



CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY



CTI-Sulu Sulawesi Regional Convergence Meeting delegates, partners, collaborators, and guests at Bai Hotel, Mandaue City, Cebu, Philippines (3-6 July 2018).



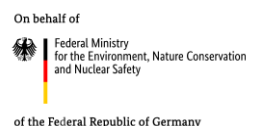
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Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Regional Convergence Meeting:

Towards Establishing Transboundary Coordination Mechanisms for the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape and the Review of the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas EAFM Plan

3-6 July 2018

Bai Hotel, Mandaue City, Cebu, Philippines



Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Project Context

The Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape, shared by Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, ranks among the most diverse and productive marine ecosystems in the world. Located at the apex of the Coral Triangle, it is known as the world's center of marine biodiversity with the highest numbers of coral, crustacean and marine plant species and about 3,000 species of fish. It is also home to the largest nesting population of green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in Southeast Asia. The marine resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape face major threats such as overfishing, destructive fishing practices, rapid population growth, unsustainable coastal development and pollution. As a consequence, valuable coastal habitats like mangrove forests, coral reefs, and seagrass beds are at risk to lose their function as breeding, feeding and nursery grounds for marine organisms including marine turtles. This situation is further exacerbated by the effects of climate change. The countries of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines see the need for transboundary cooperation to address these threats and protect the fragile habitat and resources of the seascape. This is carried out under the umbrella of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF). Designated as a priority seascape under CTI-CFF by the six member countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste), the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape serves as a geographic focus of investments, actions, conservation and climate change related results under the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action (RPOA).

The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) commissioned the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Project to support the countries in implementing and coordinating their activities under CTI-CFF's RPOA. The project aims to address the urgent threats faced by the coastal and marine resources of the Coral Triangle by establishing mechanisms for cooperation with the overarching goal of conserving marine biodiversity towards a sustainable management of resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape. To address the various issues, three focal areas have been identified for project implementation:

- Support the effective management of marine protected areas (MPAs) and establish a regional protected area network (MPAN) for the conservation of marine turtles linking nationally declared MPAs;
- Promote an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in selected marine managed areas; and
- Climate change adaptation (CCA) planning.

The project, for example, engage in institutional strengthening by developing capacities of CTI-CFF, partner ministries and other stakeholders in the region in implementing the RPOA through the focal areas. To foster the regional exchange of experiences among the three countries and beyond, the project is organizing cross-visits and knowledge sharing events and is documenting and disseminating lessons learned. Scientific research on the connectivity of marine turtle populations is conducted to assist the project implementation with regards to policy recommendations and management actions at the regional and national levels.

The project is jointly implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Conservation International (CI), the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) in Indonesia, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), the Department of Fisheries Sabah (DOFS) and Sabah Parks (SP) in Malaysia and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in the Philippines.

Summary

The meeting provided a venue for the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape member countries to discuss regional concerns on implementation of the RPOA and explore possible actions and coordination mechanisms for the Seascape as well as to review and finalize the draft Sulu-Sulawesi Seas Sub-Regional Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Plan. The activity outputs are: 1) proposed transboundary seascape coordination mechanisms; 2) updated draft “Sub-Regional Plan for Managing Transboundary Fisheries in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas”; and 3) a Road Map as a way forward for the proposed Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape coordination mechanisms and the updated draft of the EAFM framework plan for Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape under CTI-CFF cooperation.

The participants revisited Sulu-Sulawesi’s past and present achievements in the context of the CTI-CFF. They reviewed the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME) experience; CTI-CFF Seascapes model and framework; and country achievements and challenges within the seascape. Meanwhile, transboundary research and initiatives in Sulu-Sulawesi were presented by different institutions to provide inputs for possible synergies for the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape countries.

SSME experience demonstrated that regional cooperation could provide an opportunity for the different country programs to be aligned in order to address common issues and threats. Along with other multi-country ocean governance initiatives, these inputs facilitated discussions on ideas for seascapes based on the current and possible synergies between and among EAFM, MPA, CCA and TS goals.

Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines collaboratively designed the potential Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape transboundary coordination mechanism through a sub-seascape working group within the CTI-CFF SWG that would facilitate exchange of ideas, lessons learned, and possibly develop common frameworks that would strengthen seascapes work. The meeting then developed a road map to present and discuss the proposed mechanisms to the Seascape Working Group and the NCCs in preparation for the SOM 14.

The participants then reviewed the draft “*Sub-Regional Plan for Managing Transboundary Fisheries in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas*” which was identified as a framework plan and an initial area of cooperation among Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape countries. The meeting appraised ecological, social, and governance goals, corresponding management actions and indicators to guide the three countries in pursuing EAFM both at the national and regional levels. Implementation of EAFM, as well as other planned transboundary initiatives, will benefit from the coordination mechanisms that will be established for Sulu-Sulawesi Seascapes under CTI-CFF.

In summary, the countries agreed on the following priority actions:

1. Following the CTI-CFF protocols, the Convergence Report will be circulated and discussed within NCCs and the SWG.

2. SWG Meeting agenda will include updated TOR of SWG plus structure; rules and procedure, including proposed details on the seascape coordinating mechanism such as the sub-regional working group and the seascape manager.
3. Draft Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape EAFM Framework Plan will also be discussed with the NCCs and the EAFM WG as a parallel process.

Countries agreed to submit a joint communique to the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat to express the need to continue and further develop the collaboration within Sulu-Sulawesi under CTI-CFF.

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1. Introduction

Designated as a priority seascape under the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reef, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) by the six-member countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste), the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape serves as a geographic focus for investments, actions, conservation and climate change related results under the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action (RPOA). Shared by Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, it ranks among the most diverse and productive marine ecosystems in the world. It is known as the world's center of marine biodiversity with the highest numbers of coral, crustacean and marine plant species and about 3,000 species of fish. It is also home to the largest nesting populations of green turtles in Southeast Asia. The marine resources also face major threats such as overfishing, destructive fishing practices, rapid population growth, unsustainable coastal development and pollution.

During the 13th CTI-CFF Senior Officials' Meeting, the chair "*Supported the recommendation for each member state to begin talks/meetings that will lead towards the establishment of national and Transboundary Seascapes (Decision 8.1.3.)*". In close collaboration with development partners and collaborators, the Seascapes Working Group organized a convergence meeting focusing on the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape in the form of a Regional Convergence Meeting.

The meeting brought together representatives of the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape member countries to discuss regional concerns on implementation of the RPOA and explore possible actions and coordination mechanisms for the Seascape as well as to review and finalize the DRAFT Sulu-Sulawesi Seas Sub-Regional Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Plan. This would also be a first opportunity for the countries to look at the synergies between the five RPOA goals.

The expected outputs of the meeting are as follows:

- Proposed transboundary seascape coordination mechanisms and road map
- Updated draft of "Sub-Regional Plan for Managing Transboundary Fisheries in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas"
- Way forward for the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape

The CTI-CFF Convergence Meeting Agenda is attached as Annex 1.

2. Meeting Objectives and Expectations

The Opening Ceremony, held on Tuesday 03 July 2018, commenced with the opening and welcome messages from the Philippines, as the host country, and representatives of the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape countries. Representatives of the CTI-CFF working groups and key partners also gave messages of support and appreciation to the activity.

