



MANGROVES FOR THE FUTURE NEWSLETTER NO.25, JANUARY-MARCH 2012

## Feature stories

### Investing in coastal ecosystems: Snapshots of MFF Phase 1 Small Grants

**A powerful means to mobilize people around issues of local concern is MFF's Small Grants Facility (SGF). Across MFF countries, small grants bring invaluable support to projects seeking partnerships with the private sector and local government. Throughout 2008-2011, the first round of SGF projects showed how grantees bring their knowledge, skills and experience to bear on numerous challenges ranging from the purely technical to the complex social, economic, and political. Now, 79 projects have been completed that address these challenges and strengthen resilience of coastal communities.**

The SGF projects in MFF countries have contributed to alleviating poverty and empowering both men and women through the development of sustainable livelihoods. Projects have stimulated changes in behavior that help to reduce pressure on natural resources, and at the same time have created new and additional sources of income. In total over

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5,000 people took part in awareness-raising programmes and over 700 people were directly trained in alternative income-generating activities. The projects have contributed to improving coastal governance by supporting integrated coastal management, and by influencing relevant policies and practices.

Many projects supported rehabilitation of several thousand hectares of mangroves--the flagship ecosystem of MFF--by mobilizing people to participate in demarcation, replanting and tending. A total of 234,150 trees have been planted, 95% in mangroves. In addition some 12,519 hectares of land has been demarcated, brought under protection or community management. Twenty-three areas have been identified or demarcated for special purposes (six for heavy metal contamination, the others for nurseries, demonstration plots and cultivating marine species).

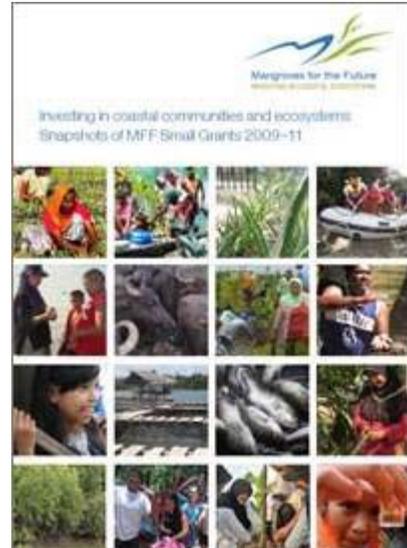
In the process, local NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) have gained valuable knowledge, contributed a great deal of information to local and national authorities, and improved their capacities for management of mangrove ecosystems. A diverse range of communications products, including training and awareness raising materials have been produced, many in local languages.

The SGF was launched in June 2008. The responsibility for managing the SGF in each member country rests with the MFF National Coordinating Body (NCB). Each MFF member country has adapted SGF national guidelines that reflect the geographic and thematic priorities in each country's MFF National Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP), within the context of [MFF's 15 Programmes of Work](#). Each of the six initial member countries was allocated US\$150,000. Grants are limited to 18 months and are awarded in amounts up to US\$25,000.

A snapshot of each of the 79 implemented projects is available in two-page profiles covering objectives, context, beneficiaries, outputs and impacts, grant value, duration and contacts. The profiles are organised by the six MFF member countries who took part in the first phase of the SGF. [Download the MFF SGF Project Snapshots here](#).

## Know-how from the coasts: Selected pickings of knowledge from across the region

**MFF is founded on making knowledge available for people, thereby enabling them to participate more effectively in decision-making for sustainable coastal management. MFF supports this principle by linking the functions of communications, outreach, knowledge management, and capacity development. Together these functions define the**



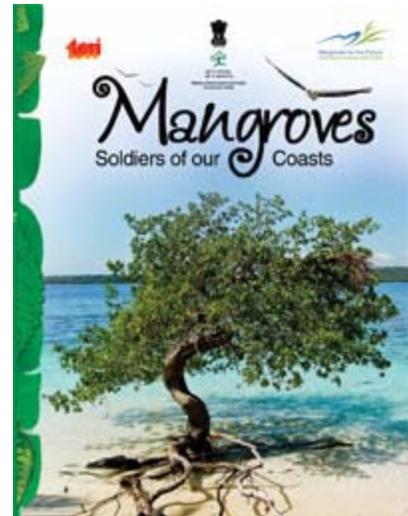
MFF's Knowledge Platform – a hub that integrates the capture, refinement and dissemination of information, lessons and experiences from all MFF activities. MFF's Knowledge Platform currently emphasizes information management and communications, and gives special attention to documenting and sharing MFF products, activities and experiences at regional, national and project level. MFF knowledge products capture, record, and articulate the know-how of people in the form of print documents, publications, films and online resources. A wealth of knowledge is produced by MFF countries and projects and just a few samples of them are showcased below.

The MFF full-color children's book ["Mangroves: Soldiers of our Coasts"](#) recently inspired enthusiasm and active participation from the youth of Balik Pulau, Penang, Malaysia. On February 12, for World Wetlands Day, the Malaysia-based NGO Water Watch Penang awarded local students with copies of the book *Mangroves* as a prize for participating in the "Nature Classroom - Water, Forest, and Us" programme, a partnership with the UNEP Eco-Peace Leadership Centre. The programme creates public awareness on water and forest conservations through educational visit to the mangrove wetlands in Balik Pulau, Penang. A copy of the book was also donated to the library of a local school. Yun Yun Wong, project manager of "Nature Classroom" in Water Watch Penang, says: "We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to the contribution by MFF, especially MFF India who made the effort in publishing the book. Its great to share a real good mangrove book suitable for basic learning of mangroves." Read more about Yun Yun's ["Let's Go to see Mangroves!"](#) project in Malaysia.

["Mangroves: Soldiers of our Coasts"](#) was also of interest to Ferit Temur from the Macajalar Bay Development Alliance, 14 coastal local government units in Cagayan de Oro, Philippines, who requested 100 copies of the *Mangroves* book for the Adopt-A-Mangrove reforestation project. The Alliance is advocating integrated coastal management in Macajalar Bay. It is supported by GIZ, local governments and Xavier University in the Philippines.

In Indonesia, mangrove ecosystems are popular not only for coastal defence, but also as a source of food. The mangrove recipe book [Beragam produk olahan berbahan dasar Mangrove](#) (Products from mangroves) was a big hit in the 2011 Asia Pacific Forestry Conference when MFF spoke about community benefits from mangroves. The Maldives completed a music video that highlights environmental awareness, particularly recycling and reducing waste in their islands. The [music video](#) was a product of a small grant facility project, and was telecast over national media.

Pakistan created a short documentary titled [Sentries of the Coast](#) about the life of a fisherman and the importance of



Madame Ong Saw Hoon (left) and Yun Yun Wong (right) of Water Watch Penang © Water Watch Penang 2012

mangroves for fishing communities. The film shares similar themes with MFF India's mangrove movie *Mangroves: Guardians of the Coast*, a stunning full-length feature about mangrove ecosystems and MFF's work in India (please contact the MFF Secretariat for more information).

In the Seychelles, a small grants project produced a suite of children's educational materials about the UNESCO World Heritage site, Aldabra Atoll. [The Aldabra Atoll children's book](#) and *Aldabra Our Atoll: Secondary School book* are the first of their kind in the Seychelles, and are now being used in schools in the archipelago. The Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles also produced a magazine that celebrated mangroves and wetlands in Seychelles. For a copy, please contact [e-news@mangrovesforthefuture.org](mailto:e-news@mangrovesforthefuture.org).

Sri Lanka has produced several publications that record the rich knowledge from MFF activities. At the front line is [For the People By the People](#), a collection of lessons from their MFF Small Grants Facility projects completed in 2009. The country has also compiled scientific dialogues about appraising mangroves in micro-tidal estuaries and lagoons, in their book, [An appraisal of mangrove management in micro-tidal estuaries and lagoons in Sri Lanka](#). Preparatory studies and workshops that contribute to coastal governance and important sectors like tourism are also well-documented in [Tourism and Coastal Development on the Southeast Coast of Sri Lanka](#) and [Governance performance in integrated coastal management: Sri Lanka country report](#).

Thailand has developed a robust online photo library documenting their activities on [Google+](#), [Picasa](#) and also maintains an active social network [MFF Thailand in Facebook](#).

At the regional level, toolkits, project snapshots, and short films abound. As climate change is a hot topic in coastal management, MFF and UNEP developed [Climate Proof: A four-step guide for coastal projects](#) as a toolkit for managers who wish to "climate proof" their coastal projects.

Gender equality in projects has been a special focus in MFF and it has drawn on expert opinions from its institutional partners develop instructional material for gender courses which are integrated into MFF's Integrated Coastal Management Courses. Three short films were produced in 2011 that explore gender issues in MFF projects in Thailand and Sri Lanka. *The Gleaners of Ban Modtanoi* tells the story of how the Thai coast is becoming more stressed with increased development and related environmental change, and how women and men are being forced to share roles simply as a matter of survival. *The Beauty of Aloe vera* narrates the experience of a fishing village around Puttalam lagoon, located on Sri Lanka's north-west coast, and how an *Aloe vera* cultivation project changed the lives of women there. *The Lucky Ladies of Maha Oya* is about an alternative livelihood program offered to a community of artisan sand miners and their wives

in Sri Lanka. The men chose fish farming, and the women -- to make ladies shoes. Little did anyone realize how successful these sand miner's wives would turn out to be. [Watch the films.](#)

## Linking coastal and marine networks for positive change in Asia

**Regional coastal management is a wide field, and there are multiple players who are bringing diverse action to better manage Asia's coastal resources. MFF is part of a wide network of regional coastal management initiatives and organizations.**

In its own efforts to advance a regional approach to coastal management, MFF is undertaking several regional initiatives. A UNEP led project on *Mapping and Enhancing Natural Resource Governance in Small Island Communities* will work in the Maldives, Seychelles, and Thailand. The project will look at governance frameworks and support reforms and processes of decentralization, including capacity building at local levels.

A second project on *Income for Coastal Communities for Mangrove Protection* is being led by FAO and the Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme for South and Southeast Asia (RFLP). The project will develop a low cost mechanism enabling investors to responsibly promote mangrove conservation, carbon emissions reduction and sustainable development through the provision of funding to local communities for livelihood diversification, resource enhancement and coastal protection. The project will partner with the MFF Secretariat, UNEP, and MFF in Indonesia and Viet Nam. Beyond the project modality MFF is working with a number of other regional initiatives across the region.

MFF believes that technical research and regional knowledge sharing can lead to bi-lateral actions and ultimately co-management of resources. MFF collaborates with the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) project in implementing a range of integrated coastal management training programs. Both MFF and BOBLME share an overlapping geographic range. BOBLME aims to improve the lives of the coastal populations through better regional management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries. It is implemented through FAO, which is also an MFF institutional partner, and is partially funded by both Norad and Sida.

BOBLME and MFF recently collaborated on an Asian Institute of Technology-run *Integrated Coastal Management certificate course*, to train coastal managers in the theory and practice of managing coastal and marine ecosystems. Also collaborating on the ICM course, is the Southeast Asian Fisheries



Participants at the Coastal Forum © IUCN



Participants at the AIT ICM Course © MFF



Participants at the 2012 Climate Change Forum © MFF

Development Center (SEAFDEC). SEAFDEC is an intergovernmental organization to promote sustainable fisheries development in the Asia region, with 11 member countries, from Brunei Darussalam to Vietnam. Learn more about the course from the [MFF newsletter](#) and [special bulletin](#).

MFF contributed a review of regional organizations working in coastal management in South East Asia during the 2009 East Asia Congress, hosted by the Partnerships in the Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), a wider regional initiative that involves various stakeholders from governments, CSOs, private sector, research institutions, communities, international agencies, regional programmes, financial institutions and donors. PEMSEA coordinates the various stakeholders to work and advocate together, and coordinate actions within agreed frameworks. An update of the of the MFF review is in the pipeline.

MFF is exploring ties with the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), a multilateral partnership offering a broad collection of collaboration and network opportunities for stakeholders in six Asian countries. CTI is a key player in Timor Leste, an MFF outreach country. The [CTI online portal](#) is a knowledge management resource for interest groups, working together to sustain coastal resources, develop shared goals and commitments, and to coordinate approaches, mechanisms, financial resources and shared-learning.

MFF is also working with regional knowledge platforms on climate change adaptation. The [Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia \(AKP\)](#) is a response to the demand for effective mechanisms for sharing information on climate change adaptation in Asian countries. MFF actively participates in the AKP events, most recently in the [2012 Climate Change Forum](#) (see related story below).

These regional initiatives, scientific research organizations, and regional platforms have a wealth of knowledge from various conservation programs. There is, however, still a need to synergize and cohesively advance the connections formed among them. MFF continues to work with its coastal partners in weaving a vibrant web of knowledge.

## News around the region

### On the coast in Pakistan

A national conference, a seminar on World Water Day, a photo exhibit, and a tree planting field trip are just a few examples of MFF Pakistan's efforts to shine the national spotlight on mangroves and coastal management. "Sharing of experience with policy makers", a national conference on mangroves ecosystems held at Karachi by the Human Resource Development network, allowed energy sector decision makers to speak with the Sindh and Balochistan Forest Departments

about actions for mangrove and coastal conservation. A seminar marking this year's World Water Day celebration highlighted the importance of ecosystems and water for a secure and sustainable food supply. Additionally, a photo exhibit displaying coastal life and importance of mangroves, as well as mangrove planting activity, was covered by the Pakistan energy sector in its magazine. Read more about MFF Pakistan and IUCN coastal conservation activities this March at: [Energy update](#), [IUCN](#) and [Dawn News](#)

### Coastal Forum links Southeast Asian coastal communities

MFF countries Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Myanmar and other countries around the world recognized the importance of cross-country dialogue and knowledge exchange at the first Coastal Forum on Feb 29-March 2 in Chantaburi, Thailand. The Forum, hosted by the European Union funded IUCN project Building Coastal Resilience, brought at least 200 representatives from local communities, government agencies, NGOs, academia, and media professionals from Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The Coastal Forum tackled issues ranging from ridge to reef management approaches, the role of media and storytelling in climate change projects, to best practices in coastal conservation activities. Read more about the forum at the [Building Coastal Resilience webpage](#). Next year's Coastal Forum will be held in Viet Nam. Contact Dararat Weerapong [Dararat.Weerapong@iucn.org](mailto:Dararat.Weerapong@iucn.org) for more information.



Celebrating ecosystems on the coast of Pakistan © Cactus Digital for MFF

### Aloe vera - a drink for health and ecosystems

MFF Sri Lanka revitalizes local health and business with the Aloe vera Herbal Drink, a venture tracing its origins from the Phase 1 SGF project Aloe vera planting project (see [MFF Small Grants Snapshots](#) for more information). The earlier project linked Aloe vera growers to a local cosmetic company, and is now turning surplus produce into beverages. The venture is funded by the MFF Sri Lanka Small Grants Facility, and is managed by the local NGO, the Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Foundation. Aloe juice is sold at different parts of Kalpitiya, in North Western Sri Lanka. There is a high demand for the drink, as 20 litres of daily production is sold within two hours. MN Nusry, the project officer, says that it is so successful that they plan to expand sales beyond Kalpitiya. [View photos of the Aloe Vera juice cart here.](#)



The Aloe vera juice cart in Kalpitiya © MCRCF

### Climate change adaptation gets practical in 2012 Climate Change Forum

The [2nd Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum](#), held at the United Nations Convention Center, Bangkok on 12-13 March, concluded on a high note as scientists, development workers, government officials, academicians, international organizations, students, and representatives from civil society came together to discuss climate change adaptation topics that cut across issues of governance, management, and technology

replication. Participants were presented with thought-provoking insights on climate change adaptation strategies and practical experience. Riding on the momentum of four plenary sessions were twenty-four panel sessions that allowed participants to choose groups that tackled subjects ranging from government-led policy interventions to corporate private sector initiatives. Gender practice and community-based adaptation were also among the topics discussed alongside food and agriculture, ecosystems management, and disaster mitigation. Mainstream and alternative media were given as much exposure as "anti-fragility" climate resilient cities. In the Market Place, at least thirty organizations set up exhibits and information booths, where the common theme was how adaptation varied from one context to another. Read more about the 2012 Climate Change Forum's [March 12](#) and [March 13](#) highlights.

## What we're reading

[Spotlight on mangrove ecosystems. Prelude to the 2012 Regional Mangrove Colloquium in India](#)

[Steen Christensen on The Afia Salam Show](#)

[International Tropical Timber Organization special issue on Mapping Mangroves](#)

[ISME and GLOMIS mangrove guidebook](#)

[CIFOR news update: Mangroves being destroyed at an alarming rate](#)

[IUCN looks at impact of Climate Change on Mangrove Ecosystems in South Asia](#)

[Mangroves in Lap An Lagoon, Viet Nam \(IUCN\)](#)

[Tool Box for Mangrove Rehabilitation and Management \(GIZ\)](#)

[Fence design manual in Kien Giang mangroves, Viet Nam](#)

[Installing bamboo fences as erosion protection measure](#)

[Proceedings of the National Academy of Forests](#)

[On the strengths and drawbacks of tsunami-buffer forests \(Cochard R 2011\)](#)

[Influence of coastal vegetation on the 2004 tsunami wave impact in west Aceh \(Laso Bayas et al 2011\)](#)

[Programmes of work and cross-cutting themes](#)

[Stacking ecosystem services payments, risks and solutions \(Cooley & Olander 2012\)](#)

[The Green Edition of Development Asia Magazine: Why Asia is gearing toward a green model of economic growth](#)

[Forests and Climate Change Working Paper 10. Forest Management and Climate Change](#)

[FAO knowledge and experiences in forest management as a response to climate change](#)

[CBD Secretariat supported open access to a 'Biological Conservation' article 'A framework for integrating biodiversity concerns into national REDD+ programmes' \(look for document number 10 in the list, UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/22\).](#)

[Special edition of Environmental practice. Spotlight on green infrastructure and implementing natural resources plans.](#)

[REDD+ and Biodiversity](#)

[Asian Nations Must Build Resilience to Climate Change - ADB](#)

[Environment lifts the radio star: Pakistan reaches out via air waves](#)

[Climate Change Adaptation e-communique](#)

## Events

July 9-13 - [PEMSEA 8th East Asia Seas Congress, Korea](#)

June 20-22 - [Rio+20, Brazil](#)

August 30-31 - MFF Regional Mangrove Colloquium, India

September 6-15 - [IUCN World Conservation Congress, Korea](#)

October 8-19 - [Convention on Biological Diversity COP 11, India](#)

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