



CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY

Annex – 4
Decision Document on:
MPA Working Group and Priority Actions

The 9th CTI-CFF SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING (SOM9)

**26 - 27 NOVEMBER 2013
MANILA, PHILIPPINES**

**Adopted on 26th November 2013
by the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea,
The Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste**

I. Background

The Coral Triangle Initiative's Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) Goal 3 (*Marine Protected Areas established and effectively managed*) has one Target: *a region-wide Coral Triangle MPA System in place and fully functioning by 2020.* To accomplish this target, the MPA WG was constituted pursuant to a SOM6 decision in Manado in 2010 that outlined the general Terms of Reference (ToR) of the TWGs. At SOM7, the MPA WG focal points were formally approved and thereafter, the MPA WG became a primary mechanism for coordinating and facilitating the Regional Exchanges (REX), WG meetings and conference calls that led to the formulation and development of the CTMPAS Framework.

The draft CTMPAS Framework was presented and endorsed at SOM8 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, subject to the countries providing final inputs to the draft. The country inputs were further deliberated upon at the 4th MPA REX (REX4) in March 2013 in Solomon Islands. During REX4 and the WG meeting that immediately followed, the CT6 endorsed key elements of the CTMPAS, including the nomination process, selection criteria for CTMPAS sites, agreement on MPA indicators, convening of the CTMPAS Advisory Committee, and the formulation of roadmaps for each country's MPA Management Effectiveness Program. In August 2013, the MPA WG endorsed its top regional priorities for the implementation of the CTMPAS Framework.

II. Decision

Based on the presentations made by the MPA WG at SOM9 and discussions particularly during the session on *Thematic Working Group Reports (MPA and CCA)*, the Senior Officials:

1. Acknowledge the progress made by the MPA WG under the leadership of the Philippines as MPA WG Chair and reiterate their endorsement of the CTMPAS Framework and Action Plan;
2. Endorse the formation of a CTMPAS Advisory Committee composed of 5 members who will review site nominations;
3. Encourage development partners to provide support to the conduct of an MPA REX in May or June 2014 that will include the CT6, advisory committee members and key technical advisors. The proposed REX is aimed at further strengthening the MPA management effectiveness protocols being developed in each of the CT6, and to review and improve as appropriate the overall implementation of the CTMPAS Framework and Action Plan;
4. Request each country to finalize their nominations for Categories 3 (Priority Development Sites) and 4 (Flagship Sites) and, by 31 December 2013, submit their nominations to to the MPA-WG for inclusion in the CTMPAS;

5. Request development partners to support an MPA Coordinator fully dedicated to regional MPA related work to guide the CTMPAS implementation;
6. Enjoin each country to review and update their data in the CT Atlas and, by 30 March 2014, submit to the CT Atlas all required information on their MPAs.
7. Request for endorsement of the *Practitioner Guide in Designing MPA Networks to Achieve Fisheries, Biodiversity, and Climate Change Objectives in Tropical Ecosystem*.
8. Note that the MPAWG will elect at the next MPAWG meeting in 2014 a new chair and vice chair who will assume their respective positions on 1 January 2015.

References:

1. Summary Report: Regional Exchange on Developing an MPA Management Effectiveness Protocol to Support the Coral Triangle MPA System, Honiara, Solomon Islands, March 12-16, 2013
2. Coral Triangle Marine Protected Area System (CTMPAS) Framework and Action Plan, August 2013
3. Summary Report: Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security 2nd Regional Priorities Workshop, Manado, Indonesia, August 20-22, 2013