

PAPUA NEW GUINEA COUNTRY PRESENTATION

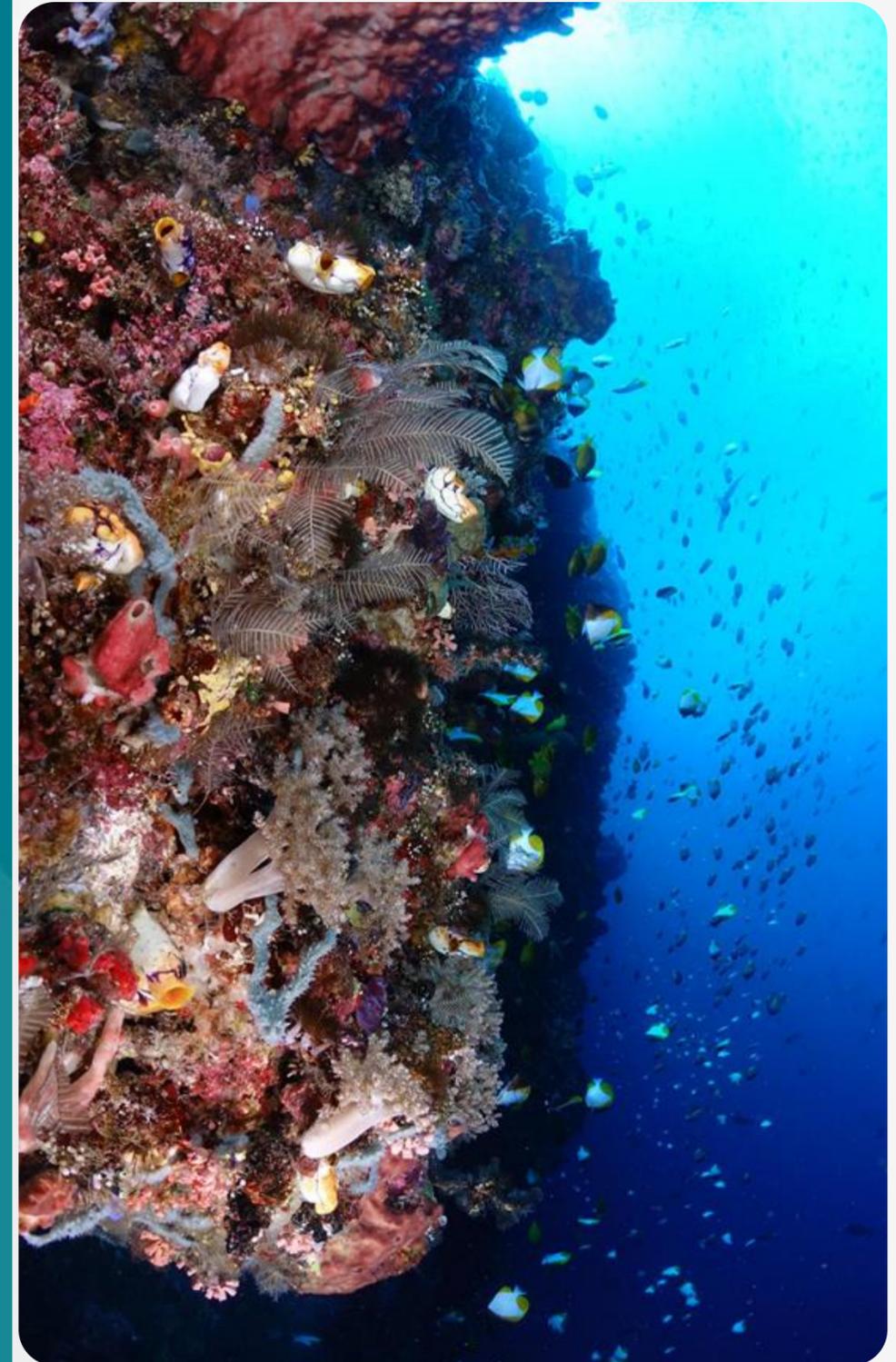
Presented By:

Ms Yvonne Tio, Executive Manager, Conservation & Environment Protection Authority

Presented To:

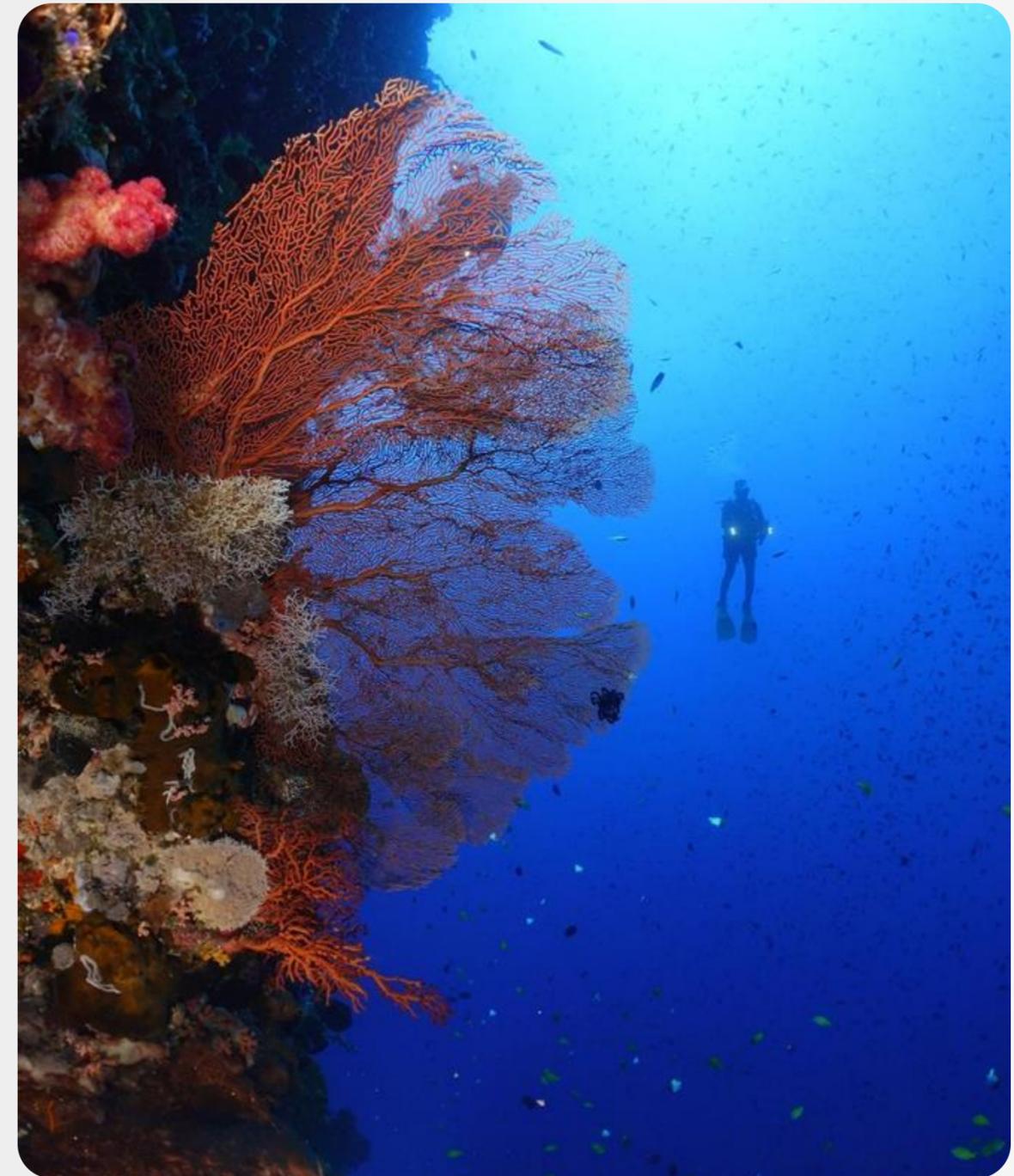
The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting

Bali, Indonesia | 10 December 2025



OUTLINE

01. Country Focal Points
02. Country Profile
03. Technical Working Group Progress /
Accomplishments Towards NPOA
04. Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group
05. National Update on Financial Progress
06. Potential Regional Program and Support Required
07. Coral Triangle Day Celebration
08. Communication and Publications
09. Story From The Field



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



01. Country Focal Points



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

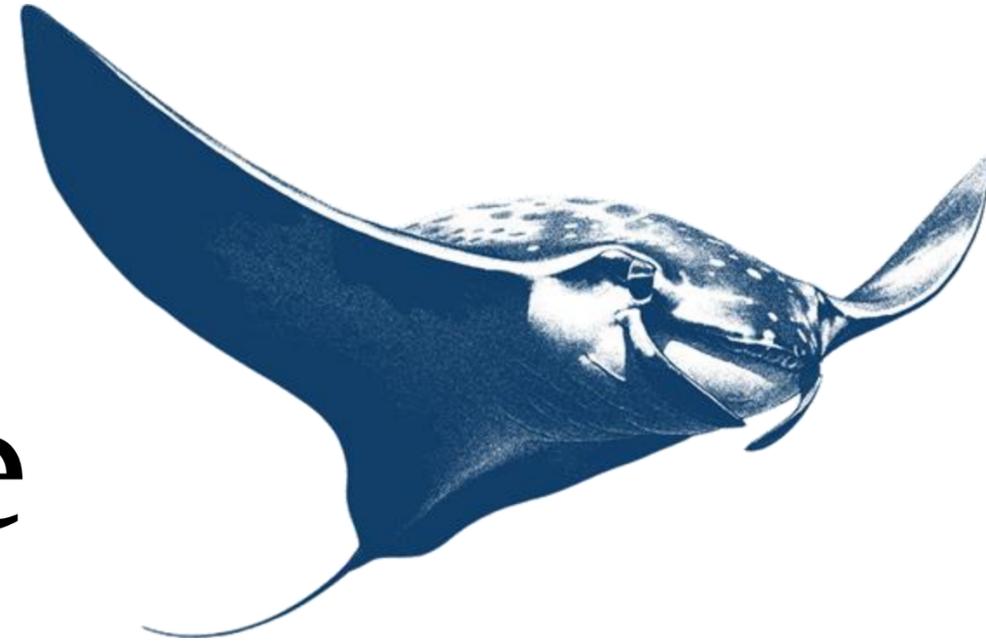
The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



