



# U.S. Coral Triangle Initiative Support Program

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

## Developing and Strengthening the Management of Marine Protected Areas

### Where is the Coral Triangle?

The Coral Triangle encompasses almost six million square kilometers of ocean and coastal waters surrounding Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. It is considered the global epicenter of marine biodiversity—home to over 500 species of reef-building corals and 3,000 species of fish. The Coral Triangle faces multiple threats such as unplanned coastal development, over-fishing and climate change that severely impact food security and employment opportunities of the 120 million people that depend on this resource.

### What is the Coral Triangle Initiative?

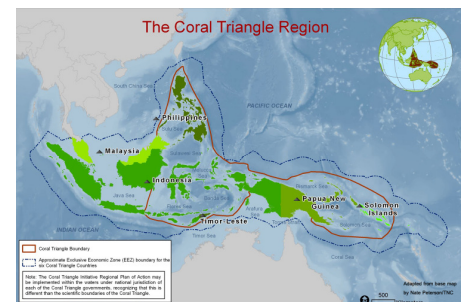
To avert the risks threatening the Coral Triangle’s marine ecosystem, the six Coral Triangle countries came together in 2007 to form the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI)—a multilateral partnership that aims to safeguard the marine and coastal resources of the Coral Triangle region. Under the CTI, the Coral Triangle countries adopted a Regional Plan of Action with five goals: 1) strengthening management of seascapes; 2) application of ecosystem approach to fisheries management; **3) developing and strengthening the management of marine protected areas (MPAs)**; 4) implementing climate change adaptation measures; and 5) protecting threatened marine species. These goals are supported by clear sets of actions and timelines to specifically address regional marine resource conservation and sustainability priorities.

### What is a marine protected area (MPA)?

An MPA is a coastal or offshore marine area where human activities are managed and regulated by authorities to preserve its ecosystem and cultural resources. Well-managed MPAs can conserve biological diversity, protect fish spawning and nursery habitats, protect shorelines, serve as a platform for scientific research and eco-tourism, improve food security, and enhance the quality of life in surrounding communities.

### Why are MPAs important to the Coral Triangle?

The CTI recognizes that MPAs are effective resource management tools. Under its Regional Plan of Action, the CTI aims to place 20 percent of each major marine and coastal habitat in the Coral Triangle under protected status by 2020. Individual MPAs within and between countries will be scaled up and linked to form a connected, resilient and sustainably financed Coral Triangle MPA System.



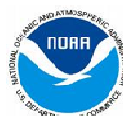
### CORAL TRIANGLE COUNTRIES

- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Solomon Islands
- Timor-Leste



The program provides policy and capacity building support to develop and ensure the effective management of MPAs across the region including the Raja Ampat MPA in West Papua, Indonesia.

Photo Credit: Conservation International



## How does the U.S. Government help establish and strengthen the management of MPAs in the Coral Triangle?

The US Government, through the US CTI Support Program, is supporting the CTI to establish and effectively manage its MPAs through various activities at the regional, national and site-level across the Coral Triangle.

The US CTI Support Program applies an integrated approach across the major CTI thematic areas to achieve results, focusing activities at specific priority geographic sites and linking them across the region through shared learning networks and regional exchanges to advance regional policies and strengthen capacity throughout the Coral Triangle region.

### Regional

- Supports a regional collaborative platform that brings together MPA experts, policymakers and practitioners to enable the establishment of a region-wide Coral Triangle MPA System.
- Enhances the capacity of government institutions and local communities in establishing and managing MPAs through tailored training and regional exchange programs.
- Develops and supports learning networks of MPA practitioners, academics and experts at the regional and local level as a means to share and exchange knowledge on MPA management;
- Develops a Coral Triangle Atlas that serves as a consolidated data and information source on national and regional MPA networks for use in Coral Triangle countries' planning, particularly in determining representation of critical habitat and species within the Coral Triangle MPA System.
- Assists Coral Triangle countries to develop, standardize and adopt a regional MPA management evaluation protocol that includes MPA effectiveness measures.
- Develops a comprehensive and integrated toolkit for marine management that includes tools and curricula for effective management of resilient MPAs, case studies and training curricula for sustainable fisheries, and early action tools for climate change adaptation

### National

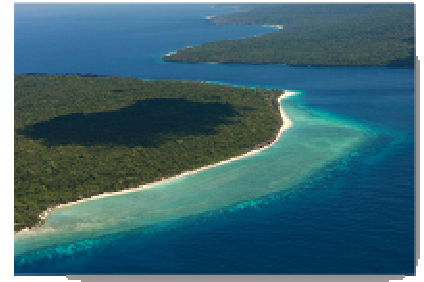
- Supports the implementation of each country's national plans of action including establishment and management of national or sub-national MPAs and networks.
- Assists in the development of national and local legislative frameworks to strengthen the enforcement of MPA regulations.
- Provides scientific support to MPA managers in the Coral Triangle through spatial planning and analysis.
- Establishes sustainable financing schemes involving public and private partnerships to engage relevant industries in supporting the Coral Triangle MPA System.

### Site-Level

- Strengthens the management and enforcement of MPA regulations in 13 priority sites and 10 integration sites across the region.
- Supports collaboration to mobilize sustainable financing for MPA networks at priority sites.
- Pilots and supports the rollout of the MPA management effectiveness protocols in priority sites.

### What is the US CTI Support Program?

The U.S. Agency for International Development is supporting the Coral Triangle Initiative through the five-year US CTI Support Program (US CTI). The US CTI assists governments and stakeholders in implementing the CTI Regional Plan of Action; supports development of the CTI Secretariat and national coordinating committees; provides access to U.S. science and research capabilities; and shares best practices among the six Coral Triangle countries. The Program is implemented by a Program Integrator, the US State Department, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Coral Triangle Support Partnership, a consortium of NGOs led by the World Wildlife Fund and that includes The Nature Conservancy and Conservation International. The program also works with other donors including the Government of Australia and the Asian Development Bank. For more information about the program, visit [www.uscti.org](http://www.uscti.org).



The US CTI Support Program is building government and community capacity in managing 55,600 hectares of ocean waters at the Nino Konis Santana National Park in Timor-Leste.

Photo Credit: UN Photo

### CTI Goal 3: Marine Protected Areas Established and Effectively Managed

Target: Region-wide Coral Triangle MPA System (CTMPAS) in Place and Fully Functional

#### Regional Actions:

1. Jointly establish overall goals, objectives, principles, and operational design elements for the CTMPAS
2. Complete and endorse a comprehensive map of MPA networks
3. Build capacity for effective management of the CTMPAS
4. Collaborate and mobilize sustainable financing for the CTMPAS
5. Establish MPA networks particularly those involving more than one country
6. Establish public-private partnerships for engaging relevant industries in supporting the CTMPAS

CTI Regional Plan of Action, May 2009

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