



CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY

Annex –3
Decision Document on:
EAFM Working Group and Priority Actions

The 9th CTI-CFF SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING (SOM9)

26 - 27 NOVEMBER 2013
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Adopted on 26th November 2013
by the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea,
The Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste

I. Background

Following adoption of the general Terms of Reference (ToR) for thematic working groups (TWG) in SOM6 in Manado, the EAFM WG was constituted in 2011 chaired by Malaysia. Thereafter, the EAFM WG initiated the formulation of a Regional EAFM Framework pursuant to Goal 2 on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management set forth in the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action aiming by 2012 that *“at the national and regional levels, a strong legislative, policy, and regulatory framework is in place for achieving an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), designed to plan, develop and manage fisheries in a manner that addresses the multiple needs and desires of societies, without jeopardizing the options for the future generations to benefit from the full range of goods and services provided by marine ecosystems (in accordance with the UN FAO 2003 definition of EAFM)”* (CTI-CFF RPOA, 2009). The EAFM WG convened two Regional Exchanges to help build consensus on the key aspects of the Framework.

The draft Regional EAFM Framework was presented at SOM8 in Kuala Lumpur. The SOM acknowledged the need for a common regional framework to manage fisheries resources, and noted the need for full endorsement by each country of the Framework. To address this concern, the EAFM WG convened a meeting in May 2013 that endorsed the Regional EAFM Framework and mapped out the roadmap for implementation of the framework in each member country. The activities outlined in the Regional EAFM framework were utilized as input to clarifying the regional priority actions and activities identified during the RPW2.

In addition, CTI-CFF in collaboration with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) organized a Regional Intergovernmental Forum on Live Reef Food Fish Trade (LRFFT) where countries adopted a resolution and agreed to pursue follow-up actions primarily to engage the market side of the LRFFT. The EAFM WG concurred with the outcomes of the Regional Intergovernmental Forum and agreed to carry out its recommendations.

II. Decision

Based on the presentations made by the EAFM Working Group and the discussions during the session on *Thematic Working Group Reports (Seascapes and EAFM)* at SOM9, the Senior Officials hereby:

1. Acknowledge the accomplishments of the EAFM WG in the past three years under the leadership of Malaysia as EAFM WG Chair and with the support of partners, and note the change of EAFM WG chairmanship from Datuk Rayner Stuel Galid of Malaysia to Dr. Toni Ruchimat of Indonesia.
2. Endorse the EAFM Regional Framework and enjoin the countries to adapt the Framework in their respective national fisheries policies as may be appropriate.

3. Endorse the full implementation of the Regional Inter-Governmental LRFFT resolution and follow up actions.
4. Endorse the implementation of the EAFM priority actions and activities identified at the 2nd RPW noting in particular the importance of strengthening regional governance of tuna fisheries through the formation of an informal tuna fisheries forum and by working with existing tuna-related RFMOs. However, PNG's and Solomon Islands' endorsement, specifically with respect to working with tuna-related RFMOs, remains subject to further internal consultations with their respective fisheries agencies. Upon completion of said consultations, PNG and Solomon Islands will notify the IRS of their respective final positions on the matter in question.
5. Encourage the partners to work closely with the EAFM WG to clarify and define their respective activities in support of the implementation of EAFM priority actions and activities;
6. Recognize the initiative of Solomon Islands to establish a mobile platform for inshore fisheries data collection and recommend the replication and adaptation of this technology, as appropriate, in other CT countries.

