



Mangroves for the Future

Investing in coastal ecosystems

November - December 2011, Issue 24

In This Issue

[Regional Activities](#)

[Country Updates](#)

[Resources](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Quick Links

[MFF website - find out more!](#)

[Norad - Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation](#)

[Sida - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency](#)

Dear Secretariat,

Welcome to the Mangroves for the Future(MFF) newsletter!

The MFF newsletter aims to keep MFF National Coordinating Bodies, partner organisations and other stakeholder groups, around the region and internationally, up-to-date on MFF activities and other marine and coastal news.



Da Loc commune, Thanh Hoa province, clean the beach, CARE International Viet Nam © Søren Rudup

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Snapshots of MFF Small Grants 2009-11

In this pre-publication document, discover the range and highlights of the Small Grant Facility projects from Phase 1. Representing hundreds of thousands of people-hours across the region, this document provides a snapshot of each of the final 79 projects implemented across the six member countries of the first phase of MFF. A dedicated two-page profile covers objectives, context, beneficiaries, outputs and impacts, grant value, duration and contacts for each project.

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MFF prioritizes private sector engagement

MFF, with [CSR Asia](#) and [IUCN](#), is working on developing a private sector engagement strategy and building capacity internally to stimulate the interest of the private sector in its overall approach and work, as well as to enhance private sector involvement in its ongoing initiatives.

In the Maldives

The Six Senses Resorts and Spas (Maldives), the Taj Hotels, Resorts and Palaces (Maldives and India) presented their green business strategy during the RSC learning event focused on the private sector at the 8th MFF Regional Steering Committee meeting in the Maldives, October 2011. The seminar emphasized the importance given by MFF to private sector engagement. A field trip to Maldives resorts practicing 'green tourism' gave RSC members a snapshot of how businesses invest in environmentally-aware practices. The RSC encouraged all National Coordinating Bodies to work with the private sector, particularly where funds are available for sustainable coastal resource management efforts.

Establishing a Private Sector Network

Over the course of a 15-month project designed by CSR Asia, IUCN and MFF, a sustainable long term strategy for MFF's private sector engagement will be developed. It will focus on concrete opportunities for business involvement in MFF activities, enhance internal and external capacity to effectively engage business in MFF, and leverage opportunities for MFF more widely to promote strategic business engagement within its overall goals and promote business investment to strengthen the sustainability of coastal zones. It will contribute to positioning MFF as a strategic partner for businesses seeking meaningful and strategic investment opportunities in environmental protection and community development, as well as to leveraging financial and other support from the private sector for MFF activities.

Asia Pacific Forestry Week

7-11 November
Beijing, China



Dr Steen Christensen speaks on MFF projects and priorities
© J.Esteban MFF Secretariat 2011

At the Asia Pacific Forestry Week MFF shared initiatives and activities relevant to the conference theme "New Challenges, New Opportunities". The conference, organized by FAO, was a culmination of the International Year of the Forest (2011), and brought together forestry institutions from around the world. MFF Coordinator Dr Steen Christensen gave two presentations. He

spoke about MFF activities related to mangrove ecosystem management and knowledge sharing at two panel events, and explained how capacity development of coastal managers builds the MFF regional knowledge platform, citing the joint AIT-MFF Integrated Coastal Resource Management certificate course as an example. Steen also spoke about community-led for coastal ecosystem management and how the MFF Small Grant Facility allows communities to directly manage projects and gain benefits that include mangrove forest products. The MFF India documentary film *Mangroves: Guardians of the Coast* was

also featured at the film night.

REDD+, financing mechanisms (payment for ecosystem services and carbon marketing), and costs related to climate change adaptation were a central theme of the meeting. Social issues such as ownership by forest communities and local livelihoods associated with forestry were also discussed by conference attendees. Mangroves were discussed as potentially effective carbon sinks and as a source of community alternative livelihoods.

MFF project wins a SEED award



Women standing in front of an Aloe vera plantation © Ranjith Mahindapala IUCN

A Sri Lankan organisation that received funding for a Phase 1 MFF Small Grant Facility project has won a SEED Award. The SEED Initiative is a global partnership for action on sustainable development and the green economy. The Award is a recognition of particular achievements in innovation and entrepreneurship, promising efforts to promote economic growth, social development and environmental protection, and not least the potential of the project to inspire others. The winning project was implemented by the Marine & Coastal Resources Conservation Foundation and introduced farming of Aloe vera as an alternative income generation for fisherwomen near Puttalam, Sri Lanka.

Congratulations to the Marine & Coastal Resources Conservation Foundation!

MFF gender equality films receive regional endorsement

Mr Nirmal Ghosh is a Bangkok-based journalist and conservationist; Senior Foreign Correspondent for The Straits Times, and Trustee of The Corbett Foundation. Nirmal has provided a review of the three films that focus on gender equality themes in three MFF projects. Click [here](#) to read the review and view the films.

MFF welcomes new National Coordinator for MFF Indonesia

[Mr Dudy Nugroho](#) is the new National Coordinator for MFF Indonesia. Dudy received his degree, specializing in on spatial planning, from Brawijaya University. As part of his studies he managed a project in northern East Java that focused on land evaluation and assessment for the suitability of mangrove forests. This project also encompassed catchment research on landuse/landcover and monitoring changes including the mangrove distribution on Java Island, East Kalimantan and Southern Sumatra at World AgroForestry Center. Dudy also has two years handle project in the landscape conservation to develop the conservation system and forum communication among the stakeholder in the Zoological Society of London.

Take a visual tour of MFF

MFF invites you to take a break from your hectic day and sit back, relax and discover how the partnership-based initiative works to promote investments in coastal ecosystems that support sustainable development. [Click here to start your tour>](#)

MFF COUNTRY UPDATES

This section provides a snapshot of activities and events in the MFF member countries. Further details can be obtained from the National Coordinator in each country, please see the [MFF website](#) for their contact details.

India

India celebrates launch of new Large Project

16 November

Delhi



Mr. Hem Pande Joint Secretary, MoEF, Ms. Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General, IUCN, Dr. Subesh K. Das, Principal Secretary, Forest Department, Government of West Bengal, Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director, IUCN Asia, Dr. Ashok Khosla, President, IUCN © MFF India

The Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, State Forest Department, and the Government of West Bengal have joined together to run the MFF Large Project "Alternative Livelihood Options for Vulnerable Mangrove Resource Users in the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, West Bengal." The contract was signed following the IUCN India seminar on Convention of Biological Diversity at COP 11 in Delhi. The project commenced in January 2012 and will be carried out for two years, located in the 25 fringe villages of the Sundarban Tiger Reserve together with four fringe villages from the South 24 Pargana Division; all within the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve.

The purpose of the project is to reduce manmade pressure on the forest's natural resources by providing alternative livelihoods and income generating activities for the local communities. The project will also and will pilot initiatives for disaster preparedness, to help reduce the risk of damage to lives and livelihoods from flooding and other related natural disasters. The target beneficiaries will be the poorer sectors of the project villages that rely heavily on the mangrove resources for their day-to-day needs and livelihoods, such as traditional fishermen, honey collectors, fuel wood collectors, tourist operators, and farmers operating within the Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve.

Indonesia

Launch of a new Large Project with community-focus

25 November

Demak District, Central Java Province

Over the last two decades, the highly populated coastal area of Demak has been threatened by expansion and land conversion into fishponds, housing development, land and marine pollution, destructive fishing practices, and salinity intrusion. The new Large Project for MFF Indonesia titled "Community-Based Environmental Coastal Management" in Demak, province of Central Java" will support the government's efforts to rehabilitate the ecosystem and improve management of the area.

"The absence of mangroves has expedited destruction of coastal area in Sayung sub district, Demak. Some villages have gone following by degraded the ecosystem and loss of economic opportunities in the area... We hope the mangrove planting programme funded by MFF will provide a positive impact and benefit to rehabilitate the Demak's coastal area" said Mr. A.N. Wahyudi, Head of Marine and Fisheries Agency of Demak.

In addition, the results of the intervention will be published broadly and adopted as best practices to develop integrated sustainable coastal development in Indonesia and hopefully for other coastal areas in MFF's countries, and also for climate change adaptation. The signing of the contract and project launch was attended by local key stakeholders and supported by local government. The event received media coverage across four local newspapers.



Planting Mangrove. Head of Demak District (third from the right), Mr. Tommy Hermawan-NCB (first from the right) and other local government agencies heads planted mangrove seedling in the degraded coastal area of Bedono village, Demak.

© Weka Mahardi, MFF Indonesia

Maldives

Organic farming on the rise

November

Baa Atoll, North Province

Traditionally, the Maldives is not a farming nation and the use of chemical pesticides and imported fertilizers has dominated the development of food harvesting practices. In an effort to improve sustainable farming techniques Live and Learn Maldives (through an MFF Large Project) has conducted highly successful training on five islands of Baa Atoll. Course participants learned about the preparation of garden beds and the production of organic compost to turn sandy soil into fertile farming ground. A highlight of the training was a field visit to an organic farm on Maarikilu Island, demonstrating that successful organic farming is possible in the Maldives. This surprised and inspired the participants and word has spread quickly, and now other communities in the atoll have requested the training.

Addressing nutrition is also a key component of the project. Following workshops with health professionals, the communities took part in a competition to prepare the most nutritious meal with locally available products. Live & Learn will compile the recipes made by the communities during the competition as an output from this project.



Participants of the Conservation Agriculture Training Programme practicing the practical component in Dharavandhoo Island, Baa Atoll, North Province, Maldives in November 2011 © Live and Learn Maldives

Pakistan

Working with youth to revive indigenous conservation knowledge

December

Gwater bay, Balochistan province

In a province of Pakistan bordering Iran, Save the Nature (funding recipients for an MFF Small Grant Facility project) are working with members of the Panwan village youth group to rehabilitate and restore mangroves in Sarhor creek, the largest creek of Gwater bay. Previously the mangrove forests in Gwater bay were managed by the local communities, however changing priorities have caused a lapse in management and subsequent degradation of the ecosystem. This project is an effort to reactivate the indigenous mangrove resource management system, the participatory approach has prompted many other groups in the surrounding area by showing interest in conservation effort.

Save the Nature is surveying degraded areas and consulting with local inhabitants and preliminary restocking activities were conducted in conjunction with the youth group. The young people have already been involved with preliminary mangrove planting activities and are demonstrating great potential with 20 out of the planned 50 hectares of completed by the end of 2011. Using youth group in the forefront has the potential for this project to show promising results as until to date they managed to achieve around 20 hectares of mangrove plantation out of targeted 50 hectares.



Youth planting mangroves, Gwater bay, Balochistan, Pakistan © STN

Seychelles

Students speak out to raise awareness of impacts of coastal development

18 November

Mahé

Teams of secondary school students from Mahé, the largest island of the Seychelles, gathered to participate in a public speaking competition focused on environmental issues. Through the MFF Seychelles Large Project implemented by Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles and Green Islands Foundation, a seminar in September covered topics such as coastal development, environmental impact assessment (EIA) and national biodiversity, and introduced the concept of the competition.

Following the seminar the students prepared their speeches. The use of examples of coastal development researched from the children's own districts highlighted and brought home the message that coastal development affects the whole community. The event produced extremely high quality presentations from the school children that were filmed and broadcast on the television news channel SBC. It also provided the students with the opportunity to contribute and give views on local development and how they see it impacting on social, economic and environmental development.

It is expected that the event will encourage local people more involved in coastal development decision making processes. The students and teachers members were inspired to participate in the community meetings to be held soon by the Large Project team. *"Education and communication are crucial for raising public awareness. So I suggest that more such activities are organised to help people understand issues and problems associated with coastal developments"* said a student from English River Secondary School.



Speaking competition on coastal development © Chang - Tave 2011

Sri Lanka

Spotlight on national achievements

5 December

Galle Face Hotel, Colombo



MFF Sri Lanka showcase, Colombo, Sri Lanka © Deepal Perera, IUCN 2011

The MFF National Coordinating Body (known locally as the National Steering Committee) held a workshop to showcase the work undertaken by MFF Sri Lanka over the past four years. Officials from key government, non-government, private sector and media personnel were present. The attendees were welcomed and addressed by Mr Shamen Vidanage (Acting Country Representative of IUCN Sri Lanka) and Mr Ajith Silva of the Ministry of Environment (NSC Chair). The MFF Sri Lanka National Coordinator, Mrs Kumudini Ekaratne, briefed the participants on the past, present and future initiatives of MFF in Sri Lanka. In addition, presentations were given by recipients of MFF funding ranging from universities, non-government organisations, and community-based organisations. The discussions that followed the presentations drew out with several valuable recommendations that will be taken up at the national level for endorsement.

Thailand

Photography training brings conservation efforts into focus

30 November

Baan Tong Lang, Phang Nga District, Southern Thailand



Course participant, Ms Phannee, taking photos, Phang Nga, Thailand © Siriporn Sriaram MFF Thailand 2011

Aimed at improving photography skills, a one-day workshop was conducted for 21 local community leaders involved in coastal management from Baan Laem Hin, Baan Tong Lang and Suratthani. Following a briefing on basic image composition and camera function, the group took photos outside and returned to review and critique their images. The training was a great success; the review process helped demonstrate correct techniques and improved the quality of images taken in the afternoon.

'I am very happy to learn about photography today. Generally when I take pictures I just shot whatever and never think. Now I know that I how to communicate better through my photographs. It's very important when I have to present environmental issues to the public and with good photograph it's more interesting and more impact to the public audience', Ms Phannee Chantarajit, 41 years old, who is a caddy at the golf field during the day and another role as conservationist for her own village in Baan Tong Lang, Phang Nga.

For this kind of training, it was learned that the field photography session should be held in either early morning or late afternoon to work with softer light - rather than the harsh light and contrasting shadows created by the midday sun. The workshop is organized by MFF Thailand team; with technical support from Mr Febrian Ahmadi, a freelance photographer from Indonesia (with a personal connection to the MFF Indonesia National Coordinating Body); Ms Natchawi, representatives from RaksThai Foundation; and Ms Nancy Gibson and Mr Shin, facilitators from Love Wildlife Foundation.

Protecting Mangroves: what does it cost?

26 November

Can Gio Biosphere Reserve



Mangroves in the Can Gio Biosphere Reserve © IUCN Vietnam 2011

The MFF National Coordinating Body (NCB) in Viet Nam held their meeting in the Can Gio Biosphere Reserve, 50 kilometers south of Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC). Can Gio is the largest mangrove forest in Vietnam and is one of the most extensive mangroves plantations worldwide. It was listed as a Biosphere Reserve in 2000 in recognition of its multiple roles: reducing the salt-water intrusion, preventing discharge of solid trash into the sea, acting as an air pollution filter, and barrier to storm damage; yet with potential for environmental education, scientific research and eco-tourism.

While Can Gio is the poorest district of HCMC, the annual cost of forest protection cost is about US\$1 million paid by the local government who recognize its environmental and economic importance. However, not many provinces in Viet Nam are willing or able to pay for forest protection. The people of Can Gio have a strong commitment to protect the forest, not just the older generation but their children are also happy to take over the forest protection contracts. Economic and welfare benefits, like medical insurance, create good incentives for local

community to comply with forest protection contracts, a lesson that can be shared and applied in many areas.

During the fieldtrip scientists and experts in the NCB realized that most of these mangroves are monoculture plantations with similar age and size structure, which can be more susceptible to disease and pests. This issue was discussed with the management board. After the field trip, the NCB members gained a better understanding of local people's life, what benefits they gain from forest protection contract with the management board, and in what way those benefits change their life for the better.

RESOURCES

Get your copy now - Snapshot of MFF Small Grants 2009-11

In this pre-publication document, This publicationIn this pre-publication document, you will find a snapshot of each of the final 79 implemented projects across the six member countries of the first phase of MFF. A dedicated two-page profile covers objectives, context, beneficiaries, outputs and impacts, grant value, duration and contacts for each project.

[Download pdf>](#)

Something fishy going on? MFF India blog engages youth in environmental issues

In November 2011 MFF India launched a new blog site that features Indian marine and coastal ecosystems, plants and animals. Named Fishtales, the blog aims to educate youth about the value of India's rich coastal and marine biodiversity. By creating an informal yet informative and educational forum, readers can reflect on local coastal issues, interact and exchange opinions and share their stories online.

Whilst focusing on Indian examples, the site will cover all marine and coastal ecosystems around India including mangroves, coral reefs, sandy and rocky beaches, and wetlands. Games, illustrations and photos will supplement the learning experience to create useful learning tool for youth around the region, particularly in other MFF countries.

[Connect to Fishtales>](#)



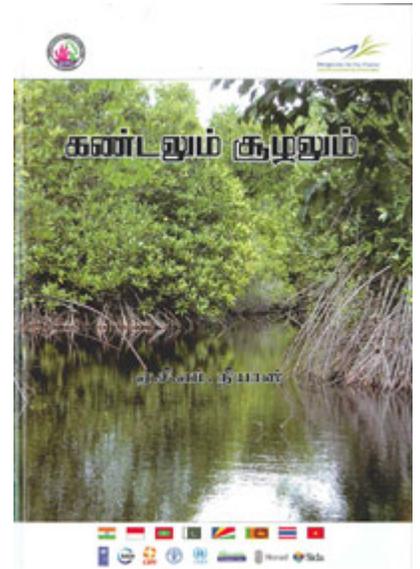
Meet Dr Crab, the "Fishtales" mascot

Tamil language book showcases mangroves

The book Kandalam Soolam (Mangroves and Environment) provides a general overview on mangroves in Sri Lanka and also functions as a field guide. A national non-governmental organisation, the Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Foundation in Kalpitiya in the North-western Province of Sri Lanka, recipient of a small grant under the MFF Small Grants Facility (Phase 2) launched the book, Kandalum Soolalum.

While several field guides on mangroves in Sri Lanka are available in English and Sinhala languages, the book covers mangroves and their surroundings and addresses the knowledge and information needs of Tamil speaking communities, particularly in Puttalam and Mannar districts which still have significant areas of undisturbed mangroves. With the impending development plans for these districts following the cessation of civil disturbances, the book will provide valuable information to policy makers, students and teachers, and communities. The copies will be distributed to Tamil medium schools.

For copies please contact the [Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Foundation](#)



Climate Change Toolkit for Students and Youth

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MFF brochure and factsheet

Learn more about MFF and its activities across eight member countries.

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Regional Secretariat,
Mangroves for the Future