



Mangroves for the Future
INVESTING IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS



A vision for a healthier, more prosperous and
secure future for all coastal communities



Investing in coastal ecosystems

Cham Islands, Marine Protected Area, Viet Nam © MFF Secretariat

MFF is financed principally by Norad and Sida with substantial contributions from its core partners and the private sector. By demonstrating the high economic and social returns from investing in coastal ecosystems, MFF partners expect the scope of the initiative to keep growing, especially through public and private sector partnerships. MFF will continue to seek co-financing opportunities that build on projects already started, or planned, to maximize their positive outcomes.

Mangroves for the Future

Known as MFF, Mangroves for the Future is a partnership-based initiative promoting investment in coastal ecosystems for sustainable development. MFF provides a collaborative platform to help countries, sectors and agencies in the MFF region tackle the growing challenges to coastal sustainability.

MFF has adopted mangroves as its flagship ecosystem in recognition of the important role that mangrove forests played in reducing the impact of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and the severe effect on coastal livelihoods caused by the loss and degradation of mangroves. However MFF embraces all coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs, estuaries, lagoons, wetlands, beaches and seagrass beds.

This inclusive approach reflects the ecosystem-based, or “reef to ridge”, management approach that MFF brings to the rehabilitation and stewardship of coastal resources. Coastal ecosystems, and the well-being of their inhabitants, are influenced not

just by activities carried out in the coastal zone, but also by those happening further inland. Using the reef to ridge approach, MFF helps coastal managers and communities to adopt and benefit from more integrated management of coastal resources and the ecosystem processes that support them.

Now in its second phase (2010-13), MFF continues to work towards achieving the vision of a healthier, more prosperous and secure future for all coastal communities.

The mission of MFF is to promote healthy coastal ecosystems through a partnership-based, people-focused, policy-relevant and investment-oriented approach, which builds and applies knowledge, empowers communities and other stakeholders, enhances governance, secures livelihoods, and increases resilience to natural hazards and climate change.

“...Build back better...” — Bill Clinton, June 2005

The devastation caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004 laid bare the vital link between coastal ecosystems and human livelihoods. It was United States President Bill Clinton’s vision that rebuilding in tsunami-hit areas should improve natural infrastructure and strengthen resilience against future natural disasters. In response to this vision, IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed Mangroves for the Future in 2006. Since then, MFF has grown to include eight institutional partners, plus a growing number of countries. At the launch of the Tsunami Legacy report* at the United Nations in New York in April 2009, Bill Clinton acclaimed MFF as one of the most positive and forward-looking developments of the post-tsunami period.

* *The Tsunami Legacy: Innovation, Breakthroughs and Change*, Tsunami Global Lessons Learned Project, 2009.



Bill Clinton, Thailand 2006 © UNDP

Where MFF works

Member countries

India, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam

Outreach countries

Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Timor-Leste

Dialogue countries

Kenya, Malaysia, Tanzania

MFF began in 2006 by engaging the countries worst-affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami: India, Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Then in 2010, MFF expanded to include Pakistan and Viet Nam. Member countries are formally invited into MFF at their government’s request. Each member country is supported by in-country coordinating staff, and also share the available funds for national and regional coastal projects. Country representatives are members of MFF’s Regional Steering Committee.

MFF extends support to a number of other Asian countries for which poverty, vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change are major concerns. These outreach countries—currently Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar and Timor-Leste—are invited to participate in MFF regional events (such as training courses and symposia), and attend meetings of MFF’s Regional Steering Committee as observers.

MFF engages with other countries and regions to promote an integrated ocean-wide approach to coastal resources management. MFF provides dialogue countries with information and advice on coastal issues, encourages them to participate in MFF regional events, but does not provide financial assistance directly. Besides the current three dialogue countries of Kenya, Malaysia and Tanzania, MFF is also advising countries in other regions, such as the Pacific, on replicating the MFF approach.



MFF across the region



Thatch-making, Maldives © MFF Secretariat



Monitoring water quality, Ranong Province, Thailand
© North Andaman Community Tourism network



Mangrove planting, Lamongan, East Java
© CBDPM-NU

India

MFF in India has focused particularly on improving the scientific knowledge base for Integrated Coastal Management and on managing coastal and marine biodiversity. National symposia supported by MFF have greatly contributed to increasing the knowledge of both mangrove and coral ecosystems. Information-sharing with civil society is also helping to raise awareness about India's valuable coastal resources.

