



CTI-CFF newsletter

A newsletter of the Coral Triangle Initiative
for Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Coral Security

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Corals of Change

Paving way for gender
equality in Coral Triangle

CT6 puts the spotlight on gender on Coral Triangle Day

Manado, Indonesia 21 June 2019 – This year, CT6 member countries celebrated Coral Triangle Day by raising awareness on the important role and contribution of gender equality in the promotion of marine conservation and protection in the Coral Triangle region.

According to UN Women, in 2014, women make up about half the workforce in processing, cleaning and trading fish, they accounted for only 19 per cent of all people directly engaged in catching or harvesting of wild fishing and in fish farming. The report revealed that women are largely concentrated in low-skilled, low-paid, seasonal jobs without healthy, safety and labour rights protections.

As such, the CT Day celebration put the spotlight on gender with theme **“Corals of Change: Paving way for gender equality in Coral Triangle.”**

Contents

CT6 puts the spotlight on gender on Coral Triangle Day	1
CTI-CFF raises awareness on gender equality among women in Bitung fishing communities	3
Her Story: Short stories of transformation from women making an impact in marine conservation and protection	6
Selection of CTI-CFF RS Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director for Corporate Services completed	8
CT6 member countries identify initial regional priorities for the CT region	9
Newsbits	10
CTI focuses on catch documentation system to improve fisheries management in Coral Triangle region	12

In Indonesia, the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat in partnership with USAID Oceans, Oceanic Fishing Port Bitung and the Office of Bitung Marine and Fisheries Service conducted an orientation-workshop for 20 women from the fishing community villages in Bitung City, North Sulawesi. The activity raised awareness on gender equality as a step towards making them informed and involved in contributing to the livelihood of their family, community and economic development of Bitung.

Further, the Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and the Provincial Government of North Sulawesi together with international and local non-government organizations conducted series of activities such as mangrove rehabilitation, beach and underwater cleanup, fish apartment building, talk shows and tv guesting, and other media promotion. Some of these activities were led by women's organisation as well as divers' associations North Sulawesi.

In Malaysia, various activities were conducted like ocean talks, sea turtle fun day and Program Kesedaran Konservasi Marin, an awareness program designed for students ages 15-17 years old. The Borneo Marine Research Institute (BMRI) of the Universiti Malaysia Sabah took the lead in implementing these activities in collaboration with Sabah Parks, WWF-Malaysia, Marine Research Foundation, Queens University, Belfast, UK. Malaysia will be celebrating Coral Triangle day until the end of July with planned activities such as outreach program, Empowering Women For Ocean And Climate – a BMRI session on knowledge sharing session with women scientists; sustainable seafood cooking competition and Marine BioD Edu-Station; Ocean Run 2019; seagrass awareness and marine-themed batik painting among others. These activities are all being spearheaded by BMRI.

In Papua New Guinea, government, non-government organizations and communities collaborated to do beach clean up, waste audit and turtle release. Taking active role in the ground preparation and organisation of these activities were women community leaders and the young women of the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) as a manifestation of the CT Day theme.

In the Philippines, the National CTI-CFF Coordinating Committee recognized the men and women both from the government and non-government organizations who contributed in the successful

The Coral Triangle (CT) Day was endorsed during the 4th CTI-CFF Ministerial Meeting last November 2012 in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

implementation of National Plan of Actions and Regional Plan of Actions. They were Ms. Marion Antonette Abuel-Daclan of GIZ; Comm. Noel Antonio Gaerlan of Climate Change Commission; Ms. Luz Teresa Baskinas of WWF-Philippines; Ms. Evangeline Florence Miclat of Conservation International Philippines; Dr. Mudjekeewis Santos of the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute of the Department of Agriculture; Director Cristina Marlene Rodriguez of Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. A science camp was also implemented to raise awareness among students regarding the importance of marine conservation.

In Solomon Islands, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology in partnership with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and other partners conducted tree planting, bicycle fun ride and slogan competition, essay writing competition, Ms. Nature pageant and clean-up activities. The activities were also in celebration of World Environment Day and World Oceans Day.

To learn more about Coral Triangle Day celebration, visit www.coraltriangleday.org.



