



CORAL
TRIANGLE
CENTER

Inspiring People Saving Oceans

THIRD QUARTER 2023 REPORT

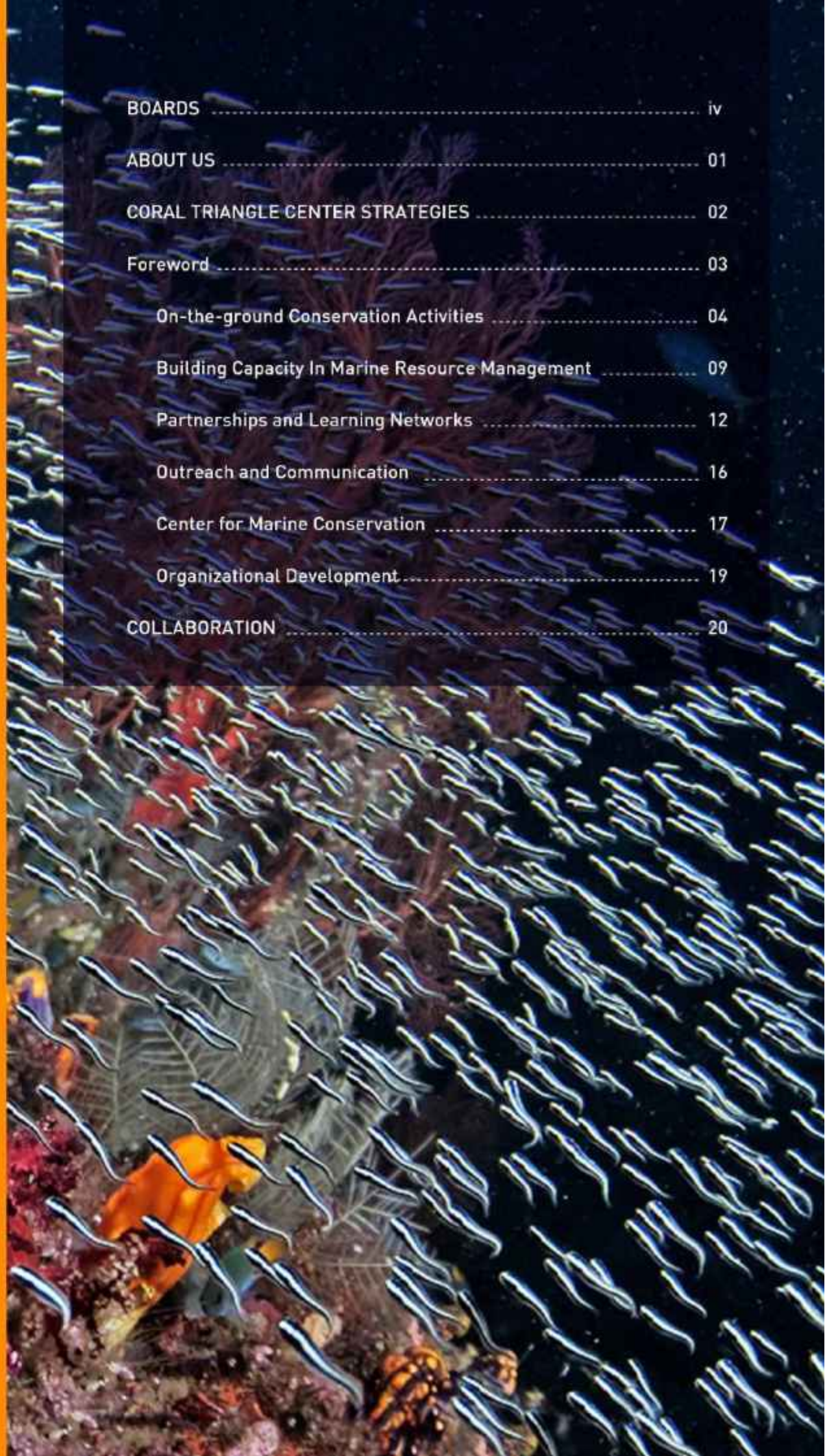
CORAL TRIANGLE CENTER





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ABOUT US

CORAL TRIANGLE CENTER

A center of excellence in tropical marine resource management:
Building local leadership for long-term conservation in the Coral Triangle



Inspiring People Saving Oceans

VISION

Healthy seas that enrich people and nature.

MISSION

To inspire and train generations to care for coastal and marine ecosystems.

VALUES

Excellence

In the quality of our teaching. In the performance and integrity of our staff.
In our commitment to being a world-class center of tropical resources management.

Local Stewardship

Based in the heart of the Coral Triangle, we maintain strong roots in the field and close ties to stakeholders at all levels. We value traditional knowledge and practices, and promote local ownership of our projects.

