



CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY

Annex – 12(1)

Decision Document on Regional Business Forum

The 12th CTI-CFF SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING (SOM-12)

**1 - 2 November 2016
Laguna Hotel, Waigani Drive
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea**

**Adopted on 2 November 2016
by
the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea,
the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste**

I. Background

The 4th CTI-CFF Regional Business Forum was a successful event hosted by the Government of Indonesia as it managed to gather a healthy mix of participants from various sectors such as from the government agencies, marine tourism private sectors, and NGOs or associated organizations. The program includes conference policy roundtables, plenary panels and open panels; a Coral Triangle Marine Tourism Investment Forum; A Buyer-Sellers Meeting; a Coral Triangle Marine Tourism Expo; the Women Leaders Forum Roundtable; and CTI-CFF Local Government Network 1st Executive Committee Meeting.

Recommendations from the RBF-4 ranges from actions for the governments; private sector operators and community representatives across the region; and NGOs, universities and research institutions to consider and implement in their own capacity.

Based on the findings and recommendations, the CTI-CSO endorsed the following decisions during SOM-11 in Manado, Indonesia.

1. Encouraged CTI-CFF member countries to adopt the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) Criteria as the baseline standard for sustainability in travel and tourism in marine protected areas in the Coral Triangle and adapt these to fit local conditions;
2. Endorsed the creation of a task force under the MPA Technical Working Group that will identify ways to promote sustainable marine tourism standards in marine protected areas. The task force will be led by Indonesia NCC and the Coral Triangle Center. Other Members will include representatives from Regional Secretariat, NCCs, partner organizations, Tourism Ministries of the CTI-CFF member countries, and marine tourism industry associations. WWF and CI have also expressed interest to become members. The TOR of the task force will be presented at the next SOM;
3. Noted that there is a study funded by the Government of Australia and undertaken by WWF entitled “Developing and Promoting Sustainable Nature-Based Tourism in the Coral Triangle”, the results of which will support the task force; and
4. Endorsed the conduct of the 5th Regional Business Forum in 2017 with the continued thematic focus on marine tourism, and finalize the next host country before SOM12.

Since SOM-11, Partners and CT6 member countries have successfully undertaken activities and programs to meet with the RBF-4 recommendations and implement most of the SOM-11 decisions. The programs and activities include:

1. The signing of an agreement between the Indonesian Ministry of Tourism with the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN);
2. The adoption of the GSTC Criteria by the Indonesian Ministry of Tourism under the Ministerial Decree no.14, 2016;
3. Current process of the Indonesian Ministry of Tourism in the drafting of a Ministerial Decree on resource utilization within MPAs, including utilizing them for tourism (i.e. how to assess tourism carrying capacity);
4. Indonesia was announced as one of the winners of the 12th UNWTO Awards for Excellence & Innovation in Tourism for the category of “Innovation in Public Policy and Governance” – Project title: Re-inventing the Government in Tourism, Pemkab Banyuwangi, Indonesia;
5. Formalization of a partnership between Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) and Asian Ecotourism Network (AEN) through a joint MOU for cooperation in the support and endorsement of the GSTC Criteria, awareness of good sustainability practices and joint advocacy and policy development activities;
6. Publication in ADB’s Pacific Economic Monitor in December 2015 on the discussion on the drivers of strong demand for tourism in the Pacific and the challenges to growth (e.g., lack of infrastructure, human resources, destination development, airline links, and visa restrictions) including measures to ensure tourism develops in an inclusive and environmentally sustainable manner;
7. Proposed partnership between Indonesia (CTC, MoE, UNEP & Reef-World) for a 5-year plan ““To establish the Green Fins approach for environmentally sustainable diving and snorkeling businesses and regulatory systems Indonesia.””;
8. The award to Atauro Island, Timor-Leste as one of the top 100 Sustainable Destination during World Tourism Day and Green Destinations Day in September 2016;

9. The successful organization of the “Sustainable Tourism and the Future We Want” Conference in Bali, Indonesia under the International Tourism and Environment (FITE) platform.
10. MOU signing between Coral Triangle Center and Living Seas under the program “Engaging Scuba Divers to Spread the Message on Marine Conservation and Sustainable Tourism”;
11. The on-going project by WWF funded by the Government of Australia on ‘Developing & Promoting Sustainable Nature Based Tourism in the Coral Triangle’; and
12. The adoption of the Sustainable Marine Tourism Task Force Terms of Reference (TOR) with the support from NCC Indonesia and CTC for SOM-12 approval and endorsement.

II. Decision

Based on the presentation and deliberations during SOM-12, the Senior Officials hereby:

1. Acknowledged the activities and achievements by CT6 member countries and Partners towards sustainable marine tourism post RBF-4;
2. Acknowledged and congratulated Indonesia for adoption the GSTC Criteria in the Ministerial Decree no.14, 2016 by the Ministry of Tourism;
3. Encouraged CTI-CFF member countries to continue working on the adoption of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) Criteria as the baseline standard for sustainability in travel and tourism in marine protected areas in the Coral Triangle and adapt these to fit local conditions;
4. Acknowledged the development of the Sustainable Marine Tourism Task Force Terms of Reference (TOR) funded and undertaken by NCC Indonesia and CTC and integrated with the Marine Protected Areas Technical Working Group (MPA TWG);
5. Acknowledged the progress made on the project funded by the Government of Australia and undertaken by WWF entitled “Developing and Promoting Sustainable Nature-Based Tourism in the Coral Triangle”, the results of which will support the task force; and

6. Encouraged Regional Secretariat to pursue the discussion with the Government of Malaysia on the possibility of hosting the next 5th Regional Business Forum in 2017.

Attachment:

12.1 RBF SOM-12 Presentation