▲ A Talk Show on CT Day participated in by officials from the government, CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and concerned NGOs was conducted in Manado, Indonesia. Photo by CTI-CFF RS/ Ayodya Satriyo Anggorojati.

CTI-CFF raises awareness on gender equality among women in Bitung fishing communities

Bitung, Indonesia 19 June 2019 – In celebration of Coral Triangle Day, the Regional Secretariat in collaboration with USAID Oceans gathered 20 women from fishing community villages in Bitung City, North Sulawesi, about 30 kilometres from the Regional Secretariat CTI-CFF, to raise gender awareness as a step towards making them informed and involved in contributing to the livelihood of their family, community and economic development of Bitung. This activity was also in partnership with Oceanic Fishing Port Bitung and the Office of Bitung Marine and Fisheries Service.

Coral Triangle Day is an annual celebration that aims to promote ocean conservation and the numerous ways to protect and conserve the Coral Triangle – the center of marine life that geographically expands to six countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste. This year, the celebration focused on gender equality in Coral Triangle.

“Gender equality is important particularly in marine conservation and protection. It means allowing and empowering women as well as girls to be the actors in initiating positive change in marine and coastal management,” CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Interim Executive Director Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry said. He added that women who are working in the fishing sector are provided with safe working conditions and given equal rights and opportunities in managing fishing activities.

Based on a 2018 study conducted by the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science of Sam Ratulangi University in Manado, Indonesia for USAID Oceans, it revealed that both men and women have roles in Bitung fisheries sector. However, community members continue to reinforce gender roles through beliefs and perceptions that women are not suitable for fishing because of perceived physical limitations or their responsibility to take care of their household.

As such, men largely control access to physical resources including ships, fishing gear and industrial scale processing units, while women only gain access to small-scale processing units and local marketing activities. Although, the report also noted



▲ (top) Participants and organizers of the Gender Mainstreaming Workshop for Women of the Fishing Community in Bitung City. Photo by PPS Bitung/Chivas Erick.

(bottom) Resource persons Ms. Fini Lovita of USAID Oceans shared the basic concept of gender and gender equality. Photo by CTI-CFF RS/Rumanti Wasturini.

that that access to capital and information resources, especially for small-scale ventures, are most often dominated by women. Further, it noted that time spent by women and men in the tuna value chain is relatively equal and empowerment and decision making varies across the value chain, but on average are relatively equal and reasonable.

The workshop for women in fishing community in Bitung sensitized women on their important role and contribution in the improvement of their socio-economic condition as well as their community. Further, with the gender-related challenges identified, the women participants will be able to identify the necessary actions and stakeholders to address it and make the necessary and initial steps to get the stakeholders to move. The outcomes of this workshop are expected to contribute as an input to the renewal process of the Regional Plan of Actions (RPOA) of CTI-CFF.



Coral Triangle Day Activities



▲ School children enjoyed watching the Wayang Samudra performance which carried the message of protecting our oceans. Photo by Coral Triangle Center.



▲ The Provincial Government of North Sulawesi in Indonesia led the mangrove rehabilitation and building of fish apartment to celebrate CT Day. Photo by Provincial Government of North Sulawesi.



▲ Students and participants of Marine Conservation Awareness Program, a joint collaboration program of Borneo Marine Research Institute, Department of Fisheries Sabah and Kudat Turtle Conservation Society (KTCS) in Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia. Photos by Malaysia NCC.



◀ Beach clean-up participated in by various international non-government organizations in Manado, Indonesia. Photo by WWF Indonesia.



▲ Beach clean up (left) and turtle release (right) in Papua New Guinea. Photos by Papua New Guinea NCC.



▲ Zola Karamui, Winner of the Essay Competition conducted by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources in Solomon Islands. Photo by Solomon Islands NCC



▲ The Philippines National CTI-CFF Coordinating Committee gave awards to NCC members who contributed to the successful implementation of NPOA and RPOA. The PH NCCC Awardees, left to right, top to bottom: **Ms. Evangeline Florence B. Miclat**, Director for Transboundary Marine, Policy and Learning Program of Conservation International Philippines; **Ms. Luz Teresa P. Baskiñas**, Vice President for Project Development and Grants Monitoring of WWF Philippine; **Dir. Crisanta Marlene P. Rodriguez**, former Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the DENR; **Ms. Marion Antonette G. Abuel-Daclan**, Senior Advisor for the River Basin Project of GIZ; **Dr. Mudjekeewis D. Santos**, Scientist II at the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute of the Department of Agriculture; and **Comm. Noel Antonio V. Gaerlan** of the Climate Change Commission. Photos by Philippines NCC.



