



The Coral Triangle Atlas

A data source for planning coral reef survival

The vision of the Coral Triangle Atlas team is to provide a unique opportunity for any organization working in the Coral Triangle to share their spatial data, and to create a growing, updated database for better management decisions and science.

The Coral Triangle

- is the epicenter of marine biodiversity
- sustains the livelihood of over 126 million people

The Coral Triangle Atlas

improves the efficiency of conservation by:

- giving better access to spatial information
- encouraging data sharing
- reducing duplicate data collection
- providing the most complete and current data available

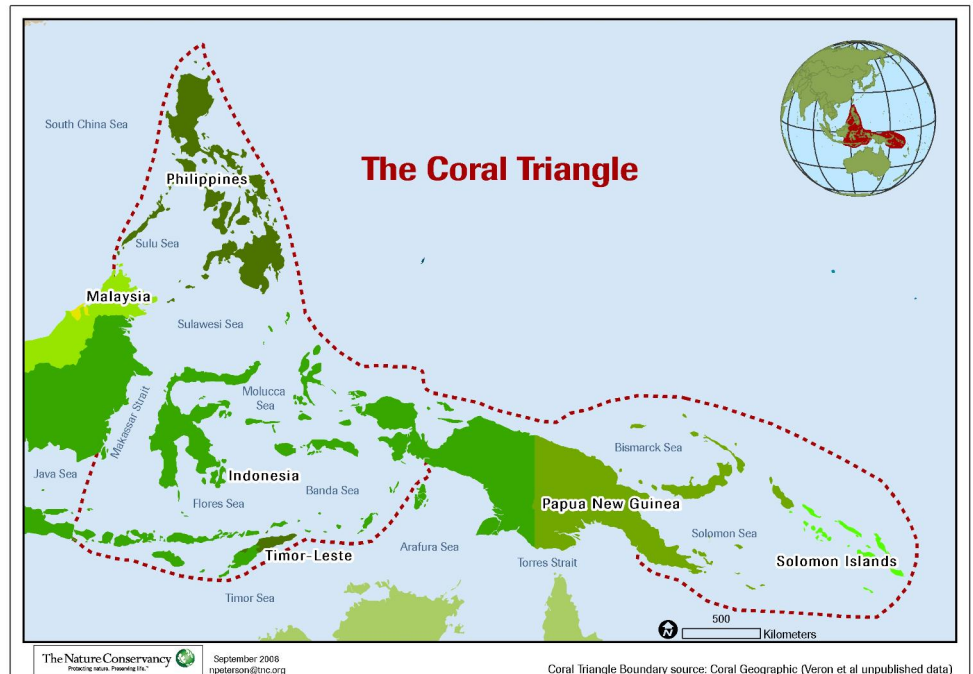
The Coral Triangle Atlas

centralizes information

- to visualize spatial data at the regional scale
- for management planning in a regional context
- to design MPAs and MPA Networks throughout the region



Pseudanthias pleurotaenia
Photo by: Gerry Alan



What is the Coral Triangle?

The Coral Triangle is globally recognized as the epicenter of marine biodiversity, home to an incredible 76 percent of the world's coral species and 37 percent of the world's reef fish species. The area stretches over thousands of kilometers and links six countries: Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

However this incredible area is under increasing pressure from a range of serious threats: growing coastal populations, rising sea surface temperatures, sea level rise and increasing levels of acidity. The Coral Triangle's resources are being fast depleted and in some cases, irreparably damaged.

Leaders from the six Coral Triangle countries are working together to

address this challenge by forming a unique regional initiative known as the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI). The powerful commitments coming out of the CTI will form the basis of unprecedented efforts to protect this area of exceptional biodiversity and protect the livelihoods of over 126 million people, and the food needs of millions more.

What is the Coral Triangle Atlas?

The Coral Triangle Atlas is an online Geographical 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. However, to date, little of this information has been centralized to



Photo: Emre Turak

form region wide layers that provide an overall view and enable management plans at a regional level.

How will the Coral Triangle Atlas help further conservation in the Coral Triangle?

This project will improve the efficiency of conservation planning in the region by giving researchers and

managers access to spatial information while encouraging them to share their data to complete the gaps, therefore reducing duplicate data collection efforts and providing the most complete and most current data available. The CT Atlas will be particularly useful in the design and planning of MPAs and MPA Networks throughout the region.

How will the Coral Triangle Atlas work?

The Coral Triangle Atlas is a GIS database that will be hosted by ReefBase (www.reefbase.org). Users will have 3 options:

1. **search** the database directly for those layers in which they are specifically interested
2. **visualize** the layer directly through the online GIS and overlay it with other layers
3. **download** the layer and use it in their personal GIS software.

The Coral Triangle Atlas will provide managers and scientists a "One Stop Shop" for spatial data layers in the Coral Triangle.

How can you contribute to the Coral Triangle Atlas?

The CT Atlas welcomes organizations desiring to share their data. By contributing to the CT Atlas, NGO partners, governments and managers are helping to strengthen the effectiveness of conservation activities in the Coral Triangle through improved information flow.

With access to the region's best datasets, scientists and managers will have the tools necessary to conduct complex analyses and measure the results of conservation activities designed to ensure the sustainability of the Coral Triangle's spectacular marine resources and the millions of people who depend on them.

contact information:

Annick Cros
 The Nature Conservancy
 tel: +808 587 6208
acros@tnc.org

Current partners...



TNC

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been working in the Coral triangle for over 15 years, establishing offices in Indonesia and Melanesia (Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands). In 2007, TNC recognized the Coral Triangle as a global priority for conservation, and established a Coral Triangle Program. TNC's spatial contribution is focused on habitat data and biodiversity of the region.

WWF

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has a 40-year history of conservation and resource management in the Coral Triangle. Current work focuses on MPAs; sustainable fisheries, particularly tuna and the live reef fish trade; species conservation and management, especially sea turtle bycatch; climate change; and tourism. WWF is contributing layers on MPAs and partners' work in the region, and will be consolidating relevant socioeconomic and ecological monitoring data.

IUCN-GMSA

The Global Marine Species Assessment (GMSA) is a collaborative initiative between the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Conservation International (IUCN) to assess the extinction risk of marine species using IUCN Red List Criteria. Their contribution to the CT Atlas is a series of spatial analysis of species' threat status and distribution maps in the Coral Triangle.

WCS

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has been involved in conservation activities in the Coral Triangle region since 1977 with its first site-based conservation program in Papua New Guinea and gradually establishing offices in Indonesia and Malaysia. WCS will be contributing both field data gathered by some of the best scientists in the region and an analysis and modeling of major anthropogenic threats to marine ecosystems during the period 1995–2006: the "Marine Human Footprint".

ReefBase

ReefBase is a global information system on coral reefs. Receiving over 20,000 visitors each month to its website, it houses an interactive mapping system (GIS), with among other information, the most up to date and comprehensive list of marine protected areas and coral bleaching incidents available. ReefBase is the official host of the CT Atlas.