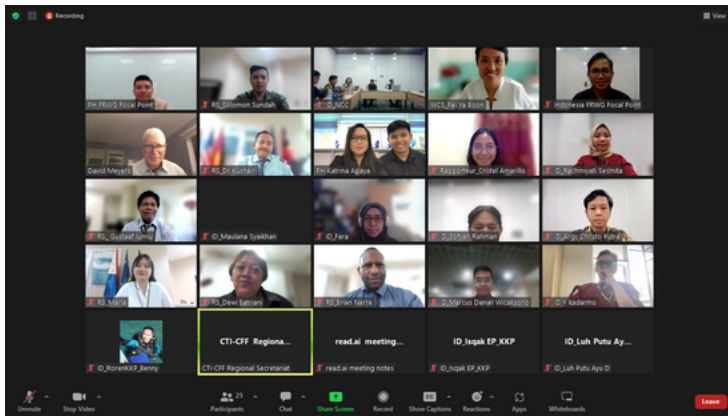




CTI-CFF Newsletter

ISSUE 27



The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and Strategic Partners hybrid meeting

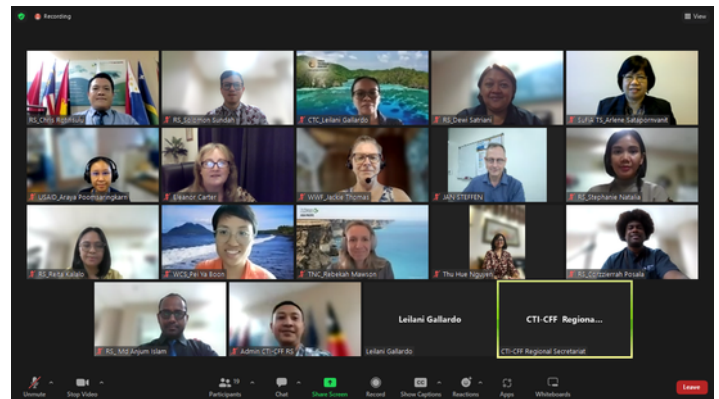
In a pivotal collaboration, the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat (RS) and Strategic Partners are convening in Manado, Indonesia, on October 9, 2023. This hybrid meeting marks a strategic moment to deliberate on critical objectives aimed at propelling the Coral Triangle Initiative forward.

The primary focus is on fortifying the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action 2.0 (RPoA 2.0) and associated plans. Special attention will be given to the acceleration of activities in 2023, with a meticulous examination of each activity or set of activities. Partners will actively identify their roles in the implementation, secure funding sources, and define the timing and locations for these endeavors. (*)



The Financial Resources Working Group Special Meeting

In order to discuss the development of the Regional Conservation Trust Fund, including the Trust Fund Name, CEO Trust Fund Recruiting Process, Trust Fund Governance Structure (e.g., Advisory Board, Grant Committee), Legal and Tax of the Fund, Logo and Branding, the CTI-CFF regional secretariat called a special meeting with CFA and WCS. (*)



The 9th MPA REX In-situ Online Meeting

The 9th MPA REX In-situ Online Meeting on 11th October 2023 marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts of the CTI-CFF's MPA Working Group. Participants will exchange insights on Coral Restoration Guideline Development, Capacity Needs for Coral Restoration, and MPA Management Interventions for Coral Restoration. Papua New Guinea will share its rich experiences and insights into Traditional Marine Conservation Practices.

As the global community grapples with the urgent need to protect our oceans, the 9th MPA Regional Exchange stands as a beacon of hope and determination. Through shared knowledge and collaboration, participants will pave the way for a more sustainable future for the Coral Triangle and beyond. (*)



A Message of Hope

from the Acting Executive Director



As we reflect on the final quarter of 2023, it is with great pleasure that we present to you Issue 27 of our CTI-CFF Quarterly Newsletter. This edition encapsulates the dynamic and impactful initiatives that have shaped our collective journey towards marine conservation and sustainable development in the Coral Triangle region.

Throughout October to December, our community remained steadfast in our commitment to fostering collaboration, innovation, and resilience. From virtual gatherings to in-person engagements, we navigated the challenges of the times with determination and resilience.

This quarter's newsletter is brimming with insightful updates and highlights from a multitude of impactful events and meetings. From the Financial Resources Working Group Special Meeting to the Strategic Partners hybrid meeting, and from the In-Situ Online Meetings of various technical working groups to the momentous Pre-Senior Officials' and Senior Officials' meetings, each gathering has contributed to our shared vision of a thriving Coral Triangle.

Additionally, we bid farewell to esteemed members of our regional secretariat team and welcomed new opportunities for capacity building and partnership development.

As we delve into the pages of this newsletter, let us celebrate the achievements, milestones, and collaborations that have fortified our mission. Together, we continue to chart a course towards a more resilient and sustainable future for the Coral Triangle and beyond.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and support.

Christovel RS. Rotinsulu

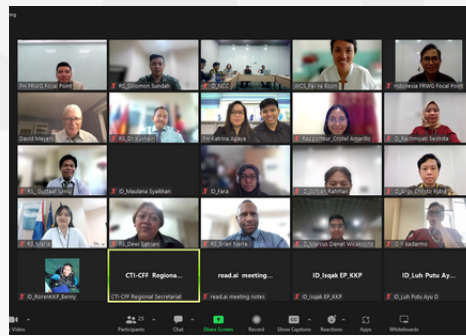
Acting Executive Director CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat

Newsletter Highlights

- **The Financial Resources Working Group Special Meeting**
- **The 9th MPA REX In-situ Online Meeting**
- **A Message of Hope from the Executive Director**
- **The In-Situ Online Meeting of Climate Change Adaptation Working Group**
- **Coral Triangle Conservation Fund Advisory Group Meeting**
- **the In-Situ Online Meeting of Threatened Species Working Group**
- **the In-Situ Online Meeting of Seascapes Technical Working Group Back-to-Back with EAFM Technical Working Group**
- **Toward the SDGs in the Coral Triangle**
- **CTI-CFF, Partners Capacity Building**
- **Board of Professors of UGM at the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat**
- **Post-Award Orientation for USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle**

Newsletter Highlights

- Annual Forum of the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas
- Courtesy visit to MOFA
- Meeting with NCC ID
- Partner Capacity Building Roadmap "Scaling, Scaling, Accelerating & Sustaining Skills in the Coral Triangle"
- A Visit by East Java Province to the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat
- RS Team Bonding and Capacity Building
- Pre-Senior Officials' meeting and The Senior officials' meeting 18th of Hope from the Executive Director
- Fostering Coastal Resilience and the Blue Economy: CTI-CFF's Insight from the ADB Workshop
- A Visit by East Java Province to the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat
- Farewell to our regional secretariat team members

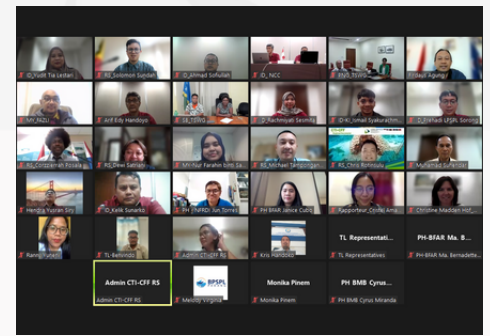


The In-Situ Online Meeting of Climate Change Adaptation Working Group

Participants discussed updating Country Focal Points, implementing decisions from the 17th Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), and recruiting Technical Program Managers (TPMs) for climate adaptation initiatives. They also shared updates from partners like the Sustainable Fisheries Management (SUFIA) program. Deliberations included work plans and budgets for the Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group (TWG) for the upcoming years and transitioning leadership roles. The meeting served as a platform for robust discussions and collaborative decision-making, reaffirming commitment to building climate resilience in the Coral Triangle. Through collective action, the CTI-CFF continues its journey toward a sustainable future. (*)

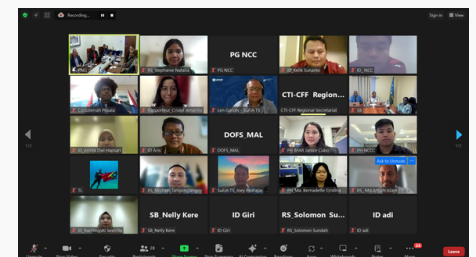
Coral Triangle Conservation Fund Advisory Group Meeting

In a recent meeting, the Coral Triangle Conservation Fund Advisory Board focused on key areas to fortify conservation efforts. The Financial Resources Working Group (FRWG) delved into Trust Fund intricacies, covering basics, governance structure, and the decision-making process for the fund's name. Discussions extended to the crucial recruitment of the Trust Fund CEO, addressing leadership needs. Legal and tax considerations and the visual identity through Logo and Branding were underscored. Updates were shared with both FRWG and Strategic Partners, emphasizing progress and the active involvement of partners. The CEO Roundtable and ongoing Trust Fund CEO recruitment were highlighted, setting the stage for Next Steps and proposed points for the upcoming Strategic Operations Meeting (SOM). The Advisory Board's commitment to the region's biodiversity and sustainability shines through these strategic initiatives. (*)



the In-Situ Online Meeting of Threatened Species Working Group

The Threatened Species Technical Working Group recently convened to discuss key advancements in marine conservation within the Coral Triangle. Representatives celebrated successful workshops and symposiums, highlighting ongoing initiatives like the TRIPOD Project. Looking ahead, they agreed on future plans, including in-person meetings in 2024 and collaboration with the Seascapes Working Group. The meeting concluded with the approval of the 2024 Workplan, marking another step forward in efforts to protect marine biodiversity in the region. (*)



the In-Situ Online Meeting of Seascapes Working Group Back-to-Back with EAFM Working Group

The Seascapes Technical Working Group showcased progress and collaboration within the Coral Triangle.

Appreciation was extended to USAID SuFiA-TS for supporting the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape Regional Exchange (SSS REX), highlighting ongoing initiatives such as the CTI-CFF/UQ/GEF project proposal (GEF-8) led by Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

The meeting concluded with appreciation for the leadership of Ms. Yvonne Tio and Mr. Fidelino Sousa Marques, and support for the transition of leadership roles. (*)

Annual Forum of the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas

This event serves as a focal hub for the worldwide Green List community, offering a dedicated platform to define the IUCN Green List priorities for the forthcoming year. It stands as a catalyst for impactful initiatives and strategic growth within our shared framework.

This first year's forum focused on three primary objectives:

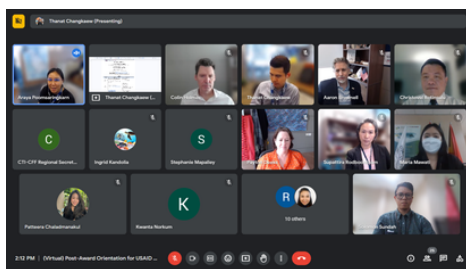
- Discussing progress and priorities of the IUCN Green List Development Plan for 2024;
- Rolling out the Development Plan to scale up the Green List at global and regional levels;
- Designing a framework for action towards the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP 16 and beyond.

The upcoming year holds significant importance as we embark on a new cycle of revisions for both the Standard and the User Manual, accompanied by the introduction of new Assurance arrangements.

These advancements will set the groundwork for a renewed momentum for the Green List, particularly pertinent in light of the CBD COP 16. Addressing the challenge of enhancing recognition and use of the standard will further fortify the effectiveness of protected and conserved areas systems.

The forum's main objective is to conduct an annual strategic review of the Green List program, assessing progress and establishing priorities for the upcoming year through an adaptive management approach. This inaugural edition will serve as an occasion to update on the newly implemented management and governance structure of the Green List, which includes the Panel, the Standard Committee, and the Steering Group.

The event also delved into a regional focus on the ambitious '30x30' target, facilitating discussions on the instrumental role of the IUCN Green List in mobilizing countries and fostering global commitment toward this crucial conservation objective. It also celebrated the dedicated commitments and noteworthy accomplishments of an expanding and vibrant community of experts, practitioners and partners. (*)



Post-Award Orientation for USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle

The meeting was an orientation for the CTI-CFF team, hosted by Aaron Brownell, the Director of the Regional Environment Office at USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia. Attendees introduced themselves and their roles within the organization, establishing a sense of community and collaboration.

Various members of the Regional Environment Office, Office of Financial Management, and Program Office discussed their roles in the award agreement and introduced the main Agreement Officer and Agreement Administrative Officer. The team outlined the agenda for the meeting, which included an overview of the award agreement.

CTI-CFF receives a total amount of \$2 million and a period of performance from December 2023 to November 2028. In the orientation, USAID provided overview of key provisions in the PIO Agreement including approval of agency and recipient collaboration, authorized geographic codes, branding and marketing requirements, eligibility rules for goods and services, and budget limitations and revisions.

The finance team explained the process for requesting and receiving advance payments, as well as the liquidation process. They also discussed the requirements for quarterly financial reports and tax reporting. Kwanta Norkum provided an overview of outreach and communication, emphasizing the importance of messaging and submitting bi-weekly or monthly bullet reports.

Nigoon Jithai discussed the importance of using agency standard and the three types of indicators used by USAID. They also mentioned the need for a composite indicator to measure institutional or platform capacity and performance, and the importance of gender equality and female empowerment in achieving results. Overall, the meeting set the tone for collaboration and highlighted the importance of each team member's contribution to the success of the project. (*)



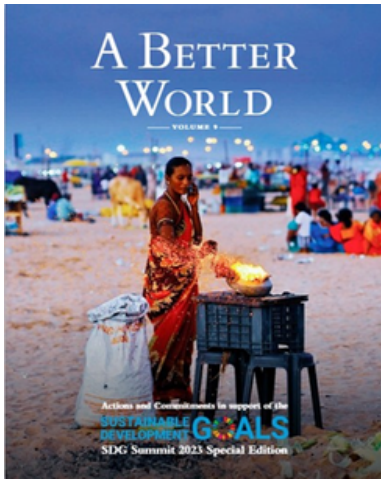
Board of Professors of Gajah Mada University of Yogyakarta visited RS

In a spirit of shared commitment to advancing sustainable development, a delegation of distinguished professors from Gajah Mada University (UGM) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, embarked on a journey to the heart of North Sulawesi. This academic endeavor, known as the 'Professors go to Frontiers' program, was organized by the Board of Professors of UGM, with a focused agenda centered around the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).(*)

Courtesy visit to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia

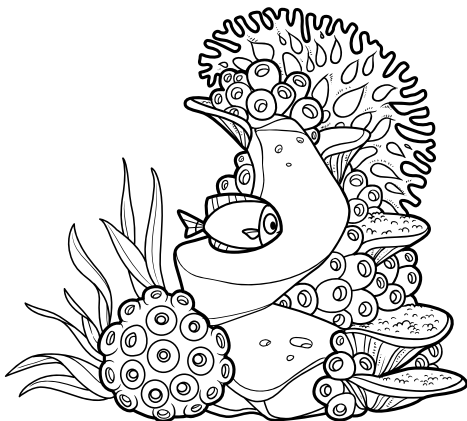
The Regional Secretariat paid a courtesy visit to MOFA in Jakarta today. We were received by Mr. Witjaksana Adji, Director of Asia-Pacific and African Intra-Regional Cooperation and had a friendly discussion around CTI-CFF and the Regional Secretariat. Mr. Adji gave a lot of advices for Regional Secretariat to perform better and for profiling of CTI-CFF at international events. (*)





CTI-CFF — Toward the SDGs in the Coral Triangle

The Executive Director of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat had the privilege of attending the UN 2023 SDG Summit in New York last September, showcasing CTI-CFF's steadfast dedication to supporting the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Secretariat's endorsement of SDGs is articulated in an article titled "CTI-CFF — Toward the SDGs in the Coral Triangle" featured in the A Better World Vol. 9 publication, shedding light on the collective efforts of the six Coral Triangle nations in conserving marine resources that significantly contribute to SDGs. We are proud to be part of this global initiative towards a better and more sustainable world. (*)



Partner Capacity Building Roadmap “Scaling, Scaling, Accelerating & Sustaining Skills in the Coral Triangle”

In a pivotal collaboration, the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat (RS) and Strategic Partners are convening in Manado, Indonesia, on October 9, 2023. This hybrid meeting marks a strategic moment to deliberate on critical objectives aimed at propelling the Coral Triangle Initiative forward.

