

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



Gender Equality



© Ana Grillo/MFF Thailand

In all regions of the world, women and men have unique relationships with, dependency upon, and expertise regarding their environment. Poor understanding of the roles and contributions that both genders bring often leads to a lack of recognition of their distinct needs and interests in policies and programmes. Understanding the importance of this can ultimately help in meeting sustainable development goals in ecosystem dependent communities.

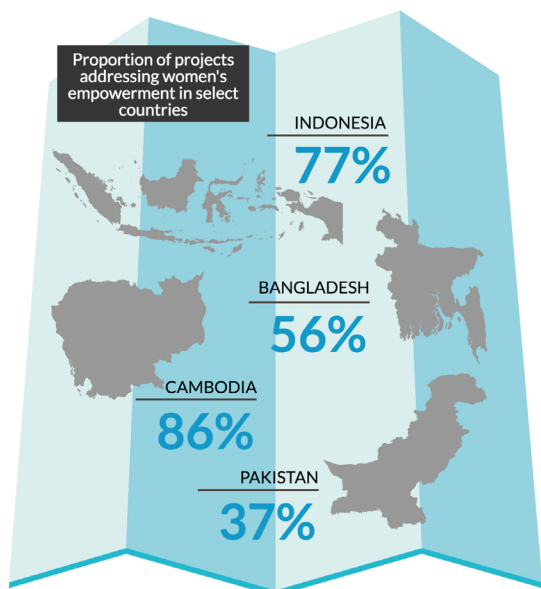
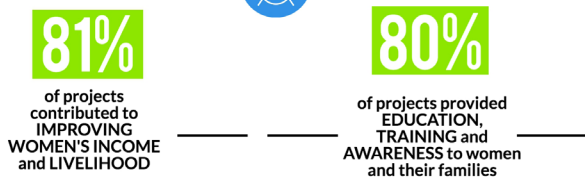
IUCN Asia's flagship programme **Mangroves for the Future (MFF)** is a unique partner-led initiative co-chaired by IUCN and UNDP to promote investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development. One of MFF's focus areas is social empowerment, building awareness and capacity of civil society for decision making. Recognising that **gender equality** is fundamental to conservation and sustainable development, MFF has established gender integration as an important strategic approach in its programme.



Women in Coastal Conservation



*Based on data from 7 out of 11 MFF countries: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam



Opportunities to scale up gender efforts

Regional

- Aligning MFF with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) priorities by placing gender at the core of policy, planning and implementation processes
- Capitalising on major financing mechanisms that have gender mandates e.g. Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility

National

- Supporting rights based and gender-sensitive project design and implementation through the use of appropriate tools. This includes setting targets and using checklists for gender-focused poverty and livelihoods analysis
- Using participatory, community-based approaches to ensure that the voices of women and men are equally heard and valued
- Developing clear accountability and monitoring frameworks to measure gender-responsive results and impacts on the ground

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“After the financial leadership training, my confidence has increased a great deal and I now feel empowered to negotiate mat prices directly with customers.” - Promila from Bangladesh

“I learned that cultivating mangrove plants ensures healthy growth of fish populations, and that mangroves act as a natural shelter during natural disasters such as floods and tsunamis. These are things I never knew before.” - Jenitha from India

“Selling mangrove herbal tea can be an alternative income source for female community members. I use the income generated from tea sales to buy household items such as kitchen utensils.” - Tutik from Indonesia