



**CORAL TRIANGLE
INITIATIVE**

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES
AND FOOD SECURITY



CHAIR'S SUMMARY

18th SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING

6-7 November 2023 via ZOOM VMP

adopted on 7th November 2023

by

the Governments of Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, Independent State of
Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and
Timor-Leste



A. INTRODUCTION

1. The 18th Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM-18) of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) was conducted via the ZOOM Virtual Meeting Platform on 6-7 November 2023.
2. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), H.E. Mr. Celestino Da Cunha Barreto, General Director for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Resource of Timor-Leste.
3. Acknowledged the participation of the Heads and members of Delegation of the CT6 Countries : Hendra Yusran Siry, PhD Acting Adviser to Minister on Economics, Social and Cultural Affairs (Indonesia); Mdm. Roslinda Binti Ulang, Undersecretary, Environmental Management Division, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change (Malaysia); Ms. Kumaras Kay Kalim, Director, Sustainable Environment Program, Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (Papua New Guinea); Atty. Jonas R. Leones Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Philippines) ; Ms. Ronnelle Panda, Assistant Secretary Policy and Planning, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (Solomon Islands); Mr. Celestino Da Cunha Barreto, General Director for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Resource (Timor-Leste);
4. The objectives of the SOM-18 were:
 - a. To acknowledge the SOM-18 Chair's Report
 - b. To acknowledge the 2023 Country Reports
 - c. To deliberate and endorse the reports and recommendations of the Governance Working Groups, Technical Working Groups and Cross-Cutting Initiatives
 - d. To acknowledge the address delivered by the Executive Director of the Regional Secretariat
 - e. To acknowledge Partners' Presentation and endorse the recommendations
 - f. To review and endorse the SOM-18 Chair's Summary

CHAIR'S SUMMARY: DECISIONS

SESSION 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

- 1.1 Acknowledged the Opening Remarks of the Chair of the CSO, H.E. Celestino Da Cunha Barreto, General Director for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Resource of Timor-Leste (Annex 1.1);
- 1.2 Adopted the revised Agenda of SOM-18 (Annex 1.2).



SESSION 2: CHAIR'S REPORT

- 2.1 Acknowledged and accepted the Chair's Report (Annex 2.1)

SESSION 3: COUNTRY REPORTS

- 3.1. Acknowledged the Country Reports of the CT6 Countries (Annex 3.1.a-f)

SESSION 4: GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP: INTERNAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE

- 4.1. Acknowledged the signing of Host Country Agreement on 31st January 2023; the ratification and the supplementary agreement to be finalized by June 2024.
- 4.2. Acknowledged that the new DED-PS Mr Christovel R.S. Rotinsulu commenced on February 2023.
- 4.3. Acknowledged the efforts and results of the Appointment Committee, with assistance from the Regional Secretariat, on the recruitment of the Executive Director (ED) and Deputy Executive Director for Corporate Service (DED-CS).
- 4.4. Tasked RS to facilitate the three (3) candidates for the ED position in consultation with Papua New Guinea NCC for appropriate attention by the Chair of CSO.
- 4.5. Tasked Regional Secretariat to follow up with Solomon Islands to submit their evaluation forms of DEDCS candidates.
- 4.6. Acknowledged that employment contract of the current ED and DEDCS will expire on 8 November 2023, thus the handover and takeover process will proceed according to the CTI-CFF rules and regulations.
- 4.7. Reiterated the directive for the RS to undergo the Comprehensive Management and Performance Audit periodically for the Regional Secretariat staff, including the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Directors and unit Managers.
- 4.8. Acknowledged and approved the 2022 financial audit report (Annex 4.1.a) and tasked the RS to circulate to the CT6.
- 4.9. Acknowledged the Management Letter (Annex 4.1.b) from the Auditor with three points.
 - a. Agreed on the disposal of Fully Depreciated Assets (Annex 4.2);
 - b. Acknowledged the Country Contribution due over one year;
 - c. Approved in principle, the establishment of Internal Control Committee (ICC) subject to the approval of the ICC Terms of Reference (Annex 4.3)



