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MFF Newsletter, January 2016

This newsletter is published by Mangroves for the Future (MFF), a unique partner-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development.

Feature story

Catalyzing inter-regional cooperation on the Blue Economy in Asia

Recognizing that the Blue Economy is an important approach to driving sustainable development of coasts, MFF would like to share this commentary by H.E Saida Muna Tasneem, Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand and Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director for IUCN Asia, which emphasizes the importance of partnerships between public and private sectors at national and regional levels, to steer a sustainable Blue Economy in Asia.

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News



Importance of sustainable tourism highlighted

At a recent Pacific Asia Travel Association training event in Bangkok, IUCN and MFF experts gave participants from nine countries in the region a better understanding of the importance of the environment in which their organisations operate.

[>>](#)

Seychelles launches Blue Bond to protect marine resources

By tapping into capital markets for funds through the 'Blue Bond' financing initiative, Seychelles is taking a first step towards recovering the ecological health of

Projects



MFF for the Blue Economy

By funding these regional grant projects that focus on building climate change resilience for coastal communities at a local level, MFF is making a contribution to a Blue Economy vision for the future.

- Introducing sustainable financing to coastal communities in Thailand, Viet Nam and Pakistan to help conserve and restore mangroves. >>
- Mapping and enhancing natural resource governance for small island communities in Sri Lanka, Maldives, Seychelles and Thailand. >>

its vital fisheries sector. >>

- Strengthening the resilience of coastal communities, ecosystems, and economies to sea-level rise and coastal erosion in Pakistan and Thailand. >>

Perspectives



Mangroves and shrimp

As part of MFF's Sino-Vietnam initiative, which aims to foster knowledge sharing between the two countries, a group of Vietnamese and Chinese mangrove specialists attended a workshop in Hanoi and a field trip in Quang Ninh to compare mangrove-based shrimp farming techniques. >>

Q & A

How does MFF engage the private sector?

MFF is working to actively harness the resources, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit of the private sector to protect coastal ecosystems. This involves activities such as:

- Helping key industries assess and mitigate their impacts
- Influencing supply chains and helping companies source sustainable products
- Encouraging sustainable private sector development at a community level
- Supporting connections to local communities and optimizing return on CSR investment.
- Exploring new green products and services which can benefit coastal communities.

MFF will also match cash funding of up to USD 25,000 from any private sector entities that want to implement small grant projects in MFF countries.

To find out how your organization can get involved [follow this link >>](#)

People and projects

Empowering people and communities

Depleting fish numbers and competition with bigger fishing companies left Jenitha and her community in Karankadu, India struggling for a reliable source of income.

Through the 'Participatory community engagement and education for conservation of mangroves' project, Jenitha picked up new supplementary livelihood skills such as crab rearing and making pickles from fish. As a result, her monthly income has increased and she has been able to repay most of her family's debts.

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Events

RSC meets for the 12th time >>

This year's annual Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting assessed MFF's achievements for 2015 and discussed its sustainability, future direction and the impact the programme can have in the region.

Inter-regional Blue Economy collaboration urged for climate change resilience in Asia >>

Representatives from coastal and island countries

Did you know?

Seaweed is packed with vitamins, minerals and antioxidants, and is used in a variety of products that have an estimated total annual value of US\$5.7 billion.

In addition to food, seaweed can also be found in:

- Cosmetics: Seaweed has minerals and vitamins that are softening to the skin and hair.

from across Asia gathered in Bangkok to discuss how they can forge stronger inter-regional cooperation to promote Blue Economy approaches to address marine and coastal conservation challenges.

- Fertilizer: Due to its high mineral content, seaweed is used as a fertilizer in coastal towns.

Recognizing the economic value of seaweed, an MFF project in Karachi, Pakistan, trained coastal communities to generate sustainable income through the cultivation and sale of seaweed and related products.>>

Photo Galleries



MFF RSC 12 meeting held in Bangkok on November 24 and 25



National Planting Day Thailand on December 17



Blue Economy consultations held in Bangkok on November 23

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