

DRAFT WORKSHOP REPORT
Coral Triangle Protection and Management
An Australian Government Workshop to support the Coral Triangle Initiative
on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security

10-14 November, 2008
Rydges Southbank & Australian Institute of Marine Science, Townsville, Australia

The Australian Government hosted the “***Coral Triangle Protection and Management Workshop***” in Townsville from the 10-14 November 2008. It was attended by 97 participants from the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, United States Government (USAID and NOAA), Australian Government; and the Asian Development Bank, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, World Fish Centre, CTI Program Integrator, CSIRO, the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, Coral Geographic, University of Queensland, and the CTI Regional Secretariat.

The Workshop was facilitated by Andrew Smith (MAXimus Solutions) and John Tanzer (CTI Facilitator).

Session 1: Welcome and Workshop Introduction

Ms Chris George from Wulgurukaba people gave the **Traditional Owners Welcome to country**.

The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Australia welcomed delegates to the workshop. Minister Garrett outlined the Australian Government’s commitment to support the CTI and his expectations for the workshop. The Minister also outlined the expertise and experiences that Australia has to offer to the CT6. *See transcript of welcome speech at [www.\[add\]](#)*

Vice Admiral Freddy Numberi, Minister for Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia gave opening remarks highlighting the governance challenges and threats to the Coral Triangle, the opportunity that the CTI offers and the commitment of the coral triangle governments to work together (the CT6). The Minister acknowledged the role of Australia and other Development Partners in the implementation of the CTI Plan of Action.

Professor Terry Hughes, ARC Centre for Excellence for Coral Reef Studies gave a key note address entitled “Science for the Coral Triangle: underpinning a sustainable future”. Professor Hughes outlined the connectivity of the region and the benefits of collaborating to address the threats. *See presentation at [Attachment A. Presentations. Key Note](#).*

Session 2: CTI Programs: priorities and aspirations at a national and regional scale

Overview of country CTI Programs (Vision, Plans of Action, institutional arrangements, aspirations and opportunities)

Chair: Dr Russell Reichelt (Chairman, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)

The Chair outlined the challenges Australia is facing in the Great Barrier Reef and introduced the context and purpose of Session 2.

A **representative from each CT6 delegation** presented on their national CTI programs including their vision for the CTI, national goals, targets and priority actions, and science, information, governance and institutional needs for achieving CTI objectives. See presentations at [Attachment A. Presentations. Countries](#)

Workshop participants **broke into country groups** to discuss aspirations and priorities for the CTI at both national and regional level. Development partners and representatives from research institutions discussed priorities and opportunities from their perspectives. Groups presented the outcomes of their discussions to the audience. See table reports at [Attachment B. Break Out Summaries. Session 2.](#)

From these presentations, the common priorities and aspirations identified were:

- **Capacity building:** including infrastructure, human resources, financial resources, science and management expertise and institutional arrangements;
- **Community engagement:** including education and awareness raising, especially in remote areas;
- **Poverty alleviation and food security:** including sustainable livelihoods and alternative livelihoods such as ecotourism;
- Implementing an **ecosystem based approach to fisheries management:** including a focus on tuna spawning areas;
- **Strengthened legislation and governance arrangements:** including legislation to implement an ecosystem based approach to fisheries but taking into account traditional stewardship arrangements where they exist;
- **Multilateral collaboration:** including on threatened species conservation, fisheries management, compliance and enforcement, climate change and information and science; and
- **Effective coordination:** including in-country between community and government, among government agencies and between government and other stakeholders, between countries, and with existing fora such as RFMOs.

An important point raised for consideration as the workshop progressed was why is the CTI needed/why the CTI is unique and how it will be more than business as usual was raised.

Session 3: National CTI Programs: Challenges and Needs

Identify and explore common needs and challenges in achieving national and regional CTI objectives.

Chair: Donna Petrachenko (First Assistant Secretary, Marine Division, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Australian Government)

The Chair presented lessons learned from Australia's marine planning program, summarised the outcomes of Session 2, highlighting the national and regional CTI priorities and opportunities for collaboration and then introduced the context of session 3. *Attachment B. Break Out Summaries. Session 2 – Chairs Summary.*

Timor Leste gave an additional presentation entitled "Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security in Timor Leste: Current Programs and Priorities" that set the scene by outlining their particular needs and challenges. *Attachment A. Presentations. Countries*

The participants **broke into groups** based on countries to discuss shared needs and challenges in achieving the priorities identified in Session 2. Participants were asked to identify common challenges and what was required in both the short term and longer term to address those challenges. Groups presented the outcomes of their discussions to the workshop participants. *Attachment B. Break Out Summaries. Session 3.*

The Chair highlighted the applicability of 'think regionally, act locally' to the session discussions and how to implement the Coral Triangle Initiative as a regional initiative in a meaningful way at the national and local levels.

