MFF in Cambodia

Mangroves for the Future
INVESTING IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Overview

About Mangroves for the Future

Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is a partnership-based regional initiative which promotes investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development. MFF focuses on the role that healthy, well-managed coastal ecosystems play in building the resilience of ecosystem-dependent coastal communities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. The initiative uses mangroves as a flagship ecosystem, but MFF is inclusive of all types of coastal ecosystem, such as coral reefs, estuaries, lagoons, sandy beaches, sea grasses and wetlands. MFF is co-chaired by IUCN and UNDP, and is funded by Danida, Norad and Sida.

Coastal Cambodia

Cambodia's 440 kilometre-long coastline is scattered with mangrove forests, coral reefs, seagrass beds and other coastal ecosystems. These ecosystems are fundamental to the livelihoods of millions of Cambodians as they provide food, coastal protection and biodiversity. The conservation and management of mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass beds are therefore vital to ensure Cambodia's people continue to gain economic, cultural and nutritional benefit from the resources.

Cambodia's coastal and marine areas are biodiversity rich areas that are home to marine mammals such as the dugong, marine dolphins, and whales, as well as marine turtles and corals. They also provide important natural habitats essential to sustaining the marine fisheries of Cambodia. Destruction of these habitats results in loss of breeding, spawning, nursery and feeding grounds for many marine species, leading to a reduction in fish stocks and impacting human well-being. Land conversion for agriculture or aquaculture, over exploitation of fisheries, urban development, sand mining and dredging, destruction and degradation of coastal habitats and climate change are all impacting Cambodia's coasts.

MFF in Cambodia

The Executive Board for MFF in Cambodia was established on 15 June 2012 and approved by the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia on 12 October 2012. The Executive Board is responsible for coordinating MFF in Cambodia and for developing and implementing coastal management initiatives at the national and sub-national levels. It provides a forum to foster improved dialogue, planning and decision-making between different government agencies and non-governmental organisations involved in coastal management and development within the context of

UNDP IUCN Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations UNEP Wetlands International SWEDEN Norad UDENRIGSMINISTERIET DANIDA DANMARKS UDVIKLINGSSAMARBEJDE ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

MFF and in relation to broader issues and concerns of coastal ecosystem management in Cambodia.

MFF Cambodia at work

Koh Kong province is home to the largest areas of mangrove forests in Cambodia, covering over 62,000 hectares. The mangrove forests provide local communities with substantial direct and indirect benefits such as food and other non-timber forest products, carbon sequestration, as well as water, pollution, and erosion regulation. Mangrove forests are also vital habitats for fish, which are an important food source for other marine life such as marine dolphins.

The MFF - Small Grant Facility (MFF- SGF) initiative has been active in Koh Kong Province since 2014 with the aim of building local community resilience by helping them sustainably manage, conserve and restore coastal ecosystems, and improve local communities' resource dependent livelihoods.

Planting mangroves in Toul Korki

In collaboration with the Department of Environment (DoE), Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary (PKWS), and local authorities in Toul Korki Commune, and funded by the MFF-SGF project, Toul Korki Community Protected Area (CPA) planted over 25,000 mangrove seedlings over four hectares in May of 2016. In total 67 participants joined the mangrove planting at Toul Korki CPA, including participants from both the DoE and PKWS.

Sustainable farming practices

Through the "Sustainable Livelihood Through Improving Ecosystem in Mangrove Area (SLIEMA)" project, MFF-SGF grantee Research and Human Resource Development (RHRD) is helping to reduce overfishing in the sanctuary by working with the local community to make farming livelihoods more lucrative and sustainable. In April 2016, RHRD organised a series of trainings with the aim of providing solutions to the challenges facing the community with regard to vegetable and chicken farming practices. Some of the techniques taught included a drip irrigation that saves water and increases yields, and chicken de-worming practices that greatly increase livestock survival.

Reducing logging in the mangrove forest

An MFF-funded project in Koh Kong Province helped install manure-powered biogas reactors on 12 local farms. These biogas reactors reduce the need for locals to get firewood and timber from the nearby mangrove forests, which are commonly used for charcoal. Additionally, the manure is a re-usable farm byproduct that saves families $2.50 USD a day in fuel costs and also the time spent having to get fuel. Simple solutions such as these are helping local families to focus their energies on profitable and sustainable practices that help preserve and rehabilitate coastal ecosystems in Cambodia.

Get Involved!

To obtain more information on MFF, or to learn how you, your organisation, project or community can join in, please contact us: **secretariat@mangroves-forthefuture.org**

Visit our website: **www.mangrovesforthefuture.org/countries/members/cambodia**

Photo credit:
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Back page (top to bottom):An elevated walkway in the mangrove forest of Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary © Steven Bernacki/IUCN; Chicken and vegetable farming practices © Steven Bernacki/IUCN; A manure-powered biogas reactor © Steven Bernacki/IUCN; Two local community members help to plant mangrove seedlings in Tuol Korki, Cambodia © Veth Sonim/IUCN