



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



SOM19
DILI, TIMOR-LESTE

Session 10

Dr. Frank Keith Griffin

Report of the Executive Director

ED of CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat

THE 19TH SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING

DILI, TIMOR-LESTE | 5 December 2024

www.coraltriangleinitiative.org

This report is detailed with the Regional Secretariat activities since the 18th Senior Officials Meeting to the 19th Senior Officials Meeting. Reflects the collective commitment to advancing the vision and mission of CTI-CFF in conserving and managing the marine resources of the Coral Triangle region.

The year 2024 has been a significant milestone for the implementation of RPOA 2.0, marked by notable achievements and challenges.

Incorporate with the activities that has been conducted by the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat under the Technical Working Groups, Governance Working Group, Cross Cutting Initiative.

Including the activities done by the USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle Project under CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat.

The report included Regional Secretariat activities on visibility, press engagement and Information System activities.

These activities is possible to be conducted by the strong collaboration among the CT6 countries, strategic partners, and stakeholders, which has enabled the Regional Secretariat to continue progressing toward the shared goals.

Activities



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS On Technical Working Group

1. **CCA:** The Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Regional Exchange (REX) was conducted on 15-17 May 2024, in Jakarta, Indonesia, back-to-back with the 7th CCA-TWG Meeting. This event was co-funded and organized by the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and the USAID SuFiA-TS. The highlights of these REX was the 2nd Executive Manager's Course provided by the SuFiA-TS, the Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA) workshop, and the development of the Climate Risk Mitigation Plan. Since the post-Covid era, the CCA event this year was the first CCA physical event organized.



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Technical Working Group

2. EAFM: The 9th Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Technical Working Group Meeting back-to-back with the Sulu-Sulawesi REX II and the first Bismarck Solomon Sea REX were conducted in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia from August 12-16 2024 with the co-support from the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat , the USAID SuFiA-TS and GIZ SOMACORE. This event highlighted the initial EAFM planning for the Bismarck Solomon Sea, and the review of the COASTFISH regional framework for sustainable coastal fisheries and poverty reduction initiatives in achieving food security and improving coastal livelihoods (RPOA Activity B1.1).

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS On Technical Working Group

3. **Seascope:** The Sulu-Sulawesi REX II and the first Bismarck Solomon Sea REX were conducted in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia from August 12-16 2024, back-to-back with the 7th Seascope Technical Working Group Meeting. This evening was co-supported by the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, the USAID SuFiA-TS and GIZ SOMACORE. The highlight from the Seascope was the revisiting of the CTI Seascope coordination mechanism, and the initial discussions within the three priority Seascope, identifying the needs and opportunities for each sub-regions. With the support from our partners, work is now advancing towards having sub-regional dialogues and developing work plans.



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS On Technical Working Group (cont.)

4. Threatened Species: The Threatened Species Technical Working Group Meeting, was conducted back-to-back with the Sulu-Sulawesi REX II and the first Bismarck Solomon Sea REX conducted from August 12-16 2024, in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. The main highlight of the Threatened Species this year, is reviving the discussions under the three priority Seascapes on ecologically overlapping species migration and threats to these species. This approach was highlighted in the Bismarck Solomon Sea's discussions, especially in Marine Turtles and Tuna.



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Technical Working Group (cont.)

- 5. Threatened Species (cont):** Another highlight we can categorize for now under the Threatened Species, is the advancement in discussions with our WWF on prioritizing the waste management component captured under the RPOA 2.0.
- 5. MPA:** The 10th Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Technical Regional Exchange event back-to-back with the MPA Technical Working Group Meeting, conducted over 7-10 October 2024, in Manado, Indonesia, marked a significant step in the progress of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, as this event not only highlighted the achievements of the MPA related RPOA 2.0 targets, but brought together important collaborations; the partnership with IUCN, and the SOMACORE consortium of partners. This event highlighted the progress in the efforts to maintain the regional effective management of MPA in the Coral Triangle Region, by revisiting the CTMPAS program, and using the IUCN Green List Standards as a guide to align and improve the CTMPAS going forward as an MPA management assessment tool.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS On Technical Working Group (cont.)