▲ Coral Triangle Day Science Camp for students in the Philippines, which includes beach clean-up, art activities using recycleable materials, and team building. Photos by Philippines NCC.



Her Story

Short stories of transformation from women making impact in marine conservation and protection

Esmeralda Dos Santos: From Mentee to Mentor

Esmeralda beamed with pride when she presented the plastic bag produced by the women's group she has been supporting during the Women's Leaders' Forum (WLF) meeting in Dili, Timor Leste on 27 June 2019. The group has been turning plastic trash to useful and income-generating materials in Atauro, a small island situated 25 km north of Dili, Timor Leste.

Esmeralda is one of the mentees of the Intergenerational Leadership Learning program that provided a knowledge sharing platform between senior marine conservation women leaders in the six Coral Triangle countries who serve as mentors to a younger generation of early career women who show both potential and interest in developing leadership qualities. The program was part of WLF's initiatives and was implemented by the US Department of Interior and the Coral Triangle Center, in collaboration with CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and CTI-CFF National Coordinating Committees and funded by USAID.

"The learnings I received from the WLF program taught me how to mobilize and organize women's group in our community. I can lead a meeting and fora as well as socialize with the women," Esmeralda said.

Taking to heart the insights gathered from the WLF program, Esmeralda is set on bringing women's contribution into the marine conservation and protection efforts of their community. "I would like to help reduce plastic and cloth waste and recycle them. I would also like to increase every family's revenue through the recycled bags we sell," Esmeralda said.

She said that these efforts are also helping women become part of the decision-making at home and help improve the economic condition of their family.

From the shy, silent and timid lady during the WLF's leadership program to a strong-willed, empowered woman. That is Esmeralda dos Santos, making her voice heard and taking bigger steps.



- ▲ (top) Esmeralda showing the finished product of plastic trash turned into bag; (middle) Women's group in Atauro Island preparing the plastic trash to turn into bags; (bottom) Esmeralda sharing her experience of organising the women in Atauro during WLF Meeting. Photos by Esmeralda Dos Santos (top and middle), CTI-CFF RS/Janet Polita (bottom).

Gina Barquilla: Guardian of the Sea

Indeed, times have changed. When you thought that protecting, literally, marine protected areas and municipal waters are limited to men – not in Del Carmen, Siargao Islands, in the province of Surigao del Norte, Philippines.

Ms. Gina Barquilla has been working as a Fish Warden since 2014 when she became a Conservation Fellow for the RARE FishForever Pride campaign – a partnership between RARE and the local government unit in the municipality of Del Carmen. Her primary role is to lead the *Bantay Dagat* (Sea Patrol) during operation – conducting visibility and seaborne patrol along the municipal waters. The Bantay Dagat is a civilian fisheries patrol force made up of volunteers that try to keep a 24 hours watch to protect municipal waters up to 15 kilometers from shore/coastline. She also works as a Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer and part of her mandate is the protection and conservation of their resources and environment.

Gina has been leading successful apprehensions of illegal activities both terrestrial and coastal violations. She said that being a fish warden is not an easy job. “I have received threats through SMS and letters from anonymous sender(s) every now and then. I even experienced being punched by a judge!” Gina shared.

“When someone is apprehended, I initially use my own money to attend to the logistical expenses needed to file a case. The office will just reimburse it afterwards,” Gina said. Her work also led her to witness some politicians and municipal officials involved in unscrupulous transactions with the violators. They confronted her and belittled her position in the municipality. But this experience just toughened her resolve and commitment to implement her task as a fish warden.

Gina shared that when women lead the campaign, people listen to you and respond in a positive way. Further, when a woman leads the arrest, (men) violators stay calm and feel ashamed of what they have done. “What men can do, women can – the ability to lead the role of mean especially in the conservation effort,” Gina said.



