

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

## **PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A CTI REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON COASTFISH**

### **“IMPROVED INCOME, LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY IN AN INCREASINGLY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF COASTAL COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE REGION THROUGH A NEW SUSTAINABLE COASTAL FISHERIES AND POVERTY REDUCTION INITIATIVE (“COASTFISH”)”**

#### **Background:**

Under the CTI-CFF, the six Coral Triangle countries (CT6) adopted a Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) with five overarching goals: 1) strengthening management of seascapes; 2) applying an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM); 3) developing and strengthening the management of marine protected areas; 4) implementing climate change adaptation measures; and 5) protecting threatened marine species. The second target of Goal 2 reads: “Through a new, collaborative Sustainable Coastal Fisheries and Poverty Reduction Initiative (‘COASTFISH’) designed to apply an EAFM, a significant improvement has been achieved in the incomes, livelihoods and food security of millions of people living in targeted coastal communities.” (CTI-CFF 2009). Applying an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) is considered the preferred option and best practice for the long-term sustainability of fisheries and the services that fisheries ecosystems provide to society (e.g., food security, livelihoods, economic security, coastal protection, human health and well-being) in the Coral Triangle region.

A transition to EAFM, with its broadened attention to ecosystem effects and interactions with other economic sectors, may well have both positive and negative impacts on employment, livelihoods and regional economies. Impacts may occur to fishing operations and changes may be expected in, for example, existing livelihoods and income levels of fishery participants and their families and other resource users, the skills base of employees, and the degree of dependence on the fishery or ecosystem. Impacts may affect those in the supply chain such as boat and gear makers and post-harvest operations. There can also be major and secondary and gender-related impacts on community employment. For example, fisheries management decisions may affect postharvest processing of fish and fishery products and marketing, in which women often play a predominant role. The implications will differ from location to location within a country depending upon the level of economic dependence of people on fisheries and the availability of supplemental and alternative livelihoods. This is a major issue when an EAFM leads to reduced levels of employment in the fisheries where a smooth transition is hindered by few employment and livelihood alternatives and/or low education levels.

Livelihoods and poverty reduction are critical and the link between healthy, well-managed and productive marine and coastal ecosystems and livelihoods is well established. There is a need for guidance for including considerations of livelihoods and employment in an EAFM.

At CTI EAFM Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings, COASTFISH was discussed but was not prioritized for action as the focus was getting EAFM programs initiated in the six CTI countries. It was highlighted that COASTFISH has the potential to contribute significantly to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in all six CT countries.

As fisheries become increasingly overfished in the region due to overcapacity of fishing effort and fishers, there is a real need to transition fishers and their households away from fishing with new livelihoods, whether enhanced, supplemental/diversified or alternative. This is a common issue among all six CTI countries. Over the last thirty years, a range of different livelihoods have been provided and implemented in fishing and coastal communities in the region with mixed success and sustainability by the fisher and household. For example, seaweed farming has found success in many locations when different variables for success and sustainability have been present, such ideal growing conditions, access to markets, and proper training. Agricultural practices, such as animal husbandry, have also been tried with mixed success. However, these few alternative livelihood options may not be an appropriate alternative for every household.

### **COASTFISH Achievements to Date:**

To date under the USCTI, one publication was produced for COASTFISH:

R. Pomeroy. 2013. Sustainable livelihoods and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. CTSP/CTI, Jakarta, Indonesia.

This livelihoods guide serves as a primary tool to support the COASTFISH initiative.

### **Terms of Reference for COASTFISH WORKSHOP:**

Date/Location: The COASTFISH Workshop is proposed to take place in Q1 2017 in the Philippines. Exact location should be determined based on ease of regional travel and budget, as well as practical opportunities for peer-to-peer exchanges and site visits.

Theme: The overarching theme of the COASTFISH Workshop is to **design and launch a region-wide CTI COASTFISH Initiative with a focus on livelihoods linked to EAFM**. This would include collaboration on designing a “common regional framework for the CTI COASTFISH Initiative”. This would be initiated through a COASTFISH livelihoods workshop to share experiences and lessons learned on livelihoods. Building on these experiences and lessons learned, COASTFISH will be designed to demonstrate successful models and significantly “scale up” and expand proven models.

The overall goal of this Initiative will be to enhance food security, income, and sustainable livelihoods of targeted coastal communities, through application of an EAFM. As such, COASTFISH has the potential to contribute significantly to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in all six CT countries. This will require well-informed, customized, and sophisticated strategies and programs, supported by largescale levels of investments in targeted coastal regions particularly dependent on coastal fisheries. Such investments will need to include both domestic and external sources of funding.

Numerous coastal fisheries projects and programs are already underway in all six countries, designed to promote more sustainable fisheries. Building on these activities, COASTFISH will be designed to demonstrate successful models and significantly “scale up” and expand proven models. In each country, specific “COASTFISH Sites” will be identified and targeted for investment and action, based on poverty and biodiversity criteria. In each country, COASTFISH

programs will need to be highly customized for specific local contexts. Coastal communities should be a primary participant in and beneficiary of this initiative.

A variety of sub-themes and topics will be addressed under this overarching theme, and the Workshop will be designed to document and highlight best practices around these sub-themes, including but not limited to:

- Design of a region-wide CTI COASTFISH Initiative. Collaborate on designing a “common regional framework for the CTI COASTFISH Initiative”. Drawing on this framework, complete the design of national COASTFISH Programs in each CT6 country, and launch the CTI COASTFISH Initiative. Key elements of the CTI COASTFISH Initiative could include:
  - Guidelines for EAFM and coastal fisheries. Draw on, and adapt as needed, existing guidelines for the implementation of EAFM for coastal fisheries.
  - Maps of COASTFISH Sites / Regions. Produce maps denoting locations of COASTFISH Sites or Regions, as well as other relevant spatially-referenced data. These sites will generally be large in scale, and linked to other goals in the CTI Plan of Action - e.g., “priority seascapes” (Goal #1) and sites / networks included in the Coral Triangle MPA System (CTMPAS) (Goal #3).
  - COASTFISH Investment Plans. Develop COASTFISH Investment Plans in each country defining and costing a set of strategic actions identified through a range of studies (e.g., covering fisheries status; alternative livelihood, enterprise, and industry growth options; market analyses; legal analyses; future climate change impacts; and options for applying an EAFM). Information on how these COASTFISH Investment Plans are being developed, and the contents of these plans, will be shared across CT6 countries. Drawing on these national investment plans, develop a regional investment plan. (Note: Investments will vary based on country and local contexts; livelihood strategies will be customized for local resource conditions to achieve EAFM.)
- Livelihoods and EAFM. Attention to alternative livelihoods is of crucial importance in moving to an EAFM, and more generally to changing towards more sustainable fishery practices, by reducing the number of people dependent on fishing as their sole income and thus reducing barriers to change. However, there is no easy answer to the challenge of introducing enhanced, supplemental/diversified and alternative livelihoods in situations of fishery dependency - barriers such as labor stickiness and low levels of education among the fishing population have to be acknowledged, as does the reality that no single “solution” will work in all circumstances. This would include strategies to protect marine ecosystems in support of local fisheries livelihoods through innovative local investments and financing mechanisms. Profiling successful models/tools for leveraging private sector investments and financing (e.g. Public-Private Partnerships, concessions, FIPs etc.) in support of sustainable local fisheries production and the protection of vital fisheries habitat (e.g. coral reefs and mangroves).
- Mobilization of significant new financial investments to support COASTFISH. To complement country-specific financing sources, mobilize multi-country financing such actions as:

- Investor Forums. Organize jointly sponsored Investor Forums to present the COASTFISH Initiative to groups of potential public and private investors.
- Joint approaches to individual public funding agencies. Collaborate on joint approaches to select public funding agencies that have multi-country interests in COASTFISH.
- Regional COASTFISH Fund. Jointly explore the need for and feasibility of a regional fund to support the CTI COASTFISH Initiative.
- Small-scale funding mechanisms for fishers. Develop and share information on small-scale funding mechanisms for fishers.

Outcomes/Outputs:

1. A “common regional framework for the CTI COASTFISH Initiative” developed and shared with countries.
2. A financial investment strategy for the COASTFISH Initiative at regional and national levels.
3. An outline for national COASTFISH Initiative and investment plans
4. Identification of successful and sustainable livelihoods and livelihood strategies for fishers, fishing households and coastal communities

Participants: Approximately 150 participants will be sought for the COASTFISH Workshop including:

- Fisher representatives and leaders of fishing associations
- Government agencies and local government
- Private sector leaders and industry
- Fisheries managers, advisors and technicians
- Researchers, NGOs and development workers

The organizers will seek to develop a budget for travel support so that community-based organizations and fishers with limited resources can attend.

Format: Three-day Workshop, with plenary and small workshop sessions.

Technical Sessions on Livelihoods: In addition, one or two days of technical exchange on successful and sustainable livelihoods with fishers and family members, local government, livelihood project implementers, national government agencies, researchers, practitioners and donors.

Roles and Partners: The COASTFISH Initiative is proposed to be hosted by CTI-CFF Secretariat with technical support from WWF and other partners. Potential COASTFISH Initiative partners/sponsors include USAID Philippines, USAID Indonesia, USAID RDMA, RARE, World Bank, ADB, GIZ, other WWF offices (e.g. WWF-US), NOAA, SEAFDEC and the private sector.

Budget: Approximately \$150,000 USD