



**CORAL
TRIANGLE
CENTER**

Inspiring People Saving Oceans

CORAL TRIANGLE CENTER | 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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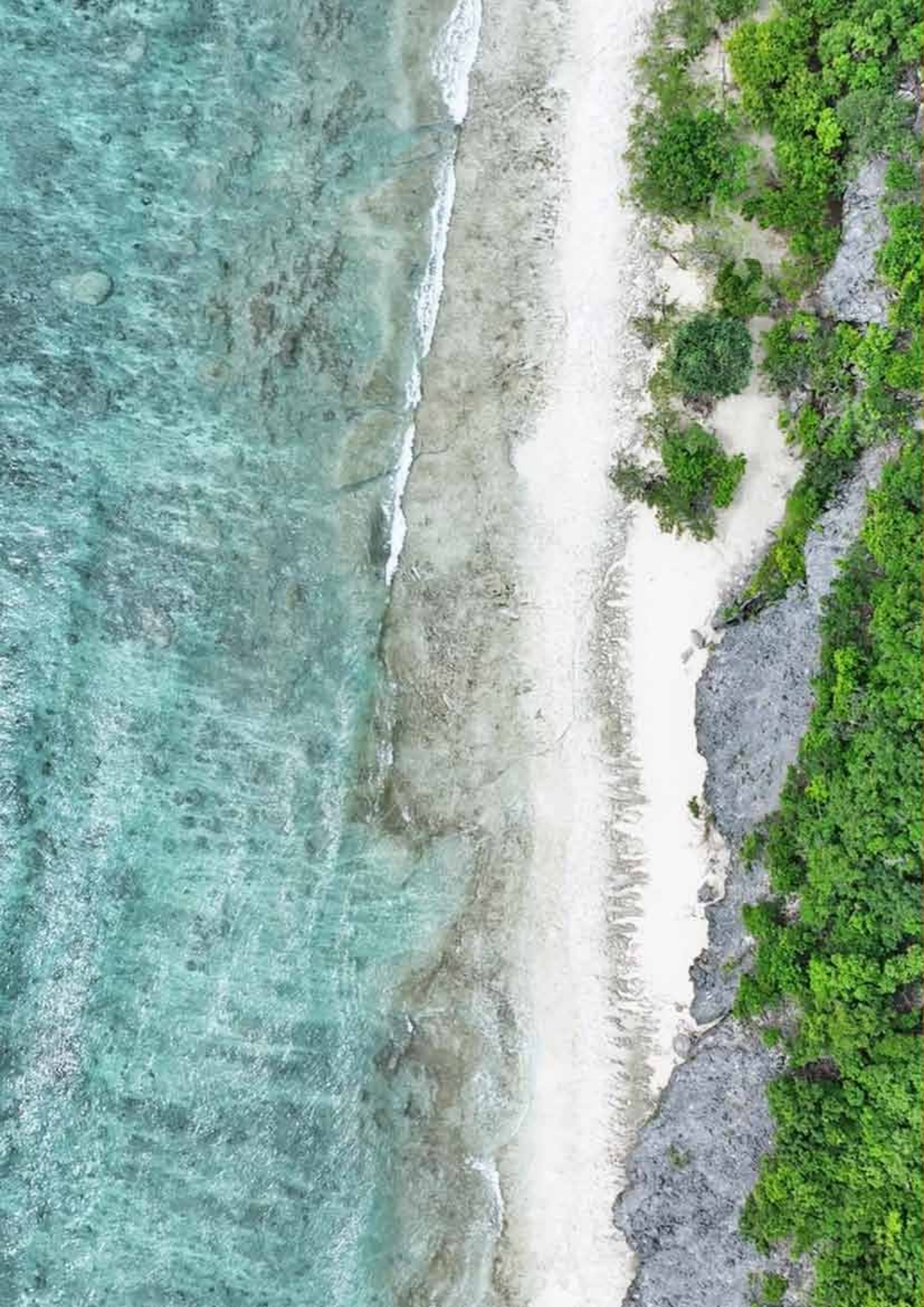


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CORAL TRIANGLE CENTER

a center of excellence in tropical marine resource management:
Building local leadership for long-term conservation in the Coral Triangle



Inspiring People Saving Oceans

VISION

CTC envisions healthy seas that enrich people and nature.

MISSION

CTC inspires and trains generations to care for coastal and marine ecosystems.

VALUES

Excellence

In the quality of our teaching. In the performance and integrity of our staff. In our commitment to being a world-class center of marine resource management.

Collaboration

We build partnerships among leaders in government, communities, NGOs, education, and the private sector because only by engaging all constituencies can solutions be effective.

Local Stewardship

Based in the heart of the Coral Triangle, we maintain strong roots in the field and close ties to stakeholders at all levels. We value traditional knowledge and practices and promote local ownership of our projects.

Results

We provide trusted information, are transparent in our actions, and hold ourselves accountable for the quality of our programs, changing our strategies as necessary and measuring our impact over time.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2024, we at the Coral Triangle Center (CTC) achieved significant milestones that underscore our evolution into a more resilient, inclusive, and regional organization. As global attention focuses towards meeting the 2030 goal of protecting 30% of the world's oceans, CTC has laid the groundwork for its fourth five-year strategic plan (2025-2029) to support this global goal, with a focus on science-based approaches, strong partnerships, inclusivity and sustainable growth.

This year, we opened our first international office in Dili, Timor-Leste—a bold step in expanding our reach beyond Indonesia and strengthening our presence across the Coral Triangle. This expansion not only demonstrates CTC's growing institutional capacity but also reflects our long-standing commitment to supporting local and regional marine conservation through on-site conservation, training, learning networks, and community-based initiatives.

Organizational effectiveness remains a priority. We have invested in expanding our team, enhancing staff development programs, and nurturing young professionals through internship and volunteer opportunities. These efforts, along with our ongoing implementation of gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) strategies, are helping CTC become a more adaptive and inclusive learning organization.

Amid global threats such as rising sea surface temperatures and coral bleaching, we continued to work closely with partners to implement conservation projects on the ground that strengthen the resilience of our marine ecosystems and support blue jobs that support local communities. We secured multi-year funding, advanced innovative financing strategies, and reinforced our role as leader in capacity-building and Marine Protected Area (MPA) management.

Through renewed agreements with the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF), and our leadership in the regional capacity-building roadmap, CTC is driving long-term conservation impact.

As we look to the future, we thank our partners and supporters for their trust. Together, we will continue to build a stronger, more resilient CTC—empowering people, protecting biodiversity, and shaping a sustainable future for the Coral Triangle.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rili Djohani'.

Rili Djohani
Co-founder and Executive Director

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

This year marks a significant chapter in the journey of the Coral Triangle Center (CTC). In 2024, we proudly opened our first office outside of Indonesia—in Timor-Leste. This milestone reflects not only our growing regional presence but also the deepening of our commitment to supporting communities and governments in protecting some of the world's most precious marine ecosystems.

As the threats to our marine environment continue to rise globally, the work of organizations like CTC has never been more important. From our early days in Bali to now supporting conservation efforts across the Coral Triangle, CTC has remained grounded in its mission: to strengthen marine management through collaboration, training, and innovation. The path hasn't always been easy—but the dedication of our team has made it possible. I want to especially recognize the hard work, passion, and resilience of CTC's staff. Your efforts on the ground and behind the scenes are making a lasting difference.

Indonesia continues to show leadership in marine protection, and with over 30 million hectares of ocean already designated as marine protected areas, the national goal of 32 million hectares is within reach. CTC's support in achieving this goal—and in helping other countries strengthen their own marine governance—is a testament to what can be accomplished through partnership, perseverance, and people-centered approaches.

As we celebrate what we have achieved this year, let us also look ahead with renewed energy. There is still much to be done, but there is also much to be proud of. Together, we are proving that protecting our oceans is not just a responsibility—it's a shared opportunity to create a better, more sustainable future for all.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yuli Ismartono'.

Yuli Ismartono
Chair of the Board of Trustees

THE CHALLENGE



Protecting the global epicenter of marine biodiversity



Against the threat of...



Houses

76%

of all coral species in the world

Home to

3,000

species of reef fish

Provides

130 million

people with food and income

Generates

\$1.6 billion

in revenue from fish catch and marine tourism

TOP CORAL REEF THREATS

Coastal development



Unsustainable fishing



Irresponsible tourism



Pollution



Climate change



70% of the Coral Triangle's reefs could be destroyed by 2050 if business continues as usual

WHAT WE DO



WE LEARN

We implement, we test, we gather knowledge



WE PARTNER

We work with government agencies, academic institutions and other NGOs

We use field experience, state of the art science and best practices:



TO INSPIRE

Youth, students, tourists and concerned citizens



TO TRAIN

Professionals and communities to take care of our oceans



TO ENGAGE

Private sector and work with them toward sustainable marine and coastal practices

And connect all groups to amplify:



OUR ULTIMATE GOAL

To abate the threats of overfishing, pollution and climate change together, preserve the most diverse and resilient coastal marine ecosystems in the world and secure oxygen, food, jobs and protect the coast for millions of people.

We Learn

from field sites where we implement theories and determine effective strategies to manage MPAs

We Partner

with government agencies, academic institutions, the private sector, and other non-government organizations

We Train, We Equip

people involved in the management of MPAs across the Coral Triangle region

We Engage, We Inspire

students, tourists, dive operators, fishing communities – everyone who has an interest in protecting the health of our reefs

We Connect

various groups – MPA managers, local leaders, women – to promote collaboration and encourage knowledge sharing

AMPLIFY MARINE CONSERVATION



KEY CONSERVATION TOOL

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

MPAs - areas where resource use is regulated and critical areas are protected – have been proven effective at maintaining or even improving the quality of reefs and rehabilitating fish populations.

With 197 MPAs throughout the archipelago covering some 23.38 million hectares, Indonesia is well on its way to achieve its goal of having 32 million hectares of MPAs by 2030. To make sure these MPAs are effectively managed, Indonesia needs trained and capable MPA managers and technical personnel to support its conservation targets.

However, Indonesia doesn't have enough trained people capable of managing all these protected areas.

Each MPA also has unique features and specific needs, and what works in one MPA might not work in another.

This is where CTC comes in. We help establish MPAs. We test theories and determine the best strategies. And we train and equip all people to effectively manage MPA.

“ Our whole approach is aimed to inform, engage and equip people with practical tools to better understand and manage coastal and marine ecosystems.

