



**CORAL
TRIANGLE
CENTER**

Inspiring People Saving Oceans



**2025
REPORT**



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Inspiring People Saving Oceans

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

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: 15 YEARS OF INSPIRING OCEAN STEWARDSHIP

Founded in 2010, Coral Triangle Center (CTC) is an Indonesian foundation with a regional reach and a global impact. We work hand in hand with local communities, governments, NGO partners, universities and the private sector to strengthen marine resource management across the Coral Triangle—safeguarding vibrant coral reef ecosystems, supporting sustainable livelihoods, and securing food for millions.

CTC supports on-the-ground conservation in Bali, Maluku, and Timor-Leste. We also facilitate dynamic learning networks that bring together women leaders, local government officials, and marine protected area (MPA) practitioners from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste.

In Bali, our Center for Marine Conservation serves as a unique hub—an integrated learning space where training programs, community outreach, interactive exhibits, and artistic and cultural performances come together to inspire countless individuals to care for our oceans and the people who depend on them.

Over the past 15 years, we have remained steadfast in our mission to inspire care for the seas. From 2010 to 2024, we have helped protect more than 435,000 hectares of critical marine habitat and trained over 8,000 people to advance MPAs and sustainable fisheries management throughout the Coral Triangle. Our Center for Marine Conservation has welcomed more than 27,000 visitors, many of whom have been moved to take direct action for our oceans. In just the past three years, we've reached an average of 200,000 people annually through our social media platforms. Through our monthly children's education program, we've engaged over 2,000 school children in Indonesia, nurturing the next generation of ocean stewards.

As we celebrate this milestone, we look forward to the journey ahead. With your continued support, we can keep the momentum strong and inspire even more people to protect the ocean that connects us all.

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 Mr. Made Subadia → Former Senior Adviser to the Minister of Environment and Forestry
 Prof. Dr. Hasyim Djalal (t) → Former Ambassador at Large for the Law of the Sea and Maritime Affairs

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This quarter marks a period of both reflection and renewed momentum for the Coral Triangle Center (CTC) as we continue advancing our shared mission for healthy oceans and thriving coastal communities across the region.

The global funding landscape is evolving, with greater emphasis on efficiency, collaboration, and long-term impact. Rather than viewing this as a constraint, we see it as an opportunity to strengthen how we work-by deepening partnerships, aligning across sectors and geographies, and ensuring that solutions are increasingly evidence-based and locally led. Conversations at the recent Skoll World Forum in Oxford reaffirmed a shared commitment among global actors to reimagine how resources are mobilized and deployed, with growing recognition of the importance of empowering organizations closest to the challenges to lead change.

CTC is well positioned in this transition. As a regional organization rooted in the Coral Triangle and grounded in strong partnerships with local communities, governments, and civil society, we continue to serve as a bridge between global funding partners and local implementation efforts. Our diverse portfolio of support-from long-standing private foundations to public institutions-reflects sustained confidence in our role and impact.

We are pleased to be approaching a significant milestone, with resources mobilized to support our programs and organizational growth. This includes enduring partnerships with donors and key philanthropic allies who have supported CTC's development over more than a decade. As we celebrate 15 years of ocean stewardship this year, we remain focused on strengthening resilience, expanding collaboration, and accelerating impact.

Looking ahead, we will continue to grow as a trusted intermediary, fostering alliances that amplify local leadership and drive scalable, nature-based solutions for ocean conservation.

Rili Djohani

Executive Director

Rili Djohani has over 30 years of experience in marine conservation and sustainable fisheries in the Asia-Pacific region. She co-founded the Coral Triangle Center (CTC) in 2010 and serves as its Executive Director. Rili has been instrumental in developing CTC's Center for Marine Conservation in Bali and played a key role in the establishment of the multi-national Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security, where she currently co-chairs its Women Leaders Forum. She holds master's degrees from Leiden and Newcastle Universities. In 2022, she received the International Coral Reef Society's World Reef Award for her significant contributions to conservation in the Coral Triangle region.

MPAs, OECMs & SEASCAPES IN THE CORAL TRIANGLE

CTC Organizes Symposium to Highlight Strengthening Community-Based Marine Resource Management



On February 5, 2024, CTC, in partnership with Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) and supported by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, convened the Marine Tenure and Sasi Practices Symposium in Ambon, Maluku. The event brought together 65 in-person and 244 online participants, including researchers, government representatives, community leaders, and non-governmental organizations, to discuss the role of customary marine governance systems in Maluku and Papua.

The symposium presented findings from a collaborative CTC-BRIN study that reviewed 133 publications and conducted interviews and focus group discussions in the Banda and Lease Islands. The research examined marine tenure systems and sasi practices, focusing on governance structures, regulations, and community institutions that support sustainable marine resource management.

CTC Executive Director Rili Djahani highlighted the relevance of the study in advancing Indonesia's national goal of protecting 30 percent of its marine resources by 2045. BRIN researcher Dr. Dedi S. Adhuri emphasized that effective community-based management depends on clearly defined tenure rights, governance mechanisms, and strong local institutions. While customary marine territories (petuanan laut) remain widely recognized, he noted that sasi practices are declining and often lack formal government recognition.

The symposium also explored gender inclusion, local wisdom, and management effectiveness. Participants concluded the event with a field visit to Haruku Island, where they observed the traditional sasi ikan lampa fisheries management system in practice.

CTC Joins National Dialogue to Support Indonesia's 30x45 Marine Conservation Strategy

On March 12-13, 2025, Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP), together with the Marine Protected Area (MPA) and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) Consortium, organized a National Coordination Meeting in Manado, North Sulawesi. The meeting focused on advancing Indonesia's 30x45 marine conservation target, which aims to protect 30 percent of the country's marine waters by 2045 in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Representing CTC, Senior Program Manager Dr. Hesti Widodo and Policy Coordinator Bambang Wicaksono participated in discussions on strengthening marine conservation policies and implementation. They shared CTC's experience in marine resource management, capacity building, and supporting conservation efforts at the local level.

The meeting featured discussions on Indonesia's policy framework for OECMs, the implementation of Blue Economy principles under the 30x45 strategy, and the role of MPAs and OECMs in promoting biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. Representatives from North Sulawesi, Maluku, and Southeast Sulawesi showcased regional approaches, including community-led initiatives with potential OECM recognition. Rare Indonesia also highlighted the importance of behavior change and community empowerment in achieving conservation outcomes.

Participants emphasized the need for a national roadmap, stronger institutional coordination, and enhanced local capacity. CTC's participation reinforced its commitment to supporting Indonesia's marine conservation goals through science-based management, collaborative governance, and community stewardship.



Ensuring Sustainable Marine Resource Use in Lease Islands MPA



On February 26, 2025, CTC staff joined a team consisting of the Marine and Fisheries Office of Maluku Province, the Marine and Fisheries Resources Surveillance (PSDKP) Team, the Kewang (customary surveillance unit), and the Pokmaswas (community surveillance group) to conduct a monthly surveillance and Resource Use Monitoring (RUM) survey in the Lease Islands Marine Conservation Area (MPA). The goal was to monitor marine resource use and ensure compliance with the MPA's zoning regulations.

The survey focused on recording resource utilization, including mobile activities like fishing and tourism, and fixed uses such as fish aggregating devices, lift nets, floating net cages, and mooring buoys. The team also worked on strengthening communication between conservation area managers and marine resource users to improve compliance with regulations.

The survey highlighted the need for a balanced approach to conservation that accommodates sustainable resource use. Regular monitoring, clear signage in core zones, and the socialization of regulations are essential for fostering understanding and compliance among fishers. Continuous monitoring is necessary to track changes and assess the impact of conservation efforts. Effective enforcement and community engagement are key to ensuring the MPA's long-term health and resilience, contributing to marine biodiversity preservation and sustainable livelihoods.



Supporting Community Waste Management Training for Women in Ay-Rhun Marine Protected Area (MPA)



From January 21-23, 2025, CTC in collaboration with partners and the local government, conducted a comprehensive waste management training for a women's group in the Ay-Rhun Island MPA. Supported by the Sea Forward Ocean Health Fund, the initiative aimed to empower women with the knowledge and skills for sustainable waste management. The three-day training included classroom teaching, group discussions, games, and hands-on demonstrations on plastic recycling. Participants also learned practical skills like making ecobricks, biopores, upcycled products, and managing organic waste through composting.

The training, held at a local school engaged 26 participants, including local government representatives, teachers, and members of the Raudatul Jannah Waste Management Women's Group. A key session introduced income-generating recycling opportunities, supported by Neira Waste Bank's insights on waste management. The women also developed a one-year waste management plan, fostering collaboration with other organizations in Ay-Rhun Island MPA.

Mrs. Masnah, leader of the Raudatul Jannah group, emphasized the importance of turning awareness into action through community involvement. Since 2021, CTC has been working closely with local partners to improve waste management practices. These efforts are helping to create a sustainable future, with communities actively protecting their environment and promoting long-term waste management solutions. CTC encourages stakeholders and partners to join in supporting cleaner, healthier marine ecosystems in Ay-Rhun Island MPA.

Strengthening Ay-Rhun MPA through Consistent Resource Use Monitoring Surveys



On March 20, 2025, CTC conducted a comprehensive Resource Use Monitoring (RUM) survey in the Ay-Rhun Islands MPA, in collaboration with government agencies and local communities. The survey aimed to strengthen law enforcement, promote sustainable practices, and reduce harmful activities by small-scale fishers and private sector actors.

A six-member team set out from Neira Harbour, visiting key sites within the Ay-Rhun Islands MPA—Hatta Island, Skaru, and Diger—areas known for deep-sea snapper fisheries. The survey was completed in one day, aided by favorable weather, and utilized the “KoboCollect” app for data collection. The team recommended training MPA managers and monitoring staff on the app for improved future use. Interviews with resource users provided valuable insights into local marine resource utilization. This collaborative effort, involving CTC and the Maluku Province’s Fisheries Monitoring Division of Island Cluster VI from the Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MAF) Agency of the Maluku, highlights the importance of strengthened enforcement and active community engagement to address violations. A collaborative, adaptive management approach is key to ensuring the long-term health of the Ay-Rhun Islands MPA, preserving marine biodiversity, and sustaining local livelihoods.