No	Section	Current Focal Points / Chairs	Designation	Contact Details
1	PNG NCC Focal Point	Ms. Kay Kalim	Director, Sustainable Environment Programs, CEPA	Phone: +675 7200 6507 Email: kaykalim@gmail.com
2	Seascape Working Group Alternate:	Ms. Yvonne Tio Mr Aisi Anas	Executive Manageress, Marine Environment Division, CEPA Principal, National Fisheries College, NFA	Phone: 301 4500, 7385 0024 Email: tiyovonne11@gmail.com Phone: 675 71740980 Email: aanas@fisheries.gov.pg
3	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Working Group	Mr. Thomas Usu (Chair)	Executive Manager, Fisheries Management Business Group, NFA	Email: tusu@fisheries.gov.pg
4	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Working Group (Alternate)	Ms. Rachael Rabi	Senior Fisheries Officer – Ecosystems Monitoring	Phone: +675 7115 7476 Email: rrabi@fisheries.gov.pg / rachaelrabi09@gmail.com
5	Marine Protected Areas Working Group	Mr. Bernard Suruman	Manager, Marine Protected Areas Branch, CEPA	Phone: 301 4500, 7628 1838 Email: bsuruman2020@gmail.com
6	Marine Protected Areas Working Group (Alternate)	Ms. Lisa Bun	Senior Program Officer, Marine Protected Areas, CEPA	Phone: +675 7537 7722 Email: lisabee468@gmail.com
7	Climate Change Adaptation Working Group	Mr. Iki Peter	Manager, Adaptation Branch, CCDA	Phone: +675 7700 7840 Email: ikipeter64@gmail.com
8	Climate Change Adaptation Working Group (Alternate)	Ms. Josephine Onguku	So-Adaptation Officer, CCDA	Phone: +675 7432 3008 Email: josephine.soonguku@gmail.com
9	Threatened Species Working Group Alternate:	Mr. Vagi Rei Mr Kenneth Yhuanje	Manager, Marine Ecosystems Branch, CEPA Manager, Crab Fisheries, NFA	Phone: 7622 4416, 7434 7900 Email: rei.vagi@gmail.com Phone: 97047319 Email: kyhuanje@fisheries.gov.pg
10	Financial Resources Working Group	Mr. Samson Mek Joshua	Assistant Secretary – Renewable Resources Branch, Dept. of Treasury	Phone: 3133 858, 7991 8803 Email: Samson_Mek@treasury.gov.pg / smek002@gmail.com

No	Section	Current Focal Points / Chairs	Designation	Contact Details
11	Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group Alternate:	Ms. Yvonne Tio (Chair) Mr Lawrence Duguman	Executive Manageress, Marine Environment Division, CEPA First Assistant Secretary, Dept National Planning & Monitoring	Phone: 301 4500, 7385 0024 Email: tiyovonne11@gmail.com Phone: 675 70054349 Email: lawrence.duguman@gmail.com
12	Host Country Agreement	Ms. Roselyn Maso	Acting Director, International Organization Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Phone: 301 4108 Email: msusie3783@gmail.com
13	Internal Resource Working Group	Ms. Yvonne Tio	Executive Manageress, Marine Environment Division, CEPA	Phone: 301 4500, 7385 0024 Email: tiyovonne11@gmail.com
14	Financial Resources Working Group	Mr. Samson Mek Joshua	Assistant Secretary – Renewable Resources Branch, Dept. of Treasury	Phone: 3133 858, 7991 8803 Email: Samson_Mek@treasury.gov.pg / smek002@gmail.com
15	CT Atlas Working Group	Ms. Lisa Bun	Senior Program Officer, Marine Protected Areas, CEPA	Phone: +675 7537 7722 Email: lisabee468@gmail.com
16	University Partnership	Professor Simon Saulei	Executive Dean, School of Natural & Physical Sciences, UPNG	Phone: 326 7387, 326 7210, 7698 1140 Email: simon.saulei@upng.ac.pg / smsaulei@gmail.com
17	Women Leaders Forum Alternate:	Ms. Yvonne Tio Ms Ruth Konia Ms Annisah Sapul	Executive Manageress, Marine Environment Division, CEPA PNG Country Director, TNC Manager, Marine Program, WCS	Phone: +675 73650024 Email: tiyovonne11@gmail.com Phone: 675 71373337 Email: rkonia@tnc.org Phone: 675 73408274 Email: asapul@wcs.org
18	CTI-CFF & CMAR (Sustainable Marine Tourism Task Force)	Ms. Abigail Pangwinven	Project Officer, Planning and Policy Division, PNG TPA	Email: abigail.pangwinven@papuanewguinea.travel

02. Country Profile



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



Socio-economic profile

- Demographic: As of 2025, Papua New Guinea's population is estimated at **10–10.2 million people**.
- Male-female ratio: PNG continues to show a slight male-skewed population, with approximately **110 males for every 100 females**.
- GDP: PNG's economy remains resource-driven, with major contributions from **oil, gas, mining, forestry, agriculture, and fisheries**. As of 2025, PNG's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** is estimated at **USD 32–33 billion**.
- Number of community living on the coastal zone: Approximately **8% of the population (~800,000 people)** live within **1 km** of the coast.
- Number of fisherfolk: It is estimated that **250,000–500,000 people** are directly involved in **subsistence, small-scale, or artisanal fisheries** across PNG.



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



Government profile:

- Summary of NPOA focuses:

The PNG Marine Program, also known as the National Plan of Action (NPOA), was developed in alignment with the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) through the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA 2.0) and outlines six thematic goals to guide the sustainable conservation and management of the country's rich marine and coastal ecosystems. The thematic areas also respond to national and global commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—particularly SDG 13 and SDG 14 and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

The PNG Marine Program is implemented collaboratively by:

- Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) leads;

Goals 1: Priority Seascapes Designated and Effectively Managed

Goal 3: Protected Areas Established and Effectively Managed

Goal 5: Threatened Species Status Improving

Goal 6: National Coordination Committee: Improved Integration of Cross-Sectoral Supports

- National Fisheries Authority (NFA) leads;

Goal 2: Ecosystem Approach to Management of Fisheries and Other Marine Resources Fully Applied

- Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA) leads;

Goal 4: Climate Change Adaptation Measures Achieved



Government profile:

- Departments in charge for conservation activities:

Organization	Mandate (Aligned with PNG National Constitution Goals)
Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA)	CEPA is mandated under Goal 4: Natural Resources & Environment to ensure the wise and sustainable use of PNG's natural resources, safeguarding biodiversity and marine ecosystems for current and future generations. It regulates environmental impacts, manages protected areas, and leads threatened species conservation. CEPA promotes community participation (Goal 2), integrates traditional stewardship (Goal 5), and strengthens national environmental governance in line with Goal 3 on sovereignty and responsible resource management.
National Fisheries Authority (NFA)	NFA's mandate supports Goal 4 by managing fisheries resources sustainably to maintain ecosystem health and productivity. It regulates commercial and artisanal fisheries, prevents overexploitation, and protects marine species. NFA also upholds Goal 1 through supporting sustainable livelihoods, Goal 2 by enabling community participation in fisheries management, and Goal 3 by ensuring PNG retains sovereign control over its fisheries wealth.
Department of Environment, Conservation & Climate Change (DECC) / Ministry	The Ministry provides national policy direction for conservation and climate initiatives, fulfilling Goal 4 through environmental protection and climate resilience. It ensures national laws, policies, and programs safeguard natural resources while reflecting the principles of Goal 5 (traditional knowledge and cultural values). It also strengthens PNG's sovereign environmental governance (Goal 3) and promotes inclusive national policy processes (Goal 2).
Provincial Environment & Fisheries Offices	These provincial offices implement national policies locally, advancing Goal 2 by ensuring active community participation in conservation and fisheries management. Their mandate includes awareness, enforcement of environmental laws, support to LMMAs, and community monitoring. They promote Goal 4 by ensuring natural resources are managed sustainably within provinces, and strengthen Goal 5 through integration of local cultural practices and customary marine tenure systems.
National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA)	NMSA protects the marine environment from ship-based pollution and enforces maritime safety standards, directly contributing to Goal 4 by safeguarding PNG's waters and coastal ecosystems. It upholds Goal 3 by strengthening PNG's maritime sovereignty and regulatory control over its seas. NMSA also ensures safe, environmentally responsible maritime transport to support national development priorities under Goal 1.
Climate Change & Development Authority (CCDA)	CCDA coordinates PNG's climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience programs in line with Goals 3 and 4. It supports blue carbon conservation (mangroves, seagrass, wetlands), promotes climate-resilient communities (Goal 1), and ensures inclusive climate governance (Goal 2). CCDA integrates traditional ecological knowledge (Goal 5) and secures climate financing to strengthen national capacity to address climate risks and protect vulnerable ecosystems.



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



Government profile:

- National trust fund related to conservation:
- **Biodiversity & Climate Fund (BCF):** National financing mechanism to support biodiversity protection, climate resilience, blue carbon, and community-based conservation programs.
- **Donor-supported Conservation Trust Mechanisms:** Includes GEF, UNDP, CI, WWF, and bilateral funding streams that channel resources into marine and biodiversity conservation.



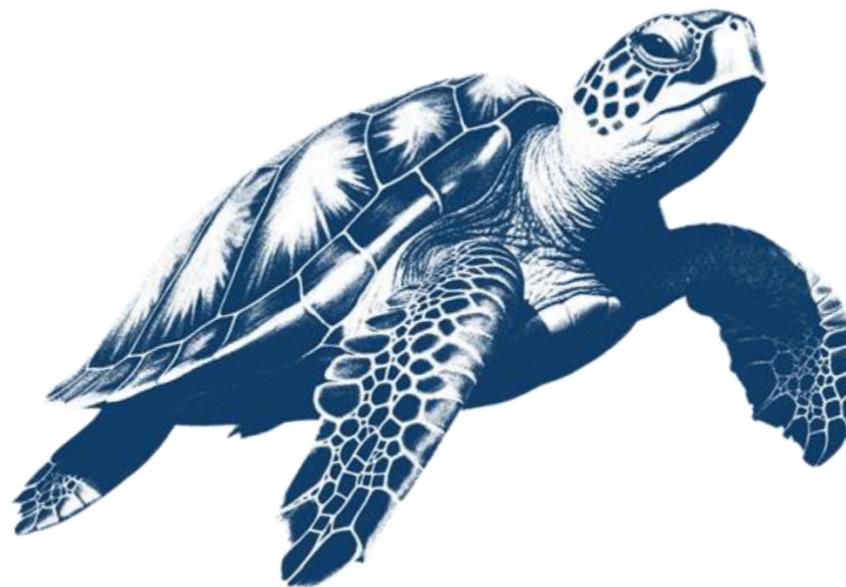
Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



03. Technical Working Group Progress / Accomplishments Towards NPOA



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

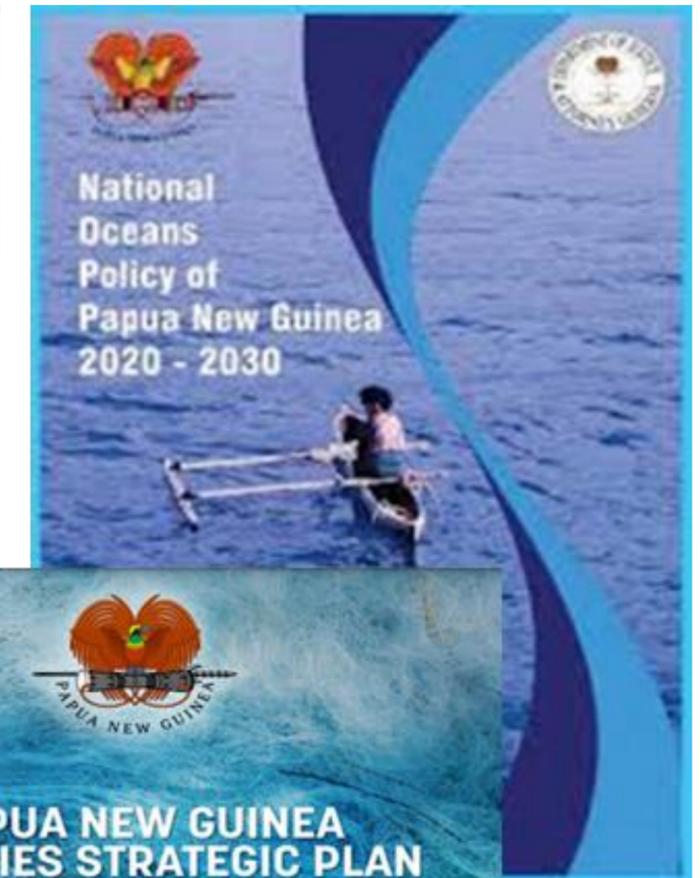
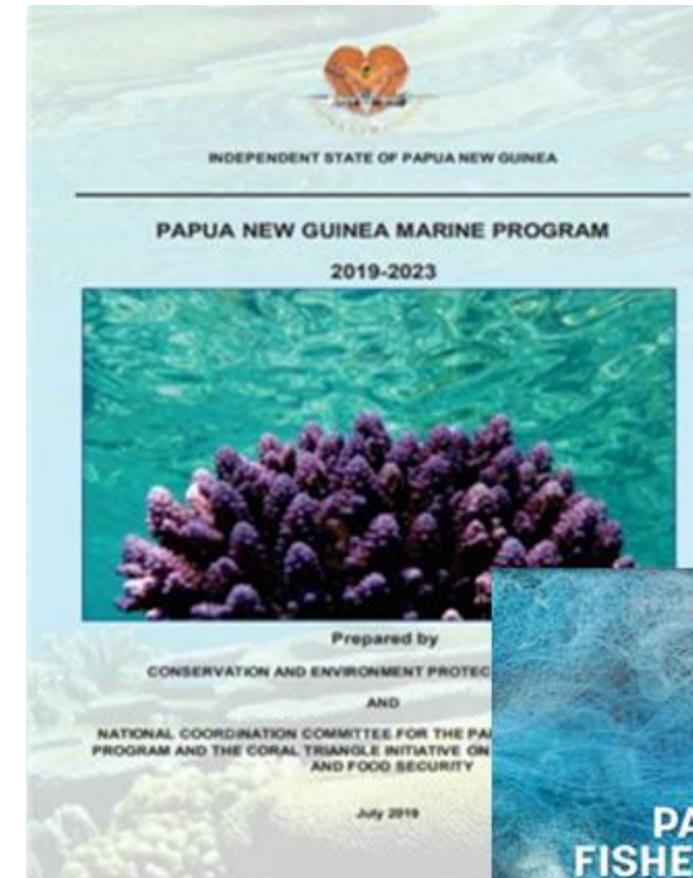
The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries Management

Relevant regulations for EAFM

- PNG Marine Program
- Oceans Policy
- Fisheries Strategic Plan 2021 – 2030
- Fisheries Management Act 1998
- Fisheries Management Regulation 2000
- Fishery Management Plans



Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries Management

Activities organized/attended related to EAFM

- Development of management guidelines for Coconut crabs, Blue Swimmer Crab, Trochus shells, Fish Maw (swim bladder) Fisheries.
- Review and gazettal of fishery management plans (Tuna Fishery, Sea Cucumber Fishery and Beche-mer Trade, Mud crab fishery, GoP Prawn Fishery, & Lobster Fishery).
- Implementation of the Kiwai Fore Coast Artisanal Fisheries Management Plan- South Fly, Western Province.
- Implementation of Kiwai LLG Law on EAFM Model.
- Production of the Trap net training manuals 1&2 and integration of the Trap net training curriculum into the National Fisheries College.
- Deployment of IFADs in coastal communities and draft of 5year development plan.
- Development of National Aquaculture Development Plan focused on elevating the industry to commercial levels.
- MSC for Lobster fishery for the TSPZ area.



Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries Management

Challenges

- Geographical spread of the country (remoteness of many coastal & island communities) and logistics
- Limited financial capacity
- Limited Human resource capacity
- Varying priorities



Marine Protected Area

- Total coverage of MPAs: **22,819 sq.km**
- Target of MPA coverage by 2030: **an increase by 5% since 2023**
- 2 sites nominated for IUCN Green List Standards: **Murat and Lovongai MPAs in New Ireland Province**
- Site(s) nominated for MPA of Excellence/Learning Site: **potential sites for nomination are the Bootless Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Murat MPA**
- Sustainable financing mechanism applied: **none as yet**



Marine Protected Area

- **Activities organized/attended related to MPA:**
 - Beach and Reef Cleanup Initiative led by MPA Working Group targeting plastics in MPAs/LMMAs
 - Blue Economy Opportunities for LMMAs in Milne Bay Province
 - 11th MPA REX in Bali, Indonesia
 - Management Planning for proposed Kimbe Bay National Marine Sanctuary
 - METT Assessment for 4x LMMAs in Kimbe Bay
 - Launching of 4x Management Plans and Business Plans for 4x LMMAs in Kimbe Bay
 - FAD Training for sites in Kimbe Bay
 - Launching of UNDP GEF8 Project: Sustainable Blue Economy for Marine Conservation
- **Technological advancement:** plans to trial out drones for surveillance and monitoring with a partner (potentially out of the UNDP GEF8 Project)
- **Youth involvement (if any):**
 - University student volunteers that assist MPA team in coastal cleanups and awareness programs
 - Participation of youths in local communities in LMMA/MPA work
 - Youths participated in the recent management planning consultations and FAD trainings
- **Corporate involvement (if any):** corporate entities mainly participated in coastal cleanups and mangrove planting activities including support towards trainings.



Marine Protected Area

- Major Challenges:
 - Appropriate legislations and accompanying regulations
 - Effective Enforcement
 - Establishment of a National Ranger Program
 - Constant Monitoring and Evaluation of activities within MPAs
 - Workable livelihood options
 - Rapid coastal developments adjacent to or within MPAs
 - Landowner and/or land rights issues



Climate Change Adaptation

Building Resilience to Climate Change Project (BRCC) supported by UNDP & ADB

1. **Climate Proofing Alotau Wharf**
2. **Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments:** Completed in 21 islands and atoll communities across East New Britain, Manus, Morobe, Milne Bay Provinces, and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.
3. **Climate Change Vulnerability Adaptation Plans (CCAPs):** Drafted for the target communities.
4. **Water Catchment and Tank Installations:** Completed with a total of 142 tanks delivered across various provinces:
 - East New Britain Province: 17 tanks
 - Autonomous Region of Bougainville: 39 tanks
 - Morobe Province: 22 tanks
 - Milne Bay Province: 51 tanks
 - Manus Province: 30 tanks
5. **Sanitation Facilities:** Completed in East New Britain and Morobe Provinces, partially completed in AROB,
6. **Early Warning and Communication Network Systems:** Installed and completed in East New Britain, Morobe, and Manus Provinces.



Province	# of Boats	Delivery Date	Remarks
Manus	6	17/01/2024	Six boats officially commissioned and delivered on November 20th 2024.
Morobe	4	15/03/2024 27/08/2025	First 2 boats delivered on the 15/03/2024 and the second 2 boats delivered on 27/08/2025. All 4 boats officially commissioned and delivered on the August 29 th 2025.
Milne Bay	13	24/02/2024	Thirteen dinghies officially commissioned and delivered on September 12 th 2024.
ENB	13	07/05/2024	Thirteen dinghies officially commissioned and delivered on November 6 th 2024.
AROB	4	Scheduled to be delivered in Jan 2026	Four Boats (32 ft, x2 200HP engines each) arrived in Port Moresby from China. Sports Fishing Ltd (The Contractor) is in the process of installing all the necessary ancillaries items before shipping to AROB.



