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# the Coral Triangle newsletter

Updates from WWF's Coral Triangle programme

May 2010

## Brussels Seafood Summit Paves the Way for More Sustainable Supply

The annual European Seafood Expo in Brussels, Belgium (April 26-28) once again provided some of our seafood partners with an opportunity to profile projects affiliated with the WWF Coral Triangle programme.

Anova Seafood showcased the Indonesia handline tuna project, part of their "Fishing and Living" project with WWF. Best fishing practices are implemented by small-scale hand line tuna vessels, as part of their process towards MSC certification. WWF also met with other key partners such as Culimer B.V., Luen Thai Fishing Ventures, Edeka Food Group and Moon Marine Group, along with new potential partners.

Highlighted by many of the exhibits, sustainability is clearly a mainstream issue, which is very encouraging as WWF continues to work with the seafood industry.

## Bali Turtle Trade Shows Worrying Signs of Picking Up

With the recent confiscation of 71 illegally-caught green turtles in Bali, the spotlight is back on a trade which is showing signs of picking up after a lull of several years, according to survey work by WWF (Creusa Hitipeuw) and the University of Udayana, Bali (Dr Windia Adnyana).



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In 2005, Hindu religious leaders issued an edict asking Balinese to stop using turtle meat in religious ceremonies. But since 2008, turtle trade is slowly returning, with a conservative estimate of 1,000 green turtles imported to the island each year.

If the problem is not addressed, this could stimulate demand for turtles from around the Indonesian archipelago, while negatively affecting the local tourism industry.

### In the news

#### Ocean's Fish Could Disappear in 40 Years

The world faces the nightmare possibility of fishless oceans by 2050 unless fishing fleets are slashed and stocks allowed to recover, UN experts warn.

► [Full article](#)

#### Brunei Studying Policies on Marine Reserves

Brunei is drafting policies that will pave the way towards the establishment of marine protected areas in the Sultanate's waters.

► [Full article](#)

#### Indonesian Police Seize 71 Illegally-Caught Green Turtles in Bali

Indonesian police have confiscated 71 endangered sea turtles from a food stall on the resort island of Bali.

► [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](http://panda.org/coraltriangle)



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

## Coral Triangle Initiative Priorities Identified

The Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) Regional Priority Action and Coordination Workshop in Jakarta (May 17-19, 2010), hosted by the CTI interim regional secretariat and supported by the US CTI Support program and Conservation International, identified 9 regional actions in the CTI Regional Plan of Action to be implemented over the next 18 months. Among the priorities selected by country delegates were collaboration for improved enforcement of IUU fishing, the development of a regional framework to support ecosystem-based fisheries management, a region-wide Early Action Plan for climate change adaptation, and a regional sea turtle conservation action plan.



From left to right: Jackie Thomas, Nellie Kere, Luz Baskinas, Dr Fedi, Luli Arroyo, Taswin Munier. © Luli Arroyo

WWF was represented by Luli Arroyo and Jackie Thomas, the WWF Coral Triangle programme's regional policy team. The country delegations also included Luz Baskinas of WWF-Philippines, Taswin Munier of WWF-Indonesia, and Nellie Kere of WWF Solomon Islands.

The workshop's outcomes will be presented for endorsement and approval at the next Senior Officials Meeting and Ministerial Meeting in late July or early August 2010 in Indonesia.

Following the government meeting, the US-funded Coral Triangle Support Partnership project members convened to start developing the country and regional workplans.

## Survey Reveals New Turtle Nesting Sites in Fiji

The WWF South Pacific Programme Office, with fish wardens of the Local Area Fishing Management Committee and the Secretariat of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) have identified 10 turtle nesting sites along Fiji's Great Sea Reef.

This work highlights the importance of sustainable practices for species protection, and is further solidified with Fiji's government approving and endorsing a sea turtle moratorium until 2018. It also reinforces Fiji's role as a major foraging ground for sea turtles travelling around the Pacific.

There is much to be done until 2018 when the moratorium comes to an end. The increase in awareness at the community level has created initiatives for resource owners to protect their land and sea, and this all requires financial contributions to get the wheels of change and awareness rolling.

WWF SPPO is gearing up for the annual Turtle fundraising ball in June, with funds collected to assist in turtle work in Fiji and the Pacific.

## The month ahead

### Coral Triangle Fishers Forum

June 15-17, 2010  
Sanur, Bali, Indonesia  
► [Find out more](#)

## Staff profile

**Klaas Jan Teule**, Conservation Director at WWF-Indonesia, has a 12-year history working with the organization.

This graduate in water quality and aquatic ecology began his career by setting up an environmental consulting business in the Netherlands, handling projects ranging from marine mammal surveys to water quality modelling.

Twelve years ago Klaas took a leap and started volunteering for a WWF sea turtle research project in eastern Indonesia. One year later, Klaas was hired to set up WWF's office in the Moluccas, and he eventually went on to play a catalytic role in the expansion of WWF-Indonesia's presence across eastern Indonesia, handling everything from strategic planning to fundraising.

In his current capacity as Conservation Director, Klaas oversees the strategic planning of WWF-Indonesia, ensures that the office's conservation work contributes to the WWF Network global goals, and coordinates the integration between 2 WWF Network Initiatives (Coral Triangle and Heart of Borneo) with the work carried out by WWF at the national and regional level, among others.

Though he does not spend as much time as before in the field, Klaas is encouraged by the growth of WWF-Indonesia over the years and how the organization is tackling local environmental issues that would otherwise go unaddressed.

## Coral Triangle Blog

► follow the photo expedition!

[blogs.panda.org/coral\\_triangle](http://blogs.panda.org/coral_triangle)

## Leader corner

### Lasse Gustavsson, WWF Sweden & incoming WWF-International Conservation Director

The world is facing many challenges! We are on our way to an 8-9-10 billion people planet. All of us need water, food, medicine, shelter (and more).

To fit the human footprint to the carrying capacity of our one and only planet is maybe the biggest challenge of all. The good news is that these issues are on everybody's agendas nowadays.



© Lasse Gustavsson

Whether they are business executives or ministers, every week they talk about the environment. They may call it energy-security, resource constraints, sometimes they call it overfishing, trade distortion or even green business opportunities, but we know they really talk about wild nature, ecosystem services and sustainable natural resource management! Environment concern is on an "all time high". So the time is right!

WWF is a successful organisation and we have many reasons to be proud! But after 49 years of successful conservation delivery the most important environmental trends are still going in the wrong direction. So it is clear—most things remain to be done.

With the Global Program Framework and the Network Initiatives WWF has embarked on a new route, a route that will allow the organisation to focus on doing fewer things and do them better. That is, I believe the right way to go and the WWF Coral Triangle programme is well positioned to prove it.

In the Coral Triangle we have the political commitment, both in the Manado Ocean Declaration and from the Meeting of the 6 Heads of State of the Coral Triangle countries in 2009. Funding has been made available in good numbers so it seems that we are geared up for a massive conservation success!

There is no better place than the Coral Triangle to prove that we can turn the environmental megatrends (biodiversity and footprint) and create a future where humans live in harmony with nature! But we have to be faster, smarter and better organised than those who are driving the world the opposite way. We will never be bigger, richer or more powerful.

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. WWF has an important role to play to make sure that commitments are delivered and funding is spent wisely. We do not measure success in political commitments or in the flow of money, but our satisfaction comes from the improved conditions for the reefs, the fishes, the turtles and the people.

## WWF news

### Restaurants and Hotels Respond Positively to Growing Concerns about Hong Kong's Role in Fuelling Shark Population Crashes

12 hotels and restaurants have joined hands with WWF to step forwards in response to growing concerns about Hong Kong's role in fuelling shark population crashes, by introducing shark-free banquet menus.

► [Full article](#)

### Brunei Ripe for Rainforest to Reef Tours

Dr Lida Pet Soede, WWF Coral Triangle Programme Leader, said Brunei has excellent potential to develop marine tourism, particularly if done in combination with the development of a marine protected area.

► [Full article](#)



This video is about the WWF Climate Change Adaptation project in the municipality of Sablayan, province of Mindoro, in the Philippines.

► [Watch](#)

## Species of the Month

The epaulette shark (*Hemiscyllium ocellatum*) is a long-tailed carpet shark found in the shallow waters of Australia and New Guinea, and possibly elsewhere. This shark can survive without oxygen for an hour by increasing the blood supply to its brain and shutting down non-essential neural functions. The IUCN classifies this species as of Least Concern.



Photo by [Thesupermat](#)

## New Clothes Line Supports Coral Triangle Conservation Work

Clothing giant H&M has launched a new collection that will help support WWF's work in the Coral Triangle. The collection of organic cotton T-shirts and tank tops, each with prints inspired by the sea and marine life, arrived in store during the middle of May.



Sales from the Save the Oceans collection will support WWF's urgent marine work. "The Coral Triangle is one of the most important areas in the world, as it is home to some of the world's most unique marine species," says Dr Lida Pet Soede, WWF's Coral Triangle Programme Leader. "The contribution from H&M will enable us to push forward some of our most important projects."

H&M is a Swedish clothing company, known for its fashion clothing offerings for women, men, teenagers and children. H&M has over 2,000 stores in 37 different countries.

► [More information](#)

## Recent publications

### Global Biodiversity: Indicators of Recent Declines

Stuart Butchart *et al.* have compiled 31 indicators to report on progress toward the 2002 Convention on Biological Diversity target to reduce biodiversity loss by 2010. Most indicators of the state of biodiversity showed declines, with no significant recent reductions in rate, whereas indicators of pressures on biodiversity showed increases. Despite some local successes and increasing responses, the rate of biodiversity loss does not appear to be slowing.

► [Full abstract](#)

### International management of tuna fisheries - Arrangements, challenges and a way forward

This FAO paper reviews the current management of tuna fisheries by the 5 tuna regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), focusing on the management of target species in the light of international standards and modern expectations for fisheries management.

► [Download document](#)



## Coral Triangle Fishers Forum for Equitable Fisheries

The WWF-organized Coral Triangle Fishers Forum (CTFF), scheduled for June 15-17, 2010 in Bali, will allow participants to gain perspective from fishers around the region, learn more about the issues that affect them, and gain a common ground in achieving sustainable and equitable fisheries.

The event will gather approximately 100 regional stakeholders, especially local fishers and industry representatives, to identify strategies and models for effective local partnerships on bycatch mitigation and Best Practices adoption.

This will help fishers and seafood companies to improve the long-term viability of fishing communities and reduce impacts from fisheries in the region.

► [More information and registration](#)

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