



CORAL TRIANGLE  
INITIATIVE  
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES  
AND FOOD SECURITY



# CTI-CFF *newsletter*

October - December 2021 ▸ Issue 21



**CTI-CFF:**  
Gearing-up for  
transformative  
change





# In this edition

- 4** SOM-16 approves 2022 CTI-CFF activities and budget
- 5** Updates
- 7** CTI Trust Fund seen as one sustainable financing for CTI's marine biodiversity conservation efforts
- 8** SOM-16 accepts GESI Policy
- 8** RS ED highlights importance of GESI in all CTI-CFF's endeavours
- 9** EU, WWF and CTI-CFF RS partner for Virtual Learning Exchange
- 10** Atauro Island, 2021 Top 100 Good Destinations Sustainability Stories
- 11** CTI-CFF Statement on the Passing of COM Chair
- 12** Thank you and Farewell to RS Staff
- 13** Welcome to New Staff

# MESSAGE



**Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin**  
Executive Director, CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat

Two-years since COVID-19 pandemic has created a significant change in the way we conduct activities, we managed to remain resilient and focused in continuing the work we have started towards attaining the goals of CTI-CFF. With the new COVID variant, Omicron being designated by the WHO as a Variant of Concern, I pray and hope that all of us together with our colleagues and families will continue to be safe and healthy and be free from the possible threats/risks this new variant poses.

Nonetheless, the new COVID variant will not hinder us from carrying out our activities especially in the year 2022. The Regional Secretariat will continue to maximize the available technologies and online platform to regularly coordinate and communicate with CT6 Member Countries to ensure everyone's safety.



The Regional Secretariat with the support and cooperation of the CT6 Member Countries and CTI Partners will pursue to deliver the tasks assigned before us and will ensure the implementation of planned activities in 2022.

We will ensure the completion of the draft Regional Plan of Action 2.0 to set the direction of CTI-CFF in the next 10 years and to align CTI-CFF with other regional groupings.

We will continue to work with the CT6 Member Countries and our partners, WCS and CFA, in completing the design of the CTI-CFF Regional Conservation Trust Fund, which is one of the sustainable finance mechanisms to support CTI-CFF and the RPOA 2.0.

Further, we hope that in 2022, we will be able to come-up with a new Host Country Agreement.

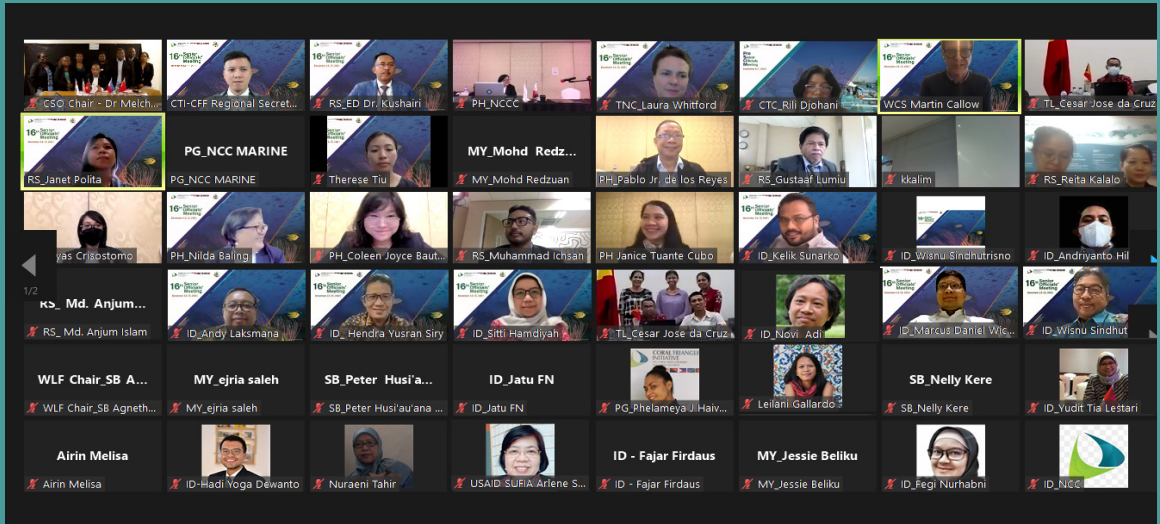
We thank the Government of Indonesia for hosting the Regional Secretariat for the last seven years and providing assistance to RS staff, especially its international staff.

We are confident that CTI-CFF and the Regional Secretariat will be able to realize its goal in 2022. Despite the odds and challenges posed by the current, we will remain strong to be able to attain the goals of CTI-CFF.