- 4.10. Acknowledged the interest from the Indonesian Auditor General (*Badan Pemeriksa Keuangan – BPK*) to be incorporated to the CTI-CFF RS financial auditing system/mechanism/body by referring to the Regulation 14 of the CTI-CFF Financial Regulation.
- 4.11. Acknowledged the 2023 Country Contribution status (Annex 4.4).
- 4.12. Acknowledged the 2023 Financial Utilization Report as of 31 October 2023 (Annex 4.5) and tasked RS to circulate to the CT6 countries;
- 4.13. Approved the proposed 2024 Budget and acknowledged the Budget Forecast 2025-2026 (Annex 4.6) and tasked RS to circulate to the CT6 countries.
- 4.14. Acknowledged and approved the proposed 2024 Country Contribution (Annex 4.7) based on the 1st scenario presented by the RS taking into account the surplus from 2023 as a reduction in the 2024 Country Contribution calculation.
- 4.15. Acknowledged and approved to insert a new position of the Marketing and Information Officer, in lieu of the Assistant for Publication, in the Regional Secretariat structure to support the implementation of RPOA 2.0 (Annex 4.8)
- 4.16. Acknowledged the 2024 international events relevant to CTI CFF to be carefully selected and seek permission with the CT6 countries to participate.
- 4.17. Appreciated and acknowledged the contribution of Dr Mohd Kushairi bin Mohd Rajuddin as the Executive Director and Mr Gustaaf Adolf Lumiu as the Deputy Executive Director for Corporate Service of the Regional Secretariat for the period 8 November 2019 – 8 November 2023;
- 4.18. Approved Mr Christovel R.S. Rotinsulu, Deputy Executive Director for Program Services, to be in charge as Acting Executive Director as stipulated in CTI-CFF Rules and Procedures from 8 November 2023 until the new Executive Director from Papua New Guinea is on board.

SESSION 5: GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP: FINANCIAL RESOURCES

- 5.1. Acknowledged the update on RS' tasks from FRWG on SOM-17;
- 5.2. Acknowledged and endorsed the revised 2024 FRWG Budget (Annex 5.1);
- 5.3. Acknowledged the target of the Coral Triangle Conservation Fund to be operational in June 2024;
- 5.4. Acknowledged the result of the discussion during the FRWG meeting on 5th October 2023 that the renaming of the trust fund would be discussed in the SOM-18.



SESSION 6: GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- 6.1. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (Annex 6.1);
- 6.2. Requested Regional Secretariat to support the in-country process for NPOA (Workshop, Writeshop, etc);
- 6.3. Encouraged CT6 Countries to socialize and disseminate the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA 2.0); (Annex 6.2).
- 6.4. Acknowledged and appreciated the data contribution from Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines for the M&E Plan Framework of RPOA 2.0 (Annex 6.3), and encourage Papua New Guinea, Solomon Island and Timor-Leste to submit the data;
- 6.5. Acknowledged the presentation of challenges in implementation of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in regard to RPOA 2.0 (Baseline Data and Update Information) from CT6 countries. (Annex 6.4).
- 6.6. Acknowledged the process of Letter of Intent (LoI) with Allen Coral Atlas (Annex 6.5);
- 6.7. Requested the CT6 countries to update the data in CT Atlas i.e MPA and Threatened Species by Q2 2024;
- 6.8. Requested Regional Secretariat and potential partners to conduct one-on-one training and verification of data with the CT6 focal point/NCC and to incorporate the data from M&E Plan Framework in the CT ATLAS;
- 6.9. Acknowledged and appreciated the data contribution from ATSEA-2 regarding MPA Kolepom Island in Indonesia, Whale sighting in Rote Ndao, and Marine megafauna sighting (whale, dolphin, turtle);
- 6.10. Encouraged Regional Secretariat to explore potential collaboration and integration with potential partners (i.e SpaceTec.) or other relevant sources in enriching data into CT Atlas
- 6.11. Acknowledged and appreciated the USAID SuFiA TS for conducting the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, and Communication Workshop in Manado, Indonesia on July 25-26, 2023;
- 6.12. Acknowledged and appreciated the continuous support of USAID through the Sustainable Fish Asia – Technical Support (USAID SuFiA TS) to the activities related to M&E Working Group and MEL Activities in 2024.



