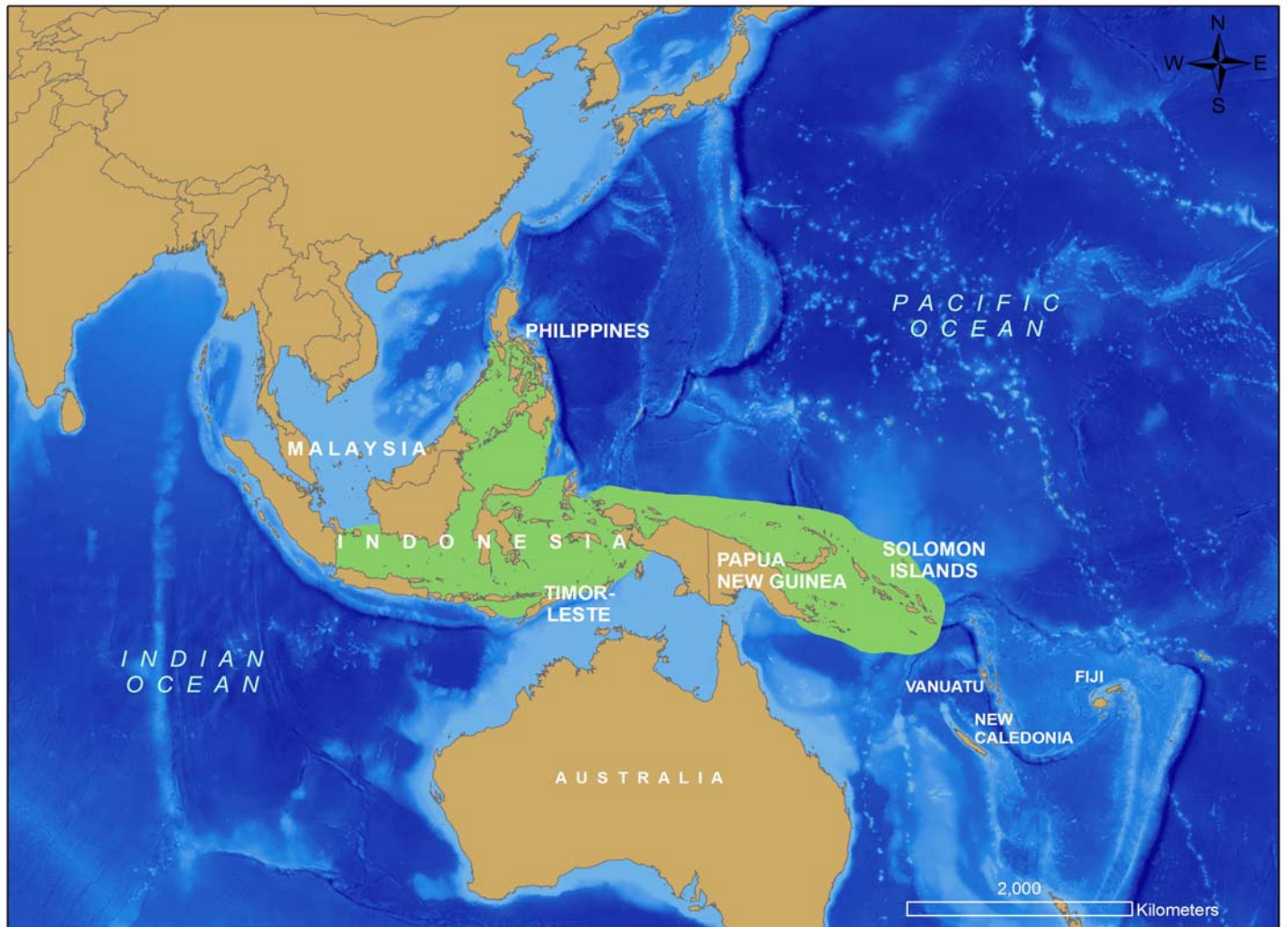




Coral Triangle Program

Promoting sustainable tuna fisheries



The Coral Triangle

Spanning six countries, the Coral Triangle is the global center of marine biodiversity. The Coral Triangle boundaries – defined by areas containing 500 or more species of reef-building corals – include Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste. This extraordinary region covers an area of 2.3 million square miles, and is home to over 125 million coastal people dependent on marine resources for their livelihoods.

The Center of Pacific tuna

The Coral Triangle is the spawning and nursery ground for four principle market tuna species that populate the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) – yellowfin, albacore, bigeye, and skipjack. The WCPO supplies close to 50 per cent of the global tuna catch, representing half of the world's canned tuna and one third of the Japanese sashimi market. Tuna fisheries are critically important to the in-country commerce and food security of Coral Triangle countries.



The Problem

Tuna fisheries of the Coral Triangle and wider Western and Central Pacific Ocean face a number of urgent problems:

- **Alarming tuna stock declines in several species:** Driven by increasing demand for tuna, fishing pressure has negatively impacted tuna stocks. Two of the key tuna species of the Coral Triangle region, bigeye and yellowfin, are now on the verge of becoming overfished.
- **Poor management and conservation strategies:** Regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) are not following their own mandates due to member countries favoring short-term gains over long-term sustainability of tuna fisheries.
- **High levels of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing:** Tuna attracts intense IUU fishing, contributing to overfishing, which undermines conservation and management efforts, increases bycatch, and causes economic losses.
- **Bycatch:** Heavy fishing is impacting the broader marine ecosystem – vulnerable species of marine turtles, sharks, seabirds, and juvenile and undersized tuna are severely affected by incidental capture or bycatch.



Brian Skerry/National Geographic Image Collection

Key Recommendations

WWF believes the solutions for these problems are available and is working with RFMOs, member governments, communities, and the private sector to ensure the future of tuna fisheries and the communities that depend upon them.

- **Development and application of ecosystem based management strategies for targeted species** – taking the wider ecosystem and bycatch into account, and addressing human concerns such as food security and local livelihoods.
- **Addressing the bycatch issue** – implementation of bycatch precautionary management and mitigation measures.
- **Efforts to improve data for both stock and ecosystem management purposes** – promote adequate data collection programs, and centrally managed vessel monitoring and observer programs
- **Promote cooperative management** – encourage Coral Triangle countries to share management and protect juvenile yellowfin and bigeye populations, and establish a Peace Park between Indonesia and Philippines, which will protect a key migratory corridor for tunas, linking the Coral Triangle to the Western Pacific Ocean.
- **Effective containment of overcapacity** – promote measures to cap and reduce capacity from tuna fisheries to levels commensurate with scientific advice on catch levels.
- **Minimizing IUU fishing** – strengthen existing strategies for monitoring, control and surveillance measures.
- **Fully utilizing modern trade related management measures** – encourage RFMO member states commit to adoption of tuna trade related measures, such as catch certification schemes to track fish and fish products from vessels to retail markets, trade monitoring and reporting, excluding IUU caught seafood, and port control measures.

WWF Coral Triangle Program Brief

WWF is working to support the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), recently endorsed by the Coral Triangle governments in September 2007 at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, and inaugurated at the Senior Officials Meeting of the CTI in Bali, Indonesia on December 2007. The CTI is a new multilateral partnership to help safeguard the marine and coastal resources of the Coral Triangle for future generations.

Be part of our work. WWF is leading the most ambitious and important conservation effort the world has ever seen. By 2015, we will conserve 19 of the world's most important natural places and significantly change global forces to protect the future of nature.

Together with your generous support we can directly influence the course of conservation.

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