We pray that the year 2022 will bring us more joy, blessing, peace good health and prosperity.



# SOM-16 approves 2022 CTI-CFF activities and budget



Screenshot of SOM-16 participants

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and agreement from the May 2021 Special SOM, the CTI-CFF Committee of Senior Officials agreed to virtually conduct the 16th Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM-16) on 13-16 December 2021 to review and accept the recommendations from the Technical and Governance Working Groups, Cross-Cutting Initiatives, review the proposed 2022 CTI-CFF budget as well as deliberate the prime activities of CTI-CFF such as the draft Regional Plan of Action (RPOA 2.0) and the draft Host Country Agreement.

Senior officials from the CT6 Member Countries meticulously reviewed and unanimously agreed on the 2022 budget of CTI-CFF in the amount of to USD \$1,009,140, exclusive of the 2021 estimated budget surplus amounting to USD \$196,543 to support mostly the virtual activities of the working groups and finance the operations of RS taking into account the ongoing pandemic.

The completion of the communication and financial strategies of the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA 2.0) was also acknowledged noting that it will support the implementation the target activities of the draft RPOA 2.0. The CSO pushed the RS and members of the CT6 to complete the RPOA 2.0 by the first quarter of 2022.

The completion of the review of the draft Host Country Agreement (HCA) was also recognized. Indonesia as the Host Country, expressed in the meeting to receive the draft HCA as soon as it is ready and requested RS to provide an official update of the HCA to their government.

The meeting also recognized the continuing support of the CTI Partners, particularly their three proposals relating to international policy, capacity building and trust fund. The CSO has tasked both concerned working groups and RS to work with the CTI Partners closely in ensuring the identified plans and activities shall be reviewed and carried out.

Further, the meeting recognized the implementation of SuFIA project as well as the consideration of USAID/RDMA Grant through PIO of USD 2 million for 3 years project to CTI-CFF, and the SuFIA/TS as a new activity and the consideration of USAID (SuFIA/TS) of USD 10 million for 4 years project to CTI-CFF.

CSO Chair Dr Melchior Mataka from the Government of Solomon Islands had expressed thanks to CT6 and RS for their commitment and dedication to pursue the activities of CTI-CFF in 2021 despite the pandemic.

# UPDATES

**A**

## **Draft CTI-CFF Staff Policies and Procedures Manual (SPPM) accepted at SOM-16**

At the SOM-16 held from 13-16 December 2021, CSO had approved and accepted the CTI-CFF Staff Policies and Procedures Manual that had long been and critically reviewed by the Internal Resource Committee. The approval of the SPPM would create further a stable, conducive and value-laden work environment for the staff of Regional Secretariat.

**B**

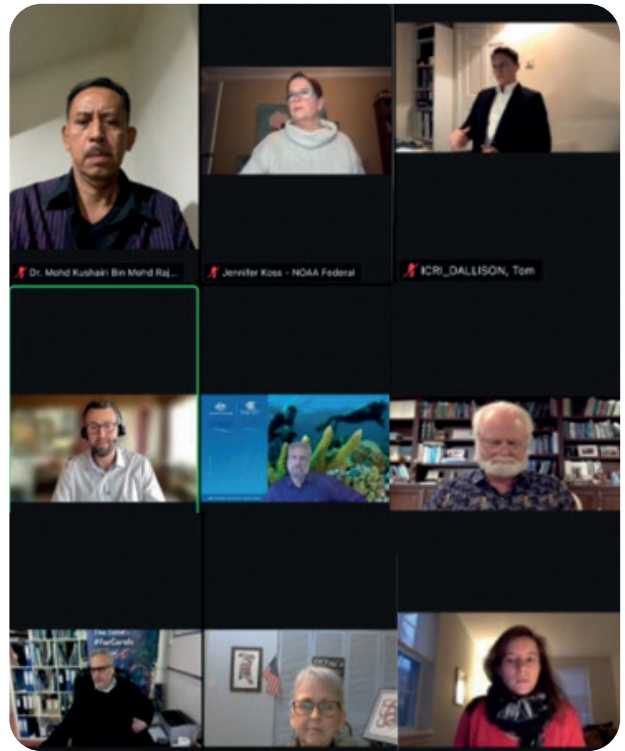
## **SOM-16 endorses the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) relating to Reef Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in Sulu Sulawesi Seascape**

Members of the CSO at the concluded SOM-16 in December 2021 agreed to endorse the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) on Seascape Approach to Securing Coral Reef Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape. The proposal for GEF funding was prepared by the University of Queensland, Conservation International-Philippines and UNDP with support from the Seascapes and EAFM Working Groups from Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines. The SAP intends to address the unsustainable exploitation of fish, habitat loss and community modification, and climate change in its focused areas.

