

About UNDP/GEF support to Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI)

UNDP is implementing three regional projects as part of the overall Global Environment Facility (GEF) support to the CTI and coordinates a fourth project CTI: LEARN that is being implemented by the Asian Development Bank. These projects support the CTI Regional Program of Action as well as the CTI National Programs of Action of the CT countries. In addition to the core GEF financial grant of over US\$6.3 million, these projects are also supported by the countries, some bilateral and multilateral agencies, NGO partners and UNDP itself. The combined financing for the three projects is about US\$ 17.4 million.

This quarterly update provides progress and key results of the three UNDP-implemented projects to inform the CTI stakeholders and identify opportunities for synergy. We welcome contributions and feedback from all CTI stakeholders. For more information about the overall UNDP/GEF CTI projects, please contact Jose Erez Padilla, UNDP Regional Technical Advisor at jose.padilla@undp.org. More information about each project is available in the respective project websites and from the regional project managers.

West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (WPEA OFMP)



The annual tuna production in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) of around 2.4 million mt accounted for over 80% of all tuna catch in the Pacific and over 55% of the global tuna catch in 2009. The catch, valued at around US\$4.2 billion, is an important source of food, employment and income to communities in the region. Approximately 20-25% of the WCPO tuna catch are from the West Pacific East Asia (WPEA) area, which are the waters of Eastern Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam. Proper monitoring and management of both tuna stocks and tuna fisheries is crucial for sustainable livelihood and economy of the WCPO. However, the management of tuna resources in this region has been met with uncertainties due to the weak catch data in WPEA. Consequently, data collection in the WPEA became one of the priority activities of the WCP Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

The WPEA OFM project aims to build capacity in Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam to address data-related gaps in the tuna fishery, and therefore promote regional cooperation to conserve and manage fisheries for highly migratory fish stocks. In addition to the GEF grant and the counterpart funding by the three countries, the project is also supported by a number of bilateral and multilateral agencies and an NGO.

The project held its inception workshop in Cebu, Philippines on 3-4 July 2009. It will run for 3 years and the countries expect that this lays the foundation for a full-size project to further strengthen national and regional governance for the management of oceanic fishery resources. To date, the project has been fully operational with the following activities: a) recruitment of port samplers to collect data for the estimation of tuna catches and biological parameters and the establishment of database systems; b) review of the policy, legal and institutional arrangements in the three participating countries; and c) workshops on developing a national tuna management plan and on promoting national level activities of tuna associations. The recommendations from these activities are now being considered by the respective governments.

For the first half of 2011, the project will continue the collection and audit of data from port sampling, operational level data collection by implementing logbook system and observer programme, and capacity building activities in data/database and stock assessment through workshops on that will be conducted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

For more information please contact SungKwon Soh (Mr), Regional Project Manager at SungKwon.Soh@wcpfc.int or visit the project website at <http://www.wcpfc.int/west-pacific-east-asia-oceanic-fisheries-management-project>.

Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Programme (ATSEA)

The Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) region, considered part of the Coral Triangle, is located at the intersection of the two major large marine ecosystems (LMEs) - the Indonesian Seas to the north and the northern Australian waters to the south. This region exhibits high productivity that sustains both small and large-scale fisheries and provides livelihoods for millions of people in the region. In addition to fisheries, other economic activities such as tourism, oil and gas and mining have given rise to related transboundary issues facing the littoral nations in the ATS.

This UNDP-GEF project of the governments of Indonesia and Timor-Leste (with the participation of Australia) will conduct a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and develop a Strategic Action Programs (SAP) for the entire LME and for each country to address



transboundary concerns. The ATS Experts Forum (ATSEF), which grew out of WSSD in 2002 and from the provisions of UNCLOS, is a key project partner. Several environmental NGOs are also involved.

Following the successful inception meeting in Dili on 13-14 July 2010, the project conducted a 3-day scientific workshop in Darwin, Australia on 21-23 September 2010 followed by a socio-economic workshop in Bogor in 8-9 November 2010 to discuss the way forward for the TDA. More than 30 scientists from Australia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste were involved in these workshops to outline the thematic scope of the TDA. Of particular importance was the first-ever international oceanographic expedition that involved the three countries as part of the TDA. The cruise was launched by H.E. Dr. Fadel Muhammad, Minister of Marine Affairs and

Fisheries of Indonesia with representatives from the governments of Timor-Leste and Australia. The compilation of *in-situ* observations of the ATSEA Cruise taken on board the R.V. Baruna Jaya VIII, were published in the ATSEA Cruise Report, which is available upon request to the regional project manager.

For the first half of 2011, the draft TDA is targeted for completion through several regional and national consultations. The overall goal for the year is to secure government endorsement of the TDA and possibly of the SAP. The Project Steering Committee for 2011 is scheduled to be held in mid February 2011 in Bali.

For more information please contact Gabriel (Tonny) Wagey, Regional Project Manager at GabrielW@unops.org or visit the project website at <http://atsea-program.org/>.



Sulu-Celebes Sea Sustainable Fisheries Management (SCS-SFM) Project

Fishery stocks are important for the food security and the livelihoods of about 37 million people in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines around the Sulu-Celebes Seas. For example, fish from the Sulu Sea are the source of 53% and 23% of animal protein in the Philippines and Malaysia, respectively. The fishery sector employs a considerable number of fishermen and provides income to both artisanal and commercial fishermen in all three countries. Despite their importance, the fisheries and their habitats in this area considered



to be at the apex of global marine biodiversity, have been under threat. The project aims to improve the condition of fisheries (particularly small pelagics) and their habitats in the Sulu-Celebes Seas (also referred to as the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion – SSME) through an integrated, collaborative and participatory management at the local, national and tri-national levels. The goal is sustainable marine fisheries in SSME for the benefit of communities who are dependent on these resources for livelihood, and for the global community who benefit in the conservation of highly diverse marine ecosystem and its ecosystems services.

This project was officially launched at the Project Inception Meeting, 29-30 September 2010 in the Philippines. Representatives from the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, UNDP, UNOPS, Conservation International and WWF Philippines agreed on the project's work plan, activities, and budget. Additional activities were also proposed and agreed for implementation in order to meet the project's objectives.

For the first half of 2011, the project will update the two SSME regional assessments conducted in 1999-2002 (i.e., SSME Ecoregional Conservation Plan 2004 and the Global International Waters Assessment Report 56). Baseline data will be collected at one demonstration site in each of the country. A review of the institutional frameworks for fisheries management in the region will also be conducted. National project coordinators will be recruited and demonstration site teams will be formed. The Project Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for April 2011 in Cebu, Philippines.

For more information please contact Connie Chiang, Regional Project Manager at connie@scfishproject.org or visit the project website at <http://www.ssme-fishproject.org>.