



Mangroves for the Future
INVESTING IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

15th Regional Steering Committee Meeting

24th - 25th September 2018, ANVAYA Beach Resort, Bali, Indonesia

Meeting Report (FINAL 2019 01 07)



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List of acronyms and abbreviations

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	MFF	Mangroves for the Future
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology	MFF-S	MFF Regional Secretariat
ARO	Asia Regional Office (of IUCN)	MGF	Medium Grant Facility (of MFF)
ASOEN	ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment	MLE	Monitoring, learning and evaluation
AWGCME	ASEAN Working Group on the Coastal and Marine Environment	MSG	Mangrove Specialist Group
BICCRA	Building Climate Change Resilient Coastal Communities and Ecosystems in Asia	MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
BOBLME	Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystems Project	MTR	Mid-Term Review (of MFF)
BOBP-IGO	Bay of Bengal Programme – Inter Governmental Organization	NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan
CARE	CARE International (partner institution)	NC	National Coordinator
COBSEA	Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia	NCB	National Coordinating Body
CREL	Climate Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility	Norad	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
Danida	Danish International Development Agency	NSAP	National Strategy and Action Plan (of MFF)
DMCR	Department of Marine and Coastal Resources	ODA	Official Development Assistance
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	PCM	Project Cycle Management
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations	PEMSEA	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the seas of East Asia
FRIM	Forest Research Institute of Malaysia	PoW	Programme of Work
GCF	Green Climate Fund	REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
GEF	Global Environment Facility	RAP	Resilience Analysis Platform
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German international development)	RGF	Regional Grants Facility (of MFF)
GMPP	Global Marine and Polar Programme (IUCN)	RSC	Regional Steering Committee
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management	SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
IORA	Indian Ocean Rim Association	SANDEE	South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics
IPCC	Inter-Governmental Panel for Climate Change	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature	SGF	Small Grant Facility (of MFF)
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing	Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
LECRd	Low Emissions Climate Resilient Development	TOR	Terms of Reference
KMC	Knowledge Management and Communications	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
MARPLASTICCs	Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
MCC	Mangroves and Climate Change component of MFF	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
MC	Management Committee (of MFF)	USAID-LEAF	United States Agency for International Development's Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests
MEE	Management Effectiveness Evaluation	WI	Wetlands International
MERN	Myanmar Environmental Rehabilitation-conservation Network	WI-IP	Wetlands International Indonesia Programme

15th Regional Steering Committee Meeting Mangroves for the Future

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RSC-15 Inauguration

Master of Ceremony: Ms. Citra Latif

Mr. Arifin Rudiyanto, Deputy Minister for Maritime & Natural Resources, Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas

Mr. Rudiyanto welcomed all participants on behalf of the Ministry of National Development Planning. He began by introducing the ambitious commitment made by Joko Widodo - President of the Republic of Indonesia – in 2015 to reduce national greenhouse gas (GHG) emission of 29 % by 2030. This includes activities to implement, monitor and evaluate the achievement of GHG emission reductions as stated in the National Determined Contribution or NDC. Efforts to achieve this target have been focused in several sectors including agriculture, forestry, waste, energy, transportation and industry. While the marine sector is not specifically included, it has been recognized that marine and coastal ecosystems make an important contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation. As the largest archipelagic country in the world, he encouraged Indonesia to pay more attention to the marine sector in its climate change mitigation and adaptation programming.

Mr. Rudiyanto also recognized the capacity of mangroves and seagrass as effective agents to reduce GHG emissions, more so than terrestrial forests. Indonesia has more coastal carbon, or so-called blue carbon ecosystems, than any other country globally. However, these valuable resources are declining rapidly due to competing land uses. Over the last 30 years, Indonesia has lost around 40% of its mangroves to aquaculture. This loss of mangroves contributes 42% of total blue carbon emissions, and is the equivalent to 11 million additional cars on Indonesia's roads each year. If Indonesia would stop mangrove deforestation, it would already contribute to 25% of its emission reduction target by 2020.

As the global leader in blue carbon ecosystems, Indonesia has an opportunity to demonstrate strong leadership and set the direction internationally for other countries. A focus on the carbon and productivity benefits of mangrove and seagrass ecosystems also provides an ideal mechanism to strengthen Indonesia's effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially SDG 13 Climate Action and SDG 14 Life Below Water. Without recognizing the true socioeconomic value of these ecosystems, and their critical role for fisheries, climate change and local communities, Indonesia's mangroves will continue to disappear.

A recent study showed that mangroves provides natural storm protection worth around USD10,000 per hectare per year for coastal communities and infrastructure. In addition, they also provide around USD1,000 per hectare per year as breeding and nursery habitats for coastal fisheries. The numbers are similar for seagrass. By allowing the destruction and degradation to continue, Indonesia will lose its primary nursery grounds for fish stocks, impacting on fisheries productivity, biodiversity, community livelihoods and food security and national sovereignty.