**C**

## **M&E Writeshop on M&E Plan framework to be conducted in 2nd/3rd Quarter of 2022**

With the approval of the revised M&E Data Collection and Information Sharing Mechanism and M&E Plan Framework template at the concluded SOM-16 in December 2021, the Regional Secretariat shall be conducting an M&E Writeshop on M&E Plan framework in the 2nd or 3rd Quarter of 2022 and further fine tune the M&E Data Collection and Information Sharing Mechanism as tasked by the Committee of Senior Officials.



**D**

### RS ED attends 36th ICRI General Meeting

Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin, Executive Director of the Regional Secretariat attended the virtual 36th ICRI General Meeting chaired by USA. Key outcomes from the said meeting are:

1. welcomed 3 new members into ICRI; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Commonwealth Secretariat; and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI);
2. Adoption of the:
  - a. Addendum to the ICRI Recommendation on the inclusion of coral reefs and related ecosystems within the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
  - b. Resolution to extend the ICRI ad hoc committee for coral reef restoration and adaptation;
  - c. Resolution to extend the ICRI Ad Hoc Committee on Resilience-based Management; and
  - d. The 2021-2024 Plan of Action, Turning the Tide for Coral Reefs as a framework document



# CTI Trust Fund seen as one sustainable financing for CTI's marine biodiversity conservation efforts

"We need to develop and implement a sustainable CTI-CFF financial mechanism to provide sustainable financing for our marine biodiversity conservation as well as finance RPOA 2.0 and the long-term costs of the Coral Triangle MPA System. The CTI Trust Fund could help mobilize large amount of fundings from international donors and private sectors to help attain the goals, objectives and targets of CTI-CFF and RPOA 2.0."

This was one of the important messages conveyed by Mr. T.B.H Witjaksono Adji, Chair of the CTI-CFF Financial Resources Working Group (FRWG) and Director for Asia-Pacific and Africa Intra-Regional and Inter-Regional Cooperation of Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs that was read by his representative Mr. Raden Wisnu Sindhutrisno during the virtual CTI-CFF Trust Fund Workshop on 1-2 December 2021.

Mr Adji shared that in the concluded UN COP26 Summit in Glasglow, the ocean was incorporated into the UN climate change regime, which clearly shows the intangible links between the ocean, climate and biodiversity and the need to address them cooperatively in regional and international climate biodiversity dialogues and processes. "We need to protect and save our marine protected areas and support it by appropriate financial contribution," Mr Adji said.

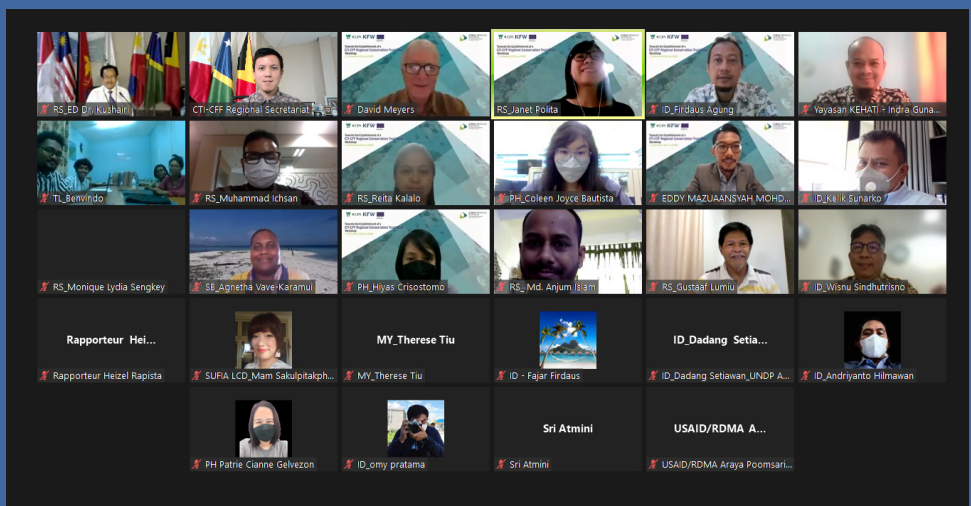
He commended the efforts of the Regional Secretariat of CTI-CFF and the members of the

Technical Committee of CTI-CFF Trust Fund as well as the expert group from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Conservation Finance Alliance (CFA) for initiating and going through the process of the establishment of the CTI-CFF Trust Fund.

The virtual CTI-CFF Trust Fund workshop highlighted presentations on the CTI Trust Fund Concept which includes value proposition, mission and strategy as well as planning for design and launch. Participation were also provided with insights about the Caribbean Challenge Initiative and KEHATI Trust Fund of Indonesia.