7. MPA (cont):The MPA REX also highlighted the discussions on financing options for effective MPA management, and explored options presented by the partners to the CT6 member countries;

7. MPA (cont): Also, this year, we initiated the discussions with partners on the Coral Triangle MPA Managers Network to support capacity building and sharing knowledge of best practices in selected sites.



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS On Governance

1.MEWG: Three Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group event was conducted between 15-17 July, which facilitated a learning exchange on the development of NPOA 2.0 and outlined the needs of CT Atlas. The physical event back to back with the MEWG meeting was hosted by the Papua New Guinea government and supported by USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle, USAID SuFiA TS, and Allen Coral Atlas;

1.MEWG (cont): Creation of monitoring tools that provided initial RPOA 2.0 progress report for the Governance and Technical Working Groups creating a baseline for all countries;



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Governance (cont.)

3. CTI NPOA Development: The CTI National Plan of Action (NPOA) development activity is supported by the USAID Department of Interior (DOI) to conduct two online workshops and a consultant to assist the Regional Secretariat. The highlight from this year under this activity is that all CT6 member countries have started their NPOA development to achieving the RPOA 2.0 Target (C1.1). While some countries will soon complete their draft NPOA and others still having ongoing discussions, this year shows the progress that the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat is taking to achieve important regional activities, and expecting in 2025 to report the completion of all CT6 NPOA.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Governance (cont.)

4.FRWG: The conduct of Financial Resources Working Group Meeting convened in Cebu Philippines on March 19 2024. It was the first in-person meeting held after the Covid-19 pandemic;



4.The Conduct of **Workshop and knowledge exchange** focused on CTCF, blue finance and financial fundamentals on 6-8 November 2024 with support from USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle facilitated by CFA in alignment with RPOA 2.0.

4.The Financial Resources Working Group Meeting, held in Manila, Philippines, on November 8, 2024, discussed updates on the Coral Triangle Conservation Trust Fund, the Grant Management Manual, the 2025 workplan and budget, as well as potential collaborations with partners.

4.IRC: The conduct of Internal Resource Committee Meeting in Dili, Timor-Leste, 25 & 26 September 2024;

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Governance (Cont.)

8. Finalizing the HCA Supplementary agreement for borrow-to-use of CTI-CFF RS building;
9. Maintain the Financial Audit Report with Qualified Opinion for the year 2020-2023 Strengthening financial accountability, CTI-CFF and the Indonesian Supreme Audit Institution (Badan Pemeriksa Keuangan RI) had an entry meeting for 2023 Audit. This annual financial audit aims to achieve transparency and accountability for the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat;
10. Implementation of the the Human Resources Management Information System (HRIS) including the Travel Management System, set to go live in December 2024. These are expected to enhance efficiency, optimize and streamline CTI-CFF RS operations
11. The establishment of the MoU with the GiZ SOMACORE Project Implementation. The partnership was on the implementation of SOMACORE Project in the Coral Triangle area;
12. The establishment of the MoU with the IUCN. This agreement underscores CTI-CFF's commitment to fostering collaboration and advancing shared objectives;



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS On Governance (Cont.)

9. The establishment of the Collaboration Agreement with the Blue Institute. Through this collaboration, both entities aspire to magnify the impact of conservation, foster sustainable economic growth, and advocate for responsible management of marine resources;
10. The establishment of the MoU with WWF Coral Triangle Program;
11. The establishment of the MoU with CTC;
12. The establishment of the MoU with UNTL.