▲ Gina Barquilla as a fish warden at work. Photos by Gina Barquilla.

Selection of CTI-CFF RS Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director for Corporate Services completed

Kuala Lumpur, Indonesia, 27 and 28 May 2019 – The CTI-CFF’s Appointment Committee completed its selection for the Executive Director (ED) and Deputy Executive Director for Corporate Services (DED CS) of the Regional Secretariat of CTI-CFF.

A total of five candidates from Malaysia for the position of ED as well as five candidates for DED CS – two from Indonesia, two from Papua New Guinea, and one from Timor-Leste – were interviewed in Kuala Lumpur.

The selected candidate for the two positions were recommended to the CTI-CFF Committee of Senior Officials for approval. The new ED and DED CS will be officially introduced during the 15th Senior Officials Meeting to be held in Honiara, Solomon Islands by last quarter of the year.

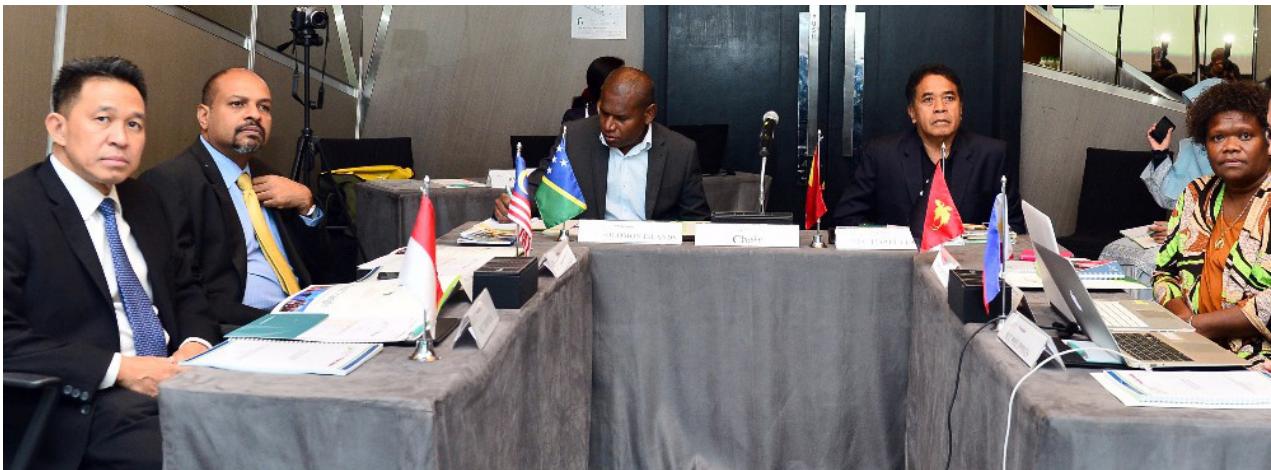
The selected Executive Director is expected to lead in the renewal of Host Country Agreement in 2020, finalise and formalise the Renewal of

the Regional Plan of Action, as well as lead the implementation of the CTI-CFF Leaders’ Summit in 2020, among others.

On the other hand, the Deputy for Corporate Services shall be responsible for providing general services to the Parties of the CTI-CFF; for the management of general affairs of CTI-CFF and management and perform functions necessary for the administration of ongoing projects.

Both positions shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years and may be reappointed by the CTI Council of Ministers for one term.

The members of the Appointment Committee are Mr. Aryo Hanggono (Indonesia), Dr. K. Nagulendran (Malaysia), Ms. Yvonne Tio (Papua New Guinea), Ms. Armida Andres and Ms. Nilda Baling as alternate (Philippines) and Mr. Acacio Guterres (Timor-Leste) with Mr. Patesson Lusi (Solomon Islands) as Chair of the Committee.



▲ Members of the Appointment Committee (from left to right): Mr. Aryo Hanggono (Indonesia), Dr. K. Nagulendran (Malaysia), Mr. Patesson Lusi (Solomon Islands) as Chair of the Committee, Mr. Acacio Guterres (Timor Leste) and Ms. Yvonne Tio (Papua New Guinea). Ms. Armida Andres and Ms. Nilda Baling as alternate (Philippines) joined via Skype. Photo by Malaysia NCC.

