



Press Release – **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CTI-CFF 8TH MINISTERIAL MEETING ENDORSED NEW REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTIONS 2021-2030

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Manado, 29 November 2022 – The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) held the 8th Ministerial Meeting (MM-8), brought together Ministers government of six member countries to discuss on progress, achievements, and steps forward for the year 2023.

The meeting was chaired by **H.E. Honorable Nestor Giro, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, of the Solomon Islands** as Chair of the Council of Ministers of CTI-CFF and co-chaired by **HE. Pedro dos Reis, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste**.

Representing other governments were Mr. Victor Gustaaf Manoppo, Chair of National Coordinating Committee of Indonesia representing the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia; Mme. Noor Afifah Abdul Razak representing the Ministry of Environment and Water of Malaysia; Mme. Yvonne Tio representing HE. Simo Kilepa the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change of Papua New Guinea, Undersecretary Atty. Jonas R. Leones of Policy, Planning and International Affairs representing HE. Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines. Also attending were Dr. Mohd. Kushairi Mohd. Rajuddin the Executive Director of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, Ms. Araya Poomsaringkarn from USAID Regional Development Mission of Asia (RDMA) representing the strategic partners of the CTI-CFF.

“The year 2022 marks the 13th Anniversary of the multilateral partnership of the six member countries (CT6)– Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. We recalled that since the Coral Triangle Initiative Leaders' Declaration on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security on 15 May 2009 in Manado, our shared commitment to promote the conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine resources within the Coral Triangle region, never wavered and have achieved remarkable



CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES
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progress and further strengthened our relationship,” conveyed Mr. Nestor Giro cited from the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the CTI-CFF.

The government of the Coral Triangle 6 Countries agreed to continuously working together towards institutional and human capacity building, fostering collaborative partnership with international and regional institutions, and exploring sustainable finance mechanism to support the CTI-CFF towards sustainable management of the ocean resources for the livelihoods and the people of the region. MM-8 endorsed the Regional Plan of Action 2.0 (RPOA 2.0) that provides an overview of CTI-CFF’s strategic directions, goals and objectives and outlines CTI-CFF’s key priorities/regional activities.

The meeting also witnessed the handover of chairship of the Council of Ministers and the Committee of Senior Officials from the Government of Solomon Islands who have held the position for the period of 2019-2022, to the Government of Timor-Leste who will be chairing for the period of 2023-2024. The Vice-Chairship was also handed over from the Government of Timor-Leste (2019-2022) to the Government of Indonesia (2023-2024).

“Timor-Leste thanked the member countries for entrusting TL with the responsibility. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, convey our commitment to the work with CTI and developing partners to achieve the targets, we must focus on development actions in respond the 5 goals of the CTI-CFF,” said HE. Pedro dos Reis in his remarks.

New Chair of COM and CSO are appointed in rotation following alphabetical order based on the name of the CTI-CFF Country, scheduled every two years during the Ministerial Meeting, as a means of sharing leadership responsibilities.

Prior to MM-8, on the 24-25 November 2022, CTI-CFF held the 17th Senior Officials’ Meeting chaired by the Chair of Committee of Senior Officials, Dr. Melchior Matakai, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology of Solomon Islands. The meeting agreed upon workplan and budget for the CT six countries and the Regional Secretariat for the year 2023. It also acknowledged new contributions from partners among others commitment by USAID RDMA through the Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) project and contribution from the German Government to the Solutions for Marine and Coastal Resilience in the Coral Triangle (SOMACORE) project.

“The Regional Secretariat of CTI-CFF marked accomplishments made in many aspects, in project implementations, in obtaining supports from partners, and in engaging more involvement of communities. The initiative is growing, thus we are now in the process of finalizing the implementation of the Regional Conservation Trust Fund and improvement of the University Partnership (UP) and Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) within the CTI-CFF, as



well as inviting more supports through presentations in the international events,” said Dr. Mohd. Kushairi Mohd. Rajuddin in his address to the SOM-17.

SOM-17 also endorsed the initiative to look into the science serving to ensure scientific measures for effectiveness and impact monitoring, agreement for new collaborative capacity building programs to strengthen the works on mitigation of IUU Fishing supported by USAID RDMA as strategic partners, and acknowledgement of women contributions in management of coastal resources in the area through activities by the Women Leaders’ Forum.

MM-8 reaffirms the commitment and support of the governments of the CT6 Member Countries to the Initiative despite the challenges posed by the pandemic and further acknowledging the continuing need for a collective, coordinated and multilateral action to address the challenges on ocean governance and threats to marine conservation.

End of press release.

Notes to Editors

About Coral Triangle

The Coral Triangle is the world’s center of marine life, encompassing around 6 million sq km of ocean across six countries in Asia-Pacific - Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste. It is home to 76% of the world’s known coral species, 37% of the world’s coral reef fish species, and commercially valuable species such as tuna, whales, dolphins, rays, sharks, including 6 of the world’s 7 known species of marine turtles.

About CTI-CFF

The CTI-CFF is a multilateral partnership established in 2009 of six countries 2 working together to sustain biodiversity conservation and food security through the sustainable management of marine resources taking into consideration climate change impacts. The six CTI-CFF Member Countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands) focus on the conservation of coral reefs and their associated ecosystems within the Coral Triangle region.

The Regional Plan of Actions (RPOA) 2.0 is available on the website:

www.coraltriangleinitiative.org