Heads of delegations recognized the significant contribution of the meeting as a follow through to the SOM 13 decision supporting the establishment of transboundary seascapes. Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape, as priority seascape of CTI-CFF, could provide the model for coordination to address seascapes issues and concerns. Aside from the coordination mechanism, they also looked forward to discussions on the draft Sulu-Sulawesi EAFM sub-regional framework plan as one of the target actions of the EAFM WG workplan for 2018. (Copies of the messages are in Annex 2.1-2.3).

Other delegates from the CTI-CFF countries and partners represented in this meeting by Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines, Development Partners and Collaborators also introduced themselves. The List of Participants and the group photo is attached as Annex 2.4.

Participants reviewed the rationale, and objectives of the meeting. Meeting expectations were also processed based on the countries' definition of coordination mechanisms and initial suggestions for moving forward. Summary expectations from each country were:

- Indonesia: All WGs to be involved in Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape, output from convergence meeting should be reflected to new RPOA.
- Malaysia: Move forward on EAFM plan and on Seascapes coordination mechanism.
- Philippines: Need to accommodate conservation events e.g. SOM 14 and Ministerial Meeting (MM), to keep the spirit of conservation.

All three countries expressed a unified need for a coordination mechanism across the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape. Highlighted was the common concern that the CTI-CFF RPOA will be ending in 2020. The coordination mechanism must be aligned with the revised RPOA. This objective of coming up with a coordination mechanism for the seascape is linked to the SOM 13 decision for coordination mechanisms of seascapes, be it in-country or transboundary.

The expectation summary, organized into clusters of metacards, is shown as image and attached in Annex 2.5.

3. Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Past and Present Achievements in the context of the CTI-CFF

This session looked into Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME) experience from conceptualization up to the implementation of the three country agreement from 2006-2016, followed by CTI-CFF seascape regional and national achievements and implementation challenges in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape.

3.1. Revisiting the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape: a priority seascape of CTI-CFF (Conservation International Philippines)

Ms. Evangeline Miclat (CI-Philippines) opened the presentation with the definition and evolution of SSME into the Seascape model, which encompasses Sulu Sea and Celebes/Sulawesi Sea and the three countries surrounding it composed of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. The Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion Conservation Plan (ECP) provided the conservation and development framework and governance structure to promote cooperation and promote in country coordination and cross-border collaboration along three thematic concerns on marine protected areas and network (MPAs/MPANs), sustainable fisheries, and on threatened, charismatic, and migratory species. The ECP was updated into the Comprehensive Action Plan or CAP (see <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/29160/ssme-action-plans.pdf>) incorporating climate change spatial and development objectives and the implementation costs of each of the three thematic concerns.

SSME demonstrated that its established governance structure and partnerships contributed to funding opportunities to CTI-CFF through several programs and projects. These include the ADB RETA 7813 (CTI-Southeast Asia), BMU-GIZ Sulu Sulawesi Seascape Project, and USAID Oceans Project. New interests could come in (e.g. GEF International Waters and the Australian Government) once a clear direction on seascapes collaboration under CTI-CFF could be established.

Ms. Evangeline Miclat's presentation is attached as Annex 3.1.

3.2. CTI-CFF Seascapes Model and Regional Framework for Priority Seascapes (Seascape Working Group Chair)

Ms. Nilfa Rashid (Chair, SWG) presented the Seascapes General Model and Regional Framework for Priority Seascapes (Seascape Document) which is an optional guidance for CTI countries on the identification, establishment, planning, implementation, recognition, prioritization, evaluation, and tracking of Priority Seascapes under the CTI-CFF and for building a consistent regional framework for sustainable management and a platform for future investment in priority seascapes. Planning towards Seascape General Model commenced in 2013 with the final Seascape Document agreed on by the CT6 in 2017, highlighting geographic scope, criteria for priority seascapes, designated bodies, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) indicators responsive to the CTI-CFF Seascape definition, goals and targets, and relevant to large-scale marine management approaches that are ongoing or planned in each of the CT countries. Fifteen (15) key elements of priority seascapes, clustered into effective governance, ecological well-being and human well-being were presented. "Priority Seascapes" is defined as those seascapes which can be transboundary and/or national, that have been evaluated based on the criteria and designated as "Priority" by the Council of Senior Officials and Council of Ministers. An enabling coordinating or governance mechanism is among the criteria for a priority seascape (in-country or transboundary).

Ms. Nilfa Rashid's presentation is attached as Annex 3.2. The Seascope Document may be accessed at this site: <http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org/node/9155>.

3.3. Country RPOA Goals Accomplishments within the Sulu-Sulawesi

Country representatives shared national-level accomplishments and challenges in the implementation of actions under the Seascope Goal and targets within the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope, based on three guide questions: *What worked and did not work? What are the key success factors? What were barriers to implementation and coordination within the seascope?*

3.3.1. Indonesia Country Report

Mr. Okto Irianto, SWG Focal Point and Assistant Deputy of Marine Services, Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs, presented accomplishments of Indonesia, highlighting projects implemented in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope (from 2012 to present) as funded by the Government of Indonesia and NGO partners. Areas of implementation include North Sulawesi and Central Sulawesi, Gorontalo, North Kalimantan, and East Kalimantan for Seascope spatial plan development and implementation focusing on MPA and EAFM work. In the RPOA, not much were stated on the policies / programs / projects in place within the priority conservation areas in Sulu-Sulawesi. All projects were already conducted independently by the Indonesian government and related partners before CTI.

Potential plans were shared to continue MPA, EAFM, and CCA work within the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope. Challenges to implementation of the RPOA within the Seascope include limited funding for on-the-ground implementation, over-focus on sea turtle migration, gaps in connection between the previous Sulu-Sulawesi initiatives and the targets and actions of RPOA; lack of coordination and stakeholder engagement.

For future implementation, Indonesia recommended the involvement of all the CTI-CFF WGs within the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope in future joint projects such as on marine debris, Blue Carbon, coral bleaching, migratory species other than marine turtles, resilient reefs (i.e., with Australia as donor), and tuna conservation and management.

Mr. Okto Irianto's presentation is attached as Annex 3.3.

3.3.2. Malaysia Country Report

Dr. Norasma Dacho, EAFM Co-Chair and Senior Assistant Director Conservation and International Office, Department of Fisheries in Sabah, iterated that the east coast of Sabah is Malaysia's CTI scientific boundary, thus, is the area of implementation within Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope. Projects implemented in the East coast of Sabah are aligned with the Ecoregion Conservation Plan (ECP). Major projects implemented include: 1) GEF/UNDP/UNOPS Sulu Celebes Sea Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (2011-2013); 2) ADB RETA for Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle: Southeast Asia (CTI-SEA) (2012-2017); and the BMU-GIZ Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope Project (2016-2018). Dr. Dacho went on to report achievements and plans under each of the goals.

One of the shared implementation issues and challenges include funding support to respond to capacity and resources needs (i.e., knowledge, human, financial) across thematic goals such as for EAFM, large MPA management, CCA as well as M&E. Goal-specific issues include limited timing and travel constraints against security advisory (for MPAs), call

meeting timing and coordination challenges among in-country and regional WG members, also among local governments for data reporting and collation (for CCA), persistence of cross border wildlife crimes, turtle poaching, trafficking and illegal trade of turtle eggs, bycatch and habitat destruction from erosion and human interference (for TS).