- CCDA (PNG) is developing a policy on Climate Mobility and Planned Relocation. This will guide resettle communities displaced by climate related impacts such as sea level rise
- Also developed a roadmap towards developing a policy on Blue Carbon
- Govt has started collection of Green fees (USD11) as a climate levy for foreign passport holders at the Jacksons International Airport. The revenue generated will fund adaptation and mitigation actions.



Climate Change Adaptation

MACBLUE (GIZ) PROJECT- OUTPUTS COMPLETED

**Main
Implementing
partners**
CCDA, CEPA,
TNC, WCS

- Legislative review and situational analysis produced for Blue Carbon Ecosystem Legislation
- Capacity building for over 30x stakeholders in using Digital Earth pacific datasets and QGIS to map extent of seagrass and mangrove change cover
- Technical WG meetings and stakeholder 4xconsultation work-shops on Blue Carbon Policy Roadmap conducted since 2023
- Carbon stock assessments completed in 5xprovinces (Central, Milne Bay, Western Province, New Ireland and West New Britain).



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting

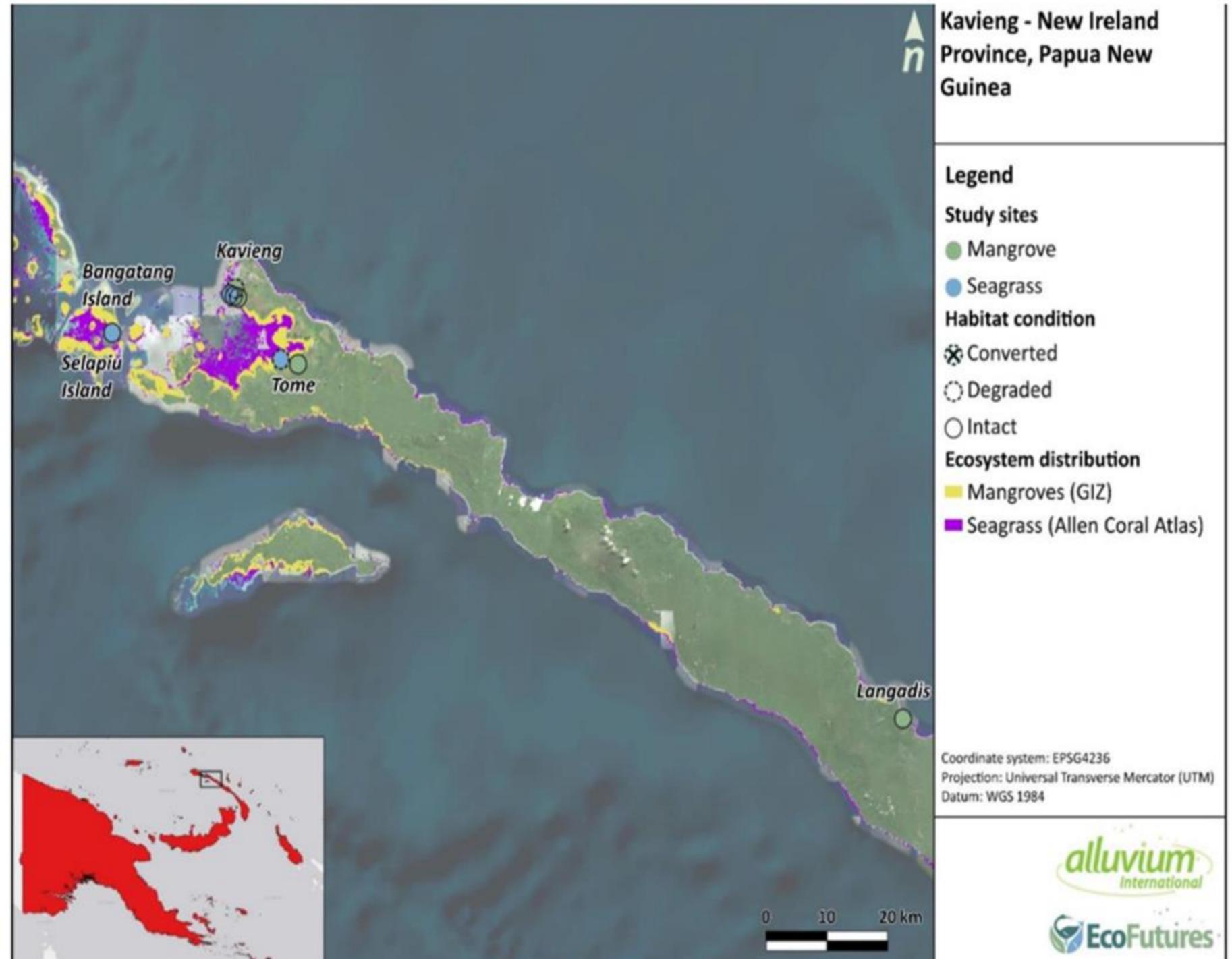


Climate Change Adaptation

MACBLUE (GIZ) PROJECT- OUTPUTS COMPLETED

SPREP & MACBLUE support to WCS and has produced Community Management Plans for Seagrass and Mangrove in 4 communities in New Ireland Province.

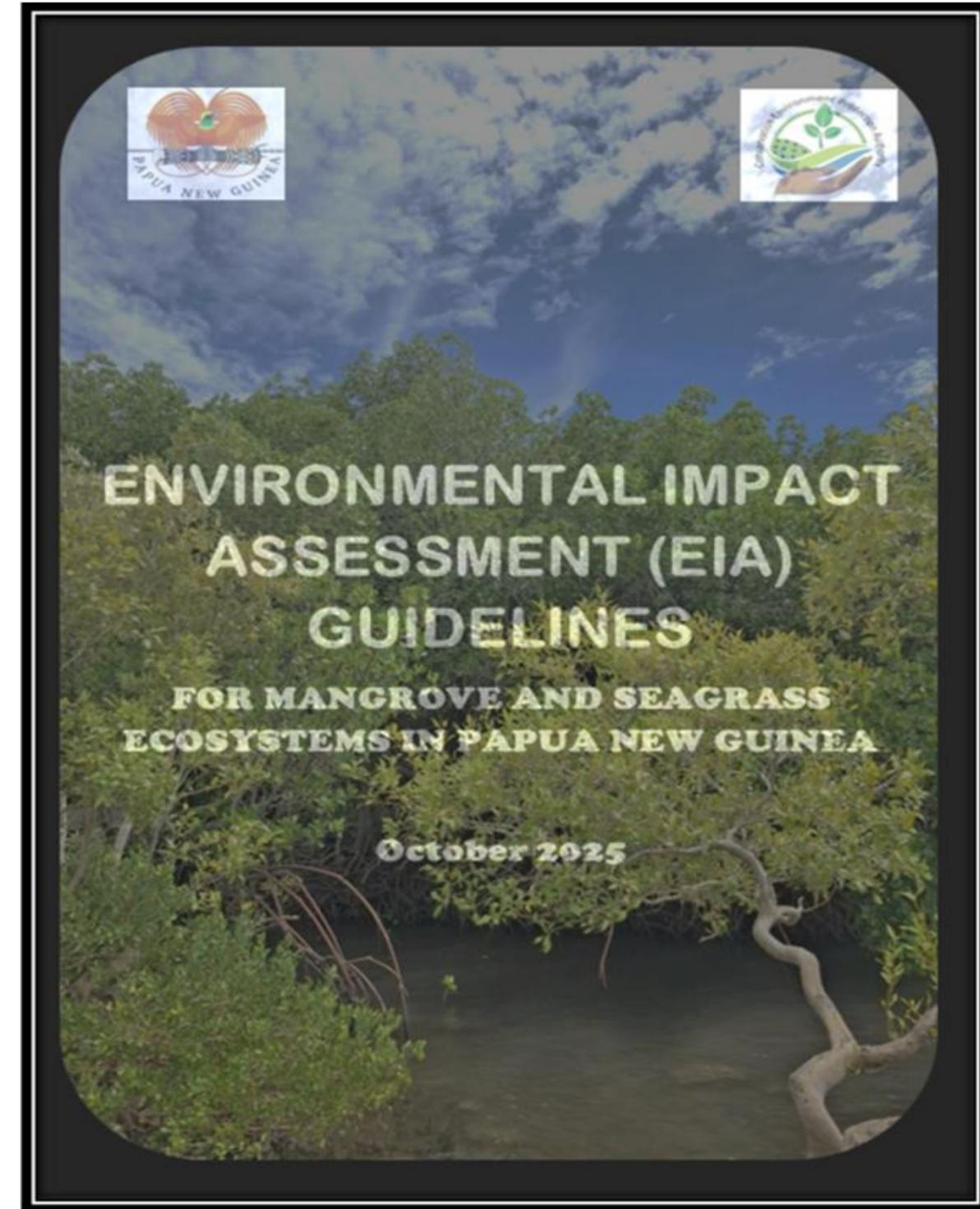
1. Bagatere (Tikana LLG)
2. Sivasat (Kavieng Urban LLG)
3. Tome (Tikana LLG)
4. Lapai (Tikana LLG)



Climate Change Adaptation

MACBLUE (GIZ) PROJECT- OUTPUTS COMPLETED

- Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines Drafted and stakeholder consultations completed.
- Document for endorsement in 2026



Climate Change Adaptation

CHALLENGES-Limited resources (manpower & funding) and alignment to thematic areas



Bali, Indonesia

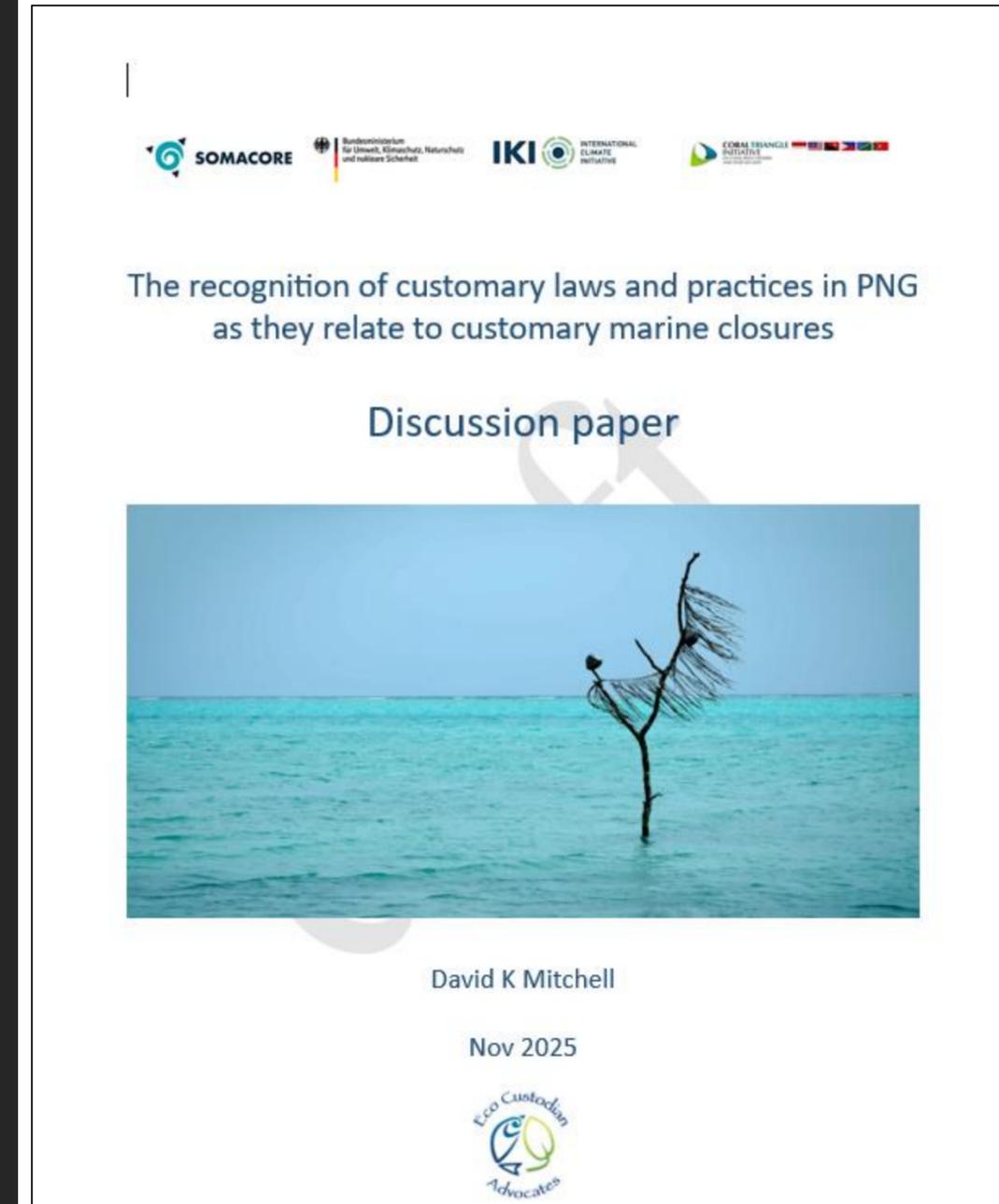
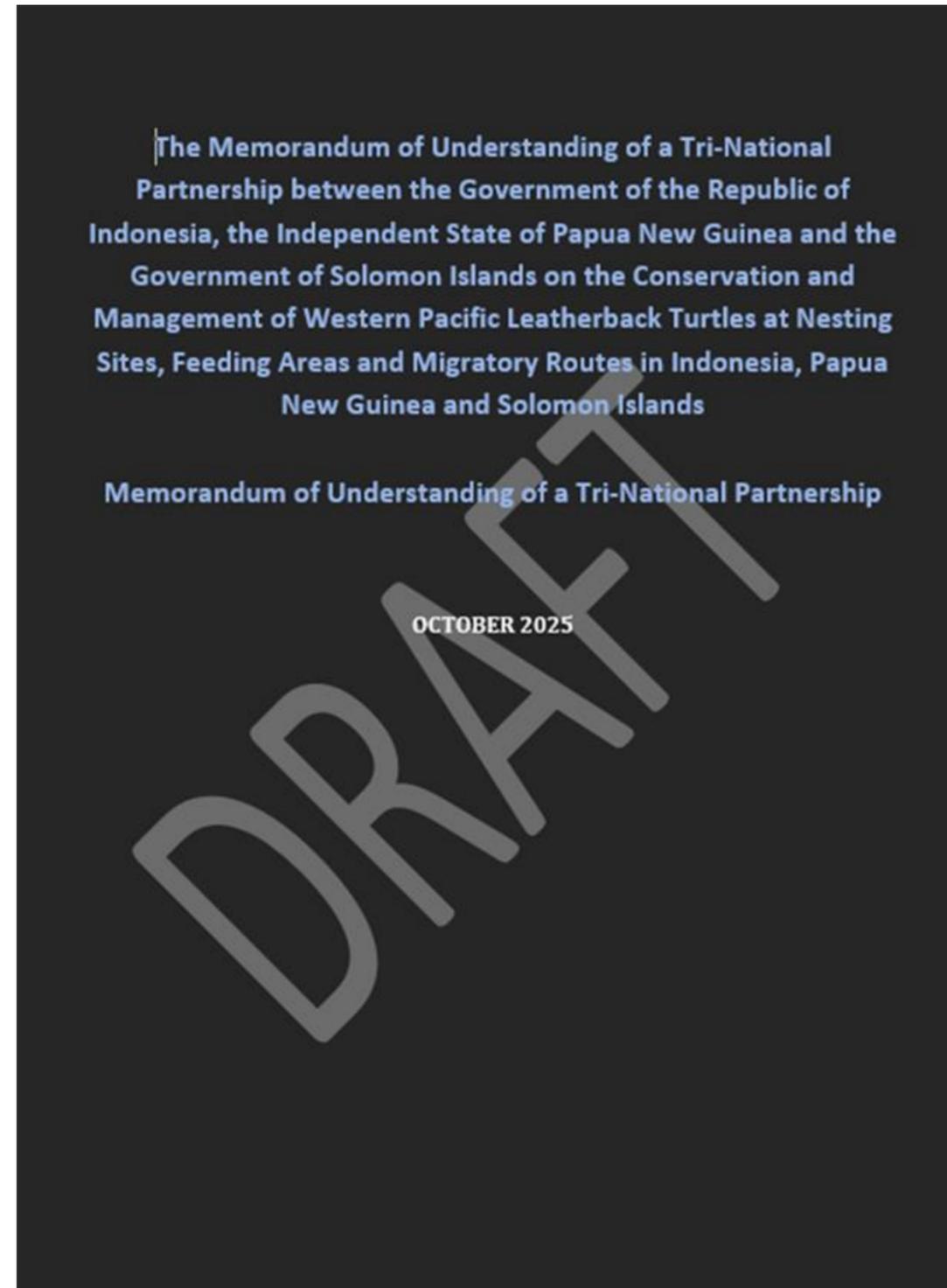
10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



Seascapes

- GIZ Supported SOMACORE Project has supported WCS and Eco-custodian in implementing Activities in New Ireland & Milne Bay provinces.
- Customary Marine Tenure Laws Review by Eco custodian Advocates.
- BSS PNG TWG with TOR.
- MSP identified as a priority activity to be undertaken.
- Mapping of relevant information & data for the BSS seascape infographic.
- Ongoing work with the Milne Bay Prov. Govt in establishing the Jomard MPA.



Seascapes

- Challenges: Limited resources (manpower & funding).
- Remoteness & accessibility to the outer islands.
- Limited Monitoring & enforcement.



Threatened Species

- Updated list (2025) of threatened species in the country sorted by IUCN categories:

Major taxa	Critically Endangered (CE)	Endangered (EN)	Vulnerable (VU)	Totals
Marine Mammals	1	2	2	5
Marine Turtles	2	1	2	5
Sharks	1	5	18	23
Rays	2	2	15	19
Chimaera	0	0	1	1
Corals	1	8	135	144
Mangroves	2	0	2	4
Marine Fishes			61	61
Seabirds	1	1	3	5
Total	10	17	239	267

The **CEPA Marine Threatened Species** plan was developed in 2020 to monitor and track the status of marine species in the Maritime Provinces of Papua New Guinea. The initiative aims to ensure the protection of vulnerable marine species through consistent monitoring and conservation efforts.

- Green Turtles from Endangered to Least Concern
- Acropora pectinata* -New species of table coral recorded in PNG
- 2 new mangrove species of *Ceriops* recorded in PNG including; - *Ceriops pseudodecandra* and *Ceriops zippelania*
- New Discovery of the Pacific Sleeper Shark in PNG Waters
- Rediscovery of the Sailback Houndshark in PNG
- Juvenile Shark Rays Spotted in the Gulf of Papua
- Loggerhead Turtles Recorded in Milne Bay
- Olive Ridley Turtles Nesting in New Britain and Madang
- Increased Leatherback Turtle Nesting in the New Britain Islands
- Yokozuna Slickhead – First Sighting and Record of the Japanese Deep-Sea Species in PNG Waters



Threatened Species

- Success in enforcement activity(ies):
- A pilot marine turtles awareness campaign was conducted in May, targeting the Abau and Rigo villages in Central Province, with a strong focus on fishing communities and local schools. In addition, the campaign was rolled out in three schools in NCD, where students and teachers were engaged on the importance of sustainable practices and marine turtle conservation. Educational and awareness materials, including posters, brochures and comics were distributed. Other Provinces including Milne Bay, Manus and Western Province to be continued next year 2026
- Establishment of LMMA/MPAs in Kimbe Bay, West New Britain led by MPA TWG to protect fisheries and marine resources including Marine Threatened species including dugongs, marine turtles, whales and sharks and rays
- Increased community participation and stewardship in New Britain including North Coast of East New Britain and Pomio in turtle monitoring and protection
- Leatherback turtle learning exchange by Kamiali and Pomio rangers supported by Conservation and Environment Protection Authority and WWF_ PNG Programme
- The National Turtle Coordinators were selected throughout the region. For Papua New Guinea, Miss Marzena Ann Marinjemi was nominated by the Threatened Species Focal Point-Mr. Vagi Rei to coordinate in country turtle programs.