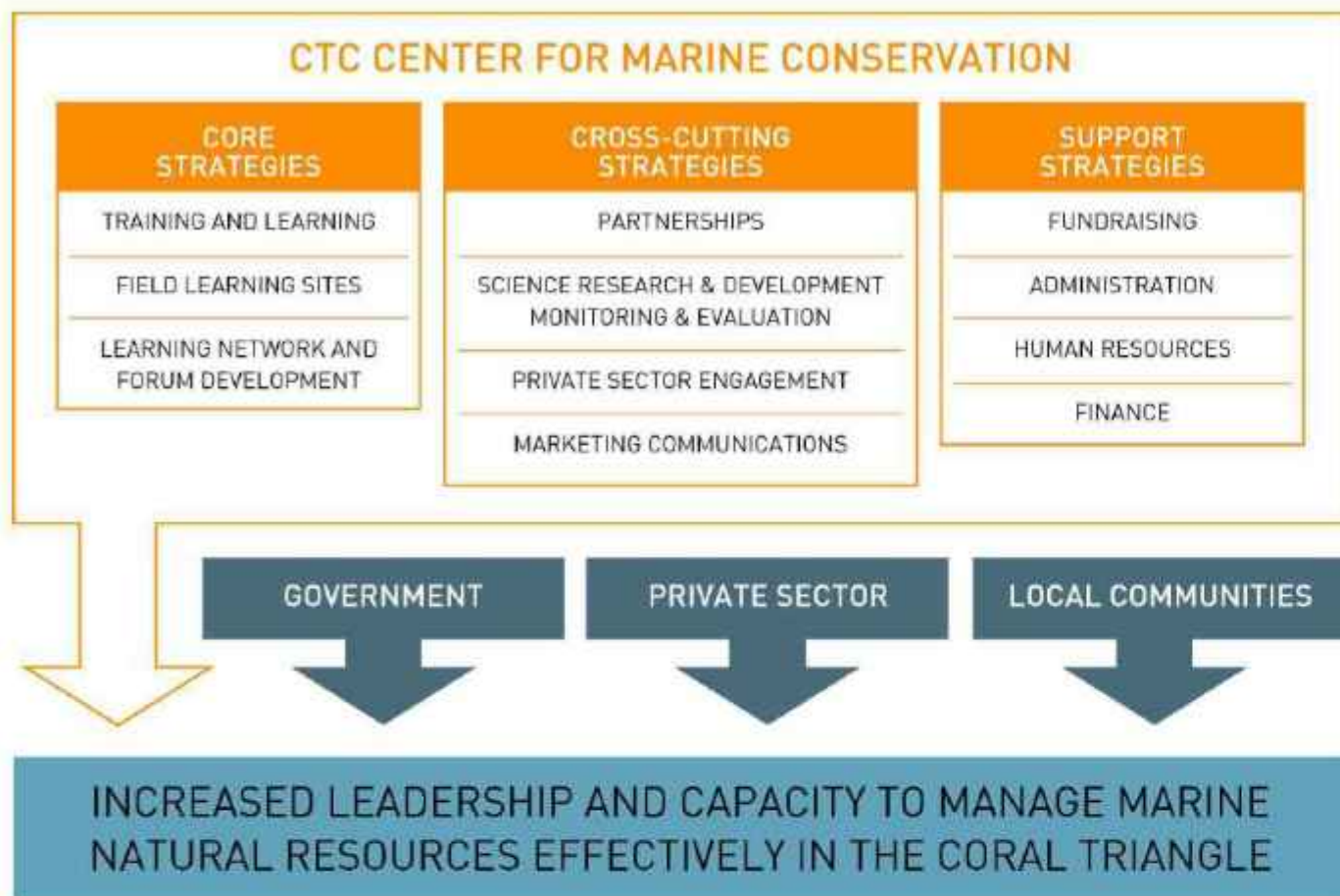
Collaboration

We build partnerships among leaders in government, communities, NGOs, education, and the private sector because only by engaging all constituencies can solutions be effective.

Result

We provide trusted information, are transparent in our actions, and hold ourselves accountable for the quality of our programs, changing our strategies as necessary and measuring our impact over time.

CORAL TRIANGLE CENTER STRATEGIES



CTC is an official development partner of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) - a government-led initiative of the six countries of the Coral Triangle region namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. CTC supports the CTI-CFF in cross-cutting activities such as capacity building, women empowerment, local government leadership, sustainable tourism and private sector engagement. CTC is also a member of the International World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

FOREWORD

The temperature of the planet's oceans rose to new heights last month, setting a new record with no sign of cooling down. The average global ocean surface temperature hit 20.96 degrees Celsius (69.7 Fahrenheit) at the end of July 2023, according to data from the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

Scientists say the world needs to brace for ocean temperatures to keep rising as the arrival of El Nino - the natural climate fluctuation that originates in the tropical Pacific Ocean, and has a warming impact - layers on top of human-caused global warming.

The current sea surface temperatures are exceptionally and unseasonably warm and bring wide-ranging implications, especially for complex ecosystems such as coral reefs. Ocean heat can lead to the mass bleaching of coral reefs as well as the death of other marine life and increased sea level rise.

A recent Science to Policy Paper "Rebuilding Coral Reefs - A Decadal Grand Challenge" written by Dr. Nancy Knowlton and a team of scientists (2021) emphasized the urgent need for action to reverse the rapid decline of the coral reef ecosystems.

Three interdependent pillars of action were identified: lower greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration; improve local conditions by increasing and improving management of land and marine areas; and invest in active coral restoration by enhanced recovery rates and explore new technologies.

CTC is actively involved in coral restoration and mangrove rehabilitation at our MPA sites and focused on increasing the local conditions of effective management of marine protected areas. We are innovating our coral reef monitoring programs with reef imagery and rapid coral reef health assessments. CTC joined a consortium of NGOs to support the Indonesian government with coordination, policy, capacity building and communications related to its Vision 2030 roadmap for MPAs.

We launched Indonesia's first ever conservation themed exhibition hall at our Center for Marine Conservation. Moreover, CTC continues to expand its outreach to children via the Ocean Keeper Club and develop partnerships to increase ocean literacy in Indonesia. The exhibitions highlight the beauty and importance of the ocean to our daily life and our future. In the Coral Triangle, we team up with the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and WWF to scale up capacity building across the six countries for marine protected areas and sustainable fisheries.

Rili Djohani
Executive Director



ON-THE-GROUND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Timor-Leste's New Samba Sembilan Marine Protected Area: A Milestone in Marine Biodiversity Conservation

Timor-Leste has officially announced a new Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Liquiçá Municipality. Named after a local hero, the Samba Sembilan MPA was declared early this year and covers more than 8,000 hectares of Liquiçá's waters and marine ecosystems. Since 2017, CTC has supported the Timor-Leste Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Liquiçá Municipality, and the local community in establishing the Samba Sembilan MPA. CTC congratulates the Timor-Leste government and people for this very important milestone in protecting its extraordinary marine biodiversity and contributing to the global goal to protect the global ocean by 2030.



CTC Executive Director, Rili Djohani, and CTC Marine Conservation Advisor, Marthen Welly, were invited to the inauguration ceremony of the new MPA and the Tara Bandu ceremony in the Samba Sembilan MPA on September 5, 2023. The Tara Bandu ceremony honored the customary laws of the community regarding the local marine resources and demonstrated the integration of traditional ecological knowledge into the conservation goals of the MPA. During the ceremony, Rili Djohani highlighted the marine biodiversity of Samba Sembilan MPA and the importance of conserving coastal and marine ecosystems for the livelihoods of the local communities.



"The Tara Bandu could permanently close a coastal area to protect ecosystems and marine biotas inside or close and open an area in a certain period of time. The Tara Bandu is also implemented to protect marine species. This traditional wisdom could be integrated into MPA management," said Marthen Welly, CTC's Marine Conservation Adviser and Timor-Leste Program Lead.



CTC is proud to support the government of Timor-Leste in its efforts to protect its marine resources and will continue to support the strengthening the management of Samba Sembilan MPA in Liquiçá Municipality. Through this ongoing partnership, we aspire to create a legacy of conservation and sustainable resource use that will benefit current and future generations alike.

Surveillance and Resource Use Monitoring Survey in Ay-Rhun MPA



CTC conducted a comprehensive Surveillance and Resource Use Monitoring (RUM) survey in Ay-Rhun Marine Protected Area (MPA). This periodic survey involved collaboration with multiple governmental agencies and local communities, aiming to strengthen law enforcement, promote the adoption of sustainable practices, and discourage harmful activities by actors from among the local small-scale fishers, private sectors, and tourism operators. On June 26, 2023, a team of eight members started the survey from Rakyat Harbor of Neira Island by longboat. Their route encompassed the Ay-Rhun MPA and passed by Ay Island, Nailaka Island, Rhun Island, Wakora Beach, and Noret Cape. During the navigation, the team interviewed resource users, gathering valuable data. The collaborative efforts involved CTC, the Fisheries Monitoring Division of Island Cluster VI from the Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MAF) Agency of Maluku Province, the Surveillance for Marine and Fisheries Resources of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Seram (PSDKPI), Work Unit of Banda Marine Tourism Park (Satker TWP Laut Banda), Banda Coastal Fishing Port (PPP Banda), Sub-district Military Command, the Directorate of Water and Air Police of the Maluku Province - Banda (Ditpolairud Maluku Pos Banda), and the Indonesian National Military-Naval Force of Banda (TNI-AL Pos Banda). The team concluded the monitoring activities at Neira Island's Rakyat Harbor.