Rili Djohani, CTC Executive Director

”

CONSERVATION ON THE GROUND

10 LEASE MPA
Est. : 2021
Size : 67,484.19 ha
Location : Maluku

9 SULA MPA
Est. : 2018
Size : 120,723.88 ha
Location : North Maluku

8 BANDA ISLANDS MPA NETWORK
Est. : TWP Laut Banda (2009), Hatta (2014), Ay-Rhun (2021)
Size : 71,536.46 ha
Location : Maluku

We are conserving **435,839.10 ha** critical marine habitats in the Coral Triangle region.



7 BUANO MPA
Est. : 2021
Size : 31,886.86 ha
Location : Maluku

1 NUSA PENIDA MPA
Est. : 2010
Size : 20,057.19 ha
Location : Bali

6 NINO KONIS SANTANA NATIONAL PARK
Est. : 2007
Size : 60,901.40 ha
Location : Lautém

2 SAMBA SEMBILAN MPA
Est. : 2023
Size : 8,372.20 ha
Location : Liquiçá

3 ATAURO MPA
Est. : 2023
Size : 13,252.22 ha
Location : Atauro

4 MANUFAHI MPA
Est. : *in the process*
Size : 41,624.7 ha
Location : Manufahi

5 METINARO MPA
Est. : *in the process*
Size : *in the process*
Location : Metinaro

PROTECTING ECOSYSTEM & SPECIES

By establishing effective Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) we are protecting the Coral Triangle's marine habitats and iconic species.



EMPOWERING AND BUILDING RESILIENT COASTAL COMMUNITIES



Women in Blue Swimming Crab Fisheries in Lampung

Women in Blue Swimming Crab Fisheries in Rembang

Sustainable Mangrove Tourism in Nusa Penida MPA

Women Seaweed Processors In Nusa Penida MPA

Fish Processing by Women Groups in Atauro MPA

Strengthening Tara Bandu in Samba Sembilan MPA

Community waste management in Lease and Ay-Rhun MPAs

Training Pokmaswas in the Banda Islands

Strengthening Sasi in the Banda Islands

Building Women-led Sustainable Seafood Businesses and Fishing Communities

Sumatra, Borneo, Java, Jakarta, Banda Sea, Arafura Sea, Papua

IMPACT IN NUMBERS

Since its establishment in 2010 until 2024, CTC has turned knowledge into on-the-ground action to protect and sustainably manage marine resources in Indonesia and the Coral Triangle.

THROUGH OUR TRAINING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES, WE HAVE

Conducted **373** trainings
Trained **8,286** people



THROUGH OUR CENTER FOR MARINE CONSERVATION, WE HAVE ENGAGED

26,907 people in our fun learning activities, games for change, art and science programs, events, and dive training pool.



THROUGH OUR SOCIAL MEDIA AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, WE HAVE ENGAGED

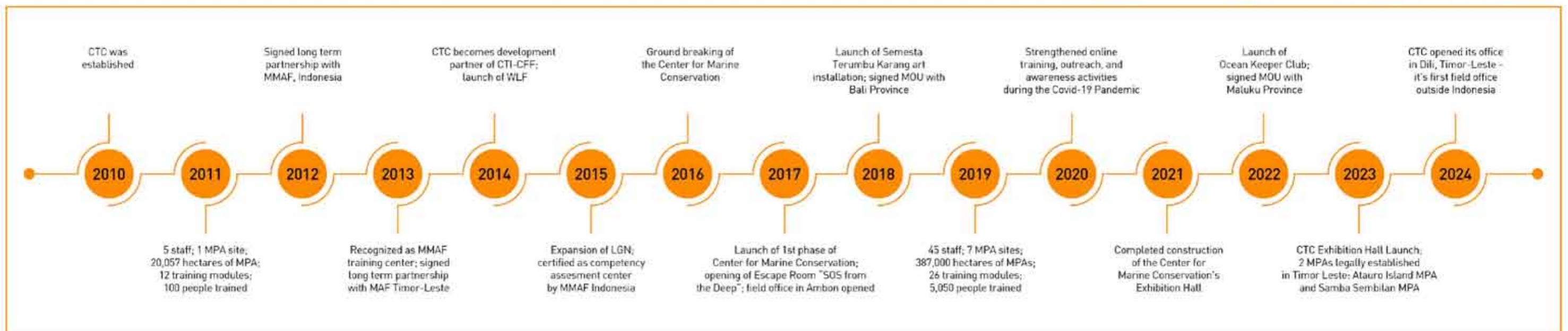
200,000 people annually to learn about marine conservation

THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MPAS IN INDONESIA AND TIMOR-LESTE, WE HAVE PROTECTED

433,644.1 hectares of critical marine habitats and helped restore fish stocks for the local community



- MPA : Marine Protected Area
- MMAF : Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
- MAF : Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
- LGN : Local Government Network
- CTI-CFF : Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security
- WLF : Women Leaders Forum



ON-THE-GROUND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Strengthening Coral Reef Resilience Monitoring in Maluku and Bali



CTC has made significant strides in advancing coral reef health assessment and resilience monitoring through expert training and field surveys in Maluku and Bali. In March and April 2024, Dr. Rodney V. Salm, a renowned marine conservationist, provided hands-on training in rapid coral reef health assessment methods to CTC teams and partners. His field sessions in Maluku and Bali focused on identifying key resilience indicators such as coral stress responses, disease prevalence, and predation rates. Participants included representatives from the local government and private sector volunteers.

Building on these efforts, CTC and the Department of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (DKP) Maluku conducted a comprehensive coral reef monitoring survey in the Lease Islands MPA from October 15-25, 2024. A 14-member team, including DKP Maluku officials, Pattimura University students, and local community members, surveyed 24 key sites using advanced underwater techniques like Point Intercept Transect (PIT), Underwater Photo Transect (UPT), and Underwater Visual Census (UVC). They also collected sediment and algae samples to analyze pollution impacts.

Preliminary results revealed an overall healthy reef ecosystem, with Live Hard Coral Cover (LHCC) at 42.3%, slightly lower than the 46.5% recorded in 2020. Resilience assessments identified strong reef recovery potential at sites like Abubu, Natania, and Oma, while Haruku Petuanan and Itawaka required more conservation attention. A surprise dugong sighting in Saparua Bay underscored the region's biodiversity.

Expanding its reef resilience efforts beyond Maluku, CTC, in collaboration with the Coastal and Marine Resource Management Center (UPTD), MMAF's Coastal and Marine Resources Management Center (BPSPL), and local dive volunteers, successfully conducted a Reef Health Monitoring and Coral Resilience Assessment across 14 sites in the Nusa Penida MPA. Using Point Intercept Transect (PIT) and Underwater Photo Transect (UPT) methods, the survey recorded positive developments, including increased coral cover in Atuh, Suwehan, and Manta Point, as well as reduced coral bleaching in Manta Bay and Crystal Bay. Fish populations also showed growth. Surgefish and reef snappers were the most abundant, alongside 36 sightings of hawksbill and green turtles.



Coral resilience assessments indicated overall improvement, with Mangrove Point scoring the highest while Manta Bay had the lowest. Ceningan Point also showed slower recovery, signaling a need for targeted conservation efforts. The presence of killer sponges and crown-of-thorns starfish at certain sites also highlights ongoing ecosystem challenges. The collected data will support further analysis of marine pollution indicators and future conservation planning, reinforcing CTC's commitment to safeguarding Nusa Penida MPA's marine biodiversity.



Dr. Rodney Salm
CTC Scientific Advisory Board Member

The first time I saw the reef in the Coral Triangle was 1973. I was blown away about the abundance and the diversity of fish and corals. Very exciting to me, to see the support of Coral Triangle Center to include something that was about looking forward and they see the value for making reefs last over time and into the future.

Kalesang Dugong Project: Advancing Community-Driven Dugong Conservation in Maluku



As CTC's Kalesang Dugong Project concludes, its impact on dugong conservation and community-led marine protection in Maluku Province has become evident. The project, supported by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and implemented in partnership with the Baileo Maluku Foundation and the Department of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Maluku Province, has pioneered sustainable conservation strategies in the Lease Islands Marine Protected Area (MPA).

A key milestone was the enactment of Mahu Village Decree No. 3 of 2023, which formally protects natural resources, including dugongs and their seagrass habitats. Spearheaded by village leader Christina Maritje Lawalata, the decree reflects a strong commitment to community-driven conservation. "The decree is more than just a regulation - it represents our dedication to preserving our natural heritage for future generations," said Lawalata. During the Maluku Province NGO Partners Forum in February 2024, this initiative was recognized as a model for replication across other regions.



The project leveraged citizen science to fill a critical data gap on dugong populations, which had been poorly documented for nearly 30 years. Through boat and drone surveys, 54 dugong sightings, 22 feeding trails, and eight seagrass species were recorded. The installation of two billboards on Saparua Island further engaged the public, featuring a QR code to facilitate community reporting of dugong sightings. This initiative has successfully encouraged local participation, rewarding contributors with conservation-themed merchandise.

The project's influence extended beyond species monitoring. It established a waste bank in Ouw Village to tackle plastic pollution threatening seagrass beds, ensuring healthier marine ecosystems. Over 3,000 local residents participated in workshops, surveys, and awareness campaigns, strengthening conservation capacity and fostering long-term stewardship.



The Kalesang Dugong Project's success was showcased at the Wallacea Partnership Program II closing workshop in September 2024. Attendees expressed interest in replicating its strategies, with representatives from Lembata highlighting the need for similar citizen science approaches in their region. "The community-led conservation model implemented here could be a game-changer for other coastal areas facing similar challenges," remarked an NGO representative at the event. As a result, several organizations have begun discussions on how to implement similar approaches in their respective regions.

By integrating scientific research, traditional knowledge, and community leadership, the project has laid a foundation for lasting conservation efforts in Maluku. This initiative has not only strengthened local conservation efforts but also inspired a sense of pride and responsibility among residents to protect their marine environment. As the project concludes, its legacy continues to inspire sustainable marine protection across Indonesia.



Victor Mayaut
Pejuang Laut - CTC Local Champion

I am a Pejuang Laut (local champions). I gained new knowledge after attending CTC's training on dugongs and marine waste. I hope there will soon be regulations to protect dugongs so they can continue to thrive around Saparua Island.

A Study to Revitalize Traditional Marine Tenure Systems in Maluku and Papua

CTC, in collaboration with Dr. Dedi S. Adhuri from the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), has initiated a study on marine tenure systems in Maluku and parts of Papua. This research focuses on the traditional marine tenure system known as sasi, which has been integral to local resource management for over 400 years but is now facing decline.

