



What is the Coral Triangle?

The Coral Triangle is globally recognized as the epicenter of marine biodiversity, home to an incredible 76 percent of the world's coral species and 37 percent of the world's reef fish species. The area stretches over thousands of kilometers and links six countries: Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. However this incredible area is under increasing pressure from a range of serious threats: growing coastal populations, rising sea surface temperatures, sea level rise and increasing levels of acidity. The Coral Triangle's resources are being fast depleted and in some cases, irreparably damaged. Leaders from the six Coral Triangle countries are working together to address this challenge by forming a unique regional initiative known as the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI). The powerful commitments coming out of the CTI will form the basis of unprecedented efforts to protect this area of exceptional biodiversity and protect the livelihoods of over 126 million people, and the food needs of millions more.

What is the Coral Triangle Atlas?

The Coral Triangle Atlas is an online Geographical Information System (GIS) database, providing scientists and NGOs with a view of spatial data at the regional scale. Biophysical and socioeconomic information has been collected for decades by scientists and managers for different parts of the Coral Triangle. However, to date, little of this information has been centralized to form region wide layers that provide an overall view and enable management plans at a regional level.

How will the Coral Triangle Atlas help?

This project will improve the efficiency of conservation planning in the region by giving researchers and managers access to spatial information while encouraging them to share their data to complete the gaps, therefore reducing duplicate data collection efforts and providing the most complete and most current data available. The CT Atlas will be particularly useful in the design and planning of MPAs and MPA Networks throughout the region.

How can you contribute to the Coral Triangle Atlas?

The CT Atlas welcomes organizations desiring to share their data. By contributing to the CT Atlas, NGO partners, governments and managers are helping to strengthen the effectiveness of conservation activities in the Coral Triangle through improved information flow. With access to the region's best datasets, scientists and managers will have the tools necessary to conduct complex analyses and measure the results of conservation activities designed to ensure the sustainability of the Coral Triangle's spectacular marine resources and the millions of people who depend on them.

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