



**CORAL TRIANGLE
INITIATIVE**
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES
AND FOOD SECURITY



The 20th SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING

Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management

BALI, INDONESIA | 10-11 December 2025

Chair of EAFM TWG Mr. Thomas Usu

Technical Working Group
Report

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Bali, Indonesia

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The CTI-CFF 20th Senior Officials' Meeting





Focal Points

Focal Points of EAFM-TWG

Member Country	Focal Points
Indonesia	<p>Dr. Syahril Abd. Raup, Director of Fish Resources Management, MMAF Alternate: Zulfikar , Head of Tim Fish Resources Management in FMA Dr. Fery Sutiawan, Head of Fish Stock Assessment, MMAF</p>
Malaysia	<p>Datin Dr. Shuhadah Mustapha, Director, Department of Fisheries Sabah Alternate: Mr. Lawrence Kissol Jr., Deputy Director (Operation) Department of Fisheries Sabah. Mr. Ernest Jinaut, Senior Assistant Director, Department of Fisheries Sabah</p>
Papua New Guinea (Chair)	<p>Mr. Thomas Usu, Executive Manager – Fisheries Management PNG National Fisheries Authority Alternate: Ms. Rachel Rabi, Senior Coastal Fisheries Management Officer, National Fisheries Authority</p>
Philippines (Co-Chair)	<p>Mr. Elizer S. Salilig, MFT National Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Alternate : Mr. Isidro M. Velayo, Jr, MDM, Assistant Director for Technical Services, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources</p>
Solomon Islands	<p>Ms. Faye Siota, Deputy Director Inshore Fisheries, MFMR Alternate: Mr. Peter Husi'au'ana Kenilorea, Chief Fisheries Officer, MFMR</p>
Timor-Leste	<p>Mr. Orlando Halek Kalis, Chief de Department of Investigation and Development for Fisheries and Aquaculture. Alternate: Mr. Antonio Soares Pinto, Technical Staff for National Directorate of Fisheries at MALFF</p>





Action Taken for SOM-19 Decisions



SOM20

Action Taken for SOM 19 Decisions

Decisions	Status
1. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by EAFM Technical Working Group (Annex 8.4);	Status Completed in SOM-19.
2. Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of CTI-CFF Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape and Bismarck-Solomon Seas Seascape, Technical Regional Exchange back-to-back with EAFM, Seascape, and Threatened Species Technical Working Group meetings hosted by the Government of Malaysia on 12–16 August 2024 with the collaboration among CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, USAID SuFiA TS and GiZ SOMACORE;	Status Completed in SOM-19.
3. Acknowledged and appreciated the inclusion of the Lesser Sunda Seascape in the CTI-CFF Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape and Bismarck-Solomon Seas Seascape, Technical Regional Exchange back-to-back with EAFM, Seascape, and Threatened Species Technical Working Group meetings;	Status Completed in SOM-19. In the 2025 REX, all three priority seascapes were involved.
4. Acknowledged and appreciated the USAID SuFiA TS and GiZ SOMACORE for the financial and technical aspect support of the CTI-CFF Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape and Bismarck-Solomon Seas Seascape Technical Regional Exchange back-to-back with EAFM, Seascape, and Threatened Species Technical Working Group meetings;	Status Completed in SOM-19. Noted that SuFiA-TS and the USAID support has ended in February 2025. SOMACORE support on going.
5. Acknowledged the 2024 M&E Report for the EAFM TWG and recognized the need to develop the reporting system and assessment mechanism (Annex 8.5);	RS through the M&E team and is working with the CT6 in developing the reporting template. Will be updated in Pre-SOM MEWG Session. Currently, draft of reporting & monitoring template – will be socialized in Q1, 2026

Action Taken for SOM 19 Decisions (Cont.)

Decisions	Status
<p>6. Appreciated the acceptance of gender equality and social inclusion, and climate change consideration into Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) programs and plans per the goal of the CTI-CFF Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy (GESI Policy) with support from the USAID SuFiA TS;</p>	<p>RS in implementing the RPOA 2.0 will keep identifying activities aligned to the GESI policy (2019) and linking with EAFM targets. GESI and Climate Change considerations to be reflected in the COASTFISH Regional Framework.</p>
<p>7. Tasked CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat to work with the USAID SuFiA TS to finalize the COASTFISH Regional Framework and circulated by Q1 2025 (Annex 8.6);</p>	<p>Under the 90 days stop work order, the USAID SuFiA-TS suspended its collaboration with the RS from January 2025. Support from current partners assisted the finalization of the COASTFISH Framework in the 2025 REX.</p>
<p>8. Acknowledged the <i>Draft Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan</i> on within an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management” as best practices for climate change adaptation and GESI integration within fisheries management plans, frameworks, regulations, and data collection, to build resilience of communities to climate impacts supported by USAID SCT (Annex 8.7);</p>	<p>Acknowledged in SOM-19. The USAID SCT was terminated in February 2025. RS is currently working with the CCA-TWG seeking support to finalize the Draft “<i>Draft Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan</i>”.</p>
<p>9. Approved the EAFM Technical Working Group 2025 Workplan and Budget;</p>	<p>Status Completed in SOM-19.</p>



Update on the Workplan and Budget 2025 by the Chair of EAFM TWG

EAFM Workplan and Budget 2025

No	Activities	Time Frame	Budget Estimation (USD)		Objectives	Activity Status
			RS	Partners		
1	<p>Establish and/or Improve collaborative partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATSEA • EU Ocean Governance • SEAFDEC • ASEAN • FFA • WCPFC <p>Propose to explore other partners including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RPOA-IUU (through USAID SCT - IUU activity) • NOAA • Stimson Center 	Q1-Q2 2025		Support Needed	<p>Improve regional and stakeholder collaboration to address the EAFM, IUU Fishing, and other related management challenges in the CT Region</p> <p>Note: RS to work with current partners and identify potential collaborators in fisheries management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATSEA: Waiting decision from ATSEA • EU Ocean Governance: TBC • SEAFDEC: RS will continue to explore this collaboration opportunity • ASEAN: RS will continue to work closely with the CT6 members in ASEAN to explore this collaboration. • FFA: Discussions in progress for an MOU signing. • WCPFC: RS will continue to explore this collaboration opportunity
2	Convene a report on combating IUU fishing/EAFM implementation in CT region.	Q2 2025		15,000 Need partner support + CT6 support	To coordinate the progress of implementation on the related activities under the RPOA 2.0. and establish/update the monitoring component of IUU.	Moved into 2026 workplan with the support of the "re-instated SCT budget"
3	Promote coordination of ecologically-connected sites and species (Sub-regional seascapes approach)	Q1-Q2		Need Support from partners & CT6	To improve coordination and implementation of the EAFM-related activities under the RPOA 2.0 with the Seascapes TWG with the 3-sub regional seascapes.	During 2025 REX, the concept of EBSA was discussed, which will be further discussed on other platforms in 2026. EBSA workshop planned under the 2026 workplan.

EAFM Workplan and Budget 2025 (Cont.)

No	Activities	Time Frame	Budget Estimation (USD)		Objectives	Activity Status
			RS	Partners		
4	Conduct the SSS EAFM Regional Exchange <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainings - Workshops - Meeting 	Q3 2025	30,000	Seeking Additional Support from Partners 25,000	To build capacity in the SSS by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Improving understanding of Marine Mammals Stranding Handling, By-catch Management, Shark and Rays Identification and Management. (2) The improved Research Methodology on Transboundary Species and Migratory – Tuna (3) Developing a cross-regional understanding of MPAs, OECMs and CCA. (4) Promote ecological science through genetic studies of green turtles. (5) Sharing of experiences on SSS EAFM Plan implementation and monitoring at country and sub-regional level. (6) IUU Fishing Risk Assessment Methods and Tools (Stimson Center); (7) eFGD on US SIMP by NOAA (RPOA-IUU led); 	Seascope and EAFM 2025 REX conducted. Budget used: approx. 45,000
5	Conduct the BSS EAFM Regional Exchange <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainings - Workshops - Meeting 	Q3 2025			To build capacity in the BSS by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Improved awareness of community-based fisheries management, and livelihood impact. (2) Develop EAFM plan for BSS sub-regional seascape. (3) Enhanced understanding of the economic impacts of commercial fishing (tuna). (4) Updated conservation plan of key flagship cross-boundary species. 	

EAFM Workplan and Budget 2025 (Cont.)

No	Activities	Time Frame	Budget Estimation (USD)		Objectives	Activity Status
			RS	Partners		
6	EAFM Annual EAFM-TWG Meeting (with REX)	Q3 2025		Seeking Additional Support from Partners 25,000	To update on the CT6/Partners implementation of the RPOA 2.0 EAFM-related activities.	Conducted on 17th October
7	To identify and conduct appropriate capacity development activities on e-logbook and VMS	Q2-Q3		Partner + CT6 Support Needed	To enhance the capacity of the CT6 in addressing IUU and commercial fishing in the region.	Currently no resources and capacity to implement. Can be parked as a pipeline activity.
8	Set up a data-sharing mechanism to develop a time series regional fisheries status report.	Q1-Q3 2025		Partner + CT6 Support Needed	Build capacity and collaboration with partners in creating and/or developing a collaborative systematic index to identify threats (Marine debris, over-fishing, illegal harvest, wildlife trade).	Moved into 2026 workplan.
9	Expand and strengthen the resource network to evaluate the implementation of the six EAFM domains through educational and scientific institutions.	Q1-2 2025		CT6 Support Needed + UP Support	To improve the collaboration within Seascapes, University Partnership and contribute to the CTI Priority Threatened Species Regional Conservation Plan	Currently no resources and capacity to implement. Can be parked as a pipeline activity.

EAFM Workplan and Budget 2025 (Cont.)

No	Activities	Time Frame	Budget Estimation (USD)		Objectives	Activity Status
			RS	Partners		
10	Strengthening Scientific collaboration through the University Partnership	Q2-Q3 2025		20,000 Partner + University Support	Create collaboration with the University Partnership Network in addressing and promoting EAFM-related issues and solutions.	Moved into 2026 workplan. Also noting the LSS science hub established in 2025.
11	Conduct an assessment and develop a report of resources (needs and opportunities) of sustainable livelihoods and enterprises.	Q1 2025		20,000 Seeking Support	To enhance the targeted coastal areas in EAFM and other Sustainable Planning of the priority seascapes Priority Seascapes.	As part of the COASTFISH discussions. The TWG recommends conducting the assessment and report at the three priority seascapes' level.
12	Encourage and acknowledge innovation in fishing gears/vessels through regular regional/international scientific fora	Q1-Q4		15,000 Seeking Support	To enhance the capacity of the CT6 in establishing policies and regulations related to harvest strategy and IUU fishing.	The EAFM TWG puts #12 as a strategy (rather than an activity) to be highlighted in future discussions.
13	Conduct a series of workshops/meetings/exchanges to share knowledge and develop the Regional Action Plan for COASTFISH implementation	Q1-Q4 2025		25,000 Partner Support Needed	To formally have the COASTFISH Regional Plan accepted and endorsed by the CT6 by SOM-20	COASTFISH related workshop in the 2025 REX: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit the Framework • Identify national priority activities. • Discussion on developing the M&E target values.



EAFM Workplan and Budget 2025 (Cont.)

No	Activities	Time Frame	Budget Estimation (USD)		Objectives	Activity Status
			RS	Partners		
14	Establish a public-private partnership to support the adoption of the COASTFISH framework.	Q3-Q4 2025		SuFiA TS + Partners	To support the implementation of the COASTFISH regional framework.	Currently, activity is on hold – can move later into 2026/2027.
15	Conduct a workshop on the Integration of COASTFISH framework into CT Atlas and CTI-CFF M&E framework.	Q4 2025		10,000 Support in the Regional Exchange Event SuFiA TS + Partners	To improve the mechanism of data collection needed for COASTFISH, and standardized methodology of validating data.	Initial discussions in the COASTFISH Workshop (2025 REX) on M&E target values, next step to standardize data-set for the CT Atlas – in the 2026 EAFM/MEWG/CT Atlas work plan.
Total Proposed Budget			30,000 25,000			Actual budget expense 32,710





Proposed Workplan & Budget 2026 by the Chair of EAFM TWG

Proposed EAFM Workplan and Budget 2026

No	Activities	Time Frame	Budget Estimation (USD)		Objectives	RPOA 2.0 – Objective A		
						Target A3		
			CT6 Contribution	Partners		Outcome	Output	Indicators
1	Convene a report on combating IUU fishing/EAFM implementation in CT region. - Online in-situ meeting - Offline discussion at REX	Q2 2026	5, 000	Need partner support + CT6 support: - IUU RPOA	To coordinate the progress of implementation on the related activities under the RPOA 2.0. and establish/update the monitoring component of IUU. Note: RS seeking support to implement activities	Outcome A3.1.1		Outcome Indicator A3.1.1 Output Indicator A3.1.1a
2	Set up a data-sharing mechanism (CT Atlas) to develop a time series regional fisheries status report (IUU). Build into CT Atlas data collection for EAFM Reporting.	Q1-Q3 2026		IUCN and CT6 support through reports needed	Build capacity and collaboration with partners in creating and/or developing a collaborative systematic index to identify over-fishing, illegal harvest – contribute to policy development.	A3.1.2	A3.1.2	A3.1.2
3	Strengthening Scientific collaboration through the University Partnership - Using UP Network Develop SAG for EAFM	Q2-Q3 2026		Partner + University Support	Create collaboration with the University Partnership Network in addressing and promoting EAFM-related issues and solutions.	A3.1.1	A3.1.1b	A3.1.1b
4	Develop the Regional Action Plan for the COASTFISH framework implementation – Online meeting / physical workshop.	Q1-Q3 2026	Online and in Rex	Partner Support needed for RAP consolidation.	To promote and share knowledge, technology, and best practices are supported/implemented for the COASTFISH Regional framework.	B1.1.2	B1.1.2a	B1.1.2a
5	Socialize the Monitoring & Evaluation manual and strategy to EAFM TWG	Q3	Online and in REX	SOMACORE partners tech support				
6	EAFM Annual EAFM-TWG Meeting (with REX) - Proposed topics: • Best practices in community livelihood projects • Blue economy opportunities Proposed Venue: Manila, PH (Chair)	Q3 2026	45,000	Seeking Additional Support from Partners & Host Country	To update on the CT6/Partners implementation of the RPOA 2.0 EAFM-related activities.	C1	C1.5.2	C1.5.2.a
	Total Proposed Budget		50,000	TBC				



Change of Chair and Co-Chair



Announcement of the upcoming EAFM Chair and Co-Chair

2.1 Membership and structure:

I. The TWG will be led by a Chair (country) and two Co-chairs (countries).

II. The Chair and two Co-chairs will have a term of two years. After the Chair's term, one of the two sitting Co-chairs will be elected as Chair, and a new Co-chair will be chosen to serve a two-year term.

2.2. Term of the Chair and Vice Chair: The term of the Chair and Vice Chair is two years starting on 01 January of the year, following the confirmation of the SOM. The TWG will decide the subsequent Chair and Vice Chair.

Year	Chair	Country	Co-Chair	Country
2026 - 2027	Mr. Elizer S. Salilig	Philippines	Ms. Faye Siota	Solomon Islands
2024 - 2025	Mr. Thomas Usuh	Papua New Guinea	Mr. Elizer S. Salilig	Philippines
2021 - 2023	Dr. Norasma Dacho	Malaysia	Ms. Lorel Dandava	Papua New Guinea
2020 - 2021	TBC	Timor-Leste	Dr. Norasma Dacho	Malaysia
2018 - 2019	Dr. Jose Lucas da Silva	Timor-Leste	Dr. Norasma Dacho	Malaysia
2015 - 2017	Ms. Rosalie Masu	Solomon Islands	Mr. Horacio Guterres	Timor-Leste
2013 - 2015	Dr. Toni Ruchimat	Indonesia	Ms. Rosalie Masu	Solomon Islands
2011 - 2013	Dato' Rayner Stuel Galid	Malaysia	-	-





Draft SOM-20 Decisions



EAFM TWG SOM-20 Decisions

SOM20



SOM-20 Decisions of EAFM TWG

1. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation and the Technical Working Group (TWG) report by EAFM TWG (Annex 8.3).
2. Acknowledged and commended the successful conduct of the Seascope Regional Exchange (REX) back-to-back with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) REX, hosted by the Philippines Government on 13–15 October 2025, at the Bellevue Resort, Bohol, Philippines.
3. Acknowledged and appreciated the Chair representative, Ms. Rachel Rabi from Papua New Guinea on behalf of Mr. Thomas Usu for her effective leadership and facilitation as Chair of the EAFM Technical Working Group Meeting and recognized her valuable role in advancing the discussions and outcomes of the meeting.
4. Acknowledged and appreciated the invaluable support extended by CTI partners; CI, CTC, GIZ, IUCN, KI, RARE, WWF, ILMMA, CI-TL, WCS and YKAN, who participated and supported the 2025 CTI-CFF Seascope Regional Exchange (REX) back-to-back with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) REX.
5. Acknowledged and appreciated the support from the BMUKN-IKI through the SOMACORE Program for the financial and technical aspect support of the 2025 CTI-CFF Seascope Regional Exchange (REX) back-to-back with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) REX.
6. Acknowledged the contribution of USAID SuFiA TS in the development of the Coastal Fisheries (COASTFISH) Framework 2024 and endorse it for consideration and adoption at SOM-20 (Annex 8.4).
7. Tasked the Regional Secretariat in collaboration with the EAFM TWG to prioritize the development of the COASTFISH Regional Action Plan for 2026 to consolidate regional best practices on sustainable coastal livelihoods and promote practical and scalable solutions across CT6 countries.
8. Encouraged the integration of the EAFM, MPA and Threatened Species (TS) together with the cross-cutting Working Groups on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E), with priority seascapes sub-groups mechanisms to strengthen coordination, synergy, and the delivery of ecosystem-based management actions, in alignment with the RPOA 2.0 targets under the Seascope Working Group Workplan.

SOM-20 Decisions of EAFM TWG (Cont.)

9. Acknowledged the University Partnership Network's role in strengthening regional scientific collaboration and recommended establishing the EAFM Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) to coordinate expertise and support evidence-based regional policy.

10. Acknowledged and appreciated the work of Coral Fellows supported by Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) at the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat in the field of Gender and Climate Change in Fisheries.

11. Recognized the Regional Exchange (REX) as a priority and major activity of the CTI-CFF, and task the Regional Secretariat to strengthen coordination, communication, and planning for future REX events, ensuring early dissemination of agendas, clear objectives, and concrete follow-up actions and outputs.

12. Tasked the Regional Secretariat, in collaboration with the CT6 countries, to identify and assess blue economy opportunities across priority seascape sub-groups, including sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, and other marine-based livelihoods, while ensuring alignment with EAFM principles, ecosystem conservation, and sustainable resource use.

13. Appreciated and acknowledged the excellent contributions of Mr. Thomas Usu as Chair from Papua New Guinea, and Mr. Elizer S. Salilig as Co-Chair from the Philippines for a period of two years from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2025.

14. Acknowledged the recommendation of the EAFM TWG to turn over the Chair from Papua New Guinea to the Philippines and the turnover of the Co-chair from the Philippines to the Solomon Islands in the period 1st January 2026–31st December 2027, based on the provision stipulated in the rules and procedures of the CTI-CFF EAFM - TWG, and pending approval in SOM-20.

15. Acknowledged and accepted the EAFM Technical Working Group Workplan and Budget 2026 (Annex 8.5).



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20th SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING (SOM-20) OF THE CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY (CTI-CFF)

Bali - Indonesia | 8 - 11 December 2025

Thank you

Chair EAFM:
Mr. Thomas Usu
Papua New Guinea

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