Threatened Species

- Activities organized/attended related to protection of Threatened Species:

- Marine Turtle Awareness Campaign
- Ongoing Marine Threatened Species awareness in schools and local communities
- Turtle Use Survey roadshow (NCD, Daru, Madang, New Ireland and Manus pending Milne Bay)
- Pacific Turtle Forum (Fiji, 2025).
- Leatherback Learning Exchange, Kamiali, Morobe Province
- Blue Carbon assessments for seagrass and mangroves for Central, Western, Kimbe, Milne Bay and New Ireland
- CTI-CFF Threatened Species Working Group Meetings
- Surveys in Milne Bay, Tufi, D'Entrecasteaux for the Walking shark and monitoring at Loloata Resort.
- Seabirds training and workshops
- Torres Strait Treaty Awareness
- Bycatch workshop for fish maw and mitigation strategies in reducing bycatch of marine turtles, sawfishes, rhino rays and sharks
- Development of the National Plan of Action for Marine Turtles
- National Plan of Action for Sharks and Rays (Pending Review)



Bali, Indonesia 10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



Threatened Species

- Youth involvement :
- Awareness campaigns will be conducted in local communities, secondary schools, and other educational institutions, including the distribution of posters, brochures, and other educational materials to raise knowledge about marine conservation and threatened species.
- The launch of the children's book on threatened species, *The Journey Home*, aims to engage young readers and instill a sense of stewardship for marine life. This initiative will be complemented by the development of additional children's books focused on marine threatened species, further promoting environmental education for younger audiences.
- Beach and reef clean-up activities led by MPA TWG and support by marine team, encouraging active participation from youths, students, and community members reinforcing the importance of MPAs and protecting marine ecosystems.

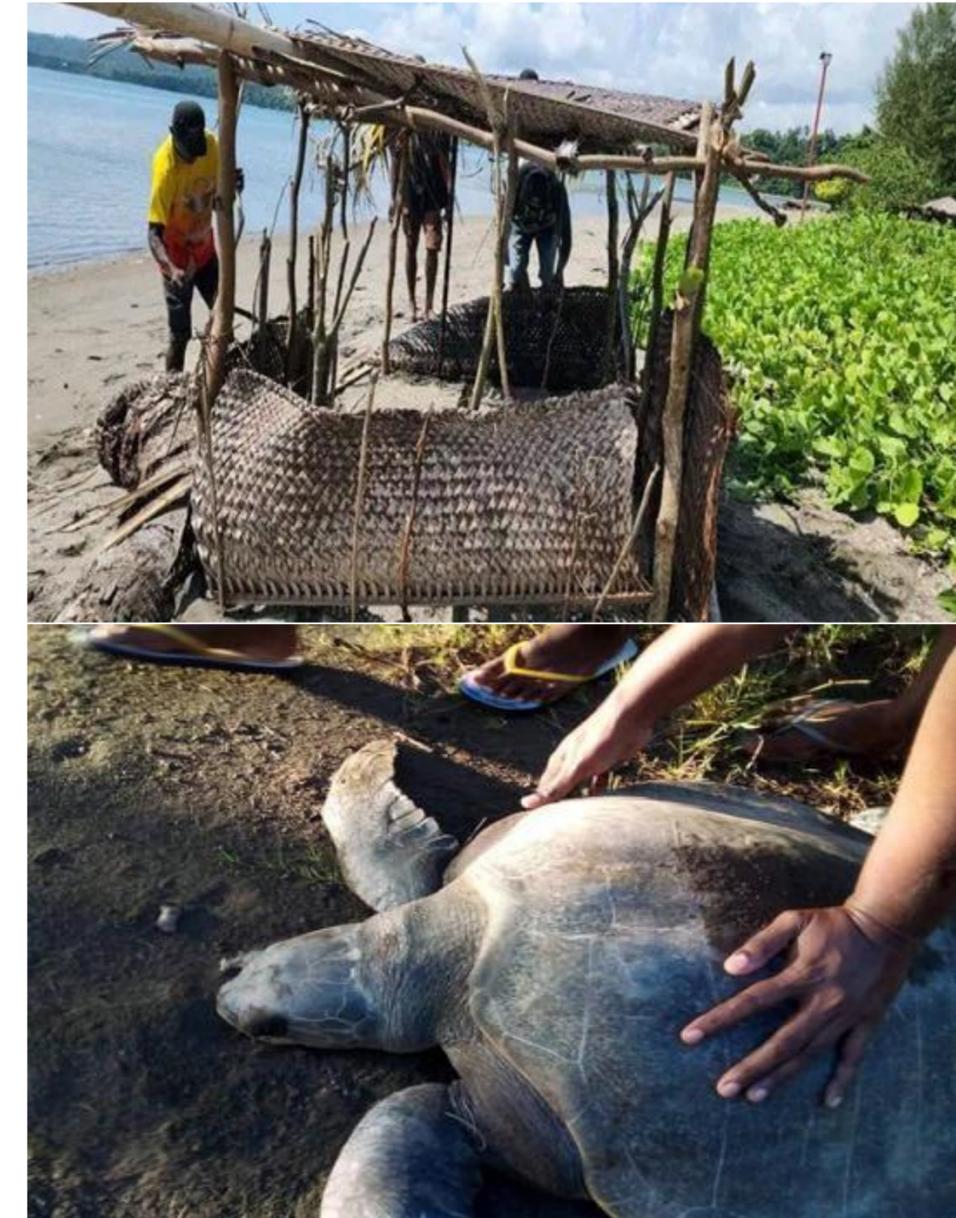
These initiatives collectively aim to increase awareness, promote conservation values and inspire active involvement in marine protection efforts within local communities and schools.



Threatened Species

- Corporate involvement (if any):
- **Kulau Lodge** is at the forefront of protecting and monitoring Olive Ridley turtle nesting sites along the North Coast of East New Britain Province, actively engaging in monitoring, nest protection and community awareness to ensure the survival of these threatened marine turtles.
- **Loloata Island Resort** leads a range of conservation initiatives, including marine turtle protection, coral reef rehabilitation, mangrove and seagrass ecosystem restoration, as well as monitoring of walking sharks, seahorses and giant clams. These programs aim to enhance marine biodiversity, support sustainable tourism and foster community engagement in environmental stewardship.
- **Conflict Islands Conservation Initiative** plays a vital role in marine turtle, walking shark and manta ray monitoring, alongside coral reef rehabilitation efforts, contributing to the protection of critical habitats and the preservation of unique marine species in the region.

These initiatives demonstrate the important role of private sector and community-based conservation programs in safeguarding Papua New Guinea's marine biodiversity while promoting sustainable livelihoods and environmental awareness.



Threatened Species

- Challenges:

1. Lack of Resources and Funding: Conservation efforts often struggle due to limited financial and human resources. This makes it difficult to implement effective monitoring, research, and protection programs for threatened species.

2. Illegal Wildlife Trade: PNG faces challenges with illegal hunting and the trade of wildlife, including threatened species, both domestically and internationally. This contributes to the decline of vulnerable species.

3. Climate Change: Rising sea levels, changing weather patterns, and other climate-related factors are impacting ecosystems and species, particularly marine and coastal species like sea turtles and coral reefs, which are critical to PNG's biodiversity.

4. Weak Enforcement of Regulations: Despite the presence of conservation laws, enforcement can be inconsistent. This is due to a lack of capacity within government agencies, corruption, or the remoteness of certain areas, making it difficult to regulate and protect wildlife effectively.





04. Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



Monitoring and Evaluation WG

- Reporting template
- Marine Scientific Research
- Surveys
- Questionnaires
- Reports from Partners
- Reports from Thematic Areas Leads

Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group

- Challenges:
 - Scattered data & information.
 - Standardised M & E tools.
 - Limited support (manpower & funding) for monitoring and enforcement activities.



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting





05. National Update on Financial Progress



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



Summary of Financial Progress :

No	Area	Country Update
1	Partnerships with donors, NGOs, or private sector	SOMACORE, UNDP GEF-8, ATSEA, SONG
2	Development or implementation of national trust fund / sustainable finance mechanism	Biodiversity and Climate Fund-currently undergoing review
3	Integration of blue economy or innovative finance into national plans	Blue Economy Strategy still in Draft Phase
4	Climate finance or ecosystem-based adaptation initiatives	Green Climate Fund for Result Based Payments 2016-2022-64 million USD
5	Financing for marine pollution / waste management programs	Pacific Ocean Litter Project