Common challenges and needs included:

- **CTI institutional arrangements**
 - Appoint National CTI Coordinator and designate the lead Ministry or CT6.
 - Engagement of relevant agencies
 - Establish a National Coordinating Committee
 - Finalise National Plans of Action
 - Generating political will/identifying CTI 'Champion' at high level
 - Managing implementation of the Regional Plan of Action (to be discussed on Day 4)
- **Capacity building with a local focus**
 - People, funding and access to resources
 - Staff exchange programs to build local capacity within and amongst countries
 - Technology transfer
 - Science and information
 - 'Learning-by-doing'
 - Identifying and applying best practice
 - Adaptive management
 - Transcends all themes
- **Community engagement**
 - Public awareness raising
 - Environmental education
 - Communities taking responsibility for natural resource management
 - Developing criteria for sustainability
- **Developing qualified, experienced staff**
 - Scholarships
 - In-country training
 - 'Training the trainers' programs
 - Exchanges

- **Infrastructure**
 - Computers, phones, etc.
 - Equipment
 - Technology
 - Reliable power
- **MPAs and sustainable livelihoods**
 - Poverty reduction
 - Links between economic, social and environmental wellbeing
 - Food security
 - Sustainable use
 - Developing sustainable consumptive and non-consumptive use of marine resources
 - Ecotourism
 - Tuna management
 - Red List assessment and management
 - Fisheries assessments
 - Coastal development
 - Role of MPAs in contributing to poverty alleviation
 - Helping people to understand benefits of MPAs at local level
- **Private sector involvement**
 - ecotourism
- **Sustainable financing**
 - Long-term funding
 - Need to value conservation
 - In-country support/resources
 - Role of NGOs and donors
- **Governance**
 - Laws and regulation
 - Coordination between Federal, State and Provincial, District, Local and site levels
 - Information
 - Public awareness – increasing local understanding of laws and regulations
 - Compliance
 - Education
 - Enforcement
- **Climate change**
 - Adaptation
 - Integrated Coastal Zone Management
 - The role of climate change in focusing attention on areas such as CT and generating political will
 - Assessing vulnerability

From the common challenges outlined above, the Chair summarized the **key challenges relevant to all 5 CTI goals identified for discussion**, including:

- **Capacity building:** including infrastructure and science and information needs
- **Community engagement**
- **Sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation/food security**
- **Governance:** including political will, leadership and sustainable public funding
- **Sustainable financing from public and private sector**
- **CTI institutional arrangements**
- **Laws and regulations**

Workshop participants **broke into groups based** on the key regional challenges to discuss potential pilot programs or demonstration projects that could be implemented before the CTI Leaders Summit in Manado in May 2009 as a demonstration of the value and effectiveness of the CTI. Groups presented the outcomes of their discussions to the workshop participants. *Attachment B. Break Out Summaries. Session 3.*

The Chair concluded the session.

Session 4: Regional Plan of Action: Challenges and Needs

Chair: Eko Rudianto (interim Regional CTI Secretariat)

Australian Government (Roger Beedan) introduced the seminar entitled “Climate Change and Adaptation and Tropical Reefs”. This seminar included the following four presentations:

- ***A changing climate for the coral triangle*** (Janice Lough, Australian Institute of Marine Science)
- ***Climate change and the Coral Reef Triangle*** (Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, Centre for Marine Studies, University of Queensland and ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies)
- ***Climate change adaptation and Tropical Reefs*** (Roger Beeden, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)
- ***The Australian Government’s focus on adaptation*** (Cameron Darragh, Assistant Director, Pacific Adaptation Team, Department of Climate Change)

Available at [Attachment A. Presentations. Climate Change](#)

The seminar was followed by questions from participants on linkages between mitigation and adaptation, predictions, currents, interrelationship between western Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

The Chair introduced the goals of the Regional Plan of Action and the context for Session 4.

The participants **broke into groups** based on the five goals covered by the Regional CTI Plan of Action and also coordination mechanism, and monitoring & evaluation to discuss opportunities for regional or sub-regional cooperation to achieve regional goals and targets, challenges to working together, and specific suggestions on how to overcome those challenges. Groups presented the outcomes of their discussions to the workshop participants. [Attachment B. Break Out Summaries. Session 4.](#)

Following the break out group presentations, the Chair summarized the **key areas for regional collaboration common across all goals**:

- **Collaboration and coordination among countries**
- **Different levels of capacity and values**
- **Funding issues**
- **Lack of data**
- **Integration of an ecosystem approach in current legislation**
- **Translating policy into a plan**
- **Need to form working groups based on goals**
- **Sharing capacity and data between countries**
- **Need for expert support**
- **Need to strengthen Regional CTI secretariat**
- **Improved communication between agencies**
- **National coordination committee and national secretariats to be established as soon as possible**
- **National and Regional Coordination mechanisms finalized by CCC4**
- **Development of information sharing systems between countries**
- **Common agreement between countries on monitoring, evaluation and indicators others means of verification.**

The following points were raised for **further consideration**:

- The need to reinforce existing spatial measures, including MPAs, and existing data;
- How the CTI can engage other countries outside the CT6 including consumer nations;
- There is an opportunity for the CTI to influence other regional fora such as RFMOs;
- Need to take workshop outcomes to government to move forward; and
- How scientific information and networks can be used by the CTI decision makers.

