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

April 2011

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

Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) Countries Gear Up for Action on Climate Change



Photo credit: Dita Anneraeni

Fishing communities living in coastal areas, such as the one in Gizo, Solomon Islands above, stand to benefit from strengthened climate change adaptation activities in the Coral Triangle region.

Representatives of the CTI member states gathered in Honiara, Solomon Islands on April 14-21, 2011 for the Regional Exchange on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). The exchange, with assistance from the US CTI Support Program, focused on identifying tools and methods available for implementing early actions, vulnerability assessments, and adaptation strategies in the Coral Triangle, the most diverse marine ecosystem in the world. The CTI CCA Technical Working Group was convened for the first time during the exchange and drafted a decision memorandum for the Senior Government Officials on key CCA action items. CT6 delegates reviewed and finalized the CCA Regional Early Action Plan framework and identified early regional, national and sub-national actions under three priority adaptation themes, namely, coastal marine ecosystems, food security and livelihood, and coastal infrastructure. Science and climate change experts from NOAA, NASA, USAID, CI, TNC, and WWF

participated in the event and shared their experiences.

Malaysian Fishers Learn Surveillance and Monitoring Techniques in the Philippines

Commercial fishermen from Sabah, Malaysia visited the Philippines in March 2011 to learn how to strengthen monitoring and implementation of fisheries laws. The fishermen, who are members of the *Persatuan Pemilik Kapal Nelayan Kudat* (Kudat Fishing Boat Owners Association), were accompanied by representatives from the Department of Fisheries Sabah, Sabah Parks and the Coral Triangle Support Partnership. The fishermen visited the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' Monitoring, Control and Surveillance station in Navotas, Manila to learn about the implementation of the Fisheries Observers Program (FOP). The FOP is implemented in 31 countries and provides training and support necessary for deploying observers on board commercial fishing vessels to collect fisheries data on by catch, catch composition and fishing gear configuration, among others. The Malaysian delegates are planning to implement its FOP at the proposed Tun Mustapha Park. "Tun Mustapha Park can be used as a model for fisheries management in Sabah, where collaborative management is implemented and management tools like Fisheries Observer Programme can be adapted to local situation and tried out," said Lawrence Kissol, Head of Fisheries Marine Resource Management Section at the Department of Fisheries Sabah.



Photo credit: WWF Malaysia

Malaysian fishers at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources monitoring station in Navotas, Philippines



Upcoming Events

May-June 2011

US CTI Support Program Coordination Meeting, Manila, Philippines, May 4-6

Regional Exchange on MPA Management Effectiveness Assessment, Batangas, Philippines, May 8-14

CTI Local Governance Alliance: Mayors' Round Table, Wakatobi, Indonesia, May 16-20

For more events, log on to the CTI Partner Portal

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 Report: *Scientific Design of a resilient network of Marine Protected Areas – Lesser Sunda Ecoregion, Coral Triangle*. The report highlights the first resilient MPA network design at the ecoregional level in the Coral Triangle and the application of large scale marine spatial planning in a data deficient area which required innovative approaches including: less reliance on computer based decision support tools and more reliance on the use of expert mapping and input from key stakeholders.

Presentation Files and Handouts:

Presentation files and hand outs from the *CTI Learning Network Planning Meeting* held in Manila, Philippines can be accessed at the Workspace Section inside the Learning Network and Capacity Development Folder.

Local Communities Assess Radio Program on Climate Change

Six coastal *barangays* (villages) in Taytay, Palawan, Philippines conducted a review and evaluation of the radio program, *Kalikasan at Buhay sa Tabing Dagat* (Environment and Coastal Life). Held from April 4-11, the session allowed



Photo credit: WWF-Philippines

the participants to identify the strengths and pointers to improve not just the radio

L-R: A community member discusses the lessons learned after listening to a radio program on climate change while a community organizer discusses the impacts of climate change in coastal areas

program but also the community discussions held for the last four months. Overall, the participants demonstrated an overwhelming appreciation of the program especially on climate change topics. The CTSP, through WWF-Philippines in partnership with the Foundation for Information Technology Education and Development supported the program to improve the community's knowledge on climate change and coastal management. Similar activities were held in Quezon, Palawan and Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, which are both priority geographies of the Coral Triangle Initiative in the Philippines.

Coral Triangle Center Receives Grant to Develop CTI Learning Network



The US CTI Support Program signed a grant agreement with the Coral Triangle Center (CTC) to support the CTI interim Regional Secretariat and the Coral Triangle countries in developing and facilitating CTI Regional Learning

Networks. Established in 2000 and based in Bali, the Coral Triangle Center (CTC) was originally set up as the hub for The Nature Conservancy's marine conservation program in support of Marine Protected Area networks in Indonesia and the Coral Triangle region. Since then, CTC has established itself as an independent regional training and learning center for marine conservation. It develops local and regional capacity for marine conservation through training and education; field testing and leveraging management practices; promoting learning networks and collective action; and developing public and private partnerships to address marine conservation issues. Under its grant, the CTC will address the need for customized training programs for stakeholders in the CT region that could be integrated, innovated, customized and sustained with a clear purpose and scope to help advance the goals of CTI.

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.