- 6.13. Acknowledged and appreciated the WWF to launch the Stocktake Report on Marine Plastic Pollution and Its Sources in the Coral Triangle in August 2023 and to the activities related to M&E Working Group. (Annex 6.6);
- 6.14. Appreciated the excellent contribution of Dato' Mohamad Razif Bin Haji Abd Mubin, Dato' Jana Santhiran Muniayan and Madam Noor Afifah Abdul Razak as Chair from Malaysia and Ms. Yvonne Tio as Co-Chair from Papua New Guinea in year 2022-2023;
- 6.15. Supported the recommendation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group to turn over the Chair from Malaysia to Papua New Guinea and the turnover of the Co-Chair from Papua New Guinea to Philippines based on the provision stipulated in the rules and procedure of the CTI-CFF Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group.
- 6.16. Acknowledged and appreciated the contribution of previous Monitoring and Evaluation Manager (MEM) Mr. MD. Anjum Islam during his term with the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat;
- 6.17. Approved the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group 2024 Workplan.

SESSION 7: CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVES

Women Leaders' Forum

- 7.1. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by the Women Leaders' Forum (WLF) (Annex 7.1).
- 7.2. Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Integration in Fisheries Training and CTI-CFF Women Leaders' Forum (WLF) Meeting, organized by USAID-USAID SuFiA TS and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat in Bangkok on 26-28 September 2023.
- 7.3. Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of the Youth Ambassadors Program, organized by USAID-USAID SUFIA TS and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat
- 7.4. Acknowledged and endorsed the contribution of WLF members and USAID SuFiA TS in the finalization of the draft CTI-CFF Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy Implementation Guidelines (Annex 7.2).
- 7.5. Acknowledged and endorsed the contribution of WLF members and USAID SuFiA TS in the finalization of the draft Covid-19 Impacts on Women in Fisheries in the Coral Triangle: A Cooperative Action Plan on Working Together towards Gender Equality and Building Back Better (Annex 7.3)



- 7.6. Appreciated the excellent contributions of Ms. Alda Sousa Lemos da Rosa as Chair from Timor Leste and Dr. Rili Djohani as Co-Chair from CTC in the year 2022 - 2023.
- 7.7. Approved the Recommendation of the WLF to hand over the Chair from Timor-Leste to Solomon Islands, and the retain of the Co-Chair by CTC in the year of 2024-2025, based on the provision stipulated in the rules and procedures of the CTI-CFF CCI WLF
- 7.8. Approved the WLF 2024 Workplan

Scientific Advisory Group/University Partnership

- 7.9. Acknowledged the University Partnership program to start with the Blue Metric Program, to see the role of universities in supporting the implementation of RPOA 2.0 which aligns with SDG 14 Life Below Water through university activities.
- 7.10. Acknowledged and approved the CTI-CFF University Partnership on Blue Metric Program (Annex 7.4)

SESSION 8: TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

Seascape Working Group

- 8.1. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by Seascapes Technical Working Group (Annex 8.1).
- 8.2. Acknowledged and appreciated the support of USAID SuFiA -TS to conduct the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape Regional Exchange (SSS REX) during the 8th EAFM Technical Working Group Meeting on 13-16 June 2023 in Manila, the Philippines.
- 8.3. Acknowledged and appreciated three members of the CT6 countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines for providing the secretary/ministers signatories for the Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) as the requirement for CTI-CFF/UQ/GEF project proposal (GEF-8) (Annex 8.2).
- 8.4. Acknowledged and appreciated Professor Peter Mumby of the University of Queensland and CI-Philippines in developing the ongoing CTI-CFF/UQ/GEF project proposal (GEF-8) together with the three countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines) from the CT6 countries.
- 8.5. Recognized SpaceTec's expressed interest in collaborating with CTI-CFF initiatives through their introduction to the Seascape and EAFM TWG (Annex 8.3).