At the workshop, participants also discussed branding concept, resource mobilization, stakeholder and beneficiary mapping during the breakout group session.

The virtual workshop was hosted by the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat in collaboration with the Technical Committee for the establishment of a Regional Conservation Trust Fund and supported by the WCS and CFA with financial support by the European Union (EU) and the German Development Bank (KfW).



# SOM-16 accepts GESI Policy

The virtual 16th CTI-CFF Senior Official's Meeting (SOM-16) accepted the Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy presented by the CTI-CFF Women Leaders' Forum on 16 December 2021.

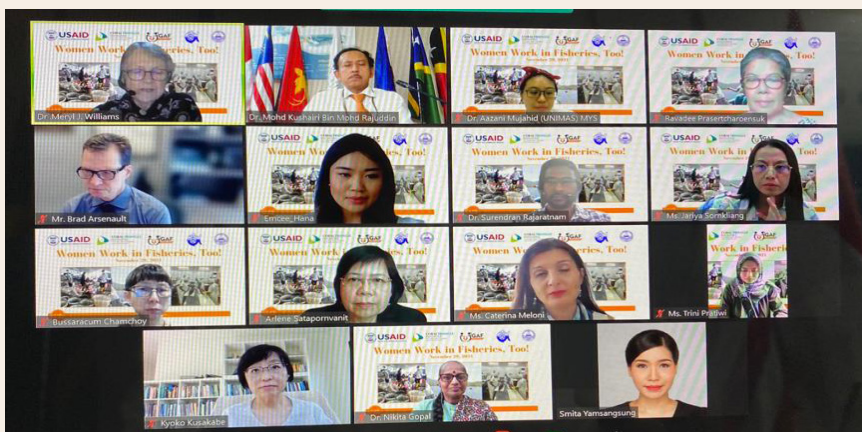
The ultimate goal of the CTI-CFF GESI Policy is to achieve all women, men, youth, persons with disabilities and all social groups in the Coral Triangle areas benefit from the improved marine, coastal, and small islands ecosystems.

Particularly, GESI aims to ensure that all gender concerns are incorporated in the shaping of

laws, policies and programmes; all have equal access and ability to participate in decision-making; and GESI mainstreamed in the CTI-CFF institutional changing process.

The WLF has been at the helm in crafting the GESI policy noting that it will assist in reducing gender gaps in ways that benefit all citizens, including those with less power in decision-making and not just those who are the most visible, or vocal.

Senior officials also ensured that the GESI Policy shall be part of the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action (RPOA)2.0.



## RS ED highlights importance of GESI in all CTI-CFF's endeavours

CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Executive Director Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin highlighted CTI-CFF's efforts in ensuring that gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) are practiced and promoted in all facets of CTI-CFF endeavors and initiatives during the virtual webinar on Gender and Labor in Fisheries: Women Work in Fisheries, Too! organized by the USAID/RDMA SUFIA-RTI, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), India and Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section and Asian Fisheries Society.

"We believe that GESI mainstreaming improves livelihoods and social security and contributes to higher economic productivity and more efficient governance of marine resources," Dr

Kushairi said.

He also shared about the CTI-CFF GESI Policy that 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 CTI-CFF areas.

Further, he shared that CTI-CFF is also partnering with USAID SUFIA RTI through the Local Capacity Development Activity, where part of the activities include capacity building on GESI, development and dissemination of GESI-relation information and communication materials.



## EU, WWF and CTI-CFF RS partner for Virtual Learning Exchange

The European Union, WWF and the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat partnered for the conduct of the Virtual Learning Exchange (VLE) under the EU Ocean Governance Project.

The VLE was part of the third Component of the EU Ocean Governance Project, which was aimed at strengthening knowledge exchange between Atlantic and Southeast Asian marine and coastal regions. Particularly, the VLE focused on topics, namely, supporting MPA management at regional and national scale, new tools for MPA management in terms of coastal resilience and marine mammal's protection as well as protection of marine turtles and their habitats.

"The CTI-CFF has always valued the importance of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as an important

tool for conserving marine biodiversity and sustaining critical fisheries and other marine resources. MPAs have been proven to directly reduce local direct fishing exploitation and pollution. It can also indirectly mitigate coastal and thermal stress- related threats by increasing reef resilience and reducing the compounding effects of multiple threats," according to Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin, Executive Director of RS in a message read by Mr Gustaaf Lumiu, Deputy Executive Director for Corporate Services of RS.

The VLE was attended by MPA Managers and senior officials from CT6 Member Countries as well as the Atlantic region.



