



# SCALING AND AMPLIFYING MPAs FOR THE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION OF THE “CENTER OF CENTER OF MARINE BIODIVERSITY”, THE VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE

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**CONSERVATION**  
INTERNATIONAL

**Philippines**





# Vision



We imagine a healthy, prosperous world in which societies are forever committed to caring for and valuing nature, for the long-term benefit of people and all life on Earth.



# Mission



Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership and field demonstration, CI empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, our global biodiversity, for the well-being of humanity.

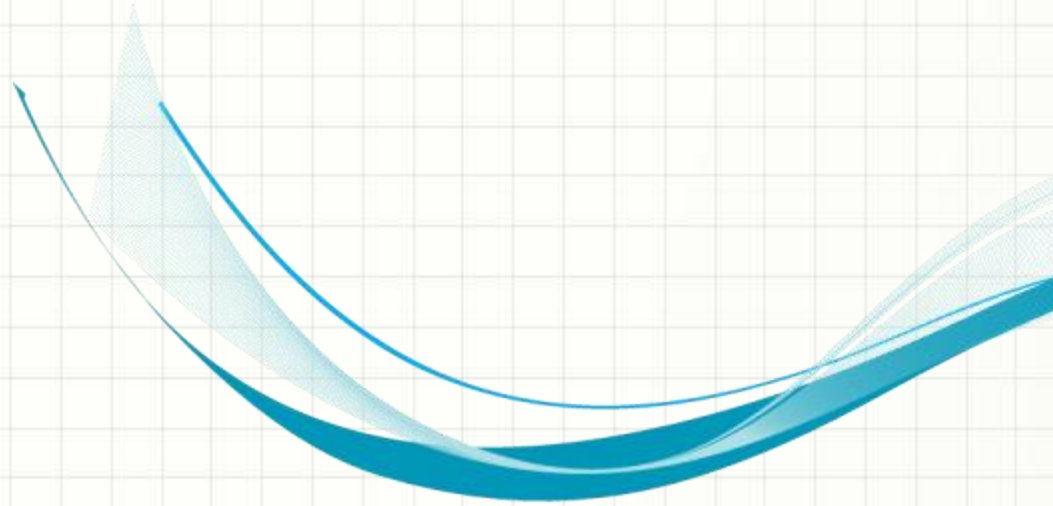


# Our goal



At CI, we measure success in human terms.  
Our ultimate goal is to protect the most fundamental things that nature provides to all of us: our food, our fresh water, our livelihoods and a stable climate.





**WE ARE CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL.**

**WE'RE WORKING TO ENSURE A HEALTHY,  
PRODUCTIVE PLANET FOR EVERYONE.**

**BECAUSE PEOPLE NEED NATURE TO THRIVE.**

# Today's Overview



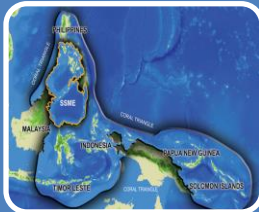
## Conservation International

- Vision
- Mission



## Issues and Problems

- Anthropogenic
- Natural



## Conservation at Scale

- MPAs to Networks
- Corridors to Seascapes to CTI



## Amplification

- EO 578
- SCS-LME RSAP



# ISSUES



## **Anthropogenic**

- Unsustainable exploitation/fishing
- Coastal development
- Habitat destruction
- Pollution

## **Natural**

- Climate change
- Geologic hazards



# Save Our Seas

Cutting down  
even more  
destructive  
practices  
forests  
also gives the  
world a direct  
link to  
the oceans  
which is  
wasting ground  
habitation  
pollution &  
the loss of  
contributing to  
marine life &  
soil erosion &  
species  
coral reefs