The Australian Government (Angela Williamson) reiterated Australia's commitment to the CTI, the role of the workshop, and outlined the Australian Government's hope that outcomes of the workshop can help CTI development partners identify how they may best assist the CT6 to achieve CTI goals in the immediate term.

Session 5: CT Development Partners and Technical Experts – existing programs for achieving the CTI

An overview of the CTI work programs of CTI development partners

Chair: Urooj Malik (Asian Development Bank)

The chair introduced the session by noting the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, and the passion for conservation demonstrated by workshop participants and their commitment to collective action. The chair commented on the transformational nature of the CTI and the role of the workshop in helping the CTI and development partners see the changes that needed to be made. The Chair proposed that after the workshop, the CTI can move to the next phase of implementing change – ‘Thinking regionally, acting nationally’. The chair emphasized that national actions need to comprise regionally based issues and the sense of urgency to finalise the Regional Plan of Action in the lead up to Manado.

Three CTI Development Partners presented on their current CTI programs:

- *Asian Development Bank (Marilou Drilon)*
- *United States Government (Rene Acosta)*
- *NGO Consortium (Willie Atu - TNC, Tiene Gunawan - CI, Kate Newman – WWF)*

Available at [Attachment A. Presentations. CTI Development Partners](#)

The chair acknowledged that many **other development partners** were involved and invited representatives from other organizations present to briefly introduce their work. Roger Griffis (NOAA), Jamie Oliver (WorldFish Centre) and Dave Brewer (CSIRO) highlighted the current and potential involvement of their organizations in the CTI.

The chair summarized the scale of the CTI, the urgency required and the added complexity of climate change. The chair noted the large amount of resources that are being mobilized for the CTI over the next few years and reiterated the need for science coordination, capacity building, knowledge sharing and ensuring good governance. The chair discussed coordination mechanisms, both formal and informal and noted that often informal mechanisms can be more powerful as formal mechanisms can be slowed down by bureaucracy.

The chair emphasized that the Regional Plan of Action should form the foundation for cooperation and partnership and should be embraced by all to avoid piecemeal, ad hoc or fragmented efforts. The chair posed the question of other neighbouring countries, and the role of Japan, Korea and China and how these countries might play a role in the partnership contributing to food security, sustainable trade and a sustainable tuna fishery. The chair concluded by stating the importance of support for the Regional CTI Secretariat and National Coordination Committees.

Session 6: Coordination in implementing the CTI

An overview of the CTI work programs of CTI development partners

Chairs: Urooj Malik (Asian Development Bank); Angela Williamson (Australian Government); Maurice Knight (NGO Consortium)

The **Chairs outlined progress made in the workshop** in the initial four days and introduced the final session designed to match immediate collaborative needs and gaps. The Chairs also outlined the need for coordination across countries and partners in the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action; the importance of conservation as an underpinning for sustainable development, using the Australian Government marine bioregional planning experiences as an example. Immediate funds and specific follow up discussions were announced for the CT6.

The participants **broke into groups** based on the six cross cutting immediate issues, identified over the course of the workshop, for implementing the Regional CTI Plan of Action. Groups were asked to identify specific collaborative actions. Groups presented the outcomes of their discussions to the workshop participants. *Attachment B. Break Out Summaries. Session 6.*

Following the break out group presentations, the chairs made the following **observations**:

- Need to engage local and provincial governments and community;
- Need to consolidate information on resources, pressures and trends;
- Benefit of continuing discussions/relationships;
- Appropriate for regional secretariat to coordinate development partner support;
- The need to coordinate the efforts of the development partners when implementing the CTI;
- For the CT6 to submit proposals to the Regional CTI Secretariat for consideration for funding of immediate projects; and
- Reminded workshop participants to remember that the CTI had to be driven by leaders of the CTI countries.

A **wide ranging discussion** was held between the participants and the chairs on:

- The different role of the workshop to the formal CTI meetings;
- The need to consider a CTI State of the Environment associated with the proposed expert group;
- The need for the expert group for be accountable and to cover multiple disciplines;
- The idea to take workshop outcomes to the CTI leaders;
- The opportunity for the CTI finance leaders to meet in the margins of the ADB finance ministers meeting;
- Identify creative ways to make most of the leaders summit agenda;
- The relationship between the CTI leaders summit and the World Oceans Conference; and
- Reliance on development partners to help seek in-country support for projects.

The Australian Government (Tania Rishniw) gave closing remarks, thanked the participants for their contributions and reiterated the Australian Government's commitment to consider outcomes of the workshop and thanked the organizing committee for all of their efforts.