



Mangroves for the Future

Investing in coastal ecosystems

July - August 2011, Issue 22

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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.



Students planting bamboo for river rehabilitation, Sri Lanka © Ruhunu Development Consortium

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REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Delivering gender-responsive actions for climate change adaptation

Bangkok, Thailand
26 August



Aban Marker Kabraji (Regional Director, IUCN) and AnnaMaria Oltorp, Head of Development Cooperation Section Embassy of Sweden © MFF

The IUCN Asia Regional Director and MFF Co-chair, Aban Marker Kabraji gave the keynote address at the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform seminar. Speaking to regional development practitioners in gender equality, climate change, and coastal resource management, Ms Marker Kabraji highlighted the urgency of developing practical and strategic climate change plans and making them accessible to everyone, particularly to the women, men, and children who are most affected by extreme weather events and disasters. Ms Marker Kabraji also urged the attendees to work together in translating gender-sensitive climate change dialogues into people-centered action. The seminar was attended by MFF's institutional partners UNDP, CARE, FAO and UNEP, as well as by representatives from Sida and SENSEA.

Regional commitment to strengthening science communication

Phuket, Thailand
22-25 August

Coastal and project managers from MFF and the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BoBLME) Project joined together in a workshop focused on developing skills to write high quality scientific papers.

The workshop Communicating Science Effectively, is the first of two workshops aiming to improve the ability of BoBLME and MFF staff to communicate project results more effectively. The first workshop in Phuket taught participants to organize material for reports, proposals and scientific articles that convey their messages clearly to target audiences. A second workshop, focusing on the presentation of scientific information, is planned for October in the Maldives.

The workshops are part of the joint commitment by BoBLME and MFF to support regional capacity development, particularly by equipping national staff and stakeholders with skills for communicating knowledge on coastal area management issues clearly and confidently to a wide range of audiences.



Workshop participants © BOBLME

India hosts international Mangrove Symposium

M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai, India
7-10 August

To celebrate the International Year of Forests, M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) and IUCN/MFF organized an international conference "Mangroves for Coastal Area Management". The mangrove conference addressed how mangrove forests are being affected by climate change, sea level rise and global warming. The conference featured seminars on coastal zone regulations and wetlands management, with a particular focus on mangrove forests, resources, and mangrove-based livelihood activities. The conference delegates also discussed and identified future research areas and policy interventions in conservation and sustainable use of mangrove wetland and its resources. More than 100 international participants attended the conference, including representatives from MFF countries: India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, and Bangladesh.



Prof. Don Macintosh, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of State, Ministry for Environment and Forests Government of India © MSSRF

Message from Professor Don Macintosh

Dear MFF friends,

I am pleased to announce that, from 1 September 2011, Dr. Steen Christensen has taken over as the new MFF Coordinator. Please see [this link](#) for a summary of Steen's background and experience.

From my own perspective, I would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement over the past four years and I look forward to continuing to work with MFF, albeit on a part-time basis as an adviser. However, even in my normal university work in Denmark, MFF will continue to be important, because today we launched a new International Masters Degree Course in Human Security, and I shall be teaching a module on Environmental Change and Ecosystem Management, which will include MFF as one of the case studies.

Best wishes and many thanks again,
Don

New staff:

MFF Coordinator

Dr Steen Christensen is the Coordinator of the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) initiative. He has the overall responsibility for the MFF Secretariat and particular responsibilities to organize RSC meetings and keep RSC members informed of MFF progress, and other key events and issues.

MFF Outreach Countries Coordinator

Maeve Nightingale is the Head of the Coastal and Marine Programme IUCN Asia. Within MFF Maeve is responsible for the coordination of the four MFF outreach countries; Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar and Timor Leste. Maeve will also contribute to the overall work of the MFF secretariat and support MFF's regional governance programme.

MFF COUNTRY UPDATES

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

MFF supports budding project managers

Staff from the MFF Secretariat have been busy travelling around the region in the past few months, supporting potential grant recipients to improve their [Small Grant Facility](#) project proposals.

Following on from the success of the regional Project Management Cycle (PCM) training last year, the first SGF proponents in Viet Nam received PCM training in June, followed by similar national-level courses conducted in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka during August.

In these workshops key project design considerations were taught and MFF reporting procedures were explained. Topics covered included the Logical Framework Approach, planning results-based projects, activity-based budgets, and MFF's Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation system. Additional focal areas included gender equality, climate change adaptation considerations, and effective communication strategies.



Giritale, Polonnaruwa, north-central Sri Lanka

15-16 August

The PCM workshop was held for Phase 2 SGF project recipients, 20 project grantees attended the workshop. Each grantee presented a short overview of their project highlighting their anticipated challenges, proposed interventions and expected results. Lessons from Phase 1 were also presented.

Karachi, Pakistan

18-19 August

As this is the first round of SGF projects for MFF Pakistan the sessions were designed to mentor the shortlisted grantees. In addition to the thirteen potential grantees, several National Coordinating Body (NCB) members also attended. At the conclusion of the training Mr. Aijaz Ahmed Nizamani, Secretary Forest and Wildlife Government of Sindh (and an NCB member), presented a certificate to each participant. Mr Nizamani concluded the training by thanking MFF for facilitating the course and acknowledging MFF Pakistan's ongoing support to the Small Grants Facility.



Group photo of training participants, centre - chief guest Mr. Aijaz Ahmed Nizamani (Secretary Forest and Wildlife Government of Sindh) © MFF Pakistan

Delhi, India

27 August

Fifteen representatives from nine different institutions and organizations (including the private sector) attended the training. The feedback received was very positive, participants found the training particularly useful in terms of time management and financial considerations. The enthusiasm was infectious; by the end of the two days most had finetuned their projects significantly, with some returning the next day for further consultation. The workshop also gave MFF India staff the opportunity to better understand the complexities of the different projects under consideration; and it was a great first step in developing relationships with the future partners.

Where can you find safe-to-eat shellfish in Goa?

Goa coast, Central West Coast India

The numerous rivers that intersect the coastline of Goa provide for ideal habitats for many important animals that sustain the livelihoods of hundreds of fisher folk. Certain species of oysters and clams are commercially important and widely collected and sold throughout local markets. These animals feed by filtering tiny particles from the water and have the capacity to accumulate heavy metal contaminants. High levels of metals can have severe health implications for consumers.

MFF India (through IUCN) and the National Institute of Oceanography undertook a study to determine levels of certain heavy metals in shellfish targeted by fishers. Major shellfish beds were selected and the heavy metal concentrations were sampled over three seasons: pre-monsoon, monsoon and post-monsoon. The outcome of this research will help to establish safe areas for harvesting. As the issue of heavy metal contamination is not unique to Goa, this study has the potential for replication in a range of aquatic animals, as well as up-scaling to the national level and regional level.



Woman selling shellfish at the market, Goa, India © National Institute of Oceanography

(NOI article reference No. 6406)

Indonesia

Recycling village waste for profit

Angke Kapuk Village, Penjaringan District, North Jakarta

15 month project, completed in July 2011

In the Kapuk Muara sub-district, one of the poorest communities in Jakarta, pollution from garbage is a serious problem. Most of the waste is dumped into the Angke River that regularly floods the village at high tide. The accumulation of waste creates sanitation and health issues and also affects the surrounding wetland area.

Through a Small Grant Facility project, Jakarta Green Monster (JGM) (a locally well-known volunteer community group) aimed to develop a community income generating model in the Angke-Kapuk wetland area. By delivering training to the community, people have created waste-based products and now sell items such as organic compost and charcoal briquettes to earn extra income. In addition, the project has also facilitated the establishment of a 'waste bank', which provides financial incentives for community members who gather, sort and deliver the garbage to the collection point.

Mrs Laksmi (aged 50) a project participant, acknowledged that "*With the training facilitated by JGM I can make various waste-based products. JGM has also helped us in marketing and making these products more recognizable and appreciated. I am hoping that through this activity I could contribute even more to the family in the future.*"

Maldives

UNDP helping communities protect coastal ecosystems

Haa Dhaal Vaikaradhoo Island, Maldives

UNDP and the Mangroves for the Future initiative, in an effort to address coastal degradation and to protect mangrove swamps, established a waste disposal site in Haa Dhaal Vaikaradhoo Island through an NGO-led project. The project developed a socially and environmentally sustainable system of solid waste management which will reduce the associated environmental and public health risks. [Read more](#)

From: *In Voices UNDP Maldives Newsletter - Issue #1, August 2011*



Mangroves in Addu Atoll, Maldives © UNDP Maldives

Seychelles

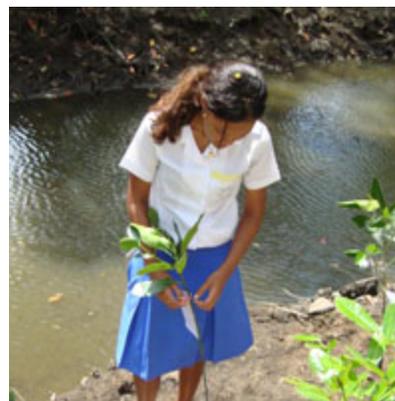
Local community unites for mangrove rehabilitation

Victoria, Mahé island
15 July

To reduce the risk of flooding, several rivers and channels around Victoria were recently dredged of silt. Destruction or removal of mangroves and other plants occurred during this process. Concerned at the loss of habitat, the Alliance Française of Seychelles proposed to rehabilitate the local area and approached MFF Seychelles to help re-plant the trees.

Nearby primary and secondary school wildlife club students also joined the replanting activity. Following the event, in a symbolic gesture, the students wrote small notes on their reflections about being involved and tied the notes to the saplings.

The students' participation included a visit to the Alliance Française to view an exhibition on the conservation of forests around the world. The MFF Seychelles National Coordinating Body and Global Environment Facility contributed posters to the exhibition that highlighted the achievements of local conservation projects. The event was organized by the Alliance Française, MFF Seychelles, Department of Environment, and Department of Education, in collaboration with the Landscape and Waste Management Agency with their inmate rehabilitation programme.



A student ties her personal reflections to a newly planted sapling
© MFF Seychelles

Thailand

Turning household waste into lunch money

Pranburi District, central Thailand
15-16 August

More than 300 people - community members, school students and teachers, and local authorities - collected over 1000 kg of recyclable material during a parade to raise awareness of the importance of recycling waste and the impacts of global warming.

The collected items, ranging from plastic bottles, to old televisions and washing machines, raised nearly USD200. The money was donated to support a lunch programme for underprivileged students at Paknampran School in Pranburi - a significant contribution for the disadvantaged school.

Mr Pirin Chaowanapanja, project manager, said "I hope that the Paknampran community will carry on the good work and love their environment." This is currently the only project in Thailand engaging with the private sector.



A parade to raise awareness of recycling, Pranburi, Thailand © Siriporn Sriaram, MFF Thailand

As a result of its success many community members have taken it upon themselves to fund and organize a second event in December this year. The event was organized by the Paknampran community, Paknampranwittaya school, IUCN Thailand, Sirinat Rachini Mangrove Eco-system Learning Center, and RaksThai foundation with financial support from MFF and the Sixsenes Resort and Spa.

Viet Nam

Scrutinizing the economics of the environment in Viet Nam

Hanoi, Viet Nam
26 July

Last year Decree 99 was issued by the Vietnamese Government. This Decree regulates the policy relating to the supply, use and payment for forest environmental services and the management of such payments. Environmental services refer to the benefits people obtain from nature, such as food, water and energy as well as recreational, spiritual and aesthetic fulfillment.

At the launch for the preparation process, IUCN Viet Nam joined with Viet Nam Forestry Administration (VNFOREST), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to prepare background information relevant to goods and services provided by mangroves. MARD legal specialists will use this information to develop the prime ministerial decision related to Payment for Environmental Services (PES).



Participants at the consultation meeting © IUCN Viet Nam

Decree 99 specifies cash payments. However, the GIZ project in Soc Trang, and a CARE initiative in Thanh Hoa, have instead offered communities clearly defined harvesting rights as incentives for mangrove protection. Therefore it may be advisable for the decision to support stewardship agreements rather than only cash-based PES. Certainly, further work needs to be undertaken to determine the most appropriate arrangements and IUCN Viet Nam will coordinate three additional consultation meetings with key stakeholders for this purpose.

SPECIAL AWARD

National recognition for biodiversity conservation efforts

Bangkok, Thailand

22 August

Mr Somsak Soonthornawaphat, Senior programme officer, IUCN Thailand was presented with the prestigious 'Honor Award for those who contribute to biodiversity conservation in Thailand' from the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Mr Soonthornawaphat has been instrumental in facilitating MFF Thailand projects, in particular his conservation work in support of the conservation of an endangered "water onion" (*Crinum thaianum*), and extensive work in implementing the reef to ridge approach in southern Thailand.



Mr Somsak Soonthornawaphat (IUCN Thailand) receives award © ONEP

RESOURCES

Report

[Natural Hazards, UnNatural Disasters: The Economics of Effective Prevention](#), World Bank
Prevention is possible, and this book examines what it takes to do this cost-effectively.

Case studies

ELAN (The Ecosystems and Livelihoods Adaptation Network) selected and made available a first set of [7 case studies](#) on good practices in nature-based climate change adaptation. ELAN aims at enhancing resilience of poor and marginalized people to the impacts of climate change by promoting sound ecosystem management within an integrated approach to adaptation policy and practice.

New Climate Change project and newsletter sign up

[Building Resilience to Climate Change Impacts- Coastal Southeast Asia.](#)

The project aims to strengthen the ability of local government and local people to plan for, and adapt to, future climate risks in eight coastal provinces between Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City: Trat and Chanthaburi in Thailand; Kampot and Koh Kong in Cambodia; and Can Gio, Ben Tre, Soc Trang, and Kien Giang in Vietnam. IUCN and project partners will work together to build capacity in these provinces so that local government agencies can conduct vulnerability assessments; identify activities to reduce vulnerability; design, implement, monitor the success of these activities; and carry out cost benefit analysis and feasibility assessments for replicating pilot actions over wider coastal area. [More information.](#)

Subscribe to the e-newsletter from the project, contact [Rose at IUCN](#)

MFF brochure and factsheet

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

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

EVENTS

5 September - 7 October

Certificate Course on Integrated Coastal Management

MFF and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) have joined together to deliver a postgraduate Certificate Course on Integrated Coastal Management. This course will run for five weeks at the AIT campus near Bangkok, followed by a supervised assignment in the participants' home country. 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.

5-7 September MangroveWatch Thailand: A National Mangrove & Blue Carbon Monitoring Program, Krabi, Thailand

Mangrove Action Project (MAP-Asia) in collaboration with MangroveWatch Australia (James Cook University), will run a three-day workshop to exchange ideas regarding the future direction of regional-scale mangrove monitoring and assessment in Thailand. MAP will welcome Dr. Norm Duke, Facilitator, and Jock Mackenzie, Coordinator from the MangroveWatch Hub at James Cook University, Australia to lead the training to 30 pre-selected participants. An anticipated outcome is the establishment of a Thai Mangrove Hub - similar to the Hub in Australia. Additionally, an aim is to develop a long-term mangrove monitoring and assessment strategy that will link and enhance:

- current mangrove restoration and rehabilitation efforts;
- local community engagement; and
- increase the understanding of mangrove ecosystems, to serve as a model for similar programs throughout Asia.

The event will bring together a broad cross section of government, inter-government, and non-government organizations, research groups and community representatives. to collaborate with Australian mangrove researchers to develop a Thai national approach for mangrove assessment and monitoring. The workshop has received funding from the Australia-Thailand Institute, Rainforest Information Centre, Global Greengrants Fund, Mangroves for the Future, and Raks Thai. For more information go to [MangroveWatch](#) or email mapasia@loxinfo.co.th

7-8 September

National Mangrove Seminar, MFF Thailand. Miracle Grand Hotel, Lak Si, Bangkok, Thailand.

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.

7-11 November, Beijing, China

[ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK 2011](#) - "New Challenges - New Opportunities"