



FACT SHEET

U.S. Coral Triangle Initiative Support Program

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



The Coral Triangle provides a major source of protein to more than 1 billion people.
Photo credit: WWF/Aulia Rahman

The US CTI Support Program seeks to improve the management of biologically and economically important coastal and marine resources and its associated ecosystems that support the livelihoods of peoples and economies in the Coral Triangle.



The Coral Triangle is home to six of the seven species of marine turtles.
Photo Credit: WWF

CHALLENGE

The Coral Triangle is a geographic area encompassing almost 6 million square kilometers of ocean and coastal waters in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific. Recognized as the global center of marine biological diversity, the region is home to some 363 million people, one-third of who are directly dependent on coastal and marine resources for their livelihoods.

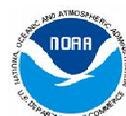
The marine and coastal natural resources of the Coral Triangle—and the many goods and services they provide—are at immediate risk from a range of factors, including over-fishing, unsustainable fishing practices, land-based sources of pollution and climate change. These factors adversely impact food security, biodiversity, employment opportunities, and standards of living for people dependent on fish and other marine resources. In 2007, the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) was launched as a multilateral partnership by the leaders of the Coral Triangle countries to safeguard these resources.

US RESPONSE

The US Government, led by the US Agency for International Development Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA), in conjunction with USAID/Washington, the bilateral missions of Indonesia and the Philippines, the US State Department, and other US partners, is providing leadership under a \$42 million, 5-year US CTI Support Program. In cooperation with the six Coral Triangle national governments (CT6) and the international community, this program provides technical assistance and helps build capacity to address critical issues including food security, climate change, and marine biological diversity.

US CTI SUPPORT PROGRAM TEAM

There are several US-based partners within the US CTI Support Program to facilitate the development and implementation of targeted strategies and tools at the regional, national, and local levels: (1) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is providing strategic technical assistance and training to support many of the CTI goals; (2) the Coral Triangle Support Partnership (CTSP) is a consortium of the World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International, and The Nature Conservancy, with teams in each of the CT6 countries to implement activities that align with the National Plans of Action; and (3) the Program Integrator, based in Bangkok, Thailand; and Jakarta, Indonesia; helps coordinate a unified response to our program and supports technical and communications activities at the regional level.





The US CTI Support Program focuses its country-level efforts in priority geographic areas to leverage multiple activities and integrate CTI themes in a single location for greater impact.



Healthy coral reefs thrive at the Nusa Penida Marine Protect Area in Indonesia.
Photo Credit: The Nature Conservancy/Marthen Welly

PROGRAM APPROACH

The US CTI Support Program applies an integrated approach across the major thematic areas in the CTI Regional and National Plans of Action to achieve catalytic results. Working at multiple geographic scales, the US CTI Support Program focuses activities at specific geographic sites and links them across the region through shared learning networks and regional exchanges to advance regional policies and strengthen capacity throughout the Coral Triangle region. Thematic regional activity teams have been established to provide the relevant skill sets from all of the US CTI Support Program members and to facilitate a coordinated approach to address the cross-cutting technical issues.

RESULTS

The US CTI Support program uses an ecosystem-based management approach to tackle some of the most challenging and complex issues related to global marine and coastal resources. The Program is designed to directly support the principles and goals outlined in the CTI Regional and National Plans of Action and is focused to achieve the following four broad results at the end of five years:

1. Strengthened Regional and National Platforms to Catalyze and Sustain an Ecosystem Approach to Management of the Coral Triangle.

The program supports multilateral collaboration by strengthening the capacity of the CTI Regional Secretariat, Technical Working Groups and the CTI National Coordinating Committees to achieve its goals. The program is also supporting the establishment of science and learning networks throughout the Coral Triangle to institutionalize information sharing on marine and coastal issues as well as the formation of a Science Advisory Board that will inform decision making in the CTI. Further, the US CTI Support Program facilitates the creation of public-private partnerships and sustainable funding mechanisms to aid the CT6 countries in achieving the goals of the RPOA.

2. Improved management of marine protected areas (MPAs). The CTI plans to create protected areas for 20 percent of the marine and coastal areas in the Coral Triangle by 2020. To support this goal, the US CTI Support Program brings together MPA experts, policymakers and practitioners to strengthen management and enforcement of existing MPAs and to establish a region-wide CTI marine protected area network. As of 2010, the US CTI Support Program has supported the improved management of more than six million hectares of MPAs under this program.

3. Improved ecosystem approach to fisheries management. Effective fisheries management requires confronting existing threats from unsustainable and illegal practices at the regional scale, such as the Live Reef Fish Trade (LRFT), as well as developing proactive holistic strategies that incorporate traditional practices and innovative techniques at the community level. The US CTI Support Program has supported the development of regional policies to control the LRFT and strengthened coastal resource management at the community level through local governance mechanisms. For example, the program is supporting the establishment of a CTI Local Governance Alliance to incorporate the provision of integrated marine and coastal management services at the local level.

4. Improved capacity of Coral Triangle countries to adapt to climate change. There is an immediate need to strengthen the capacity of the Coral Triangle countries to adapt and prepare for impacts from climate change resulting from inundation of coastal areas, increased acidification of waters, and loss of critical fisheries. Using a multi-pronged approach the US CTI Support Program is developing easy-to-use assessment tools, conducting massive information campaigns using radio to reach isolated coastal communities, supporting a CTI Regional Early Action Plan as well as the preparation of national climate plans, and training government staff to better address climate adaptation issues.

Contact: Rene Acosta

US Agency for International Development
Regional Development Mission for Asia
63 Atheneé Tower, 25th Floor, Wireless Road
Bangkok 10330 Thailand
Office: +662-263-7972
Fax: +662-263-7499
E-mail: racosta@usaid.gov
Web: <http://asia.usaid.gov>
<http://www.uscti.org>