



CORAL TRIANGLE
INITIATIVE
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES
AND FOOD SECURITY



CTI-CFF *newsletter*

July - September 2021 ▲ Issue 20



Remains
steadfast to
CTI-CFF goals

This newsletter is prepared and produced by the Communication Section of CTI-CFF RS.

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Photo by Tracey Jennings/The Ocean Agency



MESSAGE FROM DR. MOHD KUSHAIRI M

In the third quarter of Year 2021, the Regional Secretariat and the CT6 Member Countries have made great strides in accomplishing prime activities of CTI-CFF. The review of the draft RPOA 2.0 M&E Indicators had been completed in September 2021 and now CT6 is set to finalize the draft financial strategy and communication strategy of the draft RPOA 2.0. The Internal Resource Committee also led the completion of the final drafting of the Staff Policies and Procedures Manual and Host Country Agreement during a virtual meeting in September 2021. These three (3) important documents are to be submitted at the upcoming 16th Senior Officials Meeting and 8th Ministerial Meeting for adoption.

We also continue to facilitate and coordinate the virtual meetings of the different Technical Working Groups, Governance Working Groups and Women Leaders' Forum with the intention of accomplishing the plans identified for 2021 as well as finalizing the proposed activities for 2022.

The continuing pandemic has not stopped the Regional Secretariat to continue engaging with the regional and international groupings to share experiences and lessons learned on mutual interests such as capacity building, protection and conservation of marine and coastal areas and fisheries management. CTI-CFF through the Regional Secretariat collaborated with CMAR in the conduct of a webinar focusing on toursim as a strategy for conservation, scientific monitoring and citizen science. The webinar was attended by



THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OHD RAJUDDIN

members of the MPA Working Group and Sustainable Marine Tourism Task Force. We hope to further strengthen our collaboration with CMAR as we plan the future activities.

The Regional Secretariat's project with SUFIA- RTI is moving on the right track as we accomplished the submission of all the required documentation for the USD50K grant from USAID to cover the 10-month proposed project on Capacity Strengthening Initiative. This project will further strengthen RS as a Public International Organization, and foster the partnership between CTI-CFF and USAID in sustainable fisheries management and marine biodiversity in the Coral Triangle region, particularly in combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

We are also keen to actively participate in the upcoming UN COP 26 in Glasgow, UK and we are committed to working with other countries to inspire climate action. We acknowledge the threats pose by climate change such as coral bleaching, altering the growth rates of and other physiological functions of seagrass, the decline of mangrove ecosystem as well as adverse effect to fish yield and distribution among others. We believe that regional and international groupings should join hands in addressing climate change for the betterment of our marine and coastal ecosystems towards ensuring livelihood for our people in the years to come.

We, at the Regional Secretariat, remain

steadfast in facilitating and coordinating the activities, projects and goals of the CTI-CFF. There may be limitations and challenges along the way, but we believe that with the support and commitment of CT6 Member Countries as well as the CTI Strategic Partners, we will be able to realize all our objectives.

We thank the CT6 Member Countries and the CTI Strategic Partners for their unwavering support during these challenging times. We can only assure you that the Regional Secretariat shall double its efforts in providing necessary service to respond to the issues being faced by the Coral Triangle region.

Thank you and we continue to pray for the good health and safety for everyone.

CT6 Member Countries complete the draft M&E indicators of the draft RPOA 2.0

After a series of virtual meetings, representatives from Member Countries via the CTI Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (MEWG) and Chairs of the different Technical Working Groups and Governance Working Groups as well as Cross Cutting Initiative had completed the review and final drafting of the M&E Indicators of the draft CTI Regional Plan of Action (RPOA 2.0) on 22-23 September 2021.

Apart from the above In-Situ Writeshop, the continuation of the virtual Writeshop on RPOA 2.0 indicators were held on the following dates: 8-9 July, 27 July, 23-24 August and 13-15 September (the 1st In Situ VPM RPOA2.0 Indicators Writeshop).

The draft M&E indicators will provide the measures of economy and efficiency of planned regional activities of CTI-CFF in the short, intermediate and long-term.

CT6 Member Countries are now gearing its efforts to review and finalize the draft the financial, communication and implementation strategies of the draft RPOA 2.0 as well as institutional framework for submission and presentation at the 16th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM). In the 22-23 September 2021 Writeshop, countries tasked the Regional Secretariat to organize a meeting by the 1st week of October 2021 to discuss the financial and communication strategies.

