



Mangroves for the Future (MFF) E-Newsletter Issue No: 12

October-November, 2009

Welcome to the twelfth 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!

News/Announcements

New MFF India Coordinator!

Please join us in welcoming Dr Ishwar Narayanan, the new MFF India Coordinator. Since 1992 Ishwar has been part of various research and planning initiatives in field-ecology and conservation especially on the herpetofauna of India. He has extensive interests and experience in tropical rainforests and coastal ecosystems having worked closely with several Indian agencies such as the Chennai based Conservation organization, Group for Nature Preservation and Education (GNAPE). He was until recently the project officer for Environment of the UNDP led Tsunami rehabilitation project in India. Ishwar is based in IUCN's Country office in New Delhi and can be reached at: ishwar@iucnt.org.



Coral Triangle Atlas Website Launched

The Coral Triangle Support Partnership (CTSP) and its partners, IUCN and Worldfish Reefbase, launched the Coral Triangle Atlas (CT Atlas) website on October 30. The website is an online Geographic Information System (GIS) database that can provide governments, NGOs and researchers access to spatial data on the Coral Triangle region at a local and regional scale. The CT Atlas regularly collects and consolidates spatial data on marine habitats, biodiversity, physical oceanography, socio-economy and other relevant indicators that will facilitate the management of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and MPA networks across the Coral Triangle region. The CT Atlas project is a joint effort of the NGOs under the CTSP, in collaboration with IUCN and Worldfish's ReefBase. To access the website please visit: http://ctatlas.reefbase.org. CTI Facebook Page Launched! Go to: www.facebook.com/coraltriangle

Pakistan MFF National Coordinating Body (NCB) formed!



The recently formed NCB is comprised of high level representatives from both the Federal Government and Provincial governments of Sindh and Balochistan, under the Chairmanship of the Ministry of Environment. Other members include the Port Authorities and the Navy, IUCN and UNDP, plus members from the private sector such as Pakistan Petroleum and NGOs including CARE. Indus Earth and WWF. The NCB will steer and coordinate the implementation of MFF at the national level, promote national dialogues and sharing of lessons learned for improved practices and policies in coastal zone management and development in Pakistan and actively facilitate a multi-stakeholder forum, which will foster improved planning and decision-making between the different agencies, sectors and levels of scale involved in coastal management.

The NCB held its first meeting 31 October, 2009 to discuss the preparation of their National Strategy and Action Plan. The NCB will hold regular quarterly meetings to review the priorities and progress of MFF implementation in Pakistan, to share information between members, and to endorse work plans, progress and financial reports, and any other technical or other outputs.

Recent Events











PEMSEA Gets a Legal Personality!

An Agreement recognizing the Legal Personality of PEMSEA by eight East Asian nations was signed at the recent East Asians Seas (EAS) Congress. This agreement transforms PEMSEA into a fully-fledged international body to work for sustainable development of the region's coastal and marine areas. The Third EAS Congress 2009 convened from 23-27 November in Manila, Philippines was hosted by the Philippines Government and organized by PEMSEA (Partnerships in the Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia). The event was supported by GEF, UNDP and UNOPS. Almost 1,600 participants attended the Congress, representing governments, UN agencies, industry, academia and youth groups. The Congress featured several events: The International Conference on Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Development (23-26 November), the Meeting of the EAS Partnership Council (25 November) and the Ministerial Forum on Strengthening the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) (26 November). 28 thematic workshops and seminars, as well as a Youth Leaders Forum, Corporate Social Responsibility Forum and Legislators' Dialogue were held during the International Conference, examining issues ranging from ocean policy and legislation to the impacts of climate change on coastal and ocean areas. This was followed by field visits to ICM sites showcasing local government efforts in implementing ICM. The venue provided a region-wide platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, capacity building, strategic action and cooperation for the sustainable management and development of the East Asian seas.



New declaration signed to strengthen the implementation of integrated coastal management (ICM)

11 Ministers and high-level delegates signed the Manila Declaration on Strengthening the Implementation of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) for Sustainable **Development and Climate Change** Adaptation in the Seas of the East Asia Region. The Declaration acknowledges the importance of ICM as a valuable tool to achieve sustainable development of the East Asia Seas and in climate change adaptation, affirmed in the Manado Ocean Delaration adopted at the World Ocean Conference in May, 2009. Download the Manila Declaration

MFF at East Asian Seas Congress, November, 2009

MFF convened a workshop on *Government and Civil Society Collaboration on Integrated Coastal Management in the Indian Ocean Region* to present the findings of a Regional Assessment of institutions and programmes in the Indian Ocean (2007-2008 updated 2009) and discussed its principal recommendations and proposed 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 collaboration. The MFF workshop attracted more then 40 delegates from UN Agencies, and regional and academic institutions who actively participated in the workshop. The MFF Secretariat has received positive feedback and contributions from participants, as well as updates to the MFF regional assessment report which will be release before the end of the year. More...









Colloquium on Mangrove Rehabilitation Efforts in Sri Lanka, November, 2009



Over the past few decades there has been considerable interest in mangrove-related activities in Sri Lanka, and in the aftermath of the December 2004 Tsunami significant funding became available for mangrove restoration and rehabilitation projects to protect against future coastal hazards. IUCN Sri Lanka has reviewed a number of mangrove initiatives, and has observed uneven progress. These observations have also led to other questions such as the choice of site for replanting, suitability of different species to different localities and conditions, perceived societal values and benefits, effects of newly-planted mangroves on sedimentation and hydrology of the area and the expected benefits to maintaining ecosystem health and productivity and its contribution to biodiversity.

MFF Sri Lanka held a mangrove colloquium organized by IUCN Sri Lanka to address and critique on the field experiences on mangrove rehabilitation efforts at the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research & Training Institute (HARTI), Wijerama Mawata, Colombo. 41 participants, including the Director General of Department of Wildlife Conservation, Director of the Coast Conservation Department, Deputy Conservator of Forests, several Divisional Forest Officers, Scientists and researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, and stakeholder agencies discussed and debated on a number of themes, relating to mangrove replanting, their successes and failures, and possible effects on coastal ecosystem health and productivity with a view to develop best practices. A compendium of best practices will be developed based on the outcomes of the colloquium. However, there was a consensus amongst the participants that mangrove planting and restoration should be based on sound science and should consider the resilience of ecosystems to regenerate themselves with minimal interventions.

IUCN Sri Lanka, under the Mangroves for the Future Initiative also held a satellite colloquium in Batticaloa in the Eastern Province on 24 November, 2009. The satellite colloquium provided an opportunity for academia, practitioners and policy-makers to share experiences to help develop best practices for mangrove rehabilitation.



First MFF Coordinators' meeting, 18-20 October, 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

The MFF Secretariat hosted the First MFF National Coordinators' and Communication Focal Points' Meeting 18-20 October, 2009. The aim of this meeting was to provide an informal forum for MFF country coordinators to share and discuss experiences and also to agree how to capture results and lessons learned from the projects in their respective countries to promote learning across the region. This latter issue is particularly important since MFF phase I is coming to an end and so are the first round of SGF projects. The collection of relevant project information and lessons learned to support programme development.

Danone Fund for Nature expert workshop on "Achieving carbon offsets through mangroves and other wetlands" 9-11 November 2009, at the Ramsar Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland



The Danone-IUCN-Ramsar partnership hosted a three-day expert workshop. The workshop focused on achieving carbon offsets through mangroves and other wetlands. Dr. Don Macintosh and Dr. John Poulsen participated (on behalf of MFF) together with 45 experts on wetland restoration, socioeconomic valuation, carbon measurement, and carbon markets from around the world, representing development banks, NGOs, and universities in addition to Danone, the Ramsar Convention and IUCN reviewed the latest knowledge on the role of wetlands in the carbon cycle, good practices in wetland restoration, methods for carbon measurement in different types of wetlands, and current and developing approaches to carbon markets relevant to wetlands. The workshop developed an overall framework which enables the various kinds of wetlands to be considered in the context of existing land use and cover frameworks for carbon, it also addressed technical issues related to carbon measurements and carbon storage potential. The outcomes of the workshop shall also help guide the development of a potentially large investment by the Danone through the DFN on mangrove restoration in Indonesia. For further information: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24264_4000_0

Climate Exchange, 3-7 December, 2009



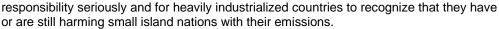
The Copenhagen Climate Exchange took place the week before, the official UN Climate Summit, in Copenhagen. The exchange was hosted by The Danish Society for Nature Conservation and was one of the biggest climate events in Copenhagen besides the UN conference itself. Thousands of people visited the Exchange. The opening statements were delivered by Ms. Ulla Toernaes the Danish Minister for Development and Cooperation and Ms. Connie Hedegaard, Minister for the Climate Summit and future European Commisioner for Climate. The MFF commissioned BBC Earth Report "Heads Above Water" was screened at the Exchange. Dr. John Poulsen represented MFF and, assisted by

Ms. Annika Pohl Harrisson, Aarhus University, they exhibited a wide range of MFF activities at an Exchange booth, including Annika's work in southern Thailand conducted under the BMZ funded integrated coastal management project. Another colleague from Aarhus University, Dr. Lars Lund-Hansen, also contributed to the booth with results from a Danida funded coastal mangrove project in Vietnam. For further information: http://www.dn.dk/default.aspx?AreaID=118



MFF Seychelles Coordinator, Lyndy Bastienne attended the UN Climate Summit (COP15) primarily to represent two NGOs from the Seychelles; Sustainability for Seychelles –S4S and the Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles –WCS and to present and discuss some of Seychelles community-based work and eco-system-based adaptation with different groups and networks. She also benefited from the daily meetings of the AOSIS Group (Alliance of Small Island States).

Lyndy took to the streets to join the climate change justice march. 100'000 people from various NGOS, celebrities, general public and other groups joined together in an 8km walk to call on world leaders to take their





American International Conference of the Confere

"It's been quite an experience for me; I was amazed by the thousands of people who came with expectations of a full commitment and engagement to seal a real deal for our planet and to witness the 350 ppm campaign gaining momentum. It is only by accepting a maximum of 1.5 °C, that life will remain possible on Earth; if not, one of the first to go are corals which support almost the entire livelihoods of island nations"......

Lyndy Bastienne, MFF Coordinator Seychelles.

MFF External Mid-term review, 29 November- 16 December, 2009

An external review of MFF, funded by Sida, took place between 29 November and 16 December. The team, comprising of Prof. Henrik Secher Marcussen (team leader), Dr. Julian Gonsalves, and Dr. Kenneth MacKay, first visited the MFF Secretariat and institutional partners in Bangkok. This was followed by country visits to India, Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The aim of the review was to evaluate MFF phase I and to help guide the second phase of MFF. During the country visits the team met with NCB members, National Coordinators and Focal Points, project managers, and other stakeholders; they also visited a number of project sites.



Thailand



The Mid-term Review (MTR) team met with six small project grantees in the south of Thailand. On the first day of their review tour, the team visited the "Building Mangroves for Sea Otters" project in Phuket Province. Continuing on to Ranong Province the team learned about the "Conservation of wetlands along the Andaman Coast" project which is being implemented by the Mangrove Rehabilitation Network of Tambol Kapoe. At the end of the project 50 rai (8 hectare) of Nipa will be planted. The communities use Nipa for various purposes and products, including leaves for thatched roofs and sugar derived from its fruit. People from the communities, specifically the grantees, extend their thanks to the MTR team for visiting their projects and for sharing their expectations for Phase II of MFF. From there, the team went on to visit other MFF projects such as those implemented by Wetlands International Thailand Office in Surat Thani Province.

"Conservation work and advocacy can not be done alone... we are glad that MFF provide the opportunity to work together with various partners.... one voice is not as loud as many" Mr Sawai Kongkachay, Community leader of Baan Klong Chanak, and Chairperson of Klong Khanak Community Group Surratthani, MFF Small Grantee.

Right: Venus shell catch at Bang La Community, Phuket

Above:Mr Prasert, Chairperson of Baan Don Conservation Network in Surat Thani Province told the team about the conservation history of this coastal area, part of one of the most important bays in Thailand.



Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop 16- 17 October 2009

The "Ecologically and socio-economically sound coastal ecosystem rehabilitation and conservation in tsunami-affected countries of the Indian Ocean" project, funded by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented under the auspices of MFF also known as the "BMZ project". The project is implemented by IUCN Thailand Programme who held a BMZ and MFF SGF



Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop 16- 17 October 2009 at Laem Son National Park, Thailand. The workshop brought together 65 participants; five NGOs, 12 CBOs from the BMZ project and eight CBOs from the MFF SGF Grantees, NCB representative and UNDP SGF team. The aim of the workshop was to the share the lessons learned from BMZ and MFF Small Grant Facility (SGF) projects and to build and strengthen the network for future collaboration and learning from their work and experience in conserving coastal ecosystems. Both BMZ and MFF share a vision of healthy coastal ecosystems and secure livelihoods for coastal communities.

Private Sector Engagement

Turning Waste into Wealth in the Maldives



Waste, litter and debris on beaches and inadequate recycling facilities are major concerns in the Maldives. The country currently lacks the facilities to separate, collect and recycle or reuse materials generated by households and businesses. Things that could be recycled or composted are treated as waste and transported from resorts to landfills. As the Maldives develops it seems inevitable that more consumer goods will become available, consumption will increase and so will the amount of material that will need to be recycled, reused or disposed.

Soneva Fushi, owned and operated by the Six Senses Group has launched a project that converts the waste generated by the resorts into wealth. 80 percent of the waste generated from the hotel's operations is converted into bio mass and a soil nutrient is created through a process known as pyrolysis. A wood gasification unit planned for next year will generate enough electricity to provide power to the hotel's organic restaurant and its in-house cinema. Organic kitchen waste is converted into biogas and liquid fertilizer is used in the gardens through a subsurface irrigation system. All cardboard and paper generated from the offices is used in making compost for the gardens and are also shared with surrounding islands. Inorganic matter, such as glass bottles, are crushed and used in construction and making decorative furniture. The gardens are used to grow culinary, medicinal and insect- repellant herbs and plants that can

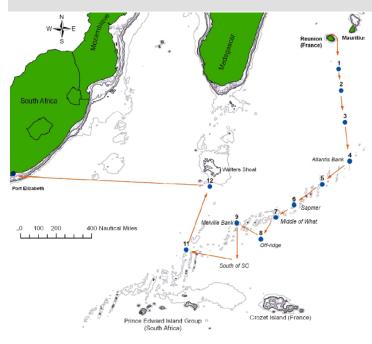


be used in the resort's operations. Bamboo is used as a biomass mop crop, as it is known for retaining nutrients and absorbing atmospheric carbon. Vegetables are grown and fish farms watered through collecting rain water from roofs. Rain water is filtered and used to replace desalinated water. Resulting water and sludge are used for watering and fertilization of the island's vegetation. Generator cooling water is used for heating and glass is crushed and recycled.



The Maldives at dusk © Adam Sharif, UNDP, Maldives

The Taj Group, a Green Globe silver certificate recipient is actively replanting corals in an area where coral bleaching has taken place adjacent to the Taj Coral Reef hotel. The guests are involved in monitoring the results. Six Senses and the Taj Group are now in active discussion with MFF to help adapt these models for replication in other resorts and on local islands through working with communities, local governments and national and international organizations. The initiative will open the waste recycling and organic production processes as demonstration models for co-operating with each other, for active involvement with guests. With the support of MFF, both resorts are also looking to twin with populated islands in the respective atolls through the provision of sustainable waste management practices. MFF is currently supporting three small grant facility projects on waste management in the Maldives.