References:

1. Activity Report: Live Reef Food Fish Trade Intergovernmental Forum, Bangkok, Thailand, January 31 and February 1, 2013
 2. Minutes of the 3rdEAFM WG Meeting, Bali, Indonesia, 29-31 May 2013
- Summary Report: Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security 2nd Regional Priorities Workshop, Manado, Indonesia, August 20-22, 2013

Attachment 1

A Regional Framework for Legislation and Policy to Support an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI)

1. Introduction

On May 15, 2009, the leaders of the six Coral Triangle (CT6) countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste) met for a summit in Manado, Indonesia and signed the declaration launching the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) and endorsed its Regional Plan of Action (RPOA). This event marked the culmination of a process launched by Indonesian President Yudhoyono in 2007 to bring the CT6 countries together in a multilateral partnership to sustain the extraordinary marine and coastal resources of the CT region by addressing crucial issues such as food security, climate change, fisheries and marine biodiversity. Member nations of the Coral Triangle have committed to implement the Five Goals of the CTI Regional (RPOA) and National Plans of Action (NPOA). The five conservation goals laid out in the RPOA present clear goals and targets necessary to achieve local, national and regional outcomes within 10 to 15 years. These five CTI goals are:

- Priority Seascapes Designated and Effectively Managed
- Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) and Other Marine Resources Fully Applied
- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Established and Effectively Managed
- Climate Change Adaptation Measures Achieved
- Threatened Species Status Improving

Within the broad framework of the CTI RPOA, the CT6 countries have developed national strategies and action plans, as well as working together to identify and implement those actions that require regional cooperation. CTI thus encompasses a distinctively regional approach, building on country-driven priorities and actions. Management of the CTI is led by a Regional Secretariat, based in Indonesia.

This EAFM Regional Framework was developed through a consultative process among members of the EAFM Technical Working Group representing the six CT countries.

2. Mandate for the Framework

Goal 2 of the RPOA is “Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) and Other Marine Resources Fully Applied”. Under Goal 2, Target 1 is “Strong legislative, policy and regulatory frameworks in place for achieving an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM)”. The RPOA specifically states: “At the national and regional levels, a strong legislative, policy, and regulatory framework is in place for achieving an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), designed to plan, develop and manage fisheries in a manner that addresses the multiple needs and desires of societies, without jeopardizing the options for the future generations to benefit from the full range of goods and services provided by marine ecosystems (in

accordance with the UN FAO 2003 definition of EAFM). EAFM is a key approach toward addressing common trans-boundary policy and regulatory concerns, such as (i) over-fishing of shared pelagic fish stocks; (ii) illegal cross-border fishing by small-scale fishers (stimulated by depletion of local coastal fisheries), commercial-scale fishing operations, and trans-shipment; (iii) overcapacity; and (iv) by-catch of protected and endangered species.” The RPOA states that Target 1 is to be achieved by 2012.

Regional Action 1 under Goal 2 states “Collaborate to develop a ‘common regional framework for legislation and policy’ that would support EAFM; drawing on this, strengthen regional and national legislation, policies and regulations.” This Regional Action 1 further states, “Jointly develop a ‘common framework for legislation and policy’ that would support EAFM.” Applying an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) is considered the preferred option and best practice for the long-term sustainability of fisheries and the services that fisheries ecosystems provide to society (e.g., food security, livelihoods, economic security, coastal protection, human health and well-being) in the Coral Triangle region.

Target 2 of Goal 2 reads: “Through a new, collaborative Sustainable Coastal Fisheries and Poverty Reduction Initiative (‘COASTFISH’) designed to apply an EAFM; a significant improvement has been achieved in the incomes, livelihoods and food security of millions of people living in targeted coastal communities.” Livelihoods and poverty reduction are critical and the link between healthy, well-managed and productive marine and coastal ecosystems and livelihoods and income is well established.

Thus within the RPOA, the operationalization and implementation of EAFM at legislative and policy levels is a mandated in order to achieve tangible and measurable improvements in the health of marine and coastal ecosystems, in the status of fisheries, and in the food security and well-being of the communities which depend upon them.

3. Situational Analysis

The Coral Triangle is the most biologically and economically valuable marine ecosystem on the planet. Covering just three percent of the globe, the region represents more than half of the world’s reefs and boasts 76 percent of its known coral species. Sustaining more than 130 million people who rely directly on the marine ecosystems for their livelihoods and food, the marine habitats of the Coral Triangle also contribute an estimated US\$2.3 billion each year towards the economies of the region.

While the environmental imperative for preserving this “Amazon of the Sea” is obvious, the pressures of widespread poverty, rapid development, and global demands continue to place enormous strain on the natural marine resources of the Coral Triangle. There is an urgent need for improvements in management over the last 40 years, more than 40% of the reef and mangroves in the region have disappeared, leaving many habitats and species extremely vulnerable to extinction. Overfishing, destructive fishing practices, pollution, and climate change and ocean acidification all threaten the future of this precious seascape and its inhabitants.

4. Vision

The vision of this EAFM Regional Framework is:

To sustain and improve the health of marine and coastal ecosystems in the Coral Triangle region that support productive fisheries, food security and livelihoods, and the well-being of coastal communities; and conserve the region's marine natural heritage.

The objectives and activities outlined under this framework are designed to support this vision.

5. Rationale and Purpose

The Coral Triangle represents the global epicenter of marine life abundance and diversity. Marine and coastal resources are a cornerstone for the economies and societies in the region. The growing threats to these resources must be taken seriously, and must be acted upon urgently. Many important coastal and pelagic fisheries across the region are depleted, with some fisheries already collapsed or heading toward collapse. Fisheries underpin the livelihoods and food security of millions of inhabitants in the region and are also crucial to export income. The marine habitats (coral reefs, mangroves, sea grasses) which support these fisheries are similarly threatened and degraded. There is a need for a new approach to fisheries management in the region which recognizes the interactions of various components of the marine ecosystem – fish, people, habitats and climate.

In 2003, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defined EAFM as “An approach to fisheries management and development that strives to balance diverse societal objectives, by taking into account the knowledge and uncertainties about biotic, abiotic, and human components of ecosystems and their interactions and applying an integrated approach to fisheries within ecologically meaningful boundaries.” The principles and guidelines in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) support EAFM and state that: “The purpose of the ecosystem approach to fisheries is to plan, develop, and manage fisheries in a manner that addresses the multiple needs and desires of societies without jeopardizing the options for future generations to benefit from the full range of goods and services provided by marine ecosystems.”

The increased understanding of the interactions among different components of marine ecosystems such as fish, people, habitats, and climate has led to a growing recognition of the need to manage fisheries in the context of their supporting ecosystems. EAFM looks beyond seeing a fishery as simply ‘fish in the sea and people in boats’. EAFM covers the broader marine environment including natural components such as coral reefs and mangroves, and human activities such as fishers, fishing communities, coastal development and tourism. EAFM merges fisheries management, with its focus on providing food and livelihoods for humans, and ecosystem management, with its focus on protecting and conserving ecosystem structure and functions.

Some elements of EAFM are already being done through conventional fisheries management. However, EAFM builds further on these existing management approaches to address the range of issues beyond simple management of target species within a fishery. With EAFM, some assessments, decision-making and management are done differently to take a more integrated approach to fisheries management that includes managing the interactions between the fishery - fish and fishers - and the other essential components of marine eco-systems that are critical for sustaining the fishery such as conserving biological diversity and ecological resilience. EAFM helps to align fisheries management with natural and human systems.

Through this regional framework, the CT6 countries agree to adopt an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management to manage fisheries and maintain marine ecosystem integrity. This regional framework will support adoption and strengthening of laws, policies, and regulations to help stimulate and achieve an EAFM in order to reverse the decline in fish stocks in the region, as well as maximize opportunities to millions in the region who rely on fish and fisheries for their food, livelihood and well-being. This regional framework will allow the CT6 countries to meet their EAFM responsibilities under the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). It is acknowledged that EAFM is a widely accepted concept and various international instruments support its application. At the international level, the principles of EAFM are reflected mainly in voluntary instruments such as the UN Conference on Environment and Development, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the 2002 Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. These instruments have been adopted by national parties in the CT6 countries.

The potential value and benefits of having an EAFM Regional Framework include, but are not limited to: (i) helping to promote harmonization and effective action for fisheries management across the region; (ii) addressing common trans-boundary concerns such as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU), live reef fish trade (LRFT), overfishing and overcapacity, by-catch; (iii) improving coordination, collaboration, capacity and learning for fisheries management across the region; and (iv) expanded scientific research, data management and monitoring.

6. Guiding Principles

This framework is guided by two sets of principles: (1) Section II of the CTI-RPOA, and (2) the FAO 2003 EAF guiding principles. Both sets of principles are presented in Appendix One.

7. Objectives and Indicators

Objectives and indicators are used to guide implementation of the EAFM Regional Framework. Objectives are specific, measurable statements of what must be accomplished. An indicator is a unit of information measured over time that will allow the user to measure progress in meeting the objectives.

The EAFM Regional Framework has five objectives and associated indicators.

Objective 1: By 2017, the six countries of the CTI should formally adopt EAFM into their national policies and/or legislation.

Activity 1: Incorporation of internationally recognized definitions, principles, and elements of EAFM into legislation, policies, and regulations.

Activity 2: Integration of EAFM into relevant sector plans/policies (e.g., live reef food fish trade and fisheries management plans) and cross-sector plans/policies (e.g. sustainable livelihoods, integrated coastal management plans, and poverty reduction strategies).

Activity 3: EAFM is institutionalized with government, including (i) building EAFM into corporate and strategic plans of relevant ministries; and (ii) establishing fisheries advisory committees or other appropriate bodies on a country-by-country basis to provide expert advice and analysis on the implementation of EAFM.

Objective 2: By 2015, enhance the adaptation and/or resilience of fishers and coastal communities from the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on fisheries and marine ecosystems by implementing an EAFM framework.

Activity 1: Convene a technical workshop on scientific guidance incorporating climate change and ocean acidification into EAFM framework and prepare a report.

Activity 2: Regional awareness campaign (public) including (a) CT Atlas, (b) Flyers/brochures, (c) Drama groups/role play, (d) Translation into local language, and (e) Constituency building (political will)

Activity 3: Ministerial/agency capacity building (for each CT6)

Activity 4: Provide guidance to assist in developing national policies on climate change and ocean acidification into EAFM

Objective 3: By 2017, reduce IUU fishing through greater collaboration and increased enforcement and awareness.

Activity 1: Strengthen Regional MCS through the RPOA IUU

Activity 2: Convene an MCS practitioner workshop (REX)

Activity 3: Adopt Best Practices for MCS within CT

Activity 4: Develop proposal for Regional IUU information centre

Activity 5: Analysis of markets/trade routes for IUU to/from CT

Objective 4: By 2017, a regional EAFM Human Capacity Development Program is in place to effectively implement EAFM.

Activity 1: Conduct one pilot study per country to develop fishery specific management plans that incorporates EAFM

Activity 2: Develop regional EAFM guidelines

Activity 3: Under the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Eco-region involving Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines (SSME) and the Bismarck-Solomon Seas Eco-region involving PNG and the Solomon Islands (BSSE) Arrangements, conduct a project to develop and incorporate EAFM approaches to Fisheries management

Activity 4: Incorporate learning from (1) into all existing fisheries management plans.

Activity 5: Develop a regional EAFM training program

Activity 6: Conduct EAFM knowledge exchange and training on fisheries prioritization exercise

Activity 7: Conduct national EAFM prioritization exercise

Activity 8: Conduct regional analysis on fisheries prioritization exercise

Objective 5: By 2017, establish a regional platform for collection and sharing data and information relevant to EAFM.

Activity 1: Undertake scoping exercises on existing data from each country

Activity 2: Defining what data is needed for EAFM at the regional level

Activity 3: Establish and adapt or maintain data sharing protocols

8. Implementation mechanisms, roadmap and timeline

The following roadmap and timeline for implementation of the EAFM Regional Framework has been developed.

Activities	Timeline	Lead/Support
Develop a regional framework for the implementation of EAFM	May 2012	Secretariat, EAFM-TWG
Initial review and revision of draft regional framework by NCCs	June through July 15, 2012	EAFM-TWG
CT6 NCCs submit comments and suggestions to TWG Chair (Rayner)	July 15	NCCs
Regional framework revised; Chair sends to NCCs for review	August 1	EAFM-TWG
Second review and approval of revised draft regional framework completed by NCCs	September 1	NCCs
Finalize regional framework by TWG	September 15 2012	EAFM-TWG
Presentation of regional framework at SOM9 for approval	2013	EAFM-TWG/Secretariat
Develop EAFM briefs and information materials	TBD	EAFM-TWG/Secretariat
Dissemination and socialization	TBD	EAFM-TWG, NCC
Establish EAFM coordination mechanism	TBD	EAFM-TWG, NCC
Translated into local languages and dialects	TBD	EAFM-TWG, NCC, USCTI-SP
Institutionalization of programs on EAFM at regional and	2013 onwards	EAFM-TWG, NCC, USCTI-SP

national levels		
Integration or incorporation into national policies and/or legislation	2017	EAFM-TWG, NCC

9. Regional Coordination Mechanism

The CTI EAFM Regional Technical Working Group (TWG), with support from and in collaboration with the CTI Regional Secretariat, shall serve as the coordinating body on EAFM, and be recognized as the platform to provide guidance in the planning, implementation, and communication of EAFM at regional and national levels. The CTI Regional EAFM TWG should work closely (but not exclusively) with projects and entities addressing EAFM in the region.

The connection/coordination of The EAFM TWG will coordinate with the CTI is in accordance with the SOM and Ministerial Meeting resolutions and legal documents on the establishment of the CTI Regional Secretariat.

The regional coordination mechanism will include work closely with the UNFAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (RAP) and the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC), and the SSME Sub Committee on Sustainable Fisheries.

10. Financing and resources

Upon completion of the regional financial architecture for CTI-CFF, the Regional Secretariat would facilitate the access to resources to implement EAFM in the Region. The EAFM TWG requests that the Regional Secretariat establishes a mechanism to support implementation of this regional framework.

11. Review and Monitoring and Evaluation

CT6 NCCs should report to the EAFM Technical Working Group annually on progress made toward applying EAFM in their country. The EAFM TWG will report annual regional progress to the SOM in collaboration with CTI Regional Secretariat.

APPENDIX ONE

Two sets of principles serve as the foundation for this EAFM Regional Framework: (1) Section II of the CTI-RPOA, and (2) the FAO 2003 EAF guiding principles.

The nine guiding principles in Section II of the CTI-RPOA to guide EAFM actions are: Principle #1: CTI should support people-centered biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, poverty reduction and equitable benefit sharing.

Principle #2: CTI should be based on solid science.

Principle #3: CTI should be centered on quantitative goals and timetables adopted by governments at the highest political levels.

Principle #4: CTI should use existing and future forums to promote implementation.

Principle #5: CTI should be aligned with international and regional commitments.

Principle #6: CTI should recognize the trans-boundary nature of some important marine natural resources.

Principle #7: CTI should emphasize priority geographies.

Principle #8: CTI should be inclusive and engage multiple stakeholders.

Principle #9: CTI should recognize the uniqueness, fragility and vulnerability of island ecosystems.

The principles of relevance to an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) as presented by the FAO-CCRF (FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries 4, Supplement 2, Fisheries Management: 2. The ecosystem approach to fisheries. 2003. UNFAO, Rome. Annex 2, pp. 83-87):

“The various forms of an ecosystem approach or ecosystem-based management described in literature or adopted formally by states refer to a number of inter-related guiding concepts, principles or requirements. Many of these are accepted and agreed; some of the fundamental ones were established formally in the 1982 United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea. Others have been derived or expanded from that convention. While these may not be new or specific to EAF, they become more relevant under this approach. They include:

- Avoiding overfishing
- Ensuring reversibility and rebuilding
- Minimizing fisheries impact
- Considering species interactions
- Ensuring compatibility
- Applying the precautionary approach
- Improving human well-being and equity
- Allocating user rights
- Promoting sectoral integration
- Broadening stakeholders participation
- Maintaining ecosystem integrity”

Recognizing that the FAO Code of Conduct was written a decade ago, we add the following principle:

- Recognize the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.