



# CTI-CFF SUSTAINABLE COASTAL FISHERIES AND POVERTY REDUCTION INITIATIVE (COASTFISH) REGIONAL FRAMEWORK

*Revised Version 2024*

USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support Activity

CTI-CFF Sustainable Coastal Fisheries and Poverty Reduction Initiative (COATFISH) Regional Framework (Revised version 2024)

Submission Date: January 24, 2025

GSA OASIS Contract GS00Q14OADU138 (Pool I)

Task Order No. 72048622N00001

Contract/Agreement Period: 24 November 2021 to 23 November 2025

COR Name: Araya Poomsaringkarn  
Task Order Contracting Officer Representative  
USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia  
Bangkok, Thailand  
Tel: +66 2 257-3000  
Email: [apoomsaringkarn@usaid.gov](mailto:apoomsaringkarn@usaid.gov)

Submitted by: Arlene Nietes Satapornvanit  
Chief of Party  
Tetra Tech ARD  
20 Winooski Falls Way, Suite 400A,  
Winooski, VT 05404  
Tel: +1 (802) 495-0282 | Fax (802) 658-4247  
Email: [arlene.satapornvanit@tetrattech.com](mailto:arlene.satapornvanit@tetrattech.com)

Prepared by: Norasma Dacho, PhD  
Coral Triangle Senior Fisheries Management Specialist  
Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support Activity  
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia  
Email: [norasmadacho@gmail.com](mailto:norasmadacho@gmail.com)

Contributors: Len Garces, Regional Fisheries Management and Capacity Building Specialist  
Email: [garces.lenregidor@gmail.com](mailto:garces.lenregidor@gmail.com)

Jasmin Mohd. Saad, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Specialist  
Email: [jasmin@oceanresearch.biz](mailto:jasmin@oceanresearch.biz)

Regional Expert Technical Team  
Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support Activity

## Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....   | 4  |
| 1.0 INTRODUCTION.....   | 5  |
| 2.0 COASTFISH REGIONAL FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES (2017).....   | 6  |
| 3.0 REVIEW PROCESS OF COASTFISH REGIONAL FRAMEWORK .....  | 9  |
| 4.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....   | 15 |
| Annex 1: Priority Activities per Objective with Comments and Suggestions from COASTFISH<br>Review Workshops in 2022 and 2023..... | 16 |
| Table 1. COASTFISH Regional Framework Objectives and Proposed Activities (2017) .....   | 7  |
| Table 2. Regional Workshops for Reviewing and Finalization of COASTFISH Regional Framework .                                      | 10 |
| Table 3. Summary of Priority Activities per objective based on discussion at the 2023 and 2024 .....                              | 12 |

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Initially developed in 2017, the Sustainable Coastal Fisheries and Poverty Reduction Initiative (COASTFISH) Regional Framework aims to serve as a guide and roadmap for the CT6 to implement programs related to food security, livelihoods, and sustainable fisheries. It was recognized as one mechanism towards achieving sustainability and social, economic, and environmental actions for community resilience to climate change. Once adopted and agreed to, it will serve as a living document with an initial implementation phase of five years (2020-2025) and a second phase through 2025-2030.

This COASTFISH Regional Framework reflects the input and feedback from CT6 member countries, which are seeking to promote partnerships and implement regional coordination framework on common concerns for the six Coral Triangle member countries (CT6). These inputs were gathered throughout a series of COASTFISH workshops and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Technical Working Group (EAFM TWG) meetings in 2023 and 2024 based on the framework developed in 2017.

A COASTFISH workshop was organized in June 2023 with the support of the USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support (SuFiA TS) Activity and attended by the EAFM TWG members, CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat (RS), and development partners to move forward key concepts underlying the COASTFISH Regional Framework for sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities through proposed activities that are workable and achievable to meet the targeted strategies in the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) 2.0. The four (4) COASTFISH existing objectives were reviewed and modified. Originally, there are 15 activities listed in the 2017 COASTFISH Regional Framework. During this workshop, it was agreed to focus on ten (10) activities.

Once adopted and agreed to, it will serve as a living document with an implementation phase of five years (2025-2030). And in support to CTI-CFF RPOA 2.0 Regional Activity BI.1: *Implementation of the COASTFISH regional framework for sustainable coastal fisheries and poverty reduction initiatives in achieving food security and improving coastal livelihood.*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Following the signing and declaration of the Coral Triangle Initiative in 2009, the CT6 member countries adopted and agreed to implement activities stipulated in the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action (RPOA 2010-2020). COASTFISH was placed under Goal 2 of the CTI-CFF RPOA, which reads ‘Ecosystem Approach to Management of Fisheries (EAFM) and other marine resources fully applied’. Target 2 under this goal is designed to result in *“Improved income, livelihoods and food security in an increasingly significant number of coastal communities across the region through a new Sustainable Coastal Fisheries and Poverty Reduction Initiative (COASTFISH)”*.

Moving forward for planning and supporting activities for COASTFISH, CT6 member countries, through discussion and workshop outputs led by the EAFM TWG and supported by the Regional Secretariat and partners, developed a COASTFISH Regional Framework in 2017 with the vision: *“Resilient and self-sustaining coastal communities in the Coral Triangle region supported by sustainable livelihoods that maintain ecological integrity.”*

The EAFM TWG, in partnership with USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support (SuFiATS), revisited and updated the 2017 COASTFISH Regional Framework through a series of workshops and meetings throughout 2023 and 2024 based on updates on a prior 2022 COASTFISH workshop.

The focus was on four (4) objectives and corresponding activities planned in 2017 to implement COASTFISH-related activities at the regional level supported by national in-country programs. The COASTFISH Regional Framework objectives are:

**Objective 1:** To establish a regional platform for collection and sharing data, technologies, experiences, and information relevant to sustainable livelihoods.

**Objective 2:** To establish a regional COASTFISH human capacity development program to effectively implement sustainable livelihoods.

**Objective 3:** To ensure that each of the CT6 member countries recognizes that the COASTFISH Regional Framework is visible in national policies.

**Objective 4:** To collaborate around the mobilization of sustainable financing mechanisms and market incentives in support of sustainable livelihoods.

The importance of the COASTFISH Regional Framework remains today, as reflected in the CTI-CFF RPOA 2.0. The RPOA 2.0 goals related to COASTFISH are:

*By 2025, coastal communities and the coastal and marine ecosystems are enabled to cope with the impacts of climate change, natural and anthropogenic threats, in the Coral Triangle region; and*

*By 2030, coastal communities and the coastal and marine ecosystems in the Coral Triangle region are more resilient/able to adapt to impacts of climate change, natural and anthropogenic threats, by improving food security, sustainable fisheries and coastal livelihoods.*

The CTI-CFF RPOA 2.0 covers a ten-year period (2021-2030) and explicitly indicates actions required for COASTFISH embedded in Objective B, Target B1, and Regional Activity B1.1.

**Objective B:** Risk resilience and socioeconomic conditions, in particular food security and coastal livelihoods, of communities living in the Coral Triangle region are improved.

**Target BI:** Food security and coastal livelihoods.

**Regional Activity BI.1:** Implementation of the COASTFISH regional framework for sustainable coastal fisheries and poverty reduction initiatives in achieving food security and improving coastal livelihood.

## 2.0 COASTFISH REGIONAL FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES (2017)

The COASTFISH Regional Framework Workshop in 2017 was the beginning of a series of workshops and meetings where EAFM TWG members and other experts collectively agreed to four (4) objectives and proposed 15 activities, as presented in **Table I**. This cemented the commitment of the EAFM TWG members, the Regional Secretariat and development partners, which are vital to achieving progress towards global, regional, and national goals and commitments concerning food security and sustainable fisheries.

The COASTFISH Regional Framework, developed in 2017, is a comprehensive document incorporating an overview, situational analysis, mandate, the bases for developing the regional framework, lessons learned, and sharing of existing COASTFISH activities as presented by CT6 member countries. The COASTFISH Regional Framework document is available on the CTI-CFF website: <https://coraltriangleinitiative.org/library/coastfish-workshop-2017>

The strategies outlined in the COASTFISH Regional Framework promote growth that reduces hunger and poverty. They follow a transformative regional framework towards sustainability and economic, social, and environmental integrity. They also foster community resilience to climate change.

The COASTFISH Regional Framework's priorities designed in 2017 correspond well with commitments for coastal communities and food security, as agreed by EAFM TWG in 2024.

The main agreements are to:

- i. to retain all the objectives and most of the activities developed in 2017;
- ii. acknowledged the vital inclusion of resilience and adaptation to climate change and mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion (GESI).

Table I. COASTFISH Regional Framework Objectives and Proposed Activities (2017)<sup>1</sup>

| No | Objectives   | Proposed Activities   |
|----|--|---|
| 1  | To establish a regional platform for the collection and sharing of data, technologies, experiences, and information relevant to sustainable livelihoods. | <p>(1) <b>Activity 1:</b> Develop Maps of COASTFISH Sites/Regions denoting locations of COASTFISH sites or regions, as well as other relevant spatially-referenced data.</p> <p>(2) <b>Activity 2:</b> Establish a network to collaborate around mobilizing significant technical support by scientific institutions, NGOs, private sector actors, and others, particularly those interested in supporting COASTFISH at the multi-country and regional levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>develop data sharing protocols</i></li> <li>● <i>develop a common database/website</i></li> </ul> <p>(3) <b>Activity 3:</b> Organize a regional expert’s workshop on sustainable livelihoods to develop guidance on including livelihood considerations in an EAFM.</p>  |
| 2  | A regional COASTFISH human capacity development program is in place to effectively implement sustainable livelihoods.                                    | <p>(4) <b>Activity 1:</b> Assessing resource needs and opportunities for livelihoods and environmental conditions in targeted coastal areas to ensure that livelihoods are developed to reflect the needs and capacities of the community and households.</p> <p>Assess new opportunities for livelihoods/livelihood development.</p> <p>(5) <b>Activity 2:</b> Assessment of current national and local government and private sector economic and social development support programs, fishery livelihoods, and enterprise programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Identify sources of assistance.</i></li> <li>● <i>Identify current actors (government, NGO, civil society, private sector) in sustainable fisheries livelihoods.</i></li> </ul> <p>(6) <b>Activity 3:</b> The CT6 will share technologies, information, experiences, techniques, methodologies, and approaches through seminars, workshops, exchange visits, internet listservs, and lessons-learned documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Exchange programs</li> <li>● Technical assistance</li> <li>● Appropriate technologies</li> <li>● Production of publications and manuals</li> <li>● Country-to-country technical support/assistance (e.g. IFAD technology)</li> </ul> <p>Identification of Core Expert on livelihood/Activities.</p> <p>(7) <b>Activity 4:</b> Promote inter-agency/ministerial collaboration in support of sustainable livelihoods.</p> |
| 3  | To ensure that each of the CT6 country recognizes that the COASTFISH Regional Framework is visible in national policies.                                 | <p>(8) <b>Activity 1:</b> Review national policies, legislations and regulations on livelihoods to incorporate and support the COASTFISH regional framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify gaps where livelihoods are not mentioned.</li> <li>● Provide future recommendation for amendments.</li> </ul>  |

<sup>1</sup> Source: CTI CFF - ACTIVITY REPORT OF COASTFISH WORKSHOP, 1-2 August 2017, Kimberly Hotel, Tagaytay City, Philippines

| No | Objectives  | Proposed Activities   |
|----|---|---|
|    |   | <p><b>(9) Activity 2:</b> Integrate the COASTFISH regional framework with the existing EAFM regional framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure implementation of a sustainable livelihoods program under the COASTFISH regional framework.</li> </ul> <p><b>(10) Activity 3:</b> Reduce inshore IUU fishing through greater collaboration and increased enforcement and awareness to support sustainable livelihoods.</p>  |
| 4  | To collaborate around mobilizing sustainable financing mechanisms and market incentives to support sustainable livelihoods. | <p><b>(11) Activity 1:</b> Develop a regional COASTFISH Investment Plan (complete project plan) with COASTFISH Investment Plans in each country defining and costing a set of strategic actions identified through a range of studies (e.g., covering fisheries status, alternative livelihood, enterprise, and industry growth options; market analyses; legal analyses; future climate change impacts; and options for applying an EAFM).</p> <p><b>(12) Activity 2:</b> Accessing credit and financial services at multiple levels of the financial system in support of sustainable livelihoods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate access of civil society organizations (i.e., Fisherfolks Cooperative Society, Women Fishers' Association, Fisherfolks Association) to financial banking systems supporting community-based livelihoods.</li> <li>• Facilitate access to mainstream banking and other financial institutions.</li> <li>• Establish a sustainable financing mechanism through community-based (e.g., fisher folks cooperative society, women fishers' association) implementation of payment for ecosystem services (PES), savings mobilization scheme, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>(13) Activity 3:</b> Develop ways to create more value for nearshore fishers (access to post-harvest facilities, adding value to the catch for added income for a more equitable income distribution).</p> <p><b>(14) Activity 4:</b> Capacitate civil society organizations (i.e., cooperative society, women fishers' associations, fisherfolk associations) towards financial literacy in support of their sustainable community livelihood.</p> <p><b>(15) Activity 5:</b> Support establishing women-led business enterprises geared towards gender equity.</p> |

During the COASTFISH Regional Framework Workshop in 2017, participants agreed to work on the following:

- i. *A common region-wide COASTFISH Initiative Framework;*
- ii. *A Roadmap for the initiative;*
- iii. *A financial investment strategy for the COASTFISH Initiative at the regional level; and*
- iv. *Identification and lessons learned on sustainable livelihood and livelihood strategies for fishers, fishing households and coastal communities.*

Based on the presentations from CT6 member countries, it was reported that despite several challenges, activities related to COASTFISH in CT6 to alleviate poverty and create income for the coastal communities were already under implementation. It also proved the encouraging impacts of improved community awareness and opportunities building on gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) context in the livelihood activities implemented.

Realizing the major and secondary GESI-related impacts of GESI integration in programs and activities on community employment, support for the establishment of women-led business enterprises geared towards gender equity was proposed in Activity 5 (*Support establishing women-led business enterprises geared towards gender equity*) under Objective 4 on the collaboration around mobilizing sustainable financing mechanisms and market incentives to support sustainable livelihoods.

The COASTFISH Regional Framework, developed in 2017, also considers the need for resilience to climate change adaptation. It proposes studies in CT6 member countries to identify climate change impacts as one of its strategic actions and one of the themes found in the COASTFISH Investment Plans.

Based on the 2017 framework, the EAFM TWG, with support from and in collaboration with the CTI Regional Secretariat, was envisioned to serve as the coordinating body on the COASTFISH Initiative, and be recognized as the platform to provide guidance in the planning, implementation, and communication of COASTFISH at regional and national levels. The EAFM TWG shall also work closely (but not exclusively) with projects and entities addressing EAFM and livelihoods in the region. In terms of review, monitoring and evaluation, CT6 NCCs shall report to the EAFM TWG annually on progress made toward applying COASTFISH in their country. The EAFM TWG will report annual regional progress to the SOM in collaboration with CTI Regional Secretariat.

### **3.0 REVIEW PROCESS OF COASTFISH REGIONAL FRAMEWORK**

At the 18<sup>th</sup> CTI-CFF Senior Officials Meeting in 2023, the USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA), through the Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support (SuFiA TS), was requested to provide assistance through the EAFM TWG and to finalize and support the implementation of an updated COASTFISH Regional Framework. The CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat (RS) appreciated the input from CT6 in updating the COASTFISH Regional Framework in 2022 and 2023, including the feedback into the review processes of relevant government entities supported by USAID SuFiA TS. Feedback on the review, updating and processes of the COASTFISH Regional Framework were collated from the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) and the EAFM TWG members as facilitated by the RS and supported by USAID SuFiA TS in June 2022 and 2023.

Progressing from the COASTFISH Regional Framework developed in 2017, the EAFM TWG revisited the Regional Framework based on the outcome of the COASTFISH workshop in 2022 that was held virtually during the “*Training on Sustainable Fisheries Resources Management to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the Coral Triangle Region*” organized by USAID SUFIA Local Capacity Development (LCD) in partnership with CTI-CFF EAFM TWG on June 29, 2022.

This was followed by the COASTFISH Workshop “*Revisiting and Updating the COASTFISH Initiative Regional Framework*,” the CTI-CFF EAFM TWG meeting, and the Sulu Sulawesi Seascape Regional Exchange (SSS REX), conducted on June 13, 2023. **Table 2** highlights the workshops/meetings conducted with CT6 member countries and the EAFM TWG members to review and finalize the COASTFISH Regional Framework.

Table 2. Regional Workshops for Reviewing and Finalization of COASTFISH Regional Framework

| Activity/Location/Date   | Purpose  | Participants   |
|--|--|--|
| USAID SuFiA LCD “ <i>Training on Sustainable Fisheries Resources Management to Combat IUU Fishing in the Coral Triangle Region</i> ”<br><br>Virtual, 29 June 2022  | Revisit interventions to promote and share knowledge, technology and best practices to support the implementation of the CTI-CFF COASTFISH regional framework.   | 19 participants<br><br>(with representatives from CT6 NCCs, EAFM TWG, CTI RS, development partners/NGOs) |
| USAID SuFiA TS “ <i>CTI-CFF EAFM Working Group (WG) Meeting and Sulu Sulawesi Seascape Regional Exchange (SSS REX)</i> ”<br><br>Hybrid: Online and Onsite - Manila, Philippines. 13-16 June 2023                               | Review, update, and revise the COASTFISH Regional Framework.   | 47 participants<br><br>(with representatives from CT6 NCCs, EAFM TWG, CTI RS, development partners/NGOs) |
| USAID SuFiA TS “ <i>2024 CTI-CFF Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape and Bismarck Solomon Sea Technical Regional Exchange (SSS/BSS REX) and CTI-CFF EAFM Working Group (WG) Meeting</i> ”<br><br>Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 12-16 August 2024 | Review and update the COASTFISH Regional Framework, sharing knowledge, technology, and best practices and strengthening cooperation on coastal livelihoods based on CTI member country experiences per RPOA 2.0 output indicator B1.1.2.a and B1.1.3.b | 78 participants<br><br>(with representatives from CT6 NCCs, EAFM TWG, CTI RS, development partners/NGOs) |

In 2023, the COASTFISH Regional Framework (2017), based on feedback from the COASTFISH workshop in 2023, was deliberated, highlighting several activity plans and alignment with RPOA2.0 strategies - including its overview, vision, rationale and purpose, guiding principles and strategy. The COASTFISH Workshop in 2023 helped provide background for EAFM TWG members who were not present at the 2017 and 2022 COASTFISH Regional Framework discussions. This allowed them to familiarize themselves with the rationale, objectives, and principles of relevant regional and international instruments used to guide the COASTFISH Regional Framework, which was developed in 2017.

The discussion allowed for the identification of prioritized areas per **Table 3**. It was a critical entry to ensure the EAFM TWG members appreciated and understood the background of the COASTFISH Regional Framework (2017). Most EAFM TWG representatives were

familiar with the terms presented in the COASTFISH Regional Framework, so their feedback was reliable, current, and valid.

Participants were given a presentation on the crucial role of women and other marginalized communities in ensuring the successful implementation of the COASTFISH Regional Framework, in line with RPOA 2.0, specifically, Target B2: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI). Target Outcome B2.1 reads - *“by 2030, gender equality and social inclusion are mainstreamed into coastal livelihoods, sustainable fisheries and food security including COASTFISH regional framework and other activities”*. Target Outcome Indicator B2.1 stated - *“by 2030, certain numbers of policies/regulations on GESI are adopted and mainstreamed into coastal livelihood, sustainable fisheries, and food security including COASTFISH regional framework and Cross Cutting Initiatives”*. Additionally, the RPOA 2.0 imposes a dedicated gender specialist to support the implementation of the CTI-CFF institutional framework and gender-specific impact indicators in the regional impact framework and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system for the RPOA 2.0.

The EAFM TWG representatives proceeded to provide country feedback, suggestions, and input on CCA and GESI activities in the COASTFISH Regional Framework. To include GESI, participants recommended strengthening the collection of gender-disaggregated data in fisheries and developing sustainable financing mechanisms to small, medium and community enterprises for alternative livelihood and diversified income sources to be included. The EAFM TWG recognizes the need to align COASTFISH activities following the CTI-CFF RPOA 2.0. Participants also discussed the significance and timely integration of CCA and GESI in the COASTFISH Regional Framework.

The EAFM TWG participants proposed activities and enhanced the document, especially regarding various agencies' roles in the Regional Framework. This includes the next steps for updating and/or implementing the Regional Framework. Since fishermen no longer dominate coastal fisheries, GESI-related activities were incorporated into the COASTFISH Regional Framework, which was recognized as important for coastal communities dependent on fisheries for food security and livelihoods. Women's contribution does not only center on postharvest processing and marketing activities. More importantly, they are also involved in financing.

Furthermore, the EAFM TWG participants highlighted that the proposed activities are also guided by the CT6 national policies and in-country laws and regulations relative to coastal resource development and utilization. Once finalized, the COASTFISH Regional Framework will be the basis of and serve as one of the primary references in preparing short- or long-term plans at the national and regional levels. These regional and national plans shall conform to the long-term strategies of the CTI-CFF RPOA 2.0. The mandate, vision, and goals are already embedded in the Regional Framework and are readily accepted by the participants. Alleviating poverty in coastal communities, gender, knowledge, and capacity building are the main themes unique to the COASTFISH Regional Framework.

In addition to the activities, the EAFM TWG reiterated the need for assessments of country initiatives in alleviating coastal poverty through different approaches for deeper awareness to understand the needs of coastal communities better. The EAFM WG proposed conducting a baseline and situational analysis on climate change to understand the current situation and initiatives in CT6 countries, including information and sharing of lessons learned and best practices, appreciating that each country or community has different climate-related issues and challenges.

The outcome of the 2023 COASTFISH Regional Framework workshop updated the COASTFISH Regional Framework with suggestions and interventions. The COASTFISH Regional Framework (2022) had 24 comments and suggestions, eight (8) of which were added during the 2023 workshop (see **Annex I**). It is important to note that all of the objectives in the COASTFISH Regional Framework (2017) and activities proposed during the 2022 workshop were accepted.

Members of the EAFM TWG decided to work on the four (4) objectives with corresponding activities and proposed responsible agency(ies) to move forward with the Regional Framework. There were 15 activities listed in the COASTFISH Regional Framework (2017); however, the results of the COASTFISH workshop in 2023 agreed to focus only ten (10) of those activities, as summarized in **Table 3**, followed by [Annex I](#) which contains the list of objectives in more details based on suggestions from COASTFISH Workshops conducted in 2022 and 2023.

Table 3. Summary of Priority Activities per objective based on discussion at the 2023 and 2024

COASTFISH Regional Framework Workshop (see also Table 1)

|   | Priority Activity per Objective  | Proposed Activities  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Develop maps of COASTFISH sites / Regions.   | <p><b>(1) Activity 1:</b> Network building in support of the initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop data sharing protocols</li> <li>▪ Common database/website</li> </ul>   |
| 2 | Assess existing livelihood and environmental conditions in targeted coastal areas - Assess new opportunities for livelihood development. | <p><b>(2) Activity 1:</b> Regional Experts Workshop for Livelihoods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identification of Core Expert on livelihood/activities.</li> </ul> <p><b>(3) Activity 2:</b> Assess government and civil society, training providers and extension services (Source outside when required).</p> <p><b>(4) Activity 3:</b> Share information and experiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Production of publications and manuals</li> </ul> <p><b>(5) Activity 4:</b> Promote inter-agency collaboration on livelihoods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exchange programs</li> <li>▪ Technical assistance</li> <li>▪ Appropriate technologies</li> <li>▪ Country-to-country technical support/assistance (e.g. IFAD technology)</li> </ul> |
| 3 | Integrate COASTFISH Regional Framework with existing EAFM Regional Framework.  | <p><b>(6) Activity 1:</b> Reduce inshore IUU fishing through greater collaboration, increased enforcement, and awareness in support of sustainable livelihoods.</p> <p><b>(7) Activity 2:</b> Ensure implementation of sustainable livelihood programs under the COASTFISH Regional Framework.</p>   |
| 4 | Develop a regional COASTFISH Investment Plan (complete project plan).  | <p><b>(8) Activity 1:</b> Establish a sustainable financing mechanism through community-based (fisherfolks cooperative society, women fishers' association) implementation of PES and savings mobilization scheme.</p> <p><b>(9) Activity 2:</b> Develop ways to create more value for nearshore fishers (e.g., access to post-harvest facilities, adding value to the catch for added income, and more equitable income distribution).</p> <p><b>(10) Activity 3:</b> Accessing credit and financial services at multiple levels of the financial system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Facilitate access of fishermen's cooperative society, women fishermen's association, and fishermen's association to financial banking systems supporting community-based livelihood.</li> </ul>    |

|  | Priority Activity per Objective | Proposed Activities   |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
|  |                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Facilitate access to mainstream banking and other financial institutions.</li> </ul> |

During 2024, USAID SuFiA TS provided a platform to discuss further and review the COASTFISH Regional Framework and provided opportunities for the CT6 and EAM TWG members to update activities in relation to the Regional Framework at the 2024 CTI-CFF Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape and Bismarck Solomon-Sea Seascape Technical Regional Exchange (SSS/BSS REX) in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia on August 12-16, 2024. This was conducted jointly with the CTI-CFF EAFM TWG focal points through the Regional Secretariat. The GIZ SOMACORE project also supported the workshop. A presentation on the updated COASTFISH Regional Framework document was delivered and discussed at this SSS/BSS REX.

Before the 2024 SSS/BSS REX, the CTI-CFF RS (through its Program Services section arranged discussions with the EAFM TWG Focal Points of CT6 Member Countries from the Pacific region, namely Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Timor Leste to join a consultation meeting on the COASTFISH Regional Framework on July 23, 2024. The meeting was intended to discuss comments or inputs from CT6 TWG EAFM focal points on the COASTFISH Regional Framework (2023). The COASTFISH Regional Framework feedback ([Annex I](#)) prepared by SuFiA TS consultants was also shared for their reference and comments. The same arrangement was coordinated with CT6 Member Countries from the Southeast Asia region, from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and NCCs. During the virtual meetings with the CT6 Pacific EAFM TWG, members from the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste informed that they will conduct internal discussions and provide their feedback on the COASTFISH Regional Framework in preparation for the 2024 SSS/BSS REX. The EAFM TWG from Papua New Guinea was unable to participate.

EAFM TWG members from Indonesia and the Philippines attended the CT6 SEA EAFM TWG virtual meeting. Malaysia was represented by the National Coordinating Committee (NCC), while the Malaysia EAFM TWG members could not join due to conflicting schedules. EAFM TWG members from Indonesia and the Philippines informed that they will discuss and give feedback through the COASTFISH Regional Framework feedback template. The Malaysia NCC also indicated that the same action would be taken to provide feedback from Malaysia EAFM TWG members. Indonesia requested the full COASTFISH Regional Framework (2017) document.

The SuFiA TS COASTFISH consultant prepared and delivered a presentation on the COASTFISH Regional Framework, based on 2017, 2022, and 2023 updates, at the 2024 SSS/BSS REX. Relevant information regarding COASTFISH initiatives from the CTI CFF RPOA 2.0 and its targets was also highlighted. An overview presentation on the COASTFISH Regional Framework covered information from several sources, specifically reports on the COASTFISH Regional Framework (2017), SSS REX (June 2023), and the COASTFISH feedback template.

The COASTFISH session discussed the mandate of CT6 member countries per the RPOA 2.0 for COASTFISH, which was the basis for developing the COASTFISH Regional Framework in 2017, 2022, and 2023.

The vision of the COASTFISH Regional Framework was shared at the 2024 SSS/BSS REX, which emphasized and included interventions to:

- (i) reduce/eradicate poverty;
- (ii) improve healthy coastal communities;
- (iii) ensure sustainable fisheries;
- (iv) achieve food security;
- (v) improve economic well-being;
- (vi) increase availability and access to livelihood resources;
- (vii) improve resilience to climate change, and;
- (viii) ensure and safeguard ecological well-being.

The presentation also described how the COASTFISH Regional Framework is intended to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) and Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) as specified in the RPOA 2.0. The EAFM TWG affirmed this flagship approach to materializing COASTFISH implementation in the region.

The CTI CFF Regional Secretariat also shared a live demo on CT Atlas, while USAID SuFiA TS led and facilitated a plenary discussion on establishing multilateral cooperation among the CT6 as a support vehicle to implement the COASTFISH Regional Framework by 2025 and integrate the framework into the CT Atlas platform.

Prior to the 2024 SSS/BSS REX, CT6 member countries were requested to prepare country presentations on each country's coastal livelihood programs and best practices that are relevant to COASTFISH framework. Unfortunately, not all countries presented their updates at the REX. However, when prompted to give opinions and comments, EAFM TWG members restated their support for the COASTFISH Regional Framework and agreed on the four (4) objectives represented in **Table 1**, and priority activities per objective **Table 3**.

EAFM TWG members commented that activities and planning for the COASTFISH Regional Framework's implementation need to be harmonized with their current national project's ability to support regional activities. The updating of the COASTFISH Regional Framework and the way forward in preparation for the CTI-CFF 19<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-19) was discussed at the CTI CFF EAFM TWG Meeting on August 15, 2024. CT6 EAFM TWG members' comments and action items will be reported by the Regional Secretariat at the 19<sup>th</sup> SOM on December 2-6, 2024.

Based on SOM 19 and the EAFM TWG workplan for 2025, the conduct of workshops/meetings/exchanges to share knowledge and develop the Regional Action Plan for COASTFISH implementation has been scheduled and to formally have the COASTFISH Regional Framework Plan accepted and endorsed by the CT6 by SOM-20 (in 2025).

Hence, in coordination with the EAFM TWG, the next phase was to update and finalize the COASTFISH Regional Framework and design a strategy to begin implementing support activities in related areas such as community livelihood, climate change resilience, and programs related to gender equality and social inclusion.

## 4.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The progressive level of agreement by the EAFM TWG on the four (4) objectives and most of the proposed activities discussed since 2017, followed by a series of workshops in 2022, 2023, and 2024, is a concrete step in the right direction. Acknowledging the alignment of the COASTFISH Regional Framework to RPOA 2.0 and its importance in addressing and alleviating poverty in coastal communities is vital to implementing COASTFISH in line with country-level community programs and site-level activities. Once finalized, the COASTFISH Regional Framework will include, among other items, an assessment of country initiatives in alleviating poverty through various approaches, knowledge and capacity-building programs and activities, and awareness-raising to better understand and address coastal communities' needs and challenges.

The EAFM TWG is aware that coastal community readiness and ability to adapt to and mitigate climate-related challenges is a recurring theme throughout the first CTI-CFF RPOA and CTI-CFF RPOA 2.0. The impacts of climate change have a significant bearing on fisheries production and are considerably felt by coastal communities. Climate change must be considered and incorporated into RPOA 2.0 targets and outcomes. As it should, challenges and ways to overcome climate change continue to be universally recognized and deemed as important.

To integrate gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) and climate change adaptation (CCA), the suggestion was to conduct baseline and situational analysis on climate change scenarios in fisheries and a study on climate change in CT6 countries to understand the current state of the situation and initiatives in CT6 member countries. These studies and sharing of experiences shall include lessons learned and best practices, as well as various assessments of coastal communities, tools, and methodologies. The EAFM TWG recommendation to strengthen the collection of gender-disaggregated data in fisheries emphasizes the importance of its contribution to designing sustainable financing for small, medium and community enterprises for alternative livelihoods in COASTFISH activities.

The key concept underlying the COASTFISH Regional Framework is sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities through proposed activities which are workable and achievable for the target strategies in RPOA 2.0. It is envisaged that CT6 member countries will leverage existing national programs and collaborate regionally to identify and work on possible implementation activities for COASTFISH to achieve significant progress by 2025. A foremost consideration proposed by EAFM WG is to take collective action due to the urgency of achieving the 2021-2025 targets in the RPOA 2.0.

Based on SOM 19 recommendations and the EAFM TWG workplan for 2025, the conduct of workshops/meetings/exchanges to share knowledge and develop the Regional Action Plan for COASTFISH implementation has been scheduled and to formally have the COASTFISH Regional Framework Plan accepted and endorsed by the CT6 by SOM-20 (in 2025). Hence, a roadmap and timeline for the review and approval of the COASTFISH Regional Framework is proposed to be developed by the EAFM TWG in 2025.

It is further recommended that CT6 EAFM TWG members strengthen their commitment to collective efforts in line with the regional nature of common challenges faced by coastal communities as the prime stakeholders. Their role needs to take center stage. This updated version of the COASTFISH Regional Framework is timely in achieving the five—and ten-year goal target of the RPOA 2.0 for COASTFISH.

**ANNEX I: PRIORITY ACTIVITIES PER OBJECTIVE WITH COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM COASTFISH REVIEW WORKSHOPS IN 2022 AND 2023**

| Objective I                                  | Proposed Activities   | Responsible Agency*   | Remarks**   | Comments and Suggestions***<br>(29 June 2022)   | Comments and Suggestions***<br>(13-14 June 2023) |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| (I) Develop maps of COASTFISH sites/regions. | <p>(I) Activity I: Network building in support of the initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ develop data-sharing protocols</li> <li>▪ Common database/website</li> </ul> | <p>CTI Regional Secretariat (RS)</p> <p>EAFM TWG to support the COASTFISH initiative.</p> | <p>Link to RPOA 2.0:</p> <p><i>Output B1.1.2.b: By 2023, establishment of knowledge management systems for the COASTFISH regional framework implementation.</i></p> <p>Potential link to CTI- Atlas (RS).</p> | <p>PH: no specific sites yet; need to finalize the Regional Framework first.</p> <p>MY: revisit the Regional Framework.</p> <p>SUFIA TS: COASTFISH maps with information on key activities.</p> <p>RS: Can be incorporated in CT Atlas.</p> <p>MY: integrate previous initiatives on the East Coast of Sabah, Malaysia.</p> <p>SI: One possible activity for SI is mapping CBRM sites. We are now working on a CBRM database (tracking tool).</p> | <p>none</p>                                      |

| Objective 2  | Proposed Activities   | Responsible Agency*   | Remarks**  | Comments and Suggestions***<br>(29 June 2022)  | Comments and Suggestions***<br>(13-14 June 2023) |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| <p><b>(2) Assess existing livelihood and environmental conditions in targeted coastal areas - assess new opportunities for livelihood development.</b></p> | <p><b>(2) Activity 1:</b><br/>Regional Experts Workshop for livelihood.<br/>Identification of Core Experts on livelihood/activities.</p>                        | <p>CTI RS/ EAFM TWG, in collaboration with CT6 countries and CTI Partners</p>                             | <p>Link to existing CTI-CFF and SEAFDEC collaboration.</p>               | <p>MY (chair): Any EAFM TWG member that is an expert in the topic should emphasize an expert's abilities to communicate with communities and also SEAFDEC and other partners to be in the pool of experts.</p> <p>SI: NGOs like WWF can also provide technical support, especially financial inclusion training.</p> <p>SUFIA TS: We (Dr Robert Pomeroy and Dr Alice Ferrer) published a study on analyzing fisheries' livelihoods in the PH and previous years.</p> | <p>None</p>                                      |
|  | <p><b>(3) Activity 2:</b><br/>Assess government and civil society, training providers and extension services (Source outside when required).</p>                | <p>CTI RS/ EAFM TWG, in collaboration with CT6 countries and CTI Partners</p>                             | <p>Possible link to research organizations (SEAFDEC), NGOs, Academe.</p> | <p>To be reviewed as part of the review/editing of the Regional Framework.</p>   |  |
|  | <p><b>(4) Activity 3:</b><br/>Share information and experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Production of publications and manuals.</li> </ul> | <p>CTI RS for Communications for information exchange, publication production, and manual production.</p> | <p>None</p>  | <p>None</p>  | <p>None</p>                                      |

|  |  |   |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|
|  | <p><b>(5) Activity 4:</b><br/>Promote inter-agency collaboration on livelihood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exchange programs</li> <li>▪ Technical assistance</li> <li>▪ Appropriate technologies</li> <li>▪ - Country to country technical support/assistance (e.g. IFAD technology)</li> </ul> | <p>CTI RS &amp; SEAFDEC, in collaboration with ASEAN Countries Technical Assistance, Technology Transfer.</p> | <p>Link to RPOA 2.0:</p> <p>Output B1.1.2a: By 2023, establish a regional action plan/ program to promote and share knowledge, technology and best practices that are supported /implemented for COASTFISH Regional Framework.</p> | <p>MY: Cross visits to include stakeholders in sharing information.</p> <p>PH: It is also best to examine the lessons learned from previous livelihoods programs and consider /incorporate them in developing sustainable livelihoods.</p> | <p>Include assessments of country initiatives in alleviating coastal poverty through different approaches, knowledge and capacity building, and awareness raising to better understand coastal communities.</p> <p>Conduct studies on the socio-economic impacts of fishing closures.</p> <p>Conduct a baseline and situational analysis of climate change scenarios in fisheries and a study on climate change to understand the current situation and initiatives in CT6 countries. This will include information and experience sharing of lessons learned and best practices assessment of coastal communities, tools, methodologies, and others.</p> |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|

| Objective 3   | Proposed Activities  | Responsible Agency*   | Remarks**  | Comments and Suggestions***<br>(29 June 2022)   | Comments and Suggestions***<br>(13-14 June 2023)   |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| <p><b>(3) Integrate COASTFISH Regional framework with existing EAFM Regional Framework.</b></p> | <p><b>(6) Activity 1:</b><br/>Reduce inshore IUU fishing through greater collaboration and increased enforcement and awareness to support sustainable livelihoods.</p> | <p>CT RS/ EAFM TWG in collaboration with CT6 countries.</p> | <p>Link to existing regional IUU plans and Sub-regional EAFM initiatives (e.g., Sulu Sulawesi Seascape EAFM plan).</p>   | <p>Technical and financial support for existing sub-regional plans (e.g., Sulu Sulawesi Seascape EAFM plan) implementation related to IUUF.</p> | <p>Recommend strengthening the collection of gender-disaggregated data in fisheries.</p> <p>Establish reference points and harvest control rules, and management measures that should be in place for priority fish stocks and other aquatic resources by Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs).</p> |
|   | <p><b>(7) Activity 2:</b><br/>Ensure implementation of sustainable livelihood programs under the COASTFISH Regional Framework.</p>                                     | <p>CT6 countries</p>  | <p>Link to national or site-level EAFM plans and other coastal initiatives and programs.</p> <p>Link to RPOA 2.0:<br/><i>Output B1.1.1.b</i><br/><i>By 2025, at least 2 Collaboration/partnerships are mobilized to support the implementation of the COASTFISH Regional Framework at both regional and national levels.</i></p> <p><i>Output B1.1.3.a:</i><br/><i>By 2030, a number of multi-sectoral, cross-cutting and inter-agencies' initiatives are established and empowered to support the implementation of</i></p> | <p>SI: National livelihoods action plans are implemented, and lessons learned from programs are shared.</p>                                     | <p>Acknowledged the importance of GESI and recommended adding GESI to the objectives under the EAFM human well-being pillar.</p> <p>Evaluate the socio-economic and ecosystem impacts, climate resilience, and mitigation of fisheries management strategies.</p>                                |

|   |  |   | the COASTFISH regional framework.   |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| Objective 4   | Proposed Activities  | Responsible Agency*   | Remarks**   | Comments and Suggestions***<br>(29 June 2022)   | Comments and Suggestions***<br>(13-14 June 2023)  |
| <b>(4) Develop a regional COASTFISH Investment Plan (complete project plan)</b> | <b>(8) Activity 1:</b><br>Establish a sustainable financing mechanism through a community-based fisherfolks cooperative society or women fishers' association, implement PES, and implement a savings mobilization scheme. | CTI RS/ EAFM TWG, in collaboration with CT6 countries                         | Link to RPOA 2.0:<br><br><i>Output BI.1.3.b: By 2025, relevant multilateral cooperation among the CT6 Member Countries are established and empowered to support the implementation of the COASTFISH Regional Framework.</i> | MY: Add youth association to the community-based implementation.  | Acknowledge the importance of channeling sustainable finance to small, medium, and community enterprises to provide alternative livelihoods and diversify income sources for fishermen. |
|   | <b>(9) Activity 2:</b><br>Develop ways to create more value for near-shore fishers (e.g., access to post-harvest facilities, adding value to the catch for added income, and more equitable income distribution).          | CTI RS, in collaboration with SEAFDEC, CT6 countries and the fishing industry | Link to COASTFISH regional framework and EAFM plans.  | SUFIA TS: conducting value chain studies and collaborating with universities in each country.<br><br>Resource valuation studies to help with future planning. |   |

|  |   |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|
|  | <p><b>(10) Activity 3:</b><br/>Accessing credit and financial services at multiple levels of the financial system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Facilitate access of fisherfolks cooperative society, women fishers' association, fisherfolks association to financial banking systems supporting community-based livelihood.</li> <li>▪ Facilitate access to mainstream banking and other financial institutions.</li> </ul> | <p>CTI RS, in collaboration with Development Partners and NGOs</p> | <p>Link to regional COASTFISH Regional Framework.</p> | <p>RS: no specific activities mentioned in RPOA 2.0</p> <p>PH: agriculture and credit financing program can apply for financial loans – Department of Agriculture</p> <p>MY: Similar initiative: fisher folks can apply for loans at local banks, such as Agrobank.</p> |  |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|

Note: \* - initial suggestions; \*\* - additional notes by the Technical Trainer; \*\*\* - suggestions from representatives of the CTI countries and EAFM TWG (June 2022 and June 2023). Extracted from the report for Session Design COASTFISH LRG vI Draft Final; COASTFISH Workshop: Revisiting and Updating the COASTFISH Initiative Regional Framework, CTI-CFF EAFM Working Group Meeting and Sulu Sulawesi Seascape Regional Exchange, Park Inn by Radisson North EDASA, Manila, Philippines, 13 Jun 2023.