The one-day survey of the Ay-Rhun MPA was successful, despite the challenge arising from rapidly changing weather conditions. This inclement weather led to a reduced presence of fishers or other users during the monitoring activities. In addition, due to heavy waves, the team was unable to visit the western and northern parts of Rhun Island. Nevertheless, the collected data serves as important information to support the effective management of the MPA.

Since April, the collection process for monitoring surveys in Ay-Rhun utilized the "KoboCollect" application as a replacement for traditional paper data forms. Laode Junaidin, our Banda MPA Officer, expressed his satisfaction in utilizing this technology: "by using this technology, the process of data collection during the monitoring activities is made easier. The system's user-friendly interface also simplifies its application in the field."



"Surveillance and RUM activities serve not only to capture within the MPA but also to enhance the presence and interaction of the MPA Management Unit with community users of the area. These activities aim to increase compliance with the rules and zoning system of the Ay-Rhun Islands MPA," said Purwanto, Maluku Portfolio Manager.

This periodic survey played a pivotal role in supporting the management of the Ay-Rhun MPA. By providing comprehensive data collection, this survey offers crucial insights as a reference for management strategies. Moreover, the survey activities foster collaboration between CTC, local government and the communities. It is a significant action toward the preservation of the Ay-Rhun MPA's unique marine biodiversity and the well-being of the communities dependent on its resources.



A Step Forward in Waste Management: Establishing 'Bank Sampah' on Lease Islands MPA

CTC collaborated with several local partners to support the launch of a Waste Bank, known as "Bank Sampah," in Duw Village on Saparua Island, Maluku, on July 11, 2023. This collaborative effort aims to address the plastic threats to the seagrass ecosystem, which serves as a crucial habitat for dugongs within the Lease Islands Marine Protected Area (MPA).

Waste management initiatives have previously begun in Saparua, although on an irregular basis, with partial contributions from governmental institutions, the church community, and the local NGO Yayasan Toma Majo Lease. Through the "Kalesang Dugong" project, CTC and the Baileo Foundation have played a pivotal role in encouraging the establishment of a Bank Sampah in Saparua. This initiative emerged from discussions during the waste management training in Mahu Village, Saparua, on April 13, 2023.



Named "Bank Sampah LISKA Unit Negeri Duw", the launch was opened by Corneles Soparua, the Head of the Environment and Waste Agency (Kepala Dinas Lingkungan Hidup dan Persampahan or DLHP) of Maluku Tengah District. The event was attended by 58 participants, including representatives from Camat Saparua, Camat Saparua Timur, the local community, the Raja of Duw Village, and six other Rajas from the Saparua Timur sub-district. One of the highlights was the signing of the establishment document, symbolizing the official launch of Bank Sampah LISKA Unit Negeri Duw.

On this occasion, CTC also successfully connected the Bank Sampah to PT MLA through the formalization of a partnership agreement. PT MLA, a company specializing in plastic waste processing based in Ambon, has expressed its commitment to supporting waste management efforts on Saparua Island.



This commitment includes purchasing plastic waste from Bank Sampah and providing plastic press machinery as well as offering support in various technical aspects of Bank Sampah operations.

In parallel with the launch of Bank Sampah LISKA, a beach clean-up event was planned across 17 villages on Saparua Island. Despite being rescheduled due to heavy rainfall a few days prior to the intended date, Paperu and Ihmahu Villages went ahead with the beach clean-up, resulting in the collection of 12 sacks of plastic waste weighing 12.1 kg. Subsequently, this collected plastic waste was dispatched to the Bank Sampah LISKA located in Duw Village.



The establishment of Bank Sampah signifies a proactive step toward addressing the issue of plastic pollution within the Lease Islands MPA. CTC committed to support waste management efforts to mitigate the impact of plastic threats on the marine ecosystem within the region, aligning with the main objectives of the Kalesang Dugong Project.



Saparua Island's Mahu Village Strengthens Marine Conservation Commitment with New Village Decree

On August 24, the traditional village leader (Raja Negeri) of Mahu Village in Saparua Island signed a village decree protecting forests, oceans, and coasts. CTC supported the development of the decree which also aims to protect the natural habitat of dugongs in Mahu Village while serving as a valuable lesson for other villages in the Lease Islands Marine Protected Area (MPA). Raja Negeri Mahu, Ms. Christina Lawalata, signed village decree No. 03 of 2023 in front of 106 people, including local officials and partner organizations such as CTC and Baleo Foundation.

CTC, in collaboration with the Baileo Foundation, supported the development of this village decree as part of its efforts to conserve dugong habitats in the Lease Islands MPA. Purwanto, CTC Maluku Portfolio Manager, believes that the village decree will be effective in promoting marine conservation as it has the support from the entire community, which will help ensure consistent implementation. This will also serve as a good example that can be replicated in other villages in the Lease Islands MPA.



"We want the process and stages of making this village regulation to be carried out properly and according to existing rules, including the initial discussion and initiation process, training by legal experts, formation of a drafting team, consultation with all communities, and public testing before the community agrees with the draft village regulation," said Purwanto.

The village decree marks a significant milestone in Mahu Village. It symbolizes their dedication to conserving the environment for future generations. CTC, through the Kalesang Dugong Project, committed to supporting the initiative at the local level and to assisting in protecting the marine ecosystems in the Lease MPA, especially for the dugongs and their seagrass habitats.

CTC Conducts Resource Utilization Monitoring in Nusa Penida MPA

CTC supports the Management Unit of the Nusa Penida Marine Protected Area (UPTD) in resource utilization monitoring activities. This monthly monitoring involves collaboration with several government agencies to support the management of the Nusa Penida MPA. This activity aims to improve user compliance with the zoning system and the utilization rules within the Nusa Penida MPA activities.

This monitoring activity took place on August 24th, commencing from Sampalan Harbor and covering the MPA area. The monitoring activities conducted by the Bali MPA team were focused on tourism activities and the progress in implementing business service fees within the Nusa Penida MPA. This collaboration involved the Bali MPA Management Unit (UPTD), the Community Stewardship Group (Pokmaswas), and the Indonesian Navy (Naval Post Nusa Penida).



During the survey, the team socialized the implementation of Regional Regulation No. 7 of 2021 concerning business service fees in the Nusa Penida MPA. This regulation is according to the results of a public consultation that was held on August 22 by the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries -BPSPL Denpasar. This event was attended by various stakeholders, including tour operators from Nusa Penida and Nusa Lembongan.

Resource utilization monitoring is a key component of ensuring that utilization patterns are in accordance with the allocation of marine space that has been established in the MPA zoning system. CTC facilitates this monitoring activity as a form of collaboration between parties to support effective MPA management. The results of monitoring resource utilization can be used to determine future management policies in the Nusa Penida MPA.

