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the Coral Triangle newsletter

Updates from WWF's Coral Triangle programme

June 2010

Coral Triangle Fishers Forum Brings Together Partners, Generates Solutions and Action

Fishing companies and fisher folk, with fisheries experts and government agencies gathered in Bali during the [Coral Triangle Fishers Forum](#) (June 15-17) to address some of the challenges in this region's fishing industry, particularly bycatch.



The forum, jointly held by WWF, the Marine Affairs and Fisheries Ministry (MMAF) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), with funding from [Edeka](#), called for stronger partnerships and measures to prevent bycatch. Recommendations included a.o.

- Mainstreaming bycatch issues in regional legislation and implementing them into national policies, removing tariffs on all eco-friendly fishing gear
- Establishing more vertical integration along the entire supply chain on bycatch issues with provision of incentives to fishers to transform their fishing methods
- Establishing partnerships with academic institutions and fisheries schools to raise awareness and capacity on sustainable fisheries and best fishing practices among the younger generation and
- Conducting more research and studies to inform policy-based decisions.

The complete recommendations – the CTFF communique - will be presented by the Secretariat of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI) to its members, and to the International Fishers Forum meeting in Taipei in August. The forum agreed to make the CTFF a regular part of the CTI with the next meeting to be held in the Pacific, with the proposed topics of Illegal Unregulated and Unreported Fishing and Food Security.

In the news

UN Calls for the Removal Subsidies to Protect Fish and Fisheries

The United Nations says a drastic reduction in subsidies paid to the commercial fishing industry worldwide is a key step toward rebuilding both fisheries and fish populations.

► [Full article](#)

Tuna's End

This story from the New York Times takes an in-depth look at the tuna trade, its proponents and opponents, and at what the future holds for this threatened species.

► [Full article](#)

Krill Harvest Certification Upsets Conservationists

A decision by the MSC to certify a company's Antarctic krill harvesting has drawn fierce criticism from conservationists and undercut the group's image as a diligent steward of ocean fishing stocks.

► [Full article](#)

WWF's vision for the Coral Triangle is to protect its unique wildlife, conserve its natural resources, and create sustainable economic opportunities for the people and communities of the region. Our work addresses tuna, live reef fish, turtles, bycatch, protected areas and climate change.

► more at panda.org/coraltriangle



Source: Coral Geographic (Veron et al., unpublished data)

WWF 'Changemakers' Whip Up Ambitious Goals



© Andy Cornish / WWF-Hong Kong

A unique mix of WWF, the UK Government, regional government organisations, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Young & Rubicam, fishing industry, ADB, and media experts, came together to develop innovative Partnerships for Change— that will transform the delivery of conservation across the Coral Triangle and Heart of Borneo. These partnerships will see the achievement of 4 significant Big Wins for the CT and Heart of Borneo.

- 1) **Seafood Savers** - a WWF led partnership of key players from across the seafood market chain who are committed to achieving and championing sustainable fisheries across the Coral Triangle;
- 2) A **Climate Change Adaptation Marketplace** that will match an available \$1 billion in CCA funds with CT adaptation projects;
- 3) A **Coral Triangle Communications Platform** that will bring together communications resources and capacities to profile the Coral Triangle and motivate actions, and;
- 4) The 3 Heart of Borneo governments launch a **Green Economy plan** at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – Conference of Parties 17, in December 2011, which has input, buy-in and support from business, community and major investor partners.

The inspiration resulted from a dynamic mixing of ideas, experiences, expectations and capacities that the workshop - and its location on a Bali beach – provided, also thanks in no small part to *La Luciola*, which provided workshop participants with responsible seafood meals.

Dugong Rescued and Released in Kudat, Malaysia

A dugong was caught by a fisherman in Kudat, Malaysia, last May. The fisherman contacted the Department of Fisheries of Sabah and was advised to wait for WWF staff. The WWF Kudat team went to Kampung Maligu to look at the dugong, and later released it back to sea. The dugong was found to be healthy and with no signs of any injury.



© WWF-Malaysia / Sofia

The month ahead

The 2010 International Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation

July 19-23, 2010

Sanur Beach Hotel, Bali, Indonesia

► [Find out more](#)

Staff profile

These days, one of the places you may spot **Hafizh Ahmad**, WWF-Indonesia's Fisheries Programme Officer, is onboard a fishing vessel in the Java or Sulu-Sulawesi seas. This is because this marine science major is at the frontlines of WWF's efforts to reduce fisheries bycatch in Indonesia. Starting 3 years ago, Hafizh has been promoting the use of circle hooks on tuna longliners and other management measures on shrimp trawlers.



© Hafizh Ahmad

Before taking on his current cause at WWF, Hafizh was Education and Awareness Officer at the TAKA Foundation, and also a freelance commercial diver for, as he puts it, "everything" (from data collection to vessel maintenance). In terms of job perks, Hafizh says, "if you work with fisher folk, you'll never have a boring day!" While it takes time and patience to find a way to be accepted in their community, once you win their "heart" they will do anything for you.



A fascinating interview with Mr Sixto Roxas, speaking on the issue of change and sustainability, produced for the WWF Changemakers workshop.

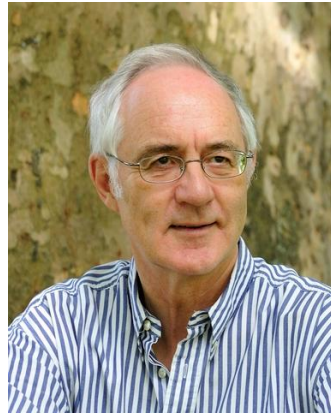
► Watch part of the interview on [Youtube](#)

Leader corner

Hans Peter Fricker, CEO, WWF-Switzerland

WWF Switzerland recently decided to support the Coral Triangle Network Initiative over the coming three years.

We are highly impressed by the results the young initiative has already achieved in its first years: The engagement of six nations, the influence on global consumer markets, and winning business and industry support for WWF's cause. In addition, the region's biodiversity and the high levels of threat were important reasons for our decision.



© Hans Peter Fricker

Finally, the communications output of the CTNI is exemplary. We are proud and enthusiastic to become part of the Coral Triangle initiative. We want to make sure that the Coral Triangle means more to the Swiss public than just a divers' paradise. I wish all those involved the best of success!

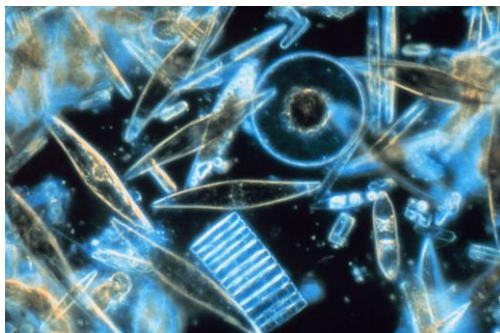
WWF Western Melanesia Programme Office welcomes New Representative

Neil Stronach has worked on field projects for WWF in Indonesian Papua, Tanzania and Zambia, and for Tanzania National Parks, the Department of Primary Industry, Papua New Guinea, and as an independent consultant in wildlife film-making. He joins WWF with experience in business and institution management, programme planning and implementation and team leadership. Neil follows on the leadership of Iain Carr, in this role since 2008.

Species of the Month

You have never seen them, but they surround you every time you swim. In the Coral Triangle as elsewhere, plankton include those drifting organisms that inhabit the pelagic zone of oceans, seas, or bodies of fresh water. They provide a crucial source of food to larger, more familiar aquatic organisms such as fish and cetaceans.

► [Find out more on Wikipedia](#)



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WWF news

Fishers Call for Action against "Bycatching"

Keith Symington, the WWF Coral Triangle programme's Bycatch Strategy leader, warns that ineffective fishing practices are undoubtedly depleting highly valuable marine species, on the sidelines of the Coral Triangle Fishers Forum in Bali, 15-17 June 2010.

► [Full article](#)

WWF-Malaysia and MNS Launch First Malaysian Sustainable Seafood Guide

WWF-Malaysia and the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) launched the Save Our Seafood (S.O.S.) Campaign in conjunction with World Oceans Day. The objective of the campaign is to raise awareness on the status of Malaysian fisheries, and to promote sustainable seafood choices through Malaysia's first sustainable seafood guide.

► [Full article](#)

Bright Skies Shine on Philippines' Largest Coral Reef

Spearheaded by Cebu Pacific, WWF-Philippines and the municipality of Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro, Bright Skies for Every Juan enjoins CEB passengers to make a donation to a climate change adaptation project in and around the country's largest coral reef.

► [Full article](#)

Maps to Save the Davao Gulf Unveiled

WWF-Philippines and the Davao Gulf Management Council (DGMC) have conducted a comprehensive Environmental Sensitivity Index mapping exercise to assess the gulf's sensitivity to oil spills, soil leaching and other environmental disturbances.

► [Full article](#)

WWF-Philippines Awards Mindoro Fisherman for Saving Wounded Dolphin

Randy Cayteles, a fisherman in Oriental Mindoro, was recognized for saving a wounded dolphin in Calapan City. Oriental Mindoro Governor Arman Panaligan and WWF-Philippines' Johnjoe Cantos presented the fisherman with a plaque and a modest cash endowment.

► [Full article](#)

Coral Triangle Blog

► follow the photo expedition!

blogs.panda.org/coral_triangle

Snapshots from a WWF Cetaceans Survey in the Philippines

In the first of a planned series of training sessions and surveys in Sarangani Bay, at the southern end of Mindanao, in collaboration with local government, the provincial tourism council and local volunteers, WWF-Philippines organized a foray with local marine mammal specialists over 2 days on the water, with 4 species sighted: Risso's dolphins, dwarf sperm whales, pygmy sperm whales, and killer whales. WWF plans to return soon, with volunteers again, for two more surveys.

Photos courtesy of Lory Tan, CEO/Chairman, WWF-Philippines



Risso's dolphin family



Artisanal fishing method



Balut Island highlighted by dusk



Whale spotting



Risso's dolphin breaching

Recent publications

The Green Economy

According to the preview of this new UNEP report—which will ultimately cover 11 sectors from agriculture and waste to cities and tourism—investing around US\$8 billion a year in rebuilding and greening the world's fisheries could raise catches to 112 million tonnes annually while triggering benefits to industry, consumers and the global economy totalling US\$1.7 trillion over the next 40 years. The investment, some of which can be covered by phasing down or phasing out some of the US\$27 billion-worth of fishing subsidies currently in place, is needed to reduce the excess capacity of the world's fishing fleets.

► [Find out more](#)



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