

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Technical Working Group

Draft CTI COASTFISH Initiative Regional Framework

I. INTRODUCTION

On May 15, 2009, the leaders of the six Coral Triangle (CT6) countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste) met for a summit in Manado, Indonesia and signed the declaration launching the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) and endorsed its Regional Plan of Action (RPOA). This event marked the culmination of a process launched by Indonesian President Yudhoyono in 2007 to bring the CT6 countries together in a multilateral partnership to sustain the extraordinary marine and coastal resources of the CT region by addressing crucial issues such as food security, climate change, fisheries and marine biodiversity. Member nations of the Coral Triangle have committed to implement the Five Goals of the CTI Regional (RPOA) and National Plans of Action (NPOA). The five conservation goals laid out in the RPOA present clear goals and targets necessary to achieve local, national and regional outcomes within 10 to 15 years. These five CTI goals are:

- **Priority Seascapes Designated and Effectively Managed**
- **Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) and Other Marine Resources Fully Applied**
- **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Established and Effectively Managed**
- **Climate Change Adaptation Measures Achieved**
- **Threatened Species Status Improving**

Within the broad framework of the CTI RPOA, the CT6 countries have developed national strategies and action plans, as well as working together to identify and implement those actions that require regional cooperation. CTI thus encompasses a distinctively regional approach, building on country-driven priorities and actions. Management of the CTI is led by a Regional Secretariat, based in Indonesia.

This COASTFISH Regional Framework was developed through a consultative process among members of the EAFM Technical Working Group representing the six CT countries.

II. MANDATE FOR THE FRAMEWORK

Under the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action (RPOA), Goal 2 is applying an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM). The second target of Goal 2 reads: "Through a new, collaborative Sustainable Coastal Fisheries and Poverty Reduction Initiative ('COASTFISH') designed to apply an EAFM, a significant improvement has been achieved in the incomes, livelihoods and food security of millions of people living in targeted coastal communities." (CTI-CFF 2009). Applying an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) is considered the preferred option and best practice for the long-term sustainability of fisheries and the services that fisheries ecosystems provide to society (e.g., food security, livelihoods, economic security, coastal protection, human health and well-being) in the Coral Triangle region. COASTFISH is meant to present guidance for including considerations of livelihoods in an EAFM.

The overall goal of this Initiative will be to enhance food security, income, and sustainable livelihoods of targeted coastal communities, through application of an EAFM. As such, COASTFISH has the potential to contribute significantly to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in all six CT countries. This will require well-informed, customized, and sophisticated strategies and programs, supported by large scale levels of investments in targeted coastal regions particularly dependent on coastal fisheries. Such investments will need to include both domestic and external sources of funding.

Numerous coastal fisheries projects and programs are already underway in our countries, designed to promote more sustainable fisheries. Building on these activities, COASTFISH will be designed to demonstrate successful models and significantly “scale up” and expand proven models. In each country, specific “COASTFISH Sites” will be identified and targeted for investment and action, based on poverty and biodiversity criteria.

COASTFISH will be implemented through three Regional actions:

Regional Action 1: Design and launch a region-wide CTI COASTFISH Initiative. Collaborate on designing a “common regional framework for the CTI COASTFISH Initiative”. Drawing on this framework, complete the design of national COASTFISH Programs in each CT6 country, and launch the CTI COASTFISH Initiative. This would include guidelines for EAFM and livelihoods, maps of COASTFISH sites/regions, and COASTFISH investment plans.

Regional Action 2: Collaborate around the mobilization of significant new financial investments to support COASTFISH. To complement country-specific financing sources, mobilize multi-country financing such as investor forums, joint approaches to individual public funding agencies, regional COASTFISH fund and small-scale funding mechanisms for fishers.

Regional Action 3: Collaborate around technology and information sharing, lessons learned, and joint marketing of common products. As appropriate, collaborate around mobilizing significant technical support by scientific institutions, NGOs, private sector actors, and others, particularly those interested in supporting COASTFISH at the multi-country and regional levels. Among the CT6, share technologies, techniques, methodologies, and approaches through such activities as: seminars, workshops, exchange visits, internet list serves, and lessons learned documents. As appropriate, collaborate around joint marketing by CT6 countries of common products (e.g., tuna, seaweed, certified products for the live reef food fish and ornamentals trade).

III. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The Coral Triangle is the most biologically and economically valuable marine ecosystem on the planet. Covering just three percent of the globe, the region represents more than half of the world’s reefs and boasts 76 percent of its known coral species. Sustaining more than 130 million people who rely directly on the marine ecosystems for their livelihoods and food, the marine habitats of the Coral Triangle also contribute an estimated US\$2.3 billion each year towards the economies of the region.

While the environmental imperative for preserving this “Amazon of the Sea” is obvious, the pressures of widespread poverty, rapid development, and global demands continue to place enormous strain on the natural marine resources of the Coral Triangle. There is an urgent need for improvements in management over the last 40 years, more than

40% of the reef and mangroves in the region have disappeared, leaving many habitats and species extremely vulnerable to extinction. Overfishing, destructive fishing practices, pollution, and climate change and ocean acidification all threaten the future of this precious seascape and its inhabitants.

A transition to EAFM, with its broadened attention to ecosystem effects and interactions with other economic sectors, may well have both positive and negative impacts on employment, livelihoods and regional economies. Impacts may occur to fishing operations and changes may be expected in, for example, existing livelihoods and income levels of fishery participants and their families and other resource users, the skills base of employees, and the degree of dependence on the fishery or ecosystem. Impacts may affect those in the supply chain such as boat and gear makers and post-harvest operations. There can also be major and secondary and gender-related impacts on community employment. For example, fisheries management decisions may affect postharvest processing of fish and fishery products and marketing, in which women often play a predominant role. The implications will differ from location to location within a country depending upon the level of economic dependence of people on fisheries and the availability of supplemental and alternative livelihoods. This is a major issue when an EAFM leads to reduced levels of employment in the fisheries where a smooth transition is hindered by few employment and livelihood alternatives and/or low education levels.

Livelihoods and poverty reduction are critical and the link between healthy, well-managed and productive marine and coastal ecosystems and livelihoods is well established. There is a need for guidance for including considerations of livelihoods and employment in an EAFM.

As fisheries become increasingly overfished in the region due to overcapacity of fishing effort and fishers, there is a real need to transition fishers and their households away from fishing with new livelihoods, whether enhanced, supplemental/diversified or alternative. This is a common issue among all six CTI countries. Over the last thirty years, a range of different livelihoods have been provided and implemented in fishing and coastal communities in the region with mixed success and sustainability by the fisher and household. For example, seaweed farming has found success in many locations when different variables for success and sustainability have been present, such ideal growing conditions, access to markets, and proper training. Agricultural practices, such as animal husbandry, have also been tried with mixed success. However, these few alternative livelihood options may not be an appropriate alternative for every household.

IV. VISION

The vision of this CTI COASTFISH INITIATIVE is:

Resilient and self-sustaining coastal communities in the Coral Triangle region supported by sustainable livelihoods that maintain ecological integrity.

V. RATIONALE AND PURPOSE

Through this regional framework, the CT6 countries agree to support the COASTFISH Initiative for livelihoods in coastal communities that are sustainable now and into the future. This regional framework will support achieving significant improvements in the livelihoods of millions of people living in targeted coastal communities.

COASTFISH is meant to present guidance for including considerations of livelihoods in an EAFM. This regional framework will allow the CT6 countries to meet their EAFM responsibilities under the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. These instruments have been adopted by national parties in the CT6 countries.

Numerous livelihood projects and programs in coastal communities are already underway in our countries, designed to promote more income, food security and sustainable fisheries. Building on these activities, COASTFISH will be designed to demonstrate successful models and significantly “scale up” and expand proven models. The COASTFISH Regional Framework will allow for collaboration around the mobilization of significant new public and private financial investments at both regional and national levels to support livelihoods.

COASTFISH complements the vision, rationale, objectives, and activities identified in the EAFM Regional Framework.

The potential value and benefits of having a COASTFISH Regional Framework include, but are not limited to: (i) reduce/eradicate poverty; (ii) healthy coastal communities; (iii) sustainable fisheries; (iv) food security; (v) economic well-being; (vi) availability and access to livelihood resources; (vii) resilience to climate change; and (viii) ensure and safeguard ecological well-being.

VI. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This framework is guided by several principles embedded in regional and international instruments:

- 1) **CTI-RPOA**
- 2) **CTI EAFM Regional Framework**
- 3) **FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing**
- 4) **FAO EAF guidelines**
- 5) **FAO Guidelines for small scale fisheries;**
- 6) **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**
- 7) **UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**
- 8) **PNG, Solomon Island and Timor Leste**
 - **Melansian Spearhead Group Roadmap,**
 - **SPC Noumea Strategy**
 - **FFA Roadmap**
 - **Oceanscape Framework**
- 9) **Timor Leste, Malaysia, Philippine, Indonesia**
 - **SEAFDEC**
 - **ASEAN**

VII. OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and activities are used to guide implementation of the COASTFISH Regional Framework. Objectives are specific, measurable statements of what must be accomplished. An activity is a specific action to be taken to implement the objective.

The COASTFISH Regional Framework has four objectives and associated activities.

Objective 1: Establish a regional platform for collection and sharing data, technologies, experiences and information relevant to sustainable livelihoods.

Activity 1: **Develop Maps of COASTFISH Sites/ Regions**

Activity 2: **Network building in support of the initiative**

- **Develop data sharing protocols**
- **Develop common database/website**

Activity 3: **Regional Experts Workshop on livelihood**

Objective 2: A regional COASTFISH human capacity development program is in place to effectively implement sustainable livelihoods.

Activity 1: **Assess existing livelihood and environmental conditions in targeted coastal areas**

- **Assess new opportunities for livelihood development**

Activity 2: **Assess government and civil society, training providers and extension services.**

- **Source outside assistance when required**

Activity 3: **Share information and experiences**

- **Exchange programs**
- **Technical assistance**
- **Appropriate technologies**
- **Production of publications and manuals**
- **Country to country technical support/assistance (e.g. IFAD Technology)**
 - **Identification of Core Expert on livelihood activities**

Activity 4: **Promote inter-agency collaboration on livelihoods**

Objective 3: Ensure that each of the CT6 recognizes that the COASTFISH Regional Framework is visible in national policies.

Activity 1: **Review national policies, legislations and regulations on livelihoods to incorporate COASTFISH Regional Framework.**

- **Identify gaps where livelihoods are not mentioned**
- **provide future recommendation for amendments**

Activity 2: **Integrate COASTFISH Regional Framework with existing EAFM Regional Framework.**

Activity 3: **Reduce inshore IUU fishing through greater collaboration and increased enforcement and awareness in support of sustainable livelihoods.**

Activity 4: **Ensure implementation of sustainable livelihood program under the COASTFISH Regional Framework.**

Objective 4: Collaborate around the mobilization of sustainable financing mechanisms and market incentives in support of sustainable livelihoods.

Activity 1: Develop a regional COASTFISH investment plan (complete project plan)

Activity 2: Accessing credit and financial services at multiple levels of the financial system

- Facilitate access of fisherfolk cooperative society, women fishers' association, fisherfolk association to financial banking systems supporting community-based livelihood.
- Facilitate access to mainstream banking and other financial institution
- Establish sustainable financing mechanism through community based (fisherfolk cooperative society, women fishers' association) implementation of PES, savings mobilization scheme.

Activity 3: Develop ways to create more value for nearshore fishers (access to post harvest facilities, adding value to the catch for added income for a more equitable income distribution).

Activity 4: Capacitate cooperative society, women fishers' association, fisherfolk association towards financial literacy in support of their sustainable community livelihood.

Activity 5: Support establishment of women-led business enterprises geared towards gender equity.

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM, ROADMAP AND TIMELINE

The following roadmap and timeline for review and approval of the COASTFISH Regional Framework has been developed.

ACTIVITY	TIMELINE	LEAD/SUPPORT
Develop a regional framework for the implementation of COASTFISH/First Draft	August 15, 2017	EAFM TWG
Initial review and revision of draft regional framework by NCCs	August 31, 2017	NCCs
CT6 NCCs submit comments and suggestions to TWG Chair	September 8, 2017	Regional Secretariat
Regional framework revised; Chair sends NCCs for review	September 22, 2017	EAFM TWG
Second review and approval of revised draft regional framework completed by NCCs	October 6, 2017	NCCs
Submission of draft National Strategies for COASTFISH Initiative	October 31, 2017	NCCs

Finalize regional framework by TWG	October 31, 2017	Regional Secretariat
Pre-SOM for adoption of the TWG	November 6, 2017	EAFM TWG
Presentation of regional framework at 13 th SOM for approval	November 8-10, 2017	EAFM Chair

IX. REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM

The CTI EAFM Regional Technical Working Group (TWG), with support from and in collaboration with the CTI Regional Secretariat, shall serve as the coordinating body on the COASTFISH Initiative, and be recognized as the platform to provide guidance in the planning, implementation, and communication of COASTFISH at regional and national levels. The CTI Regional EAFM TWG should work closely (but not exclusively) with projects and entities addressing EAFM and livelihoods in the region.

The connection/coordination of the EAFM TWG with the CTI is in accordance with the SOM and Ministerial Meeting resolutions and legal documents on the establishment of the CTI Regional Secretariat.

The regional coordination mechanism will include work closely with the other regional organizations such as UNFAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (RAP), the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC).

X. FINANCING AND RESOURCES

Upon completion of the regional financial architecture for CTI-CFF, the Regional Secretariat would facilitate the access to resources to implement COASTFISH in the Region. The EAFM TWG requests that the Regional Secretariat establishes a mechanism to support implementation of this COASTFISH Regional Framework.

XI. REVIEW AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION

CT6 NCCs should report to the EAFM Technical Working Group annually on progress made toward applying COASTFISH in their country. The EAFM TWG will report annual regional progress to the SOM in collaboration with CTI Regional Secretariat.

