

April-May, 2009

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

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

News/Announcements



“MFF is a Great Thing” says, President Bill Clinton

The Tsunami Legacy: Innovation, Breakthroughs and Change report, coordinated by Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Chair of the Tsunami Global Lessons Learned Steering Committee and former Director of the Agency for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (BRR) for Aceh and Nias was presented at an event organized by the UN and the Permanent Mission of Indonesia. The event, attended by MFF Coordinator, **Don Macintosh** took place at the UN headquarters in New York and featured speeches by Ban Ki-moon and President Bill Clinton, and remarks from Helen Clark and H.E. Marty Natalegawa. “As UN Envoy for the Tsunami Recovery, I was proud to help the nations and communities affected by the tsunami to ‘build back better’,” **President Bill Clinton** said. President Clinton in his speech also said that “MFF, was one of the most positive outcomes of the December 2004 Tsunami”..... “But much remains to be done. I’m hopeful we will continue and strengthen

our efforts to promote good governance, economic development, and disaster preparation, even in these tough economic times”. To download a copy of the report, visit <http://www.undp.org/asia/the-tsunami-legacy.pdf>.

New report on 2004 tsunami recovery efforts reveals the need to involve local communities, especially women in Disaster Risk Management.

When the December, 2004 Tsunami hit, many people could not access assistance simply because of their gender, ethnicity, age, class, religion or occupation, says the report. Women were particularly hit hard, but played a crucial role in the reconstruction phase and in disaster risk reduction efforts. However, according to the report, the recovery process provided an opportunity to address underlying social disparities in the region, strengthen human rights protection for marginalized groups and creating an environment for social participation. Community capacity to respond to early warning systems was improved and disaster awareness programmes were included in many school curricula. In addition, several countries adopted anti-discrimination measures to help all victims benefit from aid, including victims of conflicts.



Kenya and Tanzania to join MFF as dialogue countries

Kenya and Tanzania recently requested membership of MFF as Dialogue countries. Their requests were received via letters from **Mr. M.A.M. Wa-Mwachai**, OGW, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Kenya and **Dr. S.R. Mwinjaka**, Permanent Secretary, Vice President’s Office of the United Republic of Tanzania, respectively. The letter from Kenya further explained that, by joining MFF, Kenya will benefit from: regional cooperation, programme support, private sector engagement and community empowerment, and support for adopting an ocean-wide approach to sustainable coastal management. “Tanzania

has some the largest mangroves on the eastern African coastline and many of the country’s people depend directly or indirectly on them for food, other products and income. The Mangroves for the Future initiative can complement and augment coastal management and development initiatives in Tanzania”, says, **Jerker Tamelander**, Coordinator, Cordio/Indian Ocean and IUCN Global Marine Programme.

Coming and Going

It is with great regret we say good bye to **Sergio Feld**, our UNDP Focal Point and MFF visionary. However, this is not a real goodbye. Sergio will continue in the development field and will be returning to Asia and other regions in his new job as Director of Environmental and Social Assessment with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). Under the overall leadership of Secretary of State Clinton, and a renewed commitment from the Obama Administration, MCC is truly poised to reinvent U.S. development assistance.



MFF is pleased to announce **Joseph D'Cruz**, Regional Environment Advisor and Deputy Team leader for the UNDP Regional Environment and Sustainable Development Team. With Sergio's departure to Washington to join the MCC, Joseph will act as the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok Focal Point for MFF. Please join us in welcoming Joseph into the MFF family. He can be contacted at: joseph.dacruz@undp.org.

Ellik Adler (right) is the new Coordinator for the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), UNEP. Ellik is no stranger to MFF, Ellik arrived in Bangkok from Nairobi where he has served for the last 8+ years as the global Coordinator of the Regional Seas Programme in UNEP/DEPI and lately as the Coordinator of the Marine Ecosystems Unit. Ellik has a PhD in marine environmental studies and prior to joining UNEP in 2000, he acted for more than 12 years as the Director of the Marine and Coastal Environment Division in the Ministry of Environment in Israel. Email: adler@un.org.



OCEANS TAKES CENTER STAGE!



World Ocean Conference, a fight to get oceans into the climate change talks

Officials from 80 countries and intergovernmental institutions gathered for the first World Ocean Conference (WOC), 11-15 May, Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, the world's largest Archipelago, with an appeal to the international community to give oceans a more central role at the UN climate talks.

"It is time for ocean countries to voice their interests in making the ocean a key topic at all major climate change talks", said **Freddy Numberi** (right), Indonesian Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister.



Ministers and Senior Officials from all over the world gathered in Manado, North Sulawesi at the World Ocean Conference (WOC) to discuss threats to our oceans, the effect of climate change and the role of oceans in climate change mitigation. The main highlights were the adoption of the **Manado Ocean Declaration**, a joint statement to work together in safeguarding the function of the oceans in climate change mitigation and adaptation by country delegates and ministers, and the **Coral Triangle Summit** where the Heads of states from the six countries involved in the Coral Triangle Initiative signed the first interstate agreement in the coral triangle towards conservation efforts, supported by the major BINGOs, as well as a **Global Ocean Policy Day** which provided an ample opportunity for a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on oceans, climate and security among high-level government officials together with NGOs, industry and scientists to not only discuss the impacts of climate change but the adaptation and mitigation strategies as well as financing issues. Concurrently, there was a three-day **International Symposium on Ocean Science, Technology and Policy** with 33 topics under eight major themes where a total of 570 scientific papers were presented.



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in her recorded remarks delivered at the Grand Opening of the World Ocean Conference said, .. *it all points to the same conclusion... We must do more to protect our oceans and preserve the long-term health of our planet and its people. At the World Ocean Conference you can help focus the world's attention on the link between oceans and climate change and advance global efforts to find science based solutions to the problems we face".....*

The adoption of the Manado Ocean Declaration

The **Manado Ocean Declaration** (MOD) signed 14 May, 2009 recognises that oceans and coasts provide valuable resources and services to support human populations, particularly coastal communities that heavily depend on them. Sustainable use of marine living resources will enhance global food security and reduce poverty for present and future generations. The declaration will be put forward to the UN FCCC and hopefully adopted at the COP 15 in Copenhagen at the end of the year.

“The message coming from Manado is clear- the state of our oceans is a reality and it is only going to get worse in the face of climate change, but if we take concerted action now we may have a better chance of being able to cope with the effects of climate change. The Manado Ocean Declaration is proof of the willingness and commitment to do just that” says, **Don Macintosh**, Coordinator for the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) Initiative. Listen to interview [< Click here](#)



Coral Triangle Initiative- from Manado to Copenhagen

The *Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security* (CTI) was launched during the World Ocean Conference at a Leaders Summit. This represented new ground breaking commitments by the six governments of **Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor Leste** to an extraordinary joint effort to safeguard the world's richest marine resources and thereby ensuring food security for millions of people who dependent on these resources. The Heads of States formally adopted one of the most comprehensive and specific plans for marine conservation, the [CTI Declaration](#).



The Coral Triangle, the epicenter of marine life and diversity contains 76% of all known coral species and more than 3000 fish species despite only covering 1.6% of the planet's oceanic area. Over 120 million people directly depend on these resources. This area also supports the largest tuna fisheries in the world, which generates billions of US dollars globally every year. The value of tourism and fishery industry, as well as shoreline protection is estimated to be USD 2.3 billion per year. These valuable but yet vulnerable marine resources are threatened by over harvesting, pollution and unsustainable and uncoordinated coastal development. The CTI leaders recognise the urgent need to address poverty issues in the Coral Triangle countries, as well as the need for a stronger climate change focus. The CTI National Coordination is currently being institutionalized. The BINGO's will meet in Bali, July, 2009. The CTI will be adopted as part of national policy in each of the six States by Aug 2009. All countries/States are taking a different approach- for example Timor Leste is aiming for one national zoning plan for their whole EEZ. CTI working groups for; coordination, implementation and finance mechanisms will be convened leading up to Copenhagen.



Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in North Sulawesi

Traditional fishermen from North Sulawesi gathered in the Manado harbour during the conference, to protest against IUU and to urge the ministers and official delegates at the conference to touch on the important issues such as how to protect small scale traditional fisheries from IUU fishing and bigger companies.

H.E. Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, in his keynote address, said, *For instance, fishermen in Maluku province, which is not far from here, can no longer tell the time and specific place to make their usual catch*

of fish. The normal cycle in the life of the fish has been disrupted- to the great frustration and loss of the fishing folks”. As fish stocks decline, fishers move out of their economic exclusive zones (EEZ). Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is a serious threat to the sustainability of fisheries globally. According to a *Study of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Arafura Sea* by the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries launched at the conference, the overall loss from IUU fishing in the World Ocean Conference's host country is USD 2 billion per year. In Indonesia the region most at risk from IUU fishing is the waters around North Sulawesi where the World Ocean Conference took place.

Climate Change Adaptation and Strategies and Actions for Coastal Areas one-day workshop in Manado

MFF together with partners from University of Rhode Island, NOAA, USAID and Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia held a one-day workshop on *Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and Actions for Coastal Areas* as one of the key side events at the World Ocean Conference, Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia 11 May, 2009. More than 40 national and international participants joined the workshop. The aim was to gather coastal and marine conservation policy-makers who are trying to decide how to proceed in addressing adaptation challenges in the region without creating new laws or programmes; planners and/or project managers who want some practical approaches to act immediately; and communications and outreach professional seeking to make the connection between information, needs, and action. Group exercises were conducted to explore in more depth the different starting points for understanding strategies to mainstream adaptation measures into projects, places and national policy. This was based on the newly launched Guidebook developed by Rhode Island, NOAA and USAID, and the MFF Guidelines for mainstreaming climate change adaptation into project design.



Dr. Zainal Arfin- *it was a great workshop in Manado. Most of us were not climate change experts. But by participating in the workshop, I can see how we can play a role in climate change adaptation. I think most of us who attended the workshop got a new perspective."*

For course materials and other WOC documents please go to:
<http://www.mangrovesforthefuture.org/events.html>

Joint Management of Tomini Bay, the Heart of the Coral Triangle

Three provisional administrations; the Gorontalo Governor **Fadel Muhammad**, North Sulawesi Governor **Sinyo Harry Sarundajang**, and Central Sulawesi Governor **Bandjela Paliudju** came together in Manado to sign a Memorandum of Understanding witnessed by State Minister for the Environment Rachmat Witoelar, as well as a crowd of reporters, paving the way for a joint management plan of the area. Tomini Bay lies directly on the equator. It has extremely high economical, ecological and socio-cultural value. It is also a zone for marine transportation, connecting North and Central Sulawesi to other destinations in Asia and the Pacific, and Australia. The bay's natural resources are under enormous pressure from both commercial exploitation, and in addition, the coastal areas of Tomini Bay is also home to many very poor communities who also depend on the natural resources from and along the bay for their livelihoods. Therefore, Taking into account the ecosystem complexity and the goods and services that the area provides, as well as the various stakeholders involved, Tomini Bay needs to be managed in an integrated and holistic manner. The Tomini Bay Integrated and Sustainable Management Strategic Plan launched in Manado is a significant step towards joint collaboration in managing the bay. The objectives are in-line with those of MFF, and MFF has been supporting capacity building of the Tomini Bay Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods and Management (SUSCLAM) project staff via their participation in regional training courses organized by MFF Secretariat.



Saving Savu Sea

The Savu Sea Marine Protected Area (MPA) was launched 13 May in Manado. This is said to be the largest MPA in the Coral Triangle with an area of 3.5 billion hectares including 151 villages (25 625 households). The size of the MPA also poses significant monitoring and surveillance challenges. According to **Hirmen Syofyanto**, Savu Sea Project Manager, TNC, *"Illegal and destructive fishing practices are still widespread in the Savu Sea. The fishermen, both foreign and local, use bombs and cyanide, and the current monitoring is very low."* The launch represented a step towards implementing Indonesia's MPA national Action Plan within the CTI. *"We are taking action now to safe guard our fish stocks, our coral reefs, our rich marine life and coastal resources"*, said **Freddy Numberi** in his opening speech, adding that the Government would focus on efforts to ensure MPAs are well managed in the years to come.

Making Marine Conservation Happen- the International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC) held 20-24 May, Washington D.C.

The International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC) aimed at advancing marine conservation by facilitating discussion among scientists, managers and policy-makers about cutting edge science developments. The DC Diaries (www.iucn.org/imcc) covers podcasts from marine conservation experts and IMCC participants.

Google Earth and Oceans workshop gets full House

Google Earth and Oceans have been advocated as an important tool for coastal resource management globally, but more data is still needed. That is why free training workshops using Google Earth for Creating & Editing MPA Data were available at the World Ocean Conference and the International Marine Conservation Congress through an IUCN and Google initiative. These workshops were designed for coastal managers, community members, data managers, scientists and other interested stakeholders to use Google Earth to communicate their conservation issues. Adding data is vital to our monitoring efforts.



These workshops were offered to teach participants how to create and edit data in Google Earth and to edit and upload Marine Protected Area (MPA) data, photos, videos, and stories to a web portal, ProtectPlanet Ocean (www.protectplanetoclean.org) for the world to see in Google Earth. The multi-partner web portal provides a conduit to the best marine conservation information on the web, also allowing users to add MPA data and multimedia content displayed in Google Earth, to continue to improve the World Database on Protected Areas.

To find out more about training opportunities and on-line tutorials, email: gettraining@protectplanetoclean.org Interview with Dr. Louisa Woods, workshop trainer and Advisor and Technical Lead on MPAs for IUCN's Global Marine Programme, <http://www.mangrovesforthefuture.org/Sound/Louisa1track.wav>.



Above: **Rolph Payet**, Special Adviser to the President of Seychelles and CEO and Chair of the Sealevel Rise Foundation, sealing the deal in Manado.

The World's Invited...!

Spread the message: *"Seal the Deal! Unite to find a solution to climate change that is fair, balanced, effective and science-based. Seize this defining opportunity."*

2009 is a crucial year in the international effort to address climate change, culminating in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in **Copenhagen, 7-18 December 2009**. The *Seal the Deal* Campaign aims to encourage governments to agree on an international response to climate change that will protect our planet and promote a global green economy when they meet in Copenhagen this December. Reaching a deal on climate change in Copenhagen will depend not only on political negotiations but also on public support. To galvanize political and public support globally towards this goal, the world is invited to unite to combat climate change by signing the Climate Petition. To sign the Climate Petition, please go to:

<http://www.sealthedeal2009.org/>



PROJECTS

First MFF Large Project kicks off!

The first MFF large project, *Reversing Environmental Damage through Community Focused Sustainable Livelihoods in Ban Don Bay, Surat Thani province, Thailand* was launched 7 May, 2009, at Nipa Garden Hotel in Surat Thani. The project will complement the SGF awareness raising projects currently being implemented. 60 people attended the kick off. The best practices from Ao Ban Don Bay will be shared, and hopefully applied, in other coastal areas in Thailand.



MFF Announces the first call for project proposals in Indonesia in Manado

At the end of the workshop, MFF Secretariat and MFF Indonesia announced the first call for small project proposals under the MFF Indonesia programme. The majority of the participants were from Indonesia and therefore may apply for MFF Indonesia funding. They will now be able to integrate climate change considerations more effectively into project design, implementation and evaluation.

Maldives NCB organises a proposal writing workshop



Held 11-17, May, 2009, the workshop was conducted in a fishing village with 40 participants. Participants were from local NGOs from 19 islands in the Upper North Province which face the predominant problems highlighted in their National Strategy and Action Plan. **Mohamed Zuhair**, Maldives NCB Chair/ DG of Ministry of Environment opened the workshop. **Mr. Poonsin Sreesangkorn**, the Thailand MFF SGF Manager, UNDP Thailand conducted the workshop focusing on Result-Based Management Approach and project budgets. The workshop was very successful. Participants were very active and expressed their need for more training of this kind. The **deadline** for small project proposal submission in the Maldives is mid **June 2009**.

MFF to support private sector-led common resource management in the Maldives

MFF has begun discussions with Soneva Fushi in the Maldives in demonstrating increased cooperation between resorts for common property resource management. Cooperation between resorts in the Baa Atoll already exists and further support could expand the model. In order to stimulate replication, training in impact analysis and monitoring is being explored. Twinning between resorts and populated islands is also a part of the Government's plans under the national MFF strategy: links between resorts in the Baa Atoll and neighbouring populated islands would be an excellent opportunity to build on this twinning model.



MFF IUCN Co-Chair, Aban Marker Kabraji and Six Senses CEO, Sonu Shivdasani

Stories from the field



Improving Livelihoods of Coastal Communities: novel cage culture experience from Tirukkovil in Eastern Sri Lanka

A pilot project on cage culture of naturally found sea bass (*Lates calcarifer*) in Palakudah lagoon was introduced to selected lagoon fishermen. Seabass are in demand both locally of export value.

This form of cage culture does not hamper the hydrodynamics of the lagoon. The project is being implemented by the IUCN Sri Lanka Office under the overall scope of MFF, and co-financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The project is being implemented

in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka, and is concentrated around two large and important lagoons, the Periyakalapu and Palakudah lagoons. The productivity of these lagoons has decreased overtime, mainly due to the absence of fisheries management, use of destructive fishing practices and human induced biophysical changes such as intrusion of sea water. Fishermen have limited options other than engaging in lagoon fishing. The first batch of cultured fish was harvested in early 2009. The beneficiaries received sums ranging from approximately Rs 10,000 to 22, 000 (USD 87-191) from the sale of fish.



The cage culture programme was initiated as a partnership between the fishing communities belonging to the Koraikalappu Lake Fishermen Co-operative Society and a private aquaculture company – Aqua Hatcheries Private Ltd. The role of the private company is to transfer cage culture technical know-how to local people and provide them with a market for cultured fish. The private company is likely to expand the operations through a loan scheme so that pressure on the lagoon can be reduced while improving the livelihoods of the lagoon dependant communities. This will also demonstrate the sustainability of cage culture as an ongoing livelihood activity for the communities living around the Palakudah lagoon.



National training course on Disaster Risk Reduction for Coastal Zone Management, Sri Lanka (Negombo, 29 May – 2 June)

More than twenty district level staff from the Coast Conservation Department (CCD), Disaster Management Centre (DMC), and Central Environmental Authority (CEA) were trained in integrating disaster risk

reduction (DRR), ecosystem based DRR and climate change adaptation in coastal management. The training also provided a testing and learning ground for applying the MFF large project proposal guidelines. The event was very well received and CCD and DMC are now planning to replicate the training in different districts.

The practical and interactive training was the results of collaboration between UNEP, CCD, DMC, IUCN and Sri Lankan Universities. This UNEP-led project was implemented with financial support from ISDR and EC AIDCO, in coordination with the NCB of Sri Lanka.



Upcoming Events



The Fifth Regional Steering Committee Meeting, 6-9 July, 2009 Berjaya Resort, Mahe, Seychelles

MFF will hold its fifth Regional Steering Committee meeting in the Seychelles next month. At this meeting MFF institutional partners and country representatives together with special invited experts, will come together to plan and decide on the future of MFF. This represents a major juncture for MFF as the outcomes of this meeting will dictate MFF's direction for Phase II (2010-212).

Media



That’s a wrap! - Filming for the BBC Earth Report on Mangroves and Climate Change, North Coast of Central Java, Indonesia
 The producer (Douglas Varchol) and TV crew (left) spent ten days of intensive filming and interviews in the Demak District. The location for filming was chosen as a result of the insights obtained about the threats of climate change in the area during the MFF Regional Training course held in October, 2008. Once the filming was completed the film team (including Professor Rudhi Pribadi from the University of Semarang (UNDIP) held lectures at the University of Semarang (UNDIP) to share their environmental documentary experiences and to encourage future scientists to use film and new-media to communicate their work.

Joe, Jungle Run, Douglas Varchol, Rudhi Privadi

(Right) NCB Member, **Ibu Nur Hygiawati Rahayu** (Yuke) talks to national media at the MFF, CRC-URI, USAID, MMAF Indonesia and NOAA workshop, about how climate change is and will effect Indonesia and MFF’s Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation activities in Indonesia.



© M. EPPS, MFF Secretariat

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

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

About MFF

Mangroves for the Future (MFF), is a unique partner-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystem 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 countries worst-affected by the tsunami; India, Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, as well as dialogue 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, to work towards a common goal. 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.

To subscribe to this E-newsletter please send an email with SUBSCRIBE to e-news@mangrovesforthefuture.org and to unsubscribe write UNSUBSCRIBE.

Produced by the MFF Secretariat with the financial support of Norad and Sida.