Recommendations include: close coordination with relevant development partners and stakeholders, flexible and adaptive implementation of activities, and knowledge in the importance of TS in the marine ecosystems.

Dr. Norasma Dacho's presentation is attached as Annex 3.4.

3.3.3. Philippines Country Report

Ms. Nilda Baling, SWG Co-Chair, Supervising Ecosystems Management Specialist of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), reported that PH has maintained Sulu-Sulawesi as a national priority. SSME Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) and Philippine marine Key Biodiversity Areas (mKBAs) have been identified in the country through various iterations with stakeholders involving civil society. KBAs are the focus for increased conservation investments from the national government agencies (such as DENR, DA-BFAR), local government units and NGO partners. KBAs also encompass protected areas under the National Protected Area System (NIPAS) and locally managed MPAs.

Achievements and other on-going Initiatives in the SSME include policies and legislations; capacity building, communications, education and public awareness (CEPA); establishing linkage with other regional programs; and development of biodiversity friendly livelihoods.

Some of the implementation issues and challenges in the Philippine SSME identified were: lack of institutional arrangements on information sharing; and sustainability concerns (e.g., turn-over of focal points, limited funding resources, changing country priorities. There is a need to socialize the seascapes concept. Strengthened collaboration between different agencies involved in marine resources management is recommended.

Ms. Nilda Baling's presentation is attached as Annex 3.5.

4. Transboundary Research and Initiatives in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape

The objective was to provide inputs on possible synergies for the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape countries with examples of scientific researches conducted in the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape and the initiatives implemented under the CTI-CFF framework. Highlights of the presentations and relevant Q&As are presented in the discussions below.

4.1. Scientific Researches in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape

4.1.1. Whale Shark Satellite Tagging Research (LAMAVE)

Mr. Gonzalo Araujo (Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute or LAMAVE) presented the Whale Shark Satellite Tagging Research in the Philippines. Major highlight of the research showed the movement patterns as shown from SPOT satellite messenger, with tagged individuals moving within the Bohol Sea and across the Sulu Sea. A tagged shark from Honda Bay in Palawan (Philippines) show the first transboundary crossing and return observed across Sulu Sea to Lahad Datu in Sabah (Malaysia), a significant data being the first recorded international return in Asia. Proposed next steps and recommendations include: understanding the drivers of whale shark occurrence in Sabah, exploring further connectivity through photo-identification and telemetry (fin-mounted SPOTs + miniPATs), understanding status of population (genetics and genomics); bilateral cooperation to protect the whale shark (now elevated from Vulnerable to Endangered status globally); and encourage citizen science contributions to “Wildbook for Whale Sharks”.

Mr. Gonzalo Araujo’s presentation is attached as Annex 4.1.1.

Clarifications on the whale shark biology and movements were given, including options for data access and sharing among researchers. The research showed that whale shark movements could be one entry point for synergy and convergence in the region, in addition to turtles.

4.1.2. Whale Shark Project in Indonesia (WWF Indonesia)

Ms. Casandra Tania (WWF Indonesia) presented the whale shark work in Indonesia as funded by the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Project to gain more information on the species in the Sulawesi Sea in three monitoring sites (i.e., in Derawan Island, Talisayan, and Botubarani) and three scoping sites (i.e., in Tarakan-Bulungan-Bunyu Island, Kwandang Bay, and Manado - Amurang). A better understanding of whale shark behavior through the research would help in improving whale shark tourism practices in Derawan. Derawan was described as a tourist spot, and problems occur in terms of uncontrolled whale shark tourism. Feeding by throwing trash fishes has been reportedly done by fishers to attract whale sharks. The Project would be working with the Berau MPA management unit in the development and implementation of Code of Conduct for whale shark interaction.

Ms. Casandra Tania’s presentation is attached as Annex 4.1.2.

During the Q&A, further discussions were on the whale shark behavior especially on feeding habits, mating place/aggregating sites, and possible impacts of tourism on the animals, and data ownership and sharing. WWF explained that data are owned by WWF-IND with Berau data co-owned by the Centre of Coastal and Marine Resource Management in Indonesia.

From the two-whale shark research studies of LAMAVE and WWF Indonesia, the three countries consider whale shark as one of the topics for future collaboration.

4.1.3. Marine Turtle Connectivity Genetics Study (NFRDI)

Dr. Mudjiekewis Santos (National Fishery Research and Development Institute) presented results on the Green Sea Turtles Connectivity Study done by Far Eastern University (FEU) with NFRDI, Tubbataha Management Office (TMO), and the Marine Research Foundation – Asia (MRF). The study aimed at determining the connectivity of Green Sea Turtle populations in Tubbataha Reefs with those in other parts of the world to contribute to the development of a consistent policy that can be applied by stakeholders across the area of distribution.

Tissue samples were collected from 160 immature green sea turtles in Tubbataha Reefs between 2010 and 2014, most of which are juveniles. Results showed that Green Turtle populations in Tubbataha shared genetic signatures from populations of Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Australia. Compared with samples from the global gene bank, most samples derived in Tubbataha showed that individuals coming from countries across the Pacific and Indian Ocean use Tubbataha as a migratory route. However, unique populations are believed to exist in some parts. Proof is still needed to show resident populations. Results support the idea that exploitation of turtles in Tubbataha can lead to the reduction of breeding populations across the region. The study showed green turtles populations as a shared resource, thus, shared management for greater good is recommended.

Dr. Mudjiekewis Santos's presentation is attached as Annex 4.1.3.

4.1.4. Stock assessments of Sulu Sulawesi Seas Tuna (SEAFDEC)

Mr. Len Garces (USAID Oceans) presented results of Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center's (SEAFDEC) stock assessments of yellowfin tuna (YFT) (*Thunnus albacares*), bigeye tuna (BET) (*Thunnus obesus*) and skipjack tuna (SKJ) (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) in Sulu and Sulawesi Seas by A Stock Production Model Incorporating Covariates or ASPIC. The joint research program aimed at understanding the status and trend of tuna fisheries in Sulu and Sulawesi Seas, focusing on the three target species. The project used catch and catch per unit effort (CPUE) from three countries, with data validation done first by the countries. ASPIC' was used as a reference point calculation and data was presented using 'Kobe plot'. Results of yellowfin tuna assessment in Sulu-Sulawesi Seascapes using ASPIC show that the current status reached to 'overfishing area' (Orange Zone), bigeye tuna reached to 'overfished area' (Red Zone) while skipjack tuna is at the 'Safe zone' (Green Zone). Stock status of all three species in the seascape is much worse than in Western-Central Pacific in terms of fishing pressure.

Mr. Len Garces's presentation, on behalf of SEAFDEC, is attached as Annex 4.1.4.

Dr. Mudjiekewis Santos (NFRDI) explained further that scenarios show that tuna species are well shared among the three countries and joint management is strongly needed. Scenarios of stock assessment used are based on two predictions/models. The challenge has been on how to reduce fishing pressure. SEAFDEC will have another phase in the implementation of reduction at the country level since at present, implementation is at the regional level.

