

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.

We warmly welcome your contribution!

Raising the Profile of Gender Equality in MFF



Ali Raza Rizvi, IUCN, facilitating the MFF Gender Equality workshop
© MFF Secretariat

The current MFF Gender Framework, presented at the 5th Regional Steering Committee meeting in July 2009, was reviewed during a recent Gender Equality workshop. The MFF Secretariat has added to the original framework by identifying action points on gender equality interventions.

One of the main objectives of the workshop was to assess gender equality elements in all MFF programmes of work at three levels: the enabling environment (includes a situational analysis of the socio-cultural and policy environments); organizational (includes an analysis of institutions, multiple stakeholders, and structures of co-management); and household/individual levels (particularly ownership and access of and to resources).

Specific interventions for mainstreaming gender were also identified within MFF's institutional, policy, finance, monitoring and evaluation, capacity development, and reporting contexts.

At the end of the workshop, the Secretariat expressed the need for a technical working group to look at gender issues in detail, for example establishing criteria and guidelines for ensuring gender equality and equity in project workplans. The Secretariat also agreed to present the revised MFF Gender Framework to the 8th Regional Steering Committee meeting on October 2011.

An immediate output of the MFF Gender Equality workshop will be a series of short films illustrating key gender equality messages from the MFF context.

MFF joins the Regional Asia-Pacific Adaptation Knowledge Network



Participants at the Regional Asia-Pacific Adaptation Knowledge workshop © AKP Secretariat

The workshop aimed to identify knowledge partners to make links between regional climate change adaptation knowledge. To connect knowledge partners, a knowledge-sharing system was proposed to promote dialogue and improve the exchange of knowledge, information, and methods within and between countries. The knowledge partners were invited to link existing and emerging networks and initiatives, with web portals identified as a way to facilitate these links and bridge gaps between knowledge providers and users.

Workshop participants came from across the region: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Japan, Korea, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Different models of climate change and adaptation knowledge management were presented from all levels (international to sub-national), and perspectives on knowledge users, providers, and knowledge sharing platforms were shared and

discussed.

The participants all agreed that knowledge should be packaged in different ways, making particular efforts to use simple language and avoid jargon. They also recognized a need to be more strategic and systematic in capturing knowledge. At the end of the workshop, the participants expressed their interest in becoming knowledge partners of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform. UNDP invited partners to explore the Adaptation Learning Mechanism search facility on the web portal:

[Climate Change Adaptation in Asia and the Pacific.](#)

The participants also agreed that the next step should be to draft a phased strategy for all regional partners to adopt. MFF has agreed to join a follow-up Adaptation Knowledge Platform meeting with selected knowledge partners to develop this strategy.

The first Adaptation Knowledge Management workshop was held in Bangkok on 28 February, bringing together international Information and Knowledge Focal Points to assess adaptation knowledge relevant to the Asia-Pacific region. MFF participated and shared its Knowledge Management and Climate Change adaptation strategies, particularly the [MFF Climate Proof tool](#).

Regional Activities

Celebrating World Wetlands Day 2011

World Wetlands Day commemorates the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the shores of the Caspian Sea. This year, to celebrate 40 years since the signing of the convention, the theme was forests for water and wetlands, focusing on forested wetlands and the special benefits they bring.

MFF countries were involved in various World Wetlands Day activities around the region. Below is a summary of some of the events that took place through MFF and its partners.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated on 2 February - an international day to highlight the importance of wetlands to people's livelihoods and raise public awareness of wetland values.

MFF Indonesia participates in campus-based mangrove action

MFF Indonesia supported "Save Mangroves for Our Earth", a two-day event, 22-23 January, organized by the Tree Grower Community of the Faculty of Forestry, Bogor Agricultural University.

A seminar on the first day highlighted current important issues of mangrove management in Indonesia. Several members from the MFF Indonesia National Coordinating Body spoke at the seminar. Attendees included a range of national stakeholders such as academics and university students, NGOs, government representatives and members of the media.



Students are eager to learn about MFF at the World Wetlands Day event © MFF Indonesia

MFF Indonesia also set up a learning booth to display information on regional and local MFF projects, and distributed MFF promotional kits. Participants responded enthusiastically to the opportunity to learn about MFF. More than 100 copies of a book on mangrove rehabilitation were given out to stakeholders during the seminar (refer to Resources section below).

On the second day, more than 300 participants and volunteers from local schools and NGOs took part in a mangrove planting event at Muara Angke, North Jakarta. The Mayor of North Jakarta also joined in the event, at which 1000 mangrove seeds were planted. The Tree Grower Community will organize planting of a further 2000 mangrove seedlings this year, and has also committed itself to maintaining the mangrove plantations for at least a year after they are established.

Overall, the two-day event was successful in increasing the visibility of MFF projects in Indonesia and in raising awareness of mangrove conservation issues.

Students in Karachi dig into wetlands history



Overview of World Wetlands Day presented to students © MFF Pakistan

IUCN Pakistan, in collaboration with the Shaheed-e-Millat Government College for Women in Karachi, organized a full day of activities to celebrate World Wetlands Day. The event was attended by more than 250 women students from the College's biology department. Mr Rafiul Haq, MFF National Coordinator, shared the main highlights of the development of the Ramsar Convention and the significance of World Wetlands Day.

To emphasize the connection with the 2011 theme of "Wetlands and Forests", Prof. M. Wajahat Ali Khan of the College explained the importance of wetlands in relation to the International Year of the Forests. Prof. Khan's presentation focused on a pilot project to restore land degraded by salinisation in the coastal district of Badin.

Six students were chosen to give a presentation as part of a competition related to the theme of Wetlands and Forests. The head of the selection panel, Prof. Sadrudin Hussain (former principal of the Adamjee Science College, Karachi) announced the names of three best presenters: Ms Maryam, Ms Sundus and Ms Zainab, who will receive a certificate of merit in March 2011.

Prof. Ishrat Iqbal, principal of the Shaheed-e-Millat Government College for Women, gave an address praising IUCN for its efforts to conserve the environment. She acknowledged that educational institutions have a vital role to play in spreading the message of conservation, and thanked IUCN and its initiatives, in particular MFF Pakistan and SCCDP (Sindh Coastal Community Development Project), for helping organize such an impressive and enjoyable event.



Students of Shaheed-e-Millat Government College for Women celebrate World Wetlands Day © MFF Pakistan

World Wetlands Day activities in the Seychelles raise awareness of wetland ecosystem importance

World Wetlands Day celebrations in Seychelles were marked this year by a series of events in communities and at important wetland sites. MFF Seychelles was one of the active organizers of these events, together with the Ministry of Environment and other partners.

Senior government officials participated in the events together with community members, some of whom are carrying out wetlands conservation projects under MFF. These groups included the Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles, the Roche Caiman Action Group, and project supporters such as the Ephelia Resort.

The Minister for Environment launched the first event, emphasizing his ministry's recognition of the efforts of initiatives such as MFF to raise public awareness and create a model for wetlands protection, including restoration to reduce the risks from natural disasters.



Unveiling the Ramsar sign board by Principal Secretary, Environment, and the Director General of the Wetlands Unit © MFF Seychelles

To mark the celebrations, participants planted over 200 mangrove seedlings, which will be monitored by the Roche Caiman Action Team.

An exhibition also showcased different activities undertaken by the Wildlife Clubs and included the launching of a wetlands and coastal activity guide produced by the Wildlife Clubs with the Department of Environment.

The second major activity to mark World Wetlands Day was the unveiling of a commemorative board officially declaring Mare Aux Cochons, an upland marsh on Mahe, a Ramsar site.

MFF Thailand participates in World Wetlands Days



From right; Somsak Soonthornnawaphat; Thailand Programme Manager IUCN-Thailand, Nisakorn Kositratna; Secretary General ONEP, Sunee Piyaphanpong; Vice Secretary General ONEP, Dr Sirikul Banphapong; Director Office of Biodiversity ONEP © Pratheep Mekatitham, Wetlands International-Thailand

MFF Thailand organized a display of its experiences in implementing the 'reef-to-ridge' approach at a World Wetlands Day workshop organized by the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) in Bangkok.

Various MFF institutional partners also attended this event. Together with IUCN's Thailand Programme, ONEP and these partners have collaborated in river conservation work aimed at protecting the habitat of the rare Southern Thai water onion (*Crinum thaianum*). ONEP has highlighted the water onion, endemic to Ranong and Phang Nga provinces (both MFF project sites), in its main campaign publication "13 years of Thailand and the Ramsar Convention". Partners in Thailand collaborating with ONEP on the Ramsar Convention and wetlands issues are IUCN, Wetlands International, the Bird Conservation Society of Thailand and WWF.

Thailand ratified the Ramsar Convention in 1998. To guide the conservation and management of wetlands in Thailand, the Thai Government has passed two Cabinet resolutions on Wetlands Management (in 1 August 2000 and 3 November 2009). A Sub-

Committee on Wetland Management was established in 2002 to provide guidance on wetland issues to the National Environment Board, Thailand's highest environmental policy-making body.

Country Updates

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

MFF activities in Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Securing Coastal Communities with Mangroves

Integrated coastal zone development is a priority for Bangladesh because of its ecological and economic benefits. To this end, Bangladesh has adopted a Coastal Zone Policy and associated strategy and action plan.

A number of noteworthy initiatives have been launched to secure the livelihoods of coastal communities and strengthen their resilience. The Forest Department has developed a 'green belt' through extensive social forestry programmes that have expanded the area of coastal reserved forest and buffer zone. The Department has also developed a wide network of protected areas along the coastal zone.

To enhance this process of securing coastal ecosystems and livelihoods, IUCN Bangladesh is working with the Bangladesh government to facilitate its full membership of MFF. The Chief Conservator of Forests and a representative from IUCN Bangladesh attended the 7th Regional Steering Committee meeting in November 2010, to convey his government's commitment towards MFF. A draft scoping report has recently been prepared that includes an indicative action plan for MFF in Bangladesh and builds on the lessons of current policies, strategies and plans. The establishment of a National Coordinating Body and its official endorsement is also underway, and a National Strategy and Action Plan for MFF in Bangladesh is expected to be completed by the end of 2011.



St Martins Island, the only coral island in Bangladesh © Ahana Adrika, IUCN

MFF India

Stakeholder meeting on Indian coastal management

MFF India will hold a national stakeholders meeting on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity and Management in mid April 2011.

This two-day consultative meeting will bring together and discuss all ongoing and proposed activities by national (governmental, research and civil society agencies) and international (World Bank, UNDP) working in the areas of coastal and marine biodiversity, developing integrated coastal zone management plans and on livelihoods.

The meeting will facilitate exchange of information on lessons learnt and best practices on the above mentioned issues and provide a road map on integrating all these related activities into a national level process.



A Royal Bengal tiger in the Sundarbans amongst the mangroves © MFF India

MFF Indonesia

Management of Angke-Kapuk wetland for conservation of natural resources

The project site of Muara Angke is in North Jakarta, an area facing problems with disposing of large amounts of household and factory waste. Effective waste management is one of the main objectives of the project, managed by a local NGO known as Jakarta Green Monster (JGM). The local community has been trained by the project team to process household waste into compost, starting with sorting and processing various types of waste and identifying potential opportunities for reuse. The project has donated a compost machine to the local community to process household and organic waste. JGM has also provided training on developing products from plastic waste.



School children participating in waste management activities © Jakarta Green Monster

School students have taken part in the waste management training, starting with clean-up activities, waste sorting and producing recycled paper. Ria Handayani and Rika Veronica, two seventh-grade students who participated in the training, have clearly demonstrated their capacity to process unused paper and produce recycled paper. With help from their teacher, the girls and a group of other students have started to produce cards made from their own recycled paper.

During a January site visit, Ria said "Thanks to the training provided by JGM under support from MFF, we are about to start a business of making name cards from recycled paper. Of course our teacher will help us in the design and marketing of our products, but at least now we are aware that if we treat the waste around us wisely, it can also benefit us economically".

Coming events in Indonesia

March: An MFF monitoring, learning and evaluation visit is planned for the two Small Grant Facility projects in Makassar and Pematang.

May: Let's Plant Mangrove (*Ayo Tanam Mangrove*) will conduct a major national mangrove planting campaign, organized by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries.

MFF Maldives

Climate change awareness in the community

Live & Learn Environmental Education, a local NGO, is carrying out the project *"Promoting community resilience to climate change, by the introduction and dissemination of conservation agriculture, through Island Women's Development Committees, in five islands in Baa Atoll in the North Province of Maldives"*.

As part of this MFF project Live & Learn has conducted a community awareness programme about the causes and consequences of climate change in Baa Atoll. After the training courses, Live & Learn evaluated the course outputs, highlighting the feedback of one participant, Abdulla Jaleel from Baa Maalhos.

Mr Jaleel, a secondary school teacher, said that he had learned a lot from the climate change training. He explained that this information is critical for the Maldives, owing to its vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, such as beach erosion from rising sea levels and ocean acidification. Mr Jaleel also acknowledged that although these issues are not in the formal school curriculum, it is useful for him as a teacher to understand these concepts. He plans to impart this knowledge to his students.

Mr Jaleel is now an advocate for environmentally friendly activities. His hobby is night fishing, and since the training he has not dumped any used oil into the lagoon, and he has also advised his friends to do the same. He is determined not to bring any motorized vehicles into his community, and will advise his friends, students and family to do likewise. With regard to sharing his knowledge and skills gained from the training course with the wider community, Mr Jaleel looks forward to conducting climate change training with help from local NGOs and CBOs, and Live & Learn, in the future.



Sea level rise demonstration,
Baa Malhos Male © Live &
Learn

MFF Seychelles

The Nairobi Convention brings parties together to agree on a regional ICZM protocol for the Western Indian Ocean

The Regional Coastal Management Programme coordinated the finalization of a draft of a regional integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) protocol at a three-day meeting in the Seychelles in February.

This was the third technical and legal working meeting to draft an ICZM protocol for the Western Indian Ocean region. Participants from some East African countries and Indian Ocean island states, parties to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, attended the sessions. The attendees debated and agreed on common issues and concerns such as laws, sustainable use and conservation of marine resources, and sharing of best practices among member states.

The ICZM protocol, which will now be submitted for endorsement, will be a legal regional instrument for better coordination of coastal actions. It will also serve as a tool to promote best practice in sustainable development of coastal areas and enforcement of common laws, and to help governments become more proactive in improving the management and governance of coastal and marine resources.

The Seychelles has most of its key infrastructure in the coastal zones of the main islands, which are undergoing rapid economic development. As a result, ICZM is critically important for the proper management of the increasingly limited coastal zone and its numerous competing land uses.

The Seychelles has recently formed a national ICZM committee to bring together different state and non-state sectors. The ICZM committee plans to meet regularly to discuss the way forward for implementing and reporting on the new protocol. MFF Seychelles, which also has an ICZM panel, is represented on the

national committee by the Green Islands Foundation, one of the NGO members of the MFF Seychelles National Coordinating Body.

In the wake of the February ICZM regional meeting, it is hoped that national laws will be better enforced and people made more aware of the important roles and benefits of coastal resources and wetlands to their livelihoods, their security and their well-being.

MFF Sri Lanka

Coastal zone managers and tourism officials meet to discuss tourism development

IUCN Sri Lanka, in partnership with the Sri Lanka National Academy of Science, organized a workshop on *Tourism Development and Coastal Management on the Southeast Coast* in Pottuvil.

The workshop was an offshoot of the MFF Open Learning Event session on *Tourism and Coastal Zone Management in Sri Lanka* held in November 2010. It examined tourism development plans for the coastal stretch from Pottuvil to Panama in light of the current interest in tourism expansion and the requirement for improved coastal zone management.

The major issues discussed included: the difficulties faced by tourists; hotels operating without official licenses; the need for a tourism master plan; inadequate support from some key state agencies; unauthorized constructions; ecosystem damage; and conflicts with traditional beach users. Participants agreed that these issues need to be addressed by relevant government agencies if the area is to have a more sustainable tourism strategy.

The participating government agencies included the Coast Conservation Department, Ministry of Environment, Department of Fisheries, Sri Lanka Tourism, Forest Department, Central Environmental Authority, Divisional Secretaries of Pottuvil and Lahugala, and the Pottuvil Pradeshiya Sabah (local administration). A local NGO and members from the local tourism sector also attended the workshop.

The coastal stretch from Pottuvil to Panama on the southeast coast of Sri Lanka is known for bays ideal for surfing. One of these, Arugam Bay, is one of Asia's best surfing sites. A Wildlife National Park and several archaeological and cultural sites also lie on the southeast coast. These attractions draw a large number of local and international tourists to the area.



Participants at the Tourism workshop, Arugambay © Kumundini Ekaratne, IUCN

MFF Thailand

MFF Thailand National Coordinating Body presents a Master Plan for Mangrove Research and Development

A workshop to draft the "*Mangrove Research and Development Master Plan for 2012-2017*" was organized by the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) and the Chair of the National Coordinating Body of MFF Thailand. It was the first time that DMCR had prepared a master plan with local communities (represented by a community-based organization), and marks a great success for MFF in Thailand.

The MFF network of Small Grant Facility project grantees was invited to this strategic workshop. The workshop shows how policy advocacy and governance can be influenced by local and community-level implementation of projects, and directly addresses MFF's Program of Work on enhancing coastal governance at all levels, particularly "*Supporting national integrated coastal management programmes*". MFF has been working closely with DMCR, especially through the MFF Small Grant Facility projects in Thailand.



Participants at the Mangrove Research and Development Master Plan workshop, Ayuttaya, Thailand © Siriporn Sriaram, MFF Thailand

MFF Viet Nam

Update from the National Coordinating Body

An MFF Viet Nam National Coordinating Body (NCB) meeting was held in January, the third NCB meeting since MFF Phase 2 was launched in Viet Nam in October 2010. The main topic of discussion was the draft National Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP).

NCB members expressed strong support for MFF as an information clearing house and as a learning network that builds partnerships between state and non-state actors, and between sectors. This view reflects the threat posed to Viet Nam's coastal ecosystems by a lack of coordinated development planning. Based on these discussions, the NSAP was revised and approved by the NCB. Now that the NSAP has been finalised, the NCB will prepare an announcement for the first round of Small Grant Facility project funding, which will focus on community-based mangrove conservation and management in Viet Nam's two large deltas: the Red and the Mekong River Deltas.



Tree nursery in Da Loc commune, Thanh Hoa Province, CARE International in Viet Nam © Søren Rud

MFF staff attended a workshop organized by GIZ (previously known as GTZ) on mangrove loss from coastal erosion in the Mekong Delta. The workshop presented the results of hydro-dynamic and coastline modeling and wave-tank tests aimed at assessing how different structures could protect the coast from erosion.

The results show that the cheapest and most effective approach is to use bamboo fences, since they are both flexible and permeable, and do not displace erosion further down the coastline. Bamboo fences can be installed in a T-shape pattern to create polders on which mangroves can be planted. A similar method has already been used in Thailand, highlighting the value of regional learning.

MFF has completed a GIS database of land cover in the southern portion of the Mekong Delta derived from the analysis of SPOT images for 2009-10. The next step will be to acquire imagery for 2005 to map changes in land use with a particular focus on coastal ecosystems.

Events 2011

15 - 18 March

[REDD+ workshop, Singapore City](#)

Regional consultation and capacity building workshop on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+), including on relevant safeguards.

22 March

[World Water Day](#)

11-14 April

[Tropical Wetlands Ecosystem of Indonesia workshop](#), Sanur, Bali, Indonesia

Organized by the Center for International Forestry Research. The side event "With the implementation of REDD+, it is important to improve our knowledge on carbon stocks and fluxes and on non-carbon dioxide Greenhouse Gas fluxes of tropical wetlands" is designed to provide information and an initial blueprint for the development of the international REDD+ mechanism in wetlands.

More information can be found on the [Center for International Forestry Research](#) website.

22 May

[International Day for Biological Diversity](#)

The theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity in 2011 is Forest Biodiversity. International Day for Biological Diversity is being celebrated on as part of the International Year of Forests.

13-17 June

["FISH FOR THE PEOPLE 2020"](#) ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference, Bangkok, Thailand

25 September

[World Rivers Day](#)

Resources



[Using Mangroves for non-timber products in Indonesia](#)

As part of Indonesian Ministry of Marine and Fisheries activities during an MFF project titled *Let's Plant Mangroves (Ayo Tanam Mangrove)* in Pekalongan, Central Java, two mangrove guidelines books have been published in the local language Bahasa by KeSEMat.

KeSEMat is a student society devoted to mangrove ecosystem research and conservation, Diponegoro University, Semarang, Indonesia.

The *Let's Plant Mangroves* project was launched in March 2010 and is partially funded by MFF and IUCN. KeSEMat produced the two books "*Guidelines on mangrove cultivation and rehabilitation*", and "*Guideline for processing and recipes of mangrove food, beverages and batik*" covering the topics in detail but ensuring the information is accessible and easy to read.

The books were produced with the specific purpose to assist local managers and people who live nearby mangroves to effectively rehabilitate their local ecosystems and how to use mangrove products as food, beverages and batik cloth.

Information was gathered from a variety of sources, but most of the information was provided by people who interact directly with the mangroves to support their livelihoods. For more information please check the [KeSEMat](#) website.



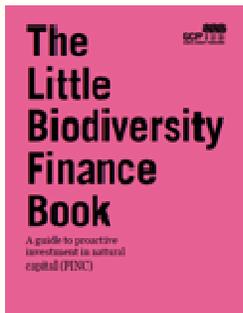


[Legal Framework for Mangrove PES in Viet Nam](#)

Report on the legal and regulatory frameworks for mangrove management and payments for ecosystem services (PES) in Vietnam. Research by Forest Trends and the Katoomba Group, as well as partners at GTZ and SNV, found that mechanisms and political will increasingly exist for PES in mangroves, as well as for ensuring that benefits flow to local people, however, challenges remain.

The study suggests that a sector-based approach cannot ensure effective mangrove management, as disparate interests conflict and erode mangrove protections. Rather, an inclusive, ecosystem-based, cross-sectoral approach to mangrove management is needed.

Fortunately, both integrated approaches and PES are increasingly feasible within Vietnam's mangrove areas, given the support of the national Government in exploring conservation incentives and innovative management arrangements.



[The Little Biodiversity Finance Book](#)

The Global Canopy Programme is pleased to announce its latest publication on innovative finance for biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Little Biodiversity Finance Book estimates that between USD 36 - 38 billion per annum is currently being spent on natural capital and explores ways to raise up to USD 141 billion per annum by 2020.

Online resources on carbon, biodiversity and ecosystem services

The [UN-REDD Programme pages on the multiple benefits of REDD+](#) provide access to a wide range of resources on ecosystem-based benefits, including an introductory brochure 'Beyond Carbon'. Amongst other materials, the website houses the *Multiple Benefits Series* of technical and issue papers. Your comments on these web pages are welcome.

Old technology is new again

For people and trees in Borneo where the use of a motorized winch - instead of a bulldozer - to remove harvested timber is being tested at Indonesian Borneo logging concessions.

Supported by USAID, Indonesia Ministry of Forestry and The Nature Conservancy's Responsible Asian Forestry & Trade (RAFT) program, this sustainable forestry approach has created local jobs, caused less soil disruption and released less carbon from damage to surrounding forest.

More: <http://www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/features/art32870.html>
and <http://change.nature.org/2011/01/12/the-power-of-22-horses-and-cable-winch/>.

[Biodiversity Conservation in the REDD](#)

REDD+ has potential to combat global climate change and save threatened biodiversity as a co-benefit of protecting forests. This paper shows, however, that in Indonesia, protecting forests providing the largest carbon savings benefits a small portion of Indonesia's most threatened biodiversity. The authors warn that implementing REDD+ without a regulatory framework to guide biodiversity co-benefits could undermine, not enhance, long-term prospects for biodiversity conservation.

Put your news in the next issue of the MFF 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.

Sincerely,
Mangroves for the Future
Regional Secretariat

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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