Building Resilient Reefs: Expanding the Climate Reefs Project in Lease Islands

Coral reefs provide food security, livelihoods, and coastal protection for nearly a billion people. However, the increasing frequency of marine heatwaves is leading to widespread coral mortality, which threatens marine biodiversity and the communities that rely on these ecosystems. Traditional conservation strategies often focus on protecting reefs with lower thermal exposure, but set aside the biological and socio-economic adaptations necessary for long-term resilience.

CTC, through the CLARE Initiative and in collaboration with Pattimura University, engaged with coastal communities on Nusalaut and Saparua Islands to share updates on the ClimateREEFS project. This project examines how coral reefs can adapt to climate change while helping coastal communities develop climate-smart fishing practices. It integrates satellite technology with field research across Indonesia and the Philippines, mapping adaptive coral reefs and understanding how factors like gender, social status, and economic conditions influence community resilience. These insights are vital for shaping inclusive, climate-smart policies.

During the activity, local leaders, fishers, and women’s groups shared experiences of climate change impacts, such as stronger storms and declining fish stocks. They highlighted the need for reef restoration, sustainable resource management, and alternative livelihoods like seaweed farming. As ClimateREEFS expands to Haruku and Ambon Islands, it aims to create a global map of adaptive coral reefs, transforming marine conservation planning and policy. This collective effort is crucial for ensuring the resilience of coral ecosystems and supporting communities in their fight against climate change.



Empowering Stakeholders with Strategic Marine Management for Effective Conservation in Timor-Leste

On March 12-13, 2025, the Coral Triangle Center (CTC) conducted a workshop on the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in Timor-Leste to strengthen marine governance and conservation management. The training brought together conservation practitioners, resource managers, and policymakers to build practical skills for assessing and improving MPA management and spatial planning. Timor-Leste’s marine ecosystems support fisheries, tourism, and coastal livelihoods but face increasing pressures from overfishing, habitat degradation, and climate change, highlighting the need for effective and adaptive management approaches.

The first day focused on METT, a management assessment framework that enables MPA managers to evaluate performance across key areas such as governance, law enforcement, stakeholder engagement, and conservation outcomes. Through case studies and hands-on exercises, participants explored ways to strengthen adaptive management and improve decision-making.

On the second day, participants learned about MSP and its role in balancing conservation objectives with sustainable economic activities, including fisheries and tourism. Discussions emphasized how zoning and spatial planning can support biodiversity protection while maintaining local livelihoods.

Participants valued the workshop’s interactive format and practical applications, noting that collaboration among government agencies, communities, and resource users is essential for effective marine management. The workshop concluded with strong interest in applying the tools and approaches learned. Through initiatives like this, CTC continues to support capacity building, knowledge exchange, and long-term marine conservation efforts in Timor-Leste.



Collaborative Efforts in Implementing Zoning System of Atauro MPA in Timor-Leste

On March 2025, CTC, in collaboration with local partners, conducted a socialization session for the zoning systems in the Atauro Marine Protected Area (MPA). Key stakeholders included representatives from the Atauro President Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry (MALFF), conservation partners, and the Atauro MPA Management Unit, along with 28 members of the Makili Village Council.

The session focused on the importance of zoning in the Atauro MPA, with a presentation by CTC on Tara Bandu, a customary law for managing natural resources, and its integration with MPA regulations. MAPPF staff discussed conservation area development policies, highlighting strategies for sustainable management. Following the meeting, the Makili Village Council agreed to extend the socialization to four sub-villages on April 9-10, 2025, to further engage the local community. The zoning system aims to protect fish populations and critical habitats, ensuring sustainable use of marine resources and preserving biodiversity. This successful session exemplified strong collaboration among stakeholders, blending traditional knowledge with regulatory approaches for effective marine conservation.



REGIONAL CONSERVATION HUB ON COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

CTC Strengthens Management Unit Capacity in West Nusa Tenggara Through Training in Conservation Area Management Planning



From January 20-24, 2025, CTC, in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Conservation and Marine Services Professional Certification Institute (LSP KJKI), organized a training and competency assessment on Conservation Area Management Planning in Mataram, West Nusa Tenggara. The program aimed to strengthen the capacity of conservation area managers and stakeholders to develop and revise management plans through a participatory, multi-stakeholder approach.

The initiative supports Indonesia's commitment to conserve 30% of its marine territory by 2045. While marine conservation efforts continue to expand, many management units still face challenges in developing effective plans, securing sustainable financing, and establishing strategic partnerships. Findings from the Conservation Area Management Effectiveness Evaluation (EVIKA) revealed that many conservation areas established before 2020 lack clearly defined conservation targets, reducing the effectiveness of their management plans.

The training equipped 21 participants with practical skills in identifying conservation targets, developing adaptive management strategies, designing monitoring systems, and improving planning processes. Post-training assessments demonstrated significant improvements in participant knowledge and understanding. The program also supported initial revisions of management plans for three conservation areas.

Following the assessment process, ten participants earned certification as Conservation Area Management Planning Specialists. Participants highlighted the value of the training's practical and applied approach. CTC plans to further strengthen future programs through extended training periods, enhanced mentoring, and greater use of local data, helping improve conservation management and contribute to Indonesia's long-term marine conservation goals.

