



Mangroves for the Future

Investing in coastal ecosystems

May - June 2011, Issue 21

In This Issue

Regional Activities
MFF Staff Changes
Country Updates
Cross Cutting Themes
Resources
Events

[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.



Mangrove planting in Lamongan, East Java, Indonesia
© CBDRM-NU

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REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

MFF and the Asian Institute of Technology collaborate on Integrated Coastal Management training

The MFF Regional Steering Committee at its 7th meeting (RSC-7) in November 2010 decided to adopt a 'Training for Trainers' approach to capacity development in MFF, with the identification of training in Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) as one of the strategic areas for capacity development during the second phase of MFF (2010-2013). In response to this decision, MFF and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) have now finalized arrangements for a Postgraduate Certificate Course on ICM, which will also involve other regional partners.

This course will run for five weeks from 2 September to 8 October, 2011, at the AIT campus near Bangkok, followed by a supervised assignment in the participants' home country. National Coordinating Bodies of member countries will have the opportunity to nominate participants that represent both government and civil society.

The course will provide both theoretical and practical knowledge on the main coastal and marine ecosystems in the Asia region. The trainees are then expected to use their training to build national capacity for implementation of MFF and other regional programme activities in their countries. Participants will receive an AIT certificate on successful completion of the course.

Training Course on Project Cycle Management in Viet Nam

MFF Viet Nam held its first national training course on project cycle management, 9-11 June, in Hanoi, Viet Nam. The emphasis of the course was on project proposal writing. Eight potential grantees (for MFF Small Grant Facility projects) from across Viet Nam were invited to participate. Three delegates from Pakistan, including two National Coordinating Body (NCB) members also attended, to learn how to conduct a similar course for Pakistani project proponents and share their experiences with Viet Nam.

The MFF Viet Nam NCB Vice Chair Dr. Nguyen Nghia Bien welcomed the group, and other NCB members participated in round table discussions.

The potential project grantees were given training in the basic principles of project cycle management using the logical framework approach. The MFF cross-cutting themes of climate change adaptation, gender equality, and knowledge management and communications were all presented as key elements to incorporate in the preparation of the project proposal.



MFF Pakistan and Viet Nam representatives together at Project Cycle Management training, with the MFF Coordinator in Hanoi, Viet Nam
© MFF Secretariat

MFF STAFF CHANGES

Welcome:

We are welcoming one staff member to the MFF Secretariat and another to our county office in the Maldives.

Dr Ranjith Mahindapala, MFF Programme Manager

Ranjith is no newcomer to MFF, having been involved right from the launch of MFF in December 2006 when he was Deputy Regional Programme Coordinator at the IUCN Asia Regional Office (ARO). He then managed IUCN's secretariat and provided project management support to MFF Sri Lanka in his position as IUCN Country Head based in Colombo. He has now returned to IUCN ARO as the MFF Programme Manager. In addition to his valued administrative and managerial skills, Ranjith has the unique experience of having attended all seven MFF Regional Steering Committee meetings to date.

Ms Aminath Mihdha, National Coordinator for MFF Maldives

Ms Mihdha has completed postgraduate development economist studies with a focus on environmental economics, especially in economic valuation of natural resources in developing countries and social discounting of natural resources in development planning. Ms Mihdha has undertaken a variety of work in the community to create awareness of the newly decentralized system of governance in the Maldives, including environmental and social work.

Previously, Ms Mihdha worked for the Department of External Resources of the Government of Maldives, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and she is now employed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In her work for MFF Maldives, Ms Mihdha will share her special interests in economic valuation of natural resources, creating greater awareness among the local communities, waste management and strengthening decentralized governance.

Farewell:

During the past two months we have bid fond farewells to three MFF Secretariat staff and wish them all the very best in their new careers and endeavors.

Dr Janaka de Silva, MFF Programme Manager

Janaka has been involved with MFF for four years, first as a staff member of the IUCN Thailand programme working closely with MFF, then as the first MFF Programme Manager. Janaka brought a wealth of experience on technical subjects and project management to MFF, which contributed particularly to the development of the Monitoring, Learning & Evaluation (MLE) system. This has enabled MFF to not only monitor its projects better, but also to record important results in a systematic manner and bring external knowledge and experiences to the project managers and partners. Janaka was also recognized, and always warmly welcomed, as a knowledgeable resource person at the many regional workshops and meetings he attended on behalf of MFF.

Ms Hanying Li, MFF Senior Programme Officer

Hanying was with MFF for three years, initially providing general support to the MFF Coordinator as the only other full-time member of the Secretariat, and later devoting much of her time to project contracts and progress reporting. She also contributed much to the Secretariat's internal communications with the MFF national coordinators and helped to build them into an effective team. Hanying is not leaving IUCN, but she has moved to a new position in the IUCN Regional Programme Support Unit, where she will work as the Northeast Asia Programme Coordinator to strengthen the role of IUCN in China, Japan, Mongolia, and North and South Korea.

Mr Oliver Abrenilla, Climate change secondment, UNEP

Oliver was with MFF for 15 months as a long-term consultant seconded by UNEP to the MFF Secretariat. In this role he provided the dedicated knowledge on climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) which MFF has depended on to develop the guidelines for integrating climate change and DRR considerations into MFF projects. This work led to the publication of the Climate Change Tool by UNEP and MFF in October 2010. Oliver also contributed his expertise on these important emerging issues during project MLE missions and in MFF training courses and workshops.

MFF COUNTRY UPDATES

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

India

Participatory assessment of mangrove restoration and planting activities

Mangrove restoration activity is wide-spread in India, however as a science it is relatively new and requires a completely different approach to that used when restoring terrestrial forests.

In response, an MFF small grant facility project is assessing the current practices in mangrove restoration and the planting of new forests on land which historically has not previously been covered by forest (the process is also known as afforestation).

The project is led by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in India aims to identify technical, social, institutional and policy issues that need to be addressed for long term sustainability of mangroves wetlands. The participatory assessment was carried out in four major mangrove ecosystems in the states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in India.



Community level interactions on the current practises on mangrove forest restoration, Tamil Nadu, India
© Dr.V.Selvam

This project promotes active participation of local stakeholders including community women and youth, the Forest Department, NGOs, shrimp farm owners and industrialists.

Indonesia

Investing in mangroves: scaling up from disaster to awareness

Lantebung village, near Makassar, is one of the very few villages remaining close to the provincial capital due to industrial expansion. With support from MFF through the Small Grant Facility, rehabilitation of one hectare of the coastal ecosystems, by mangroves planting, has been completed.

During the past few months, the village has suffered from frequent high tides and extreme rainfall, resulting in localized flooding, seawater intrusion to the village and damage to local mangrove forests. This natural disaster has also raised community awareness on the importance of mangroves to protect their environment by reducing the impact of these events, with local people undertaking independent mangrove replanting afterwards.

During recent Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation visit, Bachtiar, the head of the fisherman group in the village says, "We are lucky to have the mangroves protecting our village. Otherwise, the impact of this disaster to our village would be even worse." The grantee and MFF Indonesia have been successful in sustaining the project by encouraging local initiatives and directing government concern to prioritize the programme at the site, as well as promoting their village for research by the local universities.

Mangrove cultivation event at University sparks local government interest

MFF Indonesia participated in the KeSEMaT Mangrove Cultivation 2011 event on 29 April - 1 May.

KeSEMaT, a student association with particular interest in mangrove and coastal ecosystem by the University of Diponegoro, Jepara, designed the event to support conservation of mangrove ecosystems while raising awareness of high school and university students in Indonesia.

It was attended by around 100 participants from nine universities, five high schools, NGOs and government officers. MFF Indonesia shared lessons learned from MFF implementation in Asia. After the discussion, the local government of Jepara expressed interest to work with MFF and UNDP in promoting mangrove ecosystem rehabilitation.



Presentation to a participant © MFF Indonesia

Upcoming event for MFF Indonesia

Let's plant mangrove action (Ayo Tanam Mangrove/ATM) is a national mangrove planting action organized by Ministry of Marine and Fisheries. This year, this event will be launched by Minister of Marine and Fisheries, in Mangunharjo Village, Semarang, in early July 2011. MFF Indonesia is supporting the national event, together with other partners such as the regional government and related institutions, NGOs, National and Regional Working Group on Mangroves, as well as school and university students. Various mangrove-based competitions will be held, targeting schools students to enhance their awareness and active involvement in mangrove conservation.

Maldives

National Coordinating Body update

A National Coordinating Body (NCB) meeting on 16 May introduced the new National Coordinator for MFF Maldives. The NCB accepted Ms. Aminath Mihdha's appointment and included her in reviewing the MFF Maldives workplan (see related story in the staff welcome section above).

The NCB also confirmed Maldives as host for the 8th Regional Steering Committee meeting for 24-26 October, 2011, with a Learning Event to be arranged for 27-28 October.

Pakistan

MFF Pakistan National Coordinating Body update

The National Coordinating Body (NCB) for MFF Pakistan had its fourth meeting in Karachi on 27 April. Mr. Khawaja Mohammad Naeem, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan, chaired the meeting. The meeting was well attended with over 80 per cent representation of the group.

Each member country is responsible for establishing national guidelines for the operation of their MFF Small Grant Facility. The guidelines for MFF Pakistan were also shared with the NCB and the document was well appreciated and received unanimous approval.

Following programmatic planning for MFF Pakistan the NCB heard from some of the MFF institutional partners and the activities in which they have been undertaking. The documentary captioned, "Men and Forests" was screened as an example of the work undertaken between Good Planet, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). In addition, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) shared its approach to address participation in the International Year of Forest through its implemented forestry related projects. The potential of mangroves ecosystem as potential for carbon trading was also discussed, led by the Inspector General of Forests.



MFF Pakistan National Coordinating Body © MFF Pakistan

Seychelles

UNDP organizes results-based management training for local project managers.

The UNDP country office organized a week-long training in the Seychelles from 16-20 May for national project managers based in the programme coordinating unit including the National Coordinators from MFF and the GEF Small Grant Program, to strengthen their capacity in Project Monitoring and Evaluation, a key skill required for the ongoing assessment of MFF projects.

Government Departments and NGOs were also invited to this participatory training. The workshop was facilitated by Mr Backson Sibanda, Head Evaluator for UNDP Regional Service Centre based in Johannesburg, South Africa. To provide monitoring and evaluation support and guidance to the senior management and programme managers, Mr Sibanda reviewed, discussed and applied concepts relating to the UNDP Evaluation Policy and Monitoring and Evaluation standards.



Mr Sibanda (back, center) leads the workshop discussion © MFF Seychelles

The training introduced basic concepts, methods and tools for use in monitoring and evaluation using Log Frame - Risk Analysis, and outcome and output indicators in a monitoring framework using different evaluation tools. Participants also learned to draft Terms of Reference for recruiting consultants and to use field visits as an evaluation tool.

MFF Large project host second Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation visit

An MFF monitoring, learning and evaluation (MLE) visit between 8-12 May was arranged to visit MFF large project grantees, Sri Lanka Nature Forum and Environmental Foundation Limited.

Project activities are in place around Maha Oya and Puttalam lagoon in western Sri Lanka, the MLE visit verified the progress of the projects that expected to close by 31 August this year.

The large project grantees met the MLE team and showed them around their project site and discussed the project development. The MLE team was composed of representatives from the MFF Sri Lanka National Steering Committee (*known as the National Coordinating Body in other MFF countries*) and MFF Regional Secretariat.



MLE team at a community meeting in Kalpitiya
© Kumudini Ekaratne/IUCN Sri Lanka

MFF Sri Lanka meets with Joint Secretary of Ministry of Environment and Forestry, India

On 13 May, Dr B P Nilaratna, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Environment and Forestry, India, on a brief visit to Sri Lanka, met with the members of the MFF Sri Lanka National Steering Committee (NSC). The meeting was led by two members of the MFF Sri Lanka NSC, the Director General of Department of Wildlife Conservation, and Director Policy Planning and the Environmental Officer of the Ministry of Environment.

Development of joint projects in the Gulf of Mannar was a major discussion point, and topics of interest for the two countries included dugong conservation, coral regeneration studies, research and conservation of whale sharks, ecotourism and marine turtle conservation.



Dr Nilaratna at the meeting with NCB members and Acting Country Representative of IUCN Sri Lanka
© Kumudini Ekaratne/IUCN Sri Lanka

Sustainable livelihoods in southern Thailand encourages communities to work together

An MFF monitoring, learning and evaluation visit during 14-15 June allowed local communities to share feedback about the livelihood activities from an MFF large project run by the Wetlands International Thailand Office.

The project 'Reversing Environmental Damage through Community Focused Sustainable Livelihoods in Ban Don, Surat Thani Province' promotes "the bio-rights approach" for sustainable livelihoods. This approach used in the implementation of a tilapia fish farm, one part of the project, located in the Liled sub-district. [Find out more](#)

The Liled Conservation and Livelihood Group, manages the fish cage culture of tilapia. The group, comprised of nine women and one man, is in charge of installing the fish cages and rehabilitating mangrove forests. One female grantee shared that, as a result of the project "our husbands also come and help and we all work together."



Feeding cage-farmed fish, Surat Thani, Thailand
© Siriporn Sriaram/MFF Thailand

The MLE team composed of representatives from NCB Thailand, including the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, and MFF Regional Secretariat, also visited the mangrove restoration sites in Pumriang and Tha Chang District.

Upcoming events for MFF Thailand

15-17 August 2011: Coastal Forum, Surat Thani. Co-organizer: MFF large projects (Sustainable Development Foundation and Wetlands International Thailand Office), Small Grant Program (UNDP), DMCR, Surat Thani Provincial Office. Highlighting: Innovation and tools in mangrove ecosystem management; Ecosystem-based management; Climate change adaptation and coastal community resilience to climate change.

8 September 2011: The [14th Mangrove National Seminar](#), Miracle Grand Hotel, Bangkok. Organizer: Department of Marine and Coastal Resources.

Viet Nam

Appraisal of MFF Viet Nam's first Small Grant Facility project proposals

The members of the MFF Viet Nam National Coordinating Body (NCB) gathered on 13-14 May in Hoi An, central Viet Nam, to discuss and review the 12 shortlisted pre-proposals for the Small Grant Facility (SGF) projects. In 2011, the SGF in Viet Nam will support local community action for the conservation of coastal ecosystems, with an initial focus on mangrove forests.

As well as providing direct environmental and livelihood benefits, the SGF will support projects that links the household and community level to coastal area management and policy-making. SGF projects in Viet Nam will also ensure the participation of women and other disadvantaged groups.

The NCB meeting was followed by a visit to Cua Dai water coconut farm located five kilometers from Hoi An. NCB members met with local community including an eco-tour programme run by Hoi An Eco Tour. This private company employs community members to support the livelihoods of local people.



MFF Viet Nam National Coordinating Body members experience an eco-tour in the Cua Dai estuary, Hoi An, Viet Nam © MFF Viet Nam

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATIONS

World Environment Day

Working with its National Coordinating Body member, Karachi Port Trust, MFF Pakistan celebrated World Environment Day on 5 June by launching a plantation campaign named "Mangroves for the better environment".

Addressing the attendees, Mrs. Nasreen Haq, Karachi Port Trust Chairperson, said that the realization of just how vulnerable mangroves are to land reclamation and other engineering activities and the subsequent adoption of appropriate management strategies, could be one of the most important factors for the revival of such an important natural resource.

Mr. Saleem Khan, Federal Secretary Port and Shipping, explained that the importance of the modern-day environmental agenda should be one that drives environmental improvements to accompany economic and social gains. He emphasized that we need global cooperation that promotes sustainable development.

The event was also addressed by two other NCB members, representing Pakistan Navy and Sindh Forest Department as well as Sindh Environment Department. The event concluded with students planting around 1500 saplings of two different mangroves species within the port jurisdiction.



(L-R) Secretary Forest and Wildlife Government of Sindh, Mr. Mushtaq Ali Memon (NCB Member), Chairperson Karachi Port Trust, Mrs Nasreen Haq (NCB Member), Secretary Ports and Shipping, Government of Pakistan, Mr. Saleem Khan, Secretary Environment and Alternate Energy Government of Sindh, Mr. Meer Hussain Ali © Fayyaz Rasool/Karachi Port Trust

World Oceans Day publication launch, Seychelles

A national launch of publications from Small Grant Facility projects in June concluded the first phase of these projects in the Seychelles and supported the local celebrations of World Oceans Day. All four projects printed educational materials for increased public awareness and understanding of the work accomplished by the MFF grantees.

The Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles project, entitled 'Mangroves are a must', formed six mangrove teams in all the regions of Mahé and Praslin and produced a series of posters, a wetland magazine and in collaboration with the Environment Department to produce the Wetlands and Coastal Activities guide.

The Seychelles Island Foundation focused on the production and publication of two educational books about the Aldabra atoll; a UNESCO World Heritage site. An intermediate book for general public was also produced and is a best seller in the Vallee de Mai.

The Marine Conservation Society Seychelles printed turtle conservation public awareness materials to increase knowledge, understanding and community participation on the main island of Mahé.

The Green Island Foundation designed posters for public information about shark fishing and the importance of shark species within the marine ecosystem. The grantees feel that they have achieved much with the help that MFF has contributed to their success locally.



A young representative from the Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles presents an activity guide to the District Administrator; one of their project partners. In the background the Minister and the Principal Secretary for Environment review their copies
© MFF Seychelles

Seminar on World Oceans Day, Pakistan

A seminar highlighting World Oceans Day 2011 was organized on 8 June by the National Institute of Oceanography, a member of the MFF Pakistan National Coordinating Body (NCB). The speakers highlighted the importance of the ocean and how humans rely on global ocean processes for survival.

As the chief guest Mr. Javed Jabbar, one of four global Vice Presidents of IUCN, addressed the various aspects of oceans such as food security, clean renewable energy, and the importance of marine protected areas to conserve diversity. Presentations were also made by other members from the MFF Pakistan NCB, including Mr. Paul Fanning CTA FAO, Dr. Shaukat Hayat Khan and Dr. M.M. Rabbani from National Institute of Oceanography, and Mr. Agha Tahir Hussain Durrani from Sindh Forest Department.



World Oceans Day seminar, Pakistan
© National Institute of Oceanography

Over 200 representatives from more than 35 organizations attended the seminar, including: federal and provincial governments; autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies; academia; non-governmental environmental organizations; private enterprises; and representatives from national media.

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

MFF has identified several cross-cutting themes that influence all aspects of coastal sustainability. These require action in many different fields and are integrated into each of the initiative's Programmes of Work and across projects. This section features MFF's initiatives that address knowledge management and communications, climate change and disaster risk reduction and capacity development, and events, including relevant articles and scientific studies from institutional partners and leading organizations.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in MFF

MFF and partners prepare new methodology for calculating mangrove carbon

MFF, through one of its co-chair, IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, joined the effort to prepare a new methodology for calculating mangrove carbon storage. The Danone Fund for Nature, IUCN, and the Ramsar Convention, presented a paper that is now adopted under the Clean Development Mechanism of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Kyoto Protocol.

The new methodology encourages large-scale restoration of degraded mangrove systems, which in addition to storing carbon provide a hugely valuable range of other benefits to people and nature. During the recently-held training course on project cycle management in Hanoi, Viet Nam, MFF member countries Pakistan and Viet Nam identified mangrove carbon calculation as a priority study area.

[Click here for more information](#)

Gender Equality

Small Grants Facility guidelines give priority to gender equality

Managers of the MFF Small Grant Facility (SGF) from India, Indonesia, Thailand, and Viet Nam met 19-21 June in Phuket, Thailand, to discuss implementation of the Small Grants Facility programme, and the role to be played by the country secretariats. Special reference was given to the decisions of RSC-7 involving SGF guidelines and criteria. The SGF managers discussed the emphasis given to gender equality as a cross-cutting theme in SGF projects, specifically addressing how to integrate gender equality throughout the project cycle management process.

The MFF co-chair, UNDP, was represented by Ms Felicity Chard of the UNDP Regional Leadership Practice on Gender. Ms Chard attended the meeting and joined SGF managers in discussing suitable entry points for integrating gender equality in community projects.

Knowledge Management and Communications

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

Download your own copy of the newly published MFF brochure and factsheet from the [MFF home page](#).

RESOURCES

YouTube and Twitter

[YouTube](#) videos from MFF Thailand SGF projects (in Thai)
Follow [MFF Thailand](#) on Twitter

Books

MFF Thailand [lessons learned e-book](#) (in Thai)

Science to action handbook

The Science to Action Guidebook provides a roadmap for using science to influence decision-making, using experiences from around the world. This publication synthesizes the insights from five years of natural and social science research, including over 50 studies in 23 countries, [download publication](#).

Harnessing synergies: mainstreaming climate change adaptation in disaster risk reduction programmes and policies - a [guidebook](#) for on the ground project managers

Coming soon - *Atlas of coasts*

The Atlas offers a fascinating and often sobering account of how urbanization, climate change, offshore oil drilling, shipping routes, global tourism, and maritime conflict have had a profound impact on the world's oceans and coasts. US Publication date: 1 July 2011 | UK publication date: 8 August 2011, ISBN: 978-0-226-34226-9

Newsletters

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform [May 2011 e-Communique](#). Useful links and resources for climate change.

Toolkits

Climate change and vulnerability assessment toolkit

An on-line toolkit for assessment of vulnerability to climate change was successfully tested in two sample sites in the United States. Since the toolkit is web based, any national or foreign local entity forming a focus group to investigate vulnerability issues related to natural hazards can apply for login privileges. The login account establishes a secure and private collaborative GIS environment that a focus group can customize to its specific location. The Vulnerability Assessment Support System (VASS, vass.smrc-research.com) is designed for ease-of-use to provide an effective way for non-expert users and small communities to assess their vulnerability to climate change and to prioritize their response strategy according to known past hazards and availability of critical facilities. The VASS toolkit is developed and maintained by SMRC under a grant from the NOAA CPO-SAR Program in collaboration with Pennsylvania State University and the U.S. Geological Survey. [contact](#)

Online articles

MFF Sri Lanka highlighted - [Sustaining coastal ecosystems in Sri Lanka](#) in the New Agriculturalist

MFF cited in CSR Asia article - [Disaster management: Lessons from the Japanese earthquake and tsunami](#)

Seychelles makes major contribution to Aichi Biodiversity Targets - the Seychelles Government announced it will declare new protected areas in the archipelago, resulting in half (50.59%) of all Seychelles land becoming protected under the law. [Read more](#)

EVENTS

21 - 27 August: World Water Week

13-15 September [Asian Wetlands and Beyond- Livelihood, Sustainability and Management](#), An International Convention and Workshop', Borneo Convention Centre, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.

15-16 September Prato, Italy

[Gender, Leadership and Social Sustainability \(GLASS\) International Conference](#)

25 September: World Rivers Day

5-19 October, Annamalai University, India

Applications are open for the next UNU-INWEH and [UNESCO International Training Course on Biodiversity in Mangrove Ecosystems](#).

12-13 October, Dresden, Germany

International Conference on Integrated Water Resources Management Management of Water in a Changing World: Lessons Learnt and Innovative Perspectives <http://www.bmbf.iwrm2011.de/>

3 - 4 November, Greater Tampa Bay, United States.

[Beyond Sustainability: Ecosystems, Economics, and Education](#) annual conference.

Regional Secretariat,
Mangroves for the Future