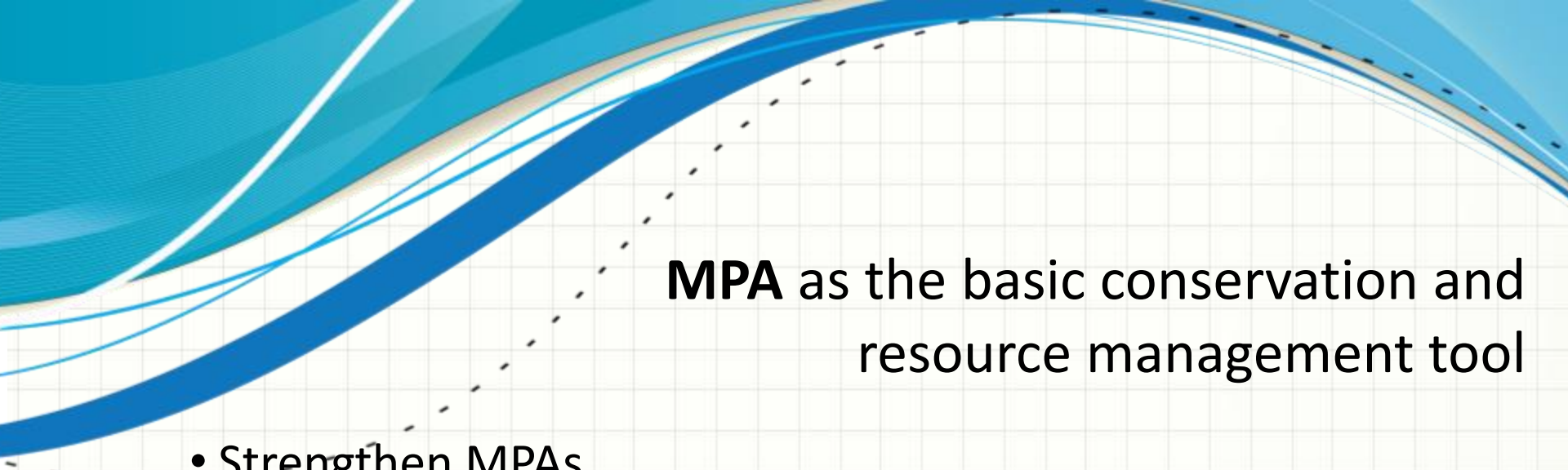
# SCALING CONSERVATION



**2005** the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape (SSS) Project was launched to protect critical species and habitats in:

- Verde Island Passage
- Cagayan Ridge
- Balabac Strait
- Tri-National Sea Turtle Corridor; with Indonesia & Malaysia





## **MPA** as the basic conservation and resource management tool

- Strengthen MPAs
- Establish new MPAs
- Design MPANs

### *To Conserve the Full Range of Biodiversity in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape*

- IEC activities
- PPP on fisheries, oil and gas, and ecotourism
- Research consortia



...conserving the full range of  
Biodiversity in the SSS

## The SSS Project:

- Inputs to the ECP
- Partnerships across political boundaries
- CI's membership in the Sulu-Sulawesi Tri-National Committee

The Seascape approach is aimed at **building** government, corporate and civil society **coalitions**

to improve ocean governance

and highlights the importance of achieving **effective governance** across sectors and at all levels, from local to regional.



Seascape Approach



# Goals of the Seascapes

- **Enabling conditions**
- **Changes in Behavior**
- **Ecological Outcomes**
- **Human well-being benefits**
- **Long-term sustainability**





# Sulu-Sulawesi SEASCAPE





Corridors (*Lagusan*): waterways connecting large bodies of water

## 4 priority Corridors in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape

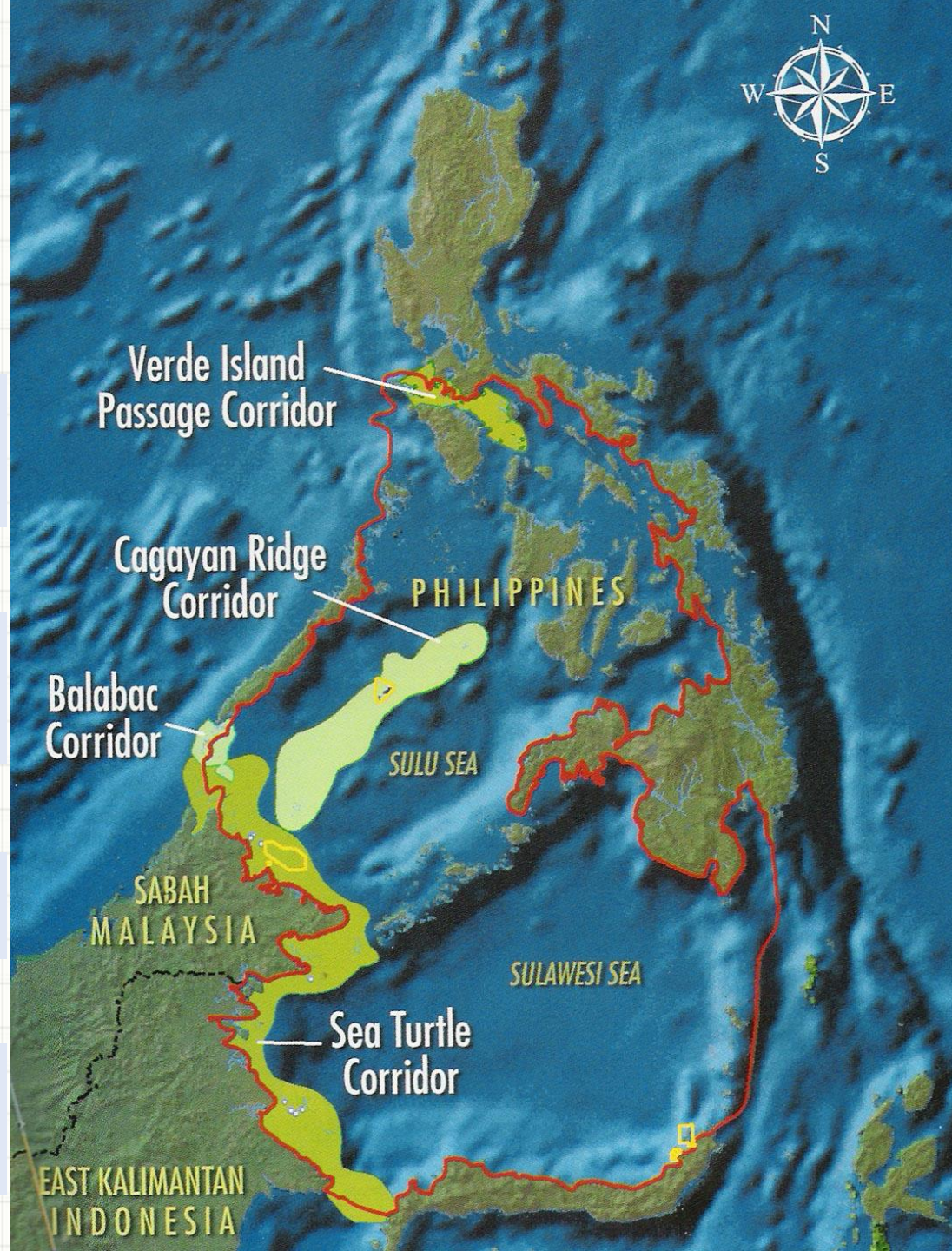
Center of the Sulu Sea, between Negros & Palawan, home to the Tubbataha Reefs & Natural Park