Seamount Research Exhibition collects 7000 specimens!

Seamounts are typically formed from extinct volcanoes usually found rising from a seafloor of 1,000-4,000 meters depth. Seamounts often project upwards into shallower zones more hospitable to sea life, providing habitats for marine species. Because seamounts are isolated from each other and are formed from volcanic rock they often have a high degree of endemism. Seamounts deflect deep currents and create upwelling which brings nutrients into the photosynthetic zone, producing an area of activity in an otherwise desert-like open ocean. Many pelagic animals visit seamounts to gather food, but proof of this aggregating effect has been lacking. They are also vital resting points for some migratory animals such as whales. The primary productivity of the epipelagic waters above the submerged peak can often be enhanced by the hydrographic conditions which increases the densities of zooplankton leading to

high concentrations of fish and sometimes large stocks of commercially important fish and invertebrates. This has attracted the fishing industry causing some seamount fauna populations to decrease considerably. The benthic fauna of the seamounts is dominated by suspension feeders, including sponges and true corals. The sedimentary infauna is dominated by polychaete worms.

Of an estimated 30,000 seamounts across the globe, only a few having been studied. A team of the world's leading marine experts, paired with scientists from the Indian Ocean region, undertook a six-week research expedition above seamounts in the high seas of the Indian Ocean The scientific survey was organized by IUCN and its partners to improve knowledge of seamounts across the southwest Indian Ocean ridge. The Norwegian research vessel left on 12 November from Reunion island, and travelled 6,000 miles to study six seamounts in waters beyond national jurisdictions before docking in Port Elisabeth, South Africa 20 December, 2009. In total, nearly 7,000 specimens were collected and labeled. 36 species, and 26 marine mammals where spotted. The team returned with a whole new understanding of seamount ecosystems. The results of the research do not only have a scientific interest, but will help improve conservation and management of Indian Ocean marine resources. For more information, pictures etc, visit the BBC diary that followed the team throughout the expedition or visit: www.iucn.org/marine/seamounts or contact: Sarah Gotheil (sarah.gotheil@iucn.org).

Upcoming Events

MFF Sixth Regional Steering Committee meeting, 25-28, January, 2010, Thailand

MFF will hold its six regional steering committee meeting (RSC-6) 25-28 January at the <u>Sirindhorn International Environmental Park</u> (SIEP) in Cha-am District, Petchaburi Province, Thailand. The SIEP develops training and demonstration modules to make innovative research publicly available and facilitates transfer of technical and indigenous practical know-how in cooperation with networks within and outside the country. The RSC-6 meeting will discuss and endorse the plan for MFF phase II, followed by the finalization of 2010 national workplans for implementation.



Media

New MFF Media Project in the Maldives!

'Green Journal' is part of the Environmental Awareness Media Project (EAMP) which aims to address coastal environmental issues and introducing solutions, highlighting NGOs and other groups at local and national level successes through an interactive weekly radio show. The project will also produce an original environmental song album about coastal ecosystems performed by well-known artists and lyricists and three video spots for open use by media and others for awareness raising on coastal and marine issues in the Maldives.

Four New MFF shortfilms on climate change adaptation and sea level rise:

- "The Perfect Species" Shortfilm on mud-crabs and mudskippers, the climate change fish
- "The village of Rejorsori" shortfilm on adapting life to a changing coastal environment- a human perspective
- "Raise high the roof beam, and plant some mangroves too" adapting to climate change, Indonesia
- "The rising sea" the case of Semarang, North coast of Central Java, Indonesia

PBS and Frontline- Documentary on the Shrimp industry and its environmental implications



Film crew visits Thailand to produce a documentary on mangrove clearance to make way for the lucrative shrimp industry, as well as what happens to abandoned shrimp farms. Minna Epps, MFF Secretariat took the team to Bang Khun Thien, a part of Bangkok that reaches the sea and is of huge economic importance to the nation due to its fish and shrimp processing industries to explain some of the consequences of mangrove clearance. The area suffers from 1.2-4.6 meter coastal erosion every year. This was followed by a visit to the Kok Kham community to see how they are adapting to a changing environment by applying traditional knowledge and techniques. The team also visited Pranburi to look at successful examples of converting shrimp ponds back into mangrove forests. The programme will be aired between April

and June, 2010. FRONTLINE/World is an American public TV series that turns its lens on the global community, covering countries, cultures and issues rarely seen on American television. http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/.

Ms Srisurang Massirikul , Division Manager Social & Environment Activity Division, PTT Corporate Social Responsibility explains to the film team how to convert abandoned shrimp farms back into thriving mangrove forests successfully



Job openings!

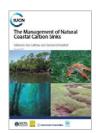
MFF Coastal Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction consultant

During the second phase of implementation, MFF will join forces with other initiatives and projects in order to improve the knowledge and the capacity of countries in South and South-east Asia to adapt to the future impact of climate change. In undertaking this task MFF will also work closely with, among others, UNEP and UNEP's Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific climate change adaptation projects and activities (e.g. the Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Network, the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia etc.). UNEP's Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) is therefore recruiting a Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction consultant to provide technical support to the MFF Secretariat on issues related to climate change and disaster risk reduction, as well as ensuring close linkages between MFF, UNEP and RRC.AP climate change adaptation and DRR projects. The position is based in Bangkok, Thailand at the MFF Secretariat, hosted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN, Asia Regional Office. **Deadline for applications 4 January 2010** and **interview date will be 22 January 2010**. For more details on how to apply please visit: http://www.rrcap.unep.org/about/vacancy/43.cfm.

Opportunities with World Maritime Organization (WMU)

The World Maritime University (WMU) of the United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO) is currently recruiting a Director of Administration and Corporate Services to lead a multidisciplinary team, and is seeking a Communications Coordinator to work closely with WMU faculty members and to be the principal information, knowledge and media voice of the University. Multiple faculty positions in maritime studies are opening during the next 12 months. All positions are based in Malmö, Sweden. For more information visit the WMU website.

New Popular Publications!



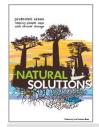
The Management of Natural Coastal Carbon Sinks

This report focuses on the management of natural coastal carbon sinks. The production of the report has been stimulated by an apparent lack of recognition and focus on coastal marine ecosystems to complement activities already well advanced on land to address the best practice management of carbon sinks. This report provides the essential evidence needed to motivate discussions and initiatives on how such coastal ecosystems should be incorporated into international and national emission reduction strategies, national greenhouse gas inventories and, potentially, carbon revenues schemes.



The Ocean and Climate Change: Tools and Guidelines for Action

The purpose of this report is to engage, inform and guide decision makers with regard to the development and implementation of marine and coastal climate change strategies and programmes. It highlights the most pressing climate change issues with respect to the ocean and presents a set of tools and guidelines for the implementation of marine climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. For more information and/or to view other LUCN Global Marine Programme publications go to: www.iucn.org/marine.



This new report funded and commissioned by IUCN-WCPA, TNC, UNDP, WCS, The World Bank and WWF details the case for protected areas as a mechanism to cope with climate change. The publication "**Natural Solutions**" makes a strong case for the role of protected areas and climate change in both mitigation and adaptation. This book encourages climate change solutions that go beyond reducing emissions -- to strengthening and improving the world's protected areas network. The report can be downloaded from ConserveOnline.



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.

To subscribe to this E-newsletter please go to: www.mangrovesforthefuture.org to sign up.

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. 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.

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



























