



Australia's support for the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security – a snapshot





Background to the Coral Triangle Initiative

More than 240 million people in the region rely on the rich and diverse marine life of the Coral Triangle for their food and livelihoods.

The Coral Triangle is a unique and irreplaceable hub of marine biodiversity—home to globally significant coral reefs, mangroves and fisheries resources. More than 240 million people in the region rely on the rich and diverse marine life of the Coral Triangle for their food and livelihoods. Yet these important values are under threat from unsustainable fishing, pollution, unsustainable development of coastal areas, and climate change.

In 2009, the leaders of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste established the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI) as a multilateral partnership to protect the region's marine and coastal resources. Australia was invited by the countries to become one of six Partners to CTI, to assist with its development and implementation. Now five years into its implementation, the CTI has proven itself to be an important forum for mobilising on-ground efforts to ensure that the natural resources and ecosystems of the Coral Triangle continue to be a reliable source of food, income and economic development for the coastal communities in our region.

Australia's contribution to the Coral Triangle Initiative

Australia is proud to be a Partner to the CTI. Since 2009, the Australian Government has invested approximately AUD\$8.5 million in the Initiative.

Australia's CTI support is funded primarily from the Australian Aid program, and is administered by the Australian Government Department of the Environment, which also invests its own time, resources and expertise in supporting the Coral Triangle countries to achieve the CTI goals.

Australia's contribution to the CTI is aimed at both the regional and national level, and comes in the form of financial investment and direct sharing of Australian knowledge and skills with the communities and government agencies of the Coral Triangle countries.

Australia's support is delivered through a range of partners, including non-government organisations, research agencies, and international organisations. We also directly share the Australian Government's substantial experience and expertise in marine policy, planning and research.

Australia is thankful for the work of its many implementation partners, which include Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, WorldFish, the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific International, and an alliance of Australian universities.



Turtle on Annavon Islands, Solomon Islands (Bridget Besaw)



Regional support for the CTI— Helping to build the CTI into an effective regional forum

Australia is helping the CTI grow into an increasingly effective regional forum. Our experiences in the Pacific and elsewhere show that regional organisations can add significant value to national efforts through regional coordination and leadership, by helping to mobilise investment and action, and by delivering shared services.

Australia is investing significantly in efforts to **establish an independent Regional Secretariat**. We believe that it will provide a foundation for fully realising the benefits of regional cooperation among CTI members and Partners.

Australia is investing in work led by the Asian Development Bank to develop a **Financial Resources Strategy** for the CTI. We believe that a key area where the CTI can add value as a regional initiative is in mobilising resources and expertise to implement the ambitious goals of the Initiative. Another area where the CTI delivers important value as a regional forum is through regional learning networks and shared approaches to capacity development. Through the Seascapes Working Group, Australia is supporting a regional approach to learning and use of marine planning and management.

National-level support for the CTI— Helping to achieve transformational changes to the management and use of marine resources

At a national level, Australia is supporting on-ground change through capacity development and technical assistance activities in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Indonesia, based on their National Plans of Action.

Australia's contributions in this area aim to create conditions that enable coastal communities to build sustainable livelihoods and food security through effective stewardship and use of marine resources.

This involves investing in work within communities, as well as with governments and organisations from the national, provincial and local levels to build knowledge, skills and capabilities.

Our support addresses the following areas:

Developing sustainable livelihoods

Australia is supporting coastal communities to develop sustainable livelihoods through activities such as:

- Piloting the use of Territorial User Rights Fisheries in **Rote-Ndao District, Indonesia**, which aim to empower communities to become effective stewards of the fisheries resources they rely on for food and economic opportunity.

- Supporting work on marine tourism development strategies for **Rote-Ndao District, Indonesia** and for **Timor-Leste**.
- Helping communities to develop and implement livelihood development strategies in **Nino Konis Santana National Park, Timor-Leste**.
- Undertaking socio-economic evaluations to inform livelihood development efforts in **Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea**.
- Putting in place climate change-ready livelihoods in **Western Province, Solomon Islands**.

Improving knowledge for better planning and decision-making

Australia is helping to address key knowledge needs through activities such as:

- Completing national mapping of marine and coastal habitats in **Timor-Leste**.
- Assessing the climate change vulnerability of coastal communities in **Timor-Leste**.
- Supporting the **Papua New Guinea Department of Environment and Conservation** to develop a new bioregionalisation of their country's waters and identify priority conservation areas to inform marine protected areas planning.

- Mapping of inshore marine and coastal resources, and gathering information on the status of community-based marine resource management efforts **across Solomon Islands waters.**
- Integrating projections of climate change, economic modelling, ecosystem services and socio-economic change to inform livelihood adaptation strategies in **Kimbe Bay, Papua New Guinea.**
- Supporting the development of marine and coastal planning for **Rote-Ndao District, Indonesia** as a part of the broader Savu Sea Marine Protected Area, and for **Nino Konis Santana National Park, Timor-Leste.**

Supporting communities to be effective stewards of their environment and natural resources

Australia is supporting the uptake and effective implementation of community-based resource management approaches, such as locally managed marine areas, through activities that include:

- Supporting non-government organisations to work directly with communities in **Nino Konis Santana National Park, Timor-Leste; Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea; and Western and Central Provinces, Solomon Islands.**

- Developing national and provincial-scale strategies and capacities for the successful uptake of community-based resource management in **Solomon Islands.**
- Establishing national and provincial learning and training networks in **Papua New Guinea** to facilitate community-based resource management, including through development and dissemination of outreach materials, training and mentoring, and learning exchanges.
- Supporting the work of in-country organisations such as the Centre for Locally Managed Areas in **Papua New Guinea**, and the Tetepare Descendants Association in **Solomon Islands.**
- Piloting innovative 'expanding the reach' approaches in **Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands** that can efficiently get information and support to the large number of coastal communities that want, and need, to pursue community-based marine resource management.

Building skills and capabilities for better marine and coastal management

Australia is helping to build skills and capabilities in Coral Triangle countries through activities such as:

- Supporting Australian universities to work with counterpart educational institutions in **Solomon Islands**

and **Papua New Guinea** to develop curricula and train trainers in priority marine resource management topics.

- National and provincial learning networks on community-based resource management in **Papua New Guinea.**
- Mentoring and support for national government officials in **Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands.**
- Building capabilities to maintain and utilise marine and coastal data in **Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.**

Australia's future support

In signing up to the CTI, Australia pledged to take a phased approach to its support that evolves with the CTI. The establishment of an independent regional secretariat is a significant evolution point for the CTI.

Australia is considering its future support in light of this milestone. We believe that it creates an opportunity and an imperative to enhance the focus of Australia's support by realising the value that is added through working together regionally, while still delivering on-ground results at national and local levels.

Australia will work with the CTI member countries and partners in designing future Australian support.



Hauling fishing net at Senggigi, in Lombok, Indonesia (James Butler)

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