Mr. Rudiyanto added that Bappenas has developed its current policy to ensure that the future of Indonesia's development is directed towards low-carbon development to sustain economic and social growth while minimizing the exploitation of natural resources. In the context of SDGs, low carbon development is an environmental pillar that places the achievement of Goal 13 as the main base to support other socioeconomic goals. To achieve sustainable development, the Indonesian Government - through Bappenas - has developed the Low Carbon Development Plan (LCDP) which includes a set of inclusive development planning policies and low-carbon investment strategies designed for the next National Mid-term Development and Planning for 2020-2024, and the Roadmap of SDG 2030 that encourages Indonesia to reduce GHG Emissions. In the preparation of future policy directions, all sectors are taken into consideration including the marine biodiversity sector that is part of marine ecosystems carrying capacity.

In line with the integration of Blue Carbon into the LCDP, the Government of Indonesia - through Bappenas - is preparing the Indonesia Blue Carbon Strategy Framework (IBCSF). IBCSF is a platform to mainstream and coordinate the various initiatives and plans related to blue carbon in Indonesia's development planning. IBCSF integrates adaptation and mitigation efforts by strengthening coordination and cooperation among institutions, especially between BAPPENAS, KEMENKOMAR, KLHK and KKP. There are at least three priority areas that will be strengthened by IBCSF including the regulatory framework, institutional framework and the financial framework.

Mr. Rudiyanto thanked all MFF partners, and acknowledged that the RSC provided the opportunity for the sharing of knowledge and experience among member countries. He thanked the MFF Secretariat for providing technical support. He noted that improved policies and implementation of low-carbon development in the context of addressing climate change is certainly not the task of one country. This effort requires coordination and engagement of all elements of development, at the national and regional levels, with the support of all parties including governments, private sector, communities as well as national and international development partners.

He was very pleased to see that MFF has recognized Indonesia's efforts to protect and restore mangrove ecosystems in a significantly large area. Stakeholders' engagement process has been discussed more closely through the NCB meetings and its corresponding workshops. There are nine mainstreamed strategies and five cross-cutting issues derived from the National Strategy and Action Plan that have been implemented through small grant projects in Java and Sulawesi. He invited all international communities and organizations to support Indonesia's effort in making Blue Carbon a key policy for combating the negative impacts of climate change, and confirmed that this issue will be a national development priority for the implementation of GHG emission reduction over the next two years.

Mr. Rudiyanto concluded his welcoming remarks by reassuring all partners that Indonesia recognizes that its vast coastal resources are under threat, and that better solutions need to be found in collaboration with all development partners and stakeholders. Indonesia is working towards its contribution to international commitments such as UNFCCC, CBD Aichi Targets and SDGs. However, the country still lacks substantial assistance in terms of financial and technical

support to fulfill its commitments. He strongly recommended that development partners and MFF-Secretariat move forward with MFF's unique programme through regional collaboration, and by promoting more investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development.

Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director, IUCN Asia Regional Office

Ms. Kabraji welcomed all participants to the 15th RSC meeting, and thanked Bappenas for hosting the meeting. She acknowledged welcoming remarks from Mr. Rudiyanto, and was pleased to hear about Indonesia's climate change commitments. She proceeded to emphasise the history of the MFF initiative. From 2007 to 2018, MFF evolved from relief to a resilience. While the first Phase of MFF focused on a response to the tsunami, the second and third Phases evolved to build the resilience of communities, ecosystems and nations to manage the impacts of natural disasters and climate change. In particular, the MFF programme has been very successful in remaining responsive to changing national and regional policies and priorities, whilst also addressing the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the regional level MFF has strengthened cooperation between member countries for example, between Myanmar and Thailand; Cambodia and Thailand; Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The bilateral collaboration between the governments of Myanmar and Thailand through 'south-south' exchange visits between senior members of government built relations and discussed concrete areas for collaboration to manage and protect the coral reef ecosystems of the Myiek Archipelago, which are critical to the biodiversity and tourism of both countries, as well as the Mangrove Biosphere Reserve in Ranong. MFF has organized joint meetings between the NCBs of Cambodia and Thailand to have dialogues in relation to improving the management of the coastal areas in Koh Kong and Trat provinces. The two NCBs agreed on a joint management framework and action plan for Koh Kong and Trat, which addresses issues of common interest such as the development of community based ecotourism, alternative livelihoods for small scale fishers, marine protected areas for dolphins, organizations strengthening and capacity development of local authorities, communication and education. MFF was instrumental in sharing the Sri Lanka experience on setting up and operation of Private Sector Forum for Biodiversity Conservation (former Business – Biodiversity Platform now called Biodiversity Sri Lanka). MFF has also worked to promote transboundary cooperation for improved governance in the joint initiative to conservation the transboundary Ramsar sites between Iran and Pakistan resulting in a joint project proposal to strengthen conservation of the Gwatar Bay.

Ms. Kabraji noted recent examples demonstrating MFF's regional support for coastal governance, including the collaboration with PEMSEA to analyze trends and interests in private sector engagement in coastal resources management in the Southeast Asia Region, and the development of the Sustainable Business Roadmap to guide and strengthen private sector engagement. She also highlighted the partnership with SEAFDEC to build institutional and field level capacity for gender mainstreaming in coastal and fisheries management. The presence of SAARC and ACB at RSC-15 also demonstrates MFF's regional scope.

In terms of regional policy influence, MFF has provided support to its member countries to strengthen governance arrangements for coastal resources management, working with

government and non-government stakeholders to improve national policy and its implementation. As demonstrated by the MFF National Strategies and Action Plans, MFF country programs are largely driven by their national commitments to the multilateral environment agreements such the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) e.g. the Aichi Targets, targets under the RAMSAR convention, National Climate Change Strategy targets e.g. NDCs, and commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in general. Examples of national policy influence include: Establishing co-management in Xuan Thuy National Park in Viet Nam; Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) process in Trang and Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provinces in Thailand to create a neutral platform for the engagement of multiple stakeholders to collaborate on discussing resource use conflicts and identify practical management solutions; the use of the MFF National Strategy and Action Plan by the Coast Conservation Department, Sri Lanka to guide the preparation of its National ICM Strategy and Action Plan; the designation of Astola Island as the first ever Marine Protected Area in Pakistan has been strongly influenced by the Pakistan NCB. In Indonesia, the local government of Situbondo acknowledged the success of the mangrove rehabilitation and income generating activities implemented by grantees and encouraged local government to incorporate these types of activities into all local (district level) government programs. This was an important outcome as it indicates that local NGOs and CBOs are increasingly recognized by government as important partners for achieving sustainable development outcomes. She encouraged all participants to actively listen to country presentations for more information on these examples.

In terms of financial support, Sida has funded MFF since its inception in 2006, and Danida since 2014. Norad funded MFF from 2007 to 2012. Ms. Kabraji emphasized that defining the structure and funding of a potential future MFF programme is necessary as the current donor funding is phasing out in December 2018, and partners will be given an opportunity to participate in this new design. One potential future for MFF is its transition into a marine programme or a framework for coastal and marine programmes under an MFF-umbrella with national and regional governance bodies for knowledge sharing and policy influence. The funding for such a setup could come from a range of regional and national donors. She highlighted that MFF has been working on a proposal to GCF for climate change adaptation and to Norad to better integrate mangroves and coastal ecosystems in national REDD+ agendas.

Ms. Marker Kabraji concluded her welcoming remarks referring to the ongoing evaluation of MFF commissioned by Sida to describe how the lessons learned from MFF could find wider application in Sida's future work in the region. The evaluation will also provide input to Sida with regards to specific themes of particular interest that could potentially be supported beyond 2018. She encouraged all RSC-15 participants to actively engage with the reviewers during RSC-15.

Mr. Steen Christensen, MFF Programme Coordinator

Mr. Christensen welcomed all RSC-15 participants and also thanked the Ministry of National Development Planning for hosting the 15th RSC Meeting. He then expanded on the background of MFF recognizing in particular that the four core principles of MFF; people-focused, policy-relevant, partnership-based and investment-oriented; have been key success factors for implementation. Maintaining these principles has built and maintained strong national ownership, which is also reflected in the composition of National and Regional Steering Committees. By

engaging with governments, private sector and civil society, MFF has developed into a strong regional partnership with more 300 partners.

Since inception in 2006, MFF has promoted coastal ecosystems as vital for the sustainable development of coastal communities. These coastal ecosystems are crucial for sustaining livelihoods of millions of people in terms of food security, income, protection and shelters from waves and storm surges in a changing environment. MFF has primarily been a climate change adaptation programme with focus on livelihoods. However, there is a clear linkage to climate change mitigation since healthy and well-managed coastal ecosystems serve as important carbon sinks.

Mr. Christensen reflected on the first meeting of the MFF Regional Steering Committee, which took place in Bangkok in May 2007 and mainly focused on establishing the regional and national governance bodies, grant mechanisms, programmes of work, and on the capacity building and communication strategies. The RSC-15 meeting will be the last meeting to take place under the current funding Phase. Country presentations have been structured to provide a broad overview of national achievements and to facilitate discussions on key focus areas during Phase 3 including ICM, policy influence, marine protected areas, and livelihoods.

Mr. Christensen announced that the RSC-15 learning event would be facilitated by the Sida evaluation team, facilitated by Mr. Ake Nilsson, and would be an opportunity for all participants to share experiences and lessons learned. It will include focus group discussions covering climate-change resilience, gender equality, governance, private sector engagement and learning, knowledge exchange and policy action. He concluded by encouraging all RSC members and observers to actively participate for a successful meeting.

Mr. Jose Padilla, Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP Regional Hub, Bangkok

Mr. Jose Padilla welcomed and thanked Mr. Rudiyanto, Ms. Kabraji, Mr. Christensen, and all colleagues for attending the RSC. The engagement of UNDP has evolved over the years, however, UNDP has remained committed in the MFF initiative.

Resilience, as a central theme in MFF, could not be more appropriate in the context of a changing climate. Mr. Jose Padilla mentioned a case from the Philippines which is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world with an average of 20 cyclones every year. Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013 claimed over 6,000 lives. It also led to billions of dollars in damage to infrastructure and property, not to mention damage to natural ecosystems. It was concluded that flood risk in Tacloban, the main city in its path, was exacerbated by gaps in the coastal green belt. In the wake of the typhoon the experience of people in coastal communities made the local government see the value of mangrove forests which can decrease the height of waves by up to 66%.

UNDP's recognizes MFF's contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Although MFF started long before the SDGs were adopted by the global community in September 2015, it is worth noting that it is connected to and contributes to all 17 SDGs. Goal 1 on poverty, Goal 5 on gender, Goal 14 on ocean resources, Goal 13 on climate action, and

increasingly Goal 17 on global partnerships are particularly central to MFF's current work and long-term plans.

He noted that since 2006, MFF has invested heavily in its soft governance structure, which created very good results. From his own experience, the success of regional programmes is very much dependent on ensuring that the appropriate governance structure is in place. It is important to build on existing institutions and where appropriate formulate an additional structure in close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders. MFF has now firmly established such a structure. The Regional Steering Committee provides strategic leadership, the Management Committee facilitates decision making on strategic program implementation in between RSC meetings and the National Coordination Bodies coordinated MFF activities at the national level.

He concluded his remarks by encouraging the countries, partners and donors to continue supporting MFF as its framework has been accepted, and the delivery mechanism is in place, He strongly hoped for MFF to be enabled to continue to deliver on its objectives.

SESSION 1: Progress Update from MFF Secretariat

Co-Chairs: Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director, IUCN, ARO; Mr. Jose Padilla, Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP Regional Hub, Bangkok; Mr. Nyoman N. Suryadiputra, Director, Wetland International Indonesia

Ms. Kabraji emphasised that considering the third Phase of MFF is coming to a close, it would be critical to discuss MFF's future during the RSC meeting. During last RSC two meetings, sustainability plans have been presented and countries will again provide updates on their progress implementing these plans.

Ms. Kabraji provided a short update regarding the inception phase of the 'Mangroves and REDD+' project supported by Norway. Whilst three MFF member countries had been selected for inclusion in the full project proposal, other countries had participated in initial activities in the inception Phase, including participating in a regional training workshop. Ms. Kabraji noted that, following the submission of the draft full proposal, Norway may now be taking a different position and has indicated that they will not fund the project. She requested that MFF representatives work with their respective line ministries to draft a letter to the Royal Norwegian Embassy to enquire about the status of the proposal and request a meeting clarify next steps.

Ms. Kabraji continued to provide an update on the status of the BiCCRA proposal to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Although, regional proposals were encouraged at the start, and MFF was seen as a good example of a replicable climate-change resilience program, the latest response from GCF showed a different angle. It seems that the GCF Secretariat encourages MFF to proceed with single-country and transboundary proposals e.g. Cambodia-Viet Nam, Thailand-Myanmar and single country proposals for Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh instead of the regional approach that was once proposed and approved. Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji explained that MFF will seek the views of all countries regarding their preferred approach, and bilateral

discussions with GCF may be necessary in the near future. There are two potential approaches; single country proposals in the amount of USD 20 – 30 million each, or a regional approach with eight countries with a total amount around USD 50 – 60 million. If proposals are submitted one-by-one, it might delay the process for all countries to receive GCF funding with several years.

Ms. Kabraji announced that she, along with Mr. Steen Christensen and Mr. Chris Howe, will be meeting with the GCF-Secretariat in Songdo, South-Korea on Monday, 1st October to discuss the BiCCRA project along with other IUCN project proposals. She encouraged MFF countries to consult their NDAs to confirm that they would prefer maintaining the regional approach that has no-objection letters from all eight countries rather than opt for the single-country and transboundary approach.

Mr. Jose Padilla noted his support to maintain the regional structure of MFF. He added that MFF should consider submitting a regional scale proposal to GEF7. He recommended each country stay informed about ongoing national prioritization dialogues for GEF7.

Introduction

Mr. Steen Christensen started his presentation by thanking the co-chairs for their interest in widening the perspective of the RSC meeting this year and that the scope of Secretariat and country reports will include the entire duration of Phase 3. Referring to the presence of the Sida evaluation team, he encouraged all RSC-15 participants to engage them in discussions and be available for side meetings as requested. The evaluation team was briefly introduced:

Mr. Ake Nilsson, leader of the evaluation team, was invited to give a brief overview of the evaluation process and the main points of the TORs. The five experts of the evaluation team were introduced: Mr. Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, environmental specialist from Bangladesh; Ms. Kusum Athukorala, governance, resilience and gender specialist from Sri Lanka; Ms. Juairia Sidabutar, monitoring and valuation specialist from Indonesia; Mr. Dao Duc Liem, agro-ecology and community resilience specialist from Viet Nam; and Ms. Nilovna Ghosh knowledge and communications specialists from India.

Update on Programme Implementation

Grant Implementation

Mr. Steen Christensen; MFF Coordinator

Mr. Christensen provided a brief overview of the implementation status of the MFF Grant Facilities in Phase 3:

- Phase 3 (2014-2018): 151 small grants commissioned, 145 completed, 3 terminated, 3 ongoing
- MFF financial contribution: 2.3 million USD
- Co-financing and in-kind contribution: 1.4 million USD
- Many countries leveraged funding from other sources: 3 million USD, which is an indicator of successful country ownership

The presentation also gave an overview of the SGF implementation by partner type. From a total of 151 projects, 38% were implemented by NGOs, 33% by CBOs, 10% by government offices, 9% by national research institutes, 7% academia, and 2% by private sector.

A review of other types of grants was also provided. In total 8 project under the Medium Grant Facility and 5 under the Regional Initiatives have been completed and are all fully reported. In 2016 MFF established the Special Grant Facility focusing on small scale investments to address priorities; gender mainstreaming, private sector engagement, and special studies. A total of 34 projects have been commissioned under this facility, 24 have been completed and 10 will be completed by the end of October 2018.

(Link to [presentation](#) and [working paper](#))

Gender Mainstreaming

Ms. Maeve Nightingale; Programme Manager, Capacity Development

Ms. Nightingale provided an update on the integration of gender to the MFF programme in Phase 3 in reference to the 4 key focus areas of the MFF Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Gender Integration. The main results under each area were summarized as follows:

1. Internal Governance and Institutional Arrangements

MFF has established a Gender Advisory Panel with representatives from different organizations in the region such as IUCN, UNEP, UNDP, UN Women, WOCAN and SEI. The Gender Roster includes 49 national, and 123 regional, experts.

2. Programme Planning and Implementation

Starting in 2016, MFF introduced the Special Grant Facility for Gender Mainstreaming. The results of these special grants will be consolidated in the summary report for the Regional Gender Study.

Gender is also integrated into key stages of MFF's programmatic planning and implementation processes. Main indicators include

- The MFF Resilience Analysis Protocol (RAP) includes a preliminary Gender Analysis (GA)
- Gender focused projects in the Special Grants Facility supported gender specific analyses in 12 target sites in 7 countries.
- Gender considerations are integrated to SGF project development and implementation processes. 78% of all SGFs were considered gender responsive
- MFF indicators for gender equality and women's empowerment integrated to MLE framework

3. Policy influence

- Gender issues integrated to MFF National Strategies and Action Plans in most countries
- Gender Focal persons identified on all NCBs
- National Policy Analyses/ Country Profiles completed in March 2018 as part of the Regional Gender Study
- Gender integration in National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP) Myanmar

In terms of regional/ global policy influence, the Regional Gender Study undertaken by MFF, SEAFDEC and SEI aimed to examine gender dimensions in coastal resources management. The study included a literature review, a series of country profiles and national policy analysis, development of a gender analysis toolkit for practitioners, and capacity development activities. The completion report of the Regional Gender Study is currently being drafted and findings will be presented at a workshop to take place in Bangkok in November in collaboration with SEAFDEC and SEI.

4. Capacity Development

- MFF organized a regional workshop, facilitated by Ms. Kalpana Giri (a gender expert, formerly at SEI), where national coordinators and NCB gender focal points were trained on the application of the MFF gender analysis tool and methodology. MFF Pakistan and MFF Bangladesh also shared their experience of applying the tool in the field. All participants were also given the opportunity to provide feedback on the gender analysis tool.
- A one-week field visit to Nijhum Dwip, Bangladesh, took place from 28th January to 3rd February 2018 where the MFF Bangladesh team and one of the MFF national gender focal persons from India took part in the Gender Assessment (GA) of Nijhum Dwip. Mentored by SEI, participants engaged in structured peer to peer learning to design and conduct of the GA in Nijhum Dwip. The peer to peer learning contributed to improving the skills and awareness for gender integrated planning of MFF staff and staff of local partner organizations from Bangladesh and India, discussing the implications of the initial GA results in the context of developing gender related theory of change and the development of gender responsive MPA project.
- MFF contributed to the development of CBD gender training materials aimed at building capacity of national policy makers to integrate gender into national CBD policy and implementation
- Ms. Nightingale concluded her presentation by giving an overview of gender knowledge and communications products that have been produced during Phase 3. She highlighted MFF's contribution to SEI's publication on experience of gender mainstreaming in the MFF programme and that 16 gender related news stories have been produced as well as a gender mainstreaming brochure outlining MFF's approach.

(Link to [presentation](#) and [working paper](#))

Capacity Development

Ms. Maeve Nightingale; Programme Manager, Capacity Development

Ms. Nightingale MFF provided an update on the progress of MFF's Capacity Development Strategy since the beginning of Phase 3:

1. Developing capacity to implement the MFF Resilience Framework

- The Resilience Analysis (RA) is the initial step towards implementation of the MFF Resilience Framework. Results of the RA provide the strategic direction for coastal management action and investment through the SGF mechanism as well as other

investment opportunities. In 2015 -2016 all countries successfully completed the RAP for priority geographic areas

- In 2016 a new MLE framework and tools were introduced to strengthen the monitoring and reporting against resilience indicators
- Collaboration with Regional Training Courses
 - MFF/AIT ICM Regional Courses completed in 2015 and 2018
 - Managing Risk in the Face of Climate Change Wageningen Center for Innovation

2. Supporting higher academic training and education to strengthen coastal management capacity of government and NGO in MFF countries

- The fifth MFF-AIT Integrated Coastal Management (ICM-5) Regional Course took place in Thailand during June-July 2015, bringing the total number of alumni for the course to 140 people.
- To develop capacity at the national level MFF has supported the development of national ICM courses in five MFF countries. In 2015 all MFF partner countries undertook National Capacity Needs Assessments and five priority countries were identified; Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Between 2016 and 2018 MFF has worked to ensure that the ICM post-graduate certificate course be developed in each of these countries and offered as a permanent professional course. In 2016, MFF organized national workshops in all five countries to elaborate strategies for the development of national ICM courses. In 2018, MFF worked closely with nine national university partners and four government departments in the five select countries to develop appropriate national curricula and training capacity.
- The MFF-AIT Regional ICM Course Training of Trainers Course took place in June-July 2018. 25 participants from the five priority countries successfully completed the course and finalized national ICM curricula.
- In response to a specific need identified during a survey of ICM course alumni, MFF has developed an ICM Participants' Handbook to support the application of ICM training across the region.

3. Regional Symposia and Learning Events

- In collaboration with the Stimson Center, MFF organized the US-ASEAN Conference on Marine Environmental Issues in the Seas of Southeast Asia in September 2017. The conference provided a platform for environmental/marine experts to make recommendations for policy makers in ASEAN and the wider Asia-Pacific multi-lateral architecture.
- Throughout Phase 3 MFF has implemented regional learning events in combination with the annual RCS meeting. For example;
- the RSC-13 Learning Event explored the theme of Social Empowerment - national contexts and sharing examples of how MFF is able to strengthen social empowerment through its programme implementation.
- the RSC-14 Learning Event provided an introduction to REDD+ and discussed opportunities for mangrove to be better included in national approaches to REDD+
- Building on this, in January 2018, MFF hosted a 5-day REDD+ Academy training delivered by the UN-REDD programme to strengthen the capacity of MFF staff in REDD+ related topics.

4. *Business and Biodiversity Training and/or technical support for Private Sector Engagement*

- PATA Members Training 2016 – IUCN WBCSD Business Environment Training and case studies related to sustainable tourism
- PATA New Tourism Frontiers Forum (NTFF)
- MFF Bangladesh moderated a session at the 2016 Cox's Bazar's NTFF. The event gathered all key national tourism stakeholders. Following this, MFF was mandated to lead a national roundtable consultation on sustainable coastal tourism. The planned output is a national framework for sustainable coastal tourism.

(Link to [presentation](#) and [working paper](#))

Private Sector Engagement

Ms. Ann Moey; Head of Communications, IUCN ARO, Focal Point for Private Sector Engagement

Ms. Moey provided an overview of Private Sector Engagement in Phase 3. The objective of the MFF's Private Sector Engagement strategy is to improve the overall sustainability of business practices in the coastal zone, and to make a business case for coastal ecosystem conservation and community resilience by promoting good practices while discouraging those destructive to coastal ecosystems.

Achievements relative to the four entry points identified in the strategy were summarised.

1. Businesses adopt policies and practices to conserve and restore coastal ecosystems and resource-dependent coastal communities

At the regional level, MFF has established partnerships with or collaborated with;

- PATA in 2015 to strengthen sustainable tourism in the region. As part of the partnership, MFF hosted a Business for Ecosystems training for PATA members at the PATA Training Academy in 2015.
- PEMSEA in 2017, and has collaborated with them to develop a Sustainable Business Roadmap for Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam to be released in 2018. MFF and PEMSEA are also in the process of establishing a regional platform that aims to bring companies in the coastal and marine sectors together to tackle marine plastic pollution.
- Eco-Business in 2017, a media company serving Asia Pacific's sustainable business community. With this partnership, MFF has been able to share its work more widely with the sustainable business community by publishing relevant articles on the company's news platform.
- Soneva in 2018, a luxury resort, with properties in the Maldives and Thailand, to collaborate on initiatives related to coastal conservation and sustainable development, within and beyond Soneva properties.
- The Thailand Business Council on Sustainable Development and the Viet Nam Business Council on Sustainable Development, in 2018, to influence companies to adopt practices and approaches to tackle the marine plastic pollution crisis, as part of the IUCN global MARPLASTICCs initiative.