Sasi, a governance system for managing marine and terrestrial resources, is currently practiced in places like Ambon, Seram, the Lease Islands and the Banda Islands. Despite its historical significance, this system is disappearing, prompting the need for comprehensive research to understand its current status and factors influencing its survival or loss. The study aims to document and analyze sasi practices, their actors, and sustaining mechanisms to inform policy briefs and management recommendations for revitalizing these traditional practices within Indonesia's coastal and marine resource management.



The study involves qualitative methods including focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, observations, and participatory mapping. Initial data collection occurred in Banda Neira and Ay in the Banda Islands, with subsequent visits to Saparua and Haruku in the Lease Islands. The team found diverse sasi practices, with unique approaches like the auction-based system in Pelauw, which differs from traditional seasonal closures.

The study emphasizes the importance of integrating indigenous and traditional practices into marine governance to foster inclusivity and enhance conservation efforts. The study's findings are expected to provide valuable insights for revitalizing traditional institutions and contributing to Indonesia's and global conservation targets.

Community-Based Solutions to Tackle Plastic Pollution in the Banda Islands

Plastic pollution threatens the Banda Islands' marine biodiversity and cultural heritage, with increasing single-use plastics and limited waste management infrastructure. To address this, CTC conducted a plastic waste survey from February 21 to March 6, 2024, assessing waste volume and management practices across Neira, Ay, and Rhun Islands. Led by consultant Moh. Nurhadi and involving trained local enumerators, the study found that Banda District generates 538 kg of plastic waste daily, with only 1% recycled, 62% burned, and 37% left unmanaged, often ending up in the ocean.

A stakeholder discussion on March 5, 2024, brought together 22 participants to develop integrated waste management strategies. The recommendations included improving waste collection, promoting community education, and securing financial support for sustainable programs. Building on these findings, CTC launched a waste management initiative on August 15, 2024, in Ay-Rhun Islands MPA to empower local communities, particularly women's groups, in addressing plastic pollution. Women were encouraged to participate in annual village planning meetings to secure funding for their project.



Religious women's groups, led by Masnah La Empe, have already taken action with schools incorporating waste collection programs, such as exchanging books for plastic waste. Additionally, plans are in place to renovate waste stations and train women in bookkeeping and waste processing. Through community-driven solutions, education, and stakeholder engagement, CTC is fostering long-term waste management strategies to protect the Banda Islands' marine ecosystems and create a cleaner, healthier future.



Masnah La Empe

Leader of the Women's Waste Management Group in Rhun Island

Now our waste management group is recognized by several organizations. We didn't know how to weave flowers or make chairs from ecobricks before. But thankfully, after joining the training from CTC, we've learned how to create flower products from plastic waste.

Coral Restoration Rehabilitates Damaged Reefs in the Nusa Penida MPA

In the first quarter of the year, CTC conducted a coral restoration project in Nusa Penida MPA, specifically in Toya Pakeh. Local partners, including Marine and Fisheries Affairs of Bali Province, Quicksilver Cruise Bali and local dive operators, collaboratively installed 400 Reef Stars and transplanted 6,000 coral fragments over 240 square meters. The area, ideal for restoration, had suffered coral damage from waves, disease, and human activities.



CTC utilizes the Mars Assisted Reef Restoration System (MARRS), which uses stable Reef Star structures, facilitating faster coral growth and habitat formation. CTC aims to expand its impact, facilitating knowledge exchange and building capacity for reef restoration. This demonstration site supports Nusa Penida MPA's diverse marine ecosystems, which house 296 coral species and 576 fish species, including important habitats for marine megafauna. The project, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies Vibrant Oceans Initiative and Mission Blue, seeks to create a sustainable model for marine conservation.



CTC's 2023 assessment indicated that healthy corals nearby and herbivore fish presence suggest a conducive environment for coral survival. Marthen Welly, CTC's Marine Conservation Adviser, emphasized Toya Pakeh's suitability due to its accessibility and the support infrastructure provided by the Quicksilver Mega Pontoon.

The initiative, supported by Mission Blue, exemplifies how collaborative efforts can manage MPAs effectively. It includes participation from local communities, NGOs and private sector aiming for ecosystem resilience and sustainable restoration.



Celebrating a Milestone: The Power of Collaboration - Nusa Penida MPA Designated as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas



The Nusa Penida Marine Protected Area (MPA) reached a significant milestone in marine conservation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) officially designating it, along with Gili Matra MPA, as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) during the 82nd session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee. This marks as Indonesia's first PSSA designation, the second in Asia, and the 19th globally. The designation recognizes the unique ecological and socio-economic importance of these waters.

This achievement follows years of collaboration led by Indonesia's Ministry of Transportation's Directorate General of Sea Transportation, with support from the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, and the Sepuluh Nopember Institut of Technology. CTC contributed crucial data, reports, and insights on biodiversity and socio-economic conditions, alongside hosting discussions to strengthen the effort.

The PSSA designation is vital due to the high shipping traffic in the Lombok Strait, a maritime route near the PSSA, with over 77,000 annual ship transits, including tankers and container ships carrying chemicals and oil. This poses a threat of maritime pollution and accidents, underlining the need for protective measures. Indonesia's success in securing the PSSA designation strengthens its commitment to marine conservation and sets the stage for additional PSSA designations in 11 other conservation areas along the Indonesian Archipelagic Sea Lanes. This achievement is a testament to the power of collaboration in safeguarding marine ecosystems for future generations.



Immersive Hubs for Training in Marine Tourism and Conservation



CTC continues to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building at its MPA learning sites. In March, CTC hosted Wageningen University's INREEF program for a workshop and field exchange at the Nusa Penida MPA, Bali. Participants, including students and local stakeholders, engaged in water quality monitoring, biophysical assessments, and discussions on tourism impacts and governance. The exchange concluded with a symposium where CTC experts shared lessons on balancing conservation with sustainable tourism. The INREEF program, running until 2027, examines tourism, climate change, and fishing impacts on MPAs, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration.

In June, CTC hosted a field learning visit for US Senator Christopher A. Coons, USAID officials, and local conservation groups at Nusa Penida. The visit featured coral restoration using the Mars Assisted Reef Restoration System (MARRS) method, mangrove ecosystem exploration, and discussions with community organizations on sustainable resource management. These initiatives highlight CTC's role in supporting research, fostering global partnerships, and empowering local communities to strengthen marine conservation.



Strengthening Atauro Island MPA Governance



CTC is enhancing marine conservation in Timor-Leste by improving management and awareness of the Atauro Island Marine Protected Area (MPA). Through governance initiatives, training, and community engagement, CTC collaborates with local partners to ensure long-term sustainability.

From June 26-28, 2024, CTC, alongside the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry (MALFF) of Timor-Leste, the Roman Luan Foundation, and local authorities, conducted a workshop to strengthen MPA management. The training focused on patrol governance, Reef Health Monitoring, and Resource Utilization Monitoring. Participants, including government officials and community leaders, learned GPS use, fisher interviews, and patrol strategies to enhance monitoring efforts.

CTC's "Diskusaun Konservasaun" outreach series (November-December 2024) engaged youth and local stakeholders in marine conservation discussions on sea turtle conservation, ethical wildlife photography, and whale tourism. On November 26, 2024, CTC and the Atauro MPA management team installed educational signboards in Beloí and Vila to raise awareness of MPA regulations.

Atauro Island's waters host diverse marine species, including dugongs, turtles, and whales, essential for local fisheries and tourism. Since 2013, CTC has supported the Atauro Island MPA, officially recognized through a Ministerial Decree. By establishing monitoring protocols and fostering community participation, CTC ensures the MPA remains a resilient marine sanctuary, protecting biodiversity while sustaining local livelihoods.



Boundary Marker to Strengthen Marine Protection in Samba Sembilan Liqueiçá MPA



Building on its commitment to marine conservation in Timor-Leste, CTC is enhancing the management of the Samba Sembilan Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Liqueiçá. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry (MALFF), the local government, and community partners, CTC successfully deployed zoning boundary markers in the MPA on October 9, 2024. This milestone enhances marine protection by establishing a clearer framework for sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation.

Declared in 2023 and spanning over 8,000 hectares, the Samba Sembilan MPA includes four designated zones: the core zone, marine tourism zone, sustainable fisheries zone, and utilization zone. These zones help balance conservation with local livelihoods, ensuring marine resources are used responsibly.

The deployment of eight zoning markers within the MPA plays a crucial role in reinforcing these management efforts by providing clear spatial boundaries for different activities. On November 22, 2024, a ceremonial launch of the zoning markers was held to raise public awareness of the MPA's zoning system and its importance in protecting marine biodiversity. Community members, local officials, and conservation partners attended, underscoring the shared commitment to preserving Timor-Leste's marine ecosystems.



This initiative builds on CTC's broader support for MPA management in Timor-Leste, including previous zoning marker deployments in the Atauro Island MPA. By strengthening governance and marine resource protection, CTC and its partners are ensuring that Liqueiçá's marine ecosystems remain resilient and productive for future generations.

BUILDING CAPACITY IN MARINE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

CTC Strengthens Capacity of Indonesia's Women Network for Fisheries & Marine Conservation

CTC hosted a workshop in Bali for women leaders in fisheries and marine conservation. Thirty-seven women from Indonesia's Women's Network for Fisheries and Marine Conservation, including fishers, Marine Affairs and Fisheries Agency staff, and other stakeholders from regions like Lampung, Central Java, and Bali, attended. The event, coinciding with Kartini Day, was held at CTC's Sanur office and featured sessions in Nusa Penida, with snorkeling and marine environment exploration. Kartini Day is celebrated annually on April 21 in honor of Raden Ajeng Kartini, a pioneer of indigenous women's rights and Indonesia's first feminist.



The workshop covered six key topics: broadening horizons, leadership development, business skills, marine conservation, knowledge sharing, and documentation. Participants were enthusiastic about learning and sharing their experiences. Participants expressed their excitement about what they learned, their plans, and their hopes for the program. Sharing experiences also helped the women recognize the (untapped) potential that exists in their home villages.



Dr. Hesti Widodo of CTC emphasized the crucial role of women in the fisheries sector, highlighting their significant contributions to family businesses and household income. Gertruda Melsina Hehanusa, Head of BPSPL Denpasar, praised the participants as modern-day Kartinis, underscoring their vital role in marine conservation.



