonesia)
- b. Ms. Martini Dwi Indrayanti (Indonesia)
- c. Mr. Talip Hassan (Malaysia)
- d. Mr. Charles Francis(Malaysia)
- e. Ms. Jessie Beliku (Malaysia)
- f. Ms. Sylvia Scholastica Michael Dalansing (Malaysia)
- g. Ms. Rachel Yapucwangao Rabi (Papua New Guinea)
- h. Mr. Alois Kinol Kapin (Papua New Guinea)
- i. Mr. Napoleon Salvador Lamarca (Philippines)
- j. Ms. Janice Tuante-Cubo (Philippines)
- k. Ms. Charlyn Grace Golu (Solomon Islands)
- 1. Mr. Orlando Halek Kalis (Timor Leste)
- m. Mr. Saturnino da Costa Parlan (Timor Leste)

Seascapes Working Group (September 3-4)

- a. Ms. Nilfa Rasyid (Indonesia)
- b. Mr. Mahdan (Indonesia)
- c. Mr. Talip Hassan (Malaysia)
- d. Mr. Charles Francis(Malaysia)
- e. Ms. Yvonne Tio (Papua New Guinea)
- f. Ms. Nilda Baling (Philippines)
- g. Mr. Mudjekeewis Santos (Philippines)
- h. Ms. Tsatsa Leah Seimarlie (Solomon Island)
- i. Mr. Horacio A. dos Santos Guterres (Timor Leste)
- j. Mr. Len Garces (USAID Oceans)
- k. Ms. Jasmin Mohd Saad (USAID Oceans)
- 1. Ms. Asuncion Evangelista Sia (USAID Oceans)
- m. Mr. Augustus Rex Montebon (CI-Philippines)
- n. Mr. I Wayan Veda Santiaji (WWF)
- o. Ms. Susan Roxas (WWF)
- p. Ms. Marion Daclan (GIZ)
- q. Ms. Ronja Schmitt (GIZ)

CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat

- a. Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry
- b. Dr. Gregory Bennett
- c. Ms. Janet Rosalie Anne Polita
- d. Mr. Ayodya Satryo Anggorojati

ANNEX 2: Provisional Agenda of the 6th Seascapes Working Group Meeting

NOTE: 3RD SEPTEMBER 2019: CONVERGENCE OF EAFM + SEASCAPE TO DISCUSS THE REVIEW OF SUB REGIONAL EAFM PLAN

Provisional Agenda

6th Seascapes Working Group Meeting

3-4 September 2019 | Manila, Philippines

Time	Agenda	Person in Charge/Facilitator	Remarks	
Day 2: Tuesday, 3 September 2019				
08.00-08.30	Registration	Organizer	Regional Secretariat	
08.30-08.40	Chair welcome	Chair of SEASCAPE/	SEASCAPE TWG	
		CO-Chair of EAFM WG	Joining for the Overlap	
			day with EAFM TWG	
08.40-09.00	Participant	Chair of SEASCAPE		
	Introduction			
SESSION SIX SU	JLU SULAWESI SUB-REGIO	NAL EAFM PLAN		
09.00-09.30	Update on the Sulu	Chair of EAFM		
	Sulawesi Seascape			
	Sub-Regional EAFM			
	Plan			
09.30 -9.45	NCC Indonesia /EAFM	Chair of EAFM		
	TWG Indonesia to			
	provide update,			
	comment and suggest			
	ways forward.			
09.45-10.00	Finalize the Sulu	Chair of EAFM		
	Sulawesi Seascape			
	Sub-Regional EAFM			
	Plan			
10.00- 10.30	COFFEE BREAK			
10.30 -11.30	• NCC	Chair of EAFM		
	Malaysia/EAFM			
	TWG Malaysia			
	provide update			
	NCC			
	Philippines/EAFM			
<u> </u>	r illippilles/ carivi			