Collaborative Research into Community-Led Mangrove Tours in Nusa Lembongan



Mangrove forests are a key piece of healthy marine ecosystems, providing crucial habitats for fish nurseries and assisting in absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. Beyond this, the beauty found in their tangled roots and natural silence provides an opportunity for ecotourism. These forests offer the perfect setting for tourists to witness diverse mangrove species and the many creatures living in harmony with them.

On the North side of Nusa Lembongan in the Nusa Penida MPA there is a community-led mangrove tour run by the people of Surya Mandiri Community Group. The community provides visitors with tours of the mangrove forest in a traditional boat and the guide collective shares the profit they receive equitably.

In August 2023, five members of the CTC team, in partnership with the Surya Mandiri Community Group, led a social survey to gauge the satisfaction of tourists participating in traditional boat tours of the mangrove forest. The goal of this survey was to understand how the community can alter their tourism practices to improve visitor satisfaction and ecological practices with continued support from CTC.

The CTC team spoke to 114 tourists from 22 countries who provided feedback about their experience with the community-led mangrove tour. The survey team asked visitors to provide feedback on possible improvements to the tour experience, on the appropriateness of pricing, what they found most memorable, and to rate their overall level of satisfaction. Each answer provided valuable insight to CTC and the community about what visitors enjoy and how things can improve.



Visitors enthusiastically shared their experiences with surveyors, highlighting the wonders of this ecosystem and how unique it was to experience this with the local community. One tourist stated, "the most memorable part of my tour was the silence and the navigation skills of the boat operator," while another said, "the most memorable part of the tour was the mangrove roots because they are like no tree I have ever seen."



Notably, a high number of visitors expressed surprise at the silence they experienced in the forest, which was widely enjoyed. The dense mangroves in Nusa Lembongan absorb the sounds from the outside world, allowing visitors to really appreciate the sounds of this ecosystem. A common request was for a greater amount of information delivered throughout the tour, which is an improvement that will require addressing language barriers. Suggestions from community members to address this included the creation of multilingual pamphlets in the most frequently encountered languages. Overall, visitors expressed their appreciation for this unique tour and the immersive way it allowed them to witness this beautiful ecosystem.



The information gained throughout the week provided valuable insight into the success of the community-led tour and the areas for improvement. CTC, in collaboration with the community, has begun to take steps towards increasing capacity to improve current tourism practices such as developing information materials that the community can share with the tourists. With the data collected, CTC is committed to continuing to help the Surya Mandiri Community improve its practices to ensure a future mangrove tour that remains sustainable, profitable, and enjoyable for those visiting.

BUILDING CAPACITY IN MARINE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Empowering Women in Atauro Island MPA with Fish-Based Products Processing Training for Alternative Incomes

The Atauro Island MPA in Timor-Leste was established earlier this year with the support of CTC and local partners to promote the sustainability of marine resources and fish habitat in Timor-Leste. Encompassing 13,252 hectares, this MPA is rich in marine resources, making it an ideal location where fish-based products not only provide essential nutrition for humans but can also serve as a means to promote sustainable marine resource management.



CTC, in collaboration with Timor-Leste Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, facilitated training for fish-based food products processing such as meatball (bakso), nuggets, and fish floss (abon) as an alternative income for fishers' family in the Atauro Island MPA.

The training took place on September 27 and 28, 2023 and was attended by 25 women community members. The training included selection of raw materials and mastery of processing techniques. Participants were also taught hygiene practices and quality standards necessary to ensure the production of safe and delicious fish-based products.

"The training was very good and will be beneficial for us in the future. I will try to implement it with my community in Beloi during the passenger ship visits to Atauro," said Ms. Adina Alves, one of the participants from Beloi.



The training represents a significant step towards providing economic alternatives to women in fishing communities in the Atauro MPA. CTC is committed to supporting initiatives at the local level to enhance community livelihoods while protecting marine resources. Through education, training, and capacity-building initiatives, we aim to equip local communities with the knowledge and skills necessary for responsible resource management and improved economic well-being. Together with local partners, we strive for a future where the marine ecosystem thrives and the community prospers in harmony with nature.

Women Leading the Way: Leadership Training for Blue Swimming Crab (BSC) Women Fishers in Rembang District



Women fishers play a crucial role in the blue swimming crabs (BSC) fisheries, yet they often face challenges such as limited access to resources and other social barriers. To tackle those challenges, CTC conducted a women-led training in Rembang District to inspire BSC women fishers by providing them with knowledge and skills to overcome social barriers and compete in these fisheries.

From September 5-19, 2023, CTC hosted a series of activities focused on leadership training for BSC women fishers in Rembang District. Activities included coordination of capacity-building activities for women fishers in five targeted villages, leadership training in the same five villages, and refreshers for training alumni who led the leadership training.

The leadership training was led by 9 BSC women fishers from Gedong Mulyo village who are the alumni of our previous leadership, ToT, and 7 local trainers from DKP, Dinsos, and FED. These trainers were asked to take the lead on leadership training for a total of 60 women participants from five villages that are involved in BSC fisheries (Tunggul Sari, Gunung Wetan, Kabongan Lor, Dasun, and Trahan) and villages that are not (Sukoharjo and Tritunggal).



The trainers led training on topics including: current fisheries conditions, BSC ecology, communications, and business model canvas (BMC), all of which will be useful for the trainees if they choose to establish and develop small businesses. Understanding ecology and sustainability in [BSC] fisheries is of paramount importance for preservation of biodiversity. Through this knowledge transfer, it is expected that the participants will not engage in any business that may lead to overfishing or disruption of food webs and instead act as stewards of the BMC ecosystems.

Our previous training participant and current trainer from Gedongmulyo, Ida, stated that she was very happy to have the opportunity to take part in the training and to share the material with other women fishers: "I am like other women in our village, Gedongmulyo, every day we are exposed to a fishing net, but now I am given the opportunity to hold a microphone to share my knowledge with others. At the beginning, I felt nervous, but the training has helped me a lot to be more confident to speak in front of many people. Also, I also feel more sensitive to the sustainability of our ocean and our lives as fishermen. I became more aware because I learned about the ecology of crab, so I know the consequences of harmful fishing practices and its impacts to our environment."



The training represents a significant step towards providing economic alternatives to women in fishing communities in the Atauro MPA. CTC is committed to supporting initiatives at the local level to enhance community livelihoods while protecting marine resources. Through education, training, and capacity-building initiatives, we aim to equip local communities with the knowledge and skills necessary for responsible resource management and improved economic well-being. Together with local partners, we strive for a future where the marine ecosystem thrives and the community prospers in harmony with nature.



Knowledge Sharing on Coral Reef Restoration and Program Planning for Community in East Nusa Tenggara

CTC collaborated with Coral Guardian in facilitating the Introduction of Coral Reef Restoration and Program Planning in Hatamin Island, Labuan Bajo, East Nusa Tenggara. Ten members of both Coral Guardian and WES attended the activity conducted from September 7-10, 2023.