Women constitute about 42% of Indonesia's fisheries sector, often driving local economic activities but facing challenges in resource management and policymaking. Rili Djohani, CTC Executive Director, stressed the importance of empowering women to take leadership roles and to influence higher-level policy decisions. Lily Apriliya Pregiwati from the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries highlighted the events' role in creating more opportunities for women in the sector.



Ardini

Alumni of CTC's Leadership Program in Blue Swimming Crab Fisheries in Lampung

It's very joyful, as fishers (housewives), through participating in the CTC training program, we have learned the many ways we can protect the environment. We live in the coastal area, and now we have learned and better understand how to protect marine environment.

Equipping Local Conservation Leaders to Safeguard Karimata Islands' Marine Nature Reserve



In collaboration with Yayasan Planet Indonesia (YPI), CTC has been actively strengthening marine protected area (MPA) management at the Karimata Islands Marine Nature Reserve in West Kalimantan. Through a series of targeted training sessions in 2024, CTC provided critical knowledge and skills to conservation practitioners, enhancing the reserve's long-term sustainability.

In October, the training continued in Pontianak focusing on two themes: socio economic monitoring and live hard coral cover monitoring, including data preparation, collection, and report writing. Building on this foundation, CTC and YPI conducted advanced training and a competency assessment from November 18-22, finalizing the capacity-building program. Seventeen participants took part in classroom sessions, a field trip to Nusa Lembongan to explore restoration techniques and ecotourism, and an assessment covering both fundamental and expert-level conservation management.



The initiative began with an introductory training from July to August in Pontianak, focusing on six core MPA principles, including ecosystem ecology, fisheries management, and conservation education. Sixteen participants from the Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) and YPI engaged in hands-on learning, covering biophysical monitoring and socioeconomic considerations for sustainable MPA management.

CTC's capacity-building efforts are equipping local conservation leaders with the tools needed to safeguard Karimata's rich marine biodiversity, which includes endangered species such as dugongs and sea turtles. By fostering regional expertise and collaboration, this initiative supports the long-term effectiveness of MPA management, benefiting both ecosystems and coastal communities.



Yoga Budihandoko

Forest Ecosystem Controller, Natural Resource Conservation Center of West Kalimantan

CTC and its trainers deliver training that is engaging, relaxed, and far from monotonous. The sessions are professionally packaged, visually appealing, and encourage active participation making the learning experience both enjoyable and meaningful.

Building Financial Self-Sufficiency for MPAs in Indonesia



This year, CTC played a critical role in assessing and enhancing capacity for Marine Protected Area (MPA) management in Indonesia. As part of the USAID Kolektif Project, CTC conducted a Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) in West Kalimantan from May 20-22, 2024, evaluating MPA management personnel and institutions to inform a five-year capacity-building program. The assessment engaged 34 participants from five districts, universities, NGOs, fisheries officers, and local communities. Key priorities identified included surveillance and monitoring, management planning, socio-economic monitoring, human resource development, and community awareness. The Head of the West Kalimantan Fisheries Department emphasized the importance of strengthening marine conservation for economic development and community welfare.

Continuing its assessment efforts, CTC organized CNA workshops in Maluku and Bali on August 26 and 28, 2024, to support the Government of Indonesia's Marine Protected Area Vision 2045. These workshops aimed to align MPA management with Indonesia's target of conserving 30% of its marine areas, including Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM). The Ambon workshop, attended by 17 participants from the Maluku MPA Management Unit, focused on expanding conservation areas, integrating OECMs, and establishing a Local Public Service Agency (BLUD) for financial self-sufficiency. In Bali, nine participants discussed improving existing MPA management, integrating traditional laws, and promoting marine tourism as a sustainable conservation approach.

These assessments are crucial for identifying training needs, guiding future capacity-building initiatives, and addressing challenges such as limited resources and unpredictable funding. By equipping MPA managers with the necessary skills, CTC is ensuring effective marine conservation, supporting Indonesia's 30x30 goal, and fostering long-term sustainability for marine biodiversity and local communities.



Stakeholder Engagement Ensures Improved Sustainable Fisheries Management



CTC continues to play a key role in advancing sustainable fisheries in Indonesia by building capacity among fisheries managers and stakeholders. In May 2024, CTC collaborated with the Central Java Fisheries Office (DKP) and the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership to enhance policy communication and conflict management within the Blue Swimming Crab (BSC) sector. The training, attended by 27 members of the BSC Committee and Fisheries Extension Officers, focused on policy dissemination, stakeholder engagement, and conflict resolution, using real-world case studies such as Government Regulation Number 11 of 2023 on Measured Fishing. Participants reported increased understanding and effectiveness in communicating regulations to small-scale fishers. This initiative supports the implementation of the 2023-2028 BSC Management Action Plan, ensuring that fishers have a voice in policy decisions and sustainable resource management.

Furthering its commitment to fisheries governance, CTC served as a trainer in a four-day Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management training in Ambon, Maluku, from September 24 to 28, 2024. The training, organized by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, focused on strengthening fisheries management in Fisheries Management Areas. A total of 34 participants, including representatives from Pattimura University and the Maluku Fisheries Office, were trained in fish resource identification, data collection, stakeholder engagement, and action plan development. The training materials, co-developed by CTC, will soon be available online via the CTC Academy website to expand accessibility.

By equipping fisheries managers with essential skills, CTC is reinforcing sustainable fisheries governance and supporting Indonesia's long-term fisheries sustainability goals.



CTC Achieves A Milestone with New Office in Timor-Leste



CTC marked a major milestone on May 27, 2024, with the launch of its first field office outside Indonesia, located in Dili, Timor-Leste. This office underscores CTC's long-term commitment to marine biodiversity conservation in the country. The launch event was attended by Timor-Leste Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry, Marcos da Cruz, alongside over 40 representatives from partner organizations and media.



During the event, CTC renewed its cooperation agreement with Roman Luan, a local NGO managing the Atauro Island Marine Protected Area (MPA). Marcelo Belo Soares, Roman Luan's director, emphasized that their partnership will focus on MPA management, capacity building, and biodiversity preservation in Atauro.

CTC Executive Director Rili Djohani highlighted that CTC's office in Dili represents the organization's clear mission to support Timor-Leste in establishing MPAs and strengthening local capacity. Since 2013, CTC has worked with the Timor-Leste government to enhance marine resource management, supporting MPAs such as Atauro Island, Samba Sembilan Liquica, and Manufahi, while improving the effectiveness of Nino Konis Santana National Park.



CTC's efforts align with Timor-Leste's global commitment to protect 30% of its ocean by 2030. "The office launching and employing local staff will strengthen CTC's operation and program implementation acceleration in Timor-Leste," said CTC's Lead Program Advisor for Timor-Leste, Marthen Welly. The new office aims to solidify CTC's presence and further strengthen marine conservation in the country for years to come.



Hon. Marcos da Cruz

Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry, Timor-Leste

It's necessary to work together with non-government organizations and the Ministry of Agriculture to protect our ocean because we know our sea has a lot of biodiversity. We are rich in marine resources that we can explore to produce food from fish resources and to develop as a place for tourists.

PARTNERSHIPS AND LEARNING NETWORKS

CTC Highlights Key Insights to Strengthen Partnerships in the Coral Triangle



On December 1-6, 2024, leaders from the six Coral Triangle nations convened in Dili, Timor-Leste, for the 19th Senior Officials' Meeting and 9th Ministerial Meeting of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF). A key milestone was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CTI-CFF and the CTC, reinforcing collaboration on marine protected area (MPA) management, seascape approaches, capacity-building, and community empowerment. CTC Executive Director Rili Djohani reaffirmed CTC's commitment to sustainable fisheries and gender-inclusive conservation efforts.

Earlier in the year, CTC participated in various events in support of the CTI-CFF's Regional Plan of Action 2.0. In October, CTC participated in the 10th MPA Technical Regional Exchange in Manado, alongside key partners such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and Konservasi Indonesia. Discussions focused on strengthening MPA effectiveness, financing, and data management, as well as advancing the 30x30 target to protect 30% of marine areas by 2030. The following month, CTC hosted a partners meeting in Bali to accelerate the implementation of activities under the CTI-CFF Capacity Building Roadmap.



In September, CTC also co-organized a side event at the 8th International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Regional Conservation Forum in Bangkok, Thailand, focusing on partnerships to enhance capacity in marine conservation across the Coral Triangle. The event emphasized skills development in marine protected areas fisheries management, and marine spatial planning to support the region's role in global conservation goals, including protecting 30% of the world's oceans by 2030. Experts highlighted initiatives such as the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action 2021-2030, the GIZ SOMACORE project, and the IUCN Green List Standard, along with innovative financing mechanisms like Indonesia's Coral Bond initiative. Discussions underscored the importance of interdisciplinary skills, regional cooperation, and knowledge-sharing platforms such as IUCN Panorama to enhance conservation impact in the Coral Triangle.



CTC joined the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat when it celebrated its 15th anniversary, marking progress in sustainable fisheries and marine conservation since its 2009 inception. CTC engaged with donors and partners, emphasizing the importance of international collaboration in achieving CTI-CFF's long-term goals. Additionally, CTC continues to Chair the CTI-CFF Women Leaders Forum. On June 5, 2024, CTC joined a CTI-CFF seminar in Manado as part of Coral Triangle Day, focusing on empowering women in fisheries. The event, attended by 150 participants, highlighted gender inclusion and the Blue Economy.

CTC also collaborated with the Pacific Forum to host learning exchanges Bali on Cross-Border Cooperation on Women, Peace & Security (WPS) and Maritime Environmental Crimes, supported by the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. The event gathered defense experts and civil society stakeholders from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste to address gender disparities in the male-dominated maritime sector and develop gender-responsive policies against illegal fishing, wildlife trafficking, and pollution. A second workshop, focused on integrating gender perspectives into disaster preparedness and climate security, producing a Gendered Risk Assessment Tool and a Health Index to improve inclusive disaster response. Both workshops underscored the need for collaboration between civil society and defense sectors to advance gender-sensitive environmental and disaster management policies.

CTC Strengthens Collaboration with Mission Blue - Safeguarding Vital Ecosystems



In June, the Mission Blue Hope Spots Manager Shannon Rake, visited the Nusa Penida Marine Protected Area (MPA) to observe and participate in conservation efforts by CTC and the Hope Spots Mission Blue Program. Declared a Hope Spot in 2020, Nusa Penida MPA is home to nearly 300 coral species and over 500 reef fish species, including two vulnerable manta species.

