



## Joint Communiqué

### CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY (CTI-CFF)

We, the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste, Members of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security recall the CTI-CFF Leaders' Agreement signed on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to address threats to the marine, coastal and small islands ecosystems within the Coral Triangle region.

- We reaffirm *the critical role* of the oceans in *ensuring* the health and well-being of the people of the Coral Triangle region;
- We note with much concern, the *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC)* issued in September 2019 by the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*, regarding “unprecedented” rise in sea levels over the past century and worst-case projections higher than thought at a possible rise more than 1 meter by 2100 (RCP 8.5) with continued strong increase in greenhouse gas emissions;
- We highlight the findings of the same report regarding ocean deoxygenation that can disrupt the ocean food web as the temperature of the ocean warms and the mixing between warm layers decreases, resulting in a decrease in the supply of oxygen and nutrients for marine life;
- We acknowledge the influence of climate variability and climate change among the greatest challenges and threats to the countries of the Coral Triangle, *and firmly agree that:*
  1. The Coral Triangle’s magnificent coral reef ecosystems, inter-connected and inter-dependent with seagrass beds and mangroves, are facing a perilous future because of the warming of our atmosphere and oceans, the increasing acidification and sea level *rise* that are destroying the very foundation of our coral reef systems;
  2. This is a critical time for our *oceans and seas, and naturally, for the marine and coastal resources which are under extreme and increasing pressure also from livelihood, food, and survival needs of over 120 million coastal and inland people;*
  3. Significant direct impacts of climate change are manifesting in these marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as deep water areas, and their associated marine life;
  4. The most severe direct threats to marine and coastal ecosystems from climate change include coral bleaching and ocean acidification, increasing sea surface temperature (SST) and sea level rise are expected to result in the following:
    - (i) Loss of territory by many of our most low-lying islands, as a few countries are now experiencing the loss of coastal land and islands, and must resort to forced relocation;



- (ii) Loss of housing, infrastructure and services due to storm surges, landslides, and flooding of coastal villages and nearby agricultural lands;
- (iii) Deaths, erosion of shallow vegetation and destruction of critical nursery grounds for a wide variety of fish and marine species due to flooding and sea level rise;
5. Realizing the high dependence of our populations on marine and coastal resources for their income, livelihoods and food security and the need for more suitable and adequate climate adaptation measures;
6. Reaffirming the commitment of our leaders to the task of building the future security and wealth of coastal communities in a changing and warming world under the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action; and
7. Resolving to be guided *by the urgent and imperative national, regional and global actions to address climate change, as prescribed by the 2015 Paris Agreement, and specifically, by the IPCC Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere (SROCC) in a Changing Climate;*

We, **the Governments** of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste, Members of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security, resolve, to the best capacities of our individual countries and through cooperation and facilitation among CTI members, to promote, assist, and undertake:

- (i) Early and extensive local studies for the purpose of furthering scientific understanding of the physical, socio-economic and other impacts of sea level rise, temperature rise, other climate change phenomena and extreme events on the resilience of our member countries;
- (ii) Climate change adaptation measures at the local, national and regional level such as knowledge management system dedicated to Climate Change Adaptation information is in place to support decision making in the CT region (Output B3.1.1b), By 2025, vulnerability needs assessment to climate change is conducted to identify the exposure and risks (Output B3.2.1.a), By 2030, Partnerships with private sectors and strategic Partners to support the vulnerability assessments training, promulgation, and implementation are established (Outcome B3.2.2).
- (iii) Information, research, technology and financial sharing and cooperation among members in support of the urgent development and implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation strategies for addressing climate change impacts on coastal and ocean ecosystems within the region; and
- (iv) Monitoring climate change adaptation actions for building the resilience of CTI member nations and their capacities to avoid, or address, impacts of sea level rise, temperature rise, other climate change phenomena, and extreme weather events.



Signed this \_\_\_\_ DD, MM, YYYY

## Indonesia

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Hon. Ir. Sakti Wahyu Trenggono, M.M.  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries  
(NCC: Ongoing)

## Malaysia

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H.E Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad  
Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability

## Papua New Guinea

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Hon. Simon Kilepa  
Minister for Environment, Conservation and Climate Change  
(On internal process)

## Philippines

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H.E Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga  
Secretary  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources Philippines

## Solomon Islands

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**CORAL TRIANGLE  
INITIATIVE**  
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES  
AND FOOD SECURITY



Hon. Trevor Hedley Mahaga (MP)

Minister of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology

### **Timor-Leste**



Hon. Marcos da Cruz

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry  
(TBD)