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Coral Triangle Conservation Fund (CTCF)

1. Official appointment of the Board members for the US non-profit settlor and the hiring of Dr. Yang Mee Eng as the CTCF CEO under a consultancy engagement with CTI-CFF;
2. The showcased Coral Triangle Conservation Fund (CTCF) during CT Day 2024 followed its earlier soft launch;
3. Organizing the first in-person **CTCF Board meeting** on 4-5 November 2024 with support from WCS, CFA and USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle;
1. The legal establishment of the US non-profit settlor for the Coral Triangle Conservation Fund (CTCF) was successfully completed.



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Cross Cutting Initiatives - **Women Leaders Forum**

1. The Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Regional Exchange back-to-back with the WLF Meeting took place in Bangkok, Thailand from 9-10, and 12, September 2024. This event was co-funded by USAID SuFiA TS and also supported by the USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle. This event discussed the development of the GE-Hub GESI regional guidelines;
1. The Women Leaders' Forum Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on 11 September 2024. The meeting discussed various national policies related to GESI and mechanisms to improve GESI data collection from CT6 member countries;

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Cross Cutting Initiatives - Women Leaders Forum

3. The 2nd Cohort of Youth Ambassadors Program (YAP) was conducted in Bangkok, Thailand on September 10-12 2024, aimed at fostering leadership among youth in the CT region, and improving capacity building in marine management. This event was supported by the USAID SuFiA TS;



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Cross Cutting Initiative - **University Partnership**

4. The CTI-CFF University Partnership International Seminar: Life Below Water (SDG-14) - Celebrating Coral Triangle Day 2024. The seminar is the first since the Covid era for the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat to host an international gathering of marine experts, which brought together leading academics and marine scientists to discuss critical issues and novel researchers in the region.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Project: USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle

1. The conduct of USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle kick-off on April 29-30 2024 in Manado, Indonesia;
2. Monitoring & Evaluation and CT Atlas Training back-to-back with the MEWG Meeting on July 15-17 2024 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. This event, organized with support from the Papua New Guinea National Coordinating Committee (NCC), served as a platform for advancing regional cooperation and enhancing the technical capacities of CTI member countries;
3. The conduct of Training on M&E and Theory of Change (TOC) for finalizing USAID SCT MEL system on August 20-22 2024 in Manado, Indonesia;
4. The conduct of Training on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Policies and Strategies on September 11 & 12 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS On Visibility



The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat's staff have taken part as invited speaker or panel member in international dialogues and fora:

1. South China Sea Regional Exchange (REX) on Fisheries Governance in January 16-19 2024 on Manila, Philippines. CTI-CFF represented by Mr. Rotinsulu, presented about the CTI-CFF Regional Plan Of Action (RPOA) 2.0 updates and initiatives in South China Sea/Sulu Sulawesi Seascape;

1. The 2nd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference & 11th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference in Bangkok, Thailand on 22-25 April 2024. The CTI-CFF rode the moment to emphasize the importance of continuous learning from international standards and knowledge resources. A side event titled "Advancing Marine Conservation in the Coral Triangle Region" was held during the conference in collaboration with IUCN, recognized as a global benchmark for assessing the governance and management of protected and conserved areas;

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Visibility (cont.)

3. **The Courtesy Visit to the Timor-Leste COM and CSO on July 2024.** The CTI-CFF delegation's mission to Timor-Leste focused on strengthening cooperation, aligning regional and national priorities, and preparing for high-profile meetings. Key discussions took place with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National University of Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL), and the Indonesian Embassy, addressing marine biodiversity, academic partnerships, and diplomatic efforts. Plans were made for Timor-Leste to host SOM-19 and MM-9 in December 2024. The visit emphasized collaboration to advance regional goals and align national efforts with CTI-CFF's initiatives.;

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Visibility (cont.)

4. **The Courtesy Visit to the Solomon Islands COM and CSO on July 2024**, the main agenda for the visit was introducing the new leadership in RS and update of the upcoming program, events and potential projects;



5. **The 8th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum**. The Executive Director of CTI-CFF joined a panel session themed 'Healthy Ocean' on the 8th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum. The forum is held every four years as the leading platform for knowledge and partnerships in the region among stakeholders in nature and biodiversity conservation. CTI-CFF also joined a side event titled 'Bridging the Gap: Regional Platforms and targeted training to strengthen capacity across the Coral Triangle, in which the Deputy Executive Director for Program Services participated in the panel;

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Visibility (cont.)