Local Balinese residents, integral to the MPA's planning and management, actively engage in reef and mangrove restoration, honoring their cultural ties to the ocean. During her visit, Shannon participated in various conservation activities. She also participated in coral restoration activities, learned about Balinese conservation observed seaweed farming, and learned about sustainable product initiatives. She spent the last two days diving at Manta Point and Crystal Bay, witnessing the positive impact of CTC's coral restoration methods. Through the Mission Blue Hope Spots Program, CTC and its partners conduct surveillance, promote marine tourism codes of conduct, and empower local communities in awareness campaigns and plastic waste management. These collaborative efforts aim to protect Nusa Penida's marine biodiversity and enhance its environmental resilience.

Forging Partnership the Ministry of Villages, Development and Disadvantaged Regions Visit CTC

In the fourth quarter of the year, CTC hosted high-level officials from the Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration (Kemendes PDTT) at our Center for Marine Conservation in Sanur, Bali, to discuss climate resilience efforts for rural communities, particularly those in coastal areas. This visit followed a recent regulation encouraging the use of village funds for climate resilience programs, aiming to strengthen disaster preparedness and environmental conservation.

The Ministry's Secretary-General Taufik Madjid highlighted CTC's coastal conservation efforts as key to disaster mitigation and boosting climate resilience. He praised CTC's work involving local communities and expressed interest in further collaboration to enhance local capacities for disaster preparedness. CTC, dedicated to preserving marine biodiversity in the Coral Triangle, has led numerous initiatives to support climate resilience in coastal communities. These include mangrove restoration, coral restoration, waste management, seaweed processing, and other capacity building efforts for women and fishermen living in coastal areas.

The visit, attended by key officials from Kemendes PDTT, the Ministry of Finance, and the World Bank and CTC Board Member Suseno Sukuyono, aimed to strengthen collaboration and promote preventive measures to enhance the disaster resilience of rural communities, particularly in coastal areas.



Prof. Dr. Ir. Jamaluddin Jompa
CTC Scientific Advisory Board Member

I have a big hope that CTC can empower the provincial government to step in, to really run these marine protected areas. Not only as a formality to have on the map, but to ensure that effective management is in place, so the community can benefit from this better, healthy, marine protected area. I think CTC can provide technical support and also encourage the other stakeholders.

Advancing Marine Conservation in Indonesia: Protecting 30% of its Oceans by 2045

Indonesia has taken significant steps toward protecting 10% of its ocean and 30% of its marine areas by 2045 through collaborative conservation initiatives.

On January 29-30, 2024, a consortium of NGOs -CTC, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Indonesia, Rare, Yayasan Pesisir Lestari (YPL), Rekam, and Konservasi Indonesia - launched the "Advancing Equitable, Effective Protection of Marine and Coastal Areas in Indonesia" Project. This five-year initiative, supported by Ocean 5 and the Packard Foundation, aligns with Indonesia's 30x45 conservation target and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework where CTC plays a key role in integrating marine protection planning, capacity-building in supporting Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in Indonesia.

On March 27, 2024, CTC provided technical inputs in the National Workshop on OECM Guidelines in Jakarta. Organized by Rare and YPL, the workshop brought together government agencies and conservation organizations to define criteria and map potential OECM sites. With Indonesia aiming to conserve 97.5 million hectares of marine areas by 2045, the workshop marked an essential step in integrating OECMs into national conservation strategies.



CTC is also playing a key role advancing Indonesia's MPA goal through capacity-building initiatives. From July 9-11, 2024, CTC trained 31 government officials, civil society organizations (CSOs), and community surveillance groups in Maluku Province in MPA management, covering fish ecology, conservation planning, and marine resource monitoring. A fishing simulation game demonstrated the impacts of unregulated fishing, reinforcing sustainable practices. On July 12, CTC facilitated a Maluku CSO meeting, bringing together 29 participants to discuss strategies for conservation and the role of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs). These efforts strengthen local networks, empower communities, and enhance sustainable marine governance, supporting Indonesia's 30 x 2045 vision.

A major milestone followed on September 18, 2024, with the establishment of the Marine Protected Areas Co-Management Committee during the MPA National Coordination Forum Workshop in Jakarta. Led by CTC and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), the committee unites NGOs, government bodies, and conservation experts to oversee Indonesia's MPA and OECM vision. A roadmap for its legal framework is expected by the end of 2024. These efforts underscore Indonesia's commitment to marine biodiversity conservation, sustainable fisheries, and global leadership in ocean protection.

Empowering the Dive Industry Towards Sustainable Marine Tourism in Indonesia

As the National Coordinator for Green Fins Indonesia, CTC is strengthening sustainable marine tourism by assessing and supporting environmentally responsible dive operators. In early 2024, CTC conducted annual assessments of two Green Fins-certified operators in Bali. Ceningan Divers maintained its Gold-level status and secured a spot in the Green Fins' Top 10 Global Operators for the second time, while Purple Dive Penida advanced from Bronze to Silver, demonstrating significant improvements. These assessments included sustainability training and action plan reviews to enhance responsible diving practices.



By the end of 2024, CTC had assessed 43 dive operators across Bali, East Nusa Tenggara (INTT), and Maluku, expanding Green Fins' reach. In September, CTC also evaluated six operators in Komodo National Park, all of whom showed improvements in reducing plastic waste and following responsible diving guidelines. Green Fins now has 21 certified members in Indonesia, including four Gold Members recognized for their leadership in sustainable tourism. This year, CTC and The Reef-World Foundation also engaged with key national stakeholders, including the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, to integrate Green Fins' sustainability principles into Indonesia's tourism policies. These discussions set the stage for the National Workshop on Green Fins in 2025, which will further align national strategies with sustainable marine tourism goals. Through Green Fins, CTC is leading efforts to promote eco-friendly tourism, ensuring that Indonesia's dive industry protects coral reefs while supporting local economies. These initiatives are crucial for maintaining the country's marine biodiversity and positioning Indonesia as a global leader in sustainable tourism.

Province-Level Peer Learning Exchanges to Catalyze Improved Marine Management



Peer learning exchanges are critical for enhancing marine conservation efforts at the provincial level. In March 2024, CTC in collaboration with the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, hosted a strategic learning exchange in Ambon, Maluku. The event gathered 36 participants from 13 Maluku-based Ocean Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to identify challenges and solutions for strengthening local conservation efforts. Discussions focused on key issues such as funding access, networking optimization, and improving CSO credibility. Participants agreed to advance the "Rumah Beta Belajar" platform and establish physical learning hubs to enhance knowledge-sharing and build organizational resilience.

Similarly, from November 28-30, 2024, CTC facilitated a knowledge exchange between Bali and West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) to strengthen Marine Protected Area (MPA) management. The event focused on Bali's experience in establishing Public Service Agencies (BLUDs) for marine conservation, a model that enables sustainable financial management and governance of MPAs. Key stakeholders, including government officials and conservation organizations, discussed best practices for developing BLUDs in NTB and explored the possibility of creating a separate management entity for Nusa Penida. The delegation also visited the Gita Nada MPA in West Lombok, a successful example of BLUD management in action.

These exchanges underscored the importance of collaboration and localized solutions in achieving Indonesia's marine protection targets. By facilitating knowledge-sharing between provincial governments, CSOs, and conservation partners, CTC is ensuring that regional initiatives contribute effectively to national and global marine conservation goals. Strengthening governance, improving financial sustainability, and fostering partnerships at the provincial level will be key to achieving long-term marine conservation success across Indonesia.

Cultural Approaches to Coral Conservation Showcased at the International Conference on Sustainable Coral Reefs



CTC highlighted the critical role of cultural heritage and local wisdom in coral reef conservation during its side event, "Global and Local Culture, Capacity Building for Coral Issues", held on December 14, 2024, at the International Conference on Sustainable Coral Reefs in Manado, Indonesia. The event gathered over 70 participants and 30 schoolchildren to discuss the integration of traditional practices and modern conservation efforts in the Coral Triangle, the world's most biodiverse marine region.

CTC Executive Director Rili Djohani opened the discussion, emphasizing, "By weaving traditional wisdom with modern conservation efforts, we can protect coral reefs more effectively." Experts shared insights on successful cultural conservation models, including Sasi in Maluku, presented by BRIN Senior Researcher Dr. Regina Melianawati Sudjono, and Tara Bandu in Timor-Leste, highlighted by Walter Oliveira Soares.

Program Manager Evelyn Deguit from the Philippines and WWF Malaysia's Choo Poh Leem showcased community-driven conservation in Central Visayas and Sabah, respectively. Sea Women of Melanesia Coordinator, Jacintha Jonathan underscored the vital role of women in coral reef protection in Papua New Guinea.

Indonesian leaders, including Muhammad Saleh Goro (Alor MPA) and Syafri (Raja Ampat MPA), shared community-led reef management successes. M. Imran Amin (YKAN) discussed cultural education efforts under the USAID Kolektif Project, while Sandra Tjan and conservationists Purwanto and Noni Tuharea presented initiatives like the Kalesang Dugong Project in Maluku.



The event concluded with youth engagement activities, including a puppet show, fun learning games and storytelling blending traditional art with marine conservation. CTC Senior Program Manager Dr. Hesti Widodo reinforced the importance of cultural heritage, stating, "Local knowledge and traditions hold the keys to resilience." The side event underscored the need to integrate cultural wisdom into conservation strategies for a sustainable future.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

Seattle Aquarium's Ocean Conservation Honors to CTC's Executive Director



The Seattle Aquarium hosted its annual Ocean Honors Awards dinner on February 15, 2024, celebrating leaders in marine conservation. This year's recipients include CTC Executive Director and Co-founder Rili Djohani, who was awarded the prestigious Sylvia Earle Medal, and Christine Dudgeon, Ph.D., honored with the Conservation Research Award for her work on the ReShark Project.

Ms Djohani was recognized for her transformative work in community-based marine conservation over the past 30 years where she implemented sustainable conservation projects and conducted extensive outreach to foster empathy for ocean conservation. Djohani expressed gratitude for the recognition, emphasizing the importance of a holistic approach to conservation that balances environmental, social, and economic growth. She acknowledged the support of CTC's team, partners, and the Seattle Aquarium, aligning their missions to inspire ocean conservation.



The Seattle Aquarium, founded in 1977, is dedicated to regenerating ocean health through animal wellbeing, marine science, public policy, field conservation, education, and species recovery programs. These awards reflect the Aquarium's mission to inspire marine conservation globally.



