



**CORAL TRIANGLE
INITIATIVE**
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES
AND FOOD SECURITY



CHAIR'S SUMMARY

17th SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING

24-25 November 2022 via ZOOM

adopted on 25th November 2022

by

the Governments of Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, Independent State of
Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and
Timor-Leste



A. INTRODUCTION

1. The 17th Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM-17) of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) was conducted via the ZOOM online platform on 24-25 November 2022.
2. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), H.E. Dr. Melchior Mataki, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology of the Government of Solomon Islands.
3. The objectives of the SOM-17 were:
 - i. To acknowledge the SOM-17 Chair's Report
 - ii. To acknowledge the 2022 Country Reports
 - iii. To acknowledge the address delivered by the Executive Director of the Regional Secretariat
 - iv. To deliberate and endorse the reports and recommendations of the Governance Working Groups, Technical Working Groups and Cross-Cutting Initiatives
 - v. To acknowledge Partners' Presentation and endorse the recommendations
 - vi. To review and endorse the 8th Joint Ministerial Statement
 - vii. To review and endorse the SOM-17 Chair's Summary

CHAIR'S SUMMARY: DECISIONS

SESSION 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

- 1.1. Acknowledged the Opening Remarks of the Chair of the CSO, Dr. Melchior Mataki, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology of the Government of Solomon Islands (Annex 1.1);
- 1.2. Acknowledged the participation of the Heads of Delegation and representatives of the CT6 Member Countries, CTI-CFF Partners and Regional Secretariat (Annex 1.2); and
- 1.3. Adopted the revised Agenda of SOM-17 (Annex 1.3).

SESSION 2: CHAIR'S REPORT

- 2.1 Acknowledged and accepted the Chair's Report (Annex 2.1) and recognized the observations from the Chair on challenges in finalizing the Host Country Agreement (HCA) and Regional Plan of Action (RPOA 2.0), progress in the establishment of CTI-CFF Regional Conservation Trust Fund (RCTF) for alternative funding modalities to support RPOA 2.0;



SESSION 3: ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RS

- 3.1. Acknowledged the address of Dr. Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin, Executive Director of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat (Annex 3.1);

SESSION 4: CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVES

Women Leaders' Forum

- 4.1. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by Women Leaders' Forum (WLF) (Annex 4.1);
- 4.2. Acknowledged and appreciated the support of USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA) through the Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) project and programs related to WLF and further acknowledged the support given to the CT-Asia countries;
- 4.3. Acknowledged the effort from SUFIA Local Capacity Development (LCD) in collaboration with SUFIA Technical Support (TS) to develop the Guidelines for CTI-CFF Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy Implementation (Annex 4.2);
- 4.4. Acknowledged and appreciated the contribution of USAID-SUFIA LCD in the implementation of Gender Inclusive Development Action Plan (GIDAP) through the development of Coffee table book on GESI along the fisheries value chain as well as the articles/blogs–process documentation, success stories, lessons learned, etc integrated with GESI (Annex 4.3a, 4.3b, 4.3c, 4.3d);
- 4.5. Acknowledged and appreciated the support of USAID-SUFIA LCD through Capacity Strengthening Initiative award to CTI-CFF in the production and dissemination/socialization the GESI-sensitive communication materials for different audiences on CT Region to promote CTI-CFF and its advocacies (Annex 4.4);
- 4.6. Acknowledged and accepted to incorporate Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) Technical Support (TS) proposed activities with regards to WLF workplan 2023 (Annex 4.5);
- 4.7. Acknowledged and appreciated the contribution of Coral Triangle Centre (CTC) in highlighting the achievements of the WLF in international fora (Annex 4.6);
- 4.8. Acknowledged and appreciated the contribution of CTC, WWF, and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in highlighting the contribution of women leaders in the Coral Triangle through online outreach webinars and forums;
- 4.9. Requested for support from SOMACORE, CTC, WWF and other Strategic Partners for the activities stipulated in RPOA 2.0;



