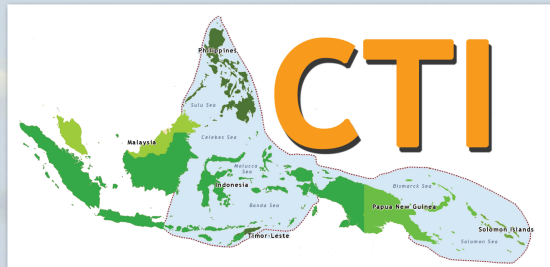


CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

A multilateral partnership formed for the conservation of the Coral Triangle, the world's most biologically-rich and economically-valuable marine ecosystem. Through the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), the governments of the six Coral Triangle countries, assisted by national, regional and international partners, work together to achieve tangible and measurable improvements in ecosystem health, fisheries, food security and community well-being in the Coral Triangle.



Coral Triangle Support Partnership

A collaboration between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and a consortium of three of the world's leading conservation organizations - Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, and World Wildlife Fund. The project aims to support the governments of the Coral Triangle countries as they implement their respective national plans of action (NPOA), contributing to the long-term goals of the CTI.

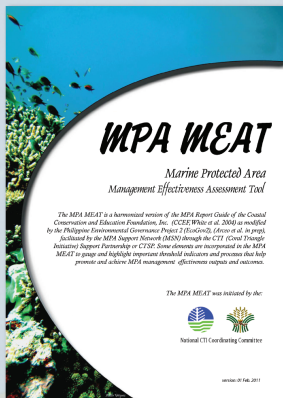
Conservation International in the CTSP

CI in the Philippines supports the achievement of the Philippine government's five NPOA goals through the following:

CTI Five Major Goals	CI Area of Focus
<p>Priority seascapes designated and effectively managed (large-scale geographies prioritized for investments and action, where best practices are demonstrated and expanded)</p>	<p>By contributing to effective management of the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion seascape and the development of the West Philippine Sea seascape</p>
<p>Ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) and other marine resources fully applied</p>	<p>By conducting research and policy studies to support ecosystem approach to fisheries management</p>
<p>Marine protected areas (MPAs) established and effectively managed</p>	<p>By contributing to the development of the Philippine tool for benchmarking and monitoring management effectiveness of marine protected areas</p>
<p>Climate change adaptation measures achieved</p>	<p>By contributing to the development and site-based application of the climate change vulnerability assessment tools that generate options for climate change adaptation measures; and demonstrating climate change adaptation in priority geographies, with focus on mangrove conservation and rehabilitation.</p>
<p>Threatened species status improving</p>	<p>By sustaining sea turtle conservation through private sector engagement in ecotourism development, alternative livelihood projects, and intensified enforcement activities</p>

CTSP covers initiatives at various levels of governance in its priority geographies, works with national agencies as well as with local communities and fosters capable and responsible resource management practices that will continue to deliver conservation benefits to Coral Triangle communities long after the conclusion of the project.

MPA Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT)



The MEAT is created to be used in assessing the current management effectiveness of the marine protected areas and monitoring progress in the Philippines. It was developed through harmonizing previous MPA benchmarking tools used by the Coastal Conservation Education Fund (CCEF) and the Environmental Governance Project of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Through the MPA Support Network (MSN), The Coral Triangle Support Partnership participated in this process and supported the use of the MEAT to assess MPAs across the country.

Management Effectiveness of two types of MPAs

Using the MEAT, MSN facilitated the assessment of 110 of the 1,620 locally managed MPAs in the Philippines. This represents 8% or 31,520 of the 393,994.46 hectares aggregate area of locally managed MPAs in the country.

On the other hand, CTSP conducted the assessment of 9 out of 33 NIPAS MPAs. The number represents 41% or 700,018 hectares of the 1.7 million hectares of NIPAS MPAs.

Results show that 64% of the assessed locally managed MPAs and 22% of the nationally managed (NIPAS) MPAs are effectively managed. Overall, 61% of the assessed MPAs in the country are effectively managed.