Other MFF priorities in India are to promote environmentally sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities, and to build resilience to climate change and natural disasters through community participation in coastal area decision-making and disaster risk reduction planning.

Indonesia

MFF activities in Indonesia are supporting local communities to restore and manage coastal ecosystems in order to improve the benefits obtained. Priority is being given to building awareness on the economic value of coastal resources, and

to supporting coastal livelihoods, climate change and resilience-building.

Local communities, including students, are learning about the importance of mangroves for storm protection, fisheries support, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and also their cultural significance. This is being achieved through community involvement and gender mainstreaming in mangrove rehabilitation activities, including seedling production, sound planting practices and generating new economic opportunities.

Maldives

The Maldives is particularly vulnerable to climate change as it consists primarily of low-lying coral atolls. MFF is assisting the Maldives to adopt a national Integrated Coastal Management approach that fully responds to and advances the Maldives National Adaptation Programme of Action on climate change. MFF is supporting awareness-raising of climate change at island level and promotes activities such as climate adapted agricultural practices

that minimize soil and water use. Ensuring a safe and healthy island environment is another MFF priority, particularly by improving waste management practices and by educating island residents about the importance of environmental protection.

Pakistan

MFF is assisting Pakistan to adopt an Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) approach by introducing appropriate ICM tools and mechanisms. MFF Pakistan aims to initiate conservation, rehabilitation and development activities based on ICM to ensure equitable sharing of benefits that will safeguard the country's coastal environment and the livelihoods of its inhabitants.

Another priority is to develop mechanisms for public-private partnerships to acquire sustained and equitable economic benefits from coastal development; and to stimulate policy commitment towards achieving the sustainability of ICM programmes.



Children painting a mural at their school © MFF Seychelles



Riverbank rehabilitation by planting bamboo, Sri Lanka © Ruhunu Development Consortium

Seychelles

MFF activities in the Seychelles include projects on habitat restoration and biodiversity protection, as well as contributing to environmental events. These activities are also helping to promote local community and private sector involvement in coastal resources management.

MFF is supporting the legal protection of coastal habitats and species, as well as helping to educate youth and local communities about their intrinsic values. Climate change is a major concern for the Seychelles, primarily because the country's main economic sectors and infrastructure would be vulnerable to rising sea levels. MFF's focus in this regard is to assist the government to implement the National Disaster Management Policy and to build community resilience to climate change.

Sri Lanka

MFF supports local community action in Sri Lanka for the restoration and sustainable use of coastal ecosystems.

Enhancing community participation in coastal area management, including increasing the resilience of coastal and riverine communities to climate change, are key MFF activities in the country.

MFF's priorities address critical issues facing the environmental sustainability of coastal ecosystems in Sri Lanka. Sustainable alternative livelihood options, established through local organizations, are also being introduced widely to reduce pressure on coastal resources.

Thailand

Previous rapid economic expansion in Thailand resulted in widespread loss of coastal habitat, prompting the government to introduce a conservation and restoration policy for mangroves. In response, MFF is supporting activities that conserve mangrove ecosystems and improve local livelihoods.

Mangrove restoration, buffer zone recovery, and responsible fishing practices are the focus of many MFF projects, coupled with empowerment of local

communities to help them become more involved in coastal area management. Other MFF activities are helping coastal communities adapt to climate change and be better prepared for natural disasters. These efforts are also serving to place local climate change and gender equality issues on the national agenda.

Viet Nam

MFF's priorities in Viet Nam are community resilience, adaptive management and knowledge sharing, with mangroves prioritized in the broader context of Integrated Coastal Management. MFF in Viet Nam serves as a knowledge network and information clearing house with a particular focus on provincial level decision makers.

MFF is also supporting national policies and programmes to improve their design and delivery in Viet Nam. This includes helping policy makers prepare legislation to enable payments for ecosystem services from mangrove forests.

How MFF works

*MFF is policy-relevant,
people-focused,
partnership-based and
investment-oriented*



Regional governance

The implementation of MFF's action plan and overall progress towards its goal are monitored by the Regional Steering Committee (RSC). This multi-stakeholder body is co-chaired by IUCN and UNDP, with representatives from MFF's member country governments: India, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam; and MFF's institutional partners: CARE International, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Wetlands International. The RSC meets once a year.

Secretariat

The MFF Secretariat, based in Bangkok, Thailand, works closely with the RSC, the National Coordinating Body (NCB) in each country, and the country offices of IUCN and UNDP to ensure the smooth running of the initiative.

The main functions of the Secretariat include providing administrative and

managerial support and technical backstopping to the NCBs and projects. In addition, the Secretariat is facilitating a knowledge platform for generating, managing and sharing information where learning, best practices and innovations are documented and disseminated effectively.

National governance

The mandate for coordinating and overseeing MFF's national activities lies with the NCB in each member country, which acts in coordination with existing national mechanisms for managing coastal areas.

Goal and objectives

To achieve its goal of conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal ecosystems as key natural infrastructure which support human well-being and security, MFF implements actions guided by three main objectives:

1. Improve, share and apply knowledge to support the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of coastal ecosystems.
2. Strengthen Integrated Coastal Management institutions and empower civil society (including local communities) to engage in decision-making and management that conserves, restores and sustainably uses coastal ecosystems.
3. Enhance coastal governance at all levels (regional, national, provincial, district and community) to encourage integrated management programmes and investments that are ecologically and socio-economically sound, and promote human well-being and security.

These objectives are designed to strengthen sustainable use of coastal resources and to build resilience to the growing threats from climate change and natural disasters.



Gender mainstreaming through training in organic recycling methods, Muara Angke, Jakarta, Indonesia
© Jakarta Green Monster

MFF Programmes of Work

Apply knowledge

1. Improving knowledge for management
2. Designing sound coastal rehabilitation
3. Adopting reef to ridge approaches
4. Integrating economic valuation
5. Applying monitoring, learning and evaluation

Empower civil society

6. Promoting civil society engagement
7. Building capacity for management
8. Supporting environmentally sustainable livelihoods
9. Improving community resilience
10. Financing coastal conservation

Enhance governance

11. Supporting national coastal programmes
12. Strengthening integrated coastal planning
13. Contributing to marine protected areas
14. Promoting management assessment and monitoring
15. Encouraging sustainable business practices

PROJECTS

Capacity building, climate change, gender equality, knowledge management and communications, and private sector partnerships are cross-cutting themes

Programmes of Work

MFF's objectives are supported by 15 Programmes of Work (PoWs), grouped under the three "pillars" of **Apply knowledge**, **Empower civil society** and **Enhance governance**. By making more knowledge available, and by empowering people and institutions to use that knowledge, MFF enables coastal stakeholders to play a more effective role in governance of coastal areas. Capacity building, climate change, gender equality, knowledge

management and communications, and private sector partnerships are cross-cutting themes integrated throughout this framework to help achieve positive results for each PoW.

Each NCB has developed a National Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP) for MFF implementation that reflects national priorities for sustainable coastal development, based on identification of the most relevant PoWs for that country. This has facilitated country ownership of the PoWs,

and has helped to generate collaboration and learning among the NCB members and other national stakeholders.

The PoWs are implemented through, or in partnership with, the governments of member countries, institutional partners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations and the private sector.

The RSC oversees this work to ensure accountability and transparency to MFF's donors and other contributors.

Projects for people



Ranong, Thailand © Sayan Chenudomsauad

MFF invests directly in coastal ecosystems through on-the-ground projects, relevant to the Programmes of Work. These projects are highly effective as the testing ground for new and innovative practices, which are recorded through the monitoring, learning and evaluation process and then shared through the MFF knowledge platform.

Several types of project are used to channel MFF activities. Since 2008, both small-scale and larger projects have been implemented in the member countries. From 2010, regional projects have been introduced as a way of addressing topics relevant to the whole MFF region.

Small-scale projects

The Small Grant Facility is the mechanism through which funds are provided for small-scale projects. Each member country receives funds to establish a Small Grant Facility to deliver projects under two

categories: less than US\$10,000, and between US\$10,000 to US\$25,000. MFF also encourages co-financing of these projects, especially by the private sector.

Small Grant Facility projects are an important approach for supporting local action in the form of community-based project activities.

The National Coordinating Body (NCB) in each country has full ownership of the Small Grant Facility, by calling for proposals and selecting the projects for funding. The projects themselves are managed for each NCB by the country office of IUCN or UNDP.

Between 2008 and 2011, more than 80 Small Grant Facility projects were carried out across the MFF region. These focused primarily on supporting NGOs and community-based organizations working to meet the needs of coastal communities. By linking these projects to government agencies, much interest has

been generated among officials in scaling up their learning to other agencies and to policy makers. For example, the research-oriented projects in India have encouraged the Ministry of Environment and Forests to provide funds to build upon MFF's work.

Larger projects

The second form of MFF project funding is through larger, longer-term funding, ranging in value from US\$50,000 up to a current maximum of US\$100,000 (ongoing projects from Phase 1 have a higher limit). These larger projects must go through a multiple-stage approval process. Following the NCB call for proposals and preliminary review, the project proponents may refine or adjust their proposals. Once the NCB endorses a proposal, it is forwarded to the MFF Secretariat for the second stage of evaluation.

Proposals are then submitted to an independent Technical Advisory Panel for

appraisal. The panel's findings are used by the Regional Steering Committee to confirm which projects will be funded.

Regional projects

MFF regional projects span several countries to consolidate existing knowledge on best practices in coastal resource management and to conduct research on emerging issues to acquire new knowledge.

Each regional project has the direct support of at least three MFF member countries, with a strong leading partner organization selected from MFF's core institutional partners.

Monitoring, learning and evaluation

MFF has developed a Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation (MLE) framework to provide a logical, consistent and strategic approach for the monitoring of projects. This process links and integrates activities between the regional and national programme level and the project level.

Small teams, comprising two NCB members, a member of the Secretariat and an independent expert, visit countries to monitor projects and interact with national focal points and other NCB members. Using an appreciative enquiry approach, a priority for MFF is to evaluate and draw lessons from the large volume of results generated during MFF activities. This monitoring mechanism improves communication and the flow of information between projects and NCBs, and between countries and the region via the involvement of NCB members and the Secretariat at Regional Steering Committee meetings and other regional events.

Results

The majority of small projects have contributed to alleviating poverty and empowering communities through the development of sustainable livelihoods. Results of these projects have also led to behavioural changes that have reduced

pressure on natural resources, particularly by reducing illegal fishing practices. At the same time they have provided additional sources of income. For example, the cultivation of *Aloe vera* in a Sri Lankan community has increased the monthly income of traditional fisher families by 26 per cent, while reducing local fishing effort by 5 per cent.

Projects have also contributed to improving coastal governance by supporting Integrated Coastal Management and by influencing national policies. An MFF supported scientific survey in Gujarat, India, found two new mangrove tree species for that state, prompting the state government to declare part of this area a biodiversity heritage site.

The extended timeline and scope of larger projects have demonstrated impacts on creating alternative sustainable livelihoods and community participation in resource management. An organization working in the Maldives with innovative technologies and strategies for food security is producing useful learning tools for raising awareness about local climate

change that can be applied elsewhere. This project is also illustrating how MFF is supporting gender equality, while integrating climate change issues and sustainable agricultural practices.

In Sri Lanka, work to promote community participation in integrated coastal management has provided a successful model of multi-stakeholder participation in managing a coastal area and has the potential to be replicated around the country. This project has also helped demonstrate the value of sustainable business practices as an alternative to traditional fishing livelihoods, and to pilot local sources of financing for enhancement of livelihoods.

An ongoing evaluation of the effectiveness of management in Thailand's marine and coastal protected areas has strong potential to influence national policy for protected area management. This project is validating the process and principles of good systems-level management, an important requirement for a successful nomination of the Andaman marine complex for UNESCO world heritage status.



Participatory Rapid Appraisal, Tamil Nadu, India © MFF Secretariat

Cross-cutting themes

MFF recognizes several cross-cutting themes as essential to achieving positive results in its work. The following themes have been integrated into each of the MFF Programmes of Work.

Capacity development

Developing national capacity to manage coastal ecosystems is a strong priority for MFF. The MFF approach recognizes that both scientific knowledge and local knowledge (traditional wisdom) must be identified and integrated if coastal resources management is to be effective. To meet this need, MFF helps countries and projects adopt best practice in Integrated Coastal Management through interactive training using a range of tool kits.



