



Photo credit: Bunaken, North Sulawesi. Christian Laluyan for CTI-CFF.

USAID SUSTAINABLE CORAL TRIANGLE

OVERVIEW

The coral reef ecosystems of the Coral Triangle are among the most threatened in the world and also some of the most valuable. Approximately 95 percent of the reefs in the Coral Triangle (CT) are at risk due to overfishing, destructive fishing practices, land-based pollution, and coastal development. The future threats from climate change and ocean acidification will compound these problems.

To address these threats in the Coral Triangle, the United States Agency for International Development Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA) launched the USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle to directly support the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) as a regional leader on marine biodiversity conservation.

BACKGROUND

To safeguard the Coral Triangle's marine and coastal biological resources, CTI-CFF was established in 2009 by its six member countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste (referred to as CT6). From 2009 to 2019, the CT6 governments agreed to collaborate on the protection of the valuable marine resources by adopting the first 10-year CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action (CTI-CFF RPOA).

CTI-CFF is actively advancing its current Regional Plan of Action (RPOA 2.0). To meet the RPOA 2.0 goals for 2025 and 2030, a comprehensive five-year plan is being implemented, with direct support from USAID/RDMA. The activities of USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle are aligned with the defined outputs and indicators in RPOA 2.0.

OBJECTIVES

The goal of USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle is to improve the management of marine biodiversity and fisheries resources in a changing climate in the Indo-Pacific region by:

- Strengthening governance and regional policy frameworks for effective and efficient implementation of regional and national policies on sustainable fisheries and climate adaptation.
- Strengthening regional platforms and partnerships to advance inclusive and sustainable fisheries management and marine/coastal conservation.
- Enhancing the availability and access to sustainable and independent blue financing to support fisheries management, biodiversity conservation, and climate change adaptation and mitigation for sustainable livelihoods in the CT region.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

- Increased regional and national efforts on combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, sustainable fisheries, and climate adaptation by CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and CT6.
- Improved capacity within the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and CT6 to govern the transboundary Coral Triangle and formulate integrated fisheries management and climate adaptation policies and strategies.
- Greater inclusivity in fisheries and coastal resources management. Underrepresented groups (including women and youth) are empowered to be agents of change in combating IUU fishing, promoting marine biodiversity conservation, and adapting to climate change.
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships and regional platforms are used to strengthen sustainable, resilient communities.
- The Coral Triangle Conservation Fund (CTCF) is launched and mobilized. CTCF will provide sustainable and independent blue financing to protect, restore, and transform vital marine resources in the Coral Triangle.
- Additional sustainable and independent blue financing opportunities (beyond CTCF) are identified to support the implementation and alignment of RPOA 2.0 goals, ensuring long-term conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in the Coral Triangle.