



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



# The 20<sup>th</sup> SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING

BALI, INDONESIA | 10-11 December 2025

Marine Protected Area (MPA)

Chair (Rep) of MPA Mr. Ahmad Sofiullah

Technical Working Group  
Report



# OUTLINE

SOM20

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The CTI-CFF 20<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting





# Focal Points

# Focal Points of MPA-TWG

Member Country	Focal Points
<b>Indonesia (Chair)</b>	Dr. Firdaus Agung, Director of Ecosystem Conservation, MMAF Alternate: Mr. Ahmad Sofiullah, Team Leader for Convention and Ocean Accounting, MMAF
<b>Malaysia (Co-Chair)</b>	Dr. Maklarin Lakim, Director of Sabah Parks Alternate: Ms. Rimi Repin, Principal Assistant Director of Research and Education Division, Sabah Parks and Mr. Adam Malik bin Masidi, Marine Research Officer, Sabah Parks
Papua New Guinea	Mr. Bernard Kombeng Suruman, Manager MPA Branch, Conservation and Environment Protection Authority Alternate: Ms. Lisa Bun, Senior Program Officer, Marine Protected Areas, Conservation and Environment Protection Authority
Philippines	Ms. Mariglo Rosaida I. Laririt, Assistant Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Alternate: Mr. Isidro M. Velayo, Jr., MDM, Assistant Director for Technical Services, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources , Department of Agriculture
Solomon Islands	Mr. Peter Husi'au'ana Kenilorea, Chief Fisheries Officer, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Alternate: Mr. Trevor Maeda, Principal Conservation Officer, Ministry of Environment, Climate change, Disaster Management and Meteorology
Timor-Leste	Mr. Jose Monteiro Chief Department of Marine Conservation – MALFF Alternate: Mr. Abrao da Costa Menezes Staff of Marine Conservation- MALFF



# Action Taken for SOM-19 Decisions



SOM20

# Action Taken for SOM 19 Decisions

Decisions	Status
1. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation by the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Technical Working Group (Annex 8.8);	Status Completed SOM-19
2. Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of Advancing Marine Conservation in the Coral Triangle Region Program, a side event on the 2nd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference and 11th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference organized by the IUCN in Bangkok, Thailand on 25 April 2024;	Status Completed SOM-19
3. Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of 10th MPA REX and MPA TWG Meeting organized by CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and the IUCN (through SOMACORE Project) in Manado, Indonesia on 7–10 October 2024;	Status Completed SOM-19
4. Acknowledged and appreciated the IUCN (through SOMACORE Project), CTC, and WWF for the financial and technical support of the 10th MPA REX and MPA TWG Meeting;	Status Completed SOM-19
5. Acknowledged and appreciated the 2024 M&E Report for MPA TWG and the need to develop the reporting system and assessment mechanism (Annex 8.9);	RS through the M&E team and is working with the CT6 in developing the reporting template. Will be updated in in Pre-SOM MEWG Session. Currently, draft of reporting & monitoring template – will be socialized in Q1, 2026
6. Acknowledged and appreciated Indonesia for updating the MPA data and requested the other CT6 Member Countries to update the MPA data in CT-Atlas by Q1 2025 and the need for in-country support;	RS will continue to seek data from the CT6 with the support of the partners, including the IUCN (SOMACORE) for the CT Atlas upgrade as a data management tool.  Part of the MPA and CT Atlas 2026 workplan.
7. Acknowledged and appreciated the initiation of CTI MPA Managers Network, to support capacity building through training and sharing of knowledge and best practices, contributing to achieving the Objective C on improving good governance of RPOA 2.0;	With the CTI MPA Managers Network established, RS will continue to work with the WWF and CTC to develop the MPA Managers Network Capacity Building Program - aligning with the CTI partners' support.

# Action Taken for SOM 19 Decisions (Cont.)

Decisions	Status
8. Acknowledged and appreciated the ongoing discussions between the IUCN (through SOMACORE Project) and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat, on the recruitment of the IUCN Project Coordinator to be placed in the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat to provide technical support for the Green List Program and coordinate IUCN related activities;	In progress: IUCN in recruitment of the MPA/IUCN SOMACORE Project Officer
9. Acknowledged and appreciated the Memorandum of Understanding signing between CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and the IUCN on 3 September 2024 and the further ongoing support on MPA activities supported by the IUCN (through SOMACORE Project) for 2025 (Annex 8.10);	RS continues to identify areas under the MoU for IUCN's ongoing support to the RS and the overall implementation of the RPOA 2.0
10. Acknowledged the effort of the Ocean Foundation to support the intervention with MPA Technical Working Group to develop the Coral Triangle MPA Managers' network;	RS will continue to seek collaboration with Ocean Foundation and merge the support from WWF and CTC for the CTI MPA Managers Network.
11. Tasked the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat to invite the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat to present the modalities for the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas, as adopted during the 16th Conference of Parties to the CBD, during the MPA REX and TWG in 2025;	RS will continue to explore opportunities with partners and collaborators to fulfill the specific request with reference to the CBD / EBSA / BBNJ
12. Approved the Marine Protected Area Technical Working Group 2025 Workplan and Budget;	Status Completed SOM-19





