



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



SOM19
DILI, TIMOR-LESTE

THE 19TH SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING

DILI, TIMOR-LESTE | DECEMBER 4-5, 2024

www.coraltriangleinitiative.org

Session 9

CTI PARTNERS PRESENTATIONS



**CORAL
TRIANGLE
CENTER**

Inspiring People Saving Oceans

Coral Triangle Center

Key reflections

- The Coral Triangle Center (CTC) was established as a foundation registered in Indonesia in 2010 with the mission of building local capacity for long-term marine conservation in the Coral Triangle region. This aligns with the priorities of the six Coral Triangle countries (CT6), which have emphasized capacity building as a top priority since the inception of CTI-CFF in 2009.
- CTC has been a partner of CTI-CFF since 2014, contributing to initiatives like the establishment of the Women Leaders Forum in the same year. The organization's focus includes establishing marine protected area (MPA) learning sites, delivering training, and fostering learning networks. To date, CTC supports 10 MPAs—five in Indonesia, including Nusa Penida MPA and the Banda Islands, and five in Timor-Leste, including Atauro and Samba Sambilan MPA in Liquica. We have trained more than 8,000 people in our capacity building programs and our Center for Marine Conservation in Bali has welcomed more than 25,000 people and hosted CTI-CFF meetings over the years.
- CTC deeply values the renewal of its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, signed yesterday on December 4, 2024. This renewal recognizes the shared geographic focus on the Coral Triangle region and a common vision to protect the world's most diverse marine and coastal ecosystems for fisheries and food security. The MOU will focus on:
 - Facilitating training and learning needs with Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to achieve the Regional Plan of Action 2.0 (RPoA2) through practical training, workshops, and learning exchanges at regional and national levels.
 - Supporting MPAs, protecting threatened species, ecosystem restoration, and developing a Coral Triangle-wide MPA Learning Sites Portfolio.
 - Advancing cross-cutting initiatives by engaging key stakeholders, including women leaders, MPA managers, and youth as well as mainstreaming of the CTI-CFFs Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) policy across its activities
 - Implementing the CTI-CFF Capacity Building Roadmap to catalyze, accelerate *and sustain* skills-building across the CT to sustain and effectively manage resilient marine and coastal resources and seascape ecosystem services through four pillars:
 - Tools, including a CT repository and an online training academy.
 - Ambassador programs.
 - Regional training nodes and a Coral Triangle student internship field program.
 - MPA learning sites and learning networks.
- CTC is also committed to supporting sustainable financing through the Coral Triangle Conservation Fund (CTCF) and the customization of our training programs at the local level to ensure that no one is left behind.
- CTC acknowledges the significant momentum of CTI-CFF's representation in global and regional forums, as well as the enhanced regional coordination and collaboration with the Regional Secretariat and strategic partners. CTC looks forward to continuing its support for the CT6 countries in preserving the most diverse coastal and marine ecosystems on Earth.



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Key reflections

- The first MoU between the CTI-CFF and GIZ was signed 8 years ago. We were pleased to renew our MoU with CTI in June 2024 on the occasion of the 15th CTI Anniversary Celebrations in Manado. Currently GIZ supports elements of the RPOA 2.0 through 4 GIZ projects, with efforts in all 6 CTI countries. The topics are covering marine pollution, IUU fishing, the mapping, conservation and management of mangroves and seagrass areas as blue carbon ecosystems, the conservation of threatened species, the effective management of MPAs and marine OECMs, and support for the livelihoods of coastal communities in the coral triangle.
- In line with these efforts we are very grateful the German Government through the International Climate Initiative provided an opportunity to establish and fund a broad partnership among CTI partner institutions under the SOMACORE Programme.
- Most of the Implementing Partners of the SOMACORE Programme, including Conservation International (CI) Timor Leste, Konservasi Indonesia, WWF Solomon Islands, WWF Malaysia, Coral Triangle Center, WCS Papua New Guinea, The Nature Conservancy, Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara, Indonesia-LMMA, Eco Custodian Advocates, GIZ and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have been supporting the CT 6 governments individually since and even before the establishment of CTI-CFF in 2009. Following the guidance of the 6 CTI countries under RPOA 1.0 and in coordination with the NCCC in each country, the SOMACORE partners developed individual concepts focusing on strategic RPOA 2.0 topics in the 3 priority seascapes.
- In this context, and recalling individual presentations by the partners in the Pre-SOM side event on Monday, we would like to highlight the continued commitment of GIZ and the SOMACORE implementing Partners to support the regional topics of high priority, specifically referring to the mainstreaming and implementation of the CTI-CFF Capacity Building Roadmap, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) policies and the ongoing support for CTI-CFF Technical Working Groups with emphasis on EAFM, CCA, MPA, Threatened Species and the Seascape Sub-Working Groups for the Sulu- Sulawesi Seascape (SSS), Lesser Sunda Seascape (LSS) and Bismarck Solomon Sea Ecoregion (BSS). Beyond the work on seascape level, we are committed to integrate CTI-CFF GESI Policy and the CTI-CFF GESI Policy Implementing Guidelines across all SOMACORE components, recognizing specifically the Women Leaders Forum's role in monitoring and evaluating the GESI Policy.



International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUCN Green List for Protected and Conserved Areas

Key reflections

- Created in 1948, **IUCN** is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of our more than 1,400 Member organisations and 17,000 experts. The Coral Triangle is already a leader in global marine conservation, and IUCN is committed to advocating this leadership.
- IUCN is proud to join the CTI-CFF family following the signing of the MOU in September 2024. As a committed partner, IUCN continues to support the CT6 Member Countries in strengthening the **effectiveness of MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)** to align with the GBF Targets, particularly the 30x30 goal.
- Through the CBD-recognised **IUCN Green List Standard for Protected and Conserved Areas**, the effectiveness of MPAs will be enhanced, fostering ecosystem health, protecting threatened species, and promoting equitable governance to benefit both people and nature. IUCN remains dedicated to advancing global policy and advocacy efforts within the Coral Triangle and is committed to supporting the implementation of the CTI-CFF RPOA v2.
- Through the SOMACORE project, we aim to help enhance the effectiveness of Coral Triangle MPAs and their connectivity, and build stronger, more resilient ecosystems and coastal communities. Central to this approach is a commitment to gender equality because when **conservation practices are fair and inclusive, it will lead to sustainable and successful biodiversity outcomes**. The Green List's emphasis on inclusive governance ensures that coastal communities, indigenous peoples, women, and youth are integral to conservation efforts. **This participatory approach aligns with RPOA 2.0's equitable management and benefit-sharing principles.**
- IUCN PCA looks forward to supporting the implementation of the **CTI MPA Managers Network Hub** with other key partners. We are keen to strengthen it through the **PANORAMA** Solutions platform, the CBD-recommended partnership that supports long-term strategic frameworks for knowledge management synergised with the CTI-CFF Capacity Building Roadmap.
- IUCN also encourages the CT6 and RS to further collaborate with CBD-designated Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) Centres in the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen knowledge sharing of effective management practices for Marine Protected and Conserved Areas. IUCN also look forward to further supporting CTI-CFF in shaping global and regional conservation agendas, such as in the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress.

**CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL**



Conservation International Timor Leste
Konservasi Indonesia



Key reflections

- Conservation International, represented by Konservasi Indonesia and Conservation International Timor Leste in this occasion, is delighted for the invaluable opportunity to support the partnership between the two countries in collaborative marine resources management in the Lesser Sunda Seascape, as one of the three priority areas in the Coral Triangle.
- With the focus on strengthening resilience of the local communities, protecting corridor of the threatened species, and increasing the management effectiveness of the MPAs, CI also aims to closely engage with verticals in national, provincial and local levels of Indonesia and Timor Leste governments in the establishment of MPAs and building capacity of the authorities and related stakeholders in the following years.
- We would also like to express our commitment to pursue a Memorandum of Understanding with CTI-CFF as a key partner in building, strengthening, and solidifying this seascape collaboration going forward, fueled by the SOMACORE project by GIZ.
- At last, we would like to extend our gratitude for the kind support from the regional and national stakeholders that we have received by far, especially from the CTI-CFF, National Coordinating Committees of Indonesia and Timor Leste, the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry of Timor Leste.



USAID

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle (SCT)
USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support (SuFiA TS)

KEY REFLECTION

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)

- For over fifteen years, USAID and CTI-CFF have forged a strong partnership to safeguard the vital marine and fisheries resources in the Coral Triangle region. This enduring collaboration began with the **US Coral Triangle Initiative (2009-2013)** and continued through initiatives such as **USAID OCEANS (2015-2020)** and **USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Local Capacity Development (2020-2022)**. The Regional Secretariat has also received support from another USAID activity, Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support (SuFiA TS) which has been instrumental in developing and nurturing the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Hub as well as supporting the Technical Working Groups. USAID funding also comes via the US Department of Interior support to the Coral Triangle Conservation Fund.
- Most recently, **USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle**, a grant co-created in 2021 and officially launched earlier this year, represents a direct engagement with CTI-CFF's Regional Secretariat. This grant embodies USAID's confidence in and commitment to fostering **regional leadership** in sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation.
- Regional leadership has been pivotal in advancing **authentic engagement** and more effective resource management, demonstrating the potential of localized expertise and governance. Under the capable leadership of **Dr. Frank Griffin**, the new Executive Director, the Regional Secretariat has articulated a clear vision to expand its technical expertise and establish itself as a **pre-eminent regional organization**.
- We also recognize the importance of partnerships in achieving these goals. Collaborations with organizations such as **IUCN and GIZ**, which fund critical positions supporting the Technical Working Groups, are instrumental in harmonizing donor efforts. USAID is committed to promoting and supporting such collaborations to maximize impact and streamline resources.
- USAID's teams at the Regional Asia Mission in **Bangkok** and the bilateral mission in **Timor-Leste** remain eager to engage further, learning from the successes achieved under CTI-CFF and exploring new avenues for collaboration.
- As we reflect on this long-standing partnership, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting CTI-CFF's growth and vision. Together, we can strengthen sustainable fisheries and conserve biodiversity in this globally significant region.
- We are proud of our shared accomplishments and remain excited about the opportunities ahead. USAID is grateful for the chance to contribute to this critical mission and looks forward to continuing this partnership in the years to come.

Key reflection

USAID SUSTAINABLE CORAL TRIANGLE (USAID SCT)

- USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle (SCT) marks a significant milestone as the first direct grant from USAID to be implemented by the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat (RS). Following its approval during Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM-18), the project officially commenced in early 2024, signaling a new era of collaboration and partnership.
- USAID SCT is honored that their contributions to the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) 2.0 through the CTI-CFF Working Groups and Cross-Cutting Initiatives have been recognized during the reporting sessions of this Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM-19). This acknowledgment reaffirms the commitment to supporting these vital initiatives and underscores the project's alignment with CTI-CFF's goals.
- Looking ahead, USAID SCT remains committed to our three-pronged approach of strengthening governance and regional policy frameworks; strengthening regional platforms and partnerships; and enhancing the availability of and access to sustainable blue financing in support of our goal of improved management of marine biodiversity and fisheries resources in a changing climate in the Indo-Pacific region.
- USAID SCT invite all member countries and partners to join us in these efforts, leveraging shared expertise and resources to achieve greater impact in the coming years. Together, we can continue building a robust foundation for sustainable development and the preservation of this globally significant region.

Key reflection: USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support (SuFiA TS)

- The USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support (SuFiA TS) Activity began in 2022 and has collaborated with the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) under the CTI-CFF–USAID SuFiA TS Partnership Concept Note.
- The SuFiA TS program is designed to address regional challenges in marine biodiversity and fisheries management while aligning with the goals of the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action 2.0.
- The program focuses on improving marine resource management, reducing unsustainable practices, and combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, with GESI and CCA as crosscutting themes.
- Key contributions of the USAID SuFiA TS program include:
 - Supporting the establishment of the Coral Triangle Conservation Fund (CTCF).
 - Advancing initiatives of CTI-CFF Technical Working Groups (TWGs) under Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), and the Women Leaders’ Forum (WLF). Specific contributions include:
 - Integrating CCA and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles into the CTI-CFF Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME) EAFM Plan and the COASTFISH Framework.
 - Assisting in drafting the COASTFISH program.
 - Supporting the development of the CTI-CFF Capacity Building Roadmap through the Coral Triangle Centre (CTC).
 - Supporting the Women Leaders’ Forum in establishing the Gender Equality Hub and the Youth Ambassadors Program, including the development of a Youth Ambassadors Program Roadmap.
 - Developing various guidelines, plans, and roadmaps to support EAFM, CCA, and WLF initiatives.
 - Delivering capacity-building activities focused on EAFM, CCA and GESI, monitoring, evaluation, and communication.
- The USAID SuFiA TS program will conclude in November 2025, with programs and plans set for implementation in its final year. The foundations established through this partnership are expected to serve as a basis for continued support by other strategic partners to the CTI-CFF.



Wildlife Conservation Society

Key reflection

- Reaffirms commitment to **strengthening engagement and coordination with the CTI**, whether through the Regional Secretariat (RS), National Coordinating Committees (NCCs), or by aligning with its partners, projects, and programmatic priorities to efforts address threats to marine and coastal ecosystems and communities, striving to enhance ecological integrity through the collective work of **WCS programs in five countries across the Southeast Asia-Pacific region**.
- Reaffirms support to CTI by complementing technical and financial assistance across various work streams and partners, which includes advancing the foundational activities of the **Coral Triangle Conservation Fund (CTCF)** in collaboration with the Conservation Finance Alliance, USAID-SuFiA TS, and with the guidance of the CTCF Board
- Highlighted key opportunities for alignment and collaboration between CTI and partners on **WCS projects in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape across Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines**.
- Looks forward to advancing area-based conservation within the **Bismarck Solomon Seascape** through upcoming partnerships between **GIZ-SOMACORE, WCS PNG**, and local partners.
- Warmly welcomes further discussions to **complement existing efforts and plans** on assessments and research critical to the protection of **threatened species and coral reefs**, recognizing these as pillars of biodiversity and community well-being. We also underscore the importance of **strengthening women and Indigenous Peoples and local community engagement** in conservation efforts and advancing the development of **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) guidelines** aligned with CTI's intent for private-sector partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms under the CTCF framework.
- Commends and **congratulates the commitment** demonstrated by everyone, including our field staff and community partners. WCS is dedicated to following through on this work in line with the **national priorities of the CT6 and the Global Biodiversity Framework**.



World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Coral Triangle Program

Key reflection

WWF Coral Triangle Program

- WWF Coral Triangle Program is inspired with the proceeds of the 19 th SOM of the CTI-CFF. WWF appreciates the ambitions, progress and tasks ahead as presented by the 6 member countries during the Country updates on day 1 of the SOM. WWF recognizes the challenges of achieving 30/30 and engaging with thousands of coastal communities as partners in conserving the marine and coastal resources of the CT region.
- WWF is very pleased with the signing of the MOU on December 4, 2024 between the Regional Secretariat of the CTI-CFF and WWF CTP. This MOU is a reflection of the trust, respect and long-standing collaboration between CTI-CFF and WWF since 2009.
- The MOU main scope of collaboration includes: 1. Delivering on the CTI-CFF Capacity Building Roadmap which we aim will address the challenges and ambitions of the countries in achieving 30/30; 2. Migratory corridors for threatened marine species that will connect the CT region and will spearhead targeted actions within the three priority seascapes of the CTI-CFF; and 3. Scaling solutions for plastic waste management in MPA/OECM as a basis for resilient communities and habitats.
- WWF's delegation will depart from Dili in a positive spirit. Having witnessed the togetherness during Pre SOM and SOM, WWF wishes to congratulate the Government of Timor-Leste as host to the meetings, Chair and co-Chair of the CSO, Pak Celestino and Pak Hendra and the Regional Secretariat with creating this collaborative atmosphere.
- WWF looks forward to working with CTI-CFF all in achieving our collective ambitions as stated in the RPOA 2.0.



Thank You

PRESENTATION TITLE- [NAME OF PRESENTER]



SOM19
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