

the Coral Triangle

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 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

World Needs to Protect 32 Million Square Kilometres of Ocean in Two Years

Currently, about 1.17% of the ocean is under some form of protection, but the 2002 goal was 10% by 2012.

► [Full article](#)

RM30,000 Live Fish Bound for HK Mart Seized

Six protected species of lobster and fish, about to be smuggled to Hong Kong from Tawau Airport, were seized by the Sabah (Malaysia) Fisheries Department early October.

► [Full article](#)

Government Committed to Making Local Aquaculture Industry Sustainable

The Sabah government is fully committed to making the local aquaculture industry, including the culture of live reef fish, a sustainable one.

► [Full article](#)

Hong Kong Bans Trawling

The ban on trawling includes not only intensive shrimp trawling and other demersal trawling, but also includes hang-trawling for pelagic fishes.

► [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



Coral Triangle, WWF, take prominence at Convention on Biodiversity Conference

Six ministers were present at a dinner hosted by WWF and the Asian Development Bank during the 10th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 10) in Japan. The Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), along with the Heart of Borneo Initiative, the Greater Mekong Subregion, and the Living Himalayas Initiative, were featured at the dinner with the theme of Partnerships for Sustaining Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Asia and the Pacific.

Solomon Islands Minister for Environment, Conservation, Disaster Management & Meteorology, Hon. John Moffat Fugui, and Philippines Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources, Hon. Ramon Paje, represented CTI. Min. Fugui said that CTI member countries are implementing regional priorities and finalizing National Plans of Action. Highlighting CTI's private sector engagement, he referred to two events co-organized this year by WWF: the CTI Business Summit and the Coral Triangle Fishers Forum.

WWF Director General Jim Leape pointed to CTI as an example of regional partnerships that are necessary for successes in biodiversity conservation and for sustainable development. GEF's Nicole Glineur reaffirmed GEF's commitment to the four initiatives and added that GEF welcomes open dialogue with the countries to know if needs are met. CTI member country delegates referenced their commitments under CTI towards marine conservation, and CTI Regional and National Plans of Action are used as benchmarks for their country negotiating positions. Some CTI member countries plan to link commitments made at CBD COP10 to the CTI meetings.

The Philippines presented at a side event by the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), and WWF's Jackie Thomas and Luli Arroyo made separate presentations on WWF's Coral Triangle activities. A table by artist Silas Birtwistle (seen above) was used for every CBD MOU signing, made of driftwood from Belize, Canada, Tanzania, and Tun Mustapha Marine Park in Sabah on the east coast of Malaysia.



© Luli Arroyo

Sharing Sustainable Seafood Stories in Hong Kong

THE MONTH AHEAD

Kathryn Fuller Science for Nature Symposium

5 November 2010

Carnegie Institution for Science, Washington, DC

► [Find out more](#)

NEW STAFF

Snehal Morris

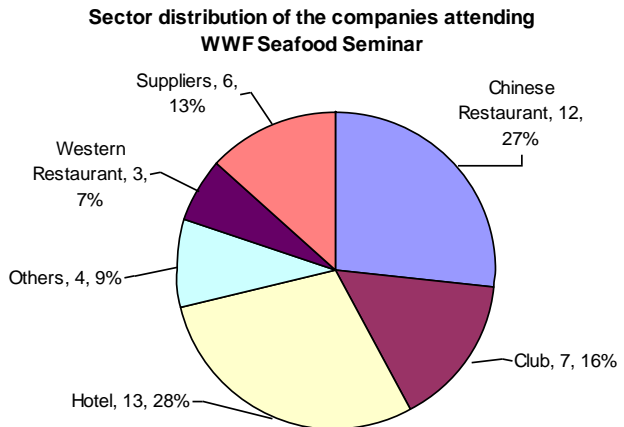
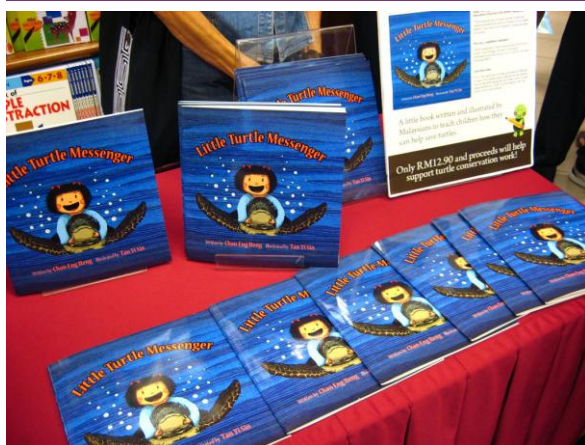
Snehal Morris joined WWF South Pacific Programme Office (SPPO) as the new Communications Manager in October 2010. Snehal has a Bachelors Degree in Communications from New Zealand and will be completing her Masters in Governance from the University of the South Pacific this December.



© Snehal Morris

Snehal comes to SPPO after working with the United Nations in the Pacific for the last three years. Prior to this, she worked as the Brands and Marketing Manager for Vodafone Fiji.

Passionate about the environment and art, Snehal has been part of the production of many publications and promotional material and has effective brand management experience. She has an excellent understanding of Pacific Island media and has good experience in working with governments and other counterparts.



During the seminar “Sustainable Seafood: Hong Kong Experience Sharing”, held on 29th September, WWF-Hong Kong presented the global fisheries crisis and the movie “The End of the Line” to participants from 39 different companies. WWF also invited pioneers of sustainable seafood businesses to share their stories with the audience. The diversity of participants allowed them to share their different perspectives on the topic and provided an immediate business networking opportunity.

WWF-Hong Kong is calling on the catering industry to select seafood from sustainable, well-managed and legal sources through the “Ocean-Friendly Menu” programme. Caterers who join the programme will be provided an alternative menu, which uses ocean-friendly seafood from the WWF Seafood Guide. Four caterers, including HK Jockey Club, Jumbo Kingdom, LHGroup and Super Star Group, have taken the lead to offer such menu for the public. WWF is grateful to UBS, WWF’s Double Diamond member, for sponsoring the venue for the seminar.

Turtle Book Brings Message of Hope

A children’s storybook with a strong turtle conservation message, titled *Little Turtle Messenger* was launched on 3 October 2010 with the presence of three guests of honour, Tan Sri Dr Salleh Mohd. Nor, WWF Malaysia CEO Dato’ Dr Dionysius Sharma and Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ahmad Mustaffa Babjee. This book was written by Dr Chan Eng Heng, is illustrated by Tan Yi Sin and was published by MPH Publishing.

The first printing of the book was supported by WWF-Malaysia, MPH Publishing and the Turtle Conservation Centre (TCC). WWF-Malaysia also sponsored the Bahasa Malaysia version of the book, which is distributed free to schoolchildren in 15 selected schools in Terengganu where TCC is carrying out their awareness programmes.

For mail order of the book, please send an email to turtlecentre@gmail.com

WWF NEWS

Nature Gets Major Boost From New Biodiversity Deal

Governments at the meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity struck an agreement which, when implemented, will set the world on a course to help prevent mass species extinctions and arrest the decline of the world's valuable nature.

► [Full article](#)

Project EcoKids Imparts Climate Solutions to 15,000 Students

Project EcoKids is the evolution of past WWF educational drives which concentrated on increasing awareness on ecosystem and endangered species protection.

► [Full article](#)



As part of the WWF-Singapore Sustainable Seafood Campaign a range of adverts featuring sustainable seafood are appearing in outdoor, print and digital formats, all throughout Singapore between August and November. The ads aim to encourage diners to use the Singapore Seafood Guide to help them choose seafood from sustainable sources that are fished and farmed responsibly. Special thanks to Ogilvy for the fantastic creative work, and the following supporters that have kindly provided advertising space: Catalog, JCDecaux Singapore, Clear Channel Singapore, ZOMedia.

► [Download more ads](#)

LEADER CORNER

Dermot O’Gorman, CEO of WWF-Australia

Like almost everyone who has been lucky enough to visit and dive at some of the Pacific Ocean’s most beautiful places, I have been blown away by how remarkable the marine world can be.



© Dermot O’Gorman

Dive spots like those around Gizo in Solomon Islands’ North Province are reminders of how special the world beneath the waves is.

It is also one of our most vital life support systems, providing nourishment for millions of people. More than anything else, it is our oceans which connect our planet. What happens in the Philippines matters in Australia. What happens in the Southern Ocean matters to the Solomon Islands.

We can see this clearly in the work WWF is doing on tuna. The work underway to protect tuna stocks in the Coral Triangle is of vital importance. One magnificent tuna might be caught in the waters of the Coral Triangle by a ship flying a Korean flag. The tuna may be canned in Indonesia, and then shipped to Australia.

Our *Living Planet* Report has again made crystal clear the threats faced by our world’s oceans. More than half of all marine fish stocks are fully exploited, with no room for expansion. The rapid industrialisation of fishing is placing an unbearable burden on our footprint.

Improving the health of the Coral Triangle and conserving its biodiversity is not a job that can be done in isolation. By creating partnerships within WWF and involving organisations like USAID and the Asian Development Bank, we are building the capacity to deal with such a global issue.

As the new CEO of WWF-Australia I am excited about the challenge that lies ahead of us. I know that by pooling our strength and expertise, we will make a difference.

