



Australian Government Coral Triangle Initiative Support Activities

Papua New Guinea

Strengthening in-country tropical marine resources management training capacity

The Nature Conservancy and the Australian Coral Triangle Alliance will work together to establish partnerships between Australian Universities and local Papua New Guinea training institutes, including the University of Papua New Guinea, to integrate a greater focus on marine resource management into teaching and curriculum. The project will involve the development of tailored and purpose-driven tropical marine resource management training courses, and the 'training of trainers' in those courses within relevant local institutions. Courses will address relevant professional development needs of community organisations and government officials.

Climate futures, ecosystem services & livelihood adaptation strategies in Kimbe Bay

Kimbe Bay is priority geography for Papua New Guinea marine and coastal conservation and management efforts and climate change planning. The CSIRO will undertake work to inform government policy and management through assessment of the potential economic value of natural resources in Kimbe Bay, climate change vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning. The project will extend and refine similar work undertaken in Milne Bay, and compliment existing support provided by The Nature Conservancy and the Papua New Guinea Centre for Locally Managed Areas, and planned support through the Global Environment Facility Coral Triangle Initiative Pacific Program.

Development activities for the Centre for Locally Managed Areas

The Papua New Guinea Centre for Locally Managed Areas works with communities to support marine and coastal conservation and management through the network of Locally Managed Marine Areas. The Centre has recently been established as an independent community based organisation. Support will be provided to the Centre to develop their ability to deliver core activities, including, community based training in establishing mangrove nurseries and planting mangrove seedlings.

Advancing Successful Approaches for Locally-based Marine Management

The Locally Managed Marine Areas approach is the most common framework for marine and coastal management in Papua New Guinea, however, there are disparate approaches. Conservation International, with the Centre for Locally Managed Areas, will work together with the aim of increasing the success of local marine management efforts in Papua New Guinea. This will be pursued by practitioners from across the country working collectively through a Learning Network approach to understand and advance key factors for success.

Technical Assistance for Policy Development

Experts from TierraMar Consulting, working in partnership with officials from the Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, will provide direct assistance to the Papua New Guinea Department of Environment and Conservation to develop a national Marine Protected Areas Policy. The support will include in-country training to guide the policy development process, identification of appropriate marine environment science specialists in Port Moresby to provide content advice, and ongoing mentoring and support during the drafting process. It is expected that the Marine Protected Areas Policy will eventually be scaled up to a broader National Oceans Policy.

Geographic Information Systems Training for Government Staff

The Papua New Guinea Department of Environment and Conservation have been involved in an ongoing process to increase their in-house Geographic Information Systems capacity. The focus to date has been on terrestrial data and skills. This project will initiate the first steps in building marine-specific data and skills to inform the department's marine work.

Solomon Islands

Strengthening in-country tropical marine resources management training capacity

The Nature Conservancy and the Australian Coral Triangle Alliance will work together to establish partnerships between Australian Universities and local Solomon Islands training institutes, including the University of the South Pacific, to integrate a greater focus on marine resource management into teaching and curriculum. The project will involve the development of tailored and purpose-driven tropical marine resource management training courses, and the 'training of trainers' in those courses within relevant local institutions. Courses will address relevant professional development needs of community organisations and government officials.

Marine Surveys on Tetepare Island

Tetepare Descendants Association oversees local management of marine and coastal areas on and around Tetepare Island. It is currently operating with limited baseline data. This project will enable the Association to complete a range of marine surveys, the data from which will inform ongoing conservation and management decisions. Marine surveys will include fish stocks and other marine species as well as water quality, climate change indicators and critical habitat for turtle breeding.

Implementation Planning for Solomon Islands National Plan of Action and Review of Options to Strengthen Provincial Level Government Support of Community Based Resource Management

An independent consultant, working with officers from the Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, will provide direct assistance to the Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology to undertake prioritised implementation planning for their National Plan of Action. The support will include in-country workshops, drafting assistance and ongoing mentoring and support during the drafting process.

A considerable focus of the Solomon Island's National Plan is support for and strengthening of Community Based Resource Management. Provincial level governments are widely considered to be a fundamental authority for supporting Community Based Resource Management. This body of work will also seek to identify the needs of provincial level governments to more effectively support Community Based Resource Management activities, and develop recommendations for how these needs might best be addressed. Recommendations will assist the Ministry in policy development, planning and coordinating donor support for provincial level government.