TIMOR LESTE

# ATAURO ISLAND

## Atauro Island, 2021 Top100 Good Destinations Sustainability Stories

Atauro Island in Timor-Leste is 2021's Top 100 Good Destinations Sustainability Stories.

According to the Green Destinations.org, the community in Atauro Island has revived cultural traditions to help marine protected areas and fostered ecotourism development through tara bandu. Tara bandu, a tetum word which literally means prohibition (bandu) by hanging (taru), is both a code behavior and community ritual, which uses local conservation knowledge and helps expand social networks and community cooperation. On the Atauro Island, Tara Bandu has been used to protect mangrove areas, nut trees, and traditional bee farms and has been used to establish 13 Marine Managed Areas (MMA) across the island.

Atauro Island is a 25 km stretch of volcanic rock and home to the most biodiverse reefs in the world. The Island abounds with natural resources which include, coral reefs, endangered cetaceans migrating through the Ombai-Wetar Strait as well as rare terrestrial flora and fauna.

To learn more about Atauro Island being chosen as 2021's Top 100 Good Destinations, visit this link <https://bit.ly/3CbiWTK>





On behalf of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security, the Regional Secretariat extends its deepest and heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the family of Hon. Titus Mokofi Fika and to the Government and the people of Solomon Islands.

Hon. Titus Mokofi Fika who passed away on 19 November 2021 served as the Chair of the CTI-CFF Council of Ministers and Minister of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology of the Government of Solomon Islands.

CTI-CFF and the Regional Secretariat joins the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology and the Solomon Islands National Coordinating Committee (NCC) in mourning this irreparable loss. We pray that the Almighty grant him eternal peace and continue to give strength to his beloved family to bear this great loss with courage and fortitude.

## Thank you and Farewell to RS Staff



The CTI-CFF and the Regional Secretariat extend its sincerest thanks and appreciation to **Dr Sharifah Nora Asfiah Binti Syed Ibrahim**, Deputy Executive Director for Program Services (DEDPS) and **Dr Gregory Bennett**, Technical Program Senior Manager under Program Services of the Regional Secretariat of CTI-CFF.

Dr Ibrahim had successfully completed her term as DEDPS for the period of 15 November 2017 – 14 November 2021.

She had provided excellent contribution and leadership skills in: coordinating the review of the CTI Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) 1.0 and the preparation towards finalizing the draft CTI RPOA 2.0; coordinating the Technical Working Groups, Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group and Cross-Cutting Initiatives representing the CTI-CFF as a resource person in various international fora to increase credibility and visibility of CTI-CFF strengthening partnership between CTI-CFF and CTI Partners through excellent management and monitoring of collaborative programs coordinating information and knowledge management relevant to CTI-CFF programs and goals.



Dr Bennett had shown dedication, teamwork and commitment during his more than 3 years of service to RS and CTI-CFF. He had excellently contributed in coordinating the Technical Working Groups, M&E Working Group and Cross-Cutting Initiatives of the CTI-CFF to ensure that the workplans were carried out.

CTI-CFF and RS wishes them both well and the best in their future endeavors.

## Welcome to new RS Staff

The Regional Secretariat warmly welcomes its new staff:



**Mr Brian Nerre** is from Papua New Guinea has been hired as new Finance and Operations Manager. Mr Nerre completed a Bachelors degree in Accounting and worked as an Accountant and Accounts and Administration Manager in a company in Papua New Guinea as well as in international development organizations.



**Mr Muhammad Ichsan** from Indonesia is the new Technical Program Manager. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Marine Science from Padjadjaran University, Indonesia and Master's Degree in Conservation Biology from the University of Queensland, Australia. He previously worked with the private sector in marine tourism and international conservation NGOs focusing on threatened marine species and international development projects in sustainable fisheries.



**Mr Michael Tampongangoy** is the Project Administrative Assistant under the SUFIA Local Capacity Development Activity of CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat. He hold a Master Degree in Business Administration from James Cook University Brisbane, Australia. He had 10 years of experience as a lecturer in International Business Administration, an international program of the Faculty of Economics and Business, Sam Ratulangi University.



Photo credit: Ocean Agency/Matt Curnock



Photo credit: Janet Rosalie Anne Pofita

# CTI-CFF *newsletter*

October - December 2021 ▲ Issue 21

The CTI-CFF is a multilateral partnership of six countries, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste, working together to sustain extraordinary marine and coastal resources by addressing crucial issues such as food security, climate change and marine biodiversity.

 Coral Triangle Initiative

 @cticff

 @cticff

[coraltriangleinitiative.org](http://coraltriangleinitiative.org)