



CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY

Annex – 12(a)

Decision Document on: Regional Business Forum

The 11th CTI-CFF SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING (SOM-11)

2 - 3 December 2015

**The Coral Triangle Information and Learning Center
(the CTI Learning Center) Building
Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia**

Adopted on 3rd December 2015

by

**the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea,
The Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste**

I. Background

The CTI –CFF has recognized the role of the business sector, local governments and women as integral part of the implementation of the CTI-CFF RPOA and NPOA as cross-cutting initiatives.

At the SOM-10, the CTI-CFF endorsed Indonesia to be the host of the 4th CTI-CFF Regional Business Forum as well as the agenda and theme of the conference focused on sustainable marine tourism.

The 4th CTI-CFF Regional Business Forum was held on August 2015 in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia and was attended by 361 participants from more than 20 countries. Of the total number of participants, 110 were from the marine tourism private sector, 75 were from NGOs or associated academic and support institutions, and 156 were government representatives with an additional 20 representatives from the media.

During the forum, there were 3 plenary panel discussions, 10 open sessions and 3 policy roundtables. During the discussions, the participants recommended the adoption sustainable tourism guidelines and standards for developments and investments in the Coral Triangle's marine protected areas. The standards could be largely built upon existing globally available guidelines, but with some tailored components specific to local conditions and revised to become relevant to all potential tourism related sectors, and accessible by all.

Updates on these decisions were reported at SOM-11 and further recommendations were considered accordingly. Copies of the presentation are attached and formed part of this decision document.

II. Decisions

Based on presentations and discussions during the session, the Senior Officials hereby:

1. Encouraged CTI-CFF member countries to adopt the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) Criteria as the baseline standard for sustainability in travel and tourism in marine protected areas in the Coral Triangle and adapt these to fit local conditions;
2. Endorsed the creation of a task force under the MPA Technical Working Group that will identify ways to promote sustainable marine tourism

standards in marine protected areas. The task force will be led by Indonesia NCC and the Coral Triangle Center. Other Members will include representatives from Regional Secretariat, NCCs, partner organizations, Tourism Ministries of the CTI-CFF member countries, and marine tourism industry associations. WWF and CI have also expressed interest to become members. The TOR of the task force will be presented at the next SOM;

3. Noted that there is a study funded by the Government of Australia and undertaken by WWF entitled “Developing and Promoting Sustainable Nature-Based Tourism in the Coral Triangle”, the results of which will support the task force; and
4. Endorsed the conduct of the 5th Regional Business Forum in 2017 with the continued thematic focus on marine tourism, and finalize the next host country before SOM12.

Attachments:

Attachment 12.1 4th CTI-CFF Regional Business Forum powerpoint presentation for SOM-11

Attachment 12.2 GSTC Criteria for Destinations and Criteria for Operators