- 4.10. Acknowledged other priority for WLF including gender minority groups and youths as target audience for future activities;
- 4.11. Approved the WLF 2023 Workplan;

Scientific Advisory Group/University Partnership

- 4.12. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation from the Coordinator of the University Partnership (UP), Prof. Grevo Gerung;
- 4.13. Endorsed the appointment of Prof. Grevo Gerung to continue his term as the Coordinator of UP for the next two years or until the next Senior Officials Meeting (SOM);
- 4.14. Endorsed the appointment of Dr. Budy Wiryawan from IPB University, Indonesia as the Interim Chair of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG);
- 4.15. Tasked the Interim Chair and RS to develop the Terms of Reference (TOR) that clearly defines the appointment and selection process as well as the scope of work of the SAG and circulate the TOR to CT6 upon completion;

Sustainable Business Forum

- 4.16. Acknowledged and accepted the report of the Sustainable Business Forum (SBF) according to the 16th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-16) Decisions;
- 4.17. Acknowledged and appreciated the support and cooperation of the CTC and WWF in developing the Concept Note for the SBF;
- 4.18. Acknowledged and accepted the workplan for 2023 of the SBF and encouraged CTI Partners to provide technical and funding support to the planned activities;
- 4.19. Task the Regional Secretariat to coordinate further with CTC/WWF to ensure the creation of the Steering Committee and Task Force and the implementation of the SBF activities;

SESSION 5: INTERNAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE

- 5.1. Acknowledged the updated IRC Focal Points;
- 5.2. Acknowledged and accepted the status of the renewal process of the Host Country Agreement with 3 outstanding articles (Article 10, 11, and 18) that need to be discussed internally within the Government of Indonesia;



- 5.3. Noted that Indonesia and RS will finalize the Host Country Agreement before the end of January 2023;
- 5.4. Acknowledged the 2022 IRC progress report and noted its highlights and recommendation that will guide RS prioritization for implementation and support;
- 5.5. Acknowledged the update on 2022 Country Contributions from Member Countries and to note the outstanding country contributions yet to be remitted to RS (Annex 5.1);
- 5.6. Endorsed the 2021 Financial Audit Report (Annex 5.2);
- 5.7. Acknowledged and noted the 2022 Financial Utilization report with the surplus amounting to USD 172,815 un-audited to be deducted in the 2023 Budget (Annex 5.3);
- 5.8. Acknowledged and endorsed the proposed 2023 Budget for USD 1,316,714 and noted the Budget Forecast 2024-2025 (Annex 5.4);
- 5.9. Acknowledged and noted the proposed 2023 Country Contribution by using GDP 2021 after deduction of the 2022 surplus (Annex 5.5);
- 5.10. Acknowledged the status of the Deputy Executive Director for Program Services (DED-PS) recruitment and endorsed the candidate recommended by the Appointment Committee and agreed that the new DED-PS to be on board by January 2023;
- 5.11. Acknowledged and accepted the recruitment process and timeline of the Executive Director (ED) and Deputy Executive Director for Corporate Service (DED-CS) (Annex 5.6);
- 5.12. Acknowledged the update on RS' recruitment of the three (3) new staff as per SOM-16 Decision 5.18 namely Data Compilation and Documentation Officer (DCDO), NCC/Partners/Private Sectors Officer (NPPO) and Operation Officer (OO);
- 5.13. Acknowledged and accepted the alignment of the Staff Regulations and Financial Policies and Procedure Manual (FPPM) by the Regional Secretariat to the SOM-16 approved Staff Policies and Procedure Manual (SPPM) (Annex 5.7) with the amendments captured in 5.14;
- 5.14. Acknowledged and accepted the amendments made under the Staff Regulations including Regulation 3 on Definition, Regulation 12 on Overtime, Regulation 14 on Entitlements for First Reporting of Duty, Relocation and Termination, Regulation 18 on Sick Leave and Maternity Leave, and the amendment under FPPM including Appendix 11.1 on Per Diem Allowance;
- 5.15. Noted that the next Chair and Co-Chair of the Internal Resource Committee (IRC) Working Group will follow the handover of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee of Senior Officials;
- 5.16. Encourage the RS to conduct virtual bilateral consultations prior to the deliberation of RS proposals and activities (i.e., budget, amendment to staff regulations, international conference participation) at the regional level.