6. **The 38th General Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)** in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. CTI-CFF represented by the Executive Director, participated in the 38th General Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). CTI-CFF has been recognized as a member of ICRI, marking a significant milestone for the region. This engagement was made possible through generous support from the UN;
7. **The COP-16 UNCBD** in Cali, Colombia on October 2024;

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Visibility (Cont.)

8. **The Coral Triangle Day 2024 and 15th Anniversary of CTI-CFF** were celebrated in collaboration with the Indonesian Government, as well as the Provincial and Municipal Governments of North Sulawesi. The organizing committee comprised personnel from various ministries and agencies, with cross-sectoral representation, based on a decree issued by the Coordinating Minister for Maritime and Investment Affairs;



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS On Visibility (Cont.)

9. The Coral Planting in Bolaangmongondow Selatan, North Sulawesi;
10. Underwater Photo Competition on May 25-27 2024;



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS On Visibility (Cont.)

11. The “I Love Coral Triangle” Public Events in Manado, Indonesia on June 1 & 2 2024. Held at Manado Town Square 3, these events included school competitions which are coloring, drawing, and poster, a singing contest, photo exhibition, and a talk show. The event attracted over 2,000 visitors and showcased environmental awareness through creative competitions and public engagement;



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Visibility (Cont.)

12. **The Women in Fisheries Seminar** on June 5 2024. The seminar, held at the CTI-CFF Center, focused on acknowledging the role of women in fisheries in North Sulawesi. It featured prominent speakers from the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, provincial agencies, and the CTI-CFF Women Leaders' Forum, with over 150 participants, predominantly women from local communities and NGOs;

13. **The Beach Clean Up** on June 4 & 7 2024. A massive beach clean-up took place in Manado City, Minahasa Regency, and North Minahasa Regency. With the participation of over 1,000 people, including government officials and local community members, the clean-up highlighted the importance of preserving marine ecosystems and keeping coastlines litter-free;



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS On Visibility (Cont.)



14. The High-Level Forum on Blue Natural Capital on June 7-9 2024. This forum brought together over 120 invitees, including corporate representatives, government officials, and international organizations, to discuss sustainable management of marine resources;

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Visibility: Press Engagement

1. WELCOMING DR. FRANK KEITH GRIFFIN AS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CTI-CFF REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

Manado, North Sulawesi (13/03) – The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) proudly announces the appointment and commencement of Dr. Frank Keith Griffin as the new Executive Director of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat. Dr. Griffin, hailing from Papua New Guinea brings a wealth of experience and a commitment to the sustainable management and use of the Coral Triangle's vital marine resources;



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Visibility: Press Engagement (cont.)

2. CORAL TRIANGLE DAY 2024 CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF CTI-CFF IN MANADO, NORTH SULAWESI

Manado, North Sulawesi, April 5, 2024 - The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) proudly announces the celebration of its 15th anniversary, marked with a grand event in the birthplace of the initiative, Manado, North Sulawesi. This momentous occasion, scheduled for Coral Triangle Day 2024, will bring together international, regional, and national stakeholders to commemorate the progress made in conserving the world's most significant biodiverse marine region.



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

On Information System:

1. The implementation of ERP system aimed at optimizing and streamlining RS' operations. This system will commence with the deployment of the Human Resources Management Information System including the Travel Management System, set to go live in December 2024.
2. In preparation for the rollout of the new HRMIS, three training and orientation sessions were conducted on October 24, November 1, and November 12, 2024.
3. The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Financial System Review and Xero Training was place on September 11-13, 2024, at the Xero Office in Jakarta.

Suggestion

Suggestion

- (Will be live editing, inputs from countries)

Thank You

ED Address – CTI-CFF 19TH SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING

