



CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES, AND FOOD SECURITY

A new multilateral partnership to help safeguard the marine and coastal resources for future generations



CALL FOR ACTION

- Expert support to develop CTI Plan of Action;
- CTI Technical Working Group Meetings;
- Targeted Research on CTI areas especially on tuna spawning, climate change adaptation and threatened species status;
- Senior Officials Meetings (SOMs);
- CTI Ministerial Meeting;
- CTI launched at World Ocean Conference 2009;
- CTI promotions;
- Implementation of CTI programs in pilot areas in each country;
- Implementation of CTI programs in priority seascapes;
- Development of marine protected areas network;
- Alternative livelihood programs;
- Establishment of a rapid alert system for marine biodiversity in the Coral Triangle.

The Region

The 5.7 million km² of the Coral Triangle is home to the highest diversity of marine life on earth. This region stretches across six countries: Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste. The Coral Triangle is recognized as an area of global significance, blessed with over 75% of known coral species, over 30% of the world's coral reefs, over 3,000 species of fish, and the greatest extent of mangrove forests of any region in the world.

These extraordinary marine biological resources directly sustain the lives of over 120 million people and benefit millions more worldwide. The primary human benefits include:

- Direct livelihood, income and food security benefits
- Major spawning and nursery ground for commercially important tuna species, which support multi-billion dollar industry;
- Healthy marine ecosystems contribute to a growing nature-based tourism industry;
- Healthy reefs systems and mangroves help to protect coastal communities from storms and tsunamis, reducing casualties, injuries, and reconstruction costs;
- On many of the region's islands, the marine and coastal realm is a foundation for traditional cultures and social fabric.

Unfortunately, the marine-based natural resources of the CT and the economic and social benefits they generate are at risk, threatened by a range of factors. These include over-fishing, destructive fishing practices such as cyanide and blast fishing, coral bleaching and ocean acidification due to global climate change, pollution, and sedimentation from coastal development. Individually, each of these threats can weaken the living ocean's health; combined they are causing a situation of crisis that only a transformational approach can resolve.

The Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI)

In August 2007, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia wrote to seven other leaders proposing a new Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI). Responding positively, the leaders formally endorsed the CTI in the APEC Leaders Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Clean Development in early September. The CTI was again formally endorsed in November by Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area, (BIMPEAGA) and ASEAN. Prime Minister Somare of Papua New Guinea expressed his support for the CTI in his keynote address to the South Pacific Regional Environment Program's (SPREP) regional meeting in October. Thus the stage was set for Senior Officials to meet and agree upon a way forward for the CTI.

CTI Regional Secretariat within
the Government of Indonesia

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The six governments met in a first formal CTI Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in Bali on 6-7 December 2007, where they agreed on:

- a common understanding of the value of the CT's marine and coastal biological resources;
- a provisional set of nine Guiding Principles;
- a framework for a "CTI Plan of Action" to be developed during 2008 and adopted at the highest political level.

This meeting was followed by a consultation event attended by Senior Officials from Australia, the United States, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and several non-governmental organizations (NGO). Each of the invited guests endorsed the outcomes and made offers of support to the process moving forward.

Following the meeting, representatives from all participating organizations met with President Yudhoyono to report on the outcomes of the CTI Senior Officials Meeting. The President thanked all the CT six governments for their commitment, and the other governments and external partners for their support to conserve marine resources.

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Goals and Objectives:

- "Priority Seascapes" designated and effectively managed (large-scale geographies prioritized for investments and action, where best practices are demonstrated and expanded)
- Ecosystem approach to management of fisheries and other marine resources fully applied
- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) established and effectively managed, including community-based resource utilization and management
- Climate change adaptation measures achieved
- Threatened species status improving

Actions

- Assessment, monitoring and information management
- Sustainable financing
- Capacity building
- Public/private partnerships
- Enabling laws and policies

The Roadmap

The SOM endorsed a Roadmap, outlining a process to develop the CTI Plan of Action. To facilitate this process:

- The Indonesian Government will continue in a Secretariat role for the CTI;
- A CTI Coordination Committee (technical working group) charged with developing the Plan of Action has been set up, composed of representatives from each country;
- Between January – June 2008, intensive consultations will be conducted in each country;
- A second meeting of the SOM will be hosted by the Philippines during the third week of June 2008. There a final draft of the CTI Plan of Action will be reviewed for adoption.
- Once adopted it will be recommended to ministers in all six countries for approval and a date for a ministerial meeting will be agreed.
- The World Oceans Conference in Manado, Sulawesi (Indonesia) in May 2009 could provide an opportunity for a Coral Triangle Summit of leaders to adopt a CTI Plan of Action and announce specific programs in each country to translate the Plan into tangible action.

In the meantime a number of developments are taking place in dialogue with international donors and partners across the full range of existing and potential stakeholders – other governments, bi- and multilateral agencies, industry actors, civil society groups and the local communities for whom success of this initiative is so important.