- 8.6. Agreed on the conduct of the 7th Seascapes Working Group Meeting together with Seascapes Working Group Regional Exchange for CT6 in-person meeting to be undertaken in 2024 subject to funding availability and welcoming potential partner support.
- 8.7. Appreciated the excellent contribution of Ms. Yvonne Tio as Chair from Papua New Guinea and Mr. Fidelino Sousa Marques as Co-Chair from Timor-Leste from the period of 2021-2023.
- 8.8. Approved the recommendation of the Seascapes Technical Working Group to turn over the Chair from Papua New Guinea to Philippines and Co-chair from Timor-Leste to Indonesia, in the year of 2024 – 2025, as stipulated in the rules and procedure of the CTI-CFF Seascapes Technical Working Group.
- 8.9. Approved the Seascapes Technical Working Group 2024 Workplan.

EAFM Working Group

- 8.10. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by the EAFM technical working group (Annex 8.4).
- 8.11. Acknowledged and appreciated the support of USAID SuFiA -TS in holding the 8th EAFM Technical Working Group Meeting and Sulu Sulawesi Seascape Regional Exchange (SSS REX) from 13-16 June 2023 in Manila, the Philippines.
- 8.12. Acknowledged and appreciated CT6 and related partners on the discussion of the RPOA 2.0 targets, regional activities, outcomes, and outputs in relation to EAFM, especially the output Indicator B1.1.2.a.
- 8.13. Acknowledged and appreciated three members of the CT6 countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines for providing the secretary/ministers signatories for the Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) as the requirement for CTI-CFF/UQ/GEF project proposal (GEF-8) (Annex 8.5).
- 8.14. Acknowledged and appreciated Professor Peter Mumby of the University of Queensland and CI-Philippines in developing the ongoing CTI-CFF/UQ/GEF project proposal (GEF-8) together with the three countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines) from the CT6 members.
- 8.15. Recognized SpaceTec's expressed interest in collaborating with CTI-CFF initiatives through their introduction to the Seascape and EAFM TWG (Annex 8.6).
- 8.16. Appreciated the efforts of CT6 on the discussion of the updated COASTFISH Regional Framework and review of the related government endorsement process, supported by USAID SuFiA -TS.



- 8.17. Appreciated the efforts of CT6 to discuss the updated Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape (SSS) Sub-Regional EAFM Plan as approved during the SOM 15 on 2019, and review the related government endorsement process, supported by USAID SuFiA -TS.
- 8.18. Acknowledged and appreciated the Capacity Buildings activities organized by USAID SuFiA -TS:
 - a. Climate Risk Assessment for Fisheries Managers and Practical Climate Risk Management in Fisheries;
 - b. Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) and its relevance into COASTFISH;
- 8.19. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation of WWF Pacific PNG regarding Community-Based Fisheries Management planning through a Climate Lens and Tuna+ Program and mainstreaming GEDSI in the 8th EAFM Technical Working Group Meeting and Sulu Sulawesi Seascape Regional Exchange (SSS REX).
- 8.20. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation of WWF Coral Triangle regarding Tuna+ Program in the 8th EAFM Technical Working Group Meeting and Sulu Sulawesi Seascape Regional Exchange (SSS REX).
- 8.21. Approved the EAFM TWG Recommendations to SOM-18 2023 and the EAFM TWG Workplan in the 8th EAFM Technical Working Group Meeting and Sulu Sulawesi Seascape Regional Exchange (SSS REX).
- 8.22. Acknowledged and supported the recommendation of the EAFM Working Group to turn over the Chair from Malaysia to the Papua New Guinea and the turnover of the Co-Chair from Papua New Guinea to Philippines in the year of 2024 - 2025, based on the provisions stipulated in the Rules of Procedure of the CTI-CFF EAFM Technical Working Group;
- 8.23. Acknowledged and appreciated the excellent chair-ship of Dr. Norasma Dacho and her successor Mr. Azhar Kassim from Malaysia as Chair and Ms. Lorel Dandava and her successor Mr. Aisi S. Anas from Papua New Guinea as Co-Chair of the EAFM Technical Working Group for the period of 2021 – 2023;
- 8.24. Approved the EAFM Technical Working Group 2024 Work Plan.

MPA Working Group

- 8.25. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by MPA Working Group (Annex 8.7).
- 8.26. Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of Workshop on Protecting Marine Migratory Species and Achieving the 30x30 Target Through Transnational Approaches, organized by CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, WWF, and EU Ocean Governance Project in Manado on 15-17 May 2023;



- 8.27. Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of III Learning Exchange Workshop between MPA managers from Southeast Asia and the Atlantic back-to-back with the MPA WG meeting in Bali, Indonesia on 3-6 July 2023 organized by the European Union, WWF and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat;
- 8.28. Acknowledged and noted the needs of Learning Exchange as Capacity Building for the CT6 Countries under EU Ocean Governance Project regarding the Coral Restoration, during which the need for a Network of MPA managers in the CT region was identified and discussed. Countries also acknowledged needs of the MPA Network in the CT region;
- 8.29. Acknowledged and expressed the need of developing an effective Network of MPA managers in the CT region to support capacity building through training and sharing of knowledge and best practices, which would contribute to achieving the targets and objectives of RPOA 2.0;
- 8.30. Requested EU Ocean Governance to continue assisting the CTI-CFF MPA Working Group activities including the development of a Network of MPA managers in the CT region considering the importance of the Network for supporting global and regional goals in marine and coastal conservation;
- 8.31. Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of 9th MPA Regional Exchange hosted by Papua New Guinea on 11 October 2023 through in-situ online meeting;
- 8.32. Acknowledged the interest of IUCN to collaborate with the CTI-CFF in the MPA space in CT6 (MPA TWG activities) and requested RS to explore the interest of IUCN to move forward for the formal agreement process (Annex 8.8);
- 8.33. Requested the CT6 Countries to update the MPA data in CT-Atlas by Q2 2024;
- 8.34. Appreciated the excellent contribution of Mr. Benvindo Maria de Deus Araujo dos Santos as Chair from Timor-Leste and Dr. Firdaus Agung as Co-Chair from Indonesia in year 2021-2023;
- 8.35. Approved the recommendation of the MPA working group to turn over the Chair from Timor-Leste to Indonesia and the turnover of the Co-chair from Indonesia to Malaysia in the year of 2024 - 2025, based on the provision stipulated in the rules and procedures of the CTI-CFF MPA working group;
- 8.36. Approved the MPA Working Group 2024 Workplan.

CCA Working Group

- 8.37. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by CCA Working Group (Annex 8.9);



- 8.38. Requested the CT6 countries to provide the ministerial level signature for the Climate Change Communique by Q2 2024 (Annex 8.10);
- 8.39. Acknowledged the USAID SuFiA TS for their interest in providing technical support to the CCA TWG in the 2024 workplan for various activities;
- 8.40. Acknowledged and appreciated the USAID SuFiA TS for their High-level Climate Risk Assessment for Coastal Fisheries conducted in three of the CT6 countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines);
- 8.41. Appreciated the excellent contribution of Mr. Iki Peter as Chair from Papua New Guinea and Ms. Sri Tantri Arundhati as Co-Chair from Indonesia in the year of 2022-2023;
- 8.42. Approved the recommendation of the CCA working group to turn over the Chair from Papua New Guinea to Indonesia and the turnover of the Co-chair from Indonesia to Timor-Leste in the year of 2024-2025, based on the provision stipulated in the rules and procedures of the CTI-CFF CCA working group;
- 8.43. Approved the CCA Working Group 2024 Workplan.

Threatened Species Working Group

- 8.44. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by the Threatened Species Technical Working Group (Annex 8.11);
- 8.45. Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of Workshop on Protecting Marine Migratory Species and Achieving the 30x30 Target Through Transnational Approaches, organized by CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, WWF, and EU Ocean Governance Project in Manado on 15-17 May 2023;
- 8.46. Acknowledged and appreciated the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) Republic of Indonesia and WWF Indonesia for hosted the 4th Threatened Species Technical Working Group meeting back-to-back with the 2023 Indonesia Sea Turtle Symposium in Jakarta on 12-14 June 2023;
- 8.47. Acknowledged and appreciated the WWF for the Targeting Regional Investigations for Policing Opportunities & Development (TRIPOD) Project implementation in three of the CT6 countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines), and encouraged further continuity of the TRIPOD activities in the CT6 region.;
- 8.48. Encourage the CT6 Countries to update the list of Threatened Species Technical Working Group experts;
- 8.49. Encourage the Regional Secretariat to discuss further with potential partner for the possibilities of supporting in the development of “Status of Marine Threatened Species in Coral Triangle Region” report (Annex 8.12);



- 8.50. Agreed on the conduct of the 5th Threatened Species Technical Working Group in-person meeting to be undertaken in 2024, and welcoming potential partner supports;
- 8.51. Appreciated the excellent contribution of Dr. Firdaus Agung as Chair from Indonesia and Atty. Demosthenes R. Escoto and Mr. Marcial C. Amaro Jr as Co-Chairs from the Philippines in the year of 2022-2023;
- 8.52. Approved the recommendation of the Threatened Species Technical Working Group to turn-over the Chair from Indonesia to Solomon Islands and the turn-over of the Co-chair from the Philippines to Timor Leste in the year of 2024-2025, based on the provision stipulated in the rules and procedure of the CTI-CFF Threatened Species Technical Working Group;
- 8.53. Approved the Threatened Species Technical Working Group 2024 Workplan.

SESSION 9: ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

- 9.1. Acknowledged the address of Dr. Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin, Executive Director of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat (Annex 9.1);
- 9.2. Acknowledged the hand over note from Dr Mohd. Kushairi Mohd. Rajuddin to Mr Christovel R.S. Rotinsulu, Deputy Executive Director for Program Services and Acting Executive Director until the new Executive Director from Papua New Guinea has commenced (Annex 9.2);
- 9.3. Tasked the Acting Executive Director to continue to foster and expedite the process of commencement of a new Executive Director (ED) from Papua New Guinea and the new Deputy Executive Director for Corporate Service (DED-CS) at the latest first quarter of 2024.

SESSION 10: PARTNERS' PRESENTATION

- 10.1. Acknowledged the RS-Strategic partner hybrid meeting held in Manado on 9 October 2023 that discussed and planned activities in support of RPoA 2.0;
- 10.2. Acknowledged and appreciated the role of the Regional Secretariat in engaging with international policy fora and events to support awareness raising, visibility and positioning of the CTI-CFF in consultation with CT6 countries prior to future engagements (Annex 10.1);
- 10.3. Acknowledged the importance of aligning the CTI CFF goals with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), integrating relevant GBF targets into working



groups' agendas, and exploring integration of gender equity through CT's GESI policy and Women Leaders Forum Roadmap.

- 10.4. Proposed the Regional Secretariat to support this regional alignment of NBSAPs by organising knowledge exchange between relevant CT6 officials, Partners, and CBD Secretariat.
- 10.5. Acknowledged the efforts of partners, CTC and WWF-CTP, with support from USAID-RDMA USAID SuFiA TS, in working with the RS to develop the CTI-CFF Capacity Building RoadMap (Annex 10.2);
- 10.6. Acknowledged the extensive inputs from the CT6 in CTI-CFF Capacity Building RoadMap development that have been incorporated into the three-year workplan;
- 10.7. Endorsed the vision of the CTI-CFF Capacity Building RoadMap 'To accelerate skills-building across the CT to sustain and effectively manage resilient marine and coastal resources and seascape ecosystem services, in support of the RPoA2.0 targets, benefitting nature and communities;
- 10.8. Endorsed the three-year workplan of the RoadMap under the four pillars, and task Regional Secretariat to collaboratively ensure sustainability and achievement of the vision of the 2030 CTI-CFF Capacity Building RoadMap;
- 10.9. Tasked the Regional Secretariat to establish a small team with partners to lead the implementation of the CTI-CFF Capacity Building RoadMap.
- 10.10. Reaffirmed the need for Trust Fund to reduce the increasing risks from the changing climate and prioritize marine protected and conserved areas in the Coral Triangle which are effective, climate resilient, and sustainable while benefitting nature and communities (Annex 10.3);
- 10.11. Re-affirmed to launch the Trust Fund by 2nd Quarter of 2024;
- 10.12. Tasked the RS to be actively supporting the Regional Trust Fund Board and Regional Trust Fund Technical Team (WCS/CFA);
- 10.13. Acknowledged CT6 Countries involvement in the Trust Fund Advisory Group and Grants Committee;
- 10.14. Encouraged FRWG to identify one representative for the upcoming donor roundtables;
- 10.15. Acknowledged that the Trust Fund Steering Committee has selected the prospective Founding Board Members;
- 10.16. Acknowledged and approved Dr Christovel Rotinsulu to be the Acting Regional Conservation Trust Fund Board Chair from 9 Nov 2023 until new CTI-CFF Executive Director on board;



- 10.17. Acknowledged the Regional Conservation Trust Fund as per SOM16 (decision 7.6) and SOM17 (decision 6.3) and the need to find branding name for the trust fund;
- 10.18. Agreed to use the name of Coral Triangle Conservation Fund (CTCF) for the marketing purposes of the Regional Conservation Trust Fund (RCTF);
- 10.19. Acknowledged that RS will be hiring the CTCF “CEO” as a consultant under CTI-CFF RS until such time as the Fund is legally constituted; thereafter the CTCF CEO will be a staff of the Fund;
- 10.20. Tasked Regional Secretariat to Initiate resource mobilization from potential donors and funding agencies;
- 10.21. Acknowledged and approved the infographic to be used by all parties for promotion of Regional Plan of Action 2.0. (Annex 10.4)
- 10.22. Acknowledged that Regional Secretariat has successfully developed technical and cost applications for the direct grant from USAID/RDMA (USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle);
- 10.23. Endorsed draft grant agreement between USAID/RDMA and CTI-CFF for USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle (Annex 10.5.a-b);
- 10.24. Acknowledged the funding from DOI ITAP for the Coral Triangle Conservation Fund CEO and endorsed the CEO’s appointment;
- 10.25. Tasked RS to develop a concept note for the remaining DOI-ITAP support and to begin implementation of USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle.

SESSION 11: REVIEW OF CHAIR’S SUMMARY OF SOM-18 AND CLOSING

- 11.1 Appreciated the support of the Government of Timor-Leste in the conduct of the virtual 18th Senior Officials Meeting and the excellent chairing of the meeting by the CSO Chair, H.E. Mr. Celestino Da Cunha Barreto, General Director for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Resource of Timor-Leste.
- 11.2 Acknowledged and appreciated the participation of the CT6 Countries and CTI-CFF partners which contributed to the successful conduct of the virtual SOM-18;
- 11.3 Appreciated the efforts and logistics support of the Regional Secretariat in the conduct of the virtual SOM-18.