SESSION 6: FINANCIAL RESOURCES WORKING GROUP

- 6.1 Acknowledged and accepted the updated FRWG Focal points;
- 6.2 Acknowledged the update on RS' tasks from SOM-16 and FRWG Meeting on 12 October 2021 and 5 October 2022;
- 6.3 Acknowledged the revised Roadmap and Timeline on Regional Conservation Trust Fund (RCTF) and noted the launching of the CTI-CFF RCTF in 2023;
- 6.4 Acknowledged and accepted the 2023 FRWG Budget (Annex 5.4);
- 6.5 Noted that the FRWG meeting in 2023 will be conducted in *in-situ* Virtual Meeting Participation (VMP) arrangement;
- 6.6 Appreciated the roles of Indonesia, Mr. T.B.H Witjaksono Adji and Malaysia, Dato' Jana Santhiran Muniayan as Chair and Vice-Chair of FRWG (2021-2022) for facilitating the crucial work of FRWG;
- 6.7 Agreed that the Philippines and Solomon Islands will hold the position of Chair and Vice-Chair of FRWG, respectively, for the period of two (2) years from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025;

SESSION 7: MONITORING & EVALUATION WORKING GROUP

- 7.1 Acknowledged and accepted the report from Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (Annex 7.1);

Draft RPOA 2.0

- 7.2 Acknowledged and accepted the Regional Plan of Action 2.0 (RPOA 2.0) along with the implementation strategy, communication strategy and financial strategy (Annex 7.2a, Annex 7.2b);
- 7.3 Congratulated member countries and Regional Secretariat for the completion of Regional Plan of Action 2.0 (RPOA 2.0) and acknowledge the support from partners;
- 7.4 Encourage CT6 Countries to socialize, disseminate and adopt the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA 2.0);

Monitoring and Evaluation

- 7.5 Acknowledged and accepted the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Data Collection and Information Sharing Mechanism and M&E Plan Framework template (Annex 7.3a, Annex 7.3b);



7.6 Agreed to complete the data for the M&E Plan Framework of RPOA 2.0 by 1st Quarter of 2023;

7.7 Encouraged CT6 to use M&E Data Collection and Information Sharing Mechanism and M&E Plan Framework template as tools to track the progress of implementation of RPOA 2.0;

7.8 Agreed to hold MEWG meeting back-to-back with M&E Training by 2nd Quarter 2023;

CT Atlas

7.9 Noted the interest of Allen Coral Atlas to collaborate with CT Atlas and RS to further follow up its mutual collaboration (Annex 7.4);

7.10 Agreed to organize and to conduct CT Atlas training by 2nd Quarter 2023;

SUFIA Activity

7.11 Acknowledged and appreciated the support of USAID through the Sustainable Fish Asia (SuFIA) to the activities related to M&E Working Group (Annex 7.5);

7.12 Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of the online Training on Program and Activity Results Reporting and Communication, including Gender Sensitive Reporting on 19 April 2022 organized by the SUFIA LCD and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat;

7.13 Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of the online training on Knowledge Management System and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Data Management on 21 and 22 June 2022 organized by the SUFIA LCD and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat (Annex 7.6a, Annex 7.6b);

Marine Litter

7.14 Acknowledged and appreciated the support of WWF in producing the Stocktake Report on Marine Plastic Pollution and Its Sources in the Coral Triangle;

7.15 Acknowledged and accepted the final Stocktake Report for publication and launch in 1st Quarter of 2023 (Annex 7.7a, Annex 7.7b);

MEWG Workplan

7.16 Acknowledged and accepted the 2023 Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group Work Plan (Annex 7.8);



