

UPDATE FROM RS ON THE SOM19 TASK

5.2	Acknowledged and endorsed the legal establishment of US non-profit settlor of the Coral Triangle Conservation Fund (CTCF) [Annex 5.1];	The US-based non-profit Settlor entity has been successfully registered under Delaware law as a 501(c)(3) organization. This formalizes the legal foundation of the Fund and enables CTCF to engage directly with potential donors.
5.3	Acknowledged and endorsed the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat Grant Management Manual (Annex 5.2);	The Grant Manual is now in effect as the official reference for CTI-CFF's grant management processes. It has also proven valuable in ongoing initiatives, such as the SEACONNECT Due Diligence process, which requires recipient organizations to have an established Grant Manual in place.
5.4	Acknowledged and appreciated the support from CTI Partners; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle (SCT), USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support (SuFiA TS), Blue Institute, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Conservation Finance Alliance (CFA);	<p>CTI Partners remain committed to supporting the CTI-CFF's regional objectives through technical assistance and co-implementation of priority programs.</p> <p>With the termination of USAID project on 26 Feb 2025, RS is currently engaging with existing and new partners to identify opportunities to bridge this gap and ensure continuity of the ongoing program</p>



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5.5	Acknowledged and appreciated the support from USAID Sustainable Coral Triangle (SCT) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in organizing the first in-person CTCF board meeting on 4–5 November 2024, held in conjunction with the workshop and knowledge exchange focused on CTCF, blue finance and financial fundamentals on 6–8 November 2024 (facilitated by CFA) in alignment with RPOA 2.0;	Phase 1 of the workshop was funded by USAID SCT before the program's termination. Phase 2 and Phase 3 are being implemented in 2025 with the generous support by the CT NCC, WCS, Rare and other CTI Partners. These events have contributed to strengthening knowledge exchange on trust fund operations and blue finance strategies, aligned with RPOA 2.0.
5.6	Acknowledged the MoU between CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and the Blue Institute (Annex 5.3), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [Annex 5.4];	MoUs with the Blue Institute, GIZ, and IUCN, facilitating collaboration on joint programs and technical cooperation
5.7	Agreed that the Philippines and Solomon Islands will extend their roles as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, to 31 December 2025;	The next session will include the nomination and selection of the CTI-CFF Chair and Vice-Chair for the term 2026–2027
5.8	Approved the 2025 FRWG Workplan and Budget (Annex 5.4) and preferred to have the FRWG annual meeting with in-person arrangement.	