# Update on the Workplan and Budget 2025 by the Chair of MPA TWG



# MPA TWG Workplan and Budget 2025

No	Activities	Time Frame	Budget Estimation (USD)		Objectives	RPOA 2.0 Target	Activity Status
			CTI	Partners			
1	Establish and/or Improve collaborative partnerships on Marine Protected and Conserved Areas expansion and effectiveness	Q1	-	Seeking additional support from current and potential partners	Increase support towards the MPA TWG and the initiatives associated under the MPA related targets of the RPOA 2.0	- A 1.1 - C1.1	The RS continues to seek collaboration with other potential partners.
2	11 <sup>th</sup> MPA REX and MPA TWG Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CT Atlas Data Reporting</li> <li>▪ Update of CTMPAS, using IUCN Green List Standards as a Guide.</li> <li>▪ Network of MPA Managers</li> <li>▪ Socialization of the mechanism for describing and modifying ecologically and biologically significant marine area</li> </ul>	Q2-Q3	30,000	Seeking Addition Support: IUCN, USAID SCT, GIZ, WWF CTP, CTC, Ocean Foundation etc.	REX to progress decisions based on the benefits and interests of the MPA TWG. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTMPAS: 3rd round of nominations and improve regional and stakeholder collaboration to address improved requirements for CTMPAS.</li> <li>• Enhance the effectiveness of MPA Management in the CT region, considering the importance of supporting global and regional goals in marine and coastal conservation.</li> </ul>	- C1.5 - Note: alignment with global standards IUCN - Note: alignment with global standards EBSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RS is progressing the revision of the CTMPAS with the assistance from IUCN using IUCN Green List Standards as a Guide. This will continue into 2026, collaborating with the IUCN Green Lists assessments.</li> <li>• Establishment of the CTI MPA Managers network and will progress with further collaboration with IUCN, WWF-CTP, and CTC, and other potential collaborators such as the.</li> <li>• Initiated the discussions on socializing of the mechanism for describing and modifying ecologically and biologically significant marine area – progressed the discussion in the Seascapes and EAFM REX</li> <li>• Conducted the MPA-TWG Meeting on 4 July.</li> </ul>
3	Recruitment of the MPA Coordinator	Q1-Q2	-	Support from IUCN (SOMACORE)	To enhance the implementation of the MPA related activities and improve the MPA in Coral Triangle region.	- Improving RS capacity	As updated by IUCN - In progress.
	<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>		<b>30,000</b> <b>20,000</b>				<b>Actual budget expense 22,206</b>



# Proposed Workplan & Budget 2026 by the Chair of MPA TWG

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# Proposed MPA TWG Workplan and Budget 2026

No	Activities	Time Frame	Budget Estimation (USD)		RPOA 2.0			
			CT6 Contribution	Partners	Target	Outcome/ Output Indicator	Regional Activity	Outcome/ Output Indicator
1	Online MPA-TWG Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revisit SOM-20 Discussions and identify priority actions</li> <li>Review 2026 activities and confirm dates</li> <li>Identify sub-activities to conduct online before offline events.</li> </ul>	Q1 2026	N/a	N/a	C1	Target Output Indicator C1.1.2	C1.2	C1.2.2.1
2	Capacity Development in Ocean Protection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CT Atlas Data Management Training: Updating of MPA data</li> <li>Capacity Building Training on MPA/LMMA/OECM/BBNJ/Data Management Training</li> <li>Climate Resilience /Blue Carbon /Coral Bond Workshop &amp; Training</li> <li>Sustainable Financing Workshop for CTMPAS (with FRWG)</li> </ul>	Q2-3 2026	10,000 Combined w/ other supported activities, or a series of <i>in-situ</i> online calls.	IUCN - SOMACORE WWF, CTC WCS (?) Blue Institute (?)	A1, A2, C1	Target Outcome Indicator A1/C1  Target Output Indicator A1.2	A1.1 A1.2 C1.5  A1.2	A1.1.1 A1.2.1a C1.5.1a  A1.2.1a
3	Annual CTI-CFF MPA-TWG Meeting Workshop: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening MPA Governance:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MPA Managers Network/Learning Sites/Green List Workshop</li> </ul> </li> <li>Capacity Development &amp; Standardization :               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CTMPAS Workshop: Review CTMPAS indicators/adopt criteria, and review CTMPAS/SAC/expert panel.</li> </ul> </li> <li>MPA TWG Meeting:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MPA Chair to host (MY), Venue (Sabah).</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	Q2 (May) 2026	40,000	IUCN-SOMACORE WWF, CTC	A1	Target Output Indicator A1.1	A1.1.1	A1.1.1.a A1.1.1.b
4	Online MPA-TWG Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation for SOM-21.</li> </ul>	Q4 2026	N/a	N/a	C1	Target Output Indicator C1.1.2	C1.2.2	C1.2.2.a
<b>Total Proposed Budget (USD)</b>			<b>50,000.00</b>	TBD				



