



Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security

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



Photo credit: Cat Holloway / WWF-Canon

THE CORAL TRIANGLE: A GLOBAL TREASURE

Submerged below the warm tropical waters in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific, lies an underwater world teeming with more corals and

marine life than you'll find anywhere else in the world. This triangular shaped region, stretching almost 6 million square kilometers, is recognized as the global epicenter of marine biodiversity.

The reach of the Coral Triangle extends far beyond its boundaries. The services provided by a healthy Coral Triangle support food production, livelihoods, commercial exports, protection from storms, and revenue generated from tourism.

A RESOURCE IN JEOPARDY

Despite efforts by governments and organizations to improve management, the condition of the Coral Triangle resources is declining:

- **Coastal development** alters the shoreline landscape and habitats, increases erosion, and washes land-based pollution into marine waters;
- **Destructive fishing practices** using dynamite, bottom drag nets and cyanide destroys the reefs and habitats;
- **Overfishing** of pelagic and coastal fisheries has reduced many fish stocks and fish sizes; and
- **Impacts from climate change** such as increased sea surface temperatures and ocean acidification stress the corals leading to widespread bleaching and other changes that impact the function of ecosystems.

COUNTRIES RESPOND TO A CALL TO ACTION

To safeguard the marine and coastal resources within the Coral Triangle, the leaders of the countries within the boundaries— Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste—formed a multilateral partnership in 2007 and launched the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) in 2009. CTI-CFF is managed through a Regional Secretariat based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Together, the six Coral Triangle Initiative countries developed a 10-year Regional Plan of Action to implement CTI-CFF. This plan outlines joint priorities and commitments from each of the governments and identifies five goals:

1. Strengthening management of seascapes
2. Application of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management;
3. Developing and strengthening the management of marine protected areas;
4. Implementing climate change adaptation measures; and
5. Protecting threatened marine species.



Photo credit: Jürgen Freund / WWF-Canon



Photo credit: Jürgen Freund / WWF-Canon

CTI UPDATES

Since the launch of CTI-CFF in 2009, the CTI leaders have worked with their partners to implement key pieces of the Regional Plan of Action.

Selected achievements to date include:

- The Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion is recognized as one of the priority seascapes in the Coral Triangle and its management is supported by the three bordering countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines).
- A Policy Framework is in development to support national and regional ecosystem approaches to fisheries management.
- Marine Protected Area networks are under development in all six countries leading to the design of a regional MPA network to protect the full ranges of fish, turtles and marine mammals.
- A Region-wide Early Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation measures has been developed and implementation is underway.

MOVING FORWARD

The threats to the Coral Triangle are real and growing. However, through the collective actions of the CTI governments, development partners, the private sector, and local communities, we hope to reach our goals to safeguard the marine and coastal resources for future generations. For more information, contact the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat at CTISecretariat@gmail.com or go to www.cti-secretariat.net