



Mangroves for the Future

INVESTING IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

MFF is policy-relevant, people-focused, partnership-based and investment-oriented



Thatch-making, Maldives © MFF Secretariat



Monitoring water quality, Ranong Province, Thailand
© North Andaman Community Tourism network



Mangrove planting, Lamongan, East Java
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Investing in coastal ecosystems

Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is a partnership-based initiative promoting investment in coastal ecosystems for sustainable development.

MFF works towards achieving the vision of a healthier, more prosperous and secure future for all coastal communities. The mission of MFF is to promote healthy coastal ecosystems through a partnership-based, people-focused, policy-relevant, and investment-oriented approach, which builds and applies knowledge, empowers communities and other stakeholders, enhances governance, secures livelihoods, and increases resilience to natural hazards and climate change.

MFF has adopted mangroves as its flagship ecosystem in recognition of the important role that mangrove forests played in reducing the impact of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and the severe effect on coastal livelihoods caused by mangrove loss and degradation. However MFF embraces all coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs, estuaries, lagoons, wetlands, beaches and seagrass beds. This inclusive approach reflects the ecosystem-based, or "reef to ridge", management approach

that MFF brings to the rehabilitation and stewardship of coastal resources. Coastal ecosystems, and the well-being of their inhabitants, are influenced not just by activities carried out in the coastal zone, but also by those happening further inland. Using the reef-to-ridge approach, MFF helps coastal managers and communities to adopt, and benefit from, more integrated management of coastal resources and the ecosystem processes that support them.

Our approach

To achieve its goal of conserving, restoring and managing coastal ecosystems as vital natural infrastructure for human well-being and security, MFF implements actions in support of three main priorities to: Apply knowledge; Empower civil society; and Enhance coastal governance.

MFF builds on a history of coastal management efforts before and after the Indian Ocean tsunami, especially the call to sustain the momentum and partnerships generated by the immediate post-tsunami response. After focusing initially on the countries worst-affected by the tsunami – India, Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Thailand – MFF has now expanded to include Pakistan and Viet Nam.

MFF will also continue to reach out to other countries in the region facing similar challenges, with the overall aim of promoting an integrated, ocean-wide approach to coastal area management.

Programme

MFF follows a Plan of Action with 15 Programmes of Work (PoWs) which frame and guide its actions on the ground. Each NCB has developed a National Strategy and Action Plan for MFF implementation that reflects national priorities for sustainable coastal development, based on identification of the most relevant PoWs for that country.

MFF also recognizes several cross-cutting themes as essential to achieving positive results for each PoW. MFF is committed to developing national capacity to manage coastal ecosystems and ensuring that equality between men and women, or gender equality, is an integral part of its work.

Climate change and disaster risk reduction are both major themes in strengthening community resilience to environmental change. MFF also promotes environmentally sustainable business practices in



Member countries: India, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam. **Outreach countries:** Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Timor-Leste. **Dialogue countries:** Kenya, Malaysia, Tanzania.

coastal areas by harnessing the interest and resources of companies through multi-stakeholder partnerships.

A priority for MFF is to evaluate and draw lessons from the large volume of results generated during MFF activities. Importantly, MFF's results are analyzed, recorded and disseminated strategically through a strong knowledge management and communications focus.

Projects

MFF invests directly in coastal ecosystems through on-the-ground projects. Several types of project are used to channel MFF activities; all are implemented through its key stakeholders – governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations, academia and private sector foundations. Since 2008, about 90 small-scale and larger projects have been implemented in the MFF member countries. From 2010, regional projects have been introduced as a way of addressing topics relevant to the whole MFF region.

The Small Grant Facility is the mechanism through which funds are provided for small-scale projects. Each member country receives funds to establish its own Small Grant Facility to fund projects to a maximum of US\$25,000 each. The second form of MFF project funding is through larger, longer-term projects, ranging up to a current maximum of US\$100,000. MFF

also encourages co-financing of these projects, especially by the private sector. MFF regional projects span at least three member countries to consolidate existing knowledge on best practices in coastal resource management and to conduct research on emerging issues to acquire new knowledge.

Governance

The implementation of MFF's action plan and overall progress towards its goal are monitored by the Regional Steering Committee (RSC). This multi-stakeholder body is co-chaired by IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with representatives from MFF's member country governments and institutional partners. The RSC meets once a year.

The mandate for coordinating and overseeing MFF's in-country activities lies with a National Coordinating Body (NCB) in each member country, and works alongside existing national frameworks for managing coastal areas.

The MFF Secretariat is based in Bangkok, Thailand, and works closely with the RSC, NCBs and the country offices of IUCN and UNDP to ensure the smooth running of the initiative. MFF welcomes the involvement of anyone who shares its concern for coastal sustainability.

MFF is financed principally by Norad and Sida with substantial contributions from its core partners and from the private sector. By demonstrating the high economic and social returns from investing in coastal ecosystems, MFF partners expect the scope of the initiative to keep growing, especially through public and private sector partnerships. MFF will continue to seek co-financing opportunities that build on projects already started, or planned, to maximize their positive outcomes.

Get involved

To obtain more information on MFF, or to learn how you, your organization, project or community can join in, please contact us:

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