



# **CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE**

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY

## **Annex -12(6)**

### **Decision Document on Scientific Advisory Group**

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**The 12<sup>th</sup> CTI-CFF SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING (SOM-12)**

**1 - 2 November 2016  
Laguna Hotel, Waigani Drive  
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea**

**Adopted on 2 November 2016  
by  
the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea,  
the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste**

## I. Background

The 11<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-11) has noted the progress made by the Regional Secretariat with regards to the establishment of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG).

The establishment of the SAG are based on the decisions made during SOM-10, which agreed to:

1. Task the Regional Secretariat to develop a list of experts in the field of coral reefs, fisheries and food security and allied fields of discipline pertaining to the RPOA goals or expertise within Coral Triangle area; and
2. Task the Regional Secretariat to formulate a mechanism to use and optimize the pool of experts and present the proposed mechanism in the next SOM.

The Regional Secretariat has undertaken several approaches to develop the list of experts in relevant fields of coral reefs, fisheries, and food security, and formulate a mechanism to use and optimize the pool of expert. This includes discussions with international experts and scientists from several prestigious universities.

Nevertheless, there are some challenges that the Regional Secretariat encountered towards the establishment of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG). There are:

1. Financial support is required to mobilize the work towards the next step of the set-up of SAG. One option is to utilize the country contributions to finance this process.
2. The range of expertise required are widespread, thus making the process of identification of relevant experts and gaining the experts long-term interest demanding. The area of expertise ranges across the five (RPOA) goals with specific fields of expertise; e.g. in adoption of CTMPAS, CCA-REAF, EAFM Regional Framework, M&E System and another regional framework.

The Regional Secretariat proposes two (2) approaches to address the above challenges to the CTI-CO during the SOM-12:

1. Members of the initial SAG to be derived based on thematic issues / ad-hoc basis as per required in the implementation of CTI-CFF frameworks such as CTMPAS, CCA-REAP, M&E System etc.
2. The members of the initial SAG shall include experts in the various programs / projects undertaken or are in the process of implementation by the Regional Secretariat and / or Development Partners to leverage on the respective programs' financial support.
3. Members of the initial SAG to also include relevant experts from higher learning institutions / research organizations / regional and international organizations that have signed MOUs with the Regional Secretariat.

Several MOUs have been signed between the Regional Secretariat and universities in Indonesia. These MOUs are signed with the Bogor Agriculture University; Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember Surabaya; Hasanuddin University; and Sam Ratulangi University in October, 2016. These MOUs aimed to initiate a CTI-CFF universities partnership to address the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action by way of cooperation with experts in the respective higher learning organizations.

Soon, the Regional Secretariat is set to sign two more MOUs with James Cook University, Australia; and University Malaysia Terengganu, Malaysia.

The Regional Secretariat is moving towards the implementation of the CTI-CFF/USAID-DOI Regional Secretariat Work Plan for Strengthening Organizational and Administrative Capacity for Improved Fisheries Management. This 2-year work plan is supported by USAID/RDMA and assisted by US DOI, and in collaboration with USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnerships and SEAFDEC. In this Work Plan, the establishment of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) is to support the development of Catch Documentation and Traceability (CDT) model in the CT region and integrated EAFM Plan which consider all sectors of the CTI RPOA Goals, as well as to assist the evaluation of CTI-CFF higher outcomes fish stock improved and sustained. Thus, the experts from this project can be considered as potential SAG members.

## II. Decision

Referring to the presentation, discussion and consideration among the CTI-CSOs presented at SOM-12, the Senior Officials hereby:

1. Acknowledged the progress made by the Regional Secretariat with regards to the establishment of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG);
2. Agreed to initiate the process of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) establishment based on the proposed approaches;
3. Proposed for the members of the initial SAG to be derived based on thematic issues / ad-hoc basis as per required in the implementation of CTI-CFF frameworks such as CTMPAS, CCA-REAP, M&E System etc.;
4. Proposed for the members of the initial SAG to include experts in the various programs / projects undertaken or are in the process of implementation by the Regional Secretariat and / or Development Partners to leverage on the respective programs' financial support;
5. Proposed for the members of the initial SAG to include relevant experts from higher learning institutions / research organizations / regional and international organizations that have signed MOUs with the Regional Secretariat;
6. Acknowledged the CTI-CFF/USAID-DOI Regional Secretariat Work Plan for Strengthening Organizational and Administrative Capacity for Improved Fisheries Management, as the initial approach towards the establishment of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG); and
7. Encouraged the Regional Secretariat to work with all Technical Working Groups to evaluate the draft "Mechanism of the Utilization of Experts to the establishment of the Scientific Advisory Group" and "CTI-CFF Experts Form" and amend where necessary for SOM-13 approval.

### **Attachments:**

- 12.6.1 Presentation on the Progress of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) establishment.
- 12.6.2 Mechanism of SAG
- 12.6.3 Experts Form