Strengthening Locally Managed Marine Area activities in Central Islands Province

The Central Islands Province (Gela, Russels and Savo Islands) is a priority geography for Solomon Islands Government marine and coastal conservation and management efforts. The Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International supports a Locally Managed Marine Areas approach with communities in the Province. Support will be provided to the Foundation to assist them in their work, including:

- Workshops for community education and marine management planning.
- Brochures and pamphlets for community awareness raising.
- Training and workshops with community leaders to build their skills to undertake community activities and apply for and manage small grants.
- Baseline biological and socio-economic surveys.
- Scoping assessments and feasibility studies for small scale alternative livelihood options.
- Training workshops for ecotourism operators in Gela, including financial literacy.
- Support to provincial level governments to develop a Resource Management Ordinance.
- Initiation of a network between the community leaders and provincial governments within the Province.

Support for the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology

Recognising the considerable workloads associated with the Coral Triangle Initiative, particularly in the 'start up' phase which requires establishing strong coordination and administrative mechanisms and undertaking detailed work planning, support for the Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology will be provided. Support will be programmed in response to local needs. Mentoring and practical assistance is likely to focus on establishing processes for national and regional scale work (e.g. Implementation planning, coordination, preparation for international meetings, engagement on regional activities, communicating funding priorities to donors).

Mangrove Mapping in the Solomon Islands

This project contributes to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature "Pacific Mangrove Initiative". It will produce provincial and national level mangrove maps, and associated Geographic Information System databases, describing mangrove flora and their distribution, sub habitats, traditional uses, and dependent communities. It will support mangrove conservation and management efforts for improved livelihood and adaption to climate change in the Solomon Islands.

Economic valuation of coral reefs and development of sustainable financing options

The World Fish Centre, working in partnership with the Asian Development Bank, will work to quantify the economic value of coral reefs in two communities, and explore sustainable financing modalities. This will inform community level decisions on coral reef management and exploitation through improved understanding of trade-offs and opportunities for enhanced livelihoods.

Timor Leste

Support for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to support implementation

Recognising the considerable workloads associated with the Coral Triangle Initiative, particularly in the 'start up' phase which requires establishing strong coordination and administrative mechanisms and undertaking detailed work planning, support for the Timor Leste Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries will be provided. Support will be programmed in response to local needs. Mentoring and practical assistance is likely to focus on establishing processes for national and regional scale work (e.g. Implementation planning, coordination, preparation for international meetings, engagement on regional activities, communicating funding priorities to donors).

Mapping and assessment of coastal-marine habitats

This project will produce the first, national-scale map, description and assessment of the marine and coastal habitats and biodiversity of Timor-Leste to underpin national-scale coastal and marine resource planning and regional economic development. The project will:

- Complete broad-scale mapping of the marine and coastal habitats of Timor Leste targeting current existing gaps in habitat mapping.
- Undertake field surveys of the marine and coastal habitats of current unsurveyed regions of Timor Leste.
- Consolidate existing coastal and marine spatial datasets into a single geodatabase and assess and identify sites of ecological significance, vulnerability and sensitivity to assist future planning and management.
- Undertake capacity-building of selected Timor Leste Government staff in broad scale habitat mapping, spatial data analysis, and knowledge management.

Charles Darwin University will build on work previously done on the north coast of Timor Leste by mapping and assessing areas on the south coast not previously covered. It will inform planning and management, especially for priority geographies of Viqueque, Manufahi and Covalima, and priority habitats such as mangroves.

Assessing potential climate change impacts and adaptation options for Timor Leste's coastal economy

This project will ensure climate change adaptation planning is included in ongoing efforts to develop Timor Leste's coastal economy and conserve its marine ecosystems. Led by the World Fish Centre, the project will build on work of the Global Environment Facility Coral Triangle Initiative Pacific Project, and involve:

- identification of climate change vulnerable coastal ecosystems, production systems and coastal livelihoods.
- development of a method to evaluate cost, technical and institutional feasibility of climate change adaptation options in coastal areas, so that investment in adaptation is effective and aligned with other development and conservation needs.
- working with Timor Leste Government officials and stakeholders in two communities/districts to develop their capacity to do vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning.

Regional

Support for establishment of a Permanent Regional Secretariat

The Australian Government is assisting the countries, lead by the Indonesian Government, with work to establish a permanent Coral Triangle Initiative Regional Secretariat, and to develop rules, procedures, strategies and protocols that will underpin effective operation and development of the Initiative. Specific support to the Indonesian Government Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries will be programmed progressively, in response to the emerging needs and include activities such as the commissioning of reports and recommendations to support decision making, drafting of key documents such as legal agreements, provision of expert assistance to support regional meetings, and logistical support for relevant working groups.

Images: Fishing boats near Senggigi, Lombok, Indonesia – James Butler, CSIRO
Timor Leste coastline – Sara Russell

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