# Change of Chair and Co-Chair

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# Announcement of the upcoming MPA TWG Chair and Co-Chair

## 2.2 Term of the Chair and Co-Chair.

The term of the Chair and Co-Chair is two years starting on 01 January of the year, following the confirmation of the SOM. The selection of the Chair and Co-Chair will be based on rotation. Subsequent Chairs and Co-Chairs shall be named following the alphabetical order of the CT6 country name.

Period	Chair	Country	Co-Chair	Country
1 Jan 2026 – 31 Dec 2027	Datuk Dr. Maklarin Lakim	Malaysia	Mr. Bernard Kombeng Suruman	Papua New Guinea
1 Jan 2024 - 31 Dec 2025	Dr. Firdaus Agung	Indonesia	Datuk Dr. Maklarin Lakim	Malaysia





# Draft Decisions for SOM-20

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# Marine Protected Areas (MPA) TWG SOM-20 Decisions

SOM20



# SOM-20 Decisions of MPA TWG

1. Acknowledged and appreciated the report by the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Technical Working Group (Annex 8.6).
2. Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of "Reefs at Risk, Food at Stake: Scaling Coral Reef Conservation by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF)" side event on the Our Ocean Conference (OOC) in Busan, South Korea on 28 April 2025 as the collaboration between CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and ICRI and supported by Shams, IUCN, and Blue Alliance.
3. Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of CT6 Regional Workshop on IUCN Green List and OECM (MPA 101) and MPA TWG Meeting organized by the IUCN and CTC (through SOMACORE Project) and CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat in Bali, Indonesia on 30 June - 4 July 2025.
4. Acknowledged the nomination of at least twelve MPAs and LMMAs across CT6 countries as candidate sites under the IUCN Green List pathway with support from CTC as the implementing agency and guidance from the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and encouraged the alignment of CTMPAS and RPOA 2.0 frameworks with the KM-GBF, integrating ecological, governance, and socio-economic indicators to strengthen regional standards and shared learning for effective area-based conservation.
5. Promote the implementation of IUCN Green List as a common regional framework for CT6 countries, to enhance the management and governance of MPAs, LMMAs, and OECMs, in alignment with KM-GBF Target 3 and related Targets 1, 2, 4, 20, and 21.
6. Recognized the establishment of a Coral Triangle Expert Assessment Group for the Green List (EAGL) as the regional jurisdiction mechanism of the IUCN Green List to guide and support effective area-based site management and governance across the CT6 countries.

# SOM-20 Decisions of MPA TWG (Cont.)

7. Tasked the Regional Secretariat to facilitate the discussion on the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) among the CT6 countries, particularly in exploring its implications, opportunities, and potential roles for the Coral Triangle region.
8. Appreciated the excellent contribution of Dr. Firdaus Agung as Chair from Indonesia and Datuk Dr. Maklarin Lakim as Co-Chair from Malaysia in year of 2024-2025.
9. Approved the recommendation of the MPA Technical Working Group to turn over the Chair from Indonesia to Malaysia and the turnover of the Co-chair from Malaysia to Papua New Guinea in the year of 2026 - 2027, based on the provision stipulated in the rules and procedure of the CTI-CFF MPA Technical Working Group.
10. Approved the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Technical Working Group 2026 Workplan and Budget (Annex 8.7).





CORAL TRIANGLE  
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# 20<sup>th</sup> 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 (Rep) of MPA: Mr. Ahmad  
Sofiullah  
Indonesia

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