



March, 2008

Welcome to the second issue of the MFF e-Newsletter!

This E-Newsletter aims to keep MFF National Coordinating Bodies (NBC's), partner organizations and other stakeholder groups up to date on MFF activities and news. We warmly welcome your contribution.

News/Announcements

MFF on-line!

- The Mangroves for the Future Website was launched Friday, 22 February, 2008.

www.mangrovesforthefuture.org

- The MFF brochure is available on-line at: www.mangrovesforthefuture.org/

- Guidelines for Small Grant Facility project proposals are now available from the Secretariat.



Newcomers

- We are pleased to announce **Mr. Adam Shareef** as the MFF Programme Officer, the Maldives, who says he is proud to be a part of the MFF initiative.



- **John Poulsen** is the newly appointed Programme Coordinator for IUCN Indonesia. In this capacity, John will also assist with the development and implementation of MFF's country programme in Indonesia, through the MFF Secretariat and for the Indonesia NCB.

Au revoir (but not Farewell) to our MFF Volunteers



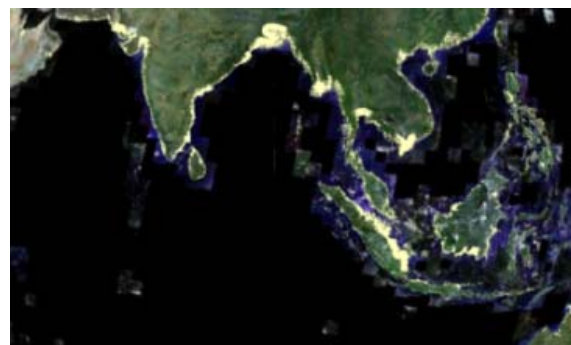
Lindy & Michal taking minutes

For the past four months, MFF and IUCN India have been blessed with the services of two young Volunteers, Lindy Thompson and Michal Zrust, who have worked in the IUCN New Delhi office supporting several of the MFF preparatory studies in India. They have also contributed significantly to the information management needs of MFF and the Small Grant Facility project proposals, as well as assisting the NCB and its partners, consultants and other experts throughout India. Lindy and Michal are now taking a well-deserved break to go trekking in Nepal, but they have been invited to work at the MFF Secretariat in Bangkok for a few weeks when they reach Thailand in early June.

MFF Update

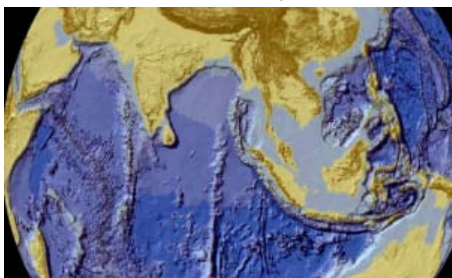
How well is the coastline in six MFF countries protected?

Excellent progress is being made in establishing a baseline and recommending future priorities for marine and coastal protection in the six MFF focal countries. IUCN and UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) are creating a GIS database for protected areas overlaid by key coastal ecosystems, species and global biodiversity priority setting mechanisms under the MFF programme of work (PoW) 13.1. The key question is - How well is the coastal zone protected in the six focal MFF countries?



Copyright: UNEP-WCMC, 2008

Data have been assembled from the global World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and many other sources, and the work is now shifting to an intensive round of country level consultations to validate the data already assembled and to incorporate nationally held data. The country consultations are revealing a wealth of additional data and many encouraging and exciting plans to establish more strategic levels of protection through new marine and coastal protected areas.



Copyright: UNEP-WCMC, 2008

The map-based work is also providing an excellent visual overview of the MFF Region, thereby reinforcing the regional perspective of the initiative. The GIS database allows stakeholders to look at the region from both the traditional terrestrial standpoint, but also from the marine perspective. The work will be presented at the April MFF Forum and will ultimately provide a basis for making sound decisions about investment in the MFF countries.

The assessment has been based initially on a definition of the coastal zone developed through the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. This is defined as an area of up to 50 m elevation or 100 km inland whichever comes first. The definition is generating a lot of discussion on the difference between the coastal zone as defined from a technical and biophysical standpoint versus how the countries are managing the coastal zone through laws, policies and institutions. The great challenge will come in translating protection priorities in this broadly defined area through the realities of legal, policy and institutional frameworks at national, provincial and local levels. For more information contact: Peter Shadie, Coordinator, IUCN Regional Protected Areas Programme, shadie@iucnt.org.

Pilot activities on climate adaptation in Indonesia

Coastal areas are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and it is necessary to respond to these threats and attempt to minimize the vulnerability of coastal ecosystems and livelihoods. The pilot project “Integrating Climate Change Adaptation Measures into Coastal Zone Planning” was initiated by UNEP COBSEA Secretariat, UNEP ROAP and the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia in the beginning of 2008 to support MFF preparatory activity “integrating climate change variability in MFF interventions”. The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia in close collaboration with other stakeholders and ministries including the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, BAPPENAS, Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Spatial Planning Board (BKTRN).

The project aims to determine how to best integrate climate change adaptation measures into coastal zone planning through the existing spatial planning process. The project activities will include development of guidelines for integration of suitable adaptation measures and linkages to a formal spatial planning process. The Ministry of Environment of Indonesia has put together a technical working group, in collaboration with other stakeholders and MFF NCB, to oversee the project activities and to evaluate its outcomes for future replication, and potentially among other MFF or COBSEA countries.

“A first step towards an easy-to-use evaluation toolbox”

Mr Patrick Ronnbeck and **Ms. Saima Baig** have successfully undertaken consultations with partners and other stakeholders in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand, as a first step to develop an easy to use economic evaluation toolkit. Consultants are currently being selected to develop a summary evaluation report for each country.

Upcoming Events

The MFF Regional Forum

This important Review Forum will take place **21-24 April, 2008**, at the Heritage Hotel, Ahungalla, **Sri Lanka**. The Forum is a four day event bringing together MFF partners, focal points, country representatives and technical expertise to review progress in detail for each MFF PoW. There will be presentations and discussions of eight programmes of work under the MFF action plan. This will then be followed by focal country working groups to integrate PoW results and recommendations into the National Strategies and Action Plans. The MFF Secretariat is also organizing side events, which include a session on MFF and Communications, a knowledge workshop, and partner meetings.



Turtle Hatchery, Sri Lanka, Janaka Da Silva, IUCN

The Forum will be held in Ahungalla, a small fishing village located 76 km south of Colombo. This blissful gem surrounded by the thick coconut groves, idyllic sandy beaches and the watery depths of the Indian Ocean, was heavily affected by the December, 2004 Tsunami. The area is also home to two Ramsar sites, several turtle hatcheries and Marine Protected Areas (MPA's).

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>

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, 21-26 April, 2008 Hanoi, Vietnam. The Asia-Pacific Forestry Week will be anchored around the 22nd Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission. The Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) is one of six regional forestry commissions supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. It is expected to be THE forestry event in the Asia-Pacific region in 2008 and will bring together several forestry meetings in one location during a single week.
<http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/44755/en/>

Stakeholder Dialogues, 02- 03 April, Ranong, Thailand. IUCN Thailand is coordinating a stakeholder dialogue with 40- 50 Government, NGO, and CBO representatives to identify roles and responsibilities in demonstrating investment in coastal ecosystem show-casing a reef to ridge concept through participatory approaches. One of the outcomes will be to identify who is doing what and to establish where the BMZ project (a project model under the MFF) can best add value. The BMZ project has three sites in Thailand in a 120km coastal stretch with estuaries; Kapoe, Naka, and Kraburi with different issues to be tackled.



Phang Nga Bay, Minna Epps, IUCN

Capacity Building

“Identifying Information Needs of Coastal Managers” Sponsored by MFF and organized jointly by the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) Government of Thailand and FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, this one day meeting involving about 20 coastal managers, scientists from research institutes and civil society organizations, will discuss key current and emerging issues in various coastal areas of Thailand and whether data exists or is of sufficient quality to address these issues? The workshop forms part of MFF Preparatory Study 1.1 Gap Analysis of Existing Knowledge and Data Sources as Compared to the Needs of Coastal Managers for Information.

IUCN- MFF Workshop on Conservation and Management of Mangrove Ecosystems in India

Stakeholder Consultation for Assessment of Training and Capacity Building Needs and Design of National Strategy and Action Plan, was held 12-13 February, 2008 at the Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation, Gandhinagar, Gurajat. Sponsored by the MFF and organized by Ministry of Environment and Forests, GEER Foundation and IUCN India, it reviewed national capacity and training needs in India, identified knowledge gaps and discussed several thematic areas important to mangrove conservation and management. Status reports were presented by State Forest representatives from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal as a valuable contribution to the development of the NSAP for India. Many other speakers and participants also provided helpful information and advice regarding the NSAP.



“Combating Coastal Challenges”, Chennai, 7-8th December 2007.

The MFF Secretariat supported a meeting organized by the Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG), a Chennai-based NGO, which amongst other activities tries to protect coastal regions from environmental degradation. A number of coastal actors were invited including groups representing fisher folks, campaign groups against development, and environmental groups. The purpose of the meeting was to look at a number of the environmental and livelihood issues currently affecting the Indian coast and to discuss possible solutions. The meeting focused on Tamil Nadu, Kerala and to a lesser extent Andhra Pradesh. It discussed various issues around coastal management, including the proposed Coastal Management Zone, urbanization and industrialization of the coast, and public participation (for a more detailed report see *Governance in the Coastal Zones of India-A Status Analysis* by Enviro Legal Defence Firm). A special session was held on MFF itself, including its aims and objectives and how it integrated with other work being done on coastal management in India. The participants rated the MFF Session as the best in the entire workshop!