Bob Davidson
CEO, Seattle Aquarium

Under her [Rili Djohani] leadership in Indonesia and throughout the Coral Triangle region for the past 30 years, her work to co-create and implement community-centered marine protected areas has transformed the future of ecosystems and communities. The diversity of life is not only reflected in our one world ocean, but by the people helping to save it. The Coral Triangle Center and the Seattle Aquarium both inspire the awe and urgency of ocean conservation.

CTC's Webinars and Podcasts Spread the Message on Ocean Conservation



CTC partnered with several organizations to deliver webinars via online platforms such as YouTube and Zoom. The webinars covered various topics reaching around 1,000 people in Indonesia and internationally, who learned about CTC's conservation programs. Below are short summaries of the webinars and their recorded versions.

Seattle Aquarium Lighting Talks: Experience the Coral Triangle
Lighting Talks is a monthly webinar by Seattle Aquarium where ocean scientists share their knowledge with the public. This edition, titled 'Experience the Coral Triangle,' featured two CTC members discussing iconic species in Lease Islands MPA and Nusa Penida MPA.

Green Fins for Sustainable Diving Industry and Resilient Marine Environment in Indonesia

This webinar introduced how Green Fins promotes sustainable diving practices and protects our oceans! Dive into the latest updates and discover how operators can join the movement. Featuring keynote speakers Emma Levy from The Reef-World Foundation and Marthen Welly from CTC.



World Dugong Day: Exploring the Latest Technologies for Dugong Conservation in Indonesia

In commemoration of World Dugong Day, CTC with partners held a webinar titled "Exploring the Latest Technologies for Dugong Conservation in Indonesia". Featuring the speakers from CTC, YAPEKA Indonesia and Tamang Dugong.

Tradisi Sasi dan Peran Perempuan Banda dalam Pengelolaan Sumber Daya Laut

In celebration of World Ocean Day and Coral Triangle Day, CTC and partners held a webinar about gender and cultural dimensions of sasi and its role in conserving the Banda Islands' unique marine biodiversity, featuring speakers from CTC, University of Banda Neira and Photovoices International.

CTC collaborated with the Bali Ocean Days organizers Darmawan and Associates to host a Podcast series aimed to promote ocean conservation and sustainability through a series of episodes featuring notable ocean advocates from Bali. The podcast is a follow-up to the annual Bali Ocean Days conference, which focuses on environmental sustainability.



The podcasts which were recorded at CTC's Center for Marine Conservation ran from May to November 2024 on the CTC and Bali Ocean Days YouTube channels, and highlighted various ocean conservation efforts. It featured ocean champions based in Bali such as Green School students, Plastic Angels, Bali Ecotourism Hub, the Grand Blue Project, and WWF Indonesia. The series aimed to increase awareness of Bali's challenges with poverty and plastic pollution, and CTC's involvement underscores its commitment to fostering a sustainable Blue Economy.



Rolex's Global Perpetual Planet Initiative Features CTC's Conservation Efforts in the Nusa Penida Marine Protected Area



CTC was proud to be featured in the "ROLEX Perpetual Planet Initiative" campaign alongside Mission Blue for its critical contributions to marine conservation in the Nusa Penida Marine Protected Area this year. This recognition highlights CTC's efforts toward protecting 30% of the world's oceans by 2030, as part of a global push to safeguard marine ecosystems.



The feature included CTC Executive Director Rili Djohani, CTC's dedicated team - Bali Portfolio Manager Wira Sanjaya, Nusa Penida Project leader Evi Ihsan and Nusa Penida field officer Tabith Rudang - alongside local partners for their continuous work in preserving the biodiversity of the Nusa Penida MPA. Through community engagement and sustainable marine practices, CTC continues to protect vital habitats, ensuring that these ecosystems thrive for future generations.



CTC's collaboration with the Rolex Perpetual Planet Initiative is part of a broader global movement showcasing inspirational conservation work across platforms such as the Rolex website and in prominent publications - National Geographic, The Singapore Straits Times, and Forbes Indonesia, among others. Additionally, our contribution is being recognized on social media and through documentary-style content that highlights the importance of marine protected areas like Nusa Penida in maintaining ocean health.



This exposure provides a great opportunity to engage a wider audience in marine conservation efforts, empowering local communities and fostering partnerships for a sustainable ocean future. CTC is honored to be part of this global effort and are inspired by the shared goal of protecting our planet's oceans for generations to come.



Engaging Local Communities to Raise Awareness on Plastic Pollution



CTC reinforced its commitment to marine conservation by organizing and participating in beach and river cleanups for World Ocean Day and Earth Day, engaging local communities in Timor-Leste and Indonesia.

For World Ocean Day, CTC joined two major beach cleanup events in Timor-Leste, collaborating with Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL), the Association of Fisheries and Marine Timor-Leste, and youth groups. The first cleanup, held at B.J. Habibie Beach and Cristo Rei, involved over 200 students, volunteers, and divers who removed waste from beaches and underwater sites. Delio, an organizer from UNTL, highlighted the importance of raising awareness to combat marine pollution.

A second cleanup at Tasi-tolu and Dili Rock Beach saw volunteers collecting and properly disposing of significant amounts of waste, preventing further damage to marine ecosystems. A participant emphasized the need for more such activities to engage the community in protecting Timor-Leste's biodiversity. Since 2012, CTC has worked with local stakeholders to strengthen marine protected areas and conservation efforts, with these cleanups furthering their mission of environmental stewardship.

For Earth Day, CTC partnered with the Toma Majo Lease Foundation for a river cleanup in Haria Village, Lease Islands, under the theme Planet vs Plastics. Twenty-four participants removed 100 kg of plastic waste from the Naro River, a vital community resource, with collected waste processed through a village waste bank. Nurul Watiheluw of the Toma Majo Lease Foundation stressed that environmental protection should be a daily effort, not just an annual event.

These initiatives reflect CTC's ongoing efforts to safeguard marine ecosystems through hands-on conservation, community engagement, and sustainable waste management, ensuring a cleaner and healthier future for the region's marine biodiversity.



CENTER FOR MARINE CONSERVATION

Promoting Ocean Literacy with Interactive Education with Cutting Edge Exploration

Enhancing ocean literacy is crucial for fostering future ocean advocates. CTC, in collaboration with OceanX, has been actively engaging students and communities to deepen their understanding of marine ecosystems through interactive learning experiences.

On August 24, 2024, CTC hosted a live-streamed event with OceanX, where students explored the cutting-edge research conducted aboard the OceanXplorer vessel. Students interacted with marine experts, learning about advanced research technologies, including mini-submarines and eDNA labs, which sparked curiosity about ocean exploration and conservation.



Earlier, on July 19, CTC staff and conservation partners visited the OceanXplorer at Benoa Port in Bali. Guided by the OceanX Education Team, participants explored the vessel's state-of-the-art labs and research facilities, gaining a firsthand look at marine exploration missions designed to inspire future conservationists.

CTC and OceanX also collaborated on ocean-themed activity books aimed at increasing ocean literacy among Indonesian school children. These efforts highlight the importance of early education in marine conservation, equipping young minds with the knowledge and inspiration needed to protect ocean ecosystems for future generations. By fostering curiosity and engagement, these initiatives strengthen the foundation for a more ocean-literate society committed to sustainable marine stewardship.



CTC's Coral Diving School Equips Students with Marine Specialty Knowledge

As part of CTC's efforts to expanding marine education through online and onsite courses, CTC's Coral Diving School equips students with essential marine biology and scientific diving skills.

The online courses, led by Marine Conservation Adviser Marthen Welly, cover Marine Ecology, Fish Identification, and Coral Identification. Students engaged actively, with 21 participants earning their certificates in 2024. Beyond online learning, the Coral Diving School offers practical training through Try Scuba, Basic Snorkeling, and Open Water Courses, conducted in partnership with SSI. Taught by expert marine conservationists, these programs not only provide valuable skills but also directly support CTC's marine conservation efforts in the Coral Triangle, one of the world's most biodiverse marine ecosystems.

Coral Diving School also completed its first Scientific Diving Course, designed to advance marine research skills. The participant built foundational knowledge through online classes before moving to hands-on training with CTC's expert team. They learned essential field data collection techniques, including the Manta Tow Methodology, Point Intercept Transect Protocol, Coral Data Analysis, and Underwater Visual Census Technique. By blending online education, hands-on training, and real-world application, CTC's Coral Diving School is shaping the next generation of marine conservationists, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to protect and study coral reef ecosystem.

Ocean Keeper Club Sessions Continue to Inspire School Children to Care for the Seas

CTC's youth education program Ocean Keeper Club (OKC) continues to inspire young ocean stewards in Bali and beyond. This interactive program engages children aged 9-12 in marine conservation through storytelling, hands-on activities, and educational games. Throughout the year, students from Sanur in Bali explored key marine ecosystems, including mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrass meadows. Sessions featured virtual tours, puppet storytelling, and interactive exhibits, deepening their understanding of ocean conservation. A sustainable fishing game taught responsible fishing practices, while the Journey of the Sea Turtle session highlighted the species' life cycle and threats like plastic pollution. Special sessions also reached orphaned children, ensuring broader community impact.



OKC's success was celebrated in a graduation ceremony, where students were recognized for completing all 12 sessions and teachers were honored for their dedication. For many students, OKC was a transformative experience. "I am very happy to learn more about the ocean. Through OKC, I have learned about many types of fish. I hope the ocean can be better protected so it becomes more beautiful," shared Kadek Dinda Kirana, an OKC participant.



OKC also held two out-of-town sessions with a mangrove fun learning class for children in the Nusa Penida Marine Protected Area as well as a coral and sustainable fishing session for children in Manado at the International Sustainable Coral Reef Symposium in December. Since its inception in 2022, OKC has reached over 1,200 children across Indonesia, nurturing a new generation of ocean protectors. "Our big dream is for children across Indonesia to join this program," said Henni Frlia, CTC's Education and Outreach Coordinator. Through engaging, hands-on learning, OKC continues to shape future conservation leaders, empowering them to protect marine ecosystems.



Ni Wayan Damiasih
Teacher, SDN 2 Sanur-Bali

The children were excited to be part of the Ocean Keeper Club. Through fun and interactive sessions, they learned from an early age how small actions can make a big difference for the health of our oceans. The enthusiasm was so high that some children were even disappointed when the registration was full and they couldn't join. It shows just how impactful and inspiring this program has been for them.