In line with CTC's mission to build capacity and enthusiasm for resilience-based management and restoration of reefs in Indonesia, the activity focused on sharing knowledge and skill on coral reef restoration. The four-day training program covered six main topics, including coral biology, herbivorous fish, and step-by-step planning of a coral reef restoration program starting from site selection up to monitoring, maintenance, and reporting. This information was conveyed through class sessions, paired with interactive simulations, dry-runs, and in water practices.

During the sessions, participants had the opportunity to engage in discussions with the CTC team and gain hands-on experience in candidate site assessment as well as Reef Star installation. We were delighted to engage in the valuable knowledge exchange, gaining insight from the existing site managed by the community.

"The high spirit of coral reef restoration by various organizations, practitioners, and community groups needs to be guided by scientific protocols in order to achieve measurable success," said Marthen Welly, CTC's Marine Conservation Adviser.



At the end of the activity, comprehensive evaluation forms were distributed by the facilitators, covering several aspects such as the level of participants' satisfaction with the materials, facilitators' ability in conveying lessons, and time management. The evaluation result showed the participants' satisfaction with the overall sessions. These feedbacks are instrumental in shaping our future programs.

The initiative marks a promising step toward bolstering the capacity and enthusiasm of the local community regarding coral reef restoration in East Nusa Tenggara. CTC remains committed to supporting initiatives at the local level and assisting in increasing the resilience of coral reefs. We are excited to explore further collaboration with passionate communities of the Coral Triangle region.

Drone Training Bolsters Marine Conservation Efforts in the Nusa Penida MPA



Marine conservation efforts worldwide are being helped by the use of drone technology. It is becoming increasingly popular due to the cost-effectiveness, accessibility, and data accuracy. With drone technology, researchers can access previously inaccessible areas in the ocean and record accurate information about marine life.



The CTC team had an opportunity for in-house training to learn about drone technology on September 18-19, 2023. The two-day training was attended by 11 participants including CTC staff members and representatives of the Nusa Penida MPA Management Unit. Participants began the training with a pre-test on basic drone technology knowledge. Training continued on topics such as basic drone information (regulation, remote control, pre- and -post flight checklist), drone maneuvering, photo and video capture, basic mapping, image processing, and wrapped with a post-test.

During the training, participants had the opportunity to engage in discussions with the trainer, Muhammad Ramadhany, a professional GIS expert who has been a certified drone pilot, operator, and trainer since 2010. He has collaborated with various groups, including government institutions, private organizations, and communities. He holds certifications and licenses from the Federasi Aerosport Indonesia and APDI (Asosiasi Pilot Drone Indonesia).

On the second day, participants visited the Nusa Penida MPA to practice mapping as well as aerial photography and videography, allowing them firsthand experience of the practical applications of drone technology in surveying. They explored the mangrove area as well as Manta Point and Crystal Bay.

The drone training initiative represents a key opportunity to strengthening support for the Nusa Penida MPA. As technology continues to evolve and provide new tools for marine conservation, CTC is committed to ensuring that these innovations are utilized to their fullest potential to safeguard marine ecosystems for generations to come.

PARTNERSHIPS AND LEARNING NETWORKS

CTC Co-Hosts Learning Exchange for Marine Protected Area (MPA) Managers from Southeast Asia and the Atlantic



CTC recently co-hosted a regional learning exchange for MPA managers in the Coral Triangle region in collaboration with the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF), the WWF Coral Triangle Program, supported by the EU Ocean Governance Project for MPAs.

The learning exchange, held on July 3-5, 2023 at CTC's Center for Marine Conservation, included a field visit to Nusa Penida MPA and served as a platform for its 43 participants to share information, best practices, and national guidelines on coral reef restoration within the Coral Triangle countries. Participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste learned from counterparts in the Atlantic through online interactions. The participants, representing government agencies, academia, and non-government organizations, shared challenges and lessons learned from their respective areas, particularly concerning MPAs that have coral reef restoration activities.



During the learning trip to the Nusa Penida MPA, the participants had the opportunity to observe the Mars Assisted Reef Restoration System (MARRS) first-hand. The method is based on installing a continuous web of "Reef Stars" - hexagonal sand coated steel structures with coral fragments attached - to cover barren coral rubble fields and gaps between the remaining live coral on the reef.



Apart from coral restoration best practices, the participants also learned about the Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MedPAN). MedPAN is an NGO whose mission is to promote the establishment, maintenance and operation of a network of MPAs throughout the Mediterranean for the conservation of its biodiversity, as well as to ensure that natural marine resources are used in an equitable and sustainable manner. MedPAN was founded in 2008 and brings together 78 organizations and 110 marine protected areas in 21 countries, including a network of experts and scientists. At the end of the learning exchange, the MPA managers who attended the workshop also agreed to develop Coral Triangle MPAs Managers Network.



United in Restoration: Collaborative Spirit in the World's Biggest Reef Restoration Event

Coral reefs, vibrant underwater ecosystems that harbor unparalleled biodiversity, have faced alarming degradation in recent years due to human activities and environmental challenges. The pressing need to restore and preserve this invaluable ecosystem has led to many coral reef restoration efforts in Indonesia, and it has led to a groundbreaking initiative: "The Big Build," Mars Sustainable Solutions (MSS) initiated this coral reef restoration effort with the theme "In Indonesia, By Indonesia, and For Indonesia" in a unique, collaborative nation-wide invitation to coral reef practitioners made up of an assembly of governmental bodies, community groups, and private sector representatives.



The event kicked off on July 10 at the Swiss-Bellhotel Makassar with the participation of notable figures such as Muhammad Yusran Lalogau, the Mayor of Pangkep; Professor Jamaludin Jompa of UNHAS; Corra Mustika of the Directorate of Conservation and Marine Biodiversity; and Professor Dave Smith, the Chief Marine Scientist of Mars Incorporated.

Two representatives of the Coral Reef Restoration Task Force of CTC (Eureka Amadea and Kasman) joined the event from July 10 to 14, 2023 in the waters of Bontosua Island, Makassar. The CTC Task Force team members joined 47 other divers from all over Indonesia in installing 2,000 Reef Stars (RS) over the course of three days.

In addition, team members had a chance to revisit a block of 300 RS installed by the CTC Task Force Team in 2021 at the HOPE Reef, and were happy to learn that the baby corals have grown into large, healthy colonies. Aside from coral reef restoration activities, the event also focused on fostering stronger bonds of partnerships among Mars Assisted Reef Restoration System (MARRS) practitioners across Indonesia.

Discussion around coral reef restoration followed the closing event on July 14, and led to invitations to pool ideas together to tackle current challenges facing reefs, including fish bombing. We hope that through this event, Indonesia will be a leading example that sparks an even broader collaboration across the globe. The HOPE Reef was a great symbol that reminds us that our courage and combined actions can overcome any challenge.

Meanwhile, CTC also supported coral restoration efforts in the Banda Islands. Destructive fishing, boat anchoring, and natural factors, including high waves during the west and east monsoon winds, have damaged some of the coral reefs in the Banda Marine Tourism Park (TWP Laut Banda).