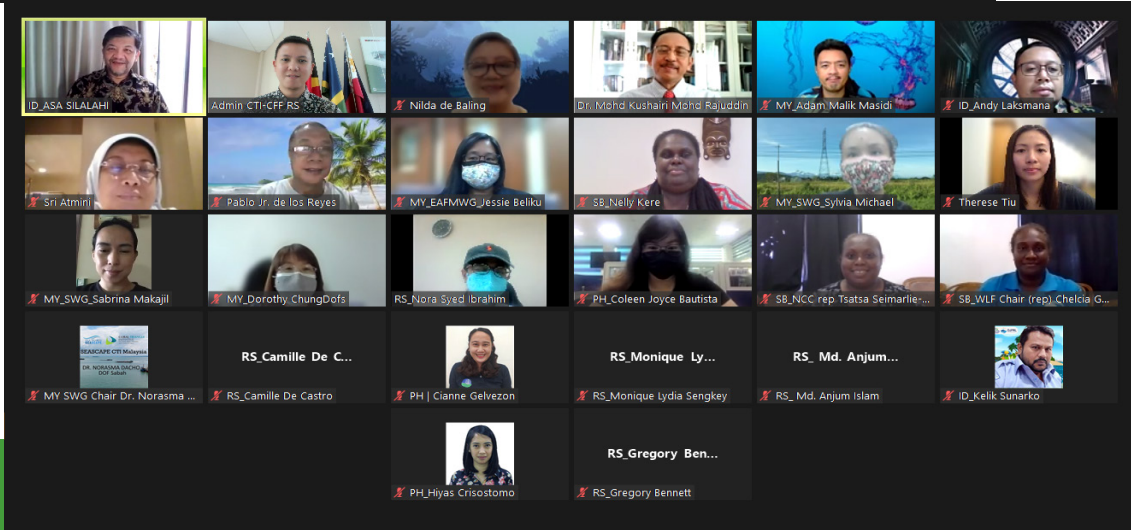
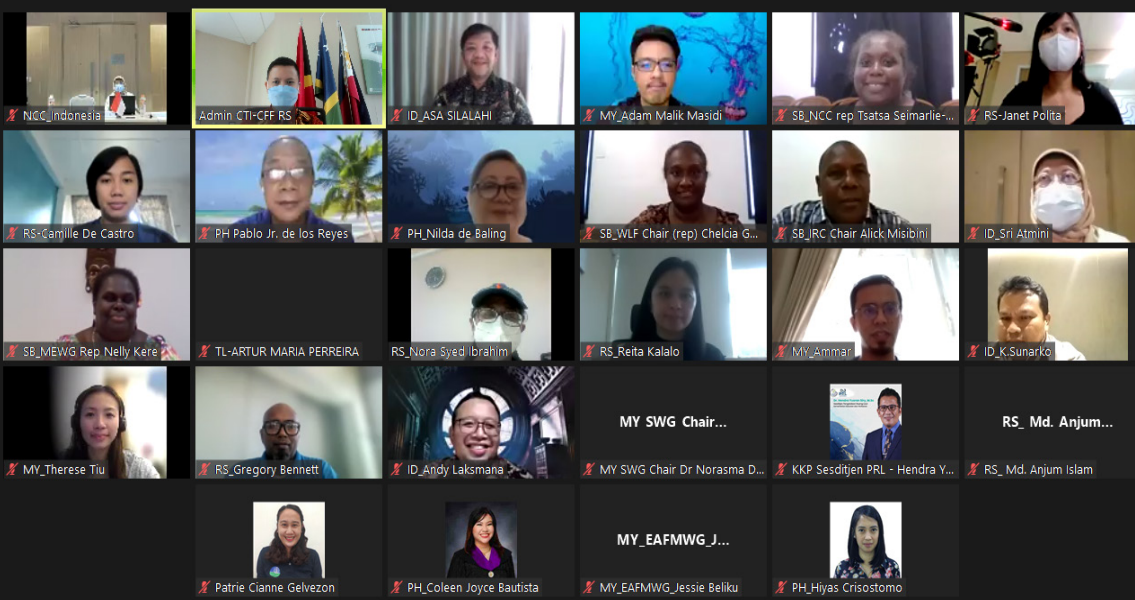
The MEWG has planned to conduct an online meeting by the 2nd week of October, to discuss further the draft RPOA 2.0 and other relevant matters in preparation for Pre-SOM and SOM.

The draft RPOA 2.0 sets CTI-CFF's strategic directions, Goals and Objectives for the next ten years and outlines CTI-CFF's key priorities/regional activities in striving to meet the needs of the member countries and ensuring the sustainable management of the Coral Triangle.

