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NOAA  
**CORAL REEF**  
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

# NOAA in the US Coral Triangle Initiative

**What is the Coral Triangle?** The Coral Triangle is the hotspot of marine biological diversity, shared within the waters of six countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands and the Philippines—known as the CT6.

**What is the Coral Triangle Initiative?** The Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) is a partnership between CT6 countries to safeguard the region's extraordinary marine and coastal biological resources.

**What is the US CTI Support Program?** Through the US CTI, NOAA and partners aim to improve management of millions of hectares of the Coral Triangle's coastal marine ecosystems to protect food security, and strengthen resilience to climate change, for the over 360 million people of the Coral Triangle.



Recognized as the global center of marine biological diversity, the Coral Triangle is home to some 363 million people, one-third of whom are directly dependent on coastal and marine resources for their livelihoods. These natural resources are at immediate risk from a range of factors, including: over-fishing, unsustainable fishing, land-based sources of pollution and climate change.

## How is the US Supporting the CTI?

The US has offered considerable financial, political, and technical support to the CTI. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of State are supporting the CTI with a \$41 million, five-year program implemented by a consortium of nongovernmental organizations, including the World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International, and The Nature Conservancy; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); and a "Program Integrator." The support includes a number of targeted activities designed to transform the management of marine and coastal resources in the region over the long term, to strengthen regional platforms, and to enhance the capacity of the Coral Triangle region to protect the region's biodiversity, fisheries and food security for future generations.

# NOAA Service & Stewardship in US CTI

NOAA serves as the US Government agency providing technical assistance and scientific and management capacity to the CT6 nations through the US CTI Support Program.

The US is contributing significantly to the CTI, and NOAA is playing its part, providing technical expertise, training programs, and coastal management support. Through the US Coral Triangle Initiative Support Program, NOAA is helping to develop climate change adaptation strategies; combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries; establish a regional network of marine protected areas (MPAs); and enhance fisheries management practices in Indonesia and regionally with CT6 countries. These efforts, being implemented by NOAA and US CTI partners in the Coral Triangle, ensure community resilience and food security.

In this USAID-funded program, NOAA serves as the technical and scientific US Government agency whose mission in science, service and stewardship and established expertise spans the range of CTI needs. NOAA and partners deliver capacity building programs in the following areas, priorities of the Coral Triangle region and the CT6:

- Climate change adaptation (CCA) measures
- MPA management and network design, and
- Ecosystem approaches to fisheries management (EAFM), including policy; monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS, enforcement); and management of the live reef food fish trade.

In at least one protected area per country, US CTI partners will demonstrate a fully integrated approach to coastal resource management, pooling the entire range of CCA, MPA, and EAFM efforts and providing lessons-learned and best practices for replication across the Coral Triangle.

Building upon the agency's long history of engagement in Indonesia and the Coral Triangle region, NOAA's participation in US CTI has helped align its services to be quickly responsive to CTI's emerging needs, and better integrated overall. Coral ecosystems are valuable resources at risk that can be protected by collaborative action and NOAA is pleased to partner in this globally significant region and learn from CT6 countries.



R. McMahon

**Harmonizing Action Plans for Climate Change** In October 2010, NOAA climate experts will support US CTI partners in a Regional Exchange on Policy and Action Planning for climate change adaptation



R. McMahon

(CCA) in the CT6. Teams aim to draft both the CTI framework for the Region-Wide CCA Early Action Plan, and a communiqué on climate change for CTI ministers to sign at Cancun COP16. Longer term, the CCA goals remain harmonizing vulnerability assessments; equipping a network of resource organizations with sustaining CCA actions in each country; taking early actions to increase socio-ecological resilience; and developing CCA financing strategies.



Jason Philibotte

**MPA Capacity Building Training Series** To assist Indonesia in achieving its goal of 20 million hectares of MPAs by 2020, NOAA's International MPA Capacity

Building Team is working with Indonesian ministries, NGO partners, and USAID to implement a long-term capacity building program in Indonesia. In July and August 2010, NOAA experts led several "MPA 101" trainings. By year's end, they expect to begin a three-year series of trainings for MPA managers on management planning, sustainable fisheries, and CCA. Developing and institutionalizing an MPA manager certification program is a long-term goal.

**Fisheries Enforcement Training** IUU fishing poses a direct and significant threat to the sustainability of fisheries and food security in the Coral Triangle region. In late 2010, NOAA's IUU team is hosting an inaugural IUU exchange and training for CT6 fisheries enforcement organizations at the Global Monitoring, Control and Surveillance workshop in Maputo, Mozambique. In addition to building a self-sustained cadre of MCS trainers and MCS training program, NOAA's IUU team also aims to ensure active participation of all CT6 countries in the International MCS Network; improve interagency cooperation among fisheries MCS agencies at local, national and regional levels; improve trans-boundary MCS operations; and strengthen fisheries legal frameworks.

For more information on the US Coral Triangle Initiative | [www.uscti.org](http://www.uscti.org)



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