EcoPath, modelling tool developed by University of British Columbia was also recommended to understand other possible factors affecting the fish stock (e.g. predator behavior). Other tools such as FishPath (a Global tool) can provide menu of options to implement harvest control strategies.

4.2. Initiatives under the CTI-CFF Framework

4.2.1. Marine Turtle PA Network in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape

Ms. Marion Daclan (GIZ) presented results of the Marine Turtle Protected Areas (PA) Network in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape. The establishment of a transboundary MPA network is a strategy to conserve these endangered migratory species such as the marine turtles. Transboundary cooperation in marine turtle conservation and management dates to 1996 with the establishment of the Turtle Island Heritage Protected Area (TIHPA), a joint initiative of Malaysia and the Philippines, which became the first transboundary PA for marine turtles in the world. Through the years, additional marine turtle PAs have been identified in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, and a Marine Turtle PA Network (MTPAN) Design was adopted by SSME Tri-National Committee in 2009. In the PH, the design includes three NIPAS sites, namely, El Nido-Taytay Marine Resource Protected Area (ENTMRPA), Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP), and the Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary (TIWS). This is the first network of NIPAS sites and the first network for marine turtles in the Philippines, formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) last year, referred to as the MTPAN-MOA. The connectivity of these sites is confirmed through satellite telemetry/tagging and various ecological studies on marine turtles.

Ms. Marion Daclan's presentation is attached as Annex 4.2.1.

4.2.2. Resilient Reefs for the Coral Triangle (CI Philippines)

On behalf of the organizers from the University of Queensland (in collaboration with James Cook University and in coordination with CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat) under the CTI-CFF University Partnership, Ms. Evangeline Miclat (CI-Philippines) shared highlights of *Managing Reef Resilience under Climate Change in SSME*, a three-day Climate and Reef Resilience Workshop in Manado, Indonesia in May 2018. The workshop aimed towards a transboundary management strategy for resilient coral reefs and their fisheries within the SSME (see <http://coraltriangleinitiative.org/news/press-release-marine-experts-and-conservation-practitioners-gather-climate-and-reef-resilience->). The meeting brought together scientists, managers and conservation practitioners to discuss the needs for transboundary management and to develop a collaborative proposal for tackling climate change. A similar event will be done in the Pacific-member countries in August 2018. The May and August 2018 meeting outputs will be integrated in a joint proposal (led by the University of Queensland). The organizers of the workshop called on the support of governments, research institutions and development partners to source funds for the proposed project.

Ms. Evangeline Miclat's presentation, on behalf of Climate and Resilience Workshop organizer and participants, is attached as Annex 4.2.2.

4.2.3. EAFM in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape (USAID Oceans)

Mr. Len Garces (USAID Oceans) presented the draft of the *Sub-regional Plan for Managing Transboundary Fisheries in the Sulu Sulawesi Seas*. USAID Oceans is a regional program that, in collaboration with SEAFDEC and national fisheries agencies in Southeast Asia (i.e., BFAR, MMAF, DOF Malaysia), works to increase the ability of fishery organizations to conserve marine biodiversity and combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Asia-Pacific region (see <https://www.seafdec-oceanspartnership.org/>). As a primary programmatic activity in 2017, USAID Oceans began advancing the use of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) in sub-regional fisheries management planning

and held a “Sub-Regional Plan for Managing Transboundary Fisheries in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas” workshop in 2017. The Sulu-Sulawesi Seas sub-regional EAFM plan generated out of the workshop built upon a previous draft of an EAFM plan completed for the sub-region in 2015, out of the USAID-supported CTI-CFF Seascapes initiative. The revised (2017) version of the sub-regional plan both updated and broadened the 2015 CTI-CFF draft.

While the initial focus was on transboundary small pelagic species, the plan expanded later to transboundary large pelagic/neritic tunas and demersal (soft-bottom, hard/coral reef) fisheries. There are 19 objectives under 3 goals on Ecological Well-being, Human Well-being, and Good Governance. Mr. Garces also outlined the review and socialization process that has been conducted by USAID Oceans from November 2017 to June 2018, and the vision for the endorsement and approval during the SOM14 in Manila in 2018.

Mr. Len Garces’s presentation is attached as Annex 4.2.3.

5. Identifying Transboundary Synergies Among the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action Goals

Objective of the session was to determine possible transboundary synergies across the RPOA goals in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape for continued transboundary collaboration in the CTI-CFF. Breakout Groups Workshop was guided with the following questions:

- What were the past transboundary synergies?
- What are current transboundary synergies?
- What will be the potential transboundary synergies?

The term “transboundary” was defined as applicable to the RPOA Goals (i.e., in terms overlaps) across the seascape or topics relevant to the three countries. Workshop group results per country were presented.

5.1. Current Synergies

Current synergies are on-going initiatives or projects that address common concerns between and among the 5 RPOA goals within the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape.

Participants identified the following ongoing synergies:

1. Support to Sulu-Sulawesi EAFM Planning
2. Napoleon Wrasse research;
3. Joint stock assessments and genetics researches on pelagics.
4. Stakeholder engagement process (to identify management priorities)

Local government network (LGN), a cross-cutting concern, has been identified as a current synergy among the RPOA Goals where the three countries participate in.

5.2. Future Synergies

Meanwhile, participants also identified future synergies or potential opportunities across the RPOA Goals to address common concerns and priorities within the seascapes. These synergies could also be low-hanging fruits as a contribution and/or impact of existing projects.

Among the topics identified are:

1. IUU Fishing
2. Bycatch mitigation for sea turtles and sharks;
3. CITES enforcement for sharks and rays
4. Development of fisheries management tools (e.g., Harvest Control Strategies, Stock Assessment, etc.)
5. Illegal Wildlife Trade.
6. Ecosystem evaluation to support management decisions.
7. MPA-CC adaptation and/or resiliency
8. Blue carbon
9. Coral bleaching rapid action;
10. Whale shark studies
11. Establishment of a Palawan - East Coast Sabah - Berau - Turtle Corridor

12. MPA establishment based on the presence of TS as a contribution to MPA networking.
13. marine key biodiversity areas (mKBAs) refinement and/or prioritization
14. Sustainable tourism development in MPAs
15. Climate change research, monitoring, and risk impact analysis on threatened species.

Participants also identified other cross-cutting concerns such as on: marine debris, fund raising, monitoring and evaluation, and project development.

Existing and potential synergies represent areas of concerns across the seascapes that provide the foundation and bases for a collaborative mechanism among the three countries. The mechanism would provide the direction and guidance for seascapes governance to ensure efficiency and alignment of actions between the seascape and CTI-CFF.

Presentation of the transboundary synergies among the CTI-CFF RPOA Goals in the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape is attached as Annex 5.0.

6. Lessons Learned on Governance Structures and Coordination Mechanisms

This session provided inputs on possible coordination mechanisms for the identified synergies based on lessons learned on governance structures and coordination mechanisms of various regional initiatives presented.

6.1. Micronesia Challenge (Webinar)

Ms. Rachael Nash (Micronesia Challenge Regional Coordinator) presented the *Micronesia Challenge: Accomplishments, Coordination, and Lessons Learned*. Launched in 2006, the MC is a regional commitment by the governments of three countries (Republic of the Marshall Islands or RMI, Republic of Palau, and Federated States of Micronesia or FSM) and two territories (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or CNMI, and Territory of Guam) to effectively conserve at least 30% of near-shore marine resources, and 20% of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020. The Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO) was established as an intergovernmental non-profit in Palau, with one staff, the Regional Coordinator (RC). The Steering Committee (SC), made of five Focal Points, MC Team Director, and Support Team Chair, provides guidance to the RC. The SC meets biannually. Implementation happens through working groups (e.g., Monitoring directed by Measures group). Sustainable Finance is identified through an MC Endowment targeted at US\$56M by 2020. Initial donors included GEF, TNC, CI; with increasing matching/leveraged implementation funds. Over US\$21M of US\$56M has been raised for the endowment. With 2020 less than two years away, MC has yet to meet all goals for effective conservation. MC's message and presence in related global events is still found to be lacking and identified needs for it to be elevated to the global arena to rally additional support around the world.

Ms. Rachael Nash's presentation is attached as Annex 6.1.

6.2. Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Eco-Region Mechanism (CI-Philippines)

Ms. Evangeline Miclat (CIP) reiterated SSME learnings which have been well documented and published in several documents (e.g. Tropical Coast; copies shared at the meeting). SSME Coordination started with informal country and ecoregion-level mechanisms intended for planning and formalizing the transboundary cooperation. The ratification of the SSME MOU in 2006 led to the establishment of the Tri-National Committee, which created subcommittees for three thematic concerns: 1) marine protected areas and network (MPAs/MPANs); 2) sustainable fisheries, and 3) on threatened, charismatic, migratory species, chaired by Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia, respectively. The formal governance mechanism demonstrated functionality through established inter-governmental procedures and protocols, regular meetings and reporting on ECP implementation, successful implementation of action plans, project development, adaptive management, and in keeping the SSME relevant to regional and international programs. Of note was the support role of NGO partners in ecoregional processes and implementation: WWF (1999-2006) and CI (2006-2016). Lessons learned in SSME in 1999-2016 have been published; references cited in the presentation.

Ms. Evangeline Miclat's presentation is attached as Annex 6.2.

6.3. Regional Governance and Potential Coordination Mechanisms from the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Project

Ms. Franca Sprong (BMU-GIZ Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Project) presented the ocean governance in the region, with focus on the coordination mechanisms of the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Project. A coordination mechanism is defined as a subsystem that coordinates the activities of the persons or organizations within it. GIZ commissioned Dr. Alan White in 2015 to look at different ocean governance initiatives and management programs operating in the East Asian Seas (EAS), which includes CTI-CFF and SSME, and to review and document challenges, lessons learned, and gather recommendations from implementers on governance mechanisms and operating frameworks in the EAS.

CTI Organization Framework and the CTI Organizational Chart was presented and recommended for review and potential application of a coordination mechanism in the region. An important lesson learned in the Seascape is the need for a constant dialogue to see how we can continue to work together and how different institutions can interact with each other. The need for a coordinating mechanism for the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape under the CTI Regional Framework is emphasized.

Ms. Franca Sprong's presentation is attached as Annex 6.3.

Challenges in the CTI coordination structure were pointed out, to include: the need to balance regional and national mandates (workload) for focal persons, regional and national politics, competition between seascapes versus CTI region, limited human and financial resources, and sustainability. With the non-renewal of the SSME MOA, SSME transitioned to the CTI Regional Framework which took about five years from the three-country planning for the SSME CAP and approval by SSME for the SCS SFM Regional Strategic Action Plan in 2013.

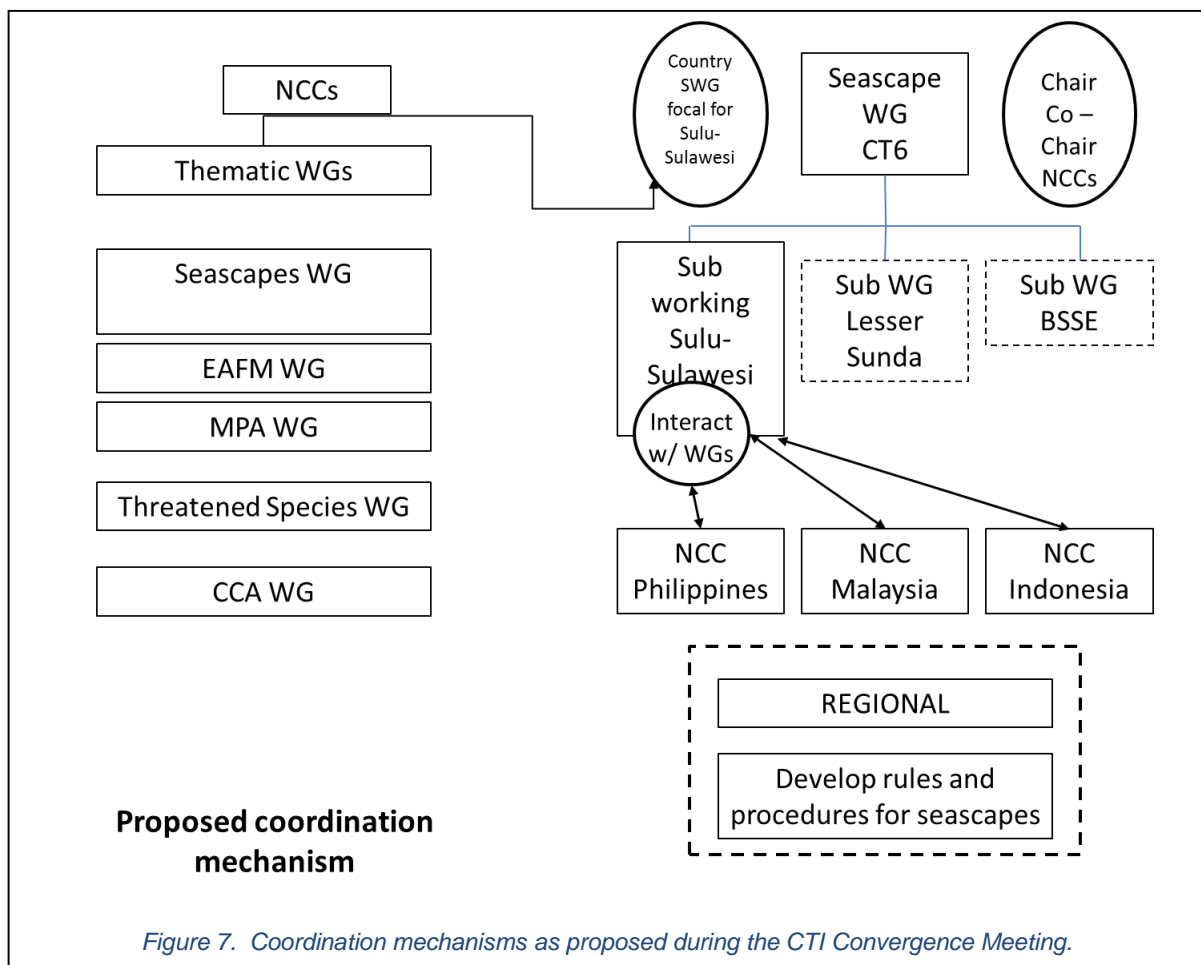
7. Potential Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Transboundary Coordination Mechanisms

Each country illustrated a possible Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape transboundary coordination mechanism based on existing CTI-CFF mechanisms and structures in place. (Presentations of each country are in Annex 7).

Each country discussed the effective mechanisms that could facilitate the activities within Sulu-Sulawesi Seascapes.

Participants recommended a creation of a Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Sub-working group under the Seascapes Working Group that will be initially composed of the Seascapes WG focal points per country. A seascape sub-working group coordinator may be appointed among the representatives. Other actors/players from the technical and governance working groups essential in the coordination mechanism may also be included. Participants also emphasized that the seascape sub-working would ensure the interaction among the technical working groups in pursuing synergies. The sub-working group would be the steering structure of the seascape under the CTI-CFF regional framework.

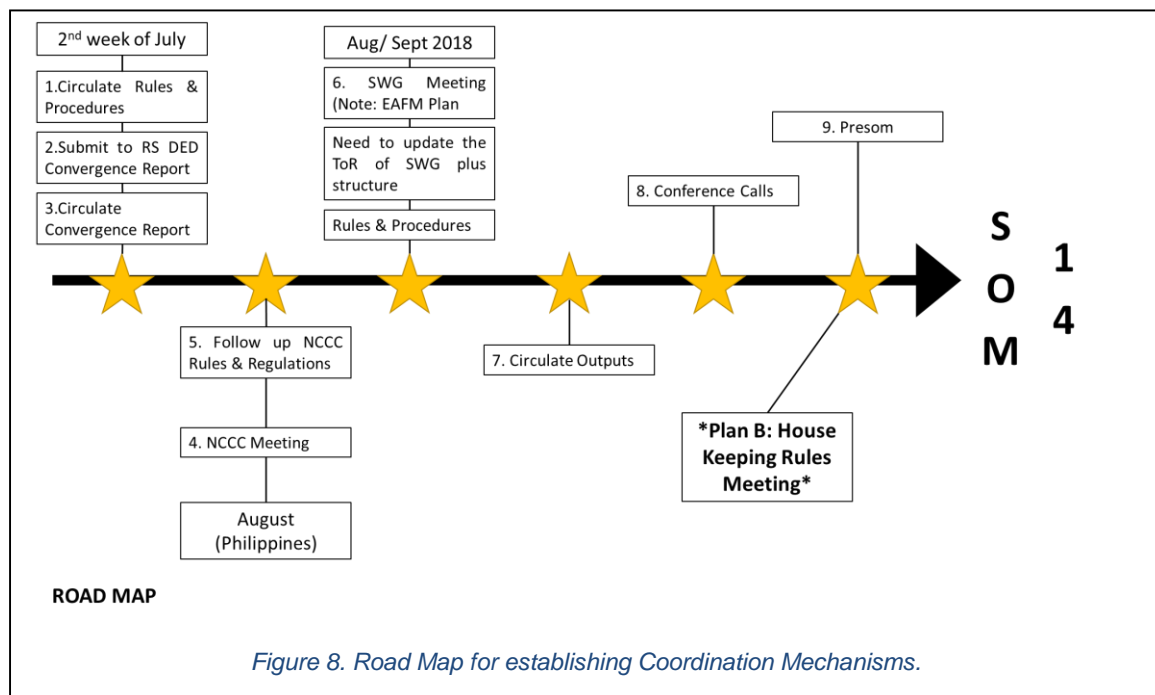
Further details of the coordination mechanism will be discussed by the Seascapes Working Group for approval and endorsement of the Senior Officials. The mechanism may also be adapted by other seascapes once established. Initial discussions are reflected in the figures below.



8. Road Map to Establishing Identified Coordination Mechanisms

The Road map for establishing the identified Coordination Mechanisms in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape, jointly developed by Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, is shown below:

1. Circulate Rules and Procedures (2nd week Jul 2018)
2. Submit Convergence Report to RS DED (2nd week Jul 2018)
3. Circulate Convergence Report (2nd week July 2018)
4. Follow up NCC Rules and Regulations (Aug 2018; PH)
5. NCC Meeting (Aug 2018; PH)
6. SWG Meeting: update TOR of SWG plus structure; Rules and Procedure (Aug/Sep 2018)
7. Circulate outputs
8. Conference Calls
9. Pre-SOM (Plan B: Housekeeping Rules)



9. EAFM Workshop Overview and Objectives

This session opened the EAFM Workshop on the draft “Sub-Regional Plan for Managing Transboundary Species in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas: Taking an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management.” Mr. Len Garces (USAID Oceans) helped the participants revisit his presentation of Day 1 on USAID Oceans (refer to Annex 2.3), explaining the Project’s interests in supporting this workshop, specific to EAFM. Mr. Garces also explained the workshop flow which will be done in both plenary and small group discussions.

Mr. Garces emphasized that, if approved by the countries through the CTI-CFF process, the framework plan will become an official CTI-CFF document (the current draft has no CTI logo yet) and will represent the first sub-regional plan ever created. While the plan is intended to provide the sub-regional framework for EAFM in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape, it will require implementation by the individual countries (see Annex 9).

10. Review of Draft Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Sub-Regional EAFM Framework Plan

Session objective: Review and discuss completed draft Sections 1-7 of the Draft EAFM Plan for the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas.

10.1. Country presentations

The countries each presented their recommendations for improving the draft framework plan, particularly Sections 1-7. Both Indonesia and the Philippines confirmed that what they presented were their respective NCC’s recommendations while Malaysia said the recommendations they offered were still only “informal” and at the WG level but will be elevated to the NCC level through the formal national CTI process.

Country recommendations for improving the draft EAFM framework are shown in Annex 10.1 (with Indonesia in Section 10.1.1; Malaysia in Section 10.1.2, and the Philippines in Section 10.1.3).

10.2. Additional Comments/Suggestions for Improving the Plan

Participants accepted the vision statement for now, with possible revisions later for the timeline (e.g., beyond 2030), inclusion of other fisheries operations (e.g., beyond small pelagics), definitions of terms (e.g., seascape and priority seascape) and clarity on goals and status of goals, expansion of data collection points, among others.

List of additional recommendations and comments for improving the draft EAFM framework discussed at plenary is attached as Annex 10.2.

11. Crafting Sections 7-12 of the Draft EAFM Framework Plan

In this session, discussions focused on compliance, data and information needs, financing, communications, and monitoring and evaluation for the EAFM Framework Plan.

11.1. Compliance (Section 8)

In both small groups and in plenary, participants discussed the policies relevant to EAFM across the three countries. Identified were policies at the national, sub-regional and regional levels were, and responsible parties for each policy. “Relevant” means the policy applies to fisheries management and biodiversity conservation.

Participants noted the adequacy of national and regional legal bases to support the implementation of the EAFM Plan. Although there are similar policies at the national level across the three countries, these vary in level of implementation. Recognizing that implementation will happen at the national level, the bodies also recognize that there may not be a need to develop new laws, especially at the regional level. Consensus may be built around some common indicators proposed in existing policy documents.

The summary of policies relevant to EAFM across the three countries are attached as Annex 11.1. These outputs were used to flesh out Section 8 of the EAFM Framework Plan.

11.2. Financing (Section 10)

The following questions guided the discussion on financing (in small groups and plenary): 1) What funding windows are out there? 2) What types of funds are available - are these for development work? Research? 3) How do you access these funds?

Based on the discussions, participants agreed that funds can be sourced from governments, development partners and from “private” sources/individuals. Funds relative to relevant government ministries (Fisheries, Environment, etc.) are the best source of government funds. The participants agreed further that governments are now trying to rectify the previous low funding for the fisheries sector (i.e., in capture fisheries and/or aquaculture), by allotting a certain percentage of government research and/or development funds for the sector.

Public-private partnerships are relatively unexploited for the sector. The body sees this as another important funding source. Capacity and training on the necessary business skills to deal with the private sector is needed.

The summary of funding sources and types available in the three countries are attached as Annex 11.2.

11.3. Communication (Section 11)

Participants then identified target audiences, specific messages, and opportunities for socializing/communicating the EAFM Framework Plan.

At least five major audiences were identified for which the general or overall message is encompassed by “Sulu-Sulawesi – Feeding the World” and ‘Buy sustainably caught fish”. These recognize the relative importance of the seascape in providing food and livelihood. The next group of messages relate to country cooperation (Importance of transboundary management; Individual country and shared responsibility for fisheries management; collaboration between the three countries).The body agreed that the Plan’s contribution and

value should be communicated as well. These include its contribution to the SDG, CTI, RPOA, as well as its benefits to the stakeholders (such as food security and livelihoods). The participants agreed that the value of the plan can be brought home further by communicating supply and demand forecasts. Finally, the last cluster of messages has to do with sharing best practices in EAFM not only within the region but with “outside audiences” as well.

The communication elements for socializing the EAFM Framework Plan is attached as Table 11.3. Outputs will input to the development of Section 11 of the EAFM Framework Plan.

11.4. Monitoring and Evaluation (Section 12)

The three goals of the EAFM framework plan were discussed in groups: (1) Ecological; (2) Human well-being; and (3) Governance. Specific objectives, proposed management actions in the draft (Section 7) were reviewed and refined as necessary, and appropriate indicators identified (to go into Section 12 of the EAFM Framework Plan). For each indicator, data and information needs for implementing the plan were also identified (and will be used to populate Section 9. Data and Information Needs).

Ecological. Six objectives were reviewed. CTI-CFF indicators were used where possible to ensure alignment of EAFM Ecological indicators to CTI-CFF.

Human Well-Being. Six objectives were reduced into five. Most of the management actions identified, however, are “broad and general”, noting that the challenge of implementation is at the site level.”

Governance. Seven objectives were reviewed and about 17 management actions identified and/or refined which need to be cross-referenced across the EAFM goals

Monitoring and evaluation indicators for the three goals of the EAFM framework plan is attached as Annex 11.4: Ecological M&E Indicators is in Section 11.4.1, Human Well-Being M&E Indicators is in Section 11.4.2, and Governance M&E Indicators is in Section 11.4.2).

12. Finalizing the EAFM Draft Framework Plan (Next Steps)

Session objective: Review and discuss completion of plan and discuss strategies and key activities in the finalization, approval and implementation of the Draft EAFM Plan for the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape

12.1. Coordination Structure for the SWG

Dr. Victor Tumilba (GIZ) facilitated the workshop with a presentation of two options for coordinating the CTI-CFF’s seascape work. Option 1 showed the existing CTI-CFF coordination mechanism; Option 2 showed the need to create a sub-regional working group for each of the priorities (see Annex 12.1).

The “final” version of the proposed coordination structure for the SWGs, agreed upon after some discussions and modifications of Option 2, is shown below (as Figure 12.1):

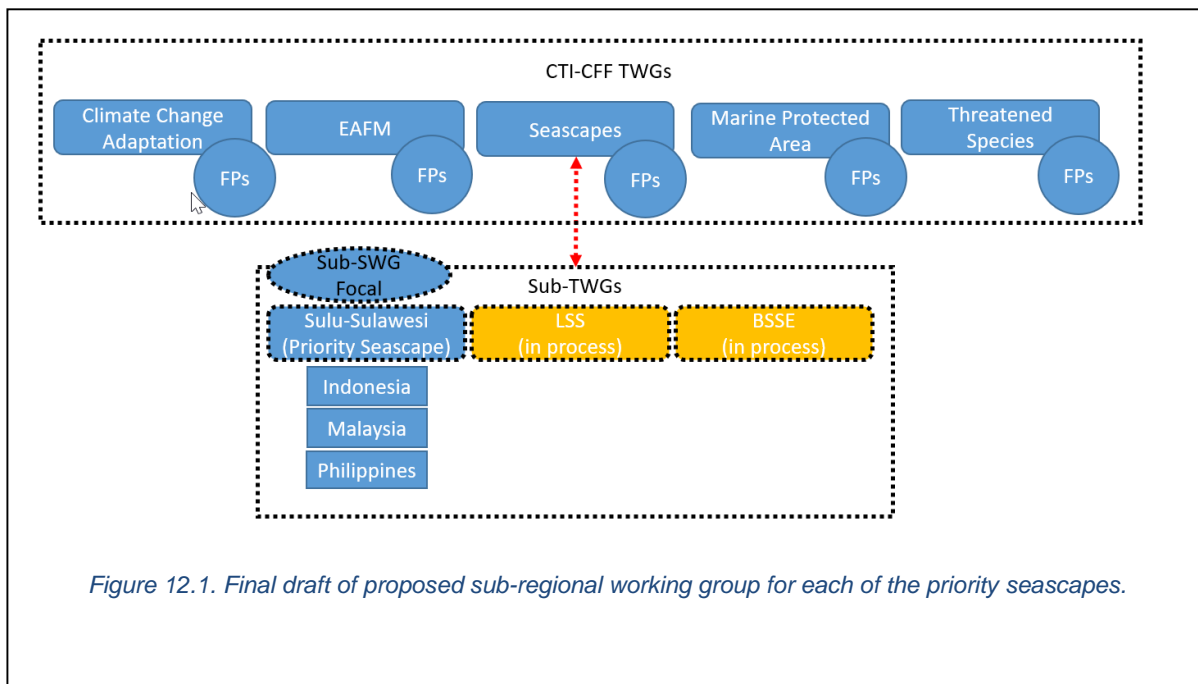


Figure 12.1. Final draft of proposed sub-regional working group for each of the priority seascapes.

It is proposed to identify a “Seascape Manager” to convene the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape. This person need not be a hired RS employee but can be appointed or elected from existing members of the national SWG in Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia. Following the SSME model, the appointment of the manager may be rotated among the three countries.

The countries agreed that the guidelines or TOR of the seascape manager would be developed at a later time, when the SWG Rules and Procedures are finalized.

12.2. Coordination Mechanism for Implementing the EAFM Framework Plan and Linking to the SWG

Participants agreed that the SWG and EAFM are linked, particularly with respect to the implementation of the EAFM Framework Plan. The EAFM WG is primarily responsible for formulating the EAFM Framework Plan and having it approved by the SOM through the CTI-CFF process (with facilitation support from the RS). Once approved, the EAFM Framework Plan will be endorsed to the NCCs of the three countries for implementation following the CTI process. To ensure on-the-ground implementation of the EAFM Framework Plan, country-level implementation of the Plan will primarily be the responsibility of the EAFM WG of each country, with oversight by the NCC. Each country’s EAFM WG will also be responsible for developing action plans (in coordination with other concerned country level WGs as needed). The Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape sub-regional WG will be responsible for consolidating all the activities (including but not limited to EAFM) that are happening in the seascape, to include addressing sub-regional issues, coordinating with other concerned CTI bodies, and reporting to the SOM according to the CTI process. (The sub-regional WG may have similar functions as the SSME Trilateral Committee).

The countries also agreed to invite the Pacific CTI countries in Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape meetings as observers in preparation for the establishment of the LSS and BSS.

12.3. EAFM Next Steps

The Road Map for the EAFM Framework Plan to SOM 14 is attached as Annex 12.2. Three route options were identified and discussed to ensure EAFM Framework Plan for Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape is progressed to adoption and implementation:

4. CTI route (preferred route)/ The Road to SOM 14 (see Annex 8). The body agreed to parallel the EAFM roadmap to the SWG Roadmap and to write a Joint Communiqué asking for the RS help in putting forward the SWG Outputs as well as the EAFM Plan toward eventual approval in SOM 14 in November 2018. A copy of the Joint Communiqué is attached as Annex 12.3.
5. SEAFDEC route, with USAID Oceans Technical Working Group Meeting on July 17-19, 2018 in Bangkok and SEAFDEC PCM Meeting in November 2018; and
6. GEF-7 Joint proposal by the three countries for joint GEF-7 funding. Socialization meetings with CTI partners in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are also planned by USAID Oceans in September and October 2018.

13. Closing Session

The country delegations and development partners gave their customary Thank-You's for a successful workshop, along with some important insights, announcements and reminders:

- Ms Dinah Yunitawati (Indonesia) reminded the countries on the SWG/EAFM Meeting in Indonesia (possibly Bali) in September 2018; requested for Malaysia and the Philippines to support the nomination of the next two priority seascapes (i.e., LSS and BSS).
- Dr. Norasma Dacho (Malaysia and as EAFM WG Co-Chair), recalled the history of the trinational cooperation to manage/protect the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape, noting that Malaysia is happy to see the three countries come together again for this review of the Sulu Sulawesi Seas sub-regional EAFM Framework Plan.
- Ms. Evangeline Micalat (CI Philippines) noted the expansion of the Sulu-Sulawesi family “not only in terms of numbers but also in expertise.”
- Mr. Len Garces (USAID Oceans) reminded the countries that the implementation of most management actions will be at the country level, but also looking to several development partners interested to support the plan and to convene and support the three countries
- Ms. Marion Daclan (GIZ) was pleased to see and witness the interests of the three countries to cooperate and continue what was started in Sulu-Sulawesi.
- Ms. Nilda Baling (Philippines) announced that the SOM14, to be held in the Philippines, has been postponed to December 2018 because of a schedule conflict with the CBD, which will also be held in November.
- Ms Nilfa Rasyid (Indonesia and as SWG Chair) expressed gratitude for this convergence meeting; Acknowledged recommendations for the next meeting for the Sulu Sulawesi sub-regional seascape in August or September; Mentioned that the EAFM sub regional framework plan received good inputs and looks forward to the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape supporting this effort. Finally, reiterated the request to Malaysia and the Philippines to support the nomination of the next priority seascapes in Indonesia i.e., BSSE and Lesser Sunda Shelf.

14. Conclusions

In summary, the countries agreed on the following priority actions after the meeting:

1. Following the CTI-CFF protocols, the Convergence Report will be circulated and discussed within NCCs and the SWG.
2. SWG Meeting agenda will include update TOR of SWG plus structure; rules and procedure, including proposed details on the seascape coordinating mechanism such the sub-regional working group and the seascape manager.
3. Draft Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape EAFM Framework Plan will also be discussed with the NCCs and the EAFM WG as a parallel process.

Countries also agreed to submit a joint communique to the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat to express the need to continue and further develop the collaboration within Sulu-Sulawesi under CTI-CFF.

The Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape countries reiterated the importance of having a functional coordination mechanism that would operationalize the cooperation across the seascape and turn the synergies into actions. The proposed transboundary seascape coordination mechanisms and road map would provide initial guidance to move forward with the seascape work under the CTI framework. These mechanisms could also be used as an example for other seascapes within CTI. Meanwhile, the draft “Sub-Regional Plan for Managing Transboundary Fisheries in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas” already provides a concrete area of collaboration among the three countries to managing common resources based on national priorities and common regional targets. The next steps are critical for the countries to process the recommendations in preparation for SOM14 that would approve and endorse the final agreements to the CTI Council of Ministers.

List of Abbreviations

ACB	ASEAN Center for Biodiversity
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASPIC	A Stock Production Model Incorporating Covariates
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BMB	Biodiversity Management Bureau
BMU	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
BSS	Bismarck-Solomon Seascape
CAP	Comprehensive Action Plan
CCA	Climate change adaptation
CCEF	Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation
CDT	Catch Documentation and Traceability
CEPA	communications, education and public awareness
CIP	Conservation International Philippines
CNMI	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CPUE	catch per unit effort
CT	Coral Triangle
CT6	Coral Triangle Six countries
CTI	Coral Triangle Initiative
CTI-CFF	Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reef, Fisheries and Food Security
DA	Department of Agriculture, Philippines
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines
DOF	Department of Fisheries, Malaysia
DOFS	Department of Fisheries Sabah
EAFM	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management
ECP	Ecoregion Conservation Plan, Sulu-Sulawesi Marine
ENTMRPA	EI Nido-Taytay Marine Resource Protected Area
F	fishing pressure
FMRED	Fisheries Management Regulatory Enforcement Division
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
LAMAVE	Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute
LSS	Lesser-Sunda Seascape
M&E	monitoring and evaluation

MC	Micronesia Challenge
MCRO	Micronesia Challenge Regional Office
mKBAs	marine key biodiversity areas
MMAF	Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
MM	Ministerial Meeting, CTI-CFF
MPA	marine protected area
MPAN	marine protected areas network
MRF	Marine Research Foundation – Asia
NCCs	National Coordinating Committees, CTI-CFF
NFRDI	National Fisheries Research and Development Institute
NGAs	national government agencies
NGO	non-government organizations
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Area System
NMSP	National Marine Spatial Planning, Indonesia
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPOA	National Plan of Action
PA	Protected Areas
PATS	Pointing, Acquisition and Tracking System
PCAs	Priority Conservation Areas
RC	Regional Coordinator
RETA	Regional Technical Assistance
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
RPOA	Regional Plan of Action
RS	Regional Secretariat
RSAP	Regional Strategic Action Plan
SC	Steering Committee
SCS SFM	Sulu Celebes Seas Sustainable Fisheries Management
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	Southeast Asia
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
SOM	Senior Officials Meeting
SPOTs	<i>Satellite Pour l'Observation de la Terre</i> (French) or "Satellite for observation of Earth"
SSME	Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion
SSS	Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape
SWG	Seascapes Working Group
TIHPA	Turtle Island Heritage Protected Area

TIWS	Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary
TMO	Tubbataha Management Office
TRNP	Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park
TS	Threatened Species
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USAID OCEANS	USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WG	Working Group
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

ANNEXES

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