IN-SITU VMP ON THE DRAFT RPOA 2.0

27-28 MAY 2021

DAY 1



Top and bottom screenshot: Participants of the two (2) days In-Situ VMP on the review and finalization of the draft RPOA 2.0 and M&E indicators via Zoom.

DAY 2



CT5 gather to complete the final draft of Host Country Agreement

Representatives from the five member countries of CTI-CFF namely Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste gathered in an online meeting to complete the final drafting of a new Host Country Agreement (HCA) of the Regional Secretariat (RS) of CTI-CFF and the Government of Indonesia (GOI) on 29-30 September 2021.

The online meeting was chaired by the head of the CTI-CFF Internal Resource Committee, Mr Alick Misibini, Financial Controller from the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Sources of the Government of Islands. The final draft of HCA shall be reviewed also by an international legal firm to be hired by the Regional Secretariat prior to submission at the 16th Senior Officials Meeting.

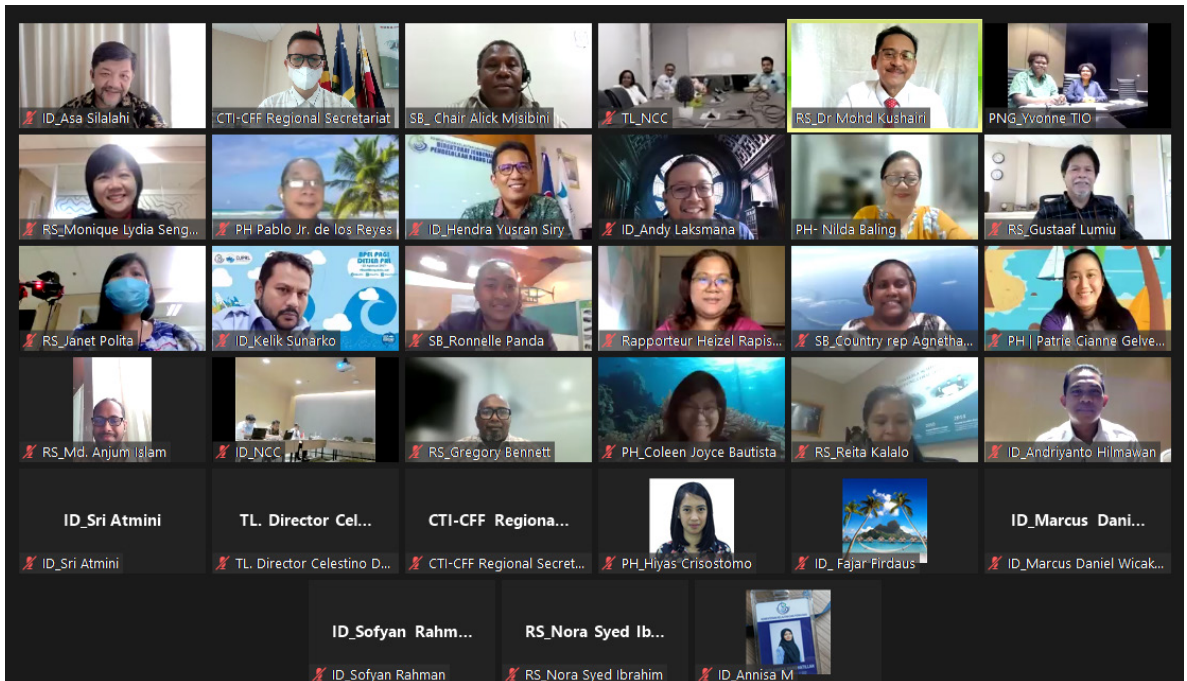
The review and final drafting of the HCA took almost a year to complete due to the challenges posed by COVID-pandemic as well as the national mandate the CT5 had to attend to.

Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin Executive Director of the Regional Secretariat of CTI-CFF said that the draft HCA has taken into consideration the mutual interests of the CT6 member countries to be able to have beneficial and desired outcomes and opportunities for all the parties involved.

The HCA between the RS and GOI had expired on 14 May 2021. Prior to the expiration of the HCA, the Regional Secretariat has requested for the extension of the current HCA until the new HCA is approved by GOI.

Since the signing of the HCA in April 2015, RS including its international staff has been supported and assisted by the GOI. RS is also able to smoothly and securely manage its day-to-day operations towards the fulfilment of the goals of the CTI-CFF because of the HCA.

