

the Coral Triangle

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2010

The Coral Triangle, the global centre of marine biodiversity, is a 6 million-km² area spanning Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and the Solomon Islands.

Within this *nursery of the seas* live 76% of the world's coral species, 6 of the world's 7 marine turtle species, and at least 2,228 coral reef fish species.

IN THE NEWS

Fish Stocks Dwindle as Trawlers Empty Asia's Seas

Overfishing in Southeast Asian seas has left groupers and sea bass in dire straits, searching for mates on denuded seabeds.

► [Full article](#)

Indonesia Aims to Create 20 Million Hectare Conservation Area

Indonesia targets to create up to 20 million hectares of conservation area by 2020 as part of a concrete step to implement the Coral Triangle Initiative.

► [Full article](#)

Turtle Eggs on Sale: Black Market Style

The sale and consumption of turtle eggs is illegal in Brunei but sellers are still boldly defying the ban by offering the endangered product.

► [Full article](#)

Massive Shark Sanctuary Declared in the Coral Triangle

Larger than Denmark, the new sanctuary around Raja Ampat covers 46,000 km² of the Coral Triangle.

► [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



Bycatch Policy Brief Gets Traction



© Brian J. Skerry / National Geographic Stock / WWF

In early December, the WWF Coral Triangle Programme released a Bycatch Policy Brief: Towards the Adoption of Circle Hooks to Reduce Fisheries Bycatch in the Coral Triangle Region. Aimed at senior decision-makers and the fishing industry, the policy brief evaluates the urgent issue of bycatch reduction in long line fisheries, providing evidence, analysis, recommendations and advice. It outlines a rationale for the transition to the use of Circle hooks among long line operations from fisheries originating in - and/or accessing the exclusive fishing zones of - Coral Triangle nations, as a necessary step in reversing negative impacts on marine turtles in the Coral Triangle region.

Initial response to the Policy Brief has been positive. Several Coral Triangle programme industry partners, including major fishing companies such as Luen Thai Fishing Ventures and Culimer BV, have endorsed its main recommendations which call for a step-wise transition to the use of Circle hooks as the industry standard. Circle hooks not only significantly reduce impacts on marine turtles but also have been scientifically demonstrated to improve catch rates on tuna and lead to harvesting of higher quality tuna.

WWF's Coral Triangle Programme will continue to cultivate industry endorsement of the brief's recommendations and in particular will work through the newly-established Coral Triangle Fishers Forum as a key platform for developing stakeholder support, as well as other platforms and senior CT6 country decision-makers, seeking specific policy commitments related to Circle hook adoption.

The Bycatch Policy Brief will be online here starting December 6th:

www.panda.org/coraltriangle/bycatch

www.panda.org/coraltriangle

WWF Education for Nature Programme Seeds a New Generation of Conservationists

THE MONTH AHEAD

7th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

6-10 December 2010

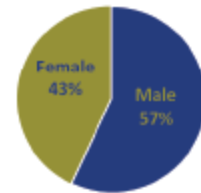
Honolulu, Hawaii

► [Find out more](#)

TOTAL INVESTMENT:
\$315,285

GENDER RATIO:

TOTAL GRANTS
AWARDED:
47



STAFF PROFILE

Eunice Park

Eunice currently serves as Senior Communications manager for WWF-US' marine conservation work, which includes supporting conservation work in the Coral Triangle.



© Eunice Park

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in print journalism and a Bachelor of Arts degree in international relations from Boston University. Before joining WWF, Eunice represented US Fortune 50 companies at international public relations firm, Fleishman Hillard, and served as deputy director of communications for Illinois Governor Pat Quinn. Although she hails from the landlocked city of Chicago, Eunice loves the water and feels very fortunate to be part of a team that works tirelessly to protect the world's oceans and marine life.

In 2010, the WWF Russell E. Train Education for Nature programme invested US\$139,737 to build conservation capacity in the Coral Triangle. Five graduate fellows and 20 professional development grantees were supported and one workshop trained more than 100 local stakeholders.

The Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program (EFN) aims to build a dynamic and highly qualified corps of conservation leaders in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Through a number of initiatives, EFN provides financial support to potential and proven leaders for higher education, short-term training, and practical experience needed to take on conservation challenges in their home countries and regions.

For more information on our grantees, please visit

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/efn/grantees>

Poseidon and WWF Partnership Pushes MSC Certification in Coral Triangle

Poseidon Aquatic Resources Management, with WWF and seafood company ANOVA, has explored the prospects for Marine Stewardship Council certification of hand-line yellowfin tuna in Indonesia. It was resolved to work with the Indonesian Government, other large private sector stakeholders and the tuna associations, to identify additional opportunities for tuna certification across the range of Indonesian tuna fisheries.

The initiative was extended to cover pole and line, troll and line, long line and purse seine. Constraints to certification were first identified, followed by a workshop which sought to develop an Action Plan to take the fisheries towards certification. A major component of this action plan is the development of a Tuna Management Plan.

Poseidon is also working on a similar initiative for partners WWF and ANOVA to develop an Action Plan for tropical reef fisheries. The work is set to establish benchmarks based on the hand-line and bottom long line grouper and snapper fisheries in South Sulawesi.

Work is also set to begin on developing a shrimp trawl blue print for Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam in 2011. This follows a WWF initiative to explore critical constraints to existing management systems and best practice solutions, world-wide. Case studies included the Arafura Sea and Gulf of Tonkin. The work will complement other WWF bycatch initiatives presently underway in the Coral Triangle Programme.

www.panda.org/coraltriangle



Girl power!

© WWF

As part of the Sustainable Seafood Campaign, WWF Singapore organised a Saving Our Seas Charity Dinner on November 25 in the Klapsons Hotel. More info and pictures to follow in the next edition...

LEADER CORNER

Jean-Paul Paddock, Global Initiatives Director, WWF

WWF NEWS

20-day Expedition to Assess Biodiversity Level in Semporna

An international team of marine biologists will be assessing the biodiversity and health of coral reefs in waters off Semporna, which is a priority conservation area. WWF Malaysia said the 20-day expedition was jointly organised with Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Universiti Malaya and the Netherlands Centre for Biodiversity Naturalis.

► [Full article](#)

Singapore and Malaysia asked to Close Ports to Toothfish Pirates

An international request that Malaysia and Singapore take action to ensure their ports are closed to blacklisted fishing vessels which are illegally poaching in Antarctic waters has been applauded by WWF.

► [Full article](#)

WWF Awards Top Partners in the Philippines

With initiatives ranging from environmental education and energy-efficiency drives to the conservation of critical watersheds and coral reef complexes, 10 partners received special awards in a ceremony hosted by new WWF ambassadors Marc Nelson and Rovilson Fernandez.

► [Full article](#)

I had the good fortune to dive in Bunaken National Park in Sulawesi, Indonesia during the April 2008 WWF Conservation Committee meeting. Incredible! My memories are vivid of seeing hundreds of species of fish and coral – including a recently described pygmy seahorse. In this magic underwater Eden, I lost track of the depth as we slowly witnessed in pure awe the beauty and richness of the Coral Triangle’s famed biodiversity. Earlier this year, in Sabah, I had an equally rewarding first-hand experience with local live reef fish fishermen. With them and WWF, who they’d called for advice, we released a baby dugong they’d mistakenly caught.



Courtesy of JP Paddock

I recount these true stories regularly to donors, our supporters and partners, encouraging them to help us save the Coral Triangle. I am impressed by the teamwork of WWF and partners working for these shared goals locally and up to the highest government levels. The results show in the Coral Triangle Initiative heads of states agreeing to the Manado Declaration, hosting the first Coral Triangle Business Summit, and working for the many more key events, commitments and changes in the water to come! Congratulations!

I was convinced after 14 years in Madagascar and the Western Indian Ocean that I had seen the most beautiful reefs in the world...! Yes, the Coral Triangle is THE world’s marine Eden! You know you can count on us in Gland and my colleagues in our newly renamed “Global Initiatives Unit” to continue helping you to achieve important marine conservation wins.

Bird’s Head Peninsula Reveals More Fish



© CI/Gerry Allen

Dozens of new and endemic fish species have been discovered in the Bird’s Head Peninsular (BHS) of Papua in the wake of biodiversity surveys by Indonesia’s Department of Nature Conservation (PHKA), the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (DKP), the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), the State University of Papua, and three NGOs (Conservation International, the Nature Conservancy and WWF).

These latest figures mark a major leap forward since the previous species checklist was released in 2009, in which BHS totals of 1,511 species from 451 genera and 111 families were reported. Since then, six new species from the Bird’s Head have been described in the scientific literature, including *Chromis unipa* (a damselfish named after the local university in Papua) and *Calumia papuensis*.

The surveys are made possible thanks to the assistance of young Indonesian marine taxonomists, who are trained via a programme set up by LIPI and Conservation International.

(Findings courtesy of Dr Mark Erdmann, Conservation International)



Source: Naturalis blog

Experts assess richness of Malaysian coral reefs

In November, a team of marine biologists set off on a 20-day expedition to assess the health of the marine environment in Semporna, part of the Coral Triangle. The expedition is organized by WWF-Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Universiti Malaya (UM) and the Netherlands Centre for Biodiversity (NCB) Naturalis, with updates regularly posted to the [expedition blog](#).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Impacts of Marine Protected Areas on Fishing Communities

Michael Mascia, C. Anne Claus and Ronin Naidoo from WWF-US reviewed the scientific literature to assess MPA impacts on five indicators of human welfare: food security, resource rights, employment, community organization, and income. Their results demonstrate that MPAs shape the social well-being and political power of fishing communities; impacts (positive and negative) vary within and among social groups; and social impacts are correlated with some—but not all—commonly hypothesized explanatory factors.

► [Read the abstract](#)

Monitoring and Management of the Humphead Wrasse, *Cheilinus undulatus*

This study by Robert Gillett for FAO covers the characteristics of the live reef fish fisheries, humphead wrasse biology, the relationships between CITES regulations and fisheries management, and issues relating to the management of humphead wrasse fisheries.

► [Download the report](#)

IUCN Oceania Annual Report 2009_10

This report highlights the work undertaken by the Oceania Regional Office in the year 2009 and five months into 2010.



For printed copies of this report please contact Moceania@iucn.org.

JOB OPENING

Advisor, Coral Triangle Initiative Regional Marine Management Capacity Development

Conservation International is seeking a qualified individual to fill the post of Marine Management Capacity Development Advisor for the Coral Triangle Initiative Program. The Advisor will work to support the regional Marine Management Capacity Development activities of the Coral Triangle Support Program (CTSP).

► [Get full details](#)

WWF Coral Triangle Contacts

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