Shoe-making, an alternative livelihood for river sand miners, Sri Lanka © MFF Secretariat

Climate change

Climate change (CC) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) are both major themes in strengthening resilience to environmental change. Building on its earlier work, MFF is scaling up and integrating these two themes through enhanced National Strategy and Action Plans, large demonstration projects, and Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation guidelines. Another focus of activity is pilot testing of relevant coastal CC and DRR tools and methodologies, delivered through courses forming part of the larger training programme on project

cycle management for NCB members, partners and coastal managers.

MFF is also supporting the implementation of climate change activities through larger projects, as well as regional-based research on the role of mangroves and other coastal ecosystems in the carbon cycle. Field experiences and lessons in building resilience are being synthesized and shared across the region and globally through MFF's knowledge platform.

Gender equality

MFF is committed to ensuring that equality between men and women, or gender equality, is an integral part of its work. MFF's Gender Equality Strategy recognizes gender equality as fundamental to conservation and sustainable development. The strategy addresses gender equality across the regional, national, and project levels of MFF, and recommends approaches based on the specific needs of the various MFF stakeholders. MFF aims to ensure that equality of outcomes for both men and women is achieved in the management of coastal natural resources and promotion of sustainable livelihoods.

Knowledge management and communications

MFF's results are captured and disseminated strategically through a strong knowledge management and communications component. Knowledge management is the process of identifying, creating and sharing lessons and experiences. In the context of MFF, this means: designing a system that will organize, analyze and distribute the outcomes of MFF processes and practices; synthesizing information gathered through MFF project cycle management; collating scientific knowledge and traditional wisdom; and developing technical guidelines and best practices. Communications supports the sharing of this knowledge by making it accessible and delivering it in a form relevant to MFF's audiences and stakeholders.

Together, these two disciplines constitute the MFF knowledge platform, a hub for recording and disseminating information that integrates human resources, dissemination channels, learning processes, monitoring and user feedback mechanisms. The platform enhances the flow of information both horizontally among different MFF stakeholders and vertically between the regional, national and project levels. This flow is essential to achieving MFF's objectives, as well as ensuring results, lessons and best practices are shared widely.



Educational books and tool kit production for a World Heritage site, Aldabra Atoll, Seychelles © MFF Seychelles

Private sector partnerships

MFF promotes environmentally sustainable business practices in coastal areas by harnessing the interest and resources of companies through multi-stakeholder partnerships. MFF targets five sectors that have major investments in coastal areas and depend economically on coastal ecosystems: tourism; fisheries; ports and harbour; oil and gas; and mining and dredging. By promoting cost-effective practices that contribute to sustainability and encourage collaboration, MFF helps businesses in these sectors adopt greener, more ecosystem-friendly strategies in their operations.



Mangrove plantation protecting the coastline, western coast in Balochistan © MFF Pakistan



Seagrass survey, Ranong, Thailand © IUCN

Get involved

MFF welcomes the involvement of anyone sharing its concern for coastal sustainability. To obtain more information on MFF, or to learn how you, your organization, project or community can join in, please contact us:

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Mangroves for the Future

INVESTING IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is a partnership-based initiative promoting investments in coastal ecosystems that support sustainable development. MFF provides a collaborative platform for the many countries, sectors and agencies tackling the challenges to coastal ecosystem conservation and livelihood sustainability and is helping them to work towards a common goal.

MFF builds on a history of coastal management efforts before and after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, especially the call to sustain the momentum and partnerships generated by the immediate post-tsunami response. After focusing initially on the countries worst-affected by the tsunami – India, Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Thailand – MFF has now expanded to include Pakistan and Viet Nam. MFF will also continue to reach out to other countries in the region facing similar challenges, with the overall aim of promoting an integrated, ocean-wide approach to coastal area management.

MFF seeks to achieve demonstrable results through regional cooperation, national programme support, private sector engagement and community action. This is being realized through concerted actions and projects to generate and share knowledge more effectively, empower institutions and communities, and enhance the governance of coastal ecosystems.

Although MFF has chosen mangroves as its flagship ecosystem, the initiative embraces all coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs, estuaries, lagoons, wetlands, beaches and seagrass beds. Its management strategy is based on specific national and regional needs for long-term sustainable management of coastal ecosystems. These priorities, as well as newly emerging issues, are reviewed regularly by the MFF Regional Steering Committee to ensure that MFF continues to be a highly relevant and responsive initiative.

Learn more at: www.mangrovesforthefuture.org