11.30-12.30	TWG Philippines- provide update and • NCC Indonesia /EAFM TWG Indonesia to provide update, comment and suggest for ways forward DISCUSSION	Chair of EAFM WG	
12.30-13.30	Lunch Break		
13.30-14.15	Develop Workplan and Budget for 2020; Discuss PreSOM and SOM15; Change of Chair	Chair of EAFM WG	RS to facilitate
14.15 – 15.00	Conclusions and way forward - Presentation of Chair's Summary	Chair of EAFM WG	RS to facilitate
15.00 -15.10	Closing Remarks	Outgoing Chair and Incoming Chair of EAFM WG	
15.10-15.30	GROUP PHOTO/ Coffee break		
FREE PROGRAM			

SECOND DAY 4TH SEPTEMBER

Time	Agenda	Person in Charge/Facilitator	Remarks		
Day 2: Wednesday, 4 September 2019					
08.00-08.30	Registration	RS and PH NCC	Regional Secretariat		
SESSION ONE					
08.30-08.40	Welcome Remarks	Chair of SEASCAPE			
08.40-08.50	Key Remarks	Interim Executive			
		Director of CTI-CFF			
		Regional Secretariat			
08.50-09.00	Opening Message	NCC Philippines			
09.00 -09.20	Review and Approval of Provisional Agenda	Chair of SEASCAPE WG			
9:20 -9.40	Coffee Break and Group Photo				
SESSION TWO: UPDATE	ON 2019 WORKPLAN				
9.40-10.10	Update on Status of SOM-14 decisions and SEASCAPE workplan for 2019	Chair of SEASCAPE WG	RS to Present		
SESSION THREE: COUN	TRY PRESENTATIONS ON	EACH PRIORITY SEASCAP	PE THEY ARE INVOLVED		
10.10 -10.40	NCC INDONESIA (SSSE, LS and BSSE)	Chair of SEASCAPE WG			
10.40 -11.10	NCC MALAYSIA (SSSE)	Chair of SEASCAPE WG			
11.10 -11.40	NCC PAPUA NEW GUINEA (BSSE)	Chair of SEASCAPE WG			
11.40 -12.10	NCC PHILIPPINES (SSSE)	Co-Chair of SEASCAPE WG			
12.10-13.00	LUNCH				
13.00 -13.30	NCC SOLOMON (BSSE)	Co-Chair of SEASCAPE WG			
13.30 -14.00	NCC TIMOR LESTE (LS)	Co- Chair of SEASCAPE WG			
14.00 -14.30	Discuss/ establish the sub-working groups for each priority seascape, including the TOR		(CI Philippines to assist with this session and the presentation) During the Sulawesi Seascape Regional		

			Convergence Meeting
			and the Review of the
			Sulu-Sulawesi Seas
			EAFM Plan 3-6 July
			2018 Bai Hotel,
			Mandaue City, Cebu,
			Philippines. At that
			meeting Indonesia,
			Malaysia and
			Philippines agreed to
			work on and move
			forward with
			Coordination
			mechanisms as
			proposed during the
			CTI Convergence
			Meeting. Similar set
			up / framework could
			be discussed for CT
			Pacific
14.30 -15.30	Discuss the planning		
	of each priority		
	seascape		
	 Sulu-Sulawesi 		
	 Lesser Sunda 		
	 Bismarck 		
	Solomon Seas		
15.30-15.45	Coffee break		
SESSION FOUR: RPOA 2	2.0 UPDATE AND SOM		
15.45-16.30	Update and discuss	Chair of SEASCAPE/	
	RPOA 2.0	Regional Secretariat	
SESSION FIVE: UPDATE	ON SUB REGIONAL PLAN	IS	
16.30-16.35	Update on the Sulu		Completed on 3 rd
	Sulawesi Seascape		September with EAFM
	Sub-Regional EAFM		TWG
	Plan (EAFM and		
	SEASCAPE AGENDA)		
16.35 -16.40	Updates on the		Completed on 3 rd
	Regional Strategic		September with EAFM
	Action Program Sulu-		TWG
	Celebes Sea		
	Sustainable Fisheries		
	Management Project		
16.40 -17.10	Develop Workplan		(Interim)Executive
į J	and Budget for 2020;		Director of CTI-

	SOM15; Change of		Secretariat will
	Chair		facilitate this session
17.10-17.45	Conclusions	Chair of Seascape WG	
	and way		
	forward - Presentation		
	of Chair's Summary		
17:45 -18.00	Closing remarks	IED RS	
18.00 FREE PROGRAM			