SESSION 8: TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

Seascape Working Group

- 8.1. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by Seascape Working Group (Annex 8.1);
- 8.2. Acknowledged and appreciated the support of USAID RDMA through the Sustainable Fish Asia (SuFia) project and programs related to Seascapes;
- 8.3. Acknowledged and appreciated the SOMACORE Project which was already approved by the German government;
- 8.4. Agreed on the conduct of the 7th Seascape Working Group Meeting together with Seascapes Working Group Regional Exchange to be undertaken in 2023 through In-situ online. Provided there is external funding support, a physical meeting might be held;
- 8.5. Appreciated and acknowledged Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines to provide the signature of the secretary/ministers from the concerned department and authorization letter for GEF 8 submission (Annex 8.2);
- 8.6. Acknowledged and appreciated the effort from Professor Peter Mumby of the University of Queensland and his work together with CI Philippines on the Seascape Approach to Securing Coral Reef Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Strategic Action Plan;
- 8.7. Approved the Seascapes Working Group 2023 Workplan;

EAFM Working Group

- 8.8. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by EAFM Working Group (Annex 8.3);
- 8.9. Agreed to hold the 8th EAFM Working Group Meeting together with Seascapes Working Group and discussion workshop on the RPOA 2.0 targets, regional activities, outcome and outputs in relation to EAFM especially the output Indicator B1.1.2.a to be undertaken in 2023 through In-Situ online. Provided there is external funding support, a physical meeting might be held;
- 8.10. Appreciated and acknowledged Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines to provide the signature of the secretary/ministers from the concerned department and authorization letter for GEF 8 submission;
- 8.11. Appreciated SUFIA LCD effort and contribution to support the EAFM Working Group 2022 workplan;
- 8.12. Acknowledged and appreciated the online trainings organized by SUFIA LCD and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat:
 - a. Fisheries Traceability Technologies for Sustainable Fisheries Management on 30 May 2022 (Annex 8.4) and



- b. Sustainable Fisheries Resources Management to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the Coral Triangle Region on 29 June 2022 (Annex 8.5);
- 8.13. Acknowledged and appreciated the continuous support of USAID RDMA through the Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) project and activities related to EAFM. (Annex 8.6);
- 8.14. Approved the EAFM WG 2023 Workplan;

MPA Working Group

- 8.15. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by MPA Working Group (Annex 8.7);
- 8.16. Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of the II Learning Exchange Workshop on the Ocean Governance project on 12-14 October 2022 in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia organized by the European Union, WWF and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat (Annex 8.8);
- 8.17. Agreed on the conduct of 9th MPA REX and 9th MPA TWG Meeting in 2023 through In-Situ online. Provided there is external funding support, a physical meeting might be held in Papua New Guinea;
- 8.18. Agreed to hold the CTMPAS 3rd Round of Nomination for Categories 3 and 4, and the Award for Categories 1 to 4 in 2023;
- 8.19. Request EU Ocean Governance assistance to the MPA Working Group in organizing another learning exchange in 2023 consisting of CT6 countries considering the importance of this event;
- 8.20. Approved the MPA Working Group 2023 Workplan;

CCA Working Group

- 8.21. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by CCA Working Group (Annex 8.9);
- 8.22. Adopt the Climate Change Communique to be presented at suitable platforms as decided by the CT6 member countries (Annex 2) and to be signed at the ministerial level;
- 8.23. Appreciated the inputs from Indonesia for the CCA Executive Course Framework Proposal;
- 8.24. Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of the Online Training on Climate Change Adaptation Executive Course 1 on 28 July 2022 organized by the SUFIA LCD (Annex 8.10);
- 8.25. Acknowledged and appreciated the support of USAID RDMA through the Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) to the activities related to CCA Working Group once the partnership concept note is approved];



- 8.26. Agreed on the conduct of 7th CCA Working Group Meeting together with 7th Regional Exchange to be undertaken in 2023 through In-Situ online. Provided there is external funding support, a physical meeting might be held;
- 8.27. Approved the CCA Working Group 2023 Workplan;

Threatened Species Working Group

- 8.28. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by TS Working Group (Annex 8.11);
- 8.29. Encouraged the member countries to finish the National Assessment Report for Threatened Species on Sharks and Rays;
- 8.30. Encouraged CT6 to submit annual update on threatened species status in respective country and encourage RS to publish the compilation of the updates in CTI-CFF Website (Annex 8.12);
- 8.31. Agreed on the conduct of 4th Threatened Species working group meeting to be undertaken in 2023 through In-Situ online. Provided there is external funding support, a physical meeting might be held;
- 8.32. Acknowledged and appreciated the contribution of WWF through TRIPOD and SARRI project and agreed to incorporate the TRIPOD activities with the workplan 2023 (Annex 8.13a, 8.13b and 8.13c);
- 8.33. Noted the possible participation in the Asia Pacific Marine Turtle Genetic Working Group and contribute to ShellBank, in line with CITES turtle mandates, to collect DNA samples from wild and seized marine turtle specimens to determine species and geographic origin in support of research, investigations and prosecutions;
- 8.34. Encouraged member states to replicate the activities of the TRIPOD project after project closure in their countries and help disseminate the outputs of the project to inform national legislation;
- 8.35. Approved the TS Working Group 2023 Workplan;

SESSION 9: COUNTRY REPORTS

- 9.1. Acknowledged the Country Reports of the CT6 Member Countries (Annex 9.1) and noted common issues such as challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, constraints on budget and finance and the implementation of Regional and National Plans of Actions.

SESSION 10: PARTNERS' PRESENTATION

- 10.1. Acknowledge the RS-Strategic partner hybrid meeting held in Bali from 10-12 May to discuss and plan activities in support of RPoA2.0 related to the three priority themes



(conservation finance, capacity building, international policy engagement) identified by strategic partners and endorsed by SOM-16.

INTERNATIONAL POLICY

- 10.2. Request the MEWG provide update on the overall M&E efforts to enable ongoing dialogue on how policy engagement can support progress against key indicators;
- 10.3. Encourage the RS to continue to identify events that can illustrate the synergy between the RPOA 2.0 and complementary policy frameworks;

CAPACITY BUILDING

- 10.4. Noted that the regional capacity building assessment will commence in Q1 of 2023

CTI-CFF REGIONAL CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

- 10.5. Recognize the ongoing process to endorse and acknowledge the need to accelerate the appointment of a Board;
- 10.6. Task the Steering Committee (SC) to accelerate progress towards the establishment of RCTF by next Leader's Summit, noting the need for active participation of SC members to achieve this;
- 10.7. Acknowledging the importance of international events (e.g., UNFCCC COP27 and CBD COP15) in the mobilization of resources for climate and biodiversity that can enable the achievement of RPOA2.0 and RCTF goals;
- 10.8. Noted on the need to deliberate the composition of the Board to ensure that the CT6 member countries is well represented;

USAID SUFIA PROJECT

- 10.9. Acknowledge that the direct grant of USD 2 million to CTI-CFF under Sustainable Fish Asia (SuFiA) project which aims to support RS and CT6 is undergoing co-creation;
- 10.10. Acknowledge and endorse activities under USAID SuFiA Technical Support's partnership concept (Annex 10.1);



- 10.11. Acknowledge and endorse activities under USAID collaboration with Department of Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) which aim to provide technical support and services to CTI-CFF (Annex 10.2);

SESSION 11: REVIEW OF CHAIR'S SUMMARY OF SOM-17 AND CLOSING

Closing

- 11.1. Appreciated the support of the Government of Solomon Islands in the conduct of the virtual 17th Senior Officials Meeting and the excellent chairing of the meeting by the CSO Chair, Dr Melchior Mataki.
- 11.2. Acknowledged and appreciated the participation of the CT6 Member Countries and CTI-CFF partners which contributed to the successful conduct of the virtual SOM-17.
- 11.3. Appreciated the efforts and logistics support of the Regional Secretariat in the conduct of the virtual SOM-17.