

Coral Triangle (CT) Atlas



**CORAL TRIANGLE
INITIATIVE**

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY



The Coral Triangle

The Coral Triangle is recognized as the global center of marine diversity. It is home to the highest concentration of marine species on the planet. Often called “the Nursery of the seas,” the Coral Triangle is home to 600 corals or 76% of the world’s known coral species. It contains the highest reef fish diversity with 2,500 or 37% of the world’s reef fish species. Further, it is home to six of the world’s seven species of marine turtles and its island straits and passages form an important migration corridor network for large cetaceans (marine mammals) travelling from the Pacific Ocean and Eastern Indonesian seas to the Indian Ocean, but also in the opposite direction. These corridors are also part of the home range of the whale and dolphin populations that live in those areas.

But these resources are under significant and increasing threats such as over-fishing, unsustainable fishing practices, land-based sources of pollution and climate change. If these threats continue, the reef systems will be decimated together with the fish and marine organisms that it supports and seriously undermine the world’s marine biodiversity pool and the region’s food security situation. It will also have a grave impact to the livelihood and food security of the 364 million people who live within the Coral Triangle’s.

Recognizing the need to safeguard these marine resources, six Coral Triangle countries are working together to address this challenge through a multilateral partnership known as the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF).

The Coral Triangle Atlas

The Coral Triangle Atlas is an online Geographic 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.

Coral Triangle in numbers

**2.3 million
square miles**

(6 million square kilometres) area, covering parts or the entirety of CT6 member countries

76%

of the world’s coral species present in the CT region, the highest coral diversity in the world

15

regionally endemic coral species found in CT region

8%

(235 species) of the coral reef fishes in the Coral Triangle are endemic or locally restricted species.

364 million

Number of people who live within the CT region

Ways to contribute to the CT Atlas

The CT Atlas welcomes data shared by organizations. By contributing to the CT Atlas, NGO partners, governments and managers are helping to strengthen the effectiveness of conservation activities in the CT region through a complete and current data available. Further, scientists and managers will have available tools to conduct complex analyses and measure the results of the conservation activities designed to ensure the sustainability of the Coral Triangle region.

Issues and Challenges

- Finding the metadata for layers to complete the catalogue and standardize the attributes so that the layers can be collated
- Overcoming cultural and institutional barriers to information sharing
- Securing funding for a technical product: it falls outside of the usual categories research, education and outreach
- Complementing existing information portals and national databases
- Garnering support from potential users and meeting their needs
- Developing a long-term plan for reviewing and updating the database in partnership with Reefbase. A database such as the CT Atlas will only be useful if it maintains the best and most recent information

Partners

CGIAR Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)
 Conservation International
 CTI-CFF
 International Union for Conservation of Nature
 Reefbase
 The Nature Conservancy
 Wildlife Conservation Society
 WorldFish Center
 World Wide Fund for Nature

Sources:

About Coral Triangle Atlas, accessed 12 October 2018 < <http://ctatlas.reefbase.org/about.aspx>>
 CT Atlas brochure.

Frequently Ask Questions about CTI, accessed 12 October 2018 < <http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org/frequently-asked-questions-0>>

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/places/coral-triang>

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CT Atlas improves conservation by:

- Giving scientists and decision makers a vision of ecological process beyond political boundaries;
- Providing building blocks to use Spatial Decision Support Systems (SDSS) for marine conservation planning; and
- Avoiding duplication of efforts

Eight categories of data which you can contribute

- Biological
 - Habitat (Marine)
 - Habitat (Terrestrial)
 - Managed Area
- Geography/Base Maps
 - Socio-economic
 - Oceanography
 - Threats

CT Atlas is supported by:

