



August-September, 2009

**Welcome to the eleventh 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 India.

**News/Announcements**

**Coming and going**



**Dr. Sonjai Havanond**

Special thanks to Dr. Sonjai who has retired from the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Thailand for his long support and hard work on behalf of MFF as NCB Thailand member Secretary. Dr. Sonjai will continue working, however, as a deputy director of Sirindhorn International Environmental Park and will continue to be involved with MFF. You can contact him at [sonjai\\_h@hotmail.com](mailto:sonjai_h@hotmail.com)

**Dr. Cherdchinda CHOTIYAPUTTA (right)**

Marine Resources Management Specialist, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources. Previously appointed as NCB member, now Dr. Cherdchinda will work as NCB Secretary and continue to provide technical support to the MFF NCB. Her email address is: [chrdchc@dmcr.go.th](mailto:chrdchc@dmcr.go.th)



We are pleased to announce that **Ms. Pradeep Srikuruwan** joined MFF as the **Senior Project Accountant Officer** on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2009. Pradeep is a Thai national and has more than seven years of experience with a multinational company working in the accounting field. Before joining MFF, she worked as a financial consultant with an auditing company. She also worked as an accountant developer for Exxon Mobil, The Nation Multimedia Group and Arthur Anderson Australia. Pradeep holds a Bachelor of Accounting degree from Central Queensland University, Australia and a Master of Business Administration degree from Assumption University, Thailand. Email: [pradeep@iucnt.org](mailto:pradeep@iucnt.org)

**Ms. Minna Epps** joined MFF as Programme Officer in September, 2009. Minna is no stranger to MFF, she has been working as the MFF Regional Communications Officer supported by Sida since 2007. She continues to be responsible for MFF communications and Information and Knowledge Management, while focusing on capturing the lessons learned and best practices from the 80 projects in Phase I. She also works to coordinate the gender mainstreaming of MFF. Minna is Swedish and American. She holds a BSc in Marine & Freshwater Biology and an MSc in Global Environmental Change and Policy from Imperial College, UK and Advanced Coastal Management Course at Rhode Island University, US. She has 8 years of environmental and fisheries research and policy analysis, project management, facilitation, advocacy and outreach experiences in developed and developing countries from working with UNEP, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Geneva, European Commission in Brussels and for conservation NGOs. Email: [minna@iucnt.org](mailto:minna@iucnt.org)



**Ms. Sharai Lewis-Gruss, Programme & Communications Assistant** worked with the IUCN Asia Regional Office's Ecosystems and Livelihoods Group on a Princeton In Asia Fellowship before beginning her work with the Mangrove for the Future (MFF) Initiative. She is new to the MFF team and serves as Programme and Communications Assistant. Sharai has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Policy from Middlebury College in Vermont. Prior to working in Thailand, she worked in Oregon and New York as a GIS consultant. In her free time, Sharai writes for the Bangkok Trader and an electronic music blog based in Copenhagen. Email: [sharai@iucnt.org](mailto:sharai@iucnt.org)

## UN FCCC Climate Change Negotiations 28 September- 9 October, Bangkok, Thailand

### *Climate Targets Not Met! Second to last chance to get it right*

4000 negotiators from around the world met in Bangkok for the two-week Climate Talks aimed at preparing the negotiation text of the new climate deal to succeed the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2010. At the end of the two weeks, the deal was no where near being sealed with two major roadblocks. The emission cut targets for developed countries and funding schemes for developing countries are still unsolved and the rift on whether the Kyoto Protocol should be extended or terminated still remain. The good news is that significant progress was made on the issues of adaptation, technology transfer, and capacity building to help poorer countries to cope with climate change. For more information please visit: <http://unfccc.int/>

### *Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network and Regional Adaptation Knowledge Platform Launched by Thai Prime Minister, H.E. Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva, 03 October, 2009*



This is a key regional initiative to help vulnerable countries in Asia and the Pacific enhance adaptive capacity and to respond to the increasing impacts of climate change by mobilizing knowledge and technology. Governments from both developed and developing countries are working together to lead the process of the development of the Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Network. **Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva** in his opening remarks said, “*The need to adapt to increased climate change impacts is internationally recognized as urgent and mandatory... and*

*these regional initiatives are critical to support Thailand, as well as the rest of the countries in Asia and the Pacific, in enhancing their capacities to adapt to the climate changes impacts. ...these initiatives are also critical to enhance the understanding and awareness of climate change impacts among the local people and communities to facilitate climate resilient adaptation.*” **Mr. Achim Steiner**, UN Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UNEP in his video message said “*UNEP will continue to work with partners and countries to further develop the Network*”. The Initiative is lead by Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), SEI, Sida and UNEP. MFF will actively support and participate in this important regional initiative.

### *Gender and Climate Change*

MFF has adopted gender as a cross-cutting issue of all its programmes of work. Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA), an IUCN, UNDP, UNEP and WEDO initiative, believes that it is critical to incorporate a gender perspective into all climate change policies and initiatives to solve the climate crisis. The group and other gender minded organizations are lobbying for 23 paragraphs on gender to be included in UNFCCC text. **Heather Coleman** of Oxfam International said, “*We must see more leadership from key negotiating blocks to secure language that recognizes women as critical agents of change in the effort to reduce global carbon emissions. It is not enough to just recognize women as disproportionately affected by climate change impacts, such as droughts, floods, and more intense storms.*” **Cate Owen** of the GGCA said that “*millions of lives depend on*” gender being included into the Copenhagen climate deal. The GGCA held a training of trainers (TOT) workshop in Bangkok, as well as a training of delegates with 48 State Negotiators in September 2009. MFF Secretariat attended the TOT and will use the training material for gender sensitization in the region. For more information please visit: <http://www.gender-climate.org/>



## EU Green Days: 10 Million euros allocated to Southeast Asia for disaster risk reduction (DRR)



MFF attended the EU Green Days press event on DRR. The European Commission (EC) has dedicated 10 million euros to Cambodia, East Timor Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam over the next two years. The money has been earmarked for Southeast Asia in order to help the region increase its capacity to deal with natural disasters and the environmental impact of global climate change. **Ms. Cecile Pichon**, EC Humanitarian Officer said *“Communities are the first responders. The better organized and prepared communities show less damage from disasters. Vietnam was outstanding in dealing with the latest storm encounter with fewer deaths because of well prepared policies by the government. .... the financial package will therefore mainly support community-based disaster preparedness approaches through building awareness on how to effectively respond to natural disasters.”* **Dr. Anders Grunlund**, Director of the Swedish Environment Secretariat for Asia (SENSA) and Sida SE Asia representative and a long-time MFF supporter, said that, *“the IPCC report was not enough and that is why the funds will focus on small issues. Lessons learned from working at the ground level can and should be used to influence the creation of sound environmental policy.”*

## Heads Above Water, Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand (FCCT)



MFF Commissioned TVE to produce an Earth Report on the many challenges that coastal areas face, especially in regards to climate change and how coastal communities cope with these challenges. The programme, 'Heads Above Water', focused on the role of mangroves as 'bio-shields' helping to protect coastal communities and their environment against extreme weather events and a changing climate in Indonesia and Viet Nam. It aired six times on BBC World from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2009. According to BBC statistics, the Earth Report went out to nearly 300 million households in 174 countries. In addition to the BBC airdates, the MFF Secretariat organized a special screening in Bangkok during the UN FCCC Climate Talks. The reception and showing of the film at the FCCT, October 6, 2009 was a great success with 60-80 people in attendance. UN FCCC delegates, partners, friends and press were invited to see the film followed by a Q & A session. Of the 400 copies made, 250 have already been distributed upon request.

## Wetlands Alliance visits MFF Secretariat

**Hans Guttman**, Director of Wetlands Alliance, a regional partner initiative that builds local capacity for sustainable wetlands management in SE Asia, visited the MFF secretariat in Bangkok to discuss areas of collaboration for the two organizations. The Wetlands Alliance works with 40 local NGOs and CBOs. **Mr. Viet Cach**, A Wetlands Alliance partner from the Viet Nam Xuan Thuy National Park spoke of their relationship, *“Proposals and action comes from us at the park. Other development agencies bring proposals to us that don't always match our needs. We have a closer relationship with the Wetlands Alliance and we manage the funds.”* Working in Cambodia, Laos PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam will be convenient for future on-the-ground intervention and to increase the lessons learned knowledge-base for both Wetlands Alliance and MFF. For more information on the Wetlands Alliance please visit [www.wetlandsalliance.org](http://www.wetlandsalliance.org) or e-mail [secretariat@wetlandsalliance.org](mailto:secretariat@wetlandsalliance.org)

THE WETLANDS ALLIANCE  
BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINABLE WETLANDS MANAGEMENT

## Priority Areas for the UN ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness: Strategic Plan

On June, 16, 2009 ESCAP endorsed their Strategic Plan that aims to provide guidance to Fund governance and management, organizations submitting proposals to the Fund, prospective donors and other stakeholders. Priority areas designated in the Plan are distinguished by 'highest priority' and 'other priority' with ten designated focal areas between the two groups. Among the highest priority areas for funding support are risk and vulnerability assessments, developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), developing responsible capacity at the local level through regional initiatives, raising public awareness of disaster risks, and improving the effectiveness of warning messages. Other priorities involve strengthening access to critical information, building institutional capacity, and increasing the strength of channels of communication for warning messages from national to local levels. For further information please visit [www.unescap.org/pmd/tsunami\\_index.asp](http://www.unescap.org/pmd/tsunami_index.asp)

## INDIA FOCUS

### ***Implementing an Integrated Mangrove Fishery Farming System (IMFFS)***

Linking coastal community livelihood security and coastal ecological security is one of the major challenges in participatory management of coastal ecosystems and resources. The M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in participation with a local fishing community developed an Integrated Mangrove Fishery Farming System (IMFFS) in which, cultivation of mangrove trees and halophytes was integrated with a culture of fish. The fish are being



grown in the standing water farm, which is a newly developed space created by the planting of mangroves. The farm is designed in such a way that it fills with brackish water during high tide and drains out during low tide. Requiring no energy for pumping water or the addition of artificial feed and chemicals into the fish culture makes this system environmentally sound and drastically reduces input costs.



MSSRF has developed an IMFFS model by utilizing abandoned shrimp farms. In terms of technique, the model is currently being improved through participation of stakeholders and the local community, who end up benefitting from this system.

### ***Implementing organisation: “Existing status of coastal shelter belts plantations along Southern India Coastal line.”***

Shelterbelts can protect coastal life and properties from natural calamities by dissipating or deflecting tsunamis, cyclones and storms. After the recent Boxing Day Tsunami, EPTRI has implemented a project, called “*Existing Status of Coastal Shelterbelts Plantations Along Southern India Coastal Line.*” The main objective is to prepare a comprehensive synoptic report on initiatives geared towards the conservation and restoration of coastal shelterbelts, taken up in the study States. This project helps in creating a base line on the current status of green belts along the southern coastal line that are the result of various projects. Furthermore, this project will help in identifying gaps in shelterbelt cover along the South India coastal line. It is also intended to promote investment in coastal ecosystems.



### ***Whale Sharks in Gujarat***

In the past, fishermen would brutally hunt the whale shark for liver oil used in waterproofing boats and meat for export but this has changed. The government of Gujarat decided to declare Kartik Amas to be the official 'whale shark day' or 'Vhali Utsav' as a result of a joint venture of the Gujarat Forest Department, Tata Chemicals Limited (TCL) and Wildlife Trust of India – International Fund for Animal Welfare (WTI-IFAW). The campaign has converted the species into an icon. Within a year of the campaign's launch, fishermen began to voluntarily release whale sharks that were accidentally trapped in their nets. Currently, the trend continues to prevail, as the number of voluntarily released whale sharks now measure over 80 despite the inevitable damage to nets during these rescues. The State Government helps to support the initiative by compensating the fisherman for damage caused to their nets from whale shark rescue missions.

## New records of mangrove species in South Gujarat, India!

Under the small grant projects, Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation finds new mangrove areas and mangrove species reported for the first time from Gujarat. This endeavor enthused the researchers, the conservationists and the managers. Working under a SGP project titled “*Study of Floristic Diversity and Natural recruitment of Mangrove species in Selected Habitats of South Gujarat*”, the research team came across a number of new mangrove areas in Navsari and Valsad districts of South Gujarat dominated by *Sonneratia apetala* and *Acanthus ilicifolius*. Very diverse and dense mangrove areas in the estuaries of Purna River were found. The management is considering declaring the area a biodiversity heritage site.



Further south, in Valsad district, never before reported mangrove species from Gujarat were found. These include *Kandelia candel* and *Lumnitzera racemosa*. The latter has been reported in large numbers from Kalai River in Valsad district- a new record of mangrove forest. The study also confirms the occurrence of *Excoecaria agallocha*, *Bruguiera cylindrica*, *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza* and *Avicennia alba* as these species had only unconfirmed references for Gujarat in the past. A total of 14 mangrove species viz. *Avicennia marina*, *Avicennia officinalis*, *Avicennia alba*, *Acanthus ilicifolius*, *Aegiceras corniculatum*, *Ceriops tagal*, *Ceriops decandra*, *Excoecaria agallocha*, *Bruguiera cylindrica*, *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Kandelia candel*, *Lumnitzera racemosa* and *Sonneratia apetala* have been reported from the mangrove forests of these two districts of South Gujarat. Interestingly, the other major mangrove areas of Gujarat namely Saurashtra and Kachchh, at present, have only four and one naturally occurring mangrove species. The study has also documented 60 major floral associates from these districts. The extensive work carried out under this MFF project has brought to light the diversity of mangrove forests of Gujarat.



Apart from the new findings, the study highlighted the intricate relationship between the mangrove habitats and the local communities in south Gujarat not only for their ecological security against tidal currents and coastal erosion but also for meeting their requirements for fire wood, fodder and timber from these mangrove areas. The great socio- economic significance of a grass *Porterasia corctata* growing in these mangrove areas has also been investigated as this grass is available even during the dry season. The Foundation has taken great pains to disseminate the study findings amongst scientists, managers, policy makers and other stockholders. The Foundation also produced a film in the local language, Gujarati, which was released by the Chief Minister of Gujarat on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009, the World Environment Day. A film in English has also been produced.

## More news from the field



### The Thai SGF team visits project sites in Phuket and Phang Nga Province

Left: Taguatung, Phang Nga. The food security project “*Conservation of Mangrove for Local Food*” aims to rehabilitate and conserve mangrove and coastal resources in line with the MFF Thailand national strategy on mangrove management and reversal of coastal erosion. This community project and local actions ensure good and sustainable rehabilitation results, revival of local knowledge and local sources of food for women’s group and the younger generation.

*Right:* Destroyed mangroves in Taguatung, Phang Nga. The local community has joined hands to protect and conserve the mangroves to prevent further erosion and to secure their livelihoods which depend on healthy coastal ecosystems.



#### **Nakorn Srithammarat, Thailand- Where did the white sandy beach go?**

As a result of 10 years of dredging and damming in Nakorn Srithammarat, Tha Sala bay suffers from coastal erosion and habitat change. This area, once admired for its white sandy beach, now appears muddy and brown. Ark shell dredging has a serious impact on the coastal ecosystem and has prompted the Tha Sala Tambon Administrative Organization (TAO) to endorse “*The Marine and Coastal Conservation and Sustainable Use Regulation*” on 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2009. This is the first time in Thailand’s history that a local government agency has endorsed this kind of regulation. The success has

been driven by the efforts of the local communities and TAO. Implemented by the Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF), the MFF large project “Ecosystem Based Integrated Coastal Resource Management Through Multi-stakeholder Participation In Southern Thailand” will ensure that coastal communities benefit from this project and that SDF works closely with Tha Sala TAO to support and advocate the enforcement of the regulation. **A SGF project dissemination workshop will be held in November 2009 in Thailand to record and share experiences from the first round of MFF SGF projects in Thailand.**



## **Upcoming Events**

### ***Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystems (BOBLME) Project, Inception Workshop, 3-5 November, 2009, Bangkok, Thailand***

Over the next five years, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand will work together through the BOBLME Project to improve the lives of the coastal populations through improved regional management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries. The aim of the workshop is to confirm the project objectives and activities of key stakeholders for an endorsement, as well as to explore synergies and possibilities for collaboration and partnership development. MFF is participating in this workshop to explore potential areas of collaboration. The project became operational in April 2009 and the appointed Coordinator and Chief Technical Advisor are temporarily hosted by FAO’s Regional Office in Bangkok. For more information about BOBLME please contact Dr. Chris O’Brien, BOBLME Project Regional Coordinator at: [chris.obrien@fao.org](mailto:chris.obrien@fao.org).

### ***Building Sustainable Strategies for Climate Adaptation 15th - 18th November, 2009 The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia***

As part of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Platform, the University of Queensland is conducting a project on the development of methodologies and approaches to assist local communities to devise relevant and appropriate strategies for climate adaptation at the community scale. As part of the information and regional dialogue component to the project, a workshop will be held from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of November to discuss the current state of knowledge in this particular domain, as well as explore how to collectively progress the refinement or development of methods suited to community level adaptation. The aim is to increase the awareness and level of understanding among participants and the wider community on the current status of climate adaptation approaches and methodologies in the SE Asian and Pacific Region, to identify existing and emerging methods, approaches, and technologies that can be integrated into new innovative approaches to climate adaptation at the community-level, and to define and propose recommendations on approaches to community-level climate adaptation for consideration by managers and donor organisations.

*Addressing transboundary issues through regional subregional seas cooperation: Initiatives in East Asia, Monday, 23 November, 2009.*



The 2<sup>nd</sup> EAS Partnership Council Meeting (July 2008) highlighted the need for collaboration between marine, coastal and environmental management projects and programmes for creating synergies and sharing knowledge in order to reduce possible duplication of effort, inefficient use of resources, and limited sharing of knowledge, experience, skills and tools. Conservation International (CI), COBSEA and UNDP are therefore organizing a workshop on *Addressing Transboundary issues through regional and subregional seas cooperation* at the EAS Congress 2009 to discuss various transboundary environmental issues and their implementation mechanisms, especially on governance, aiming at identifying good practices and areas of collaboration among the stakeholders involved. Contact: [anna.tengberg@undp.org](mailto:anna.tengberg@undp.org).

*Government and Civil Society Collaboration on Integrated Coastal Management in the Indian Ocean Region workshop, Thursday 25 November, 2009*

MFF is convening a workshop to present the findings of a Regional Assessment of regional institutions and programmes in the Indian Ocean (2007-2008 updated 2009) and to discuss its principal recommendations. It also will propose concrete actions to enhance cooperation and coordination among governments, between governments and civil society, and between regional organizations in support of governments and civil society. These recommendations will be published and disseminated. For more information and to find out how you can participate, please send an email to: [minna@iucnt.org](mailto:minna@iucnt.org).

*International Course for Environmental Journalists on coastal management*, organized by Further Education of Journalists (Fojo) in Sweden and Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute in India at Tuticorin, Tamilnadu during 26 October – 06 November 2009 and a follow up meeting during 19-24 April 2010. Contact: [fojoinfo@hik.se](mailto:fojoinfo@hik.se) for more information.

## Media



Bangkok Marker © MFF Secretariat

### MFF Press trip to Bang Khun Tien, Thailand 3-4 October, 2009

The Bang Khun Thien area in the Gulf of Thailand is of huge economical importance to the nation due to its diverse and productive fisheries such as squid, shrimp farming and fish processing industries. The Bang Khun Thien coast has suffered from severe erosion for the past 20-30 years with an average recession rate of 1.2-4.6 metres per year. The area, once covered by mangroves has been destroyed and replaced by shrimp farms. This action has accelerated the rate of erosion and the lucrative shrimp farms are now being threatened by salt water intrusion due to sea-level rise.

In October, MFF took journalists and TV reporters on a boat trip to see the visible impacts of climate change such as sea-level rise and the way in which, people are adapting to these changes. The boat passed the marker for Bangkok once on land, now submerged and surrounded by shrimp farms. This

marker shows how extensive mangrove clearance can result in huge losses of land. Communities in the area have planted mangroves adjacent to their homes. These mangrove fringes are integrated into the urban environment but they are often too thin. Other community solutions are to use traditional bamboo fencing (based on the same principle as mussel rafts) and the provincial response has been to use sediment traps using large sandbags to stop erosion. However, this has raised questions about its environmental and ecological sustainability because of potential and unknown impacts to benthic fauna and flora from where the sediments are taken.



To watch TV film clips, listen to radio programmes or read articles from the Press trip please click on the links below:

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/asia-pacific/2009/10/2009105155914171281.html#>

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/search/read.php?newsid=30114658&keyword=Saving+the+Gulf+coast>

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/index.php/world/39544-thai-villagers-in-bid-to-halt-disappearing-coast>

[http://www.news24.com/Content/SciTech/News/1132/6d2e641508744ff48a11b91310ce314b/06-10-2009-05-07/Bid\\_to\\_save\\_Thai\\_coastline](http://www.news24.com/Content/SciTech/News/1132/6d2e641508744ff48a11b91310ce314b/06-10-2009-05-07/Bid_to_save_Thai_coastline)

[http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2009/10/06/world/international-uk-climate-thailand-mangroves.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2009/10/06/world/international-uk-climate-thailand-mangroves.html?_r=1)

<http://news.stv.tv/world/128233-thai-villagers-in-bid-to-halt-disappearing-coast/>

[http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/news/international/Thai\\_villagers\\_in\\_bid\\_to\\_halt\\_disappearing\\_coast.html?siteSect=143&sid=11313843&cKey=1254817392000&ty=ti](http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/news/international/Thai_villagers_in_bid_to_halt_disappearing_coast.html?siteSect=143&sid=11313843&cKey=1254817392000&ty=ti)

## New Publication

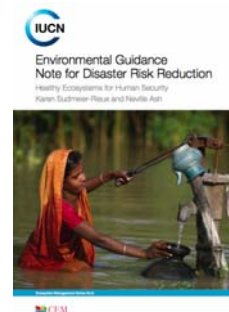
### *Environmental Guidance Note for Disaster Risk Reduction*

Written by **Karen Sudmeir-Rieux** and **Neville Ash**, the IUCN publication *Environmental Guidance Note for Disaster Risk Reduction: Healthy Ecosystems for Human Security* is now available under the Ecosystem Management Series No. 8. The guidance note seeks to answer the following four main questions:

1. What are healthy ecosystems and why do they matter to disaster risk reduction?
2. How can ecosystems contribute to reducing disasters?
3. What is ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction?
4. How can we integrate ecosystem management and disaster risk management?

To obtain a PDF version please visit:

[http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/environmental\\_guidance\\_note\\_for\\_drr\\_iucn\\_2009.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/environmental_guidance_note_for_drr_iucn_2009.pdf)



## 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](mailto: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.

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