



June - July, 2010

Welcome to the sixteenth issue of the MFF e-Newsletter!

This e-Newsletter aims to keep MFF National Coordinating Bodies (NCBs), partner organisations and other stakeholder groups up to date on MFF activities and other marine and coastal news. We warmly welcome your contribution!

News/Announcements

MFF Phase 2 approved!

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has approved funding for a second phase (2010-2013). MFF Phase 2 will focus on consolidation of project results and other activities designed to support eight full member countries. In addition, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar and Timor-Leste will be supported on a dialogue or outreach basis. In Phase 2, MFF will also improve the governance structures that have successfully guided Phase 1, including strengthening the role of civil society in coastal decision-making and investment. There will be a stronger focus on regional cooperation, capacity development and regional actions. Consequently, applied research on e.g. studies on the role of mangroves in carbon sequestration and coastal erosion control; and on the true economic values of coastal ecosystems (and conversely the full extent of economic losses suffered by not managing them sustainably) will be given priority in Phase 2.

Arrivals and Departures

Ms. Minna Epps, MFF Programme Officer has been working with MFF since 2007 as a JPO supported by Sida. She will be leaving the MFF Regional Secretariat in September, but it is not farewell as she will stay involved in some MFF activities over the coming months. Some final words from Minna:

It has been an extraordinary period filled with excitement and the work I have been able to do during my time with MFF has been a great learning opportunity, especially the ability to work at so many different levels from National Governments to the field level. I have also had the pleasure of watching MFF grow over the past three years with great success and increased ownership from the countries. Today MFF has a project portfolio of more than 100 projects with great results!



I am truly grateful to IUCN Asia Regional Office for hosting me and to Sida for providing this opportunity. I would like to extend a special thank you to my dear MFF colleagues, Hanying Li, Siriporn Sriaram, Janaka De Silva and Oliver Abrenilla, as well as to Don Macintosh, MFF Coordinator for his excellent leadership and support to the team, SENSE and our partners. I would also like to applaud our MFF Country Coordinators for their excellent work in both promoting MFF and communicating project results, as well as for supporting the NCBs in delivering the National Strategies and Action Plans and good collaboration. I am very pleased and proud to have been part of the MFF initiative and I wish MFF much continued success. I will miss all of you and hope our paths will cross in the near future.

Recent Events



Mangroves for the Future (MFF) co-sponsors 2010 Southeast Asia Katoomba Meeting, 23-24 June 2010, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

This year's Katoomba Meeting in Southeast Asia was attended by more than 400 partners, from both Asia and the rest of the world, who are interested in markets and payments for ecosystem services (PES). The meeting consisted of plenary and case study presentations from experts and practitioners in the areas of carbon financing and market payments for watershed, marine/coastal and biodiversity services. Mangroves for the Future (MFF) presented a paper in a session on Coastal and Marine Markets, which emphasised the benefits of maintaining healthy mangroves as a sustainable option of securing

livelihood and coastal protection services. For a summary report and live videos, please go to:

<http://live.katoombagroup.org/>.

Understanding how to move forward with mangrove carbon sequestration projects: a project development perspective, Katoomba XVII Workshop: Viet Nam, 25-27 June, 2010.

Following the Katoomba meeting, MFF conducted a workshop on coastal management, mangroves and carbon sequestration in Nam Dinh Province. The workshop brought together more than 70 carbon market specialists and mangrove experts from 14 countries to discuss the opportunities and issues relating to carbon financing of mangroves in Viet Nam. The workshop was a joint initiative of MFF, Forest Trends, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE). The workshop was preceded by a field visit to the Xuan Thuy National Park.



According to **Tran Kim Long, Deputy Director General, ICD-MARD, Viet Nam** The matters discussed are crucial but difficult, thus they need to get many stakeholders to be involved in the whole process. A participatory approach has to be applied at every step to achieve our goal on PES and REDD+. **Dr. S.A.D. Kingsley, Senior Deputy Conservation of Forest, Sri Lanka** added that Sri Lanka is in the initial stage of developing a national strategy on REDD+, the information from Viet Nam's experience and those provided by the experts are very valuable and that it would be very helpful if a complete training programme would be provided by MFF and its partners.



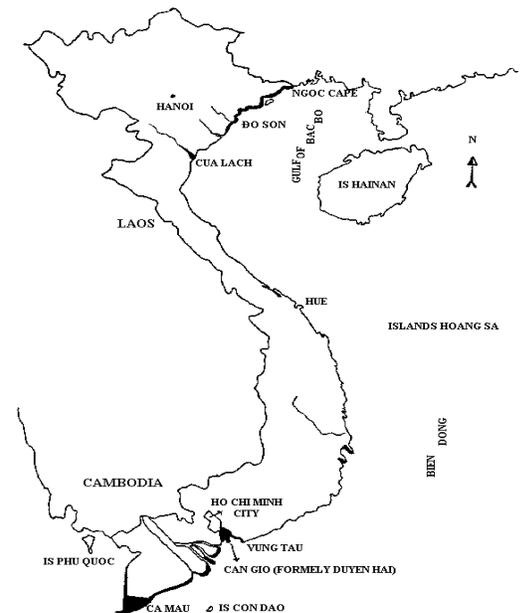
The field trip to Xuan Thuy National Park, Vietnam's first Ramsar site in the Giao Thuy District, Nam Dinh Province, was co-organised by MFF and the IUCN Viet Nam Office. "The field trip showcased various mangrove ecosystem management practices such as utilization of tidal river flats for aquaculture, creation of local watch houses and managing waterways, which can be applied in Myanmar. All the information gathered from this workshop will be shared in Myanmar by organising an NGO Network meeting together with some selected technical experts and policy makers"--- **U Aung Myint, General Secretary of Local NGO, Myanmar.**



Mr. Nguyen Viet Cach, Director of the Xuan Thuy National Park (left) presented an overview of the nature reserve. He identified the following lessons and additional areas of support:

- a. Developing capacities of park staff
- b. Sufficient institutional support to set-up co-management
- c. Need to support economic development to community members (e.g., mushroom culture, eco-tourism).)

The mangrove story of Viet Nam: Previously, mangrove forests in Viet Nam occupied an area of 400,000 hectares. They were particularly extensive in the southern part of Vietnam. From Vungtau, southeast of Ho Chi Minh City and along the coast of the Mekong Delta to the tip of the Camau Peninsula, mangrove forests covered 250,000 hectares in 1943, 191,800 hectares in 1983 and 156,000 hectares in 1988. During the conflicts in the 70's, the area of mangrove forests was seriously reduced with about 36% of the mangrove area in South Vietnam destroyed by herbicides. After 1975, many mangrove areas were overexploited or converted to shrimp or fish ponds or for agricultural cultivation.





© M Epps, Fish markets, left to right Tokyo, Semporna and Male

Food for All! Investment Forum for Food Security in Asia and the Pacific, Manila, Philippines, 7-9 July, 2010.

Recognising the urgency of the need to address food insecurity in the region, but also its potential to produce safe and adequate “food for all”, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), co-organized an Investment Forum for Food Security in Asia and the Pacific. The aim of this high-level forum was to showcase Asia and the Pacific as an attractive region for increased public and private sector investments on food security by engendering multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral investments to increase efficiencies in the production, processing and distribution and marketing of sustainable food in the region.

The Forum noted that Asia hosts almost 1 billion poor people, and yet the region feeds 60 percent of the world’s population, producing 90 percent of its rice, 40 percent of its cereal and 40 percent of its meat!

The sharp decline in food stocks in the Asia Pacific region, and the dramatic increases in food prices that characterised 2007-2008 global food crisis, have exposed our vulnerability to disruptions in the food supply chain. The underlying factors which remain are: increased competition for water and land, mis-management of these resources, small producers’ lack of access to financing, markets and distribution networks, insufficient investment in productivity-enhancing technologies and infrastructure, while and added to these problems are impacts from climate change.

MFF presented a paper on *Ecosystem Approaches to Coastal Resource Management- the case for investing in mangrove ecosystems* in Session 3: Investing in Innovative Approaches and Good Practices in Natural Resource Management. For more information, please visit: <http://www.adb.org/investmentforum>.



© D. Macintosh, MFF Secretariat

BOBLME and MFF partnership takes off!

The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project and the MFF initiative recently held a Regional Training Course on Effective Communications to support Integrated Coastal Management, 28-30 July, 2010, Bandos Resort, Maldives.



The BOBLME Secretariat and the MFF Secretariat held an informal meeting in February 2010 to discuss the potential collaboration between the two initiatives. There was a consensus between both Secretariats to collaborate through joint activities such as workshops and training courses, especially given the overlap in geographical scope and with similar objectives. The BOBLME and MFF Secretariat agreed to conduct a series of regional training courses for BOBLME and MFF Focal Countries. The need to build regional communications capacity was identified as a priority. It was therefore decided to conduct a three-day introductory training course on effective communication to help build communications capacity to assist BOBLME and MFF focal country participants to support efficient programme delivery, maintain good working relations with stakeholders. This is highly compatible with the BOBLME and MFF Communications strategies and is relevant to all BOBLME Project sub-components and MFF Programmes of Work.



© MFF Secretariat Rafiul Haq, IUCN being interviewed

This introductory training course was designed exclusively for BOBLME and MFF focal country mid-career marine and coastal professionals seeking to improve their delivery of scientific and technical information/advice; and for them to be better equipped with the skills needed to communicate their work at a non-technical level, clearly and confidently to a wide range of audiences. Considerable emphasis was placed on interactive learning involving practical demonstration and use of role play in real life situations, mock interviews and presentations. The course was conducted by the MFF Secretariat Programme Officer, Minna Epps, together with a communication and PR

specialist, Rebecca Jane Sullivan. A total of 22 trainees from nine different countries in Asia and Africa, from Academia, NGOs and Government participated in the training course. The trainees had a wide range of experiences and were of a diverse age group.

"The training was very fruitful for me and will greatly help me in the implementation of my MFF project. I've learned to use the better ways of communicating with various stakeholders. I appreciate the given opportunity and thank the course facilitators for a wonderful training experience."

Christel Jacques, Seychelles



The next joint BOBLME and MFF Regional Training course will be on Project Cycle Management and how to integrate Climate change, gender considerations and communications at project level. The course will be held in Tamil Nadu, India 02-10 October, 2010, at the kind invitation of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, which is Chair of MFF India, MFF is co-organising the course together with the M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF).

LEARNING



MLE team from left to right: Ajith Tennakoon, Ajith Silva, Janaka de Silva and Susil Liyanarachchi

MFF Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation (MLE) team visits Sri Lanka's Large Projects

A second monitoring, learning and evaluation (MLE) visit to Sri Lanka's two MFF large projects took place 3-6 August, 2010. The team consisted of three members of the MFF Sri Lanka National Steering Committee: **Susil Liyanarachchi** Director, CARE Sri Lanka, **Ajith Silva** Director (Policy & Planning), Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, **Ajith Tennakoon** Director, Sewalanka Foundation and **Janaka de Silva**, MFF Programme Manager. The team was also accompanied by **Don Macintosh**, MFF Coordinator, **Ranjith Mahindapala** and **Kumi Ekaratne** from IUCN.

The MLE team met the large project grantees from Environmental Foundation Limited and Sri Lanka Nature Forum (SLNF), who had an opportunity to update the team on the progress of their respective projects. The team also visited the project sites around the Puttalam Lagoon and Maha Oya and met with local project stakeholders. The MLE visit also presented an opportunity for the team to meet with MFF small project grantees, Marine Resources Conservation Foundation (MRCF) in Kalpitiya and learn about their plans to expand their activities related to aloe vera.



Right: Members of Women's revolving fund in Kalpitiya (SLNF Project) explaining how the fund has helped them improve their livelihoods.



Left: Harrison Jayewardene, a sand miner and project stakeholder has received training through the MFF EFL project that has enabled him to start up cage culture of tilapia and reduce his dependence on sand mining. Mr. Jayewardene has invested his own funds to buy material to set up the cages and, through the support of EFL, he is now a member of the Gampaha District Inland Fisheries Association from whom he gets technical backstopping.



Marine Biodiversity in Thailand: Challenges & Opportunities

To promote the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, and showcase some of MFF's work in Thailand, a conference followed by an exhibition forum was organised by the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) together with 16 other organisations in Phuket 28-30 June 2010. The objective of the conference was to promote the work of MFF and its partnership-based approach to conserve coastal biodiversity for sustainable livelihood of coastal communities, as well as to provide a networking and knowledge sharing opportunity for NCB members, practitioners, local representatives, NGOs and Academia working on coastal issues in Thailand. A total of 470 registered participants from Government, NGOs, Academia, Researcher, practitioner, private sector joined the Conference.



MFF also invited a Woman's Group from Phuket to make dessert for all the participants at the conference. One of the main ingredients were propagules of *Bruguiera cylindrica*.

Right: Dessert made from *Bruguiera cylindrica* propagules.



Stories from the field



© M. Epps Blue whale, Sri Lanka

Promoting community based eco-tourism in Kalpitiya, North Western Province of Sri Lanka

The north western coast of Sri Lanka is emerging as a prime location for nature tourism industry focusing on Dolphin and Whale watching. The Bar Reef Sanctuary and surrounding waters are attracting the attention of many tourists interested in spotting six species of whales and dolphins in their natural habitat. Approximately 50 fishermen use their hastily converted fibre glass boats to take tourists sightseeing. The local tourist peak season is between November and April where tourists pay between SLR 6,000-12,000 per trip. Unplanned growth combined with poor training can lead to the proverbial, killing of the goose that laid the golden egg". The MFF Project "Promoting community participation in Integrated Coastal Management in the North Western Province of Sri Lanka" managed by SLNF has a component that promotes community eco-tourism in the Kalpitiya region. In partnership with Ocean Resources Conservation Organisation (ORCA), the project has been working with local fishermen to develop sustainable practices for dolphin and whale watching. Following an initial assessment, ORCA is working with the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) to develop guidelines for the design of boats and standards for training potential operators. The project will also support the training of local operators using the developed training curriculum and support 30 boats to be upgraded. Once completed, it is anticipated that the majority of fishermen conducting tours would be certified by the SLTDA. Through the training it is anticipated that a viable tourism product that generates income maintains high safety standards and enables safe dolphin and whale watching for both cetaceans and humans will be developed.



Right. MLE Team Member Ajith Silva discussing the project with stakeholders.



© Siriporn Sriaram, MFF Thailand

MFF Large Project “Ecosystem-based Integrated Coastal Resources Management through Multi-Stakeholder participation in Southern Thailand” implemented by Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) in collaboration with Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), UNDP and SEA START.

The first mangrove plantation at Tha Tub, Nakorn Srithammarat organised by Tha –Tub community, in collaboration with Tha Sala Tambon Administrative Organization, Nakornsrihammarat, took place in June, 2010. The event brought together school students, community and government officials. Around 300 individuals joined the planting of over 1,000 seedlings

in order to raise awareness of how coastal resources and ecosystems can be protected and conserved by multi-stakeholder participation. **Dr Cherdchinda Chotiyaputta**, Marine and Coastal management specialist and **Mr Somsak Piriayota**, mangrove specialist from DMCR were invited as well as **Dr Noparat Baamrungrat**, Mangrove Expert from Prince of Song Khla university. There was also a sharing forum on “Integrated Coastal Resources Management through Multi Stakeholder participation” which was facilitated by **Ms Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk**, Director of SDF.

More photos can be view at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/thailand.mff/SDF#>



© Siriporn Sriaram, MFF Thailand

Upcoming Events



Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 21-22 October, 2010

The Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum is organised by the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia and the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network. The Forum will provide an opportunity to share practices, knowledge and experiences on mainstreaming adaptation to climate change into development planning in Asia and the Pacific.

The adaptation forum will stimulate regional knowledge sharing and facilitate networking among participants to maximize synergy; add value to existing country/regional level knowledge platforms and activities to enhance and support cooperation and coordination; Link local level adaptation initiatives with those at national and regional level. The participatory format of the Adaptation Forum will include plenary and keynote sessions, panel discussions, business roundtables, thematic side events, market place, photo and poster exhibitions. The sessions will be facilitated by eminent climate scientists, adaptation experts and development planners from the region. MFF will organise a side event. For more information and to register, please visit:

<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/adaptationforum2010/>.



© MFF Seychelles

Media

MFF NCB Seychelles members, quick to tell the world about the real Climate change impacts!

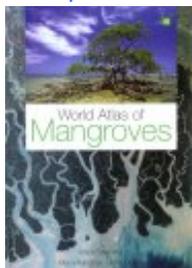


MFF Seychelles NCB members were quick to respond to the opportunity of showing the world how Climate Change really is impacting their natural ecosystems and the various sectors that these ecosystems support, as well how its is affecting biodiversity, people, natural habitats and agriculture. A French film crew got to interview decision-makers, village elders, farmers and the agriculture agency, meteorological services, marine parks authority and local people affected by climate change. The MFF Seychelles Coordinator, Ms. Lyndy Bastienne, showed the team some sites of importance to DRR and how MFF is helping with their restoration, as well raising awareness of the general public. There was also a mangrove planting session at Ephelia resort, and a presentation and a forum on wetlands importance and conservation by Wildlife Clubs members.

Salute to the dedication of IUCN's Mangrove Expert, Tahir Qureshi! Click on the link below to watch the BBC film clip.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/urdu/multimedia/2010/06/100625_mangroves_gawadar.shtml

New publications



The first truly global assessment of the state of the world's mangroves!

Written by the leading experts on mangroves with support from the top international researchers and conservation and international organizations including ISME, FAO, IUCN, The Nature Conservancy and others, this full colour atlas contains 60 full-page maps, hundreds of photographs and illustration and a comprehensive country-by-country assessment of mangroves. The book also presents a wealth of global statistics on biodiversity, habitat area loss and economic valuation. This book also provides a unique record of mangroves against which future threats and changes can be evaluated. Case-studies, written by regional experts provide insights into regional mangrove issues, including primary and potential productivity, biodiversity, and information on present and traditional uses and values and sustainable management. ISBN 978-1-84407-657-4.

Put your news in the next issue of the MFF E-Newsletter!

Do you have any news or stories that you would like to feature in the next issue of the bi-monthly MFF Newsletter? Send us your latest news and other activities to: e-news@mangrovesforthefuture.org.

To subscribe to this E-newsletter please sign up on-line at: www.mangrovesforthefuture.org.

About MFF

Mangroves for the Future (MFF), is a unique partner-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystems which builds on a history of coastal management interventions before and after the 2004 tsunami, as well as extensive consultations with over 200 individuals and 160 institutions involved in coastal zone management. It focuses on the following countries; India, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam, as well as several outreach countries in the region that face similar issues. MFF uses mangroves as a flagship ecosystem but is inclusive of all coastal ecosystems. MFF provides a collaborative platform among the many different agencies, sectors and countries who are addressing challenges to coastal ecosystem and livelihood issues. Through generating knowledge, empowering institutions and individuals to promote good governance in coastal ecosystem management, MFF seeks to achieve demonstrable results in influencing regional cooperation, national programme support, private sector engagement and community action.

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