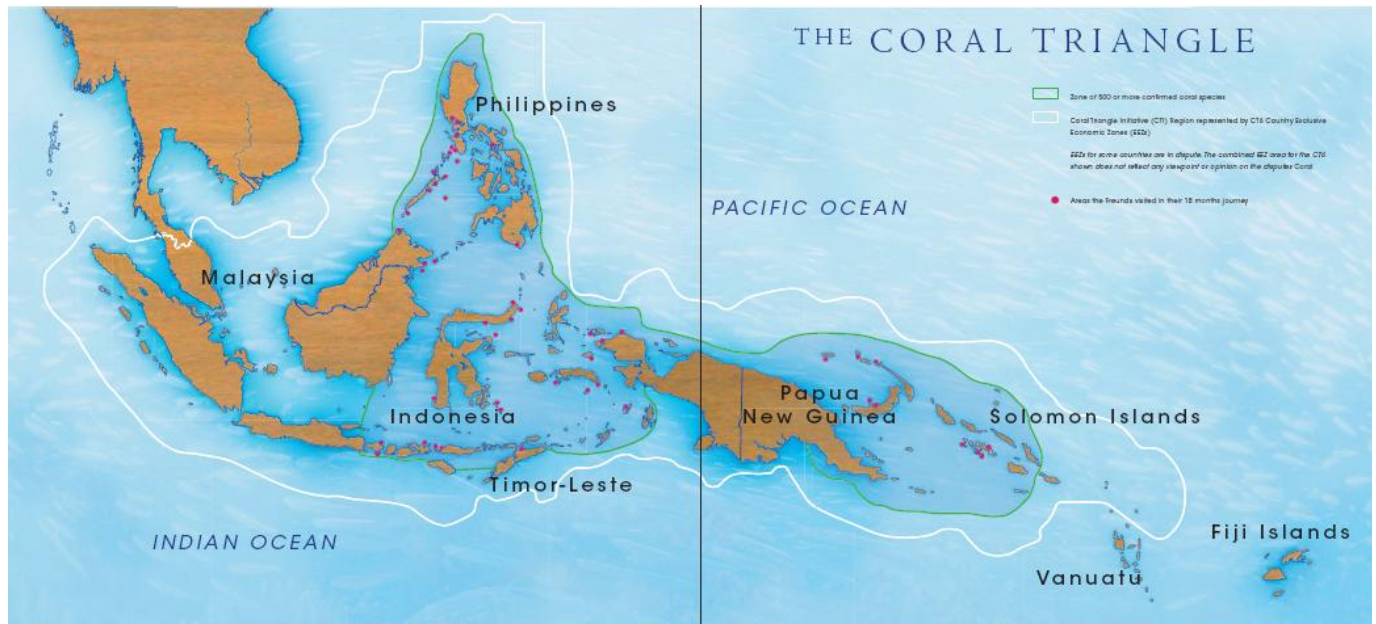
Marine Life Gets Conservation Boost

Five Pacific Island States and Territories signed Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) for the conservation of marine turtles, cetaceans, dugongs and sharks. Government representatives, including Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu and the Solomon Islands, signed the four CMS agreements on marine species on the occasion of the 21st Meeting of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), convened in Madang 6-10 September 2010, Papua New Guinea.

By signing the Dugong MoU, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea brought the number of Signatory States to 14. Dugong conservation in the Pacific region will be much enhanced given the globally significant dugong populations in these two countries. The Torres Strait region which is shared by Papua New Guinea and Australia, both of whom have now signed the Dugong MoU, supports the world’s largest population of dugongs.

Source: [CMS website](#)

WWF Coral Triangle Photo Expedition Complete



In April 2009, award-winning photographer Jürgen Freund and writer Stella Chiu-Freund set out on an 18-month expedition across the Coral Triangle, visiting bustling centres of marine product trade as well as some of the most remote and breathtaking habitats on earth.

With the expedition now over, [a blog bursting with extraordinary photos](#) taken during their journey and a 272-page book now under way, things have not slowed down for the Friends. Back in Cairns, Australia, they are already discussing their next photographic assignment...

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

2010 Update on the Status of the Tuna Stocks in the Eastern Pacific Ocean

This document updates the assessment on the ISSF report on the status of the tuna stocks in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) published in April 2010. This report takes into account information presented at the September meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, which is responsible for tuna in the EPO.

► [Download the report](#)

Three Major Publications on a Solution to the Global Ocean Crisis

Produced by the Science-to-Action partnership, the publications are based on five years of natural and social science research in over 70 marine managed areas in 23 countries. Drawing on the results of more than 50 studies, the Science-to-Action partnership offers recommendations for successful implementation of marine managed areas (MMAs) to maximize the benefits to people and nature. The findings and recommendations are presented in three booklets.

► [Download booklets](#)

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WWF's Coral Triangle programme is made possible in part by the Turing Foundation



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