The results of the survey in that area, supported by the Coral Triangle Center (CTC) Coral Reef Restoration Task Force and Mars Sustainable Solution (MSS) in November 2022, showed three possible locations that can be used as coral restoration sites, including the Banda Miniature Site, the Waters of Walling-Spanciby Village, and Tanah Rata, due to the dominant substrate of rubble and their proximity to live corals.

To restore some of the damaged coral reefs, TWP Laut Banda conducted coral restoration activities using the Mars Assisted Reef Restoration System (MARRS) method on August 22-23, 2023, at the Banda Miniature Site on Neira Island. This activity was supported by CTC in collaboration with other agencies such as Stasiun PSDKP Ambon Satker Banda, Banda Neira University (UBN), LINI Foundation, Kelompok Penggerak Konservasi (KOMPAK), and students from Barracuda Diving Club (BDC).

The installation of Reef Stars involved ten divers and about 30 participants to support the activity. Representatives from the CTC were involved in installing 150 Reef Stars following the MARRS protocol. Coral reef restoration activities were coupled with the socialization of coral reef restoration activities in the TWP Laut Banda to stakeholders in the Banda Islands.

The CTC team also had the opportunity to visit other coral reef restoration sites in the TWP Laut Banda that have installed since 2015 using various methods such as concrete/piracora, tables, bio-reeftek, and spider (Reef Star mimics). To date, about 3250 coral fragments have been installed in TWP Laut Banda. Coral fragments that have been installed previously have grown, became colorful, and started functioning as fish habitats.

"In the future, Reef Stars that have been installed must be maintained regularly so that coral fragments grow large and that coral reef restoration activities can add to the potential of water tourism in the Banda Islands. In addition, I hope this activity can increase the knowledge and awareness of the community about protecting coral reefs," said Ariefianto Tri Mahadi, Coordinator of the TWP Laut Banda.



CTC Assesses New Green Fins Members in Bali and Komodo

The growth of the marine tourism industry not only has an economic impact on the local community but also raises critical environmental concerns. Amid these concerns, Green Fins has emerged as a key effort to mitigate the negative environmental impacts of marine tourism. This initiative aims to protect coral reefs through environmentally friendly guidelines and sustainable tourism practices.

At the forefront of this industry, dive and snorkel operators play an important role in raising tourist awareness regarding the protection of coral reefs and their ecosystems. By educating and empowering operators to use sustainable practices, we can assist in developing a more sustainable marine tourism industry.

Since 2018, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and Reef World Foundation (RWF), CTC has been the national coordinator for Green Fins in Indonesia. The main responsibilities are to assess and train the dive and snorkel operators to be active Green Fins members. Becoming a Green Fins Certified Member is a journey that not only benefits a business but also contributes to the preservation of fragile marine ecosystems. The process begins with a simple step: signing up on the Green Fins Hub. From there, the operators embark on a transformative path that involves an in-person assessment of the operations.



This assessment and training are crucial parts of the certification process, as it allows Green Fins assessors to evaluate the environmental impact and offer guidance. Once assessed and trained, they will have the opportunity to consult and review the sustainable action plan with these experts, ensuring that the business aligns with eco-friendly practices. By completing these stages, the operators not only attract eco-conscious customers but also showcase their unwavering commitment to environmental conservation. "With the implementation of the Green Fins environmental code of conduct, the diving and snorkeling operators not only contribute to protecting coral reefs and other marine life, which are vital assets for marine tourism, but also sustain the diving and snorkeling business itself," said Marthen Welly, an Assessor and Coordinator for Green Fins Indonesia.

This year, CTC successfully assessed 31 dive operators in Bali and Komodo National Park. This accomplishment represents the operators' commitment to promoting sustainable practices in the tourism industry. Through these assessments and trainings, CTC continues to play a pivotal role in fostering environmental awareness among dive and snorkel operators and tourists, ensuring that these breathtaking natural destinations are preserved for future generations to enjoy.

United in Saving the Oceans with Endress+Hauser

CTC had the pleasure of assisting Endress+Hauser in their team building activities which included a field visit in the Nusa Penida Marine Protected Area. The activity ran for a full day, during which the team of CEOs snorkeled in the crystal-clear ocean of Nusa Penida, mingled with the local communities, tried local food, adopted baby corals, and planted baby mangroves. Endress+Hauser is a Swiss-based globally operating process and laboratory instrumentation and automation supplier.

One of the company's CEO is a certified diver which allowed them to participate in the coral transplantation process as well. In total, the Endress+Hauser team contributed in the transplanting of 66 baby corals and planting of 50 baby mangroves. Their generosity will assist in the mission to restore the health of coral and mangrove ecosystems in Nusa Lembongan.



Assessing the Role of Community Engagement in the Lease Islands MPA in the Context of Climate Change



The CTC team joined a writing retreat in the Netherlands as part of a research project called "Climate Change and Governance in Tropical Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)" held on September 11-16, 2023 at Leiden University.

The project is led by Dr. David Kloos and is supported by the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies or The Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal- Land- en Volkenkunde (KITLV) and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). It aims to develop and test an approach for the interdisciplinary study of the impact of human-induced climate change on social-ecological systems in MPAs using the Lease Islands MPA as a case study.

CTC, represented by Executive Director Rili Djohani and Maluku Portfolio Manager, Purwanto, joined the workshop as key resource persons together with other colleagues who are active in and familiar with the Lease Islands MPA, including representatives from Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), the Maluku Province's Agency for Regional Planning and Development (Bappeda), Gadjah Madah University, Pattimura University, and Wageningen University, to discuss and record lessons learned from the involvement of local communities in the establishment and management of the Lease Islands MPA. Participants also looked at whether customary authority and local knowledge can accelerate or hinder the viability of an MPA in times of climate crisis.



CTC Joins Workshop to Improve Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in the Fisheries Sector

The Coral Triangle Center (CTC) joined a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) workshop organized by the USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Program held in Bangkok, Thailand on September 26-28, 2023. The workshop gathered representatives from the Coral Triangle countries - Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste to develop guidelines on how to address GESI issues in fisheries across the Indo-Pacific region that will benefit not only women, but also men, youth, and marginalized social groups. These guidelines aim to support the achievement of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF) Regional Plan of Action 2.0 and, at the same time, to address some of the gaps in the lack of guidance and tools on how to integrate gender and social inclusion in the fisheries sector across the region.



CTC was represented in the workshop by Dr. Hesti Widodo, CTC Senior Program Manager, and Kasman, CTC Marine and Fisheries Coordinator. During the workshop, the CTC team provided inputs in the development of the Gender Integration in Small Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia Training Module as well as the CTI-CFF's GESI Policy Implementing Guidelines.

The workshop participants hope that with these guidelines in place, GESI principles will be implemented at all levels by CTI-CFF members and partners, that the CTI-CFF will be more sensitive and responsive to GESI issues in the region, and will have a deeper understanding of how this GESI principles can contribute to improving social inclusion and gender equity in fisheries, and transforming food systems for greater resiliency and equality.

Following the workshop, the representatives of the CTI-CFF member countries also convened for the Women Leaders Forum working group meeting. In this meeting, the new chair and co-chair for 2023-2024 were elected for endorsement at the next CTI-CFF Senior Officials Meeting in November 2023. Solomon Islands was elected as the new WLF Chair and CTC was re-elected as the Co-Chair for a second consecutive term and will serve for another two years. The current tenure of chair Timor-Leste and co-chair CTC will end on December 31, 2023.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

Spreading Ocean Awareness in Maluku: World Mangrove Day Planting and Indonesian Independence Day Beach Clean Up



On July 25, 2023, CTC joined the outreach event commemorating World Mangrove Day organized by the Surveillance for Marine and Fisheries Resources of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Ambon (PSDKP) and the Work Unit of Banda Marine Tourism Park (Satker TWP Laut Banda). The main activity was the planting of 197 mangrove seedlings on the shores of Istana Mini, Banda Naira, by 70 participants. This collaborative effort not only marked World Mangrove Day but also symbolized the determination of Banda Neira's community to protect their natural heritage. It serves as a beacon of hope for the future of mangroves in this region and shows the power of collective action in environmental conservation.

CTC also joined a beach and underwater clean-up event held on August 12 on the Poka Village Beach in Ambon Bay as part of the Bulan Cinta Laut. It was led by the Department of Marine and Fisheries (DKP) of Maluku Province in collaboration with representatives of 25 partners from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. This initiative was not just another cleanup, it was a manifestation of unity and responsibility, reflecting a commitment to environmental conservation. It involved 78 divers in accordance with the 78th Indonesia Independence Day and Ambon's anniversary. Additionally, over 200 individuals from all walks of life joined the beach clean-up activities. A total of 3.2 tons of waste were collected - 1 ton from the underwater depths and 2.2 tons from the beach itself. The collected waste, ranging from plastic bottles to fishing nets, was handed off to the Poka Village Waste Bank in Ambon Bay. These two remarkable events in the region of Maluku represent the dedication of communities and organizations toward safeguarding precious marine ecosystems. Moreover, these activities foster collaboration between CTC, local governments, and communities. They represent significant steps toward the preservation of Maluku's marine biodiversity and the well-being of the communities dependent on its resources.

Promoting Sustainable Tourism in Bali



Eco Tourism Bali, a social impact business that advocates for sustainable tourism practices, recently featured CTC Executive Director Rili Djohani in its Podcast and Youtube Channel. In the podcast, Ms. Djohani shared various ways that the hospitality industry can contribute to sustainability and ocean protection. Eco Tourism Bali builds communities and networks of businesses to promote sustainable tourism practices throughout the island through a verification system. It aims to provide businesses with a solid foundation on which sustainable development actions can be mainstreamed across all levels of Bali's society. Watch the full interview via this link.

Now Bali Features CTC's Exhibition Hall



NOW! Bali Magazine, a lifestyle publication that provides an informative and entertaining guide to Bali, has featured CTC's Exhibition Hall as a unique space for families and children, both visiting and living on the island. The magazine notes that the exhibition hall adds to the existing displays, activities and workshops available at CTC Center for Marine Conservation, aimed at engaging and inspiring people of all backgrounds to take action in protecting and conserving the oceans and the biodiversity they hold. Read the full story via this link.

CENTER FOR MARINE CONSERVATION

BlueScope Youth Orchestra & Bali Children's Choir: Where Two Nations Meet through Arts

On July 8, 2023, CTC's Center for Marine Conservation hosted passionate kids representing both the BlueScope Orchestra and the Bali Children's Choir, who held a combined mini concert showcasing their incredible talent and passion. This was even more special because the Australian Consulate-General Bali initiated the mini concert and chose CTC to host the meaningful event; it was a harmonious bridge between two cultures, nations, and performances. The concert ran for two hours, during which, the kids took turns playing their instruments and singing their hearts out, and it concluded with a magnificent duet between BlueScope Orchestra and Bali Children's Choir. After performing, the young musicians were taken to see the Center and its interactive Exhibition Hall where they could learn about the ocean, and hopefully, go home with a newfound commitment to save the ocean and the life it holds.



Fun Learning Series with Japanese Students

In September 2023, the Center for Marine Conservation hosted a series of fun learning activities in collaboration with our partners su-re.co and Tiger Mov group. Tiger Mov and su-re.co bring in Japanese students who are eager and committed to learning about the oceans and the actions they can take to save the environment and the oceans we share. The group consisted of 21 people who traveled from Japan to take a tour around the Center and play the marine-themed escape rooms, SOS From The Deep and SOS Plastic Danger.

During the one-hour tour, their curiosity led them to ask many questions relating to the ocean the exhibitions, and how they could better contribute to saving the ocean. The students also quickly tackled the clues and puzzles in both escape rooms. We hope to see more of Tiger Mov and su-re.co in the future, their excitement and eagerness to learn inspires us every day.



CTC Hosts U.S. Government and MMAF Officials on a Learning Visit in Bali

CTC hosted a delegation from the U.S. Government and the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries for an official learning visit at the Nusa Penida MPA and at CMC in Sanur, Bali on August 25, 2023. The one-day visit included delegates who are working on the development of a Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act (TFCCA) in Indonesia. The delegates had the opportunity to learn about marine conservation activities implemented within an MPA, discuss conservation programs with the local community, participate in coral transplantation activities, and encounter Nusa Penida MPA's rich marine biodiversity while diving and snorkeling.



The Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act (TFCCA), originally enacted in 1998, is a United States government program that provides eligible developing countries with options for reducing certain official debts owed to the United States while also generating funds in local currency to support tropical forest or coral reef conservation activities. The TFCCA of 1998, well known for facilitating "debt-for-nature" exchanges, was renamed in 2019 when a renewal legislation included coral reefs.

The TFCCA is also designed to stimulate public-private conservation collaborations in participating countries. As a result of this unique opportunity for public-private cooperation, the bulk of TFCCA agreements to date include funds raised by US-based NGOs. Furthermore, the program makes use of co-financing donations from conservation NGOs in the United States as well as in several of the TFCCA's beneficiary countries.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During this quarter, one volunteer joined CTC's Bali office.



Giselle Schmitz joined CTC as a Luce Scholar, a fellowship program supported by the Henry Luce Foundation. She is a researcher focused on conservation, marine resources economics, and environmental law. Originally from California, her prior work in the United States has included a John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship at NOAA Fisheries, a Paul D. Coverdell Fellowship at the Office of the Bronx Borough President in New York City, and positions at various environmental nonprofits researching topics related to climate change and coastal law. She holds a J.D. with certificates in Ocean and Coastal and International Environmental Law and an M.A. in International Political Economy and Development with a focus in Natural Resources Economics.