### Balabac Corridor

Links the Sulu Sea to South China Sea, southwestern part of Palawan

### Sea Turtle Corridor

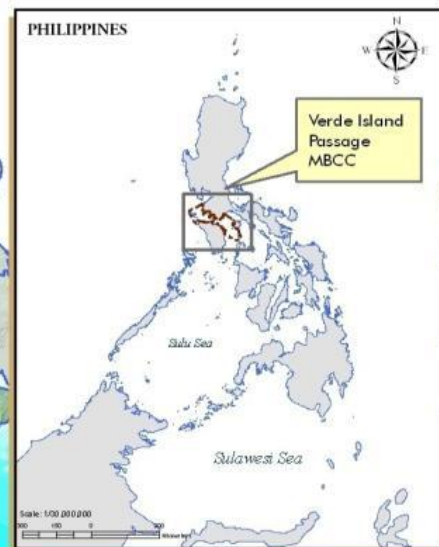
The only protected marine area that crosses the borders of Philippines, Indonesia & Malaysia





# Verde Island Passage

growth of MPA Network



From ~1k to >17k in 2 years

**BASELINE:** 761 ha in Batangas

- 390 ha: No Take Zone

Zone

- 371 ha: Buffer Reserve

*\*only 74.5 ha being implemented in 2008*

451 ha in Oriental Mindoro

**2008 – 2010: Verde Island Passage**

❑ **Batangas (1607 ha)**

- 659 ha No Take Zone

- 653 ha Marine Reserve

- 295 ha Mangrove Forest  
Conservation Area

❑ **Oriental Mindoro**

- 709 ha No Take Zone

❑ **Occidental Mindoro (Lubang Island)**

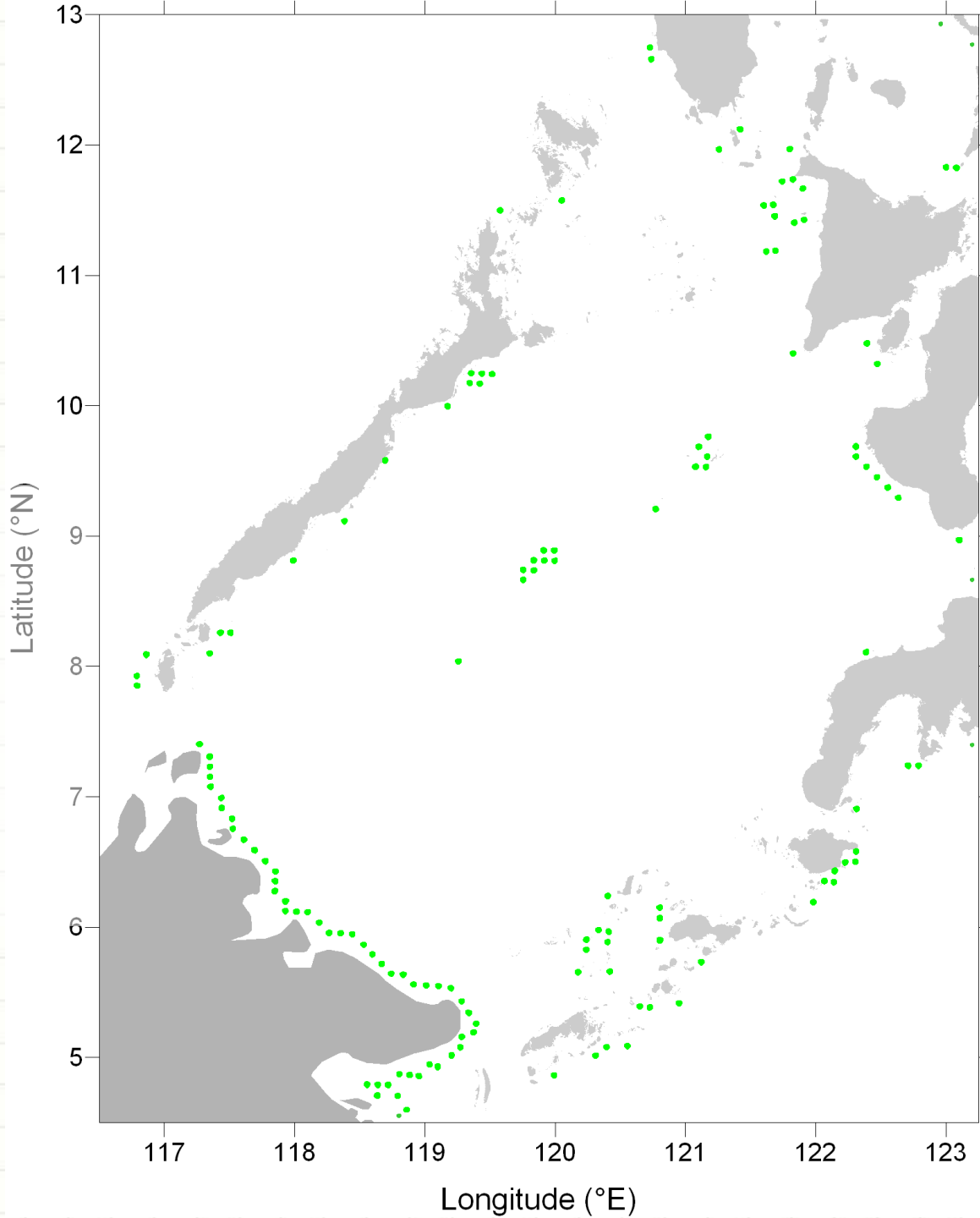
- 1150 ha No Take Zone

- 13,335 ha Fishery Management Area

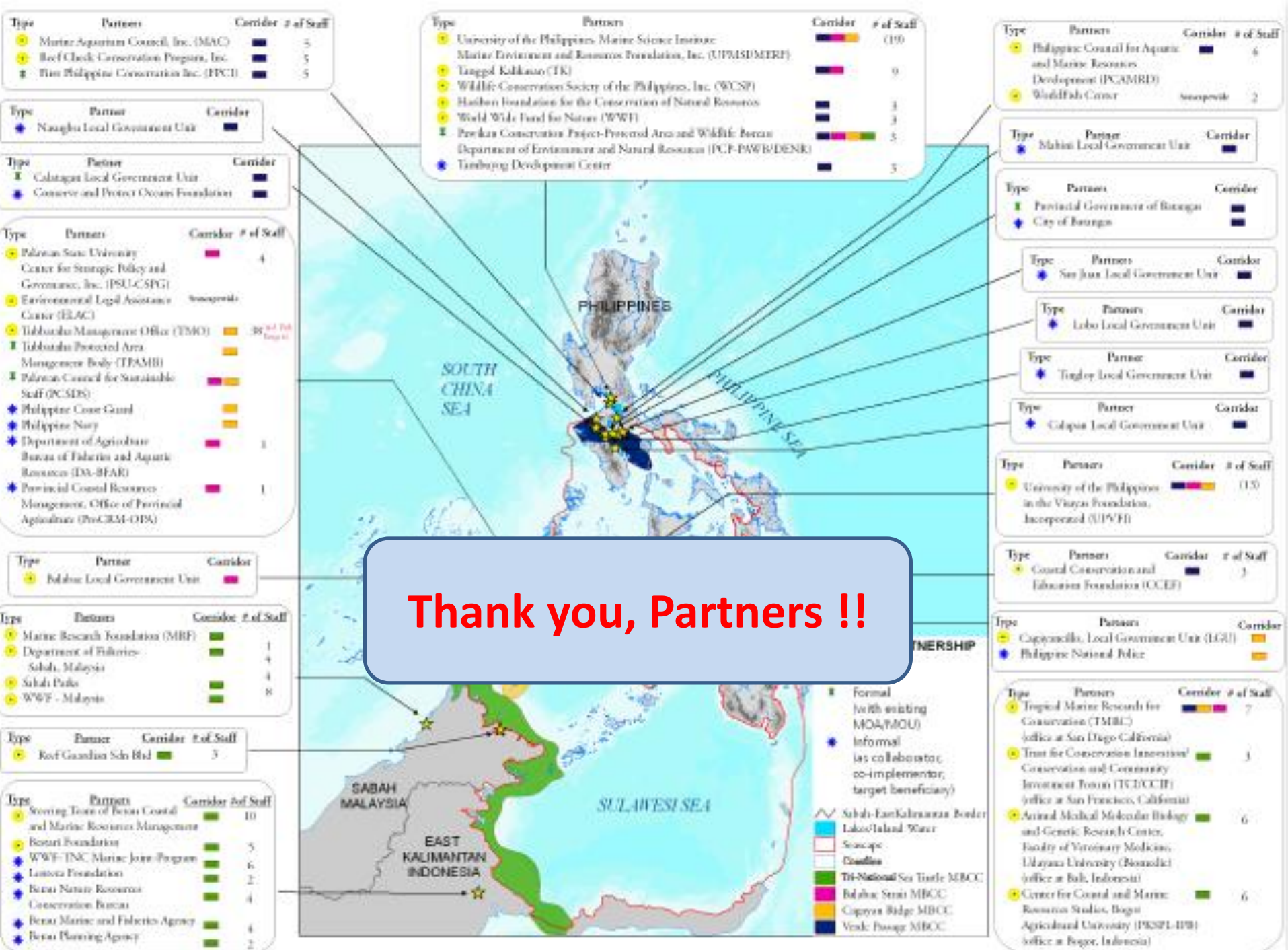




- **Habitat Extent**
- **Status of MPAs**
- **Threats (perception)**
- **Replenishment Potential**
- **Threats (assessments)**
- **Priority MPA Sites**







# BRAVO 2015





## Marine Mega-diversity Area

LME ~ 940,000 km<sup>2</sup>

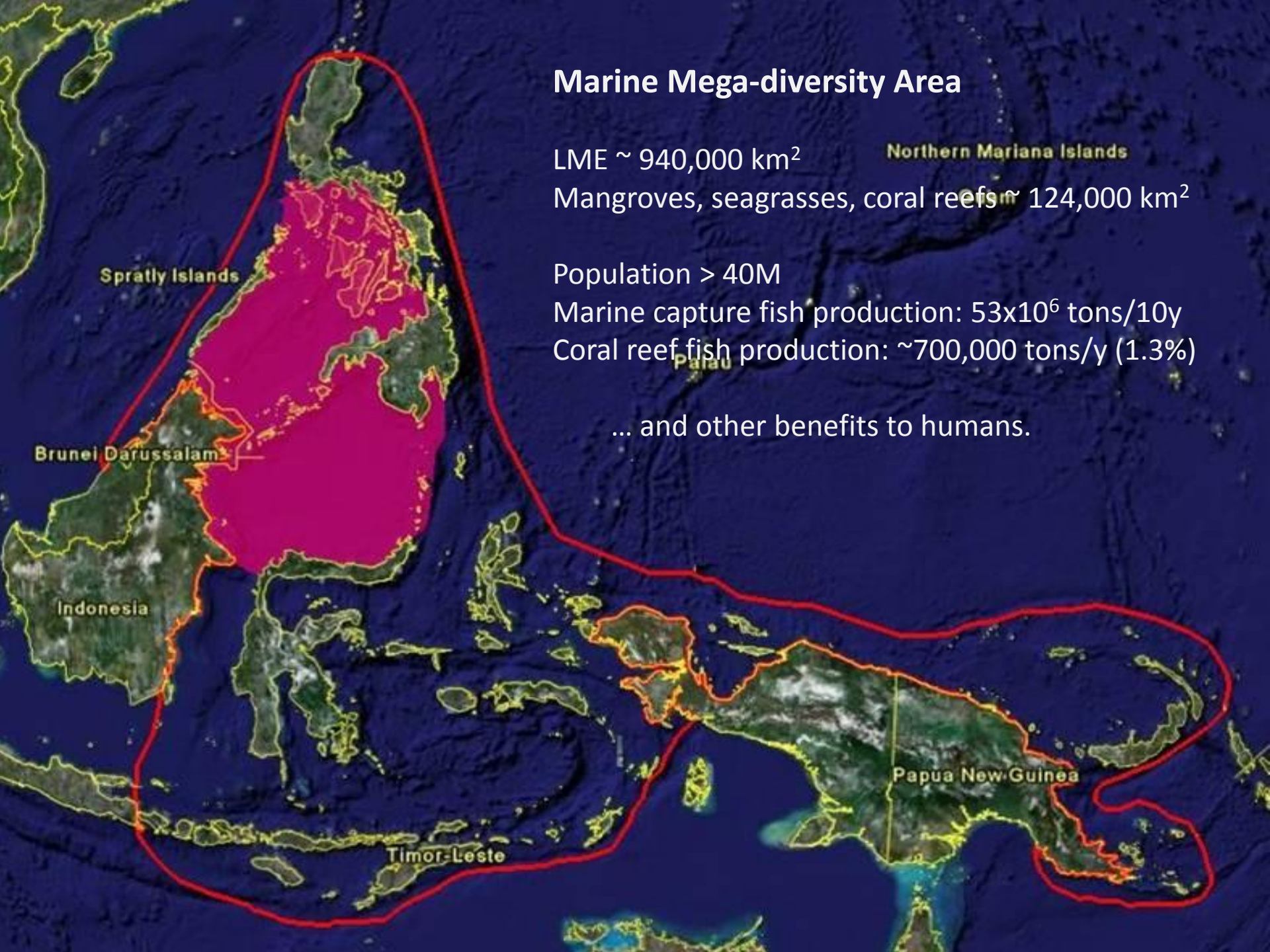
Mangroves, seagrasses, coral reefs ~ 124,000 km<sup>2</sup>

Population > 40M

Marine capture fish production:  $53 \times 10^6$  tons/10y

Coral reef fish production: ~700,000 tons/y (1.3%)

... and other benefits to humans.



# AMPLIFICATION



## Executive Order 578 8 November 2006

- With a spectrum of stakeholders
- National policy on biological diversity
- Targets the SSS esp. VIP
- Led to the Verde Island Passage Framework Plan

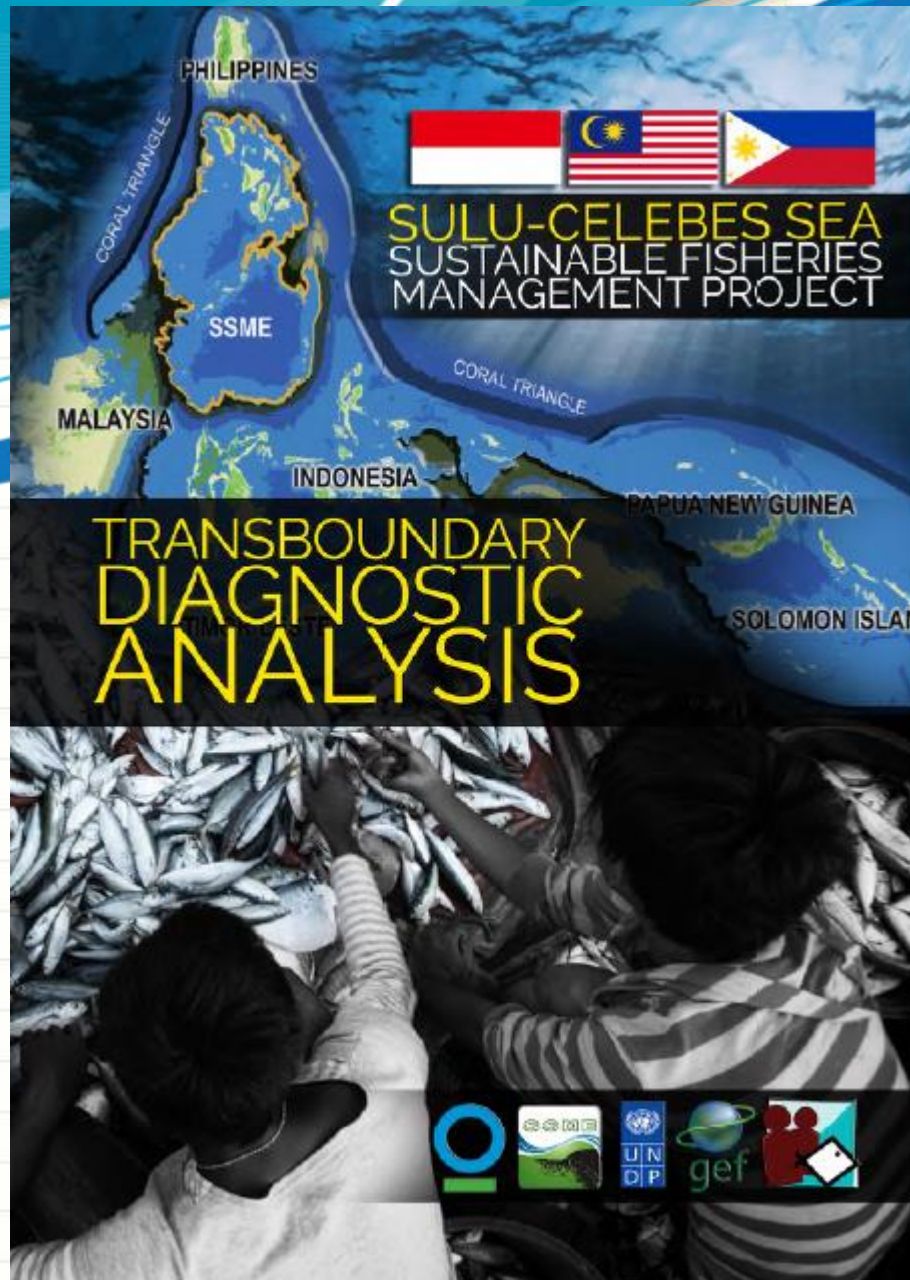




# SULU-CELEBES SEA SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT







## TRANSBOUNDARY PROBLEMS

1. Unsustainable Exploitation of Fish
2. Habitat Loss and Community Modification
3. Climate Change
4. Marine Pollution
5. Freshwater Shortage
6. Alien and Invasive Species





