



U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR
INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



DOI-ITAP

Factsheet

Marine & Coastal Conservation

U.S.DOI International Technical Assistance Program Marine and Coastal Conservation in Asia and the Pacific Islands

The U.S. Department of the Interior’s International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) collaborates with in country partners on marine and coastal conservation and sustainable fisheries programs in the Asia and Pacific Islands region.

DOI is responsible for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources across the U.S. Positioned within DOI’s Office of International Affairs, DOI-ITAP facilitates technical exchanges and training workshop between DOI technical experts and international counterparts, partnering with both the governmental and private sectors.

In the Asia and Pacific Islands region, DOI-ITAP works in numerous countries on topics such as community-established marine protected areas and general marine conservation planning; law enforcement, including wildlife forensics and ranger training; and establishing community engagement forums. Through this work, DOI-ITAP provides technical support to numerous institutions and regional initiatives, including the Coral Triangle Center, the Southeast Fisheries Development Center, and the multi-country Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF).



*DOI/National Park Service specialist reviews boat engine handling techniques in Sri Lanka.
Credit: Sean Lawlor DOI-ITAP*

Current Activities

Coral Triangle Region:

- Support of a regional public-private partnership on sustainable fisheries.
- Development of “Catch Documentation and Traceability” systems.
- Work closely with the CTI-CFF Local Government Network to strengthen:
 - conservation of marine protected areas,
 - local government engagement in coastal conservation, and
 - the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat as an institution.
- Plan the official launch of the CTI-CFF Women’s Leadership Forum.

Philippines:

- Enhance local government planning for marine resource sustainability.
- Improve government wildlife forensics and computerized case management.

Indonesia:

- Establishment of marine protected areas by local communities in 3 provinces.

Selected Accomplishments

Indonesia MPA Senior Advisors: Three specialists from DOI worked on-site for six weeks with their counterparts in the Maluku, North Maluku, and West Papua provinces on the development and management of a network of marine protected areas.

Regional Business Forum, Indonesia: DOI-ITAP led the planning and implementation of this event, which included over 350 participants from 21 countries, discussing innovative strategies to help promote the development of sustainable marine tourism in the region.

Fisheries Law Enforcement Database: DOI experts worked with the Philippines Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to develop a computerized case management system to better track, enforce, and adjudicate environmental cases. This system is modeled after the DOI/Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement database.

South Asia Marine Ranger Training: DOI-ITAP led a training workshop in Sri Lanka for rangers from India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, focusing on skills such as boat operations, safety and rescue, and surveillance and detainment techniques.

Maldives Protected Areas Management: DOI-ITAP sponsored a multi-sector workshop to plan how to enhance management of a marine protected area network that would better represent the country's biological diversity.



Community Based Mangrove Restoration Project, Pari Village, National Capital District, Papua New Guinea. Credit: Marc Weitzel DOI-ITAP



*Coral Reef in Nusa Penida, Bali, Indonesia
Credit: Bethany Matula DOI-ITAP*

DOI-ITAP Partners:

- USAID: Regional Development Mission for Asia; Philippines; Indonesia
- State Department South and Central Asia Bureau
- State Department Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement
- Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society
- Tanggol Kalikasan (Philippines)
- CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat (Indonesia-based)
- Coral Triangle Center (Indonesia-based)
- Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Center (Thailand-based)

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