Adopt-a-Mangrove Program to Restore Nusa Penida MPA's Mangrove Ecosystems and Mitigate Climate Change



CTC launched its Adopt-a-Mangrove program, inviting the public to participate in restoring mangrove forests in Nusa Penida Marine Protected Area (MPA). Nusa Lembongan's mangrove forests, home to 13 species, provide crucial habitats, support local livelihoods, and protect shorelines from storm surges.



"Through the Adopt-a-Mangrove program, we aim to foster a sense of ownership, responsibility, and appreciation among local communities and visitors, highlighting the critical role mangroves play in maintaining biodiversity and mitigating climate change," said Wira Sanjaya, CTC Bali Portfolio Manager.



To strengthen conservation efforts, CTC has partnered with the local community group Gili Bhuana, signing an MoU to operate a mangrove nursery, provide educational opportunities, and engage the public in replanting initiatives. The program offers hands-on activities, including planting mangrove seedlings with children and community members. By engaging diverse stakeholders, Adopt-a-Mangrove aims to promote lasting support for mangrove conservation, helping mitigate climate change and restore Nusa Penida's coastal ecosystems.



CTC Hosts Global Marine Scientists at Pew Marine Conservation Fellows Annual Meeting

CTC proudly hosted the Pew Fellows Program in Marine Conservation 2024 in Bali, bringing together over 100 global scientists, conservation leaders, and marine experts. This prestigious event fostered collaboration, knowledge exchange, and discussions on the future of marine conservation. The program began with an introduction to Tri Hita Karana, a Balinese philosophy promoting harmony between people, nature, and the divine. Participants explored its application in the Nusa Penida Marine Protected Area (MPA), demonstrating how traditional wisdom can complement modern conservation efforts.



A key highlight was a roundtable discussion on rights-based approaches to ocean conservation. Experts emphasized the need to uphold local community rights while protecting marine ecosystems, reinforcing the link between social equity and sustainable conservation strategies. The event concluded with a tour of CTC's immersive exhibition, showcasing Indonesia's marine conservation efforts. Guests enjoyed a dinner with live jazz music, followed by a Wayang Samudra performance - an artistic tribute to ocean conservation that blended cultural storytelling with environmental advocacy. This gathering underscored the importance of integrating science, culture, and human rights in marine conservation, reinforcing CTC's commitment to fostering inclusive and sustainable ocean stewardship.

Stunning Marine Murals by Dutch Artist Anne van Borselen Transforms CTC's Entrance



At 87, the vibrant Dutch artist Anne van Borselen returned to Bali with her signature energy, volunteering once again at CTC. This time, Anne dedicated her talents to completing vivid images of marine animals on CTC's entrance fence. Anne, based in Amsterdam, is a frequent visitor to Bali and has roots in both Dutch and Indonesian art. Born in Surabaya in 1937, she comes from a family of artists. Her mother, Emiria Soenassa, was a renowned Indonesian painter, and her great-great-grandfather, J.W. van Borselen, was a celebrated landscape artist for King William III of the Netherlands.

Known for her vibrant, layered combination of colors and motifs, Anne works across various artistic mediums, bringing a distinctive freeform style to her art pieces. We had the pleasure of sitting down with her to discuss the inspirations behind her captivating artworks. In under four hours, Anne painted captivating depictions of a whale, turtle, and various fish, transforming the fence into a vibrant homage to marine life. Her work celebrates the beauty of Bali's ocean creatures, with more to come, including stunning renditions of a manta ray, dugong, and mola fish, set to further brighten the CTC's entrance.



Wayang Samudra Performances - Spreads the Ocean's Message to a Wider Audience



On April 24, CTC celebrated Earth Day in Bali with Wayang Samudra, a traditional shadow puppetry performance focused on marine conservation. Themed Special Corals, the event featured puppeteers and dancers using shadow projections against dynamic backgrounds to depict marine animals' struggles with plastic pollution. The performance, held at CTC's Center for Marine Conservation in Sanur, enhanced by traditional gamelan music and digital audio, raised awareness of plastic waste's impact on ocean ecosystems. The event drew media coverage from major outlets such as Antara and Detik, amplifying its message.

In June, CTC staged another Wayang Samudra performance at the Living World Denpasar Amphitheater for World Ocean Day. This show integrated traditional storytelling with contemporary environmental issues, illustrating marine creatures' challenges in a changing ocean. Interactive booths featured virtual reality dives, educational games, and marine conservation exhibits, deepening public engagement with ocean issues. More than 200 attendees participated, reinforcing the role of art in conservation awareness.

CTC's fusion of cultural expression and environmental advocacy strengthens community ties to marine conservation, fostering an informed and active public. The Earth Day and World Ocean Day events exemplify how traditional performances can drive meaningful dialogue and inspire collective action to protect marine life.



Anna van Borselen

Artist

"I've been painting my whole life maybe I was born to be a painter. Whenever I visit Bali or travel to countries like Spain, I always go to the sea and go snorkeling. The coral reefs are incredibly beautiful. I hope people who come to this space [the Center for Marine Conservation] will learn something and come to respect all of it."

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Update on CTC's Board of Members



In the first quarter of 2024, CTC's Finance and Administration Manager Mr. I Nengah Winiarta joined CTC's Board of Managers. Nengah, who has been with CTC since 2012, has more than 20 years of experience in Finance, Accounting and Human Resources, working with financial management systems, preparing financial reports and project budget management. A graduate of Udayana University, He brings to CTC his expertise in administration, finance, and human resources management.



In the fourth quarter of the year, CTC Board of Trustees and Founding Board Member Prof. Dr. Hasjim Djallal stepped down from his role after 14 years of service to CTC. Prof. Dr. Djallal is a renowned Indonesian diplomat and is an expert in international maritime law, he served as Chairman and President of the International Seabed Authority, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security, fostering regional cooperation to conserve vital marine biodiversity and fisheries resources in the Asia-Pacific region.

Developing CTC's 4th Five-Year Strategic Plan

CTC hosted its first-ever Scientific Advisory and Experts Meeting on April 3-4, 2024, to discuss coral reef health, socioeconomic monitoring, and blue carbon ecosystems. The goal was to gather expert insights to help shape CTC's programs as part of its 2025-2029 strategic plan.

Experts across various disciplines including ecology, biology, blue carbon, economics and social sciences attended the event. Notable attendees included Prof. Dr. Jamaluddin Jompa, Prof. Dr. Ir. Luky Adrianto, Dr. Suseno Sukoyono, Dr. Rodney Salm, Dr. Dedi S. Adhuri, Prof. Dr. Daniel Murdiyarso, Dr. Andreas A. Hutahaean, Prof. Dr. Pramaditya Wicaksono, Dr. Lisa Becking, Dr. Ria Fitriana, Dr. Benjamin Brown, and Dr. Dominic Bryant. The meeting featured presentations, panels, and small-group discussions, resulting in specific, actionable recommendations.



Additionally, key socioeconomic indicators were explored to integrate social science into ecological monitoring. The event's outcomes will shape CTC's upcoming strategic plan, guiding efforts in coral reef monitoring, blue carbon initiatives, and promoting inclusivity, equity, and diversity in marine conservation.

In the fourth quarter of the year, CTC engaged consultancy firm MDF to support the development of its strategic plan including the development of its theory of change, impact strategies in the next five years, grounded on a robust monitoring and evaluation assessment of its achievements in the last five years.

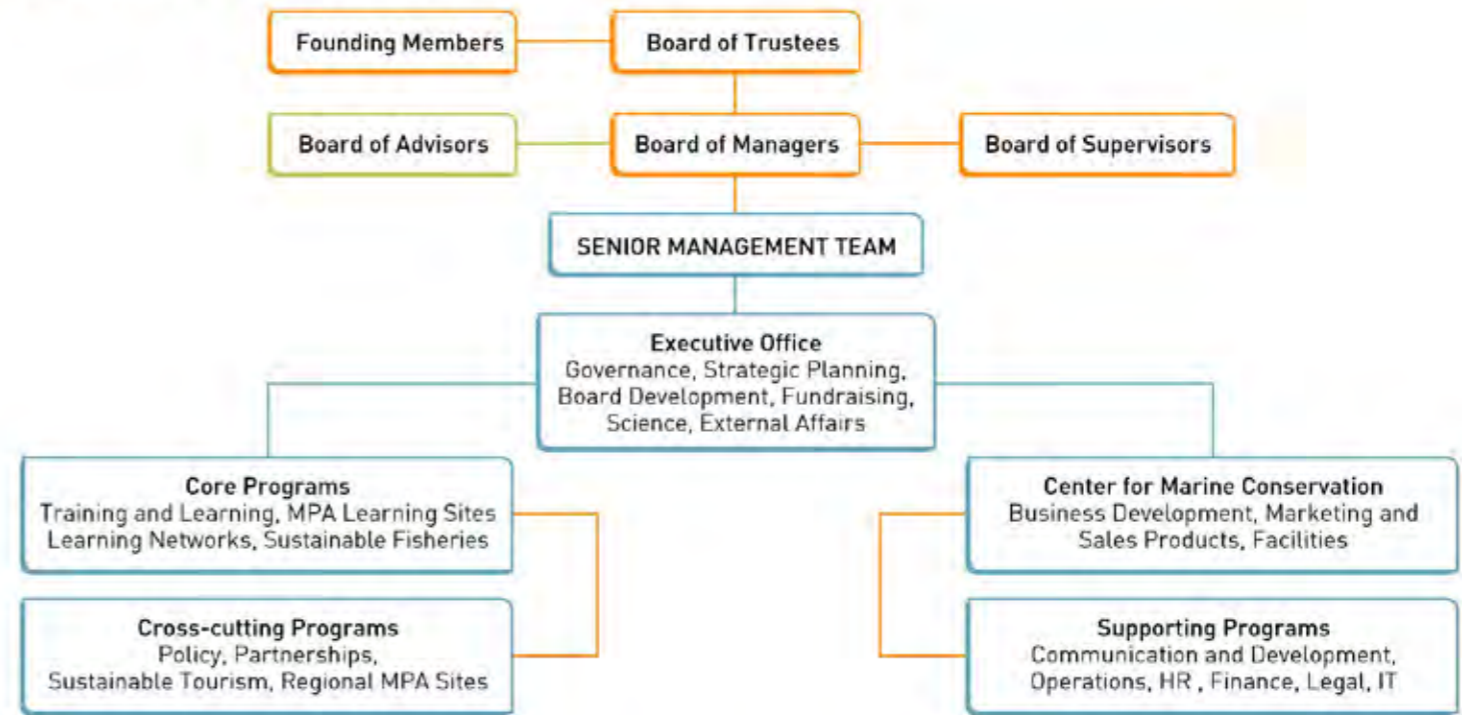


CTC sought expert feedback on expanding training, outreach, and field projects within Marine Protected Areas and Other Effective Conservation Measures, emphasizing a holistic, inclusive approach. Discussions also focused on improving coral reef health monitoring methodologies and ensuring data informs policy and management.

