

Dear Mr. Michel:

**Request for Additional Relevant Information for the UN Secretary General's Report  
to be Presented at the Sixty-third Session of the General Assembly**

1. This is in reply to your letter dated 17 January 2008 requesting additional information for the UN Secretary General's report of the Oceans and the Law of the Sea (adopted by the General Assembly in December 2007). More specifically, you had requested for information relating to available technical assistance and projects provided to least developed countries and small island developing states, regarding sustainable and effective development of marine resources and uses of oceans.
2. In 2007, six core member countries of the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) namely: Indonesia, Timor-Leste, the Philippines, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands, requested the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to help facilitate financing for CTI in cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF). At present, the Pacific Region Department of ADB is processing a regional technical assistance (TA) on Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific. The objective of this TA is to build on existing foundations for the long-term conservation and sustainable management of resilient coral reef ecosystems and other marine and coastal biological resources to ensure both global and local benefits for current and future generations. GEF will provide \$9 million for this project and cofinancing is being explored with potential donors in the region. ADB recognizes the need to assist the CTI considering that the Coral Triangle is the epicenter of marine life abundance and diversity on the planet, with over 75% of all known coral species on earth; 53% of the world's coral reefs; over 3,000 fish species; the greatest extent of mangrove forests in any region; and spawning and juvenile growth areas for what is the largest tuna fishery in the world. ADB will continue to work with CTI countries to mobilize other resources for coastal and marine life management in the Coral Triangle.
3. Although still undefined, ADB is expected to assist in the forthcoming World Oceans Conference (WOC): Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing to Support the CTI to be held in Manado, Sulawesi, Indonesia in May 2009. This will serve as a useful forum to further enhance current

initiatives on the topic and to translate plans into tangible actions.

4. Apart from the foregoing, there are several other proposed and ongoing technical assistance/projects around the region (Southeast Asia and the Pacific) with the World Bank, UNDP, and FAO, as shown in Attachment 1.

Yours sincerely,

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Attachement 1

**THE CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE: PROPOSED AND ONGOING PROGRAMS**  
 (US\$'000)

Subproject	GEF Agency	Anticipated Outcomes	Participating Countries	Proposed GEF Financing	Cofinancing Confirmed/ Indicative	Total
Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific	ADB	Sustainable and resilient coral reef ecosystems established and other marine and coastal biological resources conserved to ensure both global and local benefits for current and future generations.	FSM, Fiji, Palau, PNG, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu			
Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle: Southeast Asia	ADB	Sustainable and resilient coral reef ecosystems established and other marine and coastal biological resources conserved to ensure both global and local benefits for current and future generations.	Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines	11,890.0	76,500.0	88,390.0
Sulu-Celebes Sea Large Marine Ecosystem and Adjacent Area Sustainable Fisheries Management (South China Sea) Project	UNDP	Improved condition of fisheries and their habitats in the Sulu-Celebes Sea. Large marine ecosystem and adjacent area brought to a sustainable level of management through an integrated, collaborative, and sustainable tri-national mechanism and approach.	Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines	3,300.0	3,520.0	6,820.0
Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action	UNDP	Integrated, cooperative, and sustainable ecosystem-based management and use of the living coastal and marine resources, including	Indonesia, Timor-Leste	2,970.0	5,450.0	8,420.0

(ATSEA) Program		fisheries and biodiversity, of the Arafura and Timor seas, through the formulation, adoption (at inter-governmental level) and initial implementation of a Regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP).				
West Pacific-East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project	UNDP	Strengthened national capacities and international cooperation on priority transboundary concerns relating to the sustainable use, conservation, and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the West Pacific Ocean and East Asia.	Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam	1,100.0	2,242.5	3,342.5
<b>Subproject</b>	<b>GEF Agency</b>	<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<b>Participating Countries</b>	<b>Proposed GEF Financing</b>	<b>Cofinancing Confirmed/ Indicative</b>	<b>Total</b>
IW:LEARN: Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing to Support the Coral Triangle Initiative (Component 3 of the Global Portfolio Learning in International Waters with a Focus on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands and Regional Asia/ Pacific and Coral Triangle Learning Processes)c	ADB (in cooperation with UNDP)	Advance integrated ecosystem-based management of ocean and coastal areas at global, regional, and national levels through coordination of global and regional strategic planning processes, especially in advancing implementation of global commitments for oceans, coasts, and small island developing states (SIDS), and through regional, thematic, and portfolio learning and experience sharing. The Project integrates GEF-supported transboundary experiences into global efforts to improve freshwater, coastal, and marine resources management in the context of achieving JPOI and MDG targets, and adapting to climate variability and change with a focus on the Asia Pacific region.	Global, including CTI countries			
		<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>19,260.0</b>	<b>87,712.5</b>	<b>106,972.5</b>
<b>FORTHCOMING SUBPROJECTS</b>						
Strategies for Fisheries Bycatch Management	FAO	Aquatic resources and stocks protected, and biodiversity maintained and enhanced in the Coral Triangle/South China Sea (SCS) region through application of strategies and technologies for fisheries bycatch management.	Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam	3,465.0	6,800.0	10,265.0
Adapting to Climate	ADB,	Establishment of management systems and	FSM, Fiji,	20,000.0	20,000.0	40,000.0

Change in the Coral Triangle (ACT) Project	UNDP	appropriate monitoring indicators to ensure that coral reef and other coastal and marine ecosystems, associated infrastructure and social service networks are resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change.	Indonesia, Palau, PNG, Malaysia, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu			0.0
Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management (COREMAP III) Program	World Bank, ADB	Completion of 15-year program to strengthen legal measures, reef monitoring and information systems, and sustainable and decentralized community-based reef, coastal, and marine resources management systems.	Indonesia (with possible regional extension)	9,000.0	115,000.0	124,000.0
<b>Subproject</b>	<b>GEF Agency</b>	<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<b>Participating Countries</b>	<b>Proposed GEF Financing</b>	<b>Cofinancing Confirmed/ Indicative</b>	<b>Total</b>
Integrated Natural Resources Management Project	ADB	Employing the ridge-to-reef approach, the key project elements would result to: (i) improved preparation and development of watershed management plans; (ii) community mobilization and empowerment; (iii) watershed rehabilitation and conservation; (iv) promotion of sustainable livelihood systems through agro-forestry, agribusiness enterprise development and community-based livelihoods; (v) improvement of social and physical infrastructure; (vi) policy and institutional strengthening and capacity building; and (vii) exploration of sustainable financing schemes in watershed conservation and protection.	Philippines	5,000.0	100,800.0	105,800.0
Agusan River Integrated Basin Management Project	ADB	The proposed Project will implement an integrated river basin management approach that will cover the entire river basin and the Agusan river delta. The Project will draw from the completed master plan which has the following strategies: (i) river basin organization (RBO) formation and development, (ii) water quality management, (iii) flooding and water-related risks management, (iv) water resources development, (v) watershed management, (vi) indigenous peoples development, (vii) Agusan Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, and (viii) the land-sea interactions in the context of integrated coastal management.	Philippines	5,000.0	50,800.0	55,800.0
		<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>42,465.0</b>	<b>293,400.0</b>	<b>335,865.0</b>
			<b>Total Program</b>	<b>61,725.0</b>	<b>381,112.5</b>	<b>442,837.5</b>

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ADB = Asian Development Bank, CTI = Coral Triangle Initiative, FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization, FSM = Federated States of Micronesia, GEF = Global Environment Facility, PNG = Papua New Guinea, UNDP = United Nations Development Programme.

a Includes PPG and GEF agency administrative fees.

b This subproject is part of both the CTI program and the GEF-PAS program, but the financing is recorded only in the latter program document: GEF financing = US\$9,500,000; Other Cofinancing = US\$16,350,000; Total = US\$25,850,000.

c This subproject is a component of the global IW:LEARN project relating to the CTI, and its financing is recorded separately in that project document as follows: GEF financing = US\$1,320,000; Other Cofinancing = US\$1,400,000; Total = US\$2,720,000.

Source: Asian Development Bank.