CTC Strengthens Competency Assessment Standards Through Assessor Recertification



On February 19-20, 2025, two CTC competency assessors, Silvanita Timotius and Denny Boy Mochran, renewed their certifications during the Assessor Competency Certification (Pelatihan Peningkatan Kompetensi dan Sertifikasi Ulang Asesor Kompetensi) training in Bali. Organized by the National Vocational Certification Board (Lembaga Sertifikasi Profesi (LSP) Kelautan dan Perikanan and Badan Nasional Sertifikasi Profesi), the training was aimed at ensuring assessors remain up-to-date with evolving methodologies in marine and fisheries competency assessments.

The program focused on enhancing skills in planning assessments, conducting evaluations, and validating results. Through interactive discussions and hands-on simulations, participants honed their techniques for fair and accurate assessments. For Silvanita and Boy, the training deepened their understanding of competency-based assessments and the latest standards, emphasizing the importance of adaptability in their roles. Beyond individual learning, the training facilitated collaboration among assessors from various sectors, reinforcing the importance of integrity and fairness in certification processes. Both Silvanita and Boy are eager to apply their updated knowledge in future evaluations, sharing insights with colleagues and mentoring new assessors to maintain high standards. This recertification highlights CTC's commitment to maintaining excellence in competency assessments, ensuring a more credible and effective certification system that supports sustainable marine conservation efforts in Indonesia's marine and fisheries sector.



Strengthening Human Capital in the Coral Triangle: CTC Starts Implementation of the CTI-CFF Regional Capacity Building Roadmap



During this quarter, CTC began implementing key components of the CTI-CFF Capacity Building Roadmap under the "Solutions for Marine and Coastal Resilience in the Coral Triangle" (SOMACORE) programme. The initiative supports the goals of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security and its Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) 2.0.

SOMACORE is funded by Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment through the International Climate Initiative and implemented through partnerships with organizations including Conservation International, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, and World Wide Fund for Nature.



CTC's implementation focuses on strengthening human capital across the Coral Triangle's three priority seascapes - the Lesser Sunda Seascape, Sulu Sulawesi Seascape, and the Bismarck Solomon Seascape - through two strategies: implementing regional training team for marine and coastal governance, and developing an online capacity-building repository with customized online training. Both strategies integrate Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles. Activities also include tailored regional trainings with CTI-CFF Technical Working Groups, promotion of the IUCN Green List, peer-learning exchanges for MPA managers, and studies on engaging Bajau communities in marine conservation. Together, these efforts aim to build regional expertise and promote sustainable marine and coastal resilience across the Coral Triangle.

Coral Diving School: Expanding Knowledge of Marine Life



On February 29, 2026, CTC's Coral Diving School successfully completed its 10th batch of online specialty courses in Marine Ecology, Coral Identification, and Fish Identification. These courses allow participants to enhance their knowledge of marine ecosystems remotely, covering key topics such as coral reef importance, fish species identification, and marine ecology. To earn a Scuba Schools International (SSI) certificate, students must achieve a minimum score of 80% on the final exam.

All participants in this batch passed and received their certifications, alongside exclusive merchandise and a complimentary tour of the Center for Marine Conservation in Sanur, Bali. The courses sparked a strong interest in marine conservation, with students expressing eagerness to continue their learning journey through Scientific Diving. One participant, shared that the course was highly interactive, and the instructor, Mr. Marthen Welly, not only provided academic materials but also shared valuable personal experiences that helped students grasp the concepts quickly.

CTC's Coral Diving School offers a variety of courses, both online and onsite, ranging from Try Scuba and Basic Snorkeling to Advanced Diving Certifications. These courses, in partnership with SSI, are led by experienced marine conservationists dedicated to protecting Indonesia's marine biodiversity. Proceeds from the courses support CTC's ongoing marine conservation efforts. Stay tuned for the next batch of courses and join the mission to preserve marine life.

Green Fins National Workshop Sets Roadmap for Sustainable Marine Tourism



Green Fins, the internationally recognized environmental standard for diving and snorkeling operations, is gaining momentum in Indonesia as a tool to support sustainable marine tourism and the country's blue economy.

On February 18-19, 2025, a national workshop titled "Enabling a Sustainable Diving and Snorkelling Industry in Indonesia through the Green Fins Initiative" was held in Jakarta. The event was organized by CTC in collaboration with The Reef-World Foundation, the United Nations Environment Programme Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (UNEP COBSEA), with support from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) through the Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility.

The workshop brought together representatives from five Indonesian ministries, including the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and the Ministry of Tourism, alongside MPA managers, dive operators, and international experts. Discussions focused on strengthening Green Fins implementation nationwide and identifying sustainable financing mechanisms to support its long-term success.

Participants explored ways to align Green Fins with national priorities, including Indonesia's MPA Vision 2030-2045 and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, as well as international commitments under the Global Biodiversity Framework. Financing options such as public-private partnerships and blended finance were examined, while discussions also emphasized inclusive approaches that support women and small-scale tourism businesses.

With approximately 70% of Indonesia's diving activities occurring within MPAs, the workshop reinforced the country's leadership in marine conservation and laid the foundation for a more sustainable and resilient marine tourism sector.