Photo by Tracey Jennings/The Ocean Agency



Screenshot of the participants of the In-Situ VMP on the review and finalization of the draft Staff Policies and Procedure Manual (SPPM) on 6 September 2021.

Final drafting of the CTI-CFF Staff Policies and Procedures Manual

After a rigorous two-day virtual meeting, CT6 Member Countries had completed the review and final drafting of the CTI-CFF Staff Policies and Procedures Manual (SPPM) on 6-7 September 2021.

The draft CTI-CFF Staff Policies and Procedures Manual will define and clarify the rights and obligations of the Secretariat and Staff, establish working requirements for effective working and harmonious working relationship.

The review and final drafting of the CTI-CFF SPPM was led by the Internal Resource Committee of the CTI-CFF. The final draft SPPM will be submitted at the 16th Senior Officials Meeting for review and adoption.

UPDATES

1

Seascapes Working Group and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Working Group

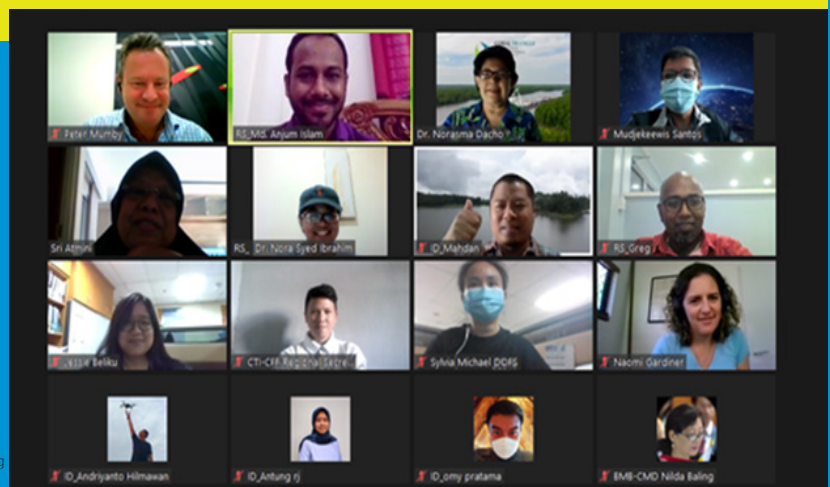
There were various intensive meetings led by the Seascope WG and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management WG during July-Aug (23 July, 30 July, 9 August, 26 August 2021) as the CT Southeast Asia Seascope members are part of the CTI UQ GEF Project Identification Form (PIF) Drafting Team of the proposed project: Seascope Approach to Securing Coral Reefs Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope. Please refer to the special Box below regarding the Drafting Committee completion of work in record time.

Successful completion of GEF's Draft Project Identification Form (PIF) of the CTI UQ GEF proposal

Kudos to the hard-working PIF Drafting Committee Members from the CT Southeast Asia Seascope WG and EAFM WG led by Seascope WG Chair Dr Norasma Dacho, Professor Peter Mumby from the University of Queensland and Dr Naomi Gardiner of James Cook University. The Drafting Committee members worked hard on drafting and completing in record time the GEF PIF's for the proposed CTI UQ GEF project: Seascope Approach to Securing Coral Reefs Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope.

After a series of many intense virtual drafting meetings which started in June and ran through July and August (23 July, 30 July, 9 August and 26 August 2021), the PIF was finalized on 26 August 2021. As per the Meeting decisions, the Regional Secretariat made the requested revisions to the Endorsement document of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and circulated to the SEA members countries on 10 September (NCC.RS.9.21.365 - New Revised New Revised SAP and Endorsement Documents, and Request for Federal Ministers' Names for Signatures).

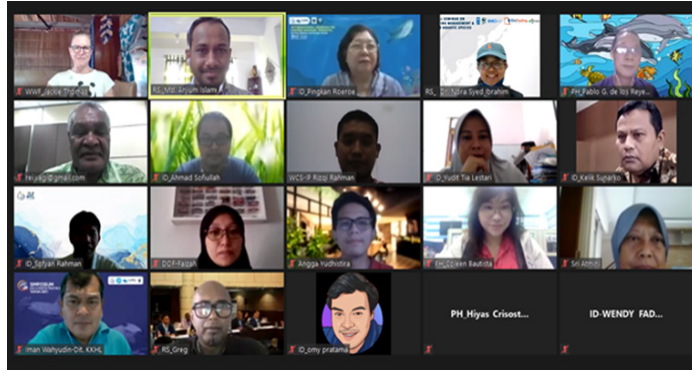
It is hoped that the Member Countries will provide the Names of (Federal) Ministers soon to enable RS, UQ and GEF to move forward with the next steps for the next cycle of GEF funding application.



Screenshot of the PIF Drafting Committee Members virtual meeting in July 2021.

Threatened Species Working Group

The 7 July 2021 meeting of the Threatened Species (TS) Working Group agreed on several major points, including the submissions of the National Conservation Plans for TS expected by 30 September 2021, in order to enable Regional Secretariat (RS) to compile them into a CTI-CFF Regional Conservation Plan for TS. It is worth noting the constraints in the usage of the approved TS WG budget, due to the country contributions not yet received thus far. Further, RS has written to IUCN regarding the Hammerhead Sharks issues. The next TS WG meeting is to be held on 13 October 2021 as preparation for the upcoming SOM 16.

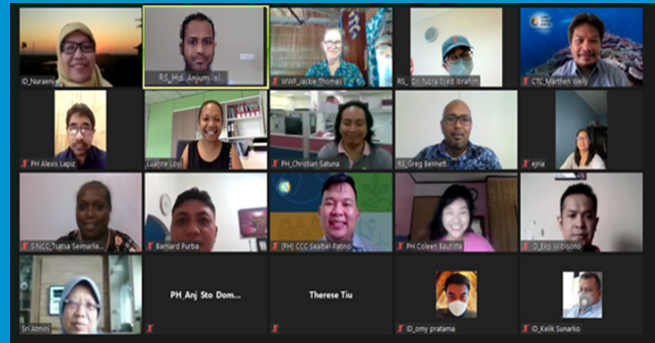


Screenshot of the Threatened Species (TS) WG online meeting on 7 July 2021.

Climate Change Adaptation Working Group

The Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) WG Members agreed to continue with the Finalization of Executive Course with two Webinars to be held in September and October 2021, that would cover technical aspects as well as local leaders. RS was tasked to find the resource persons for the Webinars due to CCA WG approved budget being very minimal. Based on RS's request to Partners for technical assistance for CCA resource persons, only CTC responded with the requirement to cover costs for the resource person. Hence, the webinars could not be held yet due to resources constraints.

RS also requested CCA WG to resolve the issue on the draft Joint Communiqué regarding the "2m by 2100" statement in the text document. Further, RS also already requested NCCs Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Timor-Leste to provide the names of their respective leaders for the signature page of the Joint Communiqué. The CCA Joint Communiqué is intended to be used by the CT6 at the UNFCCC COP in UK in November 2021 and any other platforms, as agreed. The next CCA WG is proposed to be in October.

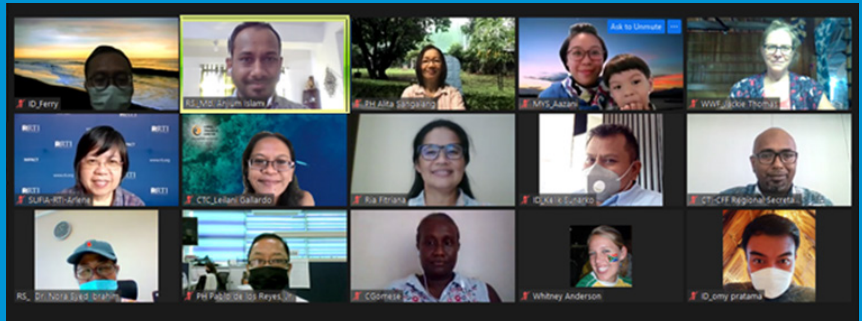


Screenshot of the Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) WG online meeting on 12 July 2021.

Women Leaders' Forum

WLF Members approved the latest draft Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) policy presented by Dr Ria, the GESI consultant in its 19 July 2021 meeting. The CT6 members reiterated the GESI consultant's contractual obligations for her to present at Pre-SOM/SOM for final approval. Other major points include WLF's proposal to move the WLF Secretariat from CTC to RS, and the improved text in the ToRs of WLF Chair and Co-Chair. WLF members agreed that pre-nominations for the new Chair and Co-Chair to be submitted to RS by 1 October 2021, in preparation for Pre-SOM/SOM.

