

U.S. Coral Triangle Initiative Support Program Monthly Program Update

October 2011

Supporting countries of the Coral Triangle region to sustain their marine resources

Agreement to Establish Coral Triangle Initiative Permanent Secretariat Adopted

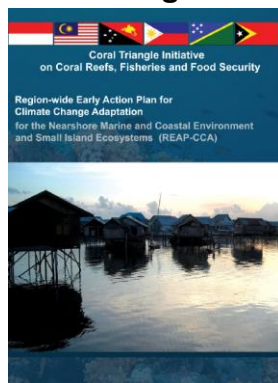
The Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) entered a critical new phase on October 28, 2011 when ministers from the six Coral Triangle countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste - officially adopted agreements on the establishment of the permanent Regional Secretariat of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security at the third CTI Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia. The six countries also endorsed other decisions such as the CTI Secretariat Transition Roadmap that includes among others: recruitment of Secretariat staff and initiation of collection of country contributions within the 12-month period. The



Senior Ministers from the Coral Triangle Countries at the 3rd CTI Ministerial Meeting

countries also elected Malaysia as the Chair and the Independent States of Papua New Guinea as Vice Chair of the CTI Council of Ministers for the period of two years from November 20, 2011 to November 19, 2013. It also agreed to extend the mandate of the Jakarta-based CTI Interim Secretariat until the permanent secretariat becomes fully operational. The achievements mark a critical turning point for the CTI and are the culmination of significant effort by six countries and development partners including the US Government through the USAID funded US CTI Support Program.

Coral Triangle Countries Commit to Region-Wide Early Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation



The Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) 7th Senior Officials Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia from October 25-28, 2011 marked a landmark occasion with achievements including not only consensus on the agreements to establish the permanent CTI Secretariat, but the adoption of the first target of the CTI Regional Plan of Action achieved. Addressing the Regional Plan's Climate Change Goal, the eagerly awaited *Region-wide Early Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation for Nearshore Marine and Coastal Environment and Small Island Ecosystems*, prioritizes immediate actions that governments and communities must implement to reduce the impacts of climate variability and increase the resiliency of the Coral Triangle's coastal and marine resources. Trends indicate that up to 95% of the coral reefs in the Coral Triangle may be under severe threat by 2050 due to climate change and stresses on fisheries, directly jeopardizing the lives and livelihoods of the region's 120 million coastal inhabitants. The Region-wide Early Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation was developed with support from the US CTI

Support Program, which will continue to assist the CTI with the implementation of a number of the Action Plan's recommendations.

Business Partnerships Showcase Innovative Technologies to Conserve Coral Triangle Resources. Business leaders engaged 200 participants at the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) Regional Business Forum on October 10-11, 2011 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to celebrate new partnerships to protect Coral Triangle resources while ensuring



Short Films Highlight Conservation Success Stories



Two short films which focus on successful community-based marine conservation activities in Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea have been produced by the Coral Triangle Support Partnership. Using footage and interviews collected as part of a documentary expedition in September 2011, the three-minute films explain the roles of local people in the management precious marine areas.

In Solomon Islands, we hear the story of the 3,500 member Tetepare Descendants Association which protects the marine resources in one of the largest uninhabited islands in the region. The film from Papua New Guinea shows us how the local community in Nuakata Island are now able to combine ancestral knowledge with modern scientific techniques to safeguard their environment.

The films will be published online soon but those eager for a peek can view these online with the password [spindrift](http://vimeo.com/31045572) at <http://vimeo.com/31045572> and <http://vimeo.com/31036015>

CTI Partner Portal

The CTI Partner Portal is a web-based platform to support information sharing and online planning and collaboration among partners supporting the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI). Visit www.uscti.org and log on using **coral** as username and **triangle** as password.

New Resources

Training Report: CTI Climate Change Adaptation for Coastal Communities Course, Port Moresby, PNG, Sept 18-29, 2011

Seascapes Guidebook: Comparison of Approaches to Management of Large Marine Areas, published by Conservation International and the Wildlife Conservation Society

economic growth. Hosted by the Government of Malaysia with support the US CTI Support Program and WWF, this forum drew representatives from businesses such as Google USA, Nokia, Shangri-La Hotels, and TESCO chain stores. Michael T. Jones, Chief Technology Advocate for software giant Google, stated "The challenges of the Coral Triangle Initiative are



Coral Triangle representatives together with US Ambassador to Malaysia Paul Jones at the CTI Regional Business Forum

of a scale requiring cooperation between the peoples of these nations, their governments, and the businesses that serve them. Google is pleased to be an active part of these positive initiatives to sustain fragile ecosystems, enhance economic and natural prosperity, and more closely connect people so that the best ideas and ambitions can be realized." Senior government officials, including US Ambassador to Malaysia Paul W. Jones, witnessed the announcement of 11 innovative partnerships that will help protect sensitive marine species, strengthen competitiveness of local fishermen in the marketplace, and incorporate sustainability benchmarks into supply chains.

Joint Monitoring Curbs Blast Fishing in Proposed Marine Park in Sabah

Fishermen engaged in blast fishing activities were apprehended following a joint monitoring activity at the 1.02 million hectare proposed Tun Mustapha Park in Sabah, Malaysia. The monitoring activity held in September 2011 was led by community leaders known as honorary wildlife wardens, officers from the Department of Fisheries Sabah and staff from WWF-Malaysia. Following the success, the monitoring activity will be carried out regularly to help alert enforcement agencies of any incidence that contravenes fisheries law in the area.

Secretariat Presents CTI Website at Ministerial Welcome Dinner

On October 27, 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia, Dr. Suseno Sukoyono, Executive Chair of the Interim Regional Secretariat presented the new CTI Website to the senior ministers, officials and guests at the welcome dinner for the 3rd CTI Ministerial Meeting. He stated that with the agreements to be adopted at the Ministerial Meeting, "CTI was entering a new era, and that to mark the occasion the website would now serve as the official home for CTI news, information, resources, online collaboration, and as the gateway for the family of websites and portals supporting the CTI. Following this soft launch, he stated that "we will officially launch the site in November with domain name of www.coraltriangleinitiative.org."



About the US Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) Support Program

The US CTI Support Program is part of the United States government's commitment to promote the sustainable management of the marine and coastal resources in the Coral Triangle. In cooperation with the CT national governments and the international community, this five-year program provides technical assistance and helps build capacity to address critical issues including food security, climate change, and marine biological diversity. To get a copy of the monthly update, send an email to info@uscti.org. For more details about the program, visit www.uscti.org.