“Signing Sets the Scene for Protecting the Jewels of the Andaman Sea”

The Director General of the Department of National Parks (DNP), Wildlife and Plants Conservation joined hands with representatives from WWF Thailand and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) outlining cooperation to protect Similan, Surin and Mu Ko Lanta Marine National Parks, three Jewels of the Andaman Sea.

The Strengthening Andaman Marine Protected Areas Network (SAMPAN) Project is a three year project led by the Royal Thai Government, with support from AFD), the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) and WWF Thailand.

SAMPAN will contribute to improving management and tourism in marine parks. The project will strengthen national park administration and protection, reduce the impacts of tourism and develop replicable best environmental standards with private tourism operators.



Butterflyfish (*Chelman Rostratus*), Thailand, Minna Epps, IUCN

Thailand adopts a Zoning Solution to High Density Coastal Tourism



Cha Am upper beach, Don Macintosh, MFF

The upper zone of the beach, covered by sun umbrellas has licensed vendors in distinctive yellow shirts. The lower beach zone is kept completely free for visitors to walk on and children to play safely. The sea is demarcated by floating buoys into an inner, safe swimming zone, while outside the marker buoys in the deeper water, boats, water skis and other water sports are permitted. The coastal zoning system in Cha Am has proven a very successful way of dealing with high tourist pressure.

Cha Am used to be a quiet coastal town on the west coast of the Inner Gulf of Thailand. Today Cha Am copes with thousand's of mainly Thai family tourist arrivals everyday during the summer months. Faced with such a massive daily influx of tourists, the local authorities had to do something. Their solution was to zone the physical infrastructure and recreational activities that support this booming local tourist industry.

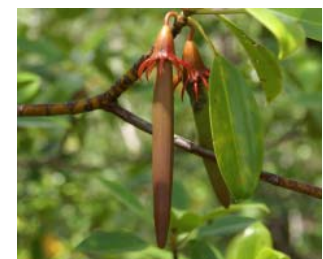


Cha Am lower beach, Don Macintosh, MFF

“..A Walk in the Mangroves...” - Seychelles

A small Public-Private Partnership project in the Seychelles shows how successful public-private cooperation can be for nature conservation education.

In May 2006, a luxury resort on the Seychelles main island of Mahe's financed an elevated walkway through the mangroves with the Seychelles Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources so that visitors could gain safe and easy access to the mangroves. The 100 m long walkway transects a vibrant mangrove forest containing several species of trees, which flower and fruit in profusion, and the muddy soil is populated by dense fields of vertical pneumatophores, the “breathing-roots” of the mangrove. Many animals live among these roots, especially crabs, which can burrow for safety into the soil to escape predators and to keep cool and moist.



Bruguiera gymnorrhiza propagula, Don Macintosh, MFF.

The government department organized the construction and a visitor information board, while the resort maintains the infrastructure and arranges nature walks three times per week for its guests and local schoolchildren. MFF encourage small private-partnerships of this kind, and would particularly like to support the creation of simple awareness-raising materials for tourists and students illustrating some of the unique biological and ecological features of mangroves, and why they are important to the coastal environment.

Country visits

Ms Serena Fortuna, UNEP ROAP, visited Indonesia (25 - 28 February) together with the COBSEA Secretariat team (Dr Srisuda Jarayabhand and Ms Birgitta Liss) to attend the inception meeting of the “Integrating Climate Change Adaptation Measures into Coastal Zone Planning” project and to ensure an effective liaison with the NCB national strategy. Active discussions were also undertaken with Ms. Wahyuningsih Darajati (NCB chair, Director for Marine and Fisheries, BAPPENAS) Ms. Ida Kusuma (NCB member, Director, DG of Marine, Coasts and Small Islands Affairs) as well as UNDP country office representative (Ms. Elaine P. Slamet, Programme Officer, Environment Unit, UNDP Indonesia).

Don Macintosh and **Serena Fortuna** attended the Regional Workshop “Post-Tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods and Integrated Ecosystem Management” at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, 19-21 February, 2008. This workshop, which was organized by the USAID Post-Tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program, shared experiences in successful approaches to post disaster recovery and discussed still unresolved issues regarding coastal community rehabilitation and their possible solutions.

Don Macintosh also attended a Workshop on Coastal Zone Management at Shanghai Fisheries University 25-26 February, 2008, where he made a presentation entitled “Research and Training Needs for Coastal Zone Management: experiences from international university cooperation programmes and the Mangroves for the Future Initiative”.

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.

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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