



Pacifi Baaymeleh

# ADB Support to the Coral Triangle Initiative

## What is the Coral Triangle?

The Coral Triangle region is located along the equator at the confluence of the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans.

The boundaries of this region cover all or part of the exclusive economic zones of six countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste.

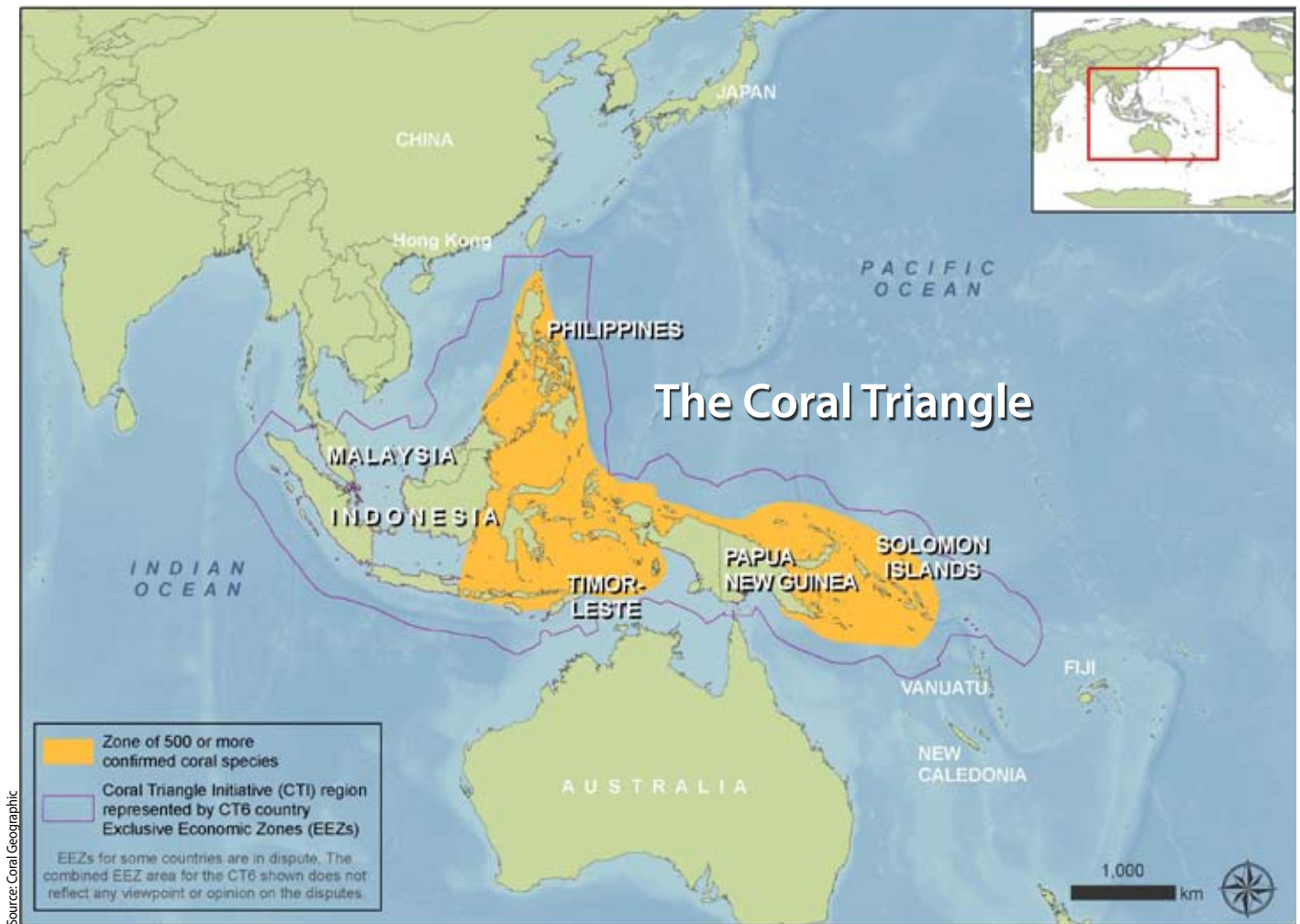
Often referred to as the “Amazon of the Seas,” the Coral Triangle has 76% of all known coral species, 37% of all known coral reef fish species, 53% of the world’s coral reefs, about 3,000 species of reef fish, the greatest extent of mangrove forests in the world, and serves as the spawning and juvenile growth areas for the world’s largest and most valuable tuna fishery.

The marine and coastal resources of the Coral Triangle—and the many goods and services they provide—are at immediate risk from a range of factors, including the impacts of climate change, over-fishing, unsustainable fishing methods, and land-based sources of pollution.

These factors adversely affect food security, employment opportunities, and the standard of living for more than 120 million coastal people dependent on fishing, nature tourism, and other coastal and marine resources for their livelihoods. Fisheries exports and coastal tourism revenues—each of which provides about \$3 billion in annual foreign exchange income in the region—are threatened.

The Coral Triangle provides critical habitat and spawning grounds for about 3000 species of reef fish.





## What is the Coral Triangle Initiative?

The **Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI)** was launched in 2007 as a six-country program of regional cooperation to protect these economic and environmental assets. It has received political endorsement from declarations of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

All six cooperating governments have taken important steps toward addressing threats to the Coral Triangle through the collaborative development of a regional plan of action and the preparation of national plans of action to guide country and local level implementation.

The plans establish important overarching commitments for strengthening policies and institutions, and set goals and targets for the

- designation and management of priority seascapes,
- application of an “ecosystem approach” to the management of fisheries and marine resources,
- establishment of networks of marine protected areas,
- introduction of measures to strengthen to adapt to climate change, and
- protection of threatened marine species.

## ADB’s Role

At the first senior officials’ meeting in late 2007 to establish the Coral Triangle Initiative, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was asked to provide financial assistance for the CTI. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) was requested to serve as the lead GEF agency to organize a program of international technical and financial support. ADB also agreed to directly implement several projects under the CTI’s program of action, based on its strong experience with coastal and marine resources management in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

## Ongoing ADB Projects Contributing to Achievement of CTI Goals

### Philippines Integrated Coastal Resources

**Management Project.** Working in provinces and municipalities surrounding marine biodiversity corridors of national and global significance, the project supports sustainable management and conservation of coastal resources and environmentally friendly livelihood initiatives in coastal communities.



Robert Francisco

Home to the world's most abundant variety of corals and sea life, the Coral Triangle is the marine equivalent of the Amazon.

**Indonesian COREMAP Project (Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Program).** This project focuses on promoting community-based management approaches under a long-term program to protect, rehabilitate, and achieve sustainable use of the Indonesian coral reefs and their associated ecosystems for the enhanced welfare of coastal communities.

## Responding to the National and Regional CTI Action Plans

**Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific.** The project will support actions to effectively manage and sustainably finance networks of marine managed areas, strengthen integrated watershed and coastal (“ridge-to-reef”) management systems, and demonstrate and test measures to increase the capacity to adapt to adverse impacts of climate change. In addition to the three CTI Pacific countries (PNG, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste), Fiji Islands and Vanuatu are also involved.

**Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle: Southeast Asia.** The project will support the sustainable management of coral reef ecosystems and other coastal and marine resources, and will introduce measures to adapt to climate change impacts affecting coastal ecosystems in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

**Philippines Agusan River Basin Integrated Water Resources Management Project.** Encouraging partnership between government entities and local communities, this project will apply an integrated river basin management approach to improve the quality and productivity of rivers, wetlands, and related coastal



Biggs Javellana

The marine and coastal resources of the Coral Triangle support the livelihoods of more than 120 million people dependent on fishing, nature tourism and other coastal resources. These resources are threatened by climate change, over-fishing, unsustainable fishing methods and land based pollution sources.

ecosystems; sustain biodiversity, which supports local livelihoods; and generate regional and global benefits, leading to improved productivity of forest and agricultural lands as well as coastal resources.

**The Integrated Natural Resources Management Project.** This program of measures to address the degradation of natural resources and high incidence



Eric Sales

Local fishing provides important food security benefits in Papua New Guinea and other parts of the Coral Triangle.

of poverty in critical watersheds in the Philippines will include components on natural resources management planning, protected area management, sustainable livelihood development, “ridge-to-reef” management of land-based pollution affecting coastal ecosystems, and the establishment of supporting policies and institutions.

**Regional Cooperation on Knowledge Management, Policy and Institutional Support to the CTI.** This will link ADB’s Southeast Asian and Pacific CTI activities and facilitate CTI-wide information exchange and learning—including program management and coordination support—to encourage policy and program development based on scientific knowledge, global best practices, and participatory processes involving the six Coral Triangle countries as well as other partners.

### Expected Outcomes from ADB Support to the CTI

- Improved policy and regulatory frameworks with attention to conservation and critical resources.
- Enhanced skills, knowledge, and institutional capacity to support improved coastal and marine resources management.
- Protection and management of coastal and marine areas for conservation of biodiversity.
- Reduced pollution through rivers from land-based sources through integrated river basin and coastal zone management.
- Enhanced resilience to climate change through better understanding of likely impacts, effective systems, and infrastructure to respond to these risks.
- Improved health of coral reefs and other marine organisms, with risks to threatened species reduced
- Enhanced capacity to monitor and evaluate ecological and socioeconomic change and improvements in the target geographic areas of the CTI.

- Excellent coordination and cooperation between all participating countries and partners through a functioning and well managed CTI Secretariat and country institutions.

### CTI Partnership

In support of the CTI Program, ADB and GEF are pleased to be working with the six countries as well as other CTI founding partners—the Governments of Australia and the United States, and the environmental nongovernment organizations World Wide Fund for Nature, The Nature Conservancy, and Conservation International.

Under the umbrella of the GEF CTI Program, three other partners are also involved—the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the World Bank.

Mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and potential partners to support new activities under the CTI is still ongoing. Up to the time of the Manado CTI Summit in May 2009, commitments or pledges in excess of \$350 million had been generated, including up to \$63 million in grants from GEF.

### Coral Triangle: Video Initiative

ADB has partnered with the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union to improve public awareness of the pressures facing the Coral Triangle and measures being taken to address them under the CTI. The Coral Triangle Video Initiative draws together 11 broadcast journalists from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, PNG, and Timor-Leste to participate in workshops reviewing the science and CTI programs and to enhance their reporting skills.

News feature stories and a long form video are being produced, to improve public understanding of issues facing the Coral Triangle and highlight the commitment of the countries and partners Coral Triangle issues and highlight the commitment of the Coral Triangle countries, journalists, and partners.

### For more information, contact

Mahfuz Ahmed  
Principal Natural Resources Economist  
Pacific Department  
akmahmed@adb.org

Marilou Drilon  
Natural Resources Economist  
Southeast Asia Department  
mldrilon@adb.org

Tel +63 2 632 4444