Management Effectiveness	Number of MPAs	Total Area
Level 0 MPAs need to satisfy the requirements of Level 1	29	407,37.44
Level 1 - MPA is Established	17	354,257.8
Level 2 - MPA is Strengthened	50	234,664.1
Level 3 - MPA is Effectively Sustained	22	100,189.4
Level 4 - MPA is Effectively Institutionalized	1	22.91
Total	119	729,871.7

Recommendations for effective MPAs

For all MPAs

- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Sustainable Financing
- Information, Education and Communication
- Designation of national unit that will sustain the monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the MPAs at least biannually

For NIPAS MPAs

- Formalization of LGU-DENR co-management with clear delineation of functions, roles, responsibilities, accountabilities and investment share
- Capacity building for the Protected Area Management Board members on biodiversity conservation, particularly on assessing conservation and economic trade-offs
- Biophysical and socioeconomic assessments for monitoring of impacts of management

For locally managed MPAs

- Use MEAT results for planning
- Highlight the role of provincial government in consolidating MPA management efforts

Mentoring Program for Marine Sciences

The Coral Triangle Support Partnership's mentoring program seeks to address the need of local coastal resource managers to have easier access to technical advice or scientific support to aid planning and decision-making. The program is implemented through capacity building programs for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in priority geographies of the Verde Island Passage, Palawan, and Tawi-Tawi while increasing collaborations and networking between HEIs and respective local governments.

Program objectives:

- to enhance the capacity of higher education institutions (HEI) to conduct research to help address local coastal and marine resource management needs.
- to enhance the capacity of HEIs to provide technical support to local government units in CTSP priority geographies
- to provide mechanisms for exchange of information and linkage-building between HEIs and local governments

Program Structure

Phase 1: Evaluation, selection of mentees

Phase 2: Preliminary Course and Proposal Development

Phase 3: Targeted Studies

Five universities with center of excellence designation on biology, marine science, or chemistry serve as mentors. In 2011, two faculty members from each of the six mentee universities completed the program, followed by ten more faculty members selected for inclusion to the 2012 mentoring cycle.



Decision makers need scientific information as they weigh the different options in managing coastal resource use and conservation. The Mentoring Program on Marine Science and the complementing program on Socioeconomics for Coastal Resources Management will bring science and information closer to local governments who are the frontlines of protecting and conserving our natural resources.



Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Toolkit for Coastal Systems

The Philippines ranks seventh in the list of countries most vulnerable to climate change based on long-term trends of level of exposure and extreme events analyzed from 1990 to 2009 (Harmeling 2011). The national government commits to developing climate change adaptation measures to help local governments address disaster risk reduction objective. However, vulnerability assessments (VA) are needed to identify specific and practical adaptation options and prioritize actions

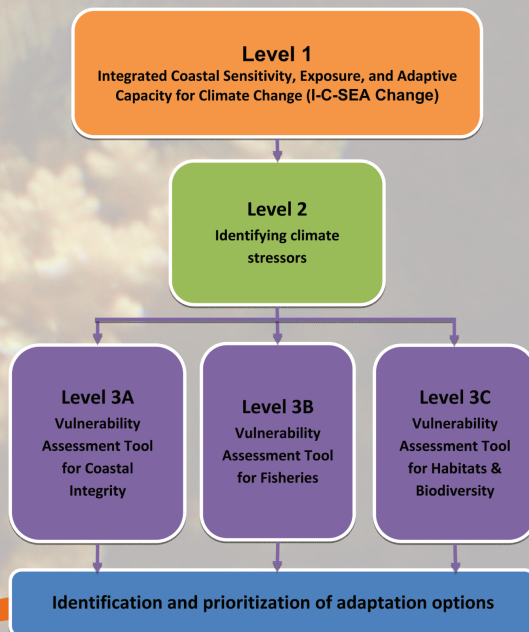


Vulnerability assessment toolkit

Allows local governments to assess their communities' sensitivity and adaptive capacity to climate change impacts. The results of vulnerability assessments will also allow the generation of climate change adaptation options that will serve as inputs to the updating of local plans and programs with consideration of potential climate change impacts.

The Philippine toolkit is currently being developed by scientists from the University of the Philippines and De La Salle University. CTSP supports some segments of the toolkit development, which is still a work in progress. The tool is being developed with the local government context of the Philippines in mind, applicable at the barangay level, identifies minimum capacity requirements of the local government end-users of the tool, and sets the minimum required datasets from coastal barangays.

Vulnerability Assessment Toolkit Process



The VA toolkit provides a rapid evaluation of different parts of the coastal system and how it stands against various potential impacts brought by climate change. Through vulnerability assessments, local governments can improve their plans and refine existing management interventions; and ultimately, enhance their communities' resilience and enable them to adapt to climate change.