# SULU-CELEBES SEA SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT



## REGIONAL STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAM



### Endorsement of the Strategic Action Program for the Sustainable Fisheries Management of the Sulu-Celebes (Sulawesi) Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (SCS-LME)

The Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion Tri-National Committee;

**In recognition** of the urgency to arrest environmental degradation in the Sulu and Celebes (Sulawesi) Seas due to the causes identified in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the GEF/UNDP initiative entitled, "Sulu-Celebes Sea Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SCS-SFMP);"

**Recognizing** also the co-ordinating mechanism through the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME) Tri-National Committee (Tri-Com) of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines that agreed to adopt the ecoregion approach to conservation embodied in the Ecoregion Conservation Plan (ECP);

**Encouraging** other relevant agencies, national and regional programs (e.g. CTI, PEMSEA, ASEAN, APEC), donors, development partners, and stakeholders to actively participate and support the effective and successful implementation of this Strategic Action Program (SAP)

**Noting** that several small pelagic fish stocks in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines genetically belong to one stock and shared by the countries provided strong scientific evidence and served as the rationale for the joint management of small pelagic fish stocks in the Sulu and Celebes Seas;

**Noting further** that the ecosystems approach to fisheries provides co-ordinated management to address the environmental problems of the SCS-LME, with clear management targets and actions;

**Appreciating** the support and assistance provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the Conservation International-Philippines in facilitating the preparation of the Strategic Action Program (SAP) and the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA);

Following the consultations with relevant government agencies and key stakeholders in the region, **Endorse** the Strategic Action Program for the sustainable fisheries management of the Sulu-Celebes Sea Large Marine Ecosystem.

**Dr. Sudirman Saad**  
Director General  
Marine, Coasts and Small  
Islands, MMAF  
Indonesia

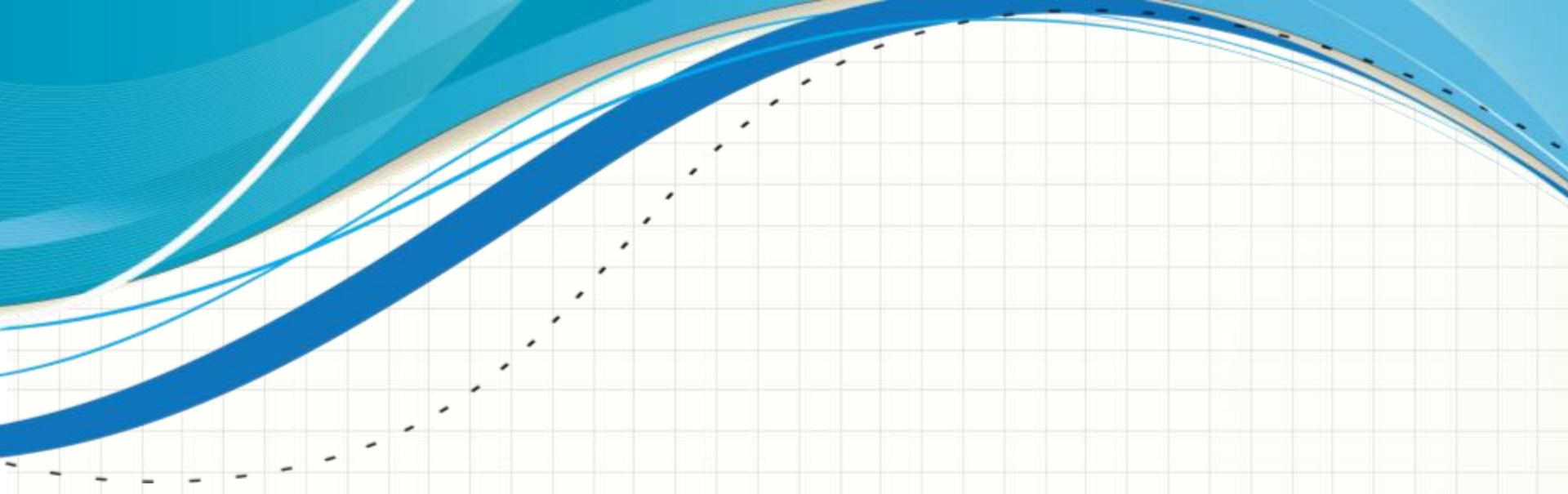
Date:

**Datuk Ujang Sulani**  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture  
and Food Industry Sabah  
Malaysia

Date:

**Atty. Asis G. Perez**  
Director  
Bureau of Fisheries  
and Aquatic Resources  
Philippines

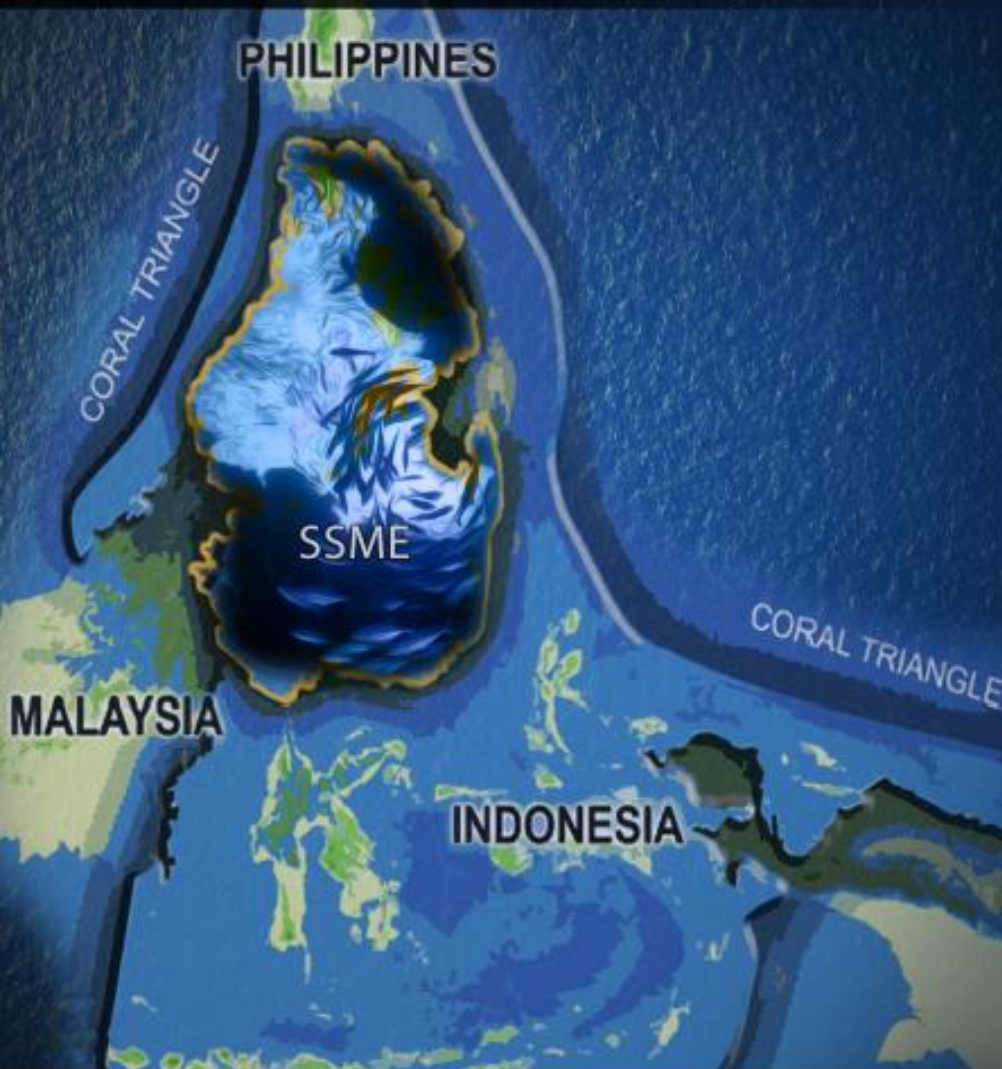
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**ADDITIONAL SLIDE TO BE  
INCLUDED AFTER OUR  
MAJOR EVENT IN THE  
PROJECT ON 14 Nov  
2015**



Based on strong evidence that Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines are sharing stocks of small pelagic fishes (*Auxis thazard*, *Sardinella lemuru*, *Rastrelliger kanagurta* and *Selar crumenophthalmus*) studied under the Sulu-Celebes Sea Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SCS-SMP), the scale of conservation and management should also be at a tri-national level, requiring the participation and cooperation from all the three countries exploiting these resources.



SULU-CELEBES SEA SUSTAINABLE  
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT

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## SUMMARY

- The SSS Program catalyzed conservation work at scale
- Partnerships were key in the success of the SSS
- EO 578 facilitated conservation in the country, particularly the SSS and VIP
- Formal country endorsements pave the way for conservation at scale and



# THANK YOU

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Philippines



[www.conservation.org](http://www.conservation.org)