CTC and Partners Develop Training Materials to Support Sustainable Blue Swimming Crab (BSC) Fisheries



From March 11 to 13, 2025, CTC in collaboration with partners including the Blue Swimming Crab (BSC) Consortium, Environmental Defence Fund (EDF), Starling Resources (SR), Sustainable Fisheries Partnership and Yapeka, held a workshop in Jakarta to develop training materials for sustainable BSC fisheries management in Indonesia. The event brought together 15 participants to create key resources: a coaching and mentoring guide, a leadership training curriculum, and a financial literacy training module. These materials are intended to support various fishery stakeholders, including BSC Fisheries Management Committees (FMCs), fisher groups, women in post-harvest roles, and mini-plant operators.

The workshop was productive, resulting in the development of comprehensive outlines and curricula for the training materials, which will be stored in the BSC Committee repositories. This effort is crucial as the BSC Consortium's direct support for fisheries management in key provinces will conclude during the 2024-2026 period. The materials will ensure the sustainability and continuity of best practices as Indonesia transitions to locally-led management.

As a major global exporter of blue swimming crab, Indonesia faces challenges such as overfishing, limited post-harvest quality control, and weak provincial capacity. The workshop's outcome reflects a collective commitment to empowering local stakeholders, enhancing women's participation, and promoting science-based decision-making, ensuring long-term, community-driven fisheries governance beyond donor-funded programs.



CTC Headlines Bali Ocean Days 2025



CTC participated in the 2nd annual Bali Ocean Days Conference, held on February 7-8, 2025, at the InterContinental Bali Resort in Jimbaran. This event serves as a platform to promote collaboration across sectors in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, which aims to conserve and sustainably use oceans and marine resources. Under the theme "Uniting for Ocean Conservation," the conference brought together public officials, financial institutions, NGOs, and academics to emphasize the importance of marine ecosystems and foster long-term collaborations.

CTC Executive Director, Rili Djohani, was a plenary speaker, discussing marine conservation strategies at regional, national, and local levels. She highlighted the potential of "Blended Education," an innovative approach combining art, science, technology, culture, and gamification for impactful marine protection. The conference, with over 300 participants, provided CTC an opportunity to reconnect with partners like OceanX, Green Fins, and the Indonesian Tuna Consortium. CTC has actively participated in Bali Ocean Days since its inception and collaborated with Darmawan Associates to promote the event through the Bali Ocean Days Podcast. CTC remains committed to advancing marine conservation through partnerships, education, and advocacy to ensure a sustainable future for our oceans.

CTC Joins the 3rd Maritime Security Symposium in Bali

CTC participated in the 3rd Regional Maritime Security Symposium in Bali, Indonesia, from February 10-14, 2025. Organized by the UK Government, the symposium aimed to enhance regional cooperation and resilience against shared maritime threats. Senior officials and representatives from Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei, and Vietnam, discussed evolving maritime challenges, focusing on three key themes: resolving disputes through UNCLOS and legal measures, addressing cybersecurity risks, and building capacity to counter illegal fishing and climate change.

CTC Executive Director, Rili Djohani, chaired the panel on Climate Change and Maritime Climate Security. The panel, which included experts like Dr. Kate Salmon (UK Met Office) and Professor Pham Thi Thanh Nga (IMHEM, Vietnam), discussed the maritime risks posed by climate change, particularly how rising sea temperatures can exacerbate security issues, including heatwaves, typhoons, and threats to fisheries and coral reefs. Participants also visited CTC to learn about raising awareness on critical ocean issues. The symposium highlighted the importance of partnerships in addressing maritime security and strengthening the free and open Indo-Pacific, which UK Minister for the Indo-Pacific, Catherine West, noted is vital for economic growth, peace, and security.



Strengthening the Global Movement to Restore Coral Reefs



On February 27, 2025, CTC Executive Director, Rili Djohani, participated in a distinguished panel discussion during The Economist's Impact Webinar titled "Building a Global Movement to Restore Coral Reef Ecosystems."

This webinar was held in conjunction with the 12th Annual World Ocean Summit & Expo, themed "Healthy Seas, Sustainable Growth." The session underscored the urgent need for coordinated global efforts to protect and restore coral reef ecosystems. It highlighted the vital roles of governments, scientists, businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local communities in driving collaborative and scalable solutions for reef restoration.

The panel featured notable speakers including Peter Thomson, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean; Professor David Smith, Chief Marine Scientist at Mars Inc.; Margaux Monfared of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI); Professor Raquel Peixoto of King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST); and Rili Djohani of Coral Triangle Center. The discussion was moderated by Daniel Franklin, Executive Editor at The Economist. Panelists shared global success stories in coral reef restoration, emphasizing the power of collective action and presenting replicable models for expanding restoration initiatives worldwide.

Blue Carbon and 30x30: Ecosystems and Emerging Solutions Roundtable

CTC Executive Director Rili Djohani spoke at the Blue Carbon and 30x30: Ecosystems and Emerging Solutions roundtable, hosted by the Blue Oceans Community in collaboration with the Philanthropy Asia Alliance in Singapore. The hybrid session brought together leading voices in marine conservation, science, and philanthropy to spotlight the critical role of blue carbon ecosystems—such as mangroves, seagrass meadows, and salt marshes—in accelerating progress toward the Global 30x30 Goal of protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030.

The discussion emphasized the capacity of blue carbon ecosystems to sequester carbon up to 10 times faster than tropical forests and a critical tool in nature-based solutions to climate change. Ms. Djohani highlighted Southeast Asia's unique opportunity and responsibility in advancing this agenda, given the region's rich biodiversity and vulnerable coastal communities. She also shared CTC's experience in building local capacity, supporting community-based marine protected areas, and integrating traditional ecological knowledge to strengthen conservation outcomes.

Moderated by marine conservationist Sam Shu Qin, the session also featured insights from Matthew Elliott of Oceankind and Dr. Siti Maryam Yaakub of the International Blue Carbon Institute. The roundtable underscored the importance of cross-sector collaboration, strategic philanthropy, and community-driven action in restoring marine ecosystems and achieving long-term ocean resilience. CTC remains committed to working alongside partners to scale impact and secure a sustainable, thriving future for our oceans.



Sharing Local Climate Solutions at Skoll World Forum 2025

CTC participated in the Skoll World Forum in Oxford on April 3, 2025, in a session titled "Overlooked Frontiers: Climate Innovations from Indonesia, Malawi, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines." The session, organized by Myriad USA, highlighted local responses to climate change from often overlooked regions, offering new opportunities for action, investment, and collaboration.

CTC Executive Director, Rili Djohani, was a panelist alongside Muthi Nhlama from BaseFlow Malawi and Vanburn Harry from the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund. Rili shared CTC's work in Indonesia and Timor-Leste, emphasizing marine conservation, sustainable fisheries, community empowerment, and the integration of traditional practices like Sasi and Tara Bandu in climate adaptation strategies. She noted the importance of highlighting local knowledge and leadership in addressing climate challenges and stressed that the forum was an invaluable opportunity to connect with other social innovators tackling urgent climate solutions. The session called for a shift in investor and donor mindsets, urging greater amplification of marginalized voices in global discussions. CTC reaffirmed its commitment to advancing climate resilience through local expertise and global collaboration, showing that impactful solutions often emerge from frontline communities.



Welcoming 2025 with Community, Conservation, and Commitment



On January 24, 2025, CTC kicked off the new year with a heartfelt celebration at Kedai Kopi Hilly, the coffee shop at the CTC Center for Marine Conservation in Sanur, Bali. The event brought together CTC staff and partners in a relaxed atmosphere, where guests enjoyed delicious snacks made from the center's permaculture garden and engaged in meaningful conversations.

The celebration provided a moment to reflect on past achievements and set positive intentions for the year ahead. During the event, CTC introduced its Adopt A Mangrove program, encouraging environmental stewardship by giving each guest a baby mangrove to adopt. This initiative symbolizes the collective commitment to restoring and protecting the environment. To show appreciation, attendees received Nasi Kuning dinner baskets and small herb seedlings as tokens, reflecting CTC's commitment to sustainability and fostering community ties. The event highlighted the importance of partnerships in achieving shared goals in marine conservation. As CTC looks forward to the year ahead, the celebration served as a reminder of the importance of growth, collaboration, and making meaningful strides in marine conservation for the future.



CTC Completes Development of 4th 5-Year Strategic Plan

In 2025, Coral Triangle Center (CTC) completed the development of its fourth Strategic Plan (2025-2029), building on 15 years of organizational growth and regional engagement. The plan aims to expand and accelerate CTC's impact through three strategic thrusts focused on strengthening marine conservation and sustainable resource management across the Coral Triangle region.

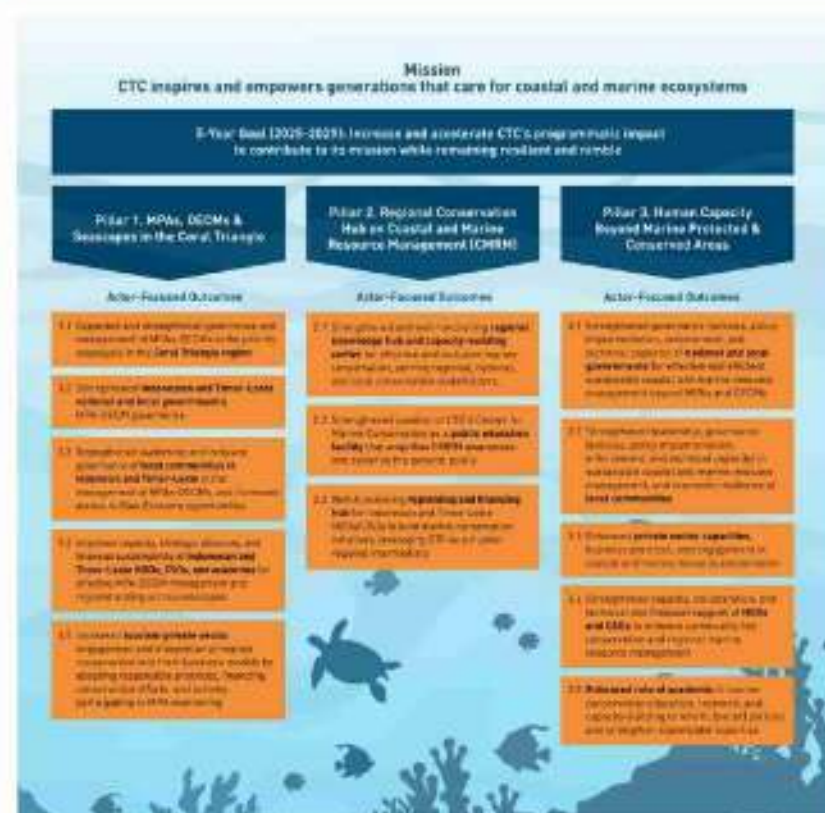
The first thrust focuses on improving the effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) by establishing well-managed sites that can serve as models for replication while enhancing protection for endangered, threatened, and protected species. The second positions CTC as a regional hub for coastal and marine resource management through stakeholder convening, advisory services, grant management, and knowledge sharing.

The third expands human capital development beyond MPAs and OECMs, empowering diverse stakeholders to participate in inclusive marine conservation and governance.

The strategy emphasizes actor-focused outcomes supported by implementation strategies that guide all programs and activities. CTC is also expanding its role in conservation financing through regranting mechanisms that channel resources to local organizations and community initiatives.

Four cross-cutting themes underpin the plan: Partnerships and Collaboration, Evidence-Based and Data-Driven Approaches, Communications and Marketing, and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion. To support implementation, CTC will strengthen financial sustainability, digital transformation, monitoring and evaluation systems, and staff development. The strategic planning process was facilitated by MDF, an international consultancy specializing in sustainable development and organizational capacity building.

Our 2025-2029 strategic focus is to: increase and accelerate CTC's programmatic impact to contribute to its mission while remaining resilient and nimble. We aim to achieve this through geographic expansion as well as programmatic effectiveness to become (even more) impactful. In pursuing these outcomes, our approach is grounded in collective action, leveraging cross-sectoral collaboration across all directly and indirectly involved in the Coral Triangle.



CTC Pays Tribute to Board of Trustees and Founding Board Dr. Prof. Dr. Hasjim Djalal

On January 12, 2025, CTC mourned the passing of its Founding Board Member and long-serving Board of Trustees member, Prof. Dr. Hasjim Djalal, who passed away in Jakarta.

Prof. Hasjim played a pivotal role in establishing CTC and served on its Board of Trustees from the organization's founding in 2010 until his passing. Widely recognized as one of Indonesia's foremost experts in international maritime law, he made significant contributions to global ocean governance, including serving as Chairman and President of the International Seabed Authority. He was also instrumental in advancing the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security, helping strengthen regional cooperation to protect marine biodiversity and fisheries resources across the Asia-Pacific region.

Throughout his distinguished career, Prof. Hasjim represented Indonesia in numerous diplomatic roles, including as Ambassador to the United Nations, Canada, and Germany, and as a roving ambassador. He also advised various national institutions on maritime affairs and development. Beyond his professional achievements, he was admired for his wisdom, mentorship, diplomacy, and kindness. His lifelong dedication to advancing ocean stewardship and international cooperation has left an enduring impact that will continue to inspire future generations. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.



CTC's Hesti Widodo Named as Recipient of 2025 Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation

Dr. Hesti Widodo, Senior Program Manager at the Coral Triangle Center, was selected by The Pew Charitable Trusts as a recipient of the 2025 Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation. As one of six international researchers awarded the fellowship this year, Dr. Hesti will receive \$150,000 over three years to explore ways to strengthen marine resource governance and conservation in Indonesia.

Dr. Hesti will work with seven pilot sites in Indonesia seeking government verification as Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) to develop a method for evaluating and reporting their conservation impact. Working closely with stakeholders- local communities, nongovernmental organizations, and government agencies-through consultations and focus group discussions, she will develop indicators to evaluate the inclusion and equitable distribution of OECM benefits to ensure that they meet community needs and are applicable in local contexts. Dr. Hesti will also develop learning modules and provide training to enhance the capacity of stakeholders and the government to manage Indonesian OECMs.



New Team Members

During this quarter, CTC welcomed the following new CTC staff:



I Made Dharma Jaya Aryawan - MPA-OECM Program Support Coordinator

I Made Dharma Jaya Aryawan joined CTC in March 2025 as MPA-OECM Program Support Coordinator under the Lesser Sunda team. He supports the implementation of MPAs and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) through stakeholder coordination, reporting, data collection, work planning, and capacity-building activities. With more than eight years of experience in coastal and fisheries resource management, Dharma has worked on mangrove conservation, community-based fisheries, and MPA management. Before joining CTC, he collaborated with Pesisir Lestari, Blue Ventures, WWF, and WCS to strengthen marine conservation initiatives across Indonesia.



Rynal May Fadly - Project Manager, Kalesang Banda Project

Rynal May Fadly joined CTC in February 2025 as Project Manager for the Kalesang Banda Project. He leads project planning, implementation, and coordination, ensuring activities align with donor requirements, strategic objectives, and evidence-based approaches under the Blue Action Fund. With more than 15 years of experience in marine conservation, Rynal specializes in conservation planning, community outreach, environmental communication, and sustainable livelihood development. Prior to joining CTC, he worked with The Nature Conservancy/Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara and Planet Indonesia Foundation. He is committed to strengthening marine protected area management and community-based conservation across Indonesia.



Asung Wirawan - Environmental & Social Management System (ESMS) Coordinator

Asung joined CTC in February 2025. As Environmental & Social Management System (ESMS) Coordinator, he oversees the implementation of environmental and social safeguards for a Blue Action Fund-supported project focused on strengthening marine protected areas and endangered species conservation in the Banda Sea. His responsibilities include ESMS screening, safeguard documentation, compliance monitoring, and project advisory support. With more than 19 years of experience, Asung has worked across sustainability, environmental management, ecosystem restoration, and community development initiatives. He has held positions with several organizations and brings extensive expertise in stakeholder engagement, monitoring and evaluation, and sustainability management.



Shendy Sofyan Raiman - Shendy Sofyan Raiman

Shendy Sofyan Raiman joined CTC in April 2025 to support marine conservation efforts in the Banda Islands. Based in Banda Neira, he focuses on establishing effective Marine Protected and Conserved Areas while strengthening sustainable fisheries and community-based resource management. His responsibilities include project operations, stakeholder engagement, ecological and socio-economic surveys, outreach activities, and Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) implementation. With more than 20 years of experience in the non-profit sector, Shendy has worked in emergency relief, community development, and economic growth programs, supporting conservation and sustainable livelihood initiatives across Indonesia.



Soraya Rahmad - Banda Islands Field Assistant

Soraya joined CTC in February 2025 as Banda Islands Field Assistant. She supports the implementation of the Blue Action Fund project through ecological and socio-economic surveys, community outreach activities, and facilitation of natural resource management agreements. She also contributes to strengthening the Banda Islands Marine Protected Area Network while integrating local adat traditions into conservation efforts. Based in the Banda Islands, Soraya has experience supporting environmental initiatives including seagrass monitoring, coral bleaching assessments, marine clean-up campaigns, and species protection outreach. She is passionate about promoting sustainable marine conservation and community engagement in the region.

During this quarter, CTC welcomed the following interns:



Noë Schaeffer, comes from the Netherlands but has been living in Jakarta for the past two and a half years. After completing high school at Jakarta Intercultural School, He is taking a gap year before university to engage in volunteer work across Indonesia. Eager to gain first hand experience in local conservation efforts, Noë is also excited to explore more of the beautiful country before returning to the Netherlands. At CTC he contributed to Nusa Penida MPA, coral reef monitoring, reef restoration by utilizing his analytical skills and advanced open water diving certification.



Raphaël Rood, from the Netherlands, graduated high school last year. Before continuing his studies at university, he took a gap year to earn a diploma in a different type of mathematics. During this year, he has pursued his passion for bass playing and engaged in volunteer work at CTC, while also following a mathematics course. In the Netherlands, Raphaël, is a counselor for a local scouting group, further developing his leadership and teamwork skills. He is looking forward to learning more about Nusa Penida MPA, coral reefs monitoring, coral restoration projects.



Angela Natasha, is a 2nd-year design student at Swinburne University of Technology in Australia, majoring in UX Interaction Design. Passionate about sustainability and marine ecosystems, she was inspired by CTC's efforts to protect coral reefs. During her one month online internship with CTC, Angela worked on a website design project for her portfolio, focusing on creating visually appealing, user-friendly layouts for CTC's MPA-OECM portal. She designed a responsive front-page wireframe, collaborating with CTC's communications team to ensure seamless integration and enhance user engagement.



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-KP)
02. MMAF DG KP3K, Directorate KKJI
03. MMAF Directorate Marine Biodiversity Conservation Area (KKHL)*
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 (BKKN) Kupang
09. MMAF Pengawas Sumberdaya Kelautan Pos Banda

Provincial Governments and Agencies

01. Bali Provincial Government (Dinas Kelautan dan Perikanan)
02. NTT Provincial Government (Dewan Kawasan Konservasi Perairan Nasional - DKKN)
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) | 15. Yayasan Masyarakat dan Perikanan Indonesia (MDPI) |
| 02. Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) | 16. Mission Blue |
| 03. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) | 17. Plastic Pollution Coalition |
| 04. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) | 18. Reef World Foundation |
| 05. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) | 19. Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) |
| 06. Conservation International (CI) | 20. Starling Resources |
| 07. RARE Conservation | 21. Oceanic Society |
| 08. Conservation Strategic Fund (CSF) | 22. Lembaga Partisipasi Pembangunan Masyarakat (LPPM) |
| 09. Pusat Pendidikan Lingkungan Hidup (PPLH) Bali | 23. eL SiL Kie Raha |
| 10. Yayasan Bahtera Nusantara - Bali | 24. Yayasan Baileq |
| 11. Yayasan Nusa Wisata, Nusa Penida | 25. Role Foundation |
| 12. Friends of National Park Foundation - Nusa Penida | 26. Australian Volunteers International (AVI) |
| 13. Yayasan Warisan Budaya Banda Naira - Kepulauan Banda | 27. Studio Gelombang |
| 14. Aquatic Alliance Foundation | 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

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. Kummara
09. GummyBox
10. OceanBellz
11. PADI
12. Hotels in Bali (Hard Rock Hotel Bali, Fairmont, Mercure, Sudamala, Prama, Sanur Paradise, Tandjung 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

Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

Bali & Nusa Penida

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

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

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

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. LivingSeas
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

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. Klasis Gereja Protestan Maluku
04. DPD Komite Nasional Pemuda Indonesia (KNPI)

09. Hard Rock Hotel Bali
10. USAID Sustainable Ecosystems Advanced (SEA) Project
11. USDO (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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