06. Potential Regional Program and Support Required



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



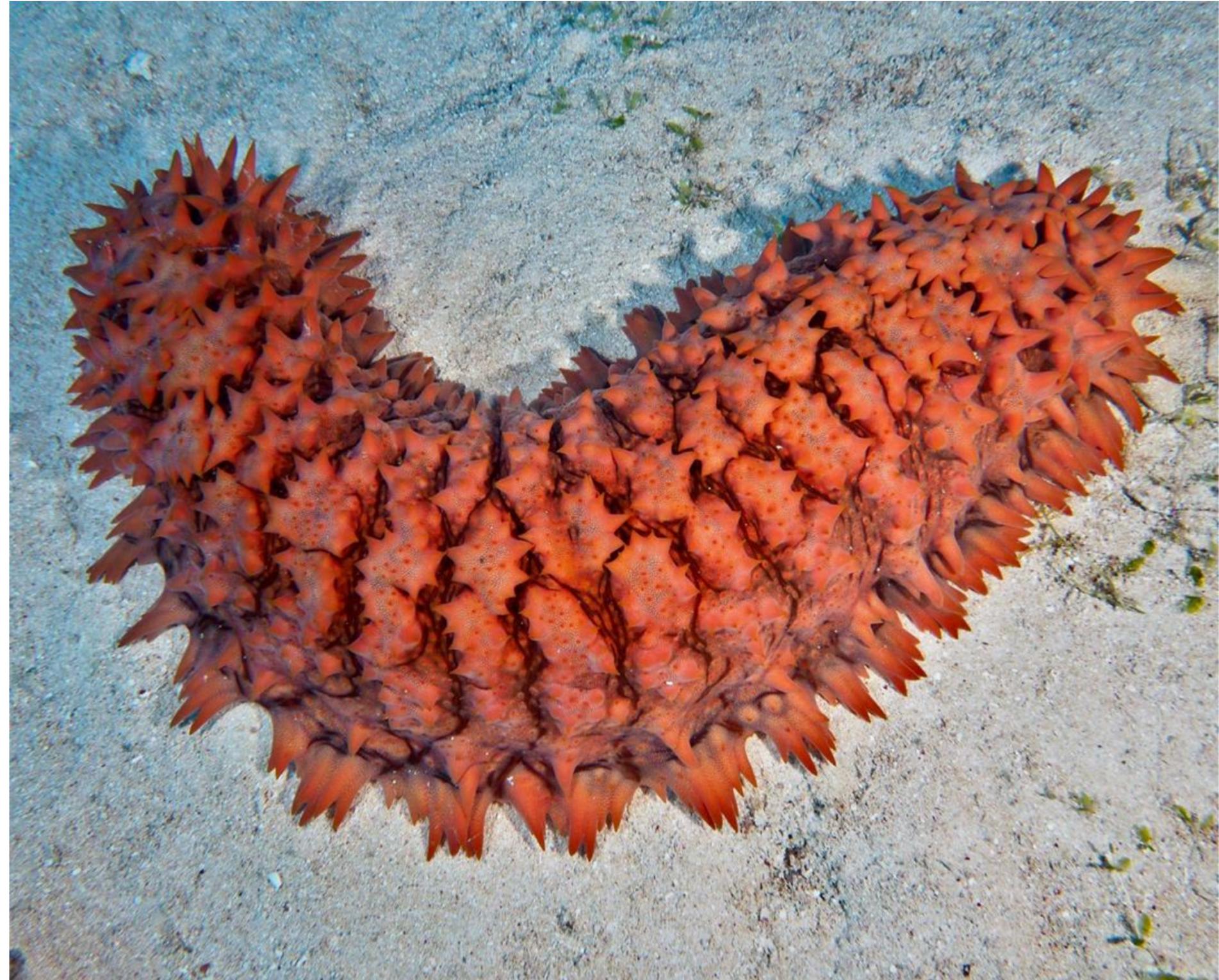
1. Regional Technical Support & Capacity Building

- Regional support is needed to strengthen PNG's technical capacity in key areas of marine resource management.

2. Regional Knowledge Exchange & Learning Networks

3. Scientific Research, Data & Technology Support

- Regional partnerships that advance marine scientific research and modern monitoring technologies.



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting





07. Coral Triangle Day Celebration



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



World Oceans Day & Coral Triangle Day

The World Oceans Day and the Coral Triangle Day were commemorated through a Beach and Reef Clean-up event at in Bootless Bay on June 7th participated by over 200 guests from Government agencies, Business houses, CBOs, International Partners, NGO Partners local Communities, Media, general Volunteers, CEPA Staff, NCDC and UPNG Students

Activities Staged:

- Beach Cleanup in Geididi, Motupore and Lion Island
- Reef Cleanup at Lion Island
- Signboard Installation



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting





07.06.2025 11:27

07.06.2025

07.06.2025

07.06.2025

07.06.2025



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



Coral Triangle Day Celebrations in Kimbe, West New Britain Province and Kavieng, New Ireland Province

- Celebrations in Kimbe included tree planting and beach clean-up
- In Kavieng, school awareness on Coral Triangle



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



Outcomes

Beach and Sea Clean-up picked up a total of almost 1.5 tonne of plastic waste;

- Geididi (Beach Clean-up) 518.8 kg of Plastic Waste collected
- Gwarumemase (Beach Clean-up) 438.4 kg plastic waste collected
- Motupore Island (Beach Clean-up) 510 kg of plastic waste collected
- Lion Island (Reef Clean-up) collected 3 bags
- Plastic bottles (pet bottles) alone made up about 2/3 of the total waste collected.



08. Communication and Publications



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



**PAPUA NEW GUINEA
BLUE CARBON POLICY ROADMAP**

Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

MACBLUE

SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Region
Environment Programme

giz

The Nature Conservancy

**Blue Carbon Ecosystems
of the South Pacific**

Field-based carbon assessments in Fiji, Papua New Guinea,
Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu

Blue Carbon Ecosystems Assessments for SPREP component of the MACBLUE project.
15 August 2025

MACBLUE

SPREP

Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

Griffith
University

alluvium
group

eco
futures

**Blue Carbon Ecosystems
of the South Pacific**

Ecosystem Assessments in Fiji, Papua New
Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu

Blue Carbon Ecosystems Assessments for SPREP component of the MACBLUE project.
15 August 2025

MACBLUE

SPREP

Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

Griffith
University

alluvium
group

eco
futures



Bali, Indonesia 10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting





9. Story From The Field



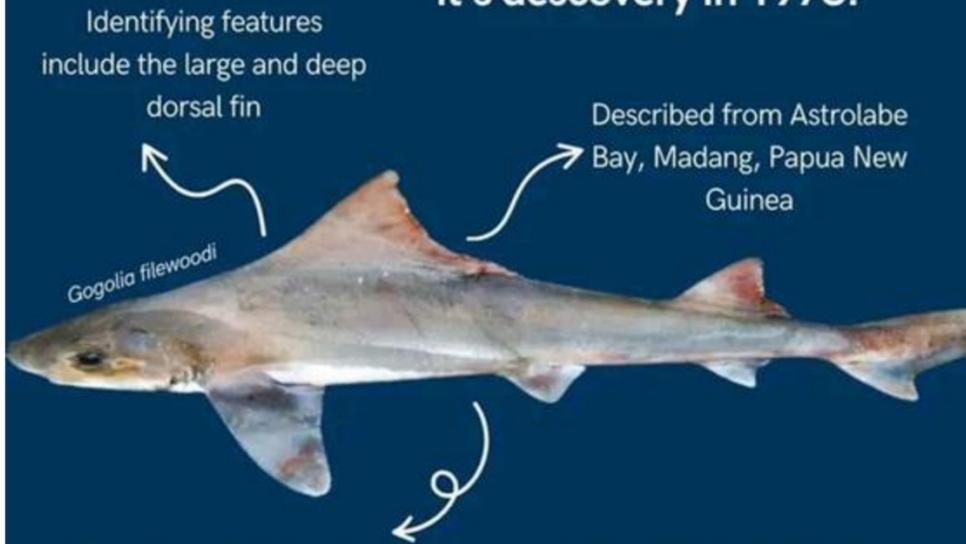
Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



First scientific record of sailback houndshark since its discovery in 1973!



Described from Astrolabe Bay, Madang, Papua New Guinea

Classified as data deficient by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Map of Papua New Guinea showing the Astrolabe Bay area in the yellow box.



FULL ARTICLE HERE



Received: 16 February 2025 | Revised: 10 July 2025 | Accepted: 8 August 2025
DOI: 10.1111/jfb.70196

BRIEF COMMUNICATION

FISH BIOLOGY

Rediscovery of one of the world's rarest sharks, the sailback houndshark *Gogolia filewoodi*, in Papua New Guinea

Jack Sagumal¹ | Rebecca H. Samuel¹ | William T. White^{2,3} | Michael I. Grant^{3,4}

¹WWF Pacific, PNG Marine Programme, Madang, Papua New Guinea
²CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia
³Centre for Sustainable Tropical Fisheries and Aquaculture, College of Science and Engineering, James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland, Australia
⁴Wild Biodiversity Network, National Research Institute, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Correspondence: Jack Sagumal, WWF Pacific, PNG Marine Programme, Madang Field Office, Papua New Guinea. Email: jsagumal@wwfpacific.org

Abstract

A recent survey of artisanal and subsistence fishers in Madang, Papua New Guinea, resulted in rediscovery of the sailback houndshark *Gogolia filewoodi*. The five females and one male *G. filewoodi* recorded in 2020 and 2022 near the Gogol River mouth are the first verified records of this species since its description from a single specimen in the 1970s. *Gogolia* is a monotypic triakid genus and thus represents a unique evolutionary lineage not seen anywhere else in the world and could be an important marine biodiversity icon for Papua New Guinea.

KEYWORDS

Astrolabe Bay, endemic, fishers, Gogol River, Madang, Triakidae

The sailback houndshark *Gogolia filewoodi* Compagno, 1973 was described based on a pregnant female containing two late-term embryos. The holotype was collected in 1970 by L.W. Filewood near the Gogol River mouth in Astrolabe Bay, Madang, in northern Papua New Guinea (Compagno, 1973; White & Ki'oua, 2018). Despite a dedicated study of PNG sharks and rays conducted between 2013 and 2017, no new records of this species were found (White & Ki'oua, 2018). Previous deep-sea surveys for marine fauna conducted from 2010 to 2014 in PNG, including in Madang, did not record this species, although these surveys did identify six new species of sharks and rays (Fricke et al., 2017; White et al., 2017; White & Ki'oua, 2018). *G. filewoodi* is currently listed as data deficient by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species as a lack of records preclude any understanding of population size or trend (Shenoi et al., 2020). Creel and market surveys in the Madang Province conducted by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in Papua New Guinea between February and May 2020 recorded five females of this species in the same geographic area where the type specimen was collected in 1970 (Compagno, 1973; WWF, 2020). These individuals possess the characteristic long first dorsal-fin base, which is unique among the triakid sharks.