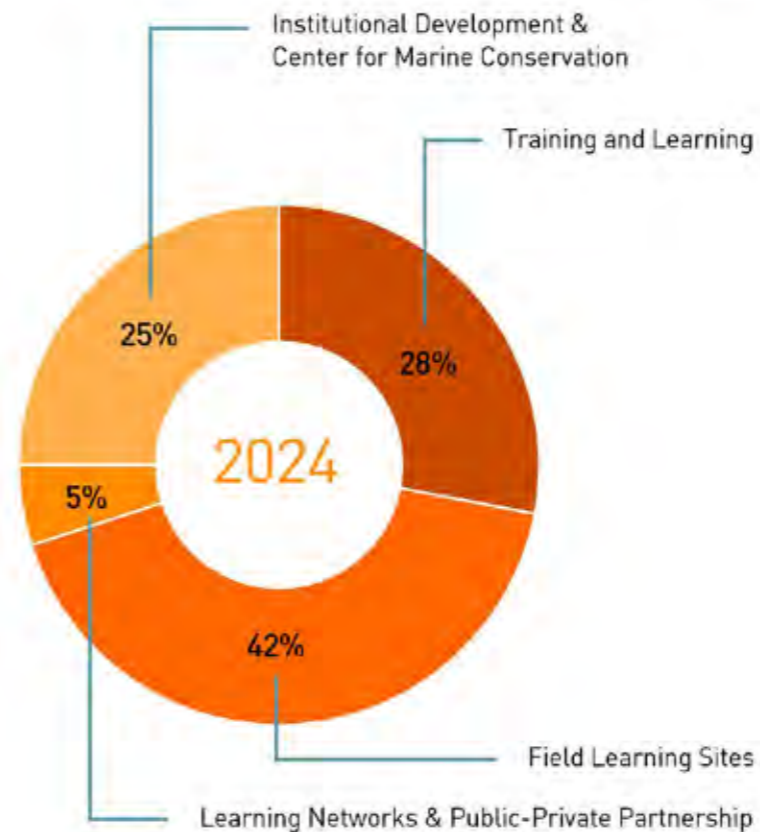


ORGANIZATION CHART & FINANCIAL SUMMARY

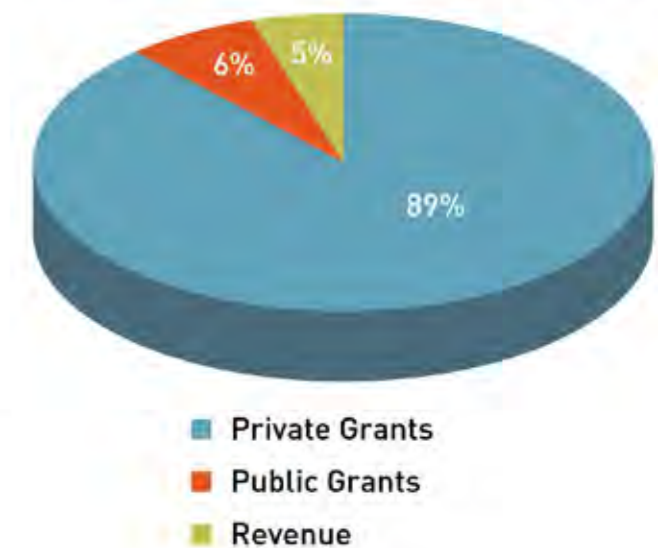
CTC ORGANIZATION CHART



CTC SPENDING ALLOCATION BY STRATEGY 2024



ACTUAL INCOME 2024



COLLABORATION

National Governments in the Asia Pacific Region

01. Coral Triangle Initiative for Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) Regional Secretariat and National Coordinating Committees
02. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Timor-Leste
03. Center for South China Studies of Ministry Foreign Affairs
04. Department of Marine Parks, Malaysia
05. Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of the Government of Indonesia

01. MMAF Human Resources & Community Development Agency (BPSDM-KP)
02. MMAF DG KP3K, Directorate KKJI
03. MMAF Directorate Marine Biodiversity Conservation Area (KKHL)*
04. MMAF Fisheries Training Center in Banyuwangi
05. MMAF Fisheries Training Center in Tegal
06. MMAF Fisheries Training Center in Ambon
07. MMAF BPSPL Denpasar
08. MMAF Balai Kawasan Konservasi Perairan Nasional (BKKN) Kupang
09. MMAF Pengawas Sumberdaya Kelautan Pos Banda

Provincial Governments and Agencies

01. Bali Provincial Government (Dinas Kelautan dan Perikanan)
02. NTT Provincial Government (Dewan Kawasan Konservasi Perairan Nasional - DKKPN)
03. Maluku Provincial Government (Bappeda and Dinas Kelautan dan Perikanan)
04. Klungkung District Government (Bupati, Bappeda, Dinas Peternakan- Perikanan dan Kelautan, Dinas Pariwisata)
05. Klungkung Regency Government (Pemerintah Klungkung)
06. Central Maluku District Government (District Planning and Marine-Fisheries Office)
07. Seram Timur District Government (Dinas Kelautan dan Perikanan)
08. Certification Institute for Marine Core Competencies - LSPK (Lembaga Sertifikasi Profesi Kelautan)
09. Pusat Pelatihan Mandiri Kelautan dan Perikanan (P2MKP)
10. Balai Teknologi Industri Kreatif Keramik IBBPT-BTIKK)
11. Balai Pengelolaan Hutan Mangrove Wilayah I

Non Government Organizations

01. International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
02. Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC)
03. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
04. The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
05. World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
06. Conservation International (CI)
07. RARE Conservation
08. Conservation Strategic Fund (CSF)
09. Pusat Pendidikan Lingkungan Hidup (PPLH) Bali
10. Yayasan Bahtera Nusantara - Bali
11. Yayasan Nusa Wisata, Nusa Penida
12. Friends of National Park Foundation - Nusa Penida
13. Yayasan Warisan Budaya Banda Naira - Kepulauan Banda
14. Aquatic Alliance Foundation
15. Yayasan Masyarakat dan Perikanan Indonesia (MDPI)
16. Mission Blue
17. Plastic Pollution Coalition
18. Reef World Foundation
19. Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)
20. Starling Resources
21. Oceanic Society
22. Lembaga Partisipasi Pembangunan Masyarakat (LPPM)
23. eL SiL Kie Raha
24. Yayasan Baileo
25. Role Foundation
26. Australian Volunteers International (AVI)
27. Studio Gelombang
28. Seattle Aquarium
29. Mars Sustainable Solutions

Academic Institutions

01. Australian Tropical Marine Alliance (ATMA)
02. Murdoch University - Australia
03. Georgia University - USA
04. Wageningen University - Netherlands
05. Western University of Australia
06. Victoria Shanghai Academy - Hongkong
07. Indonesian Institute for Science - LIPI
08. Institut Pertanian Bogor - IPB
09. Brawijaya University - UNIBRAW
10. Udayana University - UNUD
11. Hasanudin University - UNHAS
12. Diponegoro University - UNDIP
13. Pattimura University - UNPATTI
14. University Warmadewa in Bali
15. Sekolah Tinggi Perikanan - STP
16. Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha Singaraja - UNDIKSA
17. University of Khairun
18. Sekolah Tinggi Perikanan Hatta Syahrir
19. University of Darussalam

Private/Corporates/Agencies

01. World Ocean Council
02. Young Presidents Organization
03. National Geographic Society
04. Asian Geographic Magazines Pte Ltd
05. The Body Shop Indonesia
06. Jenggala
07. Grand Luley Resort
08. Kummara
09. GummyBox
10. OceanBellz
11. PADI
12. Hotels in Bali (Hard Rock Hotel Bali, Fairmont, Mercure, Sudamala, Prama, Sanur Paradise, Tanjung Sari)
13. Dive Operators Community Komodo (DOCK)
14. GAHAWISRI Bali
15. GAHAWISRI Maluku
16. Smiling Tours
17. Buffalo Tours
18. Tierra Mar
19. Sustainable Solutions
20. Studio JyG

Bali and Nusa Penida

01. Lembongan Marine Association
02. Nusa Lembongan World Diving
03. Lembongan Dive Center
04. Lembongan Dive Operator Association
05. Blue Corner Dive Center
06. Big Fish Dive Center
07. Two Fish Dive Center
08. Bali Hai Cruise
09. Crystal Dive Center
10. All4diving
11. Ena Dive Center Marine Adventures
12. LivingSeas
13. Bali Diving Academy
14. Ceningan Divers Resort
15. Reef Seen Resort

Maluku and North Maluku

01. Blue Motion Dive Center
02. Mahu Lodge
03. Pari Dive

Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

Bali & Nusa Penida

01. Satya Posana Nusa
02. Celagi Buana Putra
03. Majelis Alit
04. Forum Krama Muda
05. Mangrove Tour Jungut Batu
06. Forum Petani Rumput Laut
07. Forum Nelayan
08. Karang Taruna Sanur Kajah
09. Yayasan Pembangunan Sanur
10. Kelompok Nuansa Pulau

Banda

01. Kelompok Konservasi Masyarakat Pulau Ay
02. Kelompok Konservasi Masyarakat Pulau Rhun
03. Kelompok Konservasi Masyarakat Pulau Hatta
04. Kelompok Kreatif Anak Banda (KKAB)

Lease, Sula and Buano Islands

01. Moluccas Coastal Care (MCC)
02. Happy Green Islands (HGI)
03. Klasis Gereja Protestan Maluku
04. DPD Komite Nasional Pemuda Indonesia (KNPI)

Donors

01. SymAsia Foundation
02. Rainbow Foundation
03. David and Lucile Packard
04. Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
05. Walton Family Foundation
06. Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF)
07. Waterloo Foundation
08. National Geographic
09. Hard Rock Hotel Bali
10. USAID Sustainable Ecosystems Advanced (SEA) Project
11. USDOJ (United States Department of Interior)
12. Australian Government (Department of Environment & Energy)
13. AusAid (Australian Consulate-General Bali)
14. UN Environment Programme
15. Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Approach (ATSEA)
16. Bloomberg Philanthropies



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