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

March 2010

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

USAID Strengthens Malaysia's "Wildlife Wardens" Capacity to Protect Marine Resources

On March 18-20, 2010 community leaders from 20 villages within the proposed Tun Mustapha Marine Park in Sabah, Malaysia, convened to discover new tools and strategies to protect marine wildlife—specifically sea turtles. The leaders, dubbed honorary "wildlife wardens" came from three districts in the park including Kudat-Banggi, Kota Marudu and Pitas, as well as Pulau Tigabu, a small island at the eastern tip of the park. Wardens from Kampung (village) Berungus in Pitas District were also commended during the event for their successful initiative in protecting sea turtles by convincing local fishermen to stop destructive fishing methods and switch to more environment- and turtle-friendly fishing gear. The proposed Tun Mustapha Marine Park covers roughly one million hectares. It is an important habitat for marine turtles and coral reefs but is threatened by overfishing, destructive fishing and uncontrolled coastal development. The training was organized by WWF-Malaysia and the Sabah Wildlife Department and supported by USAID's US Coral Triangle Support Partnership, a mechanism of the US CTI Support Program.



Photo credit: WWF-Malaysia

Children in Kampung Berungus watch a newly-hatched sea-turtle make its way to the sea

Philippine Community Works to Maintain a Healthy Anchovy and Sardine Fishery

Photo credit: A. Trinidad, CI - Philippines



Anchovy fish fry caught by fishermen in San Juan, Batangas

The municipality of San Juan in Batangas, Philippines, in collaboration with CTSP through Conservation International, has launched a community-based monitoring program for the local sardine and anchovy fishery. Referred collectively as "dulong", these fish are often caught unintentionally as juveniles and over time may result in depletion of stocks. The monitoring program includes a review of local laws on overfishing and the development of a fish cage facility for local fishermen to demonstrate how to minimize the capture of juvenile fish so that they can continue to grow into more mature and commercially-viable sizes. The monitoring program was developed in response to the high amount of fish fry caught in the municipality of San Juan, which could result in overfishing of the two species within the Verde Island Passage. The San Juan municipality coastline faces 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.



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 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.

What's New?

➤ The Document Library Section of the CTI Partner Portal is currently being updated. It will be up and running on the first week of April 2010 with new categories and folders for easier access and navigation. If you are looking for a particular document in the library, kindly send an email to info@uscti.org and we will send it to you via e-mail. The CTI Partner Portal Team

➤ Updated calendar of CTI-related events and US CTI Support Program team travel schedules

Timor-Leste Government Turns Learning Into Action to Prevent Illegal Fishing Activities

The Timor-Leste government has launched an initiative to strengthen prevention of illegal, un-reported and un-regulated fishing activities at the Nino Konis Santana (NKS) National Park. The government rolled out an awareness campaign on March 10-12, 2010 to familiarize fishing villages with existing fisheries laws and regulations. More than



Photo credit: S. Tighe

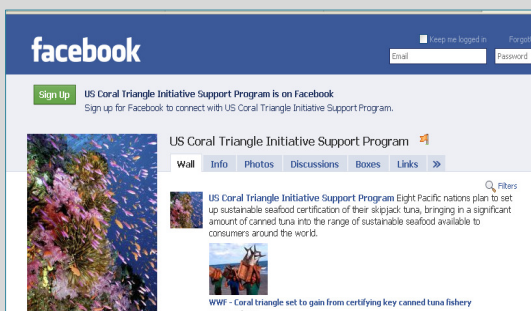
A government official inspects a fisherman's catch at the NKS

70 local fishermen, village heads, and community police officers participated in events that will further strengthen the government's ability to implement outreach campaigns and make communities more aware of the laws covering the use of appropriate fishing gear, the consequences of catching protected species and the maximum allowed amount of by-catch for each fisherman, among others. The campaign builds on the public outreach efforts initiated by the Timor-Leste government and CTSP through Conservation International, from January to February 2010. Implementing fisheries laws at the NKS is crucial in protecting and sustaining the park's 55,600 hectares of marine and coastal waters that includes extensive coral reefs.

University Mentoring Program for Philippine Scientists Created

Leading marine and fisheries scientists from the University of the Philippines, De La Salle University and Silliman University met in Manila on March 9, 2010 to forge mentoring programs with their counterparts from state colleges and universities. Under the mentoring program the scientists will team-up with the academics from the state colleges to build their competencies in three areas: ability to develop tools, undertake research and apply conservation measures related to coastal resource management and marine resource conservation. As a result, experts from the state colleges and universities will then be able to provide technical support to local governments to implement coastal resource and marine conservation programs in the Verde Island Passage, in Palawan, and in Tawi-Tawi—all priority conservation areas under USAID's US CTI Support Program. CTSP, through Conservation International, supports the scientists' mentoring program.

For real-time news and updates on the Coral Triangle, join us at
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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.