The five *G. filewoodi* individuals were caught near the Gogol River mouth at a depth of 80 m by a fisher from the Bibil village who was targeting jewfish (Scombridae) using handlines (Figure 1a,b). Two individuals measuring 61.0 and 60.0 cm in stretched total length (S.L.) were caught on 18 March 2020, and three individuals measuring 75.5, 76.1 and 59.0 cm S.L. were caught on 19 March 2020. All individuals were adult females, except for the 59.0 cm S.L. female, which was adolescent. The catch data were recorded by a community facilitator for the WWF in Bibil village conducting fisheries surveys at the time. He recorded the data of the first two catches without taking photographs but did take photographs of the other three individuals as evidence of the species he was recording. One of the individuals recorded contained five well-developed oocytes in the functional ovary. In September 2022, a 73-cm S.L. adult male *G. filewoodi* was recorded, which had been caught by a fisher from Bibil village (Figure 1c). This individual was also caught close to the Gogol River mouth at a depth of ~200 m near Uasin village. This individual is the first male recorded for *G. filewoodi*. No experiment on live or recently captured specimens was conducted in this study; specimens examined were already deceased as fisheries catch.

Arecolatal reports from fishers in Bibil village and within Madang Lagoon indicate that the species is caught occasionally when fishing

This is an open access article under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.
© 2025 The Author(s). *Journal of Fish Biology* published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd on behalf of Fisheries Society of the British Isles.

J. Fish Biol. 2025, 1–3.

onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jfb.70196 | 1

Rediscovering One of the World's Rarest Sharks , the Sailback Houndshark in Papua New Guinea

The sailback houndshark (*Gogolia filewoodi*) has been rediscovered in the waters off the Gogol River in Astrolabe Bay, Madang Province, Papua New Guinea, ending more than half a century without a confirmed sighting.

First described in 1973, this shark was only known from one pregnant female, with its unusual sail-like dorsal fin, large eyes, short snout, and deep-water habitat about 73m off the continental shelf.

In 2020, five female individuals were caught near the Gogol River's mouth, and in 2022 the first male was documented — the first records since the 1970s.

These findings raise both hope and concern: *G. filewoodi* appears to be microendemic (restricted to a very small geographic area), making it especially vulnerable to habitat disturbance, bycatch and increasing fishing pressures in the region.



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting

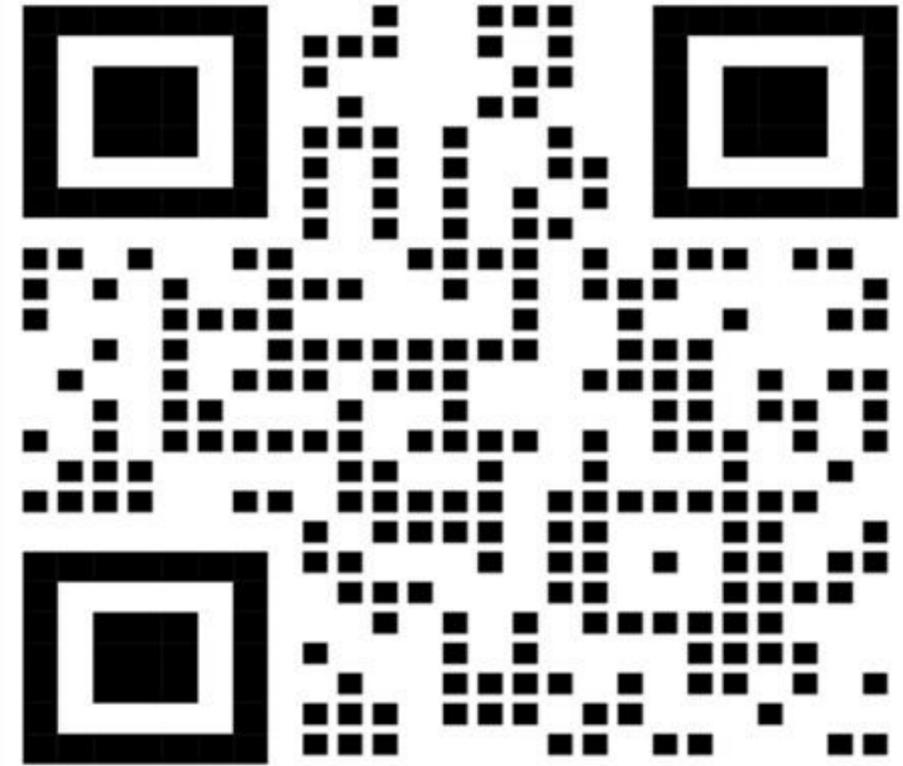


National Geographic Pristine Seas Documentary Launch- Papua New Guinea

In October 2025, the world finally got to see the long-awaited release of the National Geographic Pristine Seas documentary about the rich and fragile marine realms around New Ireland Province and Manus Province in Papua New Guinea. The film draws from an expedition aboard the research vessel Argo, where scientists, local community members and filmmakers dove into coral reefs, seamounts and deep-sea habitats capturing vibrant coral gardens, dozens of fish and rare shark species and seascapes teeming with life. Among the documentary's striking revelations was the discovery of a rare shark species believed to be endemic to PNG.

But the film isn't just about marine wonders as it tells a story of connection and responsibility. Local communities shared their ancestral ties to the sea, their dependence on reefs for fish and livelihoods and their hopes for a future where these waters remain healthy, abundant and protected. By blending stunning imagery with science and local voices, the documentary invites audiences everywhere to recognize the global importance of PNG's marine treasures and the urgent need to safeguard them for generations to come.

Scan QR code



Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting



Tenkyu Tru!

PNG CTI-CFF National Coordinating Committee Secretariat

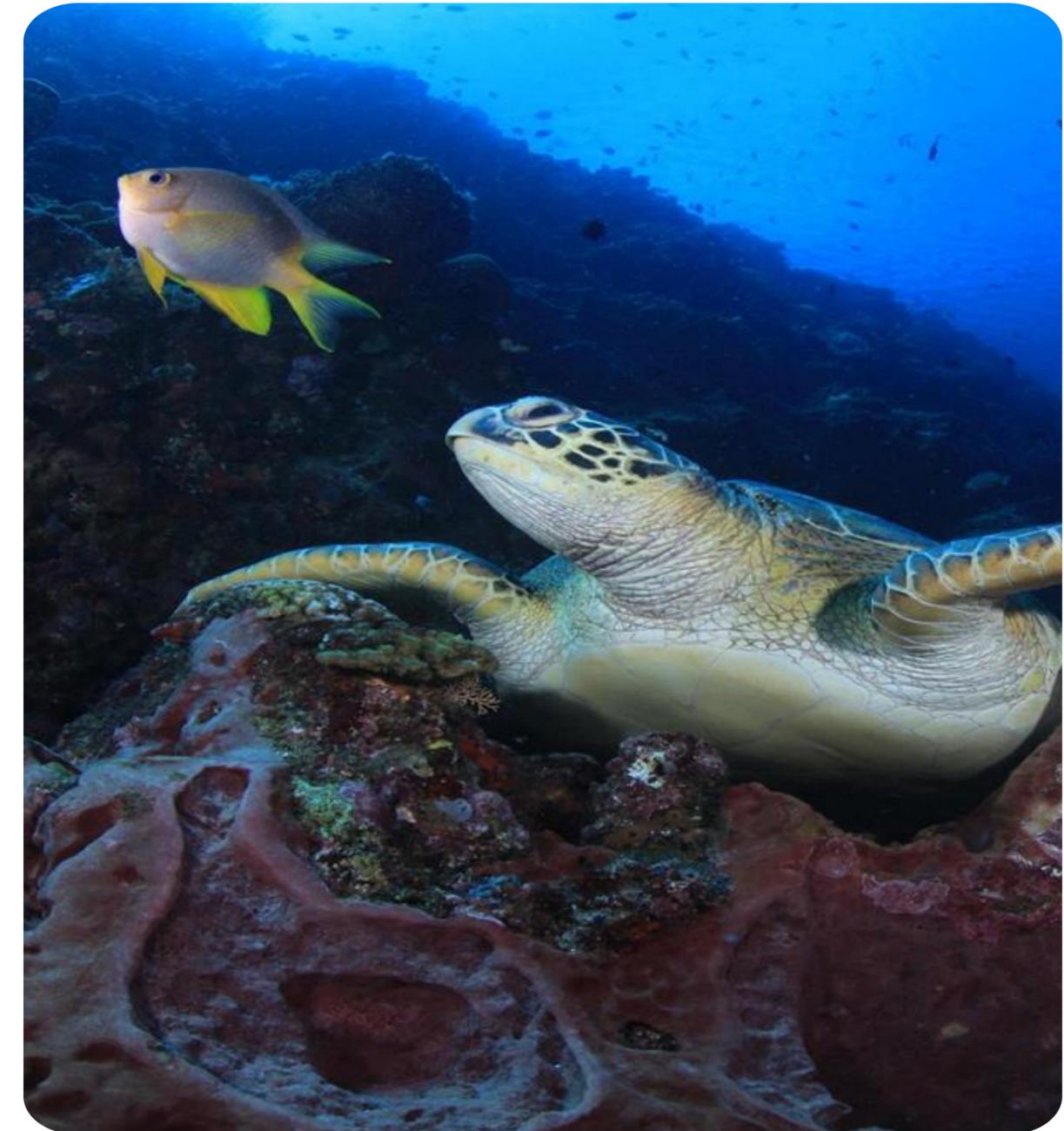
Conservation and Environment Protection Authority
Level 5, Dynasty Tower 1, Savannah Heights, Waigani Drive
PO BOX 6601, Boroko, National Capital District, PNG

Phone: +675 3014534

Email: pngctincc@gmail.com



Follow us @PNG Marine Program



www.coraltriangleinitiative.org

Bali, Indonesia

10 - 11 December 2025

The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting

