

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Environmental issues have become the worldwide concern throughout the years. It covers various issues, from deforestation, air and water pollution, to extreme weather, that do not recognize any national borders.¹ The environmental issues facing the world today become more complicated as it involves political, economic, and social dimensions that come from different actors' viewpoints and interests. Hence, addressing this global issue demands not only national efforts but also cooperation on bilateral, regional, and multilateral level.

Climate change, population growth, urban expansion, and increased competition over the natural resources have contributed to the increase of environmental issues.² Among all of those issues, climate change is seen as the 'front-runner'.³ As a large-scale and cross-cutting issue, climate change is highly caused by global warming- increase in global average temperature.⁴ It has measurable effects on both land and ocean. However, the ocean has been considered as the sector that mostly impacted by climate change along with its

¹ "From Rep. of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs." Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Accessed February 22, 2020. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/international-environmental-issues.en.mfa>.

² "Growing Pressures on Ecosystems (GMT 8)." European Environment Agency, May 24, 2018. <https://www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2015/global/ecosystems>.

³ "How Climate Change Relates to Oceans." WWF. World Wildlife Fund. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/how-climate-change-relates-to-oceans>.

⁴ "What Are Climate Change and Global Warming?" WWF, n.d. <https://www.wwf.org.uk/climate-change-and-global-warming>.

accompanying effects.⁵ This event is due to the fact that ocean and atmosphere are inseparably intertwined as the ocean absorbs more than 90 per cent of the atmospheric heat from rising greenhouse gas levels.⁶ The ocean, accounts for 71 per cent of the world, is a key contributor to climate mitigation.⁷ It acts as a significant sink for heat and energy which provides human numerous resources from supplying the oxygen to storing the excess carbon dioxide we produce.⁸ It also bears the force of climate change, as demonstrated by increases in temperature, surface and sea levels, both impacting the well-being marine species, near-shore, and deep-sea ecosystems.⁹

Over the last three decades, the sea surface has been consistently higher, about 0.13 ° F on average per decade, than any other time since an accurate measurement started in 1880.¹⁰ As the world's oceans are increasing in temperature, it leads to other problems of rising sea level, ocean acidification, ongoing degradation of coastal ecosystems, overharvesting of valuable species, threatens food security, increases disease prevalence, and loss of coastal

⁵ "A Warming Ocean." NEEF, n.d. <https://www.neefusa.org/nature/water/warming-ocean>.

⁶ *Ibid*

⁷ "FEATURE: Climate Change and the World's Oceans." United Nations. United Nations, n.d. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/06/feature-climate-change-and-the-worlds-oceans/>.

⁸ Sustainable Ocean Alliance. "Our Ocean 2019 - Sustainable Ocean Alliance 2019 Conference." Homepage - Sustainable Ocean Alliance. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.soalliance.org/our-ocean-2019/>.

⁹ *Ibid*

¹⁰ "Climate Change Indicators: Sea Surface Temperature." EPA. Environmental Protection Agency, December 17, 2016. <https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-sea-surface-temperature>.

protection.¹¹ Thus, it will give higher impacts on areas that are vulnerable to the devastations above. Areas that will be highly impacted are the ‘island nations’, lands surrounded by water depend highly on the marine ecosystem.¹²

Southeast Asia, as the world’s largest island group and busiest shipping lanes, is facing the most challenging maritime environment security.¹³ The maritime security challenges are especially intimidating the Sulu and Sulawesi Seas, which covers the region of two world’s largest archipelago nations, Indonesia and Philippines.¹⁴ In addition to that, Sulu and Sulawesi seas is also located in the Coral Triangle, a global significant area considered as the center of the world’s marine biodiversity and leading fishery producers.¹⁵

As a home for 40 million people and contributes more than 20 million tons or about 11.3% to global fisheries stocks, Sulu and Sulawesi Seas plays significant role for the sustainability of the coastal communities whose livelihoods depend heavily on marine resources- fisheries, reefs, mangroves, and others.¹⁶

¹¹ “Ocean Warming.” IUCN, December 5, 2018. <https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-briefs/ocean-warming>.

¹² Project, The Climate Reality. “Trouble in Paradise: How Does Climate Change Affect Pacific Island Nations?” Climate Reality, November 6, 2019. <https://www.climateRealityproject.org/blog/trouble-paradise-how-does-climate-change-affect-pacific-island-nations>.

¹³ “Sulu and Celebes Seas.” Stable Seas, December 6, 2019. <https://stableseas.org/publications/sulu-celebes-seas>.

¹⁴ *Ibid*

¹⁵ “Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape.” Conservation International. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.conservation.org/places/sulu-sulawesi-seascape>.

¹⁶ “GIZ BMUB Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Project: Project Implementation Review.” CTI-CFF, January 23, 2018. <http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org/news/giz-bmub-sulu-sulawesi-seascape-project-project-implementation-review>.

Due to an exacerbation of climate change impacts which threaten the fisheries ecosystems, food security becomes the most serious threat faced by them.¹⁷

Food security, defined by the *United Nations' Committee on World Food Security*, means that all people have physical, social, and economic access to adequate, safe, and nutritious food that meet their preferences and needs for a healthy life at all times.¹⁸ As it includes four key components of *availability, access, utilization, and stability*, thus, the devastation of fish stocks, reefs, and breeding grounds which make the people malnourished, prone to various illness, and even deaths, have contributed to the decline of marine food security.¹⁹ These will also inevitably precipitate the cyclical poverty as they have to import their required food, which is unaffordable.²⁰ The cost of food security becomes more complex because of other contributed factors such as lack of education in managing coastal resources upon which they depend, and illegal fishing practices.²¹

While food security, as part of the ecosystem and biodiversity problems that transcends national borders, has been considered as a global issue, this

¹⁷ “Regional Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Convergence Meeting and the Review of The Sulu-Sulawesi Seas EAFM Plan, Philippines.” CTI-CFF, May 8, 2018. <http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org/events/regional-sulu-sulawesi-seascape-convergence-meeting-and-review-sulu-sulawesi-seas-eafm-plan-p>.

¹⁸ Cruz-Trinidad, Annabelle, Porfirio M. Aliño, Rollan C. Geronimo, and Reniel B. Cabral. “Linking Food Security with Coral Reefs and Fisheries in the Coral Triangle.” *Coastal Management* 42, no. 2 (December 2014): 160–82. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08920753.2014.877761>.

¹⁹ “Devastating Impacts of Climate Change Threatening Farm Outputs, Increasing Global Hunger, Delegates Say as Second Committee Takes Up Agriculture, Food Security | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” United Nations. United Nations. Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/gaef3499.doc.htm>.

²⁰ *Ibid*

²¹ *Ibid*

problem still often receives lack of attention.²² This issue requires for action on two fronts: *first*, safeguarding food security and nutrition by economic and social policies that help offset the impact of economic slowdowns including guarantee that social security networks are funded and universal access to health and education, and *second*, tackling structural inequalities at all levels through multi-sectoral policies that allow us to escape food insecurity and malnutrition more sustainably.²³ These require an inclusive collaboration that engages multiple stake-holders in supporting people centered sustainable development, poverty reduction, and equitable benefit sharing.²⁴ All of these efforts will be best implemented through a multilateral cooperation.

Specifically talk about the Sulu-Sulawesi coastal areas, the most significant actor in managing the multilateral cooperation on food security will be the Coral Triangle Initiative. Headquartered in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, it is a multilateral partnership formed by the governments of the six Coral Triangle countries in 2009 to address the growing threats to the Coral Triangle.²⁵ Through its partnership which is designed to leverage and coordinate action and investment across this vast expanse of ocean space, it will facilitate the mechanism of cooperation among state and non-state actors- especially the

²² “Food Security and the Coral Triangle Initiative.” Food security and the coral Triangle Initiative | WorldFish Publications, January 1, 1970. <https://www.worldfishcenter.org/content/food-security-and-coral-triangle-initiative-0>.

²³ Cruz-Trinidad, Annabelle, Porfirio M. Aliño, Rollan C. Geronimo, and Reniel B. Cabral. “Linking Food Security with Coral Reefs and Fisheries in the Coral Triangle.” *Coastal Management* 42, no. 2 (December 2014): 160–82. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08920753.2014.877761>.

²⁴ *Ibid*

²⁵ “Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs (CTI), Fisheries and Food Security.” Global Environment Facility, February 18, 2010. <https://www.thegef.org/news/coral-triangle-initiative-coral-reefs-cti-fisheries-and-food-security>.

government of Indonesia and Philippines which territories cover directly Sulu & Sulawesi coastal areas and thus, responsible for the livelihood of their people- to establish seascapes that can both create a cohesive structure for sustainable management as well as providing a platform for potential investment and coordination of various marine policies or laws on navigation, fishing, and cultural uses.²⁶

In terms of marine food protection, both Indonesia and the Philippines have targeted a sustain government support in providing humanitarian and funding assistance as the engine of resource growth in partnership with the local and private sectors through the joint projects such as fish product development, technological advances in brood stock and fish feed, and the marketing and distribution of fish products.²⁷ In recent decades, various programs have attempted to address the challenges in declining fisheries stocks within their borders, including the rehabilitation of destroyed habitats, setting up Marine Protected Areas to replenish fish stocks, and improving the enforcement of fishery laws.²⁸ Finally, by leveraging these benefits, particularly integration, it will provide triple bottom line benefits on economic, social, and environmental sides.

²⁶ “Regional Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Convergence Meeting and the Review of The Sulu-Sulawesi Seas EAFM Plan, Philippines.” CTI-CFF, May 8, 2018. <http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org/events/regional-sulu-sulawesi-seas-eafm-plan-p>.

²⁷ Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs (CTI), Fisheries and Food Security.” Global Environment Facility, February 18, 2010. <https://www.thegef.org/news/coral-triangle-initiative-coral-reefs-cti-fisheries-and-food-security>.

²⁸ *Ibid*

Consequently, this topic is an interesting to be discussed to study the inter-related problems of food security that encompass not only environmental issues, but also economic dimension impacting people's wellbeing and about the importance of having marine multilateral partnership to facilitate stronger cooperation, both within and across governments, in addressing the accessibility of fish stocks and managing the availability of sustainable resources that could eventually lead to the ultimate purpose of sustainable maritime seascape.²⁹

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the preliminary findings, I have formulated the following research questions:

1. How does Coral Triangle Initiative facilitate multilateral partnership in managing food security on Sulu & Sulawesi coastal areas?
2. What are the roles of Indonesia and Philippines in the Coral Triangle Initiative?

1.3 Research Objectives

The objectives of this research are to analyze how the Coral Triangle Initiative facilitates the multilateral partnership in managing the food security on Sulu & Sulawesi coastal areas and to study the role of Indonesia and Philippines as the involved state actors and given the fact that these two countries are the

²⁹ Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs (CTI), Fisheries and Food Security.” Global Environment Facility, February 18, 2010. <https://www.thegef.org/news/coral-triangle-initiative-coral-reefs-cti-fisheries-and-food-security>.

largest archipelagic nations as well as the largest member states that encompass the area of Coral Triangle. The result will be focused on identifying the mechanism of international cooperation in the Coral Triangle Initiative, the funding system, policies' formulation, and implementation.

1.4 Significance of Research

This research will provide a comprehensive understanding on how multilateral cooperation manages the issue of food security which is seen as a global challenge to address the multidimensional and strongly gendered nature of poverty and vulnerability of the coastal communities. This research will also beneficial for further collaboration among state and non-state actors in working for a more effective mechanism of cooperation in creating a sustainable development to coastal communities.

Along with this, I hope that this research will enrich the public knowledge on the urgency and complexities in addressing the issue of food security. In addition to that, it will enhance the awareness of the needs for management conceived around drivers of change to implement strategic innovations in improving collaboration across jurisdictions on coastal resources and building resilient livelihoods. Importantly, this research will contribute to the building of knowledge of international relations scholars, especially as reference in conducting future research related to international development and cooperation. Thus, I believe that this research will be beneficial both to scholars of social studies and the general public.

1.5 Structure of Writing

The first chapter, which is the introduction, provides an overview of the main content of the thesis, which includes the background of the thesis' topic, the research questions that the research will address, purpose of the research, and the significance of the research.

The second chapter, which is the theoretical framework, elaborates the international relations theory and concepts used as framework to analyze the mechanism of cooperation of Coral Triangle Initiative in managing and securing food security on Sulu & Sulawesi Sea along with the significance in implementing the programs. It compiles several studies on the concept of multilateral cooperation and non-traditional security threat that is integral in understanding this research.

The third chapter, which is the methodology, provides thorough explanation on the research approach, method, and data collection technique used in gathering the essential data for the research. This chapter also provides the data analysis method used in analyzing the data collected with the purpose of answering the research questions.

The fourth chapter, which is the analysis, presents all the data gathered at hand methodically in relation to the theory and concepts of international relations used on the mechanism of cooperation within Coral Triangle Initiative along with the role of Indonesia and Philippines within it in managing and securing food security on Sulu & Sulawesi Sea, that is presented as the highlight of the research.

The result of the analysis later is used to address the research question of this thesis.

The fifth chapter, which is the conclusion, provides the synopsis of the analysis in chapter four and concludes what had been analyzed.

