

6. CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY (CTI-CFF)

Summary of role: *The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) is a multilateral partnership of six countries and non-governmental members working together to sustain extraordinary marine and coastal resources by addressing crucial issues such as food security, climate change and marine biodiversity.*

Summary of recommendations and work status: *CTI-CFF has been focused on beach clean-up, public education and outreach.*

Keywords/research fields: *Coral Triangle Initiative; CTI-CFF; function and mandate; work on marine plastics; beach clean-ups; public education; outreach; Coral Triangle Day*

6.1 Function and mandate

At the governmental level, the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) designates broadly the commitments of six governments in the Coral Triangle (i.e. Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste) to engage in cooperative action to address threats to coral reefs, fisheries and food security. The initial commitment was made via the Leaders Declaration on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security of 15 May 2009 in Manado. Subsequent agreements include the 2011 Agreement on the Establishment of the Regional Secretariat of the CTI-CFF.

The CTI-CFF covers the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas as well as part of the Java Seas and the Western Pacific, within a triangle linking North Philippines to South Java to the Solomon Islands.

6.2 Work on marine plastics

The CTI-CFF has made several communications on the impact of plastics and the need to keep it out of the Coral Triangle. It seems to be primarily focused on beach clean-ups, public education and outreach. One of CTI-CFF's most important events is the yearly Coral Triangle Day, in which the theme of pollution from marine plastic is very present. See: <http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org/news/coral-triangle-day-photo-instagram-competition-winners-announced>.

Information on research projects on marine plastics under this programme is not readily available. Nevertheless, it is expected that international NGOs involved in this project (e.g. TNC, WWF and Conservation International) are looking into it.

However, there seems to be a number of local, bottom-up initiatives focused primarily on beach cleaning and awareness raising in the local community (e.g. the No-Trash Triangle Initiative NGO, <https://www.no-trashtriangle.org/>)