

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

November 2011

Supporting countries of the Coral Triangle region to sustain their marine resources

The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security Launches Official Website and Online Information Hub

This November, the Regional Secretariat of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) launched the new official CTI-CFF website at www.coraltriangleinitiative.org. The website will serve as the virtual center for CTI-CFF information, online collaboration and provide a gateway for the family of websites and portals supporting the CTI-CFF. It features a fully indexed searchable document library containing CTI-CFF official documents as well as studies, reports and tools supporting the CTI-CFF goals such as seascape management, sustainable fisheries, marine protected areas management, climate change adaptation and threatened species, among others. It has an up-to-date calendar of events, news bulletins, dedicated country pages for each Coral Triangle country and direct links to online CTI-CFF technical workspaces. The site will be managed by the CTI-CFF Secretariat with content contributions from the six CTI-CFF National Coordinating Committees and seven Development Partners. It will also link to the CTI-CFF Facebook page and Twitter Feed providing updated information on marine resource conservation and sustainability news.



Coral Triangle Atlas Hits Record Number of Users



The Coral Triangle (CT) Atlas is fast becoming recognized as the most reliable and data-rich source of information on marine habitats and protected areas in the region. The online portal recorded 3,317 visitors from 81 countries from January to October showing a critical surge in awareness and usage of the site following outreach and communications initiatives. The CT Atlas provides spatial information and a vast range of fisheries, biodiversity, natural resources, and socioeconomic data sets that assist users to develop sustainable solutions for marine resource management. The CT Atlas team continues to build partnerships with the six Coral Triangle governments, Asia's leading scientific institutions, non-government organizations and US agencies such as the *National*

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and *National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)*. The site has been developed through the Coral Triangle Support Partnership working through The Nature Conservancy and WorldFish Center's Reefbase and can be accessed at <http://ctatlas.reefbase.org/>



Upcoming Events

November 2-December 16, 2011: PPP Skills and Competency Development E-Learning Course, Online

January 29-February 8, 2012: CTI Climate Change Course for Coastal Communities, Cebu, Philippines

February 6-February 11 2012: First CTI Regional Exchange on Seascapes, Philippines

February 22, 2012: World Ocean's Summit, Singapore

CTI Partner Portal

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). Visit www.uscti.org and log on using **coral** as username and **triangle** as password.

New Resources

New Book: Vulnerability of Tropical Pacific Fisheries and Aquaculture to Climate Change, SPC, 2011

Activity Report: CTI Regional Exchange and Policy Workshop on EAFM, September 20-23, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

Technical Brief: Hot, Sour and Breathless; Ocean Under Stress Report, Plymouth Marine Laboratory et al, October 2011

Community Leaders from Indonesia and Timor-Leste Learn to Use New Tool Kit for Climate Change

Twenty seven government and non-government organization leaders from coastal areas in Indonesia and Timor-Leste participated in a training workshop in Denpasar, Indonesia to learn how to use a tool kit for adapting to the risks of climate change. The *U.S. Coral Triangle Initiative Tool Kit: Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Tools for Climate Adaptation* is a comprehensive collection of cutting-edge scientific and social instruments that local governments can use to work with their constituents to conduct climate outreach, develop qualitative climate change vulnerability assessments, and create site-specific adaptation plans. It was developed under the U.S. CTI Support Program to support the CTI Regional Early Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation, and the workshop is one of a series of LEAP trainings for CTI countries. The workshop was organized by the Indonesia Locally-Managed Marine Area Foundation, with support from the U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation as well as USAID's Coral Triangle Support Partnership, Indonesia Marine and Climate Support Project and Marine Protected Area Governance Project.



Workshop participants from Indonesia doing a vulnerability assessment exercise at the workshop.

Studies Reveal Threats to Fisheries and Food Security in Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands



Two studies conducted by CTSP in collaboration with WorldFish Center highlight the need for extensive planning as a critical step towards ensuring long-term food security and sustainable livelihoods for the people of both Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands. The study *Mapping Fisheries Dependence and Aquaculture Development in Timor-Leste* suggests aquaculture as a potential alternative livelihood for the people in coastal areas of Timor-Leste, for whom climate change now presents very serious threats. The report entitled, *Planning the Use of Fish for Food Security in Solomon Islands* explores the long-term impacts of unsustainable fisheries in Solomon Islands. The study identifies various threats to food security, and recommends that the government of Solomon Islands invest in fisheries productivity, aquaculture enterprises, and alternative livelihood generation to address these. Both of these studies make a valuable contribution to the Coral Triangle Initiative as they shed light on country-specific sustainability issues which, unaddressed, will impact the biodiversity and people across the entire Coral Triangle region. PDFs of the full report can be downloaded from the CTSP website www.usctsp.org or email freya.paterson@wwfus.org to request hard copies.

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. For more details about the program, visit www.uscti.org.