



the Coral Triangle

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 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

Saving Turtles with Reef Balls

Reef balls deployment proves to reduce turtle deaths in Sarawak, Malaysia.

► [Full article](#)

PNA Nations Agreed to Cut Tuna Catch by 30%

An influential group of Pacific fishing nations has called for a near-30% cut in next year's tuna catch as concern about over-fishing increases.

► [Full article](#)

World Running Out of Places to Fish

Fisheries now cover a majority of the world's oceans, and there are very few areas remaining for further expansion by the fishing industry.

► [Full article](#)

Papua New Guinea Proposed Barring Foreign Fishing Ships

The National Fisheries Authority of PNG has boldly proposed barring foreign fishing ships from entering its Exclusive Economic Zone to protect its tuna reserves.

► [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, by catch, protected areas and climate change.

► [more at panda.org/coraltriangle](http://panda.org/coraltriangle)



Source: Coral Geographic (Veron *et al.*, unpublished data)

Looking Back at 2010



Courtesy of Tom Dillon / WWF-US

2010 was another great year, in which WWF focussed on mobilizing private sector action. With the Philippine government, we kicked off the year with the first ever Coral Triangle Business Summit. WWF made useful inroads into the fisheries sectors, specifically with seafood-producing, trading and processing companies and with sector associations such as the [Parties to the Naru Agreement](#) and the [International Seafood Sustainability Foundation](#).

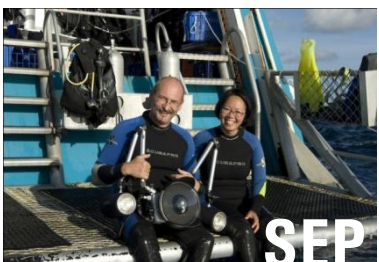
These relations came together at two newly created platforms. At the Fishers Forum in Bali, fishers discussed how to address by-catch. The Seafood Savers business-to-business platform (see p. 2) that was launched by WWF-Indonesia in 2009 is now regionalising.

Testing and adoption of good practices, through Fisheries Improvement Projects (FIPs) is underway in Indonesia, the Philippines, and soon in Malaysia and across the Pacific. WWF consumer campaigns in Singapore and Hong Kong a.o. are stimulating debate and responsible choices. Meanwhile, responsible local fishers living in the marine protected area sites where we work are connecting to supermarkets and restaurants aiming to be part of the solution. A tuna think tank with top scientists and very experienced industry members designed innovative solutions to juvenile tuna by-catch. This all illustrates the positive role of private sector and fishers in support of the governments' national policies and regional plans of action for the Coral Triangle Initiative.

It's hard to capture a whole year of making new friends, strengthening partnerships and devising better approaches to inspire change in such a short note. Thank you for all your support and collaboration, have a great 2011, these are exciting times ahead!

www.panda.org/coraltriangle

WWF Coral Triangle Initiative 2010 Highlights



January

WWF organizes the **Coral Triangle Business Summit** with the Government of the Philippines, resulting in a set of public-private partnerships and commitments by business representatives to reduce their negative footprint.

[Find out more](#)

February

A guide is launched by WWF-Singapore to help consumers choose seafood that is fished or farmed responsibly. 175,000+ copies of the **Seafood Guide** have been distributed.

[Find out more](#)

May

WWF, the UK Government, regional government organisations, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Young & Rubicam, fishing industry, ADB, and media experts attend the **Changemakers workshop**. The outcome: Innovative strategies to transform conservation in the Coral Triangle and the Heart of Borneo.

June

Fishing companies and fisherfolk, along with fisheries experts and government agencies gather for the **Coral Triangle Fishers Forum** to address some of the challenges in this region's fishing industry, particularly by-catch. The forum, jointly held by WWF, the Marine Affairs and Fisheries Ministry of Indonesia and SEAFDEC, called for stronger actions to prevent by-catch.

[Find out more](#)

August

Conceptualized by the WWF Coral Triangle programme and organized with the University of Wageningen, the **Tuna Think Tank** gathers to explore new approaches to juvenile tuna management.

[Find out more](#)

September

After 18 months of capturing the Coral Triangle on film, photographer team Jürgen and Stella Freund head home with thousands of photos documenting the beauty, the people and issues of this amazing region.

[Find out more](#)

December

Seafood Savers, an initiative launched by WWF-Indonesia to encourage all fisheries industry actors to integrate sustainable principles into their business practices, sets its aims for regional expansion.

[Find out more](#)

STAFF PROFILE



Courtesy of Steven Gimbo

Steven Gimbo

Steven Gimbo currently serves as Senior Communications officer for the WWF Western Melanesia Programme Office (WMPO). He was previously Assistant Director for Radio Maria PNG, an international network of Catholic radio stations. He worked with the Catholic social communications ministry for the last 13 years. Prior to joining Radio Maria, he was Communications Secretary; Director of Radio St Gabriel SW/FM; and Advisor to the Bishop Deputy for Social Communications for five years. Previously a media consultant to WWF and a number of environment and conservation NGOs, Steven feels privileged to be a full-time employee and part of the Panda family. He hopes that through his work, he will help bring positive change and help conserve our environment.

WWF NEWS

WWF Hong Kong Participates in AgriPro Expo Asia 2010

At the AgriPro Asia Expo 2010, held on 13-15 December, WWF-Hong Kong presented threats faced by marine ecosystems in the Coral Triangle and the opportunities to bring about positive change. WWF-Hong Kong's Director of Conservation Dr Andy Cornish talked about the global fisheries crisis and WWF's experience with seafood sustainability.

MOU Signed between WWF Indonesia and 2 Fishery Companies for Seafood Savers Programme

WWF-Indonesia has welcomed two seafood companies as new members of its Seafood Savers initiative, a platform for seafood industry actors to integrate sustainable principles into their business practices.

► [Full article](#)

Another Fisheries Commission Fails the Tuna Test

The Commission responsible for managing tuna resources in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean has yet again failed to take any effective action to reduce the decline of valuable big eye and yellowfin tuna.

► [Full article](#)

Semporna Expedition Yields Rich Biodiversity



© WWF-Malaysia

18 December 2010 marked the conclusion of the Semporna Marine Ecological Expedition (SMEE), a three-week ecological survey involving 18 scientists from Malaysia, the Netherlands, and the USA. The aim of the expedition was to document marine health, biodiversity and reef status in the Semporna Priority Conservation Area (Malaysia), known for its rich mix of reef types and habitats.

Preliminary results indicate that Semporna may have the world's highest marine diversity, with 43 mushroom coral species, 756 reef fish species, and more than 90 coral shrimp and 100 algae species documented. The team also surveyed Semporna's coral health, and concluded that 5% of the sampled area had "excellent" live coral cover, 23% "good", 36% "fair", and 36% "poor".

The survey confirmed that the coral reefs are showing signs of stress from local pressures combined with climate change.

WWF-Malaysia in Semporna is currently implementing a project to facilitate collaborative management of fisheries and marine resources among stakeholders and work with these partners to manage coral reefs and adjacent ecosystems in a sustainable way to protect biodiversity.

Seafood Savers Set for Regional Expansion

"Seafood Savers" is the name currently given to the vision of a WWF-led regional business to business (B2B) platform that will bring together seafood businesses from the market chain. Expanding from a pilot project in Indonesia, a Coral Triangle-wide Seafood Savers Platform (SSP) will represent a significant shift in commitment by the seafood industry regionally and globally to meet higher sustainability standards.

The first in a series of meetings was held in Bali to discuss: lessons learned from existing similar platforms; the appropriate structure of the proposed SSP (i.e. membership, due diligence, contractual matters, branding); its role as a pathway to Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) certification through Fisheries and Aquaculture Improvement Projects; mechanisms for achieving WWF national and regional programme synergies; "what success would look like"; and communications.

The next steps to move this SSP from concept to reality will see broad engagement with stakeholders and interested parties including the WWF Network, other NGOs, industry, financing institutions and regional agencies and the development of a business model that meets high standards of credibility, provides institutional and financially sustainability, and supports commitments to "gold-standard" certification programs such as MSC and ASC.



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WWF Singapore “Saving Our Seas” Charity Dinner

On November 25, WWF Singapore hosted the “Saving Our Seas” charity dinner at Klapsons, The Boutique Hotel, with United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB) as presenting sponsor and Mr Hsieh Fu Hua (Executive Director and President of Temasek Holdings) as guest of honour.

With more than 160 guests, event highlights included musical performances, a delicious dinner featuring sustainable seafood as featured on the “Recommended” list of the Singapore Seafood Guide, an insightful presentation about the Coral Triangle by guest speaker Dr Lida Pet Soede (pictured above with Mr Hsieh Fu Hua), a charity auction supported by Sothebys, and the presentation of an exclusive “Saving Our Seas” limited edition wrist watch for each guest, designed and sponsored by RED8WORLD.

Proceeds will help WWF Singapore expand on the Sustainable Seafood Campaign outreach activities to more schools and communities, as well as transform the behaviour of corporations and seafood-related businesses. This in turn will contribute to protecting the Coral Triangle, where much of Singapore's seafood comes from.

A big thank you to all our table hosts, individual guests, donors and supporters!

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Coral Finder Toolkit



The [Coral Hub](#) website, now with a Coral Finder Toolkit, is a centralized resource for self-paced learning on coral reefs.

Migration of green turtles from Australasian feeding grounds inferred from genetic analyses

The study by Dethmers *et al.* assesses the connectivity among feeding grounds of green turtles across the north Australian coast and adjacent areas, and 17 genetically distinct breeding populations from the Indo-Pacific region. Geographic distance between breeding and feeding habitat strongly influenced whether a breeding population contributed to a feeding ground; however, neither distance nor size of a breeding population was a good predictor of the extent of their contribution.

► [Read the abstract](#)

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