WLF and SUFIA-RTI had online discussion on 27 July 2021 to discuss the Gender and Inclusive Development Action Plan (GIDAP) presented by Dr Arlene Satapornvanit, SUFIA-RTI Project Manager. GIDAP is part of the two-year Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) Local Capacity Development Activity with the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat which started in 2020 and to be completed in 2022. GIDAP intends to increase awareness, understanding and better responding to gender and inclusive related issues of CTI-CFF, based on GESI policy. Proposed GIDAP activities include capacity building, supporting CTI-CFF GESI Policy implementation, production of GESI communication and knowledge products as well as community outreach/demonstration of GESI implementation in fisheries communities in partnership with various sectors. WLF members accepted the proposed activities for WLF from August to November/SOM16 but tasked RS to provide the mechanisms to get the SUFIA project to be presented at the relevant WGs for consideration of endorsement at SOM 16. In preparation for SOM, the next WLF online meeting will be on 8 October 2021.

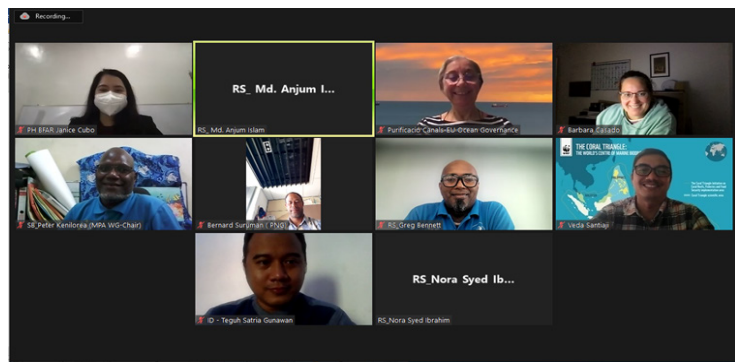


Screenshot of the Women Leaders' Forum (WLF) online meeting on 19 July 2021.

MPA Working Group

The meeting on 7 September was postponed to 29 September due to other important CT6 higher-level meetings. RS had had several working meetings with Dr Puri Canal and Mr Veda from the WWF EU Ocean Governance project to discuss the logistics of the proposed Learning Exchange, as already agreed in MPA WG earlier this year as part of MPA WG Workplan to be executed in October 2021. At the 29 September meeting, the MPA WG agreed for WWF-EU Ocean Governance to hold a Learning Exchange, tentatively scheduled for 3rd - 5th November 2021. The Member Countries present also agreed to provide comments on the proposed topics and provide potential presenters' names, by 5 October, to enable RS and organizers to send out invitations to the CT6.

Screenshot of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) WG online meeting on 29 September 2021



CTI – CMAR collaborates anew on tourism webinar

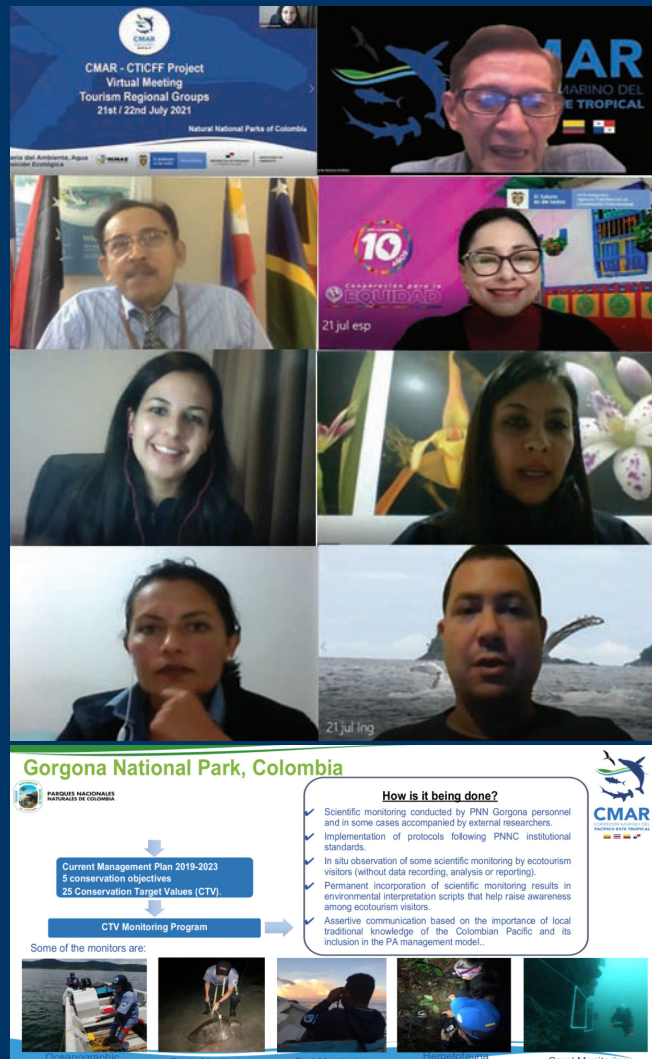
CTI-CFF and Corredor Marino del Pacifico Este Tropical (CMAR) had collaborated anew in the conduct of the webinar on tourism as a strategy for conservation, scientific monitoring and citizen science on 22 July 2021.

Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin, Executive Director of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat said the webinar is part of the two regional initiatives' continuing shared efforts to strengthen and progress collaboratively on protecting the marine and conserved areas for regional economic growth as well as for food security and sustainable livelihood for today and future generations. "Marine and coastal tourism is just one of the scopes of the Ocean Economy, which is expected to gather momentum, and by virtue of their growth, will generate further demand in interconnected ocean-based industries," Dr Kushairi said.

Mr Ricardo Meneses-Orellana of the Pro Tempore Secretariat of CMAR echoed the importance of tourism especially in time of pandemic. He stressed the importance of tourism as a source of preserving biodiversity, educating people about the environment and as means to create economic wealth. He also emphasized the need to collaborate with various stakeholders to generate information at the level marine protected areas.

At the webinar, Dr Sharifah Nora Ibrahim, Deputy Executive Director of Program Services of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat presented CTI-CFF's pre-and post COVID-19 tourism scenarios. She highlighted the importance of conservation without heavy dependence on tourism, especially foreign tourists/visitors and diversifying sources of funding such as domestic visitors, virtual tours, online souvenirs among others.

Ms Jenny Paola Gallo Santos, Tourism Coordinator of CMAR, noted that CMAR considers ecotourism as a conservation and management strategy that contributes to the effective management of the protected area systems for the benefit of local communities and the region. She also said that ecotourism plays an important role in educating and raising the awareness of all the actors involved in the activity regarding the importance of natural and cultural heritage and in ensuring financial sustainability so that national parks can fulfil their functions.



Top: Screenshot of the resource persons of the CTI-CFF and CMAR Webinar; Bottom: Screenshot of sample presentation from CMAR.



USAID to award USD50K grant to RS for Capacity Strengthening Initiative

USAID through the Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) Program-RTI International will award USD \$50,000 to the Regional Secretariat of CTI-CFF to support the implementation of the Capacity Strengthening Initiative.

The Capacity Strengthening Initiative will enhance RS capacity as a Public International Organization. Particularly, the project aims to help align RS financial management policies and procedures to USAID's financial management and accounting standards; develop grant management manual; procure and implement document management system; develop and updates RS existing HR management policies; develop strategies to strengthen CTI-CFF advocacies including Gender Equality Social Inclusion (GESI).

With a 10-month project duration that will end in May 2022, RS's Capacity Strengthening Initiative is expected to further strengthen the partnership between CTI-CFF through the Regional Secretariat and USAID in sustainable fisheries management and marine biodiversity in the Coral Triangle region, particularly in combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

RS meets with Allen Coral Atlas

At the meeting with Allen Coral Atlas on 3 September 2021, the Allen Coral Atlas team expressed their interest to collaborate with CTI-CFF via CT Atlas, through an agreement or MOU. They are also interested to organize a Bleaching training/webinar on how to use the Allen Coral Atlas and on tools for bleaching monitoring, and how it can be useful for CT6. Allen Coral Atlas is also sharing the Global Coral Bleaching Network Survey, and will organize the proposed Bleaching tools and monitoring webinar/training with CT6 and RS.

CTC and WWF present the Coral Triangle Sustainable Business Forum Concept

Representatives from the Coral Triangle Center (CTC) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) presented anew the concept of the Coral Triangle Sustainable Business Forum (CT SBF) to the CTI-CFF member countries and the Regional Secretariat via a virtual meeting on 17 September 2021.

The CT SBF, a revitalization of the earlier CTI Regional Business Forum, aims to be a catalyst for CTI-CFF in facilitating sustainable and responsible business in the Coral Triangle region, and supporting CTI-CFF and its goals. Particularly, CT SBF focuses on three (3) goals: (1) revitalizing forum mechanism to support RPOA 2.0; (2) engaging relevant ministries and business sectors; and (3) stimulating partnerships and mobilize private support for pilot projects.

The CT SBF is envisioned to be launched at the end of Year 2022 in conjunction with the launch of the RPOA 2.0. Prior to the launch, CTC and WWF have proposed priority actions in 2022 such as the establishment of a Steering Committee & Task Force and conducting activities namely, (1) developing a value proposition study; (2) engaging with relevant CT6 ministries to help engage private sector; and (3) identify key private sector area.

Representatives from Indonesia and Philippines who were present in the meeting acknowledged the proposed priority actions of CT SBF for 2022 and were particular with respect to the funding source for the activities. Ms Leilani Gallardo of CTC expressed that they could provide technical support and human resources in carrying out the activities while Ms Patchareeboon Sakulpitakphon of SUFIA-RTI project remarked that they can share their private sector assessment study to support the proposed value proposition study.

In the discussion, Indonesia and Philippines have identified sustainable marine tourism and live reef fish trade and aquaculture as proposed priority areas for engagement with sector.

Representatives from Indonesia and Philippines as well as partners, CTC, WWF and SUFIA-RTI have all agreed to share the notes of the discussion to other CTI-CFF member countries for their review and agreement prior to submission at the 16th Senior Officials Meeting.

The Appointment Committee for Selection of the New DED for Program Services meets

The CTI-CFF Appointment Committee for Selection of the new Deputy Executive Director for Program Services (DEDPS) meets for the first time on 23 August 2021 to review the draft TOR of the new DEDPS and the timeline for the selection and recruitment processes among others.

Members of the Appointment Committee for Selection of new DED for Program Services area as follows:

1. **Indonesia:** Dr Hendra Yusran Siry, Secretary of the Directorate General for Marine Spatial Management, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
2. **Malaysia:** Mr. Jamalulail bin Abu Bakar, Undersecretary, Environment Management Division, Ministry of Environment and Water
3. **Papua New Guinea:** Ms Yvonne Tio, Executive Manager, Marine Division, Conservation and Environment Protection Authority
4. **Philippines:** Ms Armida P Andres, Chief, Coastal and Marine Division, Biodiversity Management Bureau – DENR

Ms Nilda Baling, Chief, Integrated Coastal and Marine Section, Biodiversity Management Bureau – DENR

5. **Solomon Islands:** Mr Karl Kuper, Deputy Secretary – Corporate Services, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management & Meteorology
6. **Timor-Leste:** Mr Horacio Guterres, National Director of Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Appointment Committee is targeting to complete the selection process by 8 November 2021 for submission and presentation of the result at the 16th Senior Officials Meeting.

CTI-CFF welcomes new members

The CTI-CFF congratulates and warmly welcomes the new representatives of member countries to the Committee of Senior Officials and Financial Resources Working Group. The CTI-CFF looks forward to further working closely with the officials for better cooperation.



Dr Ir. Pamuji Lestari is the new member of the CTI-CFF Committee of Senior Officials and is the Executive Secretary for National Committee Secretariat of CTI-CFF Indonesia. She is from Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries.



Mr. T.B.H. Witjaksono Adji is the new Chair of CTI-CFF Financial Resources Working Group and is the Director for Asia-Pacific and Africa Intra-Regional and Inter-Regional Cooperation of Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES:

October 4: 8th Meeting of the Technical Committee of the Trust Fund

October 5: Virtual Meeting of the CTI Seascapes Working Group

October 5-6: Virtual Meeting of the IRC Committee

October 7: Virtual Meeting on the Review of the Draft Financial Strategy and Draft Communication Strategy of RPOA 2.0

October 8: Virtual Meeting of CTI Women Leaders Forum

October 11: Virtual Meeting of CTI M&E Working Group

October 11-15: 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP-MOP 10), 4th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (NP-MOP 4)

Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin, Executive Director of CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat is officially attending this meeting virtually.

October 12: Virtual Meeting of CTI Financial Resources Working Group

October 13: Virtual Meeting of the CTI Threatened Species Working Group

October 31 – November 12: 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, UK

Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin, Executive Director of CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat is officially attending this meeting virtually.

November 2021: WWF Virtual Learning Exchange under the EU Ocean Governance Project

December 1-2: Virtual Workshop on CTI Regional Conservation Trust Fund

December 6-8 (tentative): 16th Senior Officials Meeting (Virtual)

December 9 (tentative): 8th Ministerial Meeting (Virtual)



Photo by: Alex Rose on Unsplash

Photo credit: The Ocean Agency/Martin Colognoli

CTI-CFF *newsletter*

July - September 2021 ▲ Issue 20

The CTI-CFF is a multilateral partnership of six countries, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste, working together to sustain extraordinary marine and coastal resources by addressing crucial issues such as food security, climate change and marine biodiversity.

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