



Mangroves for the Future E-Newsletter

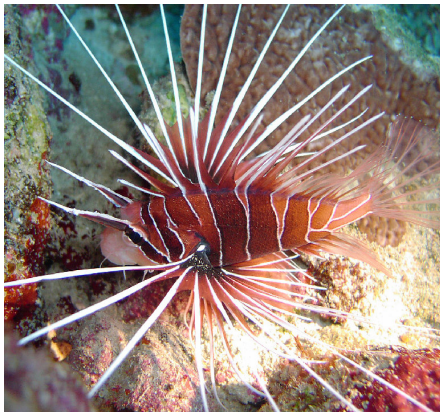
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The MFF Secretariat welcomes you to the first MFF regional E-Newsletter!

This E-Newsletter aims to keep MFF National Coordinating Bodies, partner organisations and other stakeholders up to date on MFF activities. We warmly welcome your contributions!

About MFF



Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is a unique partner-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development. MFF builds on a history of coastal management interventions before and after the 2004 tsunami. 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 to promote an integrated ocean wide approach to coastal zone management. MFF is inclusive of all coastal ecosystems (**coral reefs, estuaries, lagoons, sandy beaches, sea grasses and wetlands**). The MFF is a product from extensive consultations with over 200 individuals and 160 institutions involved in coastal zone management.

A lionfish, Red Sea © Christian Laufenberg, IUCN

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. MFF seeks to achieve demonstrable results in influencing regional cooperation, national programme support, private sector engagement and community action. This will be achieved using a strategy of generating knowledge, empowering institutions and individuals to promote good governance in coastal ecosystem management.

MFF Update

Second Regional Steering Committee meeting (RSC-2), 03- 04 December, 2007, Bangkok, Thailand

Co-chaired by IUCN and UNDP, the MFF Second Regional Steering Committee meeting (RSC-2) was held in Bangkok 03-04 December, 2007. The meeting was attended by over 40 participants comprised of Steering Committee members, and representatives from the MFF focal countries (India, Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Thailand), observer countries (Bangladesh), partner organisations (CARE, FAO, IUCN, UNDP, UNEP, and Wetlands International), consultants and the framework donors Norway and Sweden (Sida).

Significant progress with the preparatory technical actions envisioned in the MFF Action Plan was reported. National Coordinating Bodies (NCBs) have been formed in each focal country, and the development of National Strategies for implementation of MFF activities are well



underway. Technical assistance to help develop the national strategies has been provided by Sida funded international consultants.

Major outcomes

Small Grant Facilities and Larger Projects

MFF focal countries will be able to apply for two categories of project funding, a Small Grant Facility (SGF) and funding for larger projects. The SGFs will be available for each focal country to support projects up to a ceiling of USD 25,000 under the oversight of the respective MFF National Coordination Body. Large project proposals (between USD 50,000 – 300,000) will be reviewed by the National Coordination Bodies and approved by the Regional Steering Committee. The MFF Secretariat is now in the process of finalizing criteria and guidelines for project proposals.

MFF to identify experts for a Technical Advisory Group

At project level, activities will be implemented through a decentralized structure of project partners comprised of government agencies, international organizations, NGOs/CBOs and the private sector. Collaboration between these organizations is essential to address the gaps in capacity, coordination and participation which currently exist in coastal areas of the Indian Ocean Region. A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) with both national and international experts will be formed to help review and appraise large project proposals for MFF investments. The MFF Secretariat is currently seeking nominations for experts with mixed skill sets in coastal and marine management (including climate change expertise) to be able to form a TAG of 15-20 members that can assist the MFF Secretariat, RSC and NCBs.

Climate Proofing MFF



Climate change adaptation is a cross-cutting theme through all MFF programmes of work. Climate change adaptation measures will be integrated into all projects and activities. With the technical lead of UNEP and UNDP, a "climate proofing method" for MFF future activities will be developed by building on existing climate change adaptation tools. An MFF training workshops to introduce the climate proofing method and other tools under the MFF preparatory activities framework will be held in Indonesia, September, 2008. UNEP is to conduct a pilot project '*Integrating Climate Change Adaptation Measures into Coastal Zone Planning*' in Indonesia in collaboration with relevant ministries and agencies. This

Project will extend throughout 2008.

MFF consultant Mr. Timothy Boyle will review existing climate proofing tools and recommend how they should be applied to integrate climate change and climate variability considerations in the overall MFF strategy. Prioritization of projects based criteria and screening procedures are currently under development. Using the outputs from the review, Mr. Boyle will develop a first draft of an easy to use integrative climate proofing method to be completed by end of March, 2008 in time for the first call for MFF project proposals at the MFF Regional Forum in April, 2008. UNDP RCB and UNDP Indonesia will collaborate on the development of the climate proofing toolbox by linking it to pilot areas under UNDP's Indonesia Climate Change Adaptation Programme in Papua and/or East Kalimantan.

Building Technical Capacity

To help build in-country capacity, the MFF Secretariat sponsored participants in a CZM training course held at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand, in July-August, 2007. The MFF Secretariat will continue to provide technical assistance by sponsoring participants in coastal zone management (CZM) training and through international consultants to complement local expertise in identifying priorities and project implementation strategies.

Recent and Upcoming Events

- A workshop on Capacity and Training Needs Assessment for Integrated Coastal Management in the Seychelles was conducted by AIT in Mahé on 23 January 2008. The workshop was attended by 25 participants, including NCB Seychelles members and the MFF Coordinator. A similar workshop for India is scheduled to take place at the GEER Foundation in Gujarat on 12-13th February 2008.
- **4th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands: *Advancing Ecosystem Management and Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management by 2010 in the Context of Climate Change. April 7-11, 2008, Hanoi, Viet Nam.*** The event is organized by the Global Forum of Oceans and Islands, and will be hosted by the Government of Viet Nam, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
<http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/index.html>
- An **MFF Regional Forum** to review progress in each programme of work in detail, and to use key results to agree on national and regional priorities for MFF, will be held 21-25 April, 2008 in Sri Lanka.
- An **MFF Regional Training workshop** on Tools for Coastal Area Management will be conducted in September, 2008 in Indonesia.
- A **Scientific and Technical symposium** on Sustainable Mangrove Management will take place in Ranong, Thailand in November, 2008.

Upcoming NCB meetings

- The next India National Steering Committee meeting will be held on 5th February 2008

Field Visits and Missions in January and forthcoming missions in February

- **Don Macintosh**, MFF Coordinator visited the Indonesia NCB and the UNDP country office in Jakarta, together with Sergio Field, UNDP RCB, to discuss arrangement for MFF Secretariat support to the NCB. Don Macintosh also visited the Seychelles and Kenya in late January. The aim of the Kenya visit was to coordinate the engagement of IUCN EARO and UNDP-UNEP offices in Nairobi with MFF activities.
- **Patrick Rönnbäck**, visited Indonesia and Thailand in January to identify potential MFF case studies for the preparatory work on economic valuation tools (PoW 4.1) as part of the agreement with the Swedish Board of Fisheries (SBF).
- **Peter Shadie**, IUCN ARO is currently visiting UNEP- WCMC Cambridge to follow up on their preparatory work related to marine and coastal protected areas (PoW 13.1)
- **Lars Johansson** will conduct two one week missions in Indonesia to help finalize the National Strategy for MFF implementation also as the part of the SBF agreement.
- Also under the MFF arrangement with SBF, **Olof Lindén** will visit Seychelles in February to assist NCB Seychelles to prepare the draft MFF strategy and workplan.
- **Don Macintosh** will be visiting India 7-15 February to attend a Capacity and Training Needs Assessment workshop in Gujarat, and for meetings with the IUCN and UNDP country offices; and NCB members; he will be joined for part of the mission by Sergio Field (UNDP RCB).

MFF in the Media

MFF Coordinator Don Macintosh took BBC World Radio Jason Margolis to visit a mangrove forest in Samut Songkhram in Thailand, which is under protection through a Royal Initiative. Follow the link below to listen to the interview or to read the transcript.

<http://64.71.145.108/?q=node/14908>



Announcement



MFF Regional Steering Committee appoints new co-chair - Ms. Marcia Kran (UNDP) has been appointed as the new UNDP co-chair of the MFF Regional Steering Committee, replacing Ms. Elizabeth Fong who has retired after 34 years with UNDP. Everyone involved with MFF wishes Elizabeth all the best!

From left to right: Aban Kabraji (IUCN co-chair), Elizabeth Fong, and Marcia Kran.

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

Do you have any news or reports 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 activities. When preparing your contributions, please include:

- Date: DD/MM/YYYY
- Headline: Maximum 15 words
- The main story: One paragraph teaser or abstract – maximum 50 words
- The complete story: The full story, maximum 800 words.
- File: Attachment. If a document, please include title. If a photo, include captions (description, date, copyright).
- Links: to your component programme or other web resources
- Contact: Who to contact for more information

Please send your contribution to:
Minna Epps
Communications Officer – Sida JPO
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