The primary focus is on fortifying the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action 2.0 (RPOA 2.0) and associated plans. Special attention will be given to the acceleration of activities in 2023, with a meticulous examination of each activity or set of activities. Partners will actively identify their roles in the implementation, secure funding sources, and define the timing and locations for these endeavors.

Additionally, the meeting will serve as a platform to discuss the next steps in accelerating progress within key priority areas for the CTI-CFF. A collaborative effort will culminate in the development of an agreed Capacity Building Roadmap, setting the course for enhanced capabilities and sustainable advancements. This gathering signifies a commitment to synergy and strategic planning, reflecting the shared dedication to the vitality of the Coral Triangle. (*)



Meeting with NCC ID

The regional secretariat of CTI-CFF visited Indonesia's National Coordination Committees (NCCs) at the Ministry of Marine Affairs (MMAF) in Jakarta to talk about challenges facing the office and to encourage future progress. (*)



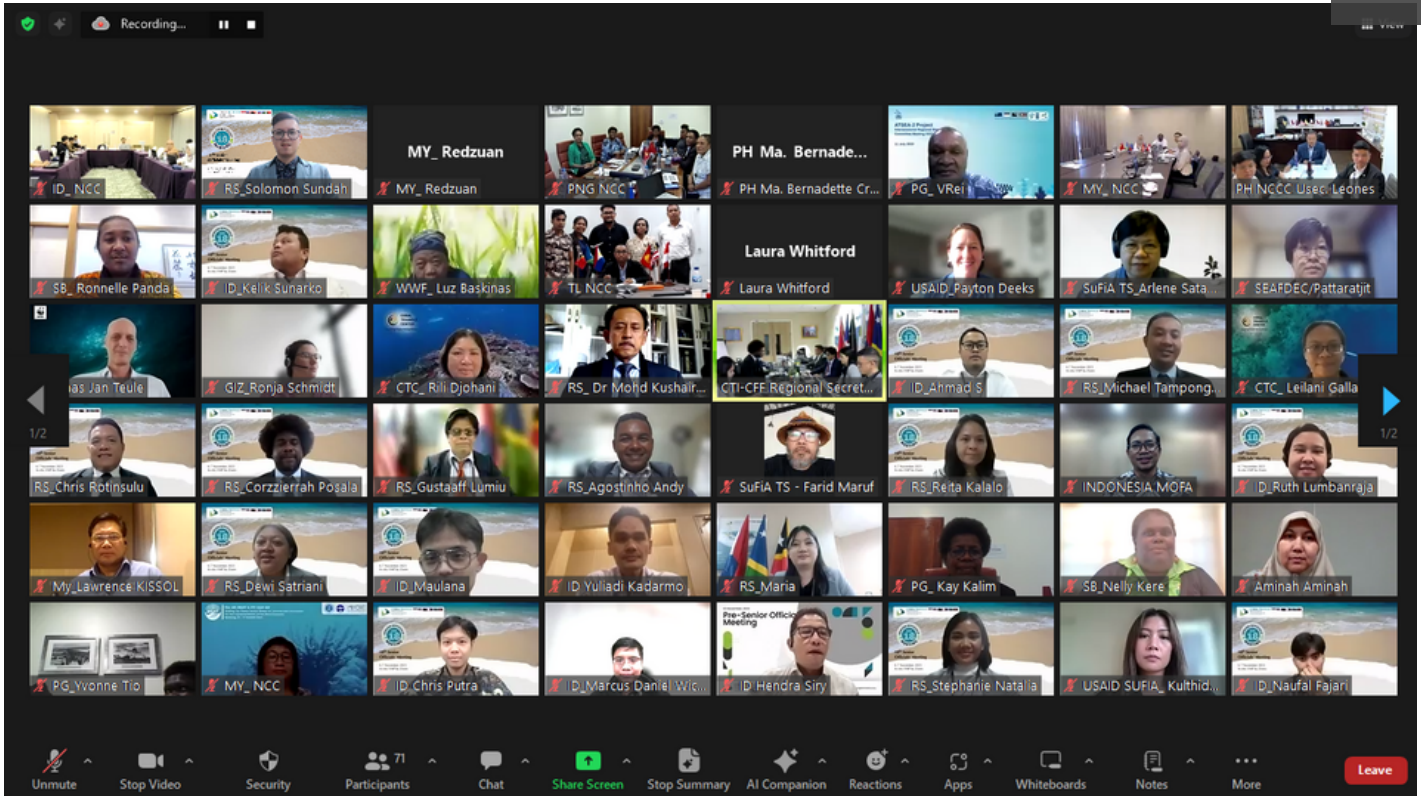
A Visit by East Java Province to the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat

The Regional Secretariat had the honor of hosting a visit from the Marine and Fisheries Agency (DKP) of East Java Province team on Thursday, December 14, 2023.

During their visit to North Sulawesi for benchmarking and learning purposes, the DKP team took the time to listen to a presentation on the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) and discuss potential collaboration for the future.

The East Java Provincial Government aims to enhance its role in sustainable marine resource utilization efforts. The RS team, led by Technical Program Manager Mr. Corzzierrah Posala, presented on CTI-CFF and its regional role, encouraging the East Java DKP team to coordinate with the Central Government to increase East Java's contribution to the CTI-CFF goals. (*)

PRE-SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING



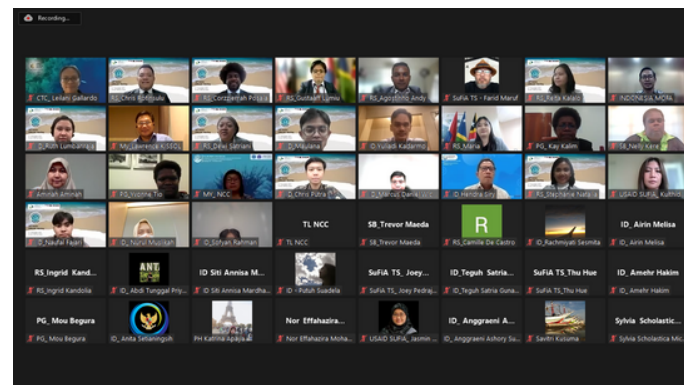
The CTI-CFF Pre-SOM meeting covered various topics, starting with the Regional Plan of Action, budget, and cooperation. Delays led to the Indonesian representative assuming the chair's role. Discussions included an apology issue, progress reports, and concerns about the ED appointment process.

The meeting addressed the financial audit report, outstanding contributions, proposed budgets, and integrity matters. Topics extended to a management audit, financial procedures, and title changes. The Coral Triangle strategies, biodiversity framework, and international policy discussions were detailed, emphasizing coherence in national strategies. The meeting concluded with discussions on the trust fund, marine protected areas, and RPOA 2.0. The CTI-CFF team emphasized resource mobilization and acknowledged contributions from partners.

Following that the CTI-CFF regional team centered discussions on financial resources and conservation projects. Concerns about race events were raised by Malaysia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea. The need for a copy of the regional trust fund agreement was acknowledged. Upcoming meetings in the Philippines and C-tw were highlighted, with a physical meeting planned for March 2024 and another in September 2023. The completion of RPO 2.0 was acknowledged, and co-chairing of the working group for the next year was discussed.

Updates included the approval of the MPA Working Group 2023 work plan and budget, plans for CTMPAS third round Nomination in 2024, and the appointment of chair and co-chair for the MPA Working Group. Discussions extended to partner support proposals related to FA 2.0.

The team delved into the work plan and budget for the upcoming year, focusing on the threatened species working group. A change of chair and co-chair was agreed upon, and discussions touched upon fund utilization for academic purposes and the role of universities. (*)



The 18th Senior Officials' Meeting



Event Photos



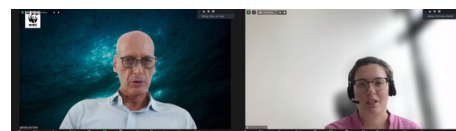
The CTI-CFF Senior Officials' Meeting on November 18, 2023, addressed key aspects crucial for the initiative's progress.

Financial and Conservation Focus:

- o Discussions centered on the adjusted agenda, emphasizing financial resources and conservation projects.
- o Concerns raised by member countries about race events were duly acknowledged.
- o Attention was drawn to the regional trust fund agreement, highlighting its significance.
- o Upcoming physical meetings in the Philippines and C-tw were outlined for March 2024 and September 2023, respectively.
- o Acknowledgment of RPO 2.0 completion and discussions on co-chairing the working group for the next year underscored collaborative efforts.

Updates, Decisions, and Plans for 2023-2024:

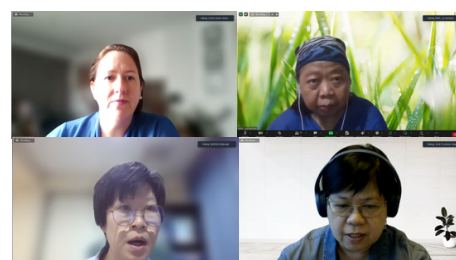
- Notable updates included the approval of the NPA Working Group 2023 work plan and budget.
- Plans for the Cpn Pass third round Nomination and awards in 2024 were discussed.
- Appointments for chair and co-chair for the NPA Working Group for the next two years were made.
- Partner support proposals related to FA 2.0 were deliberated upon.



Work Plan and Budget Discussion for Threatened Species Working Group:

- o The team focused on the upcoming year's work plan and budget, specifically addressing the threatened species working group.
- o Plans included conducting meetings, workshops, and webinars, with an expanded scope covering various marine species.
- o Changes in chair and co-chair were agreed upon, with Solomon Islands as chair and Timor Leste as co-chair from 2024.
- o Utilization of funds for academic purposes and the role of universities in supporting the program were discussed.

The meeting underscored the commitment of member countries to collaborative initiatives, financial prudence, and conservation efforts within the Coral Triangle Initiative. (*)



Fostering Coastal Resilience and the Blue Economy: CTI-CFF's Insight from the ADB Workshop



The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) recently participated in the Workshop on Fostering Coastal Resilience and the Blue Economy, held from 13-17 November 2023 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. The event, organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), brought together representatives from various regions.

The workshop provided a platform for discussions on strategies and global examples of good practices in coastal resilience and blue economy development. Designed to assist Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) and Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Golden Triangle (IMT-GT) member countries, the event engaged environmental practitioners and planners experienced in coastal resilience and blue economy development from these regions.

One of the primary goals was to collaboratively identify key actions and measures to implement the joint BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT blue economy strategy, guiding the subregions' efforts until 2030. Among the objectives was the dissemination of global practices and lessons, including the experiences of BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT member countries in coastal resilience and the implementation of nature-based integrated solutions, with CTI-CFF playing a pivotal role.

Representative of CTI-CFF in the workshop was Mr. Christovel R.S. Rotinsulu, Acting Executive Director of the Regional Secretariat, presenting insights on "Fostering Regional Cooperation to Safeguard Marine and Coastal Resources," drawing from the experiences of the CTI-CFF.

In the presentation, he emphasized the concept of the blue economy, defining it as the sustainable use and management of ocean resources for economic growth and development. The scope of the blue economy encompasses a variety of industries, such as fisheries, tourism, shipping, and renewable energy.

An illustrative example showcased during the workshop emphasized how the blue economy is intricately linked to local economic development through ecotourism. Coastal communities, by promoting sustainable tourism practices and showcasing their unique marine ecosystems, can attract visitors, generate income, and simultaneously preserve their natural resources.

Aligned with the objectives outlined in the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) 2.0 until 2030, CTI-CFF is actively working towards achieving the blue economy. One specific objective states that by 2030, the risk resilience and socioeconomic conditions, especially in terms of food security and coastal livelihoods, of communities residing in the Coral Triangle region will be improved.

Regional Secretariat Team Bonding and Capacity Building



At the end of 2023, the Regional Secretariat (RS) team had the opportunity to engage in team bonding and capacity-building activities during a short trip to one of the marine conservation areas in Indonesia, categorized as level 4 in the CTMPAS. On their brief journey to Waisai, Raja Ampat, the complete RS team gained extensive knowledge about marine ecosystems and conservation.

The RS staff came from various countries and had diverse educational backgrounds, thus visiting such a place has helped enhance our understanding of the importance of conservation. Team members with expertise in conservation, such as our Acting Executive Director, Mr. Chris Rotinsulu, who has been involved in marine conservation for several decades, also had the chance to share their knowledge. The Marine Conservation 101 session was delivered in an engaging manner, covering information on Marine Protected Areas (MPA), sustainable fisheries, and providing a glimpse into coral taxonomy.

Another topic covered was monitoring and evaluation, presented by the MEM Mr. Agostinho Andy Irmawan. Following the sessions, the team participated in team-building activities to strengthen teamwork led by the TPM Mr. Corzzierrah Posala and the FOM Mrs. Reita Kalalo. (*)

The workshop served as a crucial platform for CTI-CFF to contribute valuable insights, learn from global experiences, and strengthen collaborative efforts towards fostering coastal resilience and promoting the sustainable blue economy in the Coral Triangle region. As the CTI-CFF continues to play a key role in regional initiatives, it remains committed to realizing the vision outlined in its objectives, ensuring a resilient and sustainable future for the communities within the Coral Triangle. (*)

FAREWELL TO OUR REGIONAL SECRETARIAT MEMBERS



*Dr. Mohd Kushairi
Mohd Rajuddin*

Dr. Kushairi was appointed the Executive Director of CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat at the 15th Senior Officials Meeting in 2019, responsible for overseeing the whole organization. Dr. Kushairi has successfully served for a challenging four years amidst the global Covid-19 pandemic.



Mr. Gustaaf Adolf Lumiu

Mr. Gustaaf Lumiu was hired at the 15th Senior Officials' Meeting 15 in 2019 as Deputy Executive Director for Corporate Services, overseeing the Finance, Operations, and Communication divisions. Mr. Gustaaf, who has experience with trust funds and the blue economy, is assisting the Executive Director in establishing the CTI-CFF Trust Fund Initiative.



Mr. Brian Nerre

The Regional Secretariat appointed Mr. Brian Nerre as a Finance and Operations Manager at the end of 2021, where he supervises finance and operations staff members.



Mr. Md Anjum Islam

Mr. Anjum was hired by the Regional Secretariat to serve as the Monitoring and Evaluation Manager. Mr. Anjum helped a lot in the finalization of the RPOA 2.0, and develop monitoring tools to tracking the progress of RPOA 2.0 towards its goals.

welcome



Mr. Agostinho Andy Irmawan

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Agostinho as the new Monitoring and Evaluation Manager. With his experience in this area, the CT6 countries should be able to meet the objectives of RPOA 2.0.





CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

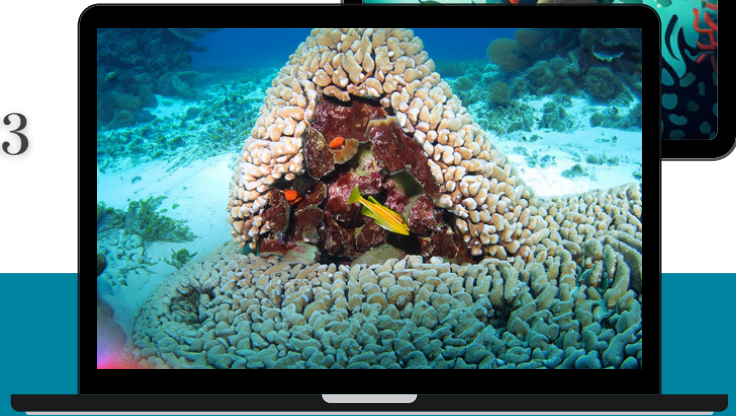
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES
AND FOOD SECURITY



NEWSLETTER

Issue 27

October - December 2023



The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) is a multilateral partnership of six countries working together to sustain extraordinary marine and coastal resources by addressing crucial issues such as food security, climate change and marine biodiversity.

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