Giselle will conduct research for CTC on traditional marine tenure systems such as Sasi in Indonesia and Tara Bandu in Timor Leste in the context of the establishment and implementation of marine protected areas at the field and policy level. She will support the monitoring team in Nusa Penida and the Banda Islands, and our sites in Timor-Leste as needed. In addition, Giselle supports the development of communications and outreach materials. She is also part of the Knowledge Management team to support the development and implementation of the KM strategy and will support the SMT with the development and review of project proposals.



COLLABORATION

National Governments in the Asia Pacific Region

01. Coral Triangle Initiative for Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) Regional Secretariat and National Coordinating Committees
02. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Timor-Leste
03. Center for South China Studies of Ministry Foreign Affairs
04. Department of Marine Parks, Malaysia
05. Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of the Government of Indonesia

01. MMAF Human Resources & Community Development Agency (BPSDM-KPI)
02. MMAF DG KP3K, Directorate KKJI
03. MMAF Directorate Marine Biodiversity Conservation Area (KKHLI)*
04. MMAF Fisheries Training Center in Banyuwangi
05. MMAF Fisheries Training Center in Tegal
06. MMAF Fisheries Training Center in Ambon
07. MMAF BPSPL Denpasar
08. MMAF Balai Kawasan Konservasi Perairan Nasional (BKPPN) Kupang
09. MMAF Pengawas Sumberdaya Kelautan Pas Banda

Provincial Governments and Agencies

01. Bali Provincial Government (Dinas Kelautan dan Perikanan)
02. NTT Provincial Government (Dewan Kawasan Konservasi Perairan Nasional - DKKPN)
03. Maluku Provincial Government (Bappeda and Dinas Kelautan dan Perikanan)
04. Klungkung District Government (Bupati, Bappeda, Dinas Peternakan-Perikanan dan Kelautan, Dinas Pariwisata)
05. Klungkung Regency Government (Pemerintah Klungkung)
06. Central Maluku District Government (District Planning and Marine-Fisheries Office)
07. Seram Timur District Government (Dinas Kelautan dan Perikanan)
08. Certification Institute for Marine Core Competencies - LSPK (Lembaga Sertifikasi Profesi Kelautan)
09. Pusat Pelatihan Mandiri Kelautan dan Perikanan (P2MKP)
10. Balai Teknologi Industri Kreatif Keramik (BBPT-BTIKK)
11. Balai Pengelolaan Hutan Mangrove Wilayah I

Non Government Organizations

01. International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
02. Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC)
03. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
04. The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
05. World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
06. Conservation International (CI)
07. RARE Conservation
08. Conservation Strategic Fund (CSF)
09. Pusat Pendidikan Lingkungan Hidup (PPLH) Bali
10. Yayasan Bahera Nusantara - Bali
11. Yayasan Nusa Wisata, Nusa Penida
12. Friends of National Park Foundation - Nusa Penida
13. Yayasan Warisan Budaya Banda Naira - Kepulauan Banda
14. Aquatic Alliance Foundation
15. Yayasan Masyarakat dan Perikanan Indonesia (MDPI)
16. Mission Blue
17. Plastic Pollution Coalition
18. Reef Ward Foundation
19. Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)
20. Starling Resources
21. Oceanic Society
22. Lembaga Partisipasi Pembangunan Masyarakat (LPPM)
23. eL SIL Kie Rahe
24. Yayasan Baileo
25. Rele Foundation
26. Australian Volunteers International (AVI)
27. Studio Gelombang
28. Seattle Aquarium
29. Mars Sustainable Solutions

Academic Institutions

01. Australian Tropical Marine Alliance (ATMA)
02. Murdoch University - Australia
03. Georgia University - USA
04. Wageningen University - Netherlands
05. Western University of Australia
06. Victoria Shanghai Academy - Hongkong
07. Indonesian Institute for Science - LIPI
08. Institut Pertanian Bogor - IPB
09. Brawijaya University - UNIBRAW
10. Udayana University - UNUD
11. Hasanudin University - UNHAS
12. Diponegoro University - UNDIP
13. Pattimura University - UNPATTI
14. University Warmadewa in Bali
15. Sekolah Tinggi Perikanan - STP
16. Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha Singaraja - UNDIKSA
17. University of Khairun
18. Sekolah Tinggi Perikanan Hatta Syahrir
19. University of Darussalam

Private/Corporates/Agencies

01. World Ocean Council
02. Young Presidents Organization
03. National Geographic Society
04. Asian Geographic Magazines Pte Ltd
05. The Body Shop Indonesia
06. Jenggala
07. Grand Luley Resort
08. Kumbara
09. GummyBox
10. OceanBellz
11. PADI
12. Hotels in Bali (Hard Rock Hotel Bali, Fairmont, Mercure, Sudamala, Prama, Sanur Paradise, Tanjung Sari)
13. Dive Operators Community Komodo (DOCK)
14. GAHAWISRI Bali
15. GAHAWISRI Maluku
16. Smiling Tours
17. Buffalo Tours
18. Tierra Mar
19. Sustainable Solutions
20. Studio JvG

Bali and Nusa Penida

01. Lembongan Marine Association
02. Nusa Lembongan World Diving
03. Lembongan Dive Center
04. Lembongan Dive Operator Association
05. Blue Corner Dive Center
06. Big Fish Dive Center
07. Two Fish Dive Center
08. Bali Hai Cruise
09. Crystal Dive Center
10. All4diving
11. Ena Dive Center Marine Adventures
12. LivingSees
13. Bali Diving Academy
14. Ceningan Divers Resort
15. Reef Seen Resort

Maluku and North Maluku

01. Blue Motion Dive Center
02. Mahu Lodge
03. Pari Dive

Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

Bali & Nusa Penida

01. Satya Posana Nusa
02. Celagi Buana Putra
03. Majelis Aüt
04. Forum Krama Muda
05. Mangrove Tour Jungut Batu
06. Forum Petani Rumpun Laut
07. Forum Nelayan
08. Karang Taruna Sanur Kajah
09. Yayasan Pembangunan Sanur
10. Kelompok Nuansa Pulau

Banda

01. Kelompok Konservasi Masyarakat Pulau Ay
02. Kelompok Konservasi Masyarakat Pulau Rhun
03. Kelompok Konservasi Masyarakat Pulau Hatta
04. Kelompok Kreatif Anak Banda (KKAB)

Lease, Sula and Buano Islands

01. Moluccas Coastal Care (MCC)
02. Happy Green Islands (HGI)
03. Klasik Gereja Protestan Maluku
04. DPD Komite Nasional Pemuda Indonesia (KNPI)

Donors

01. SymAsia Foundation
02. Rainbow Foundation
03. David and Lucile Packard
04. Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
05. Walton Family Foundation
06. Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF)
07. Waterloo Foundation
08. National Geographic
09. Hard Rock Hotel Bali
10. USAID Sustainable Ecosystems Advanced (SEA) Project
11. USDOl (United States Department of Interior)
12. Australian Government (Department of Environment & Energy)
13. AusAid (Australian Consulate-General Bali)
14. UN Environment Programme
15. Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Approach (ATSEA)
16. Bloomberg Philanthropies



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