CT member countries identify initial regional priorities for the CT region

Manado, Indonesia, 1 May 2019 – Marine and environment conservationists, experts and key government officials from Coral Triangle (CT6) member countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste gathered for a three-day consultation workshop to identify and discuss regional priorities for the CT region.

The workshop reviewed the impacts and lesson learnt of the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA 1.0). In terms of impact, it noted that there was an increased attention/action on marine and coastal issues and these were also translated to policies. Further, a cooperative linkage was established between Asia and Pacific countries. Though, it noted that a sustainable management and financing, presence of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and regional cooperation relevant to international commitment are crucial to move towards RPOA 2.0. Further, it noted to explore other alternative to raise funds and forge relationship with other regional and global initiatives.

In this workshop, the participants also identified the possible targets for RPOA 2.0 such as

sustainable fisheries, food security, livelihoods, ecosystem and economic resilience with gender, indigenous communities, climate change resilience, M&E, education and awareness as additional targets among others.

Collaborative actions with private industries and investment plans were also identified as possible approaches to source funds. Establishment of a Business Development Unit and/or Project Preparation Facility were also recommended as a possible finance mechanism/solution to achieve CTI-CFF goals.

Apart from CT6 member countries, development partners like Australian Government, Coral Triangle Center, Wildlife Conservation Society, WorldFish, WWF, USAID RDMA, US DOI and network like Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network participated in the workshop.

The three-day consultation workshop was organized by the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat in partnership with the North Sulawesi Government, US DOI and USAID Oceans. It was held in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia.



▲ Representatives from Philippines (top left), Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (top right), Malaysia (bottom left), and Timor Leste (bottom right) discussed their priority goals as well as strategies during the consultation workshop for the renewal of the RPOA. Photos by: CTI-CFF/Janet Polita.

Newsbits

WLF Meeting in Dili, Timor Leste held

The Women Leaders' Forum (WLF) met last June 27, 2019 in Dili Timor Leste with NCC representatives and partners to discuss ways to synergize existing and future work in the region. The meeting also gathered inputs from the participants to be included into the draft gender policies/regulations matrix especially on the gaps and challenges, how women participation is included in planning and implementation process, gender equality integration. Further, the information will feed into the RPOA 2.0 process.

Resource persons during the meeting were Dr. Sharifah Nora Ibrahim of CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat; Dr. Arlene Satapornvanit of USAID Oceans; Ms. Jasmin Mohd Saad of USAID Oceans representing Ms. Agnetha Karamui, WLF Chair from Solomon Islands; Ms. Agustinha Duarte of WorldFish Timor Leste; Ms. Lusitania Lopes of Women Maritime in Asia (WIMA); Ms. Kulthida Techasarin of US Department of Interior; Ms. Esmeralda Dos Santos of Timor Leste NCC; and Ms. Bernadette da Fonseca of FAO Timor Leste.

Malaysia and Papua New Guinea also shared their Gender/Women Initiatives.

The WLF meeting was supported by USAID Oceans and US DOI hosted by the NCC Timor Leste and co-organized by the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat.



▲ Participants of the WLF Dinner Meeting in Dili, Timor Leste. Photo by CTI-CFF RS/ Ivan Kiagoes.

CTI-CFF highlights importance of Coastal Communities' Resilience and RPOA 2.0 at COBSEA Meetings

At the Meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) Technical Working Group on Marine Litter, and at the COBSEA Intergovernmental Meeting in Bali Indonesia, CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat participated and emphasized the renewed relevance of the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action (RPOA 2.0) that would focus on the resilience of the ocean and coastal communities.

Dr. Sharifah Nora Ibrahim, CTI-CFF Deputy Executive Director for Program Services stated: "The UNEP COBSEA and CTI share common purpose in good ocean governance, including aiming for improvement of social and economic livelihoods of coastal communities in the Coral Triangle area. The CTI-CFF would focus on its core competencies and comparative advantage by aligning more strategically with, among others, the COBSEA".

"CTI seeks to be one of the official regional COBSEA institutions and we look forward to co-operating with UN Environment Nairobi, UNEP Regional Office Bangkok and COBSEA Member States as well as ASEAN mechanisms and Development Partners on regional seas issues", she added.

COBSEA Working Group meeting on Marine Litter and the COBSEA Intergovernmental Meeting were organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Coordinating Body of the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) together with the Government of the Republic of Indonesia-The Ministry of Forestry and Environment and Forestry.

CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat was represented by Dr. Sharifah Nora and Mr. Asa Silalahi.



▲ Participants of the Intergovernmental Meeting of the COBSEA. Photos by COBSEA.

Strategic Communication Expert Workshop conducted

As part of the series of workshops for renewal of the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action, a Strategic Communication Expert Workshop was conducted last 22–23 May 2019 in Quezon City, Philippines.

Attended by representatives from CT6 countries and development partners namely, Coral Triangle Center and WWF, the workshop intended to provide relevant expertise to draft a strategic communications plan in support of the RPOA and compile further recommendations and relevant information.

The RPOA review suggested that closer integration of the CTI program into the activities of the lead government agencies involved in the program as well as other government agencies is needed. Further, CTI budget's inclusion in the budget of Ministries or national planning agencies is needed. Thus, these goals will require work to communicate the logic of working at a regional level clearly and more effectively to specific target audiences and individual decision makers.

Also, the RPOA review noted the need for an improved communications so that the CTI can avoid duplicating work that is already done by other regional organizations and focus on its core competencies or where it holds a competitive advantage.

The workshop had experts from Pt Hatfield Indonesia as resource persons – Ms. Nini Santos and Dr. Lida Pet-Soede. The Australian Government provided support for the conduct of the activity.

CTI-CFF's Regional Coral Triangle Network Officers Program to commence on July 15

The CTI-CFF's Regional Coral Triangle Network Officers (RCTNO) Program will start its implementation this July 15, 2019. The program will be bringing in young professionals who is working in the field of marine/coastal ecology, fisheries science, management, monitoring and other relevant fields in government department from CT6 member countries.

The program aims to provide learning experiences on improving the implementation of the current Regional Plan of Action (RPOA); involve and contribute in the renewal of the RPOA process; improve understanding of the RS CTI-CFF functions and strengthen linkages to NCCs; and provide opportunity on improving and strengthening the linkages of National Plan of Actions to the RPOA.

The capacity building program will run for 5 months with the RCTNO's to be exposed to various activities like implementation of the current RPOA, renewal of the RPOA process, communication, education and public awareness, project management and logistics among others.

The RCTNOs will receive a stipend allowance of USD750/month, basic accommodation/ housing, communication allowance and basic health insurance. The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat will cover the roundtrip economy air ticket of each RCTNO from their home country to Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia.



▲ The Strategic Communications were participated in by representatives from CT6 member countries and CTI-CFF's Development Partners namely Coral Triangle Center and WWF; with resource person, Dr. Lida Pet Soede, the participants discussed strategies to attract government leaders to support CTI-CFF. Photos by CTI-CFF/Rumanti Wasturini.

CTI focuses on catch documentation system to improve fisheries management in Coral Triangle Region

Dili, Timor Leste, 25 June 2019 – Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a threat to the fish stocks, marine ecosystems and overall fisheries sustainability in the Coral Triangle (CT) Region. Insufficient fisheries management and a lack of transparency in the fisheries supply chain bring about such threat.

Cognizant of these critical issues, the Regional Secretariat of the CTI-CFF partnered with USAID Oceans, US Department of Interior (DOI), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) conducted a workshop on electronic catch documentation and traceability (eCDT) among marine and fisheries specialists for CT6 member countries. Particularly, the activity focused on increasing understanding of eCDT and how it can support ecosystem approach to management of fisheries (EAFM) to ensure sustainable fisheries management.

CDT System is a basic concept to combat IUU fishing by providing a good documentation of tracking fish from point of catch to final destination (market) including supply-chain. It serves as a market-based monitoring, control and surveillance tool in combating IUU fishing.

Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry, CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat said that it is important for CT6 countries to reflect and assess the existing eCDT systems and capacity gaps as well as evaluate its suitability for implementation in CT6 member countries. Further,

he noted the importance of assessing the specific needs and practices of countries and adapt it into the chosen CDT system as part of the overall CT6 fisheries management practices.

Dr. Siry also added that the activity is a good venue to learn and share insights about existing eCDT systems that would have great impact to marine and coastal preservation as well as contribute to poverty reduction and food security in the CT Region.

Timor Leste's Director General for Fisheries from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Mr. Acacio Guterres said that the activity is an opportunity for regional integration, sharing and action planning that is critical to develop a joint approach to plan for the long prosperity and stability of a sector that over 350 million Coral Triangle residents rely upon for employment.

USAID Mission Director to Timor Leste Dr. Diana Pulman, in her remark, acknowledged the work being done by CT6 member countries to regulate and sustain their fisheries, no matter the size of their commercial fishing industry. She said that USAID Oceans has been helping CT6 member countries understand new systems to enhance national fisheries management and customize those systems to each country's needs.

The activity was hosted by the Timor Leste National CTI-CFF Coordinating Committee and supported by the USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA) through US DOI.



▲ (left) Participants of the Workshop on CDT System Design and Development based on EAFM held in Dili, Timor Leste. The Opening Ceremony was attended by Mr. Acacio Guterres, Timor Leste's Director for Fisheries from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Dr. Diana Pulman, USAID Mission Director to Timor Leste; (right) A pre-workshop on CDT was conducted for CT3 Pacific countries organized by USAID Oceans. Photos by CTI-CFF RS/Janet Polita.

TEMOANA

~ Ocean | Sikaiana dialect

Winning essay from Zola Karamui, 13 years old student from Solomon Islands. The essay competition was conducted by the Solomon Islands' Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.



Separated by islands and continents, bordered by seven waters and is full of life, it is the wide, deep blue sea. The Ocean. It is filled with uncertainty, you'll never know what might be there. It is a mystery, unsolved. It can be the calmest, and it can be the roughest. It can be wonderful, and it can be terrifying. It is the only thing that joins us as a whole, it connects the world. It is the source of life for humans, ever since there is life.

What is a healthy Ocean? A healthy ocean should have a diverse marine life and habitats and be able to provide resources for humans to use and develop. In this essay, I am going to discuss and suggest some ways to protect and keep our ocean healthy for marine life as well as ourselves. I will also discuss how we, men and women, boys and girls, individuals, communities and as a country, can work together in ensuring our ocean is healthy and productive for today and tomorrow.

Today the ocean is faced with various challenges due to human activities and natural events like cyclone. For instance, over-fishing by large commercial fishing companies, and coastal communities or fishermen can significantly reduce marine resources. The use of illegal fishing methods, for example, dynamite fishing can destroy coral reefs and other marine habitats which are important for a healthy ocean.

Marine pollution from improper waste disposal is a serious threat to the ocean. Ships out in the sea, can dispose oil and other waste into the ocean. In Honiara most of the sewage pipes are directly piped into the coastal bay, causing negative impacts to both humans and marine life. The current use of plastics and disposal in Honiara and even in the communities is a clear example of a bad practice that leads directly to marine pollution. All these ocean threats leads to an unhealthy and unproductive ocean. Therefore it is critical that efforts must be made to address them.

How can we cooperate to keep our ocean healthy for marine life and humans? There are several ways that we as individuals, communities, schools and government can help to ensure that our oceans are wisely used to safeguard its marine life. To cooperate means to work together to address the problems faced by the ocean.

Firstly, we must understand and learn about the value and importance of the ocean through awareness and education. Young youths and children must be educated, both formally and informally about the value of the ocean. The ocean is not just any salty water, it is a source of life itself. We Solomon Islanders are Ocean people. It is the main source of food here in the Solomon Islands. It is essential for our country's development, as a source of income. It is also a part of enjoying, relaxing and pleasing our life. I for one, someone who grew up very close to the ocean, I wouldn't want to make our ocean sick. For an unhealthy ocean comes unhealthy people. We can also start by spreading the word to our fellow friends and relatives. I urge that all people must know that the ocean is a big part of us, Solomon Islanders.

Secondly, we should promote good waste management practices in schools, communities and towns. Everyone should be able to know how to separate their rubbish. Dig a hole for tins, plastics for plastics, and the compost (food waste) for your plants. I am happy to say that most of our communities has already gone through with this, including my village – Vulavu, in Isabel Province. The key to promoting good waste management starts in our homes. Once practiced in our household, your neighbors or friends might be motivated to do the same. Similar for the schools. A clean habit attracts all. Why is managing our waste important? There was this time I read an article on how a baby whale was discovered dead on the shore. People thought that it was stranded. Doctors investigated and found a huge amount of metal and plastic in its stomach. This story filled my heart with guilt and sorrow. If we do not manage our waste, more of stories like this can and will occur daily. We, ourselves will also be eating rubbish. Having good waste management practices can save the ocean from diseases like this.

Thirdly, promoting good fishing practices – sustainable harvesting – leave some, take some. One day I was lurking through my dad's laptop, and I saw this documentary about Shark Hunting. As I watched the video, it came to the part where all the sharks were targeted and killed only for their fins. Slaughtering hundreds of sharks. Left to rot like as it was just some toy lying around. This is too much! If the ocean can talk, it would definitely scream with pain, the words "Naf nah!" We must learn how to preserve our ocean's resources, making wise decisions. For we are not the only ones trying to survive. Better yet, our future generation needs the resources too. Lastly, concerning the Government to ban plastic bags and making laws that oceans are protected and valued. I believe that plastic bags are a huge and instant threat to our ocean. Our leaders should ban the use and the importations of plastic bags. They should also encourage the idea of conserving more islands as protected areas.

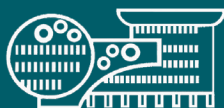
As a young girl, that grew up knowing the ocean ever since time can remember. It hurts knowing that the ocean is sick because of us, because we did not do anything about it. Whilst thinking that the ocean is happy and content. Starting small and then going big, we can achieve the goal for a healthy and productive ocean. My name is Zola Karamui and this is my voice.

Upcoming activities 2019

coraltriangleinitiative.org/events

WLF Planning Meeting	July 22–23	Bali, Indonesia
11th EAS Partnership Council Meeting	July 24–26	Surabaya, Indonesia
Organizational Sustainability: Developing Strategic Partnerships & Resource Mobilization Plan (USAID, US DOI-LGN Workshop)	July 29–31	Jakarta, Indonesia
Financial Resource Strategy Expert Workshop and FRWG Meeting	July 31–August 1	WCS Office Space, Singapore
Meeting between Development Partners and CTI-CFF RS	August 2	WCS Office Space, Singapore
Workshop on Institutional Changes for an Effective and Relevant CTI-CFF	August 13–14	Bali, Indonesia
Writeshop RPOA 2.0	August 14-15	Bali, Indonesia
13 th APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group meeting (OFWG13)	August 20–21	Chile
EAFM TWG Annual Meeting back to back with Seascape TWG Annual Meeting	September 2–4	Manila, Philippines
CCA TWG Annual Meeting	September (tbc)	Manila, Philippines (tbc)
Theoretical and Practical Workshop for the Development of A Protocol for the Monitoring of MPA	September 27–October 4 (tbc)	Gorgona, Colombia
WLF – Strategic Meeting and Capacity Building	September (tbc)	Bali, Indonesia (tbc)
MPA TWG and TSWG Annual Meeting (tbc)	October (tbc)	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
Our Ocean Conference 2019	October 24-25	Oslo, Norway
Archipelagic and Island States Forum (AISF)	October 30–November 1	Manado, Indonesia
15th Senior Officials Meeting	November (tbc)	Honiara, Solomon Islands
34th Annual ICRI General Meeting	December 2–7	Townsville, Australia

We welcome your CTI-related new and/or feature stories, events and photos! Send them through:



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Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF)

The CTI-CFF is a multilateral partnership of six countries working together to sustain extraordinary marine and coastal resources by addressing crucial issues such as food security, climate change and marine biodiversity.

The CTI-CFF was established formally during the Leaders' Summit in 2009 with approval of the leaders from the CT6 countries. They adopted the CTI Regional Plan of Action (CTI RPOA) which is a strategic action plan with five goals: (1) designation of effectively managed seascapes; (2) application of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management; (3) establishment of a fully functional marine protected area system; (4) strengthening climate change adaptation and resilience; and (5) improving the status of threatened marine species.

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AND FOOD SECURITY

