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## U.S. Coral Triangle Initiative Support Program Monthly Program Update

February 2010

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

### Monitoring Equipment Installed to Strengthen Ecosystem Analysis in Nusa Penida

An international team from Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Bali's Udayana University and the US Coral Triangle Support Partnership (CTSP) installed underwater temperature monitoring equipment around Nusa Penida on February 2 and 17. The temperature loggers will enhance data analysis for the scientific characterization of the Penida area ecosystem and monitor temperature changes that could impact marine life, fish breeding patterns and coral development. Such data will be used to support the establishment of a Marine Protected Area in Nusa Penida, a popular dive site off the southeastern tip of Bali which forms part of the Coral Triangle region. It is composed of three islands and has at least 247 species of coral reefs and 562 species of reef fishes, all of which are threatened by illegal fishing activities. The activity was undertaken with funding support from USAID Indonesia through the US CTI Support Program.



Photo credit: Rudyanto

Scientists install underwater temperature loggers in Nusa Penida

### Outreach Campaign Creates Momentum Across Timor-Leste Coastal Communities



Photo credit: Handoko Susanto

Children living at the NKS National Park gather to participate in CTSP's marine resource conservation outreach program

From February 23 to March 3, CTSP conducted a multi-media outreach campaign to launch its village mobilization program throughout Nino Konis Santana (NKS) National Park. CTSP worked with the national Ministries of Agriculture and Environment as well as provincial and local district officers and reached out to more than 900 people in six villages raising awareness and increasing engagement on marine resource issues. As a result of the outreach efforts, leaders in the villages of Com, Tutuala, Mehara, Bauro, Muapitine, and Lore identified opportunities to engage with Timor-Leste government agencies and have committed to working with CTSP on a series of follow-up activities over the next months. The outreach activities contribute to the US CTI Support Program's strategic plan to establish a Marine Protected Area at the NKS and make it a model for the Timor-Leste national coastal zone management program.

The NKS encompasses 68,000 hectares of land and 55,600 hectares of sea including extensive coral reefs and one of the largest remaining intact examples of tropical lowland and coastal monsoon rainforest in the region.



## CTI Partner Portal Update

The CTI Partner Portal is a web-based platform to support information sharing and online planning and collaboration among partners supporting the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI).

The Portal posts announcements, hosts work spaces and contains a documents library, the CTI Project Map, a contacts database, events and travel schedules, and a geographic information system (GIS) mapping interface.

Visit [www.uscti.org](http://www.uscti.org) and log on using **coral** as username and **triangle** as password. The CTI Partner Portal User Guide can be downloaded from the Announcements and Resources sections.

## New Resources

- Activity Report, Presentations and Photos from the CTI Regional Exchange on Enhancing Private Sector Engagement can be found at the Regional Activity Areas Workspace.
- Updated calendar of CTI-related events and US CTI Support Program team travel schedules
- CT In the News: WWF's Eco-Guide for Buying Sustainable Seafood in Singapore

## Mangrove Nursery Established to Sustain Conservation Hotspot

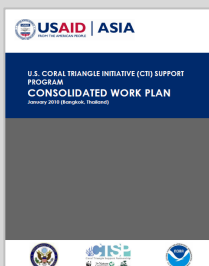
On February 16, the local government in Calatagan, Philippines, with the assistance of the US CTI Support Program, established a 1,020 square-meter nursery mangrove to support conservation efforts in the Verde Island Passage. The nursery will hold 16,000 mangrove seedlings and support strategic rehabilitation of 50 hectares of mangrove forests in Batangas Province. The Batangas coastline is directly adjacent to the Passage, a narrow corridor of coral-filled waters in the Philippines which is considered to have one of the highest concentrations of marine species in the world. Healthy mangrove forests will support the marine ecosystem in the Passage and serve as a climate change adaptation strategy for coastal communities in the area. The nursery was established through the efforts of the Calatagan local government with technical and financial support from CTSP through Conservation International.

## Strategy to Strengthen Management of Indonesia's Marine Protected Areas Developed

Stakeholders from government and non-government organizations in Indonesia have mapped out a strategy to strengthen the management of Indonesia's Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Indonesia has 114 MPAs of which 37 are within the Coral Triangle. The strategy was developed during a workshop organized by Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and CTSP on February 10-11. The strategy also includes a capacity building program to strengthen the management of the Savu Sea MPA, considered one of the largest MPAs in the Coral Triangle region. The capacity building program will be implemented this year and will be funded by the Indonesian government and supported by the US CTI Support Program.

The 2010 **US CTI Support Program Consolidated Work Plan** is available on the CTI Partner Portal. The work plan includes descriptions of the US CTI Support Program Team agencies and implementing

partners, the Program's five-year results framework and strategy, and planned activities from October 2009-September 2010 both regionally and in each of the six Coral Triangle countries. It is designed to support effective collaboration among Program team members and implementing partners.



## Philippine Municipalities Design Template for "Climate-Smart" Marine Protected Areas

On February 4-5, CTSP organized a joint session of two local municipal councils from the Province of Mindoro, Philippines to design a municipal ordinance template that can be used in establishing "climate-smart" Marine Protected Areas (MPA). The climate-smart MPA approach explicitly considers climate change impacts and vulnerabilities in the design of MPAs. Apart from drafting the template, which can be replicated among coastal municipalities in the Philippines, the officials from the municipalities whose territorial waters form part of the Verde Island Passage, also agreed to increase the size of their MPAs by 50 percent and jointly monitor and enforce their regulations.

## About the US Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) Support Program

The US CTI Support Program is part of the United States government's commitment to promote the sustainable management of the marine and coastal resources in the Coral Triangle. In cooperation with the CT national governments and the international community, this five-year program provides technical assistance and helps build capacity to address critical issues including food security, climate change, and marine biological diversity. To get a copy of the monthly update, send an email to [info@uscti.org](mailto:info@uscti.org). For more details about the program, visit [www.uscti.org](http://www.uscti.org).