



2021 PROGRESS REPORT

CTI-CFF REGIONAL SECRETARIAT



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DR. MOHD KUSHAIRI MOHD RAJUDDIN

This Year 2021, we faced a new COVID-19 variant that puts thousands of lives in danger and paralyzed the economic and socio-economic conditions of most countries around the world. The COVID-19 vaccines offered a new hope of protection and resumption to normalcy. However, the threats of COVID-19 persist, continuing to pose restrictions to our movements and the way we conduct day-to-day activities.

This 2021 Progress Report shows the unrelenting commitment, dedication, cooperation and support of the CT6 Member Countries in fulfilling its objectives and goals despite the continuing challenges posed by COVID-19. A series of virtual meetings had been conducted by the CTI Technical Working Groups, Governance Working Groups and Cross Cutting Initiatives to be able to carry out the planned activities this year and more online activities are scheduled towards the end of the year. Conducting online activities have proven to be cost-efficient though ensuring quorum in most of the meetings has been a continuing challenge. As such, this year, the Regional Secretariat introduced the In-situ Virtual Meeting Participation (In-Situ VMP) to complete prime activities such as the draft Host Country Agreement and the draft Staff Policies and Procedures Manual and the draft RPOA 2.0.

We are also grateful to the CTI Strategic Partners who have constantly shown support to CTI-CFF. This year, the partners have submitted to CSO three position papers focusing on international participation, capacity building and trust fund. These proposals are intended to further strengthen CTI-CFF as an important regional initiative on ocean governance and protection at the global stage.

We are inspired more than ever to carry on with our mandate because of the positive actions from the CT6 Member Countries and Strategic Partners. We are working hard to ensure that the discussion of the CTI-CFF Regional Conservation Trust Fund continues since we value trust fund as one important sustainable financing mechanism to support the RPOA 2.0 and CTI-CFF in general.

We at the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat remain committed and will exert more effort to ensure the fulfillment of the objectives and activities of CTI-CFF. With all of us working together, we are confident that we will be able to sustain the management and protection of the valuable resources of the Coral Triangle region during these trying times.

Thank you.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This year 2021, the Regional Secretariat facilitated and coordinated various CTI-CFF activities towards the realization of the goals of CTI-CFF. The Regional Secretariat coordinated the conduct of the virtual Special Senior Officials Meeting (Special SOM) on 27-28 May 2021 since SOM-16 did not push through due to equally important activities that the countries had to attend to at the national level.

The Regional Secretariat managed to complete the final drafting of the new Host Country Agreement (HCA) via the In-Situ Virtual Meeting Participation (In-Situ VMP) together with the 5-member countries with Indonesia as Observer. The draft (HCA) which was also reviewed by an international legal firm to offer guidance on legal matters shall be presented at the 16th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-16) for approval and endorsement before submitting to the Government of Indonesia. Also, through In-situ VMP, the draft CTI-CFF Staff Policies and Procedures Manual (SPPM) was finalized by the CT6 Member Countries and was also reviewed by the same legal firm prior to presentation at the SOM-16. The SPPM will define and clarify the rights and obligations of the Secretariat and Staff, establish working requirements for effective and harmonious working relationship.

CT6 Member Countries had actively participated in the series of virtual writeshop and In-situ VMP to complete the draft RPOA 2.0 outcomes, outputs and indicators. The draft communication and draft financial strategies of the RPOA 2.0 are being reviewed and finalized in time for submission prior to SOM-16. Finding a sustainable financial mechanism for CTI-CFF and the RPOA 2.0 has also been a top priority of the Regional Secretariat. This year, with the support of the Technical Committee of the CTI-CFF Regional Conservation Trust Fund and Wildlife and Conservation Society (WCS) and the Conservation Finance Alliance, we have been actively discussing and are working together to build the CTI-CFF Regional Conservation Trust Fund.

Apart from prioritizing the above-mentioned activities, the Regional Secretariat also continues to facilitate a series of Technical and Governance Working Group meetings to be able to ensure that decisions from the previous SOM-15 are realized despite the challenges of the current situation.

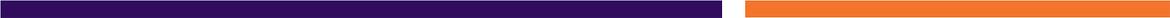
Collaborative and participation in activities with regional and international groupings such as CMAR, ICRI, UN DESA, UNFCCC and CBD were actively pursued through online means to ensure global visibility of CTI-CFF and alignment with the strategic goals of the afore-mentioned groupings. Our strengthened partnership with CTI Strategic Partners namely, USAID, WCS, WWF, CI, CTC and TNC have resulted to new activities and projects that will surely benefit CTI-CFF and the various publics it serves in the Coral Triangle region. We also hope that proposed projects of GIZ, and University of Queensland through GEF would be implemented in early 2022.

The Corporate Services of the Regional Secretariat also completed the coordination of the audit of the 2020 Financial Activities of CTI-CFF/Regional Secretariat. Filling up the positions for Finance and Operations Manager, Communication and Information Manager and facilitating the process for the selection of Deputy Executive Director for Corporate Services through the Appointment Committee assigned by the CT6 Member countries were also prioritized.

With COVID-19 situation worsening in Asia, the Regional Secretariat continues to implement preventive measures by observing physical distancing, wearing face masks and regular distribution of hand sanitizer and face masks among the staff. Work from home arrangement is also being implemented. Further, almost all the staff had received two doses of COVID-19 vaccination for protection.

The Corporate Services through the Communication Unit also has been promoting the activities of the CTI-CFF via regular updating of the content of the CTI-CFF website and social media platforms and production of e-Newsletter. An information gallery was also set-up in the lobby of the Regional Secretariat to provide visitors of the Secretariat a glimpse of the CT6 Member Countries and the program CTI-CFF supports.





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I. INTRODUCTION

This year, the Regional Secretariat facilitated and coordinated the various virtual meetings of the Technical and Governance Working Groups and Cross-Cutting Initiatives to discuss and carry out the activities that were postponed in 2020, due to COVID-19 situation as well as those that were planned in 2021. The meetings were actively participated by working groups' focal points of CT6 Member Countries, representatives from National Coordinating Committees (NCCs) and CTI Partners. The Regional Secretariat had extended support in these activities by providing communication support, particularly those coming from the Pacific Countries.

II. TECHNICAL WORKIG GROUPS

Despite the challenges of the pandemic and equally important priorities at the national level, members of the TWGs together with NCCs and CTI Partners had implemented some of the activities that were carried forward to 2021 from 2020 and were also able to plan proposed activities for Year 2022.

Seascape Working Group (SWG)

On 19 February 2021 online meeting, the Seascape Working Group deliberated on the new revised RSAP document that needs also the Federal Ministerial level signatures from the South East Asia (SEA) CT member countries. Other materials such as the previous RSAP, TDA and the revised RSAP Endorsement document were circulated to the NCCs of South East Asia countries. It was also discussed in the meeting the draft GEF Project Identification Form (PIF) document that will be organized by University of Queensland (UQ) Professor Peter Mumby, and a drafting committee is being formed. They discussed the Subregional Sub-Working Group TORs, and the TORs for LSS and BSSE. All activities are planned to be held virtually in Q3/September. RS circulated the new RSAP endorsement document, previous RSAP, TDA and the UQ concept note to the NCCs of the CT3 South East Asia countries.

Since the 19 February 2021 meeting of the SWG, the preparation and drafting of the PIF of the proposal "Transboundary Approach to Securing Coral Reef Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape" for GEF funding was carried out commenced, with the members of the writing team already identified by the CT3 member countries, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. They are:

Indonesia:

Ms. Antung Raudatul Jannah
Dr Reny Puspasari

Malaysia:

Dr Norasma Dacho
Ms. Sylvia Michael
Ms. Jessie Beliku

Philippines:

Ms. Nilda Baling
Dr Mudjekeewis Santos

Partners:

University of Queensland/James Cook University:
Prof. Peter Mumby and Dr Naomi Gardiner
Conservation International Philippines
Dr Augustus Montebon and Ms. Evangeline Mielat

The task of the writing team was to meet regularly to design and agree on project objectives; describe the outcome with or without the project; list the key metrics of change the project will deliver and source the required co-finance. The proposed project which has a revised title "Seascape Approach to Securing Coral Reefs Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape," which is led by Prof. Peter Mumby from the University of

Queensland, will be focusing on coral reef fisheries. It also plans to look into transboundary problems such as unsustainable fisheries, habitat loss, marine pollution, freshwater shortage and climate change.

There were various intensive meetings led by the Seascope WG and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management WG during July-Aug (2 June, 30 June, 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)

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.

After a series of many intense virtual drafting meetings which started in June and ran through July and August (2 June, 30 June, 23 July, 30 July, 9 August and 26 August 2021), the revised draft PIF named Seascope Approach to Securing Coral Reefs Fishery and Biodiversity Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope 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.

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Working Group

The EAFM WG Meetings had been postponed due to lack of quorum and is planning to meet this November 2021

Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Working Group

On 12 February 2021 online meeting of the MPA Working Group, they agreed that the MPA REX will still be held as a physical meeting but postponed to 2022, not this year due to concerns over COVID-19. In the said meeting, WWF representative shared that under the EU Ocean Governance project, they plan to hold a big online workshop on Learning Exchange among Atlantic, SEA and CTI-CFF MPAs managers. It was also discussed in the meeting that the CTMPAS rounds 1 and 2 were all verified by the CT6 except Solomon Islands on the status of Zinoia. CTMPAS and Awards are also planned to be postponed next year. The List of External Reviewers was finalized.

The meeting on 7 September 2021 was postponed to 29 September 2021 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.

Participation in CTI-CFF-CMAR Webinar on Tourism

Members of the MPA WG together with CT Sustainable Marine Task Force also participated in CTI-CFF and Corredor Marino del Pacifico Este Tropical (CMAR) organized webinar on tourism as a strategy for conservation, scientific monitoring and citizen science on 22 July 2021.

Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Working Group

On 15 February 2021, the CCA Working Group agreed that their activities for the year will be conducted online such as the Executive Course, the CEPA, and the like. For the final draft of the Joint Communique to be used for all suitable platforms, it requires the names of Ministers and their Ministries who will be the signatories. RS already circulated the relevant documents to the CT6 member countries.

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, due to time and resource constraints, therefore RS would like to propose these alternatives as interim measures for webinar 1 and webinar 2, for the Member Countries to use at their own pace and convenience:

- a. to use the many high quality free online courses from UNFCCC:
<https://www.unccllearn.org/courses/>
- b. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/activity/new-e-course-developing-gcf-sap-funding-proposal-now-available>
- c. <https://ilearn.greenclimate.fund/thematicarea>

RS also requested CCA WG to resolve the issue on the draft Joint Communique 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 Communique. The CCA Joint Communique is intended to be used by the CT6 at the UNFCCC COP in UK in November 2021 and any other platforms, as agreed. The CCAWG met on 22 October 2021 and update the Draft joint communique in which Indonesia and Malaysia have provided the name of their Director



General who will be the signature for the Joint Communiqué. Philippines and Timor-Leste are yet to provide theirs. Members agreed to hold online events in 2022 for the 7th Regional Exchange back-to-back with 7th CCA Working Group Meetings, due to the current COVID pandemic situation.

Threatened Species Working Group (TSWG)

On 18 February 2021 online meeting of the Threatened Species Working Group, the working group requested RS to reallocate the budget for assisting the countries to complete their National Conservation Plans. The issue of outlines was also resolved with the Putrajaya outline. The working group meeting and other activities were proposed to be held virtually. The meeting also discussed the first Training of Trainers (ToT) on Rapid Assessment Toolkit (RAT) for Shark and Rays and MPA for Shark co-organised by MMAF and WWF.

On 5-6 April 2021, TSWG participated at the Training of Trainers (TOT) on sharks and rays organized by WWF together with James Cook University. Participants were provided insights on how to use the Practical Guide for the Effective Design and Management of MPAs for Shark and Rays authored by Dr Cassie Rigby from JCU, which utilizes extensive research by JCU's Centre for Sustainable Tropical Fisheries & Aquaculture (CSTFA) on the effectiveness of MPAs for sharks and rays and the movement patterns of different species.

Participants were also trained on the use of the rapid assessment tool kit for sharks and rays, also authored by Dr Rigby. The tools are important in the sustainable management of marine biodiversity and resources using tools.

On 7 July 2021 meeting of TSWG, they 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 TSWG meet once again on 22 October 2021 after the 13 October 2021 was postponed due to lack of quorum. In the meeting, the group welcomed the new WWF Project TRIPOD (Targeting Regional Investigations for Policing Opportunities and Development). The TRIPOD programme focuses on the sub-region within the shared territory around the Sulu and Celebes Seas between Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. It will support joint training, capacity building and increased cooperation for the law enforcement (LE) agencies operating in these 3 nations to combat wildlife trafficking (CWT) with a focus on marine species (including marine turtles and sharks) and highly trafficked species (e.g. pangolin). It will include technical assistance to increase interdiction of trafficked wildlife; build investigative and enforcement functions; develop cross-border regional cooperation; and improve procedures for handling seized wildlife within and from the target region.



III. GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUPS

The Governance Working Groups continue to complement the activities of the TWGs, NCCs and the Regional Secretariat in terms of assessing and reviewing financial allocations for activities as well as monitoring and evaluating the activities.

Financial Resources Working Group

The Financial Resources Working Group (FRWG) of the CTI-CFF in its virtual meeting on 12 October 2021 welcomed the new FRWG Chair, Mr. T.B.H B.H. Witjaksono Adji, Director for Asia-Pacific and Africa Intra-Regional and Inter-Regional Cooperation of Indonesia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With only Indonesia, Papua New Guinea present in the meeting, the country representatives agreed to discuss only the updates from RS regarding actions taken regarding Special SOM decisions that concerns FRWG.

In the meeting, the countries updated their official representative to FRWG namely, Mr T.B.H. Witjaksono Adji, Director for Asia Pacific and African Intra-Regional and Inter Regional Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Indonesia as Chair of FRWG and Mr. Wisnu Sindhutrisno from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs replacing Dr Hendra Yusran Siry as Indonesia contact point for FRWG; Mr Timothy Mais, Assistant Secretary for the Renewable Resources Branch, Sectoral Policy Division of the Department of Treasury from Papua New Guinea, and Mr Angelito Fontanilla, Director of Finance and Management Service of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from the Philippines.

At the meeting, FRWG acknowledged the actions RS undertaken regarding decisions from the FRWG meeting on 29 April 2020 and 9 November 2020 as well as updates on the draft RPOA 2.0 and CTI-CFF Regional Conservation Trust Fund. FRWG also acknowledged the efforts of RS in using innovative approaches such as the In-Situ VMP to expedite completion of important documents. CTI-CFF Partners, namely, ADB, USAID-SUFIA RTI and SEAFDEC presented updates on their organization’s activities that will benefit CTI-CFF and its stakeholders.

The discussion on the draft Financial Strategy of RPOA 2.0 and proposed 2022 Activities and budget shall be discussed in another meeting where it is hoped there will be a quorum to reach a decision.

Internal Resource Committee

One of the important activities of the IRC this year was the completion of the final drafting the CTI-CFF Staff Policies and Procedures Manual Internal Resource Committee. In 2021, RS scheduled series of meetings where six (6) meetings were carried out (18 February, 17-18 March, 27-28 Apr and 3 June) and seven (7) meetings were postponed (4 June, 14-15 July, 2-3 August 1-2 September) due to lack of quorum. To resolve the postponement of meetings and expedite the completion of the final, RS organized In-Situ VMP on 6 and 7 September where IRC was able to finally complete the review and final drafting of the SPPM. At the meeting the, IRC agreed that the draft SPPM will be subjected to the review of the legal firm that RS hired prior to submission at the SOM-16.

On 27-28 April 2021, in one of the meetings on the draft SPPM, IRC agreed to have a special session to discuss the result of the 2020 Audit Report; 2020 Financial Utilization; tatus of country contribution; revised proposed 2021 budget and forecasted 2022-2023 budget and proposed In-Situ VMP budget for endorsement at Special SOM, which was held on 27-28 May 2021.



Screenshot of the IRC SPPM meeting participants.

On 5-6 October 2021, the Committee met anew to discuss items that are for presentation and endorsement at SOM-16. At the meeting, the Committee updated the official representatives where it noted that Indonesia and Papua New Guinea's representatives remain the same while the Philippines will be represented by Datu Tungko M. Saikol, new Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Philippines.

At the meeting, IRC agreed on the following:

- Update on the status of the 2020 Annual and 2020 Country Report; 2021 Country Contribution and hiring of new Finance and Operations Manager, Communication and Information Manager and Deputy Executive Director for Program Services;
- The 2021 financial utilization and noted RS's low expenditures in consideration of cash flow/availability of funds since 2021 country contributions have yet to be received
- That the 2021 unutilized/unspent year-end balances shall be carried forward to 2022 budget
- RS to circulate to CT6 Member Countries the country contribution calculation using other years' GDP for their review and consideration in assigning GDP year
- RS to consider prioritizing program activities that will bring more outcomes
- RS to present at SOM-16 the particular activities that will have face-to-face activities
- The proposed RS organizational structure shall be decided upon at SOM-16 taking into consideration pandemic situation.
- SOM-16 shall be conducted virtually and RS to propose the breakdown of the budget for SOM-17 and Leaders' Summit.
- Participation in international events in 2022 would open to other countries to be a member of CTI-CFF as well as generate support and cooperation for CTI-CFF activities.
- The proposed amendments of CTI-CFF shall be presented at SOM-16.

Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (MEWG) and RPOA 2.0

RPOA 2.0

The Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (MEWG) led the series of online RPOA 2.0 writeshops for the completion of the outcomes, outputs and indicators of the regional activities and targets relating to coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds; regional and national conservation and management actions; partnerships; sustainable financing strategies; nature-based approaches; ecosystem-based adaptation; threatened species, climate, change, governance mechanism and facilitation and coordination of RS.



Screenshot of the RPOA 2.0 Wrtieshop participants.

This year the continuation of the virtual Writeshop on RPOA 2.0 indicators were organized on the following dates, 3-4 February, 4- 5 March, 6- 7 April, 24-25 May, 21-22 June, 8-9 July, 26-27 July, 16 August, 23-24 August but due to no quorum and some other issue the Writeshops were postponed on the following dates, 24-25 May, 8-9 July, 26 July, 16 August.

To complete the review and final drafting of the RPOA 2.0 outcomes, outputs and indicators, an In-Situ Virtual meeting participation were conducted on 13- 15 September and 21-22 September 2021. An In-Situ VMP allows official representatives in each member country to gather in a hotel or an area of their preference where there is strong and fast Internet connection for the whole duration of the meeting. Meeting room, travel and accommodation shall be borne by the RS.

In the above mentioned Writeshops CT6 Member Countries complete the draft M&E indicators of the draft RPOA 2.0. As of date, the MEWG is focused on reviewing and final drafting of the Financial Strategy and Communication Strategy of RPOA 2.0. Three meetings had been set – 7, 19 and 28 October. However, the three (3) meetings had been due to lack of quorum. The meeting has been re-scheduled on 9 November 2021.

Review of the Institutional Framework and Institutional Strategy is also to be carried out by the MEWG once the review of the financial and communication strategies have been completed.

M&E System

RS had prepared the draft M&E Framework as an M&E guide for the RPOA 2.0 once it is completed and adopted by the CT6 Member countries. RS had circulated the draft M&E framework for review by the CT6 Member Countries on 26 July 2021.

On 20 August 2021, 18 October 2021 and 27 October 2021, the meeting to discuss Draft M&E Framework, the indicator performance tracking table (IPTT); reporting protocol, M&E workplan, tool matrix and concern related RPOA 1 has five Goals with matching five TWGs but RPOA 2.0 has two Goals and not have matching WGs as well as data and information sharing of CT Atlas were both postponed due to lack of quorum. The Chair together with member countries agreed to re-scheduled the meeting on-9 November 2021.

Coral Triangle Atlas

The Regional Secretariat had worked together with USAID-SUFIA RTI in the development of a Concept Note for the Private Sector Engagement (PSE) for CT Atlas. The Concept Note included information on the specific improvement needed for CT Atlas and the role of the private companies in the improvement of CT Atlas, activities and budget needed.

The Private Sector Engagement Specialist of SUFIA-RTI, Ms. Patchareeboon Sakulpitakphon (Mam) had meetings with several potential partners regarding the CT Atlas PSE Concept Note and the following were the result of her meetings with two private organizations who are interested in the CT Atlas:

1. Trinity Roots

- Can provide both Corporate Social Responsibility type of services – helping with technology and software related services, and Contract services e.g., development of new technologies or programming services.
- Expressed interest in the CT Atlas expansion concept note – specifically with the database building/programming component.
- Requesting more technical details about the current database e.g., what platform it is, what is the specific programming need

2. Geeks Without Frontier (GWF)

- non-profit organization but have strong ties to the telecom and satellite sector/industry and their mandate is to promote connectivity in areas w/o Internet etc.
- have a strong interest in IUU, especially monitoring dark vessels using satellites and ITC technology. They also have experience working with governments on sensitive data space too.
- interested in MPAs monitoring aspect of the CT Atlas concept note
- Have a working relationship with OceanMind
- can potentially be a partner to help conduct the training or identify other companies etc.

3. ESRI

- Esri was founded to help solve some of the world's most difficult problems. They support users' important work with a commitment to science, sustainability, community, education, research, and positive change.
- Esri software is deployed in more than 350,000 organizations, including the world's largest cities and most national governments. Esri build ArcGIS, the world's most powerful mapping & spatial analytics software.
- ArcGIS offers unique capabilities and flexible licensing for applying location-based analytics to business practices; provides greater insights using contextual tools to visualize and analyze data; collaborate and share via maps, apps, dashboards, and reports.

- RTI-SUFIA is discussing with ESRI to strengthen CT Atlas features such as “Field Operations”, build interactive web maps with ArcGIS Online through Esri’s web-based mapping software. ESRI can provide new perspectives and enhance details as the user interact with data, zoom in, and search on the map. ESRI uses smart, data-driven mapping styles and intuitive analysis tools to gain location intelligence. It works effectively across organization by collaboratively building and using maps.

IV. CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVES

The Regional Secretariat continues to coordinate and facilitate the meetings of the Cross-Cutting Initiatives and Other-related programs that complements and supports the activities of the Technical Working Groups and Governance Working Groups. Despite the current pandemic, series of meetings and activities had been carried in the last 3 quarters of the year to ensure that the planned activities for year 2021 were realized.

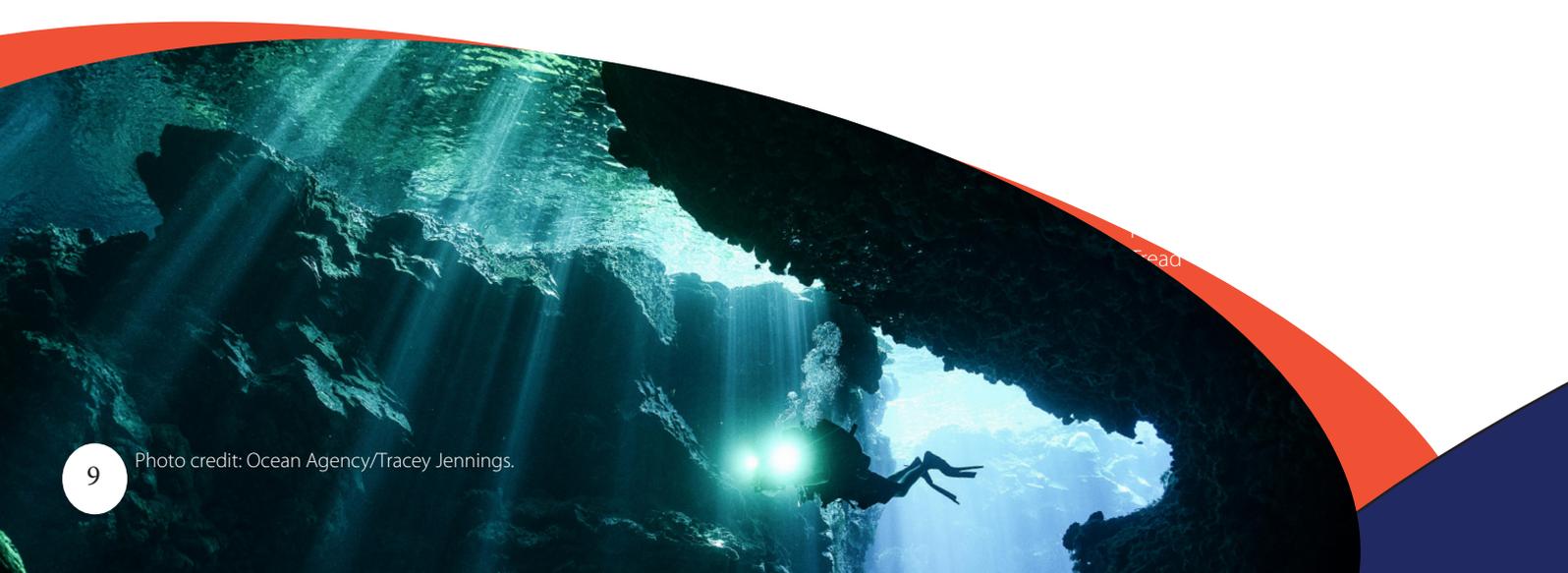
Women Leaders’ Forum (WLF)

In the WLF meetings on 8 March 2021 and 19 July 2021, the group approved the latest draft Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) policy presented by Dr Ria Fitriana, GESI Consultant. Further, they agreed for Dr Ria to present the draft GESI policy 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. Further, 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. The 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.

In the WLF meetings on 08 October 2021, the RS was tasked by the Member Countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Solomon Islands) present to kindly request Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste to fill up the pre-nomination form for Chair, and WLF partners to pre-nominate the Co-chair and kindly submit to the Regional Secretariat. The group also agreed on the draft recommendation to SOM 16.

Sustainable Business Forum (SBF)

Representatives from the Coral Triangle Center (CTC) and WorldWide 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 the funding source for the activities. CTC expressed that they could provide technical support and human resources in carrying out the activities while SUFIA-RTI 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 the 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.

University Partnership (UP)

With the intention of reviving the University Partnership (UP) of CTI-CFF, Prof. Grevo Gerung, the former Coordinator of UP virtually met with UP-Indonesia member universities, namely, Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology, Institut Pertanian Bogor, Sam Ratulangi University, and Universitas Hasanuddin. Prof. Gerung updated the current status of University Partnership and the efforts to reconnect with member universities last year. At the meeting, the group agreed to initially meet online with CT6 member countries in March to get their perspectives on the way forward for UP and conduct a webinar with proposed topics on Fisheries and Marine Science in relation to COVID-19 pandemic in April 2021. Dr Kushairi informed the group that he will suggest during the 16th Senior Officials Meeting to consider extending the role of Prof. Gerung as UP in Indonesia since there are many challenges to address such as the species of many fish groups that need to be sorted and the exploitation of large body fish which affecting stock.



OTHER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Marine Litter

The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat convened an online meeting with representatives from the CT6 NCCs on 28 June 2021 to discuss the progress on Marine Litter Plastic Stocktake, which is being led by WWF. At the meeting, Ms. Jackie Thomas of WWF updated the group on the importance of doing stocktake and the activities that had been undertaken, which includes the Webinar on Plastic Stocktake in October 2020, the Questionnaires/Survey that WWF and RS already sent out to several groups such as Partners, LGN, and MPA, etc. Ms Thomas also presented the planned activities from July to November 2021.

RS updated the country representatives present on the Special SOM and the 2021 budget for Marine Litter amounting to USD 30,450, where each CT6 has an allocation of USD 5,000 for marine plastics work.

V. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES

The unwavering support and cooperation from the CTI-CFF Strategic Partners have been instrumental in the realization of the objectives, activities and projects of CTI-CFF this 2021. Thus, the Regional Secretariat in behalf of CTI-CFF acknowledges with great appreciation the continuous support of partners.

CTI-CFF and USAID

The USAID's Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) Project through its implementing partner, the RTI International and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat launched the Participatory Local Organizational Capacity Assessment (PLOCA) Online Survey on 15 February 2021. The survey is part of the project's activity to enhance the managerial, operational and overall organizational capacity of CTI-CFF.

With CTI-CFF's National Coordinating Committees, Working Groups, Partners and the Regional Secretariat as respondents, the survey result provided information of the operational areas at CTI-CFF/RS that are effective and needed strengthening or further development. The survey had four main sections: (1) Respondent Information; (2) Leadership and Performance; (3) Compliance and Controls; and (4) Partner Engagement and Sustainability.

PLOCA

Apart from the survey, a series of Participatory Local Organizational Capacity Assessment (PLOCA) initiatives were jointly conducted by the RTI International and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat between February and April 2021 with representatives of CT6. The organizational capacity assessments included a 50-question online capacity survey, Organizational Performance Index (OPI), Non-U.S. Organization Pre- Award Survey (NUPAS), Organizational Sustainability Framework (OSF) and key documentation review. RS staff participated in all the PLOCA assessments while CT6 in the online survey only.

The results of the online capacity survey revealed among others the following: (1) Planning, Management, Human Resources and Partnership Development are being practiced, but with inconsistency; (2) Performance, Oversight; Ethics; Sustainability Planning and Opportunities exist, but the implementation needs to be improved. OPI revealed that RS scored high in relevance (target population and learning) sustainability (resources) as well as in efficiency (delivery, reach and social capital). OPI measures organizational learning and accountability of an organization to members and stakeholders. Findings of NUPAS showed that RS has adequate compliance and controls in financial management and internal control systems, procurement and human resource systems. The assessment was an opportunity to assess the internal and external processes and functions of the Regional Secretariat in different core functional areas, particularly what works, what is lacking, what needs to be improved and strengthened, what gaps to be filled in. It was also an opportunity to identify shared concerns and priority actions among staff of the Regional Secretariat and stakeholders of CTI-CFF. The result of the PLOCA assessments was used in developing and completing the Capacity Development Action Plan (CDAP) by RTI International and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat.

SUFIA PSE Initiatives

Apart from organizational capacity development, SUFIA RTI International is also supporting CTI-CFF in Private Sector Engagement (PSE) Initiatives. Based on SUFIA PSE Survey Results presented during the SUFIA PSE In-Briefing Session with the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat on 26 March 2021, it revealed that (1) many of the companies may consider providing technical assistance and many wants to develop a joint project; (2) the private sector, especially small-medium enterprises requires additional support transitioning to ‘sustainable fisheries or aquaculture’ management and requires support in accessing financial services, improving tools/ technology, and capacity development; (3) blue economy initiatives and those supporting women and youth for sustainable livelihood in the fishing communities are the areas of interest by all stakeholders; (4) universities have proposed wide-ranging research projects e.g. research at sea, population studies, testing by catch reduction devices in artisanal shrimp fisheries, human impact on marine ecosystem, etc.; (5) potential partners that are interested in promoting sustainable, community base tourism are Local Alike, a small tour operator and Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), that can work with coastal or small fisheries; (6) NGOs interested for potential collaboration are Asian Food Improvement Collaborative and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership; (7) Gap exists between private sector vs government and NGOs priorities, e.g. private sector is focused on improvement to fish handling, processing, traceability and access to markets while the government and NGOs are prioritizing “data collection and fisheries management” and (8) a number of companies who participated in the survey cannot do partnership activities at this time due to pandemic, conflict of priorities and inability to do so.

A Concept Note on CT Atlas was also jointly prepared by the RTI International and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat based on the need to update and upgrade CT Atlas in terms of capacity building for data correction and further data collection. This concept note will be shared with the private sector, e.g., potential companies or other external partners who are interested in these activities by early July 2021. The survey received a total of 172 responses mostly coming from Thailand, US and Malaysia.

Capacity Strengthening Initiative

USAID through the Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) Program-RTI International had awarded 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.

USAID-SUFIA RTI has also been actively attending all the Technical Working Groups, Financial Resources Working Group and Women Leaders Forum. Particularly for WLF, USAID-USFIA RTI presented its Gender and Inclusive Development Action Plan (GIDAP). The GIDAP involves capacity building on GESI, support to CTI-CFF GESI policy implementation, production of GESI communication and knowledge products and community outreach and demonstration of GESI implementation.



CTI-CFF and Wildlife Conservation Society

Through the Marine Biodiversity and Support of Coastal Fisheries in the Coral Triangle Project, WCS and Conservation Finance Alliance (CFA) has been providing technical support and capacity inputs in supporting sustainable finance including designing the CTI-CFF Regional Conservation Trust Fund (CTI RCTF).

WCS and CFA have been the expert group facilitating the discussion with the Technical Committee on CTI-CFF RCTF since January 2021. The meetings had accomplished finalizing a draft Mission Statement and the process of finalizing the proposed Governance Structure.

WCS and CFA are also helping RS organized a virtual workshop on Trust Fund in 1-2 December 2021 to generate ideas as well as support from various key stakeholders on CTI-CFF Trust Fund. Further, WCS has been actively participating in the Technical Working Groups as well as Financial Resources Working Group.

On behalf of the CTI-CFF Partners, WCS Regional Director of the Southeast Asian Archipelago, Mr Martin Callow, presented their proposed three pillars for CTI-CFF, namely international policy engagement, capacity building and trust fund. Mr Callow said CTI-CFF needs to align its international policies with the global goals like the SDGs or the Convention on Biological Diversity goals to protect 30 percent of regional seascapes by 2030 to show the relevance of CTI-CFF's work. He also said that a sustainable financing mechanism is important to mobilize resources in order to support the goals of CTI-CFF and RPOA 2.0. And with the large scale of activities that are needed to realize the goals of RPOA 2.0 and CTI-CFF, it is critical to build capacity of human resources. Mr Callow also emphasized that the proposed activities under the three pillars need urgent actions to sustain the momentum and enthusiasm started by the Partners, and to also contribute to global goals.



Screenshot of the Trust Fund meeting participants .

CTI-CFF and Worldwide Fund for Nature

WWF together with James Cook University spearheaded the Training of Trainers (TOT) on sharks and rays in 5-6 April 2021 for CTI-CFF's Threatened Species Working Group and other nominated representative working on sharks and rays' program from the CT6 countries.

Dr Cassie Rigby, a research fellow at James Cook University (JCU) with extensive experience in shark fisheries, management and research served as the workshop trainer. Dr Rigby led the participants on how to use the Practical Guide for the Effective Design and Management of MPAs for Shark and Rays, which utilizes extensive research by JCU's Centre for Sustainable Tropical Fisheries & Aquaculture (CSTFA) on the effectiveness of MPAs for sharks and rays and the movement patterns of different species. The Guide, authored by Dr Rigby is also an important resource for the advancement of responsible ocean management.



Photo credit: Ocean Agency



Participants were also trained on the use of the rapid assessment tool kit for sharks and rays, which consists of practical and simple step-by-step guidelines for collecting basic information using six complimentary tools – (1) taxonomy; (2) genetics; (3) creel and market surveys; (4) baited remote underwater; (5) tagging and tracking; and (6) citizen science. The tool kit was also authored by Dr Rigby. The tools are important in the sustainable management of marine biodiversity and resources using tools.

WWF-EU Ocean Governance Project

The WWF with the European Union funding is implementing the EU Ocean Governance project which aims to contribute to delivering on EU global commitments under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD). The project is implemented in the Atlantic, and Southeast Asia regions, with a special focus in the Coral Triangle area, and its overall objective is to increase EU's role as a global actor in international Ocean Governance by fostering regional and international cooperation relevant to the protection and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems.

One of the activities under the project is the conduct of the Virtual Learning Exchange (VLE) for CTI-CFF on 3-5 November 2021. The Virtual Learning Exchange (VLE) is part of the third Component of the EU Ocean Governance Project, which aims to strengthen knowledge exchange between Atlantic and Southeast Asian marine and coastal regions. Particularly, the VLE will focus on topics, namely, supporting MPA management at regional and national scale, new tools for MPA management in terms of coastal resilience and marine mammal's protection as well as protection of marine turtles and their habitats. The VLE is also open to MPA managers and other stakeholders.

Capacity Building

WWF together with the Coral Triangle Center has launched an initiative to undertake a stock-take of existing capacity building materials, efforts and infrastructure in the Coral Triangle. This stock take will be the first step in a process to develop a clear road map for the CTI-CFF to catalyze sufficient institutional capacity and human capital in coastal communities, community organizations and MPA managers to protect 30% of the coastal and marine waters in the Coral Triangle region by 2030.

Regional Business Forum

Apart from capacity building, WWF is working together with the Coral Triangle Center in the rebranding of the Regional Business Forum to Coral Triangle Sustainable Business Forum (CT SBF). At the 17 September 2021 meeting on the Regional Business forum, WWF and CTC presented to the member countries present only in said meeting– Indonesia and Philippines- the CT SBF, the details of which are explained under the Regional Business Forum section in the earlier section.

CTI-CFF and Conservation International

The Conservation International Philippines continues to support CTI-CFF via the Seascope and EAFM Working Groups. Particularly, CI has been providing technical support to the Drafting Committee members of the Sulu-Sulawesi Priority Seascope in the finalization of the Project Identification Form for the University of Queensland-GEF-CT6 proposal entitled “Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope Approach to Coral Reef Sustainable Livelihoods (SEACONNECT). Details are further explained under the Seascope Working Group

CTI-CFF and Coral Triangle Center

The Coral Triangle Center together with WWF is leading the initiative to undertake a stock-take of existing capacity building materials, efforts and infrastructure in the Coral Triangle. The product from this stock-take assessment will be a report that will include an overview of existing capacity building support across the coral triangle. Identification of gaps and opportunities, and recommendations for leveraging and scaling human capital development as input to the development of a roadmap to 30x30. The report will explore the utilization of knowledge sharing platforms and learning sites, and will propose considerations for priorities in terms of cost-effective and innovative systematic scaling of effort, prioritization of locations and development needs, with a special emphasis on regional coordination and delivery of capacity building programs.

Dir Rili Djolani of CTC and Mr Klaas Teule of WWF along with Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin are part of the Executive Team that will oversee the operational team and provide review and input of products and processes as well as provide the mechanism for connection with CT6 Member Countries.

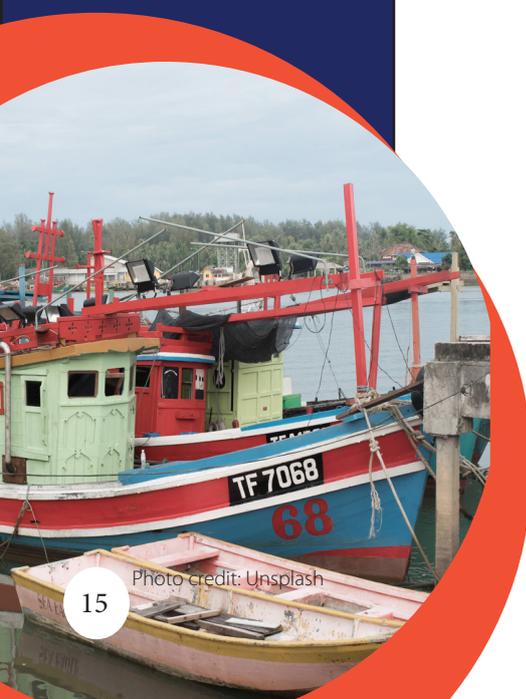
CTC together with WWF is also leading the rebranding of the Regional Business Forum (RBF) to CT Sustainable Business Forum. In the 17 September 2021 meeting with Indonesia and Philippines as the CT6 Member Countries present only, CTC with WWF presented the revitalized SBF and the proposed planned activities in 2022.

CTC also continues to support the TWG, most especially the Women Leaders Forum through participation in the series of meetings of working groups and WLF and its planned activities.

CTI-CFF and GIZ on SOMACORE

The GIZ via a document shared by Ms Franca Sprong had updated the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and MPA Working Group on the activities undertaken under SOMACORE. Activities included GIZ carrying out already an appraisal mission between October 2019 and September 2020 to support the design of the programme. During that time, the programme partners coordinated 23 country discussions, conducted three regional workshops (virtual), and presented the developments and results of the appraisal mission at CTI-CFF meetings. The said mission mobilized over 150 stakeholders.

The programme proposal was then submitted to the International Climate Initiative (IKI) in September 2020 for examination. Also, GIZ reported that initial feedback is still pending, however, based on first communication received, the project concept seems to be in accordance with the expectations of the commissioning parties- the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety's (BMU)- IKI.



The SOMACORE, which aims to strengthen the resilience of the region's ecosystems and communities in selected transboundary seascapes through the scaling of solutions for protection, good governance and effective management of coastal and marine biodiversity, is expected not to be commissioned before Q3 of 2021 due to the administrative processes from BMU.

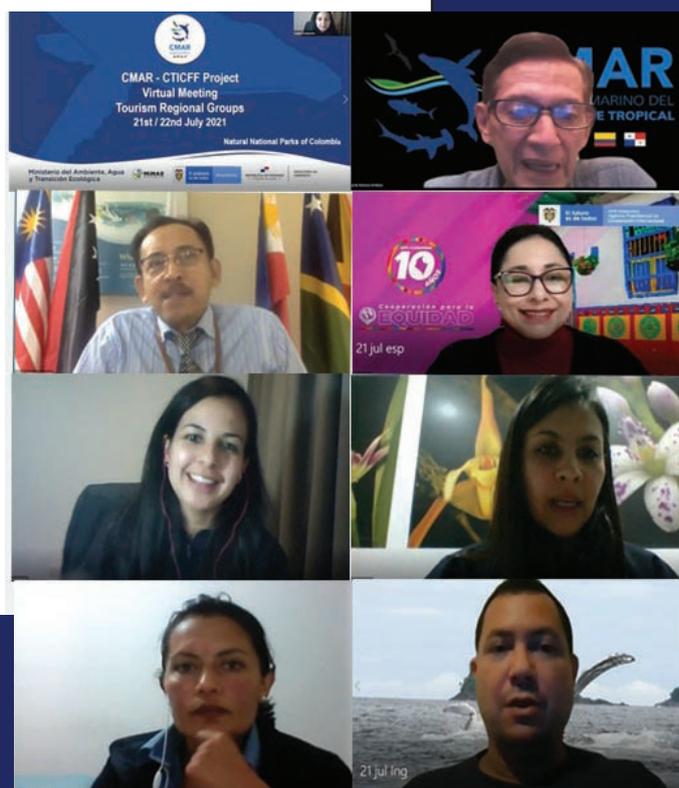
CTI-CFF and CMAR

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.

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, presented CMAR's ecotourism efforts and considered 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 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 fulfil their functions.

The Regional Secretariat and CMAR are scheduled to virtually meet this December 2021 to discuss the final products of the current cooperation project and see the next steps to formalize a new project proposal with the new topics of interest initially discussed.



Screenshot of the resource persons of the CTI-CFF - CMar webinar .

CTI-CFF and ICRI

Representing CTI-CFF, Dr. Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin, Executive Director of the CTI- CFF Regional Secretariat attended the 35th General International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI Meeting via Zoom online platform on February 2021. In said meeting, ICRI members agreed on extending the mandate of the ICRI ad hoc committee on Resilience-based Management. The additional mandates area as follows: (1) Targeted Communications: Identify global, national and local RBM communication needs, priorities and key messages; (2) Overcoming Challenges: Identify key challenges to RBM implementation and share case studies on how these could be addressed at global, national and local scales; (3) Building Opportunities: Assess the priority opportunities for RBM implementation and support member engagement and participation; and (5) Building Capacity: Identify opportunities for partnership between members, NGOs, industry and community organisations who can build understanding and enable members to scale up and tailor RBM.

Dr. Kushairi is a member of ICRI's Adhoc Committee on Resilience-based Management which was established to further consider what managing for resilience is, how it applies to the management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems as well as relationships with dependent human communities and discuss the range of resilience-based management tools and resources that are available for coral reef managers.

Also, in February 2021, Dr. Kushairi became a new member of the now a member of the (ICRI's Adhoc Committee on Reef Restoration Committee. The ad hoc committee on reef restoration was established in response to disturbances affecting coral reefs, in particular, thermal stress-induced global mass coral bleaching events and the current climate forecasts predicting that sea temperatures will exceed the thermal tolerances of corals.



Top to bottom: Screenshot of (1) 35th ICRI General Meeting Program Poster; (2) Screenshot of Ad hoc Committee on Resilience-based Management Members.

CTI-CFF and Allen Coral Atlas

The Regional Secretariat met with Allen Coral Atlas team on 3 September 2021 where Allen Coral Atlas 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. On 7 October 2021 RS circulated the email from Allen Coral Atlas on Global Coral Bleaching Network.

CTI-CFF and UN DESA

The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Executive Director, Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin participated in the Financing Global Climate Action and Promoting Digital Solutions Online Policy Dialogues organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

The online dialogue invited finance experts, policymakers, and climate and sustainable development practitioners for a discussion of the best approaches for ensuring that climate financing measures are included in rebuilding efforts related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that such efforts are inclusive and help the most vulnerable. Additionally, the experts discussed emerging digital solutions to the climate crisis, including ideas related to the Internet of Things, for climate adaptation and mitigation and ways to scale them up. Among the notable speakers were Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and Daniele Violetti, Director at UNFCCC.



Top to bottom:
Screenshot of (1) Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; (2) Daniele Violetti, Director at UNFCCC.



Screenshot of Dr Nora Ibrahim's presentation.

CTI-CFF and PEMSEA

The CTI-CFF Deputy Executive Director of Program Services, Dr. Sharifah Nora, was invited to serve as an expert speaker during the awareness-raising Regional Seminar on Biofouling Management and Invasive Aquatic Species that was held virtually on 23rd June 2021. This event was a project of the IMO, GEF, UNDP, GloFouling and PEMSEA.

Dr. Nora's presentation on Invasive Aquatic Species (IAS) showed IAS as being one of the important drivers of marine biodiversity loss and damage to conservation areas, a concern to the Convention of Biological Diversity. Using the IUCN Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) (<http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/search.php>), invasive aquatic species – freshwater and marine – can be checked or reported for each country. She covered the key traits of invasive aquatic species, the main vectors including ship ballast (water and sediment) and biofouling immersed materials (from ships, aquaculture and fisheries biofoulants, etc), and also the ecological, economic and health impacts.

CTI-CFF and ACB

CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Executive Director, Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin was one of the panelists in the ASEAN-UK COP25: Framing the Future for Nature held virtually on 8 June 2021. Dr Kushairi talked about the importance of safeguarding ASEAN's marine resources through marine protected areas and conserved areas. He alluded that marine protected areas are important food sources not only of the people living in coastal communities, but also of the 650 million people living in ASEAN. He said protecting the marine and coastal areas also means improving the ecosystems and ensuring the livelihood of people who depends on it. Joining Dr Kushairi in the panel to discuss ways to protect ASEAN's nature as a carbon sink and resilience against climate change were Dr Andrew Wyatt, Deputy Head of Indo-Burma Group, IUCN Asia; Dr Willy Marthy, Senior Terrestrial Program manager of WCS Indonesia; Dr Faizal Parish, Director of ASEAN Peatland Project, Global Environment Centre. The ASEAN-UK COP 26 was organized by the UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity. The objectives were to understand the opportunities around raising ambition on nature-based solutions, climate and biodiversity in ASEAN as well as to learn about best practices in nature-based solutions in the region.

CTI-CFF and ATSEA

The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Technical Program Senior Manager, Dr Gregory Pakovari Bennett participated in the 3rd Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) of the Arafura & Timor Seas (ATS) Red Snapper Advisory Forum organized by GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA ATSEA 2 on 24th August 2021. The first and second FGDs that had been conducted on 9 June 2021 and 14 July 2021 respectively, were to identify issues, goals, and objectives. The third FGD discussed management actions to address factors related to sustainable fisheries management in the ATS countries (Indonesia, Timor-Lester, and Papua New Guinea). This will be accomplished through the implementation and adoption of comprehensive and integrated ecosystem-based approaches to natural resource management and conservation at the national and regional levels. At the regional level, the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) will be implemented on red snapper fishery.

OTHER COOPERATION RELATED ACTIVITIES

RS supported launching of Fisheries Resource Center of Indonesia

The Regional Secretariat of CTI-CFF supported the launching of the Fisheries Resource Center of Indonesia led by Bogor Agricultural University in Bogor, Indonesia on 11 February 2021. The Center was launched together with the launching of the Grouper Book in Indonesia. The Regional Secretariat participated in this event to convey and support the importance of sustainable fisheries management, which can be done through science exploration, capacity building, bridging by delivering lessons learned, and providing technical assistance and advice.



Screenshot of webinar program of the launching of Fisheries Resource Center of Indonesia.

Canada Embassy First Secretary visits to the CTI-CFF RS

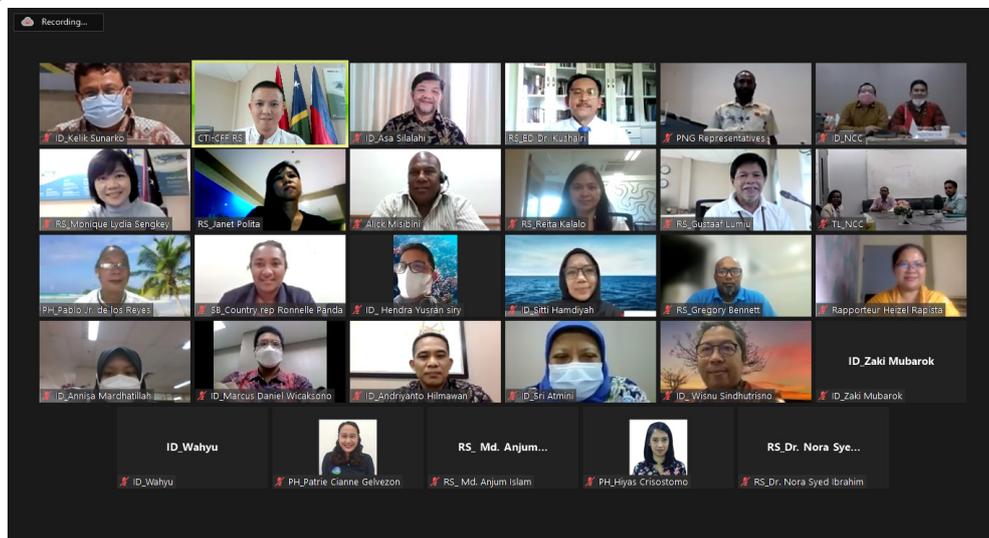
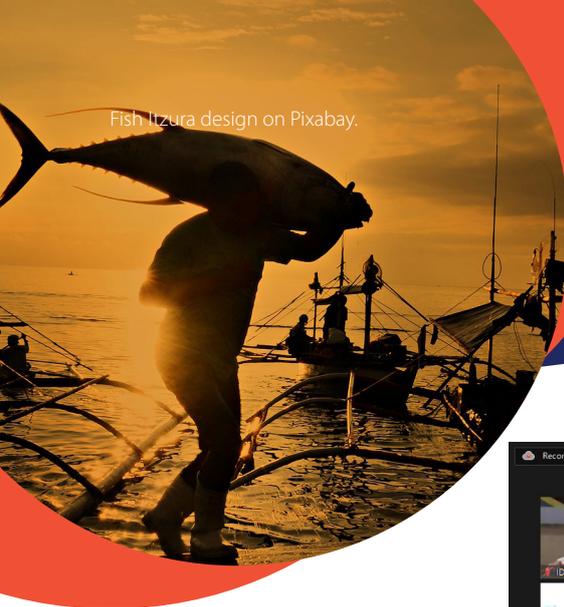
Mr Antoine Nouvet, the First Secretary of Political Affairs for Indonesia, Malaysia & Timor-Leste of the Canada Embassy in Jakarta paid a courtesy visit to the CTI CFF Regional Secretariat Executive Director Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin on 29 April 2021. He expressed interest to know more about the CTI-CFF and the Regional Secretariat, to which Dr Kushairi provided information, including the current and future initiatives of the CTI-CFF. Mr Nouvet also shared information of Canada's efforts in supporting Indonesia, Malaysia and Timor-Leste and looks forward working with the Regional Secretariat and CTI-CFF in the future.



Mr Antoine Nouvet, First Secretary of Political Affairs for Indonesia, Malaysia & Timor-Leste of the Canada Embassy with Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin.

UNSRAT Microplastic Webinar

Mr Gustaaf Lumiu, Deputy Executive Director for Corporate Services represented Dr Kushairi in the Microplastic Webinar organized by the Sam Ratulangi University in Manado, Indonesia. Mr Lumiu presented the efforts of CTI-CFF in marine litter.



Screenshot of HCA meeting participants.

III. UPDATE ON HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT

The representatives of the Host Country Agreement and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat had a coordination meeting on 29 April 2021. The Host Country representatives were led by Mr Agung Prasetyo, Head of Public Relations and International Cooperation of Indonesia Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF). He was also joined by Dr Hendra Yusran Siry, Secretary Directorate General of Marine Spatial Management of MMAF, Mr Wahyu Hari Satrio from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Aldi Triyanto from the State Secretariat as well as Mr. Marcus Daniel Wicaksono, Mr Tommy Pratama, Mr Fernando Esa Roswana and Mr R. Rizki Andhitya Yunanto from MMAF.

At the meeting, RS updated the delegates on the status of the finalization of the draft HCA, draft RPOA 2.0 and draft SPPM). RS also shared the efforts of RS to expedite the completion of the documents on draft HCA by supporting Internet requirements of country representative as well as proposing the In-Situ Virtual Meeting Participation (In-situ VMP).

On 21 June 2021, RS follow-up again the request for extension of the current HCA until the new HCA is signed with the Government of Indonesia through the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries.

RS organized a series of HCA meetings in 2021 from January to August were only 5 meetings (10 Feb 2021; 19-20 Apr 2021; 18-19 May 2021) were conducted and 13 meetings (9 Feb 2021; 9-10 Mar 2021; 15-16 June 2021 ; 5-6 July 2021; 28-29 July 2021; 11-12 August 2021 and 25-26 August 2021) were postponed.

With the postponement of many meetings and to expedite the completion the draft HCA, RS implemented the In-Situ VMP in which all the representatives of the member countries can congregate at a location such as hotels, resorts with good internet connection in their respective countries to attend virtual meetings set-up by RS.

On 9 and 10 September 2021, an In-Situ VMP was conducted for the final drafting of the HCA. However, the CT5 member countries failed to complete the draft HCA on the said dates. Hence, on 29 September 2021, another In-Situ VMP was conducted and finally completed the draft HCA.

As agreed at the 10 September 2021 meeting, the draft HCA shall be submitted by RS to a legal adviser prior to presentation at SOM-16.

IV. SPECIAL SOM

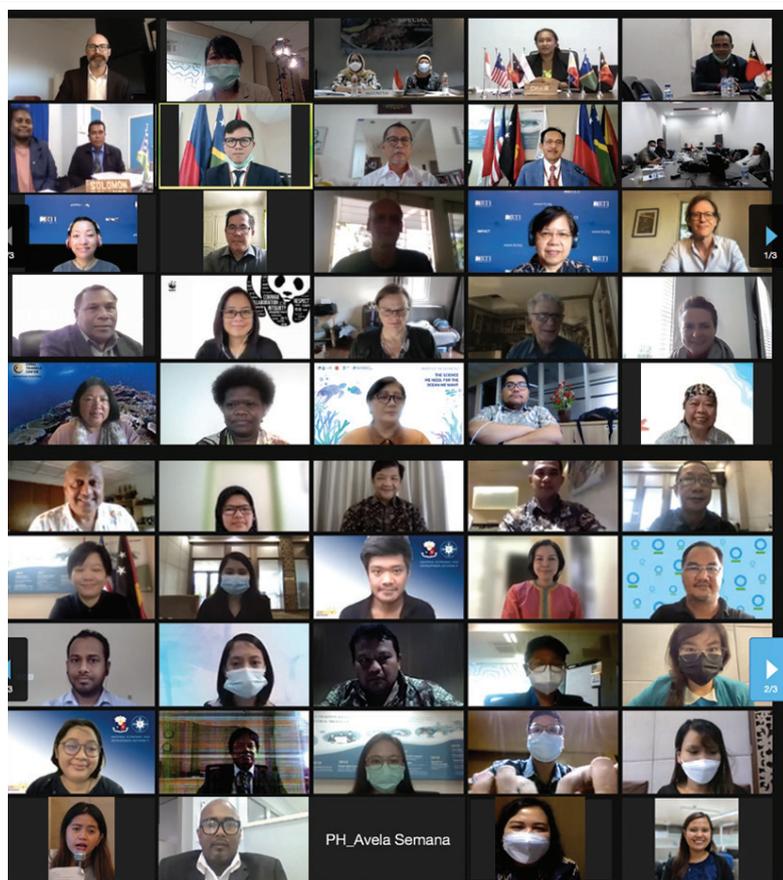
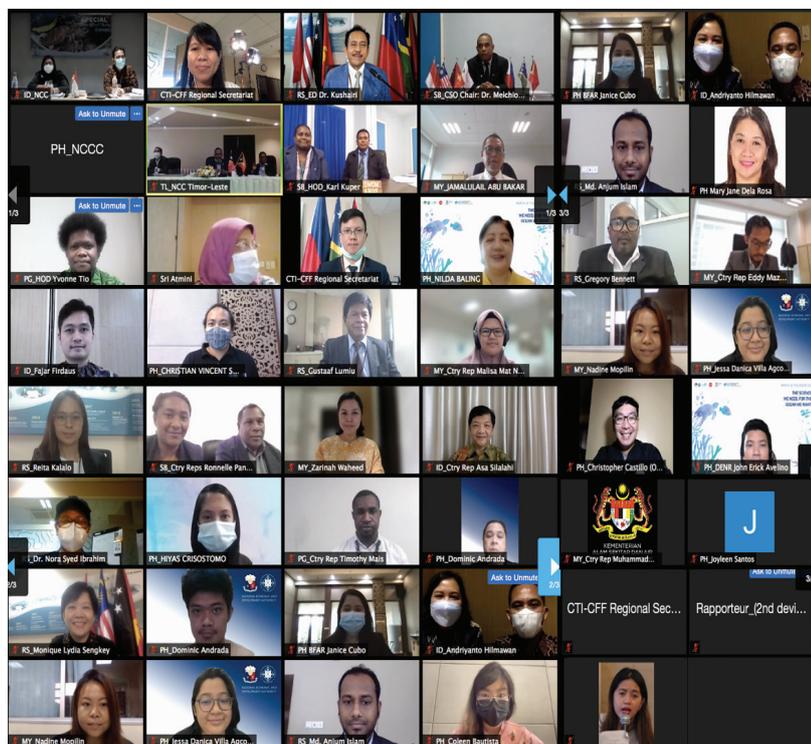
With travel restrictions still imposed due to COVID-19 pandemic, senior officials from CT6 agreed to conduct a special virtual meeting on 27-28 May 2021. It was also an opportunity for the Regional Secretariat to update the senior officials on the status of the draft Host Country Agreement, Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) 2.0, Staff Policies and Procedures Manual (SPPM) and Regional Conservation Trust Fund.

At the meeting, Dr Melchior Matak, Chair of the CTI-CFF Committee of Senior Officials and Permanent Secretary of the Solomon Islands' Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology cited that the pandemic has made a grave impact among CT6 and the work of CTI-CFF. He acknowledged the efforts of the Regional Secretariat for maintaining open communications to all CT6 despite the challenges. He also recognized the efforts of the National CTI-CFF Coordinating Committees of the CT6 for their work and commitment to CTI-CFF work programs despite the need to attend to their duties at the national level.

At the meeting, Dr Matak together with CT6 heads of delegation approved the 2021 budget of RS amounting to USD \$1,093, 023 to support the operations of RS and programs of CTI-CFF. The senior officials also called for prioritizing activities and looking for ways to save funds cognizant of the current challenging condition. The senior officials also approved the RS's proposal to maintain a minimum number of staff for 2021, with only one additional staff that is the Executive Assistant/HR Support. RS staff also are doing multi-tasking in tasks to meet the demands and needs of CTI-CFF.

In the revised calculation of budget for country contribution, RS also had reduced 50% of its traveling budget for 2021. Also in the meeting, members of the Appointment Committee for the recruitment of the new Deputy Executive Director for Program Services were also acknowledged. Nominees from Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste are being awaited to proceed with the recruitment process.

RS presented at the meeting the steps undertaken to expedite the finalization of the draft HCA, RPOA 2.0 and SPPM such as support for internet communication to CT6 as well as the In-Situ Virtual Meeting Participation (In-situ VMP). Further, recognizing the urgency to complete important documents such as the draft HCA, RPOA 2.0 and



Screenshot of Special SOM - Day 1 and Day 2.

SPPM, the senior officials urged the Regional Secretariat to submit a roadmap of the three documents.

Acknowledging the progress made in the setting-up of the Regional Conservation Trust Fund, the Senior Officials also agreed for the Regional Secretariat to come-up with a roadmap. Setting-up of Trust Fund is one of the sustainable financial mechanisms being targeted by the CTI-CFF.

During the second day, CTI-CFF Partners presented three central pillars to support RPOA 2.0, namely, international policy engagement, trust fund and capacity building. The senior officials enjoined RS to set up a dialogue platform to ensure proposed activities of the Partners will be carried based on immediate, medium- and long-term activities.

The meeting concluded with the 16th Senior Officials Meetings (SOM-16) and 8th Ministerial Meeting (MM-8) being agreed to be conducted virtually in the 3rd week of November 2021.

X. PREPARATION FOR 16TH SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING (SOM-16) AND 8TH MINISTERIAL MEETING (MM-8)

In the virtual Special SOM conducted on 27-28 May 2021, the meeting had approved a budget of USD \$50,000 for the conduct of an online SOM-16 and MM-8. In the said meeting, it was agreed that the SOM-16 and MM-8 shall be conducted on 3rd week of November 2021.

After the special SOM, RS has been very active in carrying out the decisions agreed at said meeting such as completion of the draft RPOA 2.0, draft HCA, draft SPPPM; facilitating the hiring of new staff since the current Technical Program Manager, Communication and Information Manager and Deputy Executive Director for Program Services (DEDPS) shall be ending on the 3rd Quarter of the year. The actions undertaken by RS shall be reported at SOM-16.

However, in the October meeting of the IRC, the group had tasked the Regional Secretariat to communicate with the Committee Senior Officials to consider holding these meetings in 6-9 December 2021 to allow further review and completion of the draft RPOA 2.0, draft HCA and draft SPPM have yet to be completed. The Regional Secretariat had officially conveyed the matter to the CSO for consideration.

Further, RS had submitted the initial required documents to CSOs in compliance to the 60-day deadline prior with 16th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-16) and 8th Ministerial Meeting (MM-8).

XI. REGIONAL CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

The CT6 Member Countries via the Technical Committee on the CTI-CFF Regional Conservation Trust Fund (CTI-CFF RCTF) together with the Regional Secretariat have started the discussion on the trust fund. The members of the Technical Committee were nominated by the CTI-CFF Committee of Senior Officials.

In the series of CTI-CFF RCTF meetings that started in January 2021, Dr. David Meyers of CFA had discussed WCS/CFA roles and responsibilities, proposed Mission, budget requirements, draft terms of reference for Technical Committee and Advisory Board and the governance structure. Dr. Meyers serves as the main advisor and consultant in setting up the CTI-CFF RCTF. The CTI-CFF RCTF is envisaged to be endorsed during SOM-16.



Photo credit: Husniati Salma/Unsplash

The Wildlife Conservation Society and CFA have been helping CTI-CFF, and RS build its capacity for regional sustainable finance planning and implementation through the Trust Fund. The technical assistance of WCS to CTI- CFF is made possible through the funding of KfW/EU.

XII. CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Regional Secretariat follows and applies the CTI-CFF financial regulations and rules and procedures to ensure sound decision-making and ensure proper resource management. Further, RS follows the Staff regulation to ensure compliance with the basic duties and obligations of RS to the staff and ensure the harmonious working relationship.

2020 Audit Report

With the approval of the CSO Chair, RS had engaged PKF Hadiwinata, a Public Accounting Firm based in Indonesia, as the external auditor for the 2020 financial activities RS. The financial audit of the CTI CFF resources managed by RS and its program activities for the Year 2020 had commenced in February 2021 and the Financial audit was completed on 31 March 2021.

Based on the 2020 Audit Report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat as of 31 December 2020, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the Indonesian Financial Accounting Standards.

The Audit Report also put emphasis on the matter where it highlighted the impact of corona virus outbreak in Indonesia. It states that “the impact on CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat’s operation in the future cannot be determined yet as the preventive measures as well as fiscal and monetary policies introduced by the government are still evolving. The (attached) financial statements do not include adjustments that might result from the outcome of the uncertainty. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Business Continuity Plan

The Regional Secretariat had updated its Business Continuity Plan for 2021 which outlines the continuity of functions and recovery priorities to endure the ‘new normal’ brought about by the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic. The plan ensures the continuation of the processes, services, and activities of the Regional Secretariat and CTI-CFF particularly prime activities such as finalization of the draft RPOA 2.0, draft HCA and draft SPPM.

COVID-19 Response Team

The COVID-19 Team continues to provide daily update/bulletin on COVID-19 situation to the Executive Director based on instructions and decrees issued by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia as well as the government of North Sulawesi and Manado City as basis for decision-making regarding working arrangements and safety protocols.

Staff continues to receive monthly supply of face masks and hand sanitizer for additional protection and always observe physical distancing and wears a facemask when in and out of the office. As of date, almost all the staff had completed their two doses of vaccination.



Photo credit: Devi Puspita Amarta Yahya/Unsplash



RS Staff undergoing COVID-19 vaccine in Manado, Indonesia.

Human Resources Management

Recruitment of new Deputy Executive Director for Program Services

This year, the Regional Secretariat facilitated and coordinated the process for the selection and recruitment of new Deputy Executive Director for Program Services (DEDPS). On 3 August 2021, the CTI-CFF Appointment Committee for Selection of new Deputy Executive Director for Program Services (DEDPS) who were appointed by CSO met for the first time to review the draft TOR of the new DEDPS and timeline of selection and recruitment process among others. Members of the Appointment Committee for Selection of new DED for Program Services are 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 announcement of job opportunity was advertised in online media through CTI-CFF social media platforms and print media, namely, Kompas and Jakarta Post (Indonesia); The Star and New Strait Times (Malaysia); The National and Post Courier (Papua New Guinea); Solomon Star and The Island Sun (Solomon Islands); and Timor Post and Jornal Nacional Diario (Timor-Leste). RS had requested and coordinated with Philippines' national dailies namely, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Philippine Star. However, both newspapers require approval from the Philippine Employment Overseas Agency (POEA).

On 1 October 2021, a total of 41 applications was received distributed as follows: 28 – ID; 1 MY; 10 PG; 1 PH and 1 SB. 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.

New Staff at Regional Secretariat

The Regional Secretariat welcomed this year two additional staff. Mr Muhammad Ichsan from Indonesia is the new Technical Program Manager and Mr Brian Nerre from Papua New Guinea is the new Finance and Operation Manager. Mr Ichsan has a master's degree in Conservation Biology at the University of Queensland, Australia and Bachelor's degree in Marine Science and Universitas Padjadjaran in Bandung, Indonesia.

Mr Brian Nerre has a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Papua New Guinea and worked as an Accountant at Manase & Co. Lawyer prior to joining the Regional Secretariat.

Ms. Monique Lydia Sengkey also became a full-time staff occupying the new position, Executive Assistant/HR Support of RS approved at the virtual Special SOM conducted in 27-28 May 2021. She used to be a job contract staff working as Personal Assistant to the Executive Director of RS.

Ms Sengkey holds a Master degree in Management Studies at the Sam Ratulangi University. She used to teach at the International Business Administration, an international program of the Faculty of Economics and Business at Sam Ratulangi University.

Staff Development

In efforts to deepen understanding of coastal and marine habitats such as coral reefs and mangroves, the RS staff conducted a field trip to Siladen and Bunaken islands, as part of its teambuilding activity. At the islands, the staff went snorkeling to check the coral reefs and interacted with the community, particularly the women of Siladen who gather and peel Indian almonds that grow in the area and use them to make a local delicacy "halua" similar to a candy bar, with brown palm sugar. On the Bunaken Island, there was an enormous litter at the shoreline. Such exposure to the threats of the marine environment intensifies the Staff's resolution to support efforts to resolve marine litter in the Coral Triangle. Dr Kushairi also demonstrated the correct safety and rescue procedures, especially while conducting water activities such as boat trips, island observation and snorkeling/diving. The team building activity is planned to be an annual activity for the staff to enrich appreciation of the CTI-CFF to protect and conserve the marine and coastal resources whilst promoting camaraderie and team spirit.



RS Staff during the Teambuilding Exercise.

XIII. COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Coral Triangle Day

The celebration of the Coral Triangle Day this year, recognized the importance of promoting and supporting ‘blue recovery’ activities as vital part of the CT6 member countries recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. With the theme “Driving Blue Recovery for A Sustainable Coral Triangle,” this year’s celebration advocated investing and supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable practices to ensure that the coastal and marine resources thrive in the future.

To raise awareness and appreciation of the importance of blue recovery, the Regional Secretariat of CTI-CFF conducted a webinar that highlighted blue recovery in terms of science, finance as well as innovation and communication. Notable speakers, namely, Dr Ian McLeod of James Cook University, Mr Yabanex Batista of Caribbean Biodiversity Fund and Dr Mark Read of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority shared their blue recovery initiatives in this webinar. The event was moderated by Dr Sharifah Nora Ibrahim of the Regional Secretariat.

The Regional Secretariat promoted on CTI-CFF social media the CT Day activities conducted by CT6 Member countries at the national level. Country activities were as follows:

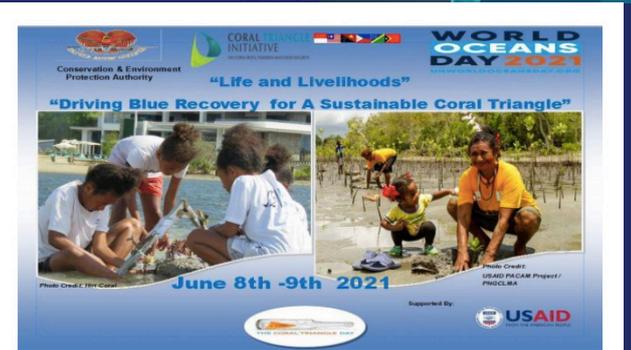
- Indonesia**

The Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries conducted a webinar that discussed the impact of climate change in the country’s coral reef ecosystems. Speakers came from line agencies of Indonesia, namely, the National Planning Agency, Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the NGO, Yayasan Reef Check.

The Coral Triangle Center, CTI-CFF Partner based in Bali, Indonesia, organized a collaborative musical performance Wayang and Nova & Filastine, Indonesia’s artists advocating ocean Coral Triangle Day pushes support for blue recovery protection and conservation. Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin had given a short video message during the opening of the performance. Ticket sales from the event went to support an online marine conservation fun learning classes for school children in the Coral Triangle member countries.

- Malaysia**

The Ministry of Environment and Water (KASA) partnered with the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) in conducting a webinar focusing on this year’s CT Day theme. Dr Mohd Kushairi Mohd Rajuddin who was one of the speakers



Celebration of World Oceans Day & Coral Triangle Day

08 Tuesday – 9 Wednesday June 2021



Screenshots of different CT Day celebrations in CT6 Member Countries.

talked about the 10 years of accomplishments of CTI-CFF and way forward during the webinar of KASA. Marine Conservation experts from WWF and UMS also graced the event.

- **Papua New Guinea**

The Conservation Environment and Protection Authority together with PNG's National CTI Coordinating Committee conducted a two-day event that included a seminar that showcased science-based research and activities on marine ecosystem conservation by its partners and mangrove planting and beach cleanup at Motupore Island.

- **Philippines**

The Philippines' Biodiversity Management Bureau celebrated the Coral Triangle Day by featuring the different people's organization in the country to showcase how the Coral Triangle helped their livelihood and care for the rich Coral Triangle ecosystem. These organizations are the Naro Fisherfolk Association, Samahan sa Bakawanang Barangay Maidlang, Selinog Island Dapitan Women's Association, Moleng Tribal Farmers Association and Infant Young Child Feeding and Breastfeeding Support Group. Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste supported all these events initiated by the other member countries by taking part in the activities of CT Day.

Set-up of Information Gallery

This year, the Regional Secretariat had set up an information gallery in the lobby of the CTI building where exhibition panels were installed featuring brief country profiles of the CT6 Member Countries. Two tv monitor were also installed that plays brief highlights of the main programs of the CTI-CFF. Frames that listed the heads of the CTI-CFF Council of Ministers and Committee of Senior Officials through the years were also installed on the walls. The information gallery is intended to give the visitors of the Regional Secretariat an insight of the CTI-CFF and the CT6 Member Countries.

Regular updating and maintenance of CTI website and social media platforms

The Regional Secretariat regularly updates the contents of its social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram to feature activities, programs, and announcements of CTI-CFF and the Regional Secretariat. Followers of CTI-CFF social media and audience engagement have relatively increased this year. RS also made sure that the activities held in ZOOM were live streamed on Facebook to reach a wider audience. The CTI website is regularly updated and both the CT Day Website and CT Atlas link are mirrored on the CTI Website.

Production of Fact Sheets and Brochure

The Regional Secretariat is in the process of finalizing the e-fact sheets about CT Atlas and CTMPAS and e-brochure about CTI-CFF, which will be posted on the CTI-CFF website and social media to highlight the CT ATLAS' function and significant in marine management and marine protected areas in the region.

Production of Audio-visual presentation

The Regional Secretariat is finalizing the production of an audio-visual presentation (AVP) that highlights the main accomplishments of CTI-CFF through the years and the way forward. The AVP is expected to be used in events and other activities of CTI-CFF to introduce CTI-CFF to the activity audiences.

XIV. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES (NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2021)

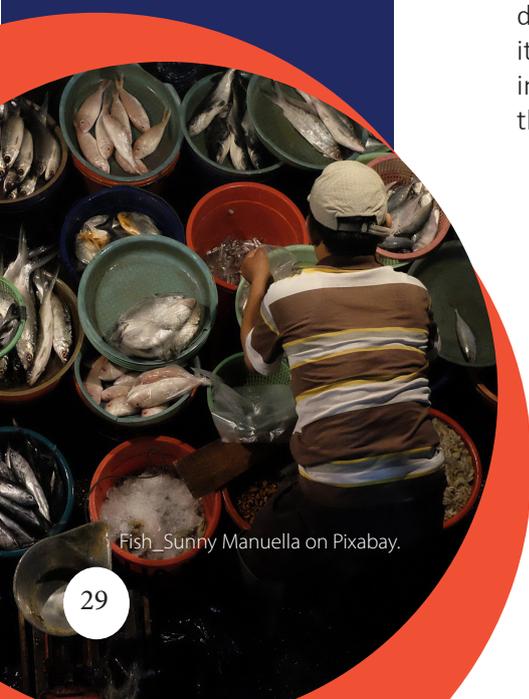
CTI-CFF through the Regional Secretariat are coordinating and facilitating activities this November and December 2021. These activities are the following:

Date	Activity
November 9, 2021	Virtual Meeting on M&E Framework and CT ATLAS
November 10, 2021	Continuation of the Review and Final Drafting of the Communication Strategy of RPOA 2.0
November 15, 2021	FRWG Virtual Meeting
November 16 or 17, 2021 (tentative date)	Tentative date of the meeting of the Appointment Committee for Selection of new DEDPS
November 18, 2021 (tentative date)	Tentative date for Dialogue of CT6 and CTI Partners
November 23, 2021	Meeting of CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and CMAR
November 29, 2021	Webinar on Gender and Labor in Fisheries (organized by USAID-SUFIA-RTI)
November 29-30, 2021	Pre-SOM
December 1-2, 2021	Workshop on CTI-CFF Regional Conservation Trust Fund
December 6-8, 2021	16th Senior Officials Meeting
December 9, 2021	8th Ministerial Meeting

XV. CHALLENGES IN 2021

The new variant of COVID-19, Delta has gravely paralyzed the nations around the world, most especially Asian countries. Countries including those in the Coral Triangle region have continued to implement restrictions in movement of people in land, air and on sea. Financial priorities and government activities have continued to center on addressing the impact and of COVID-19 especially on the medical, health, socio-economic needs of its people.

This scenario has affected how CTI-CFF/Regional Secretariat carried out its planned activities for the year. Though online meetings have its shares of advantages in terms of cost efficiency and safety of the participants, it also meant a series of meetings due to time constraints to finish discussions and come to agreement on agenda items as well as the postponement of meetings due to lack of quorum. The unstable internet connection is also a challenge for some member countries, which limits their participation and sometimes derails the meeting.



Fish_Sunny Manuella on Pixabay.

XVI. WAY FORWARD

Despite the year's challenges, CTI-CFF through the Regional Secretariat will continue to double its efforts to sustain the accomplishments that it has achieved thus far. The Regional Secretariat will continue to implement innovative approaches such as In-situ VMPs to ensure that planned activities will be implemented in the context of the current situation. The Regional Secretariat will work closely with the Government of Indonesia and CT5 Member Countries to ensure that the new Host Country Agreement will be finalized and ratified in 2022.

The launching and socialization of the RPOA 2.0 once it is adopted at the SOM-16 and MM-8 shall be prioritized so that regional and international groupings would be informed of the goal of the regional initiative in the next 10 years and, thus attract collaboration and partnership on sustaining the marine resources of the Coral Triangle for food security and sustainable livelihood of its people and the world.

The establishment of the CTI-CFF Regional Conservation Trust Fund will be expedited to be able to ensure that activity identified by the RPOA 2.0 and CTI-CFF in general will be supported in the years to come. Private sectors will also be engaged to gather donors for the trust fund.

CTI-CFF through the Regional Secretariat will maintain its regular communication with Partners to implement the collaborative activities identified under the Partners' position papers – international engagement, capacity building and trust fund.

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