MFF has also participated in national, regional and global events for policy influence and awareness. These events include:

- Biodiversity Sri Lanka event on Sustainable Tourism in Sri Lanka
- Responsible Business Forum in Singapore
- PATA New Tourism Frontiers Forum in Thailand & Bangladesh
- World Ocean Summit in Indonesia
- UN Ocean Conference in the USA

At the national level MFF has established partnerships with Marriott Hotels and Resorts in Thailand. The partnership aims to protect the environment and support Thailand's local communities through mangrove restoration, use of locally sourced seafood and local procurement of souvenirs in Bangkok, Phuket, Koh Samui and Rayong. The partnership has restored 16 ha of mangrove forests, led to the purchasing of 5.5 mil Baht worth of locally sourced seafood & handicrafts from communities, improved livelihoods of over 70 families, and development of ecosystem profiles for three Marriott properties.

MFF has also continued to facilitate the establishment of Business and Conservation platforms in MFF member countries. These platforms are:

- Biodiversity Sri Lanka, established in 2014
- Karachi Conservation in Pakistan, established in 2017
- Thailand Biodiversity Network Alliance (B-DNA) in Thailand, launched in 2018

2. Supply-chains apply sustainability measures that positively impact coastal biodiversity and coastal livelihoods

MFF's small and medium grant projects have supported the establishment of sustainable community enterprises. Through the 'Road to Resilience' medium grant project, which included a mangrove shrimp polyculture component, farmers restored 50 % mangrove cover around their ponds and sold their organic shrimp to the Mostafa Organic Shrimp company.

3. Coastal communities are engaged in community-based resources management and develop small-scale sustainable enterprises

MFF SGF projects focusing on ecotourism, aquaculture, fisheries and community-based enterprises have been successfully implemented. For example, in Cam Thanh commune, MFF Viet Nam worked with a local tour operator to integrate an eco-tour led by local communities. MFF also supported the Women Union of Cam Thanh commune to develop and operate a sustainable home-stay concept. In Joar, Shyamnagar, Bangladesh, MFF worked with local communities to build eco-cottages for local and foreign tourists interested in community-based tourism.

4. Private Sector representatives are directly engaged in MFF Governance

Seven MFF NCBs' include representatives from the private sector. This has remained consistent since 2014, however there are more private sector entities represented in some of the NCB, for example in the Maldives and Cambodia.

These include;

Bangladesh

- Bangladesh Association of Banks
- Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh
- Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters Association
- Bangladesh Television

Cambodia

- Mong Rethrethy Group
- Sokha Hotel

India

- Tata Chemicals

- Hazira Ports

Pakistan

- Engro Foundation

Maldives

- Water Solutions
- Renewable Energy
- CDE Consulting

Sri Lanka

- Hoteliers Association of Sri Lanka

Viet Nam

- Minh Phu Seafood

Under Small Grant Facility for Private Sector, MFF matches cash funding from the private sector. Two projects have been initiated:

1. Thailand. Implemented by Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University and co-funded by Marriott and MFF, this project, which started in 2018 and is still running, aims to help Bangkhaeo community in applying community based-integrated coastal management and to secure management rights for critical ecosystems resources. The total project value is USD 20,000.
2. India. Implemented by Wetlands International and co-funded by Tata Chemicals Society for Rural Development (TCSR) and MFF, this project, initiated in 2015, led to a successful participatory management planning strategy for the Chandrabhaga wetlands in Gujarat.

Prior to that, from December 2016 and February 2017, stakeholders' capacity needs were determined and elements for a local knowledge centre on wetland ecosystem services and biodiversity were finalized. Monitoring and evaluation protocols, as well as mechanisms for implementation by the local community, were designed shortly after. The total project value is USD 48,000.

Subject to funding availability, MFF will continue exploring PSE opportunities in the new MARPLASTICCs initiative, establish a regional alliance in collaboration with PEMSEA, encourage member countries to establish multi-stakeholder Business & Conservation platforms, capitalize on current networks to explore and develop new partnerships, and capitalize on national level partnerships to develop partnerships at the regional level.

(Link to [presentation](#) and [working paper](#))

Knowledge Management and Communications (KMC)

Mr. Alex McWilliam; Programme Manager, Knowledge and Sustainability

Mr. McWilliam provided an overview of the implementation of the KMC Strategy during Phase 3. There are 4 focus areas described in the strategy, all of which support the overall goal and Outcome Objectives of MFF.

1. Outreach and external communications.

To have influence MFF needed to project itself as an influential initiative, visible to key audiences

More than 160 stories communicating MFFs projects and activities have been produced and shared during Phase 3, and MFF has established relationships with both local and international news networks to extend the reach of these communications. These include Thomson Reuters and Eco-Business. The MFF website was revised and optimized for mobile viewing, making it more accessible and engaging. A 'search engine optimization' process was completed in 2017 to ensure that MFF is featured at the top of primary search results linked to keywords relevant to MFF.

Since 2014, the number of unique visitors and number of visits to the website has been consistently increasing, and the number of unique page hits has seen a generally upward trend. Between 2014 and 2017, the number of unique visitors and total visits more than doubled, while the number of page hits increased by almost 50%. In 2018, based on this year's average numbers per month, there will likely be a 21% increase in unique visitors, a 26% increase in total visits, and a 10% increase in page hits from 2017.

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MFF participated in several local, regional and international conference/ events to increase its visibility and outreach to audiences. This includes:

- IUCN World Parks Congress (2014)
- 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (2014)
- Colloquium on Resilience for Development (2017)
- UN Oceans Conference (2017)
- East Asian Summit on Combatting Marine Plastic Debris (2017)
- US-ASEAN Conference on Marine Environmental Issues (2018)

MFF is now also part of key mangrove knowledge exchange platforms such as:

- Global Mangrove Alliance, established in 2017 with IUCN as founding member
- Community of Ocean Action for Mangroves, IUCN and Ramsar are focal points. MFF taking a leading role in the Asia region and hosted the first meeting of the community in Asia on 12th September

2. Monitoring Reporting and Learning.

MFF has developed and used systems (for example the Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation (MLE) Framework, Document Management System (DMS), website) that allow to the programme to gather, analyze and synthesize information and knowledge making it accessible for application by others partners and stakeholders.

MFF has produced hundreds of 'explicit' knowledge products during Phase 3. This includes strategies, reports, syntheses, case studies, scientific papers, factsheets, pamphlets, information briefs, policy recommendation papers. Some examples of knowledge products that resulted from regional and national MFF projects area provide below.

Implemented by FAO through MFF's Regional Grant Facility the project "Income for Coastal Communities for Mangrove Protection" aimed to develop a low-cost mechanism enabling investors to responsibly promote mangrove conservation and restoration, carbon emissions reduction and sustainable development through the provision of funding to local communities. The project was implemented in Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam. One of the publications from the project, the Mangrove Carbon Estimator and Monitoring Guide, is now being used by the Fisheries Administration in Cambodia in mangrove reforestation monitoring trials, and has also been used to estimate carbon values in flooded forest sites around the Tonle Sap lake.

At a national level, several publications were finalized and released in the last 12 months. In Cambodia, a MFF funded research about the carbon stock of peat soils in mangrove forests in Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary, was published in the Cambodian Journal of Natural History. This study highlighted the significant carbon storage of peatlands in the target area, up to 18x more than terrestrial deciduous forest, and emphasized the importance of considering peatlands in climate mitigation strategies. Resulting from an MFF large grant project, the IUCN/SBR written chapter on Participatory Wetland Management: a solution to conservation challenges in the Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve, was published in the online version of the special edition on Wetlands of South Asia, by Springer Journals. In Pakistan, as part of an MFF SGF project, research about mangrove ecosystem services in the Indus Delta was published in the Journal of Geoscience and Environment Protection. In particular, the study highlighted the important relationship between mangrove and nutrient flows and fisheries.

All MFF programme documents are compiled and collated on the Document Management System (DMS), which primarily serves internal MFF audiences such as the programme staff, NCB members, institutional partners, and donors. However, MFF has actively shared these resources with external audiences using other avenues including the website, mails to target audiences and quarterly newsletters.

MFF has now initiated an Analysis of MFF Phase 3 Small Grant Facility Projects. A consultant has been engaged to work with the Regional Secretariat to undertake the study, primarily focusing in four countries; India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The objective of the study is to analyse how the SGF project portfolio has contributed to the programme outcome and objectives, and identify emergent lessons learned. A concept note, with guiding questions, for the assignment has been prepared and is available on the DMS. The first draft of the final report from this analysis will be completed by the end of 2018.

3. *Knowledge Transfer and Capacity Development*

This area focused on managing sharing both internal and external knowledge, capture and exchange the ‘tacit knowledge’ that resides within people. Throughout Phase 3 MFF has hosted and participated in important events to facilitate knowledge exchange and learning. These events are critical, not only for sharing lessons learned, but also facilitating the development of networks and identifying opportunities for collaboration. This includes;

- National SGF end of cycle workshops implemented by some countries to bring grantees together at the completion of a grant cycle to share experiences and lessons learned.
- RSC and NCB meetings as important platforms to share tacit knowledge
- Project MLE processes gathering NCB members, grantees and the Regional Secretariat. This is an important platform for policy makers in the NCBs to learn about on the ground projects and be able to use these experiences to influence policy at local and national levels.
- Phase 3 National Completion Workshops. Eight countries have completed this workshop intending to summarize MFF impacts and lessons learned and reach a wide audience who could potentially invest further in MFF projects.

Knowledge transfer also takes place via inter-country exchange visits such as between Myanmar and Thailand to learn about Mangrove Protected Area Management (Ranong Biosphere Reserve), and Thailand and Bangladesh to prepare a World Heritage Listing and share experiences in mangroves co-management.

- Myanmar and Thailand - In December 2017 a 12 member delegation from Myanmar participated in the visit to Thailand including two representatives from the Ministry for the Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC), three representatives from the Marine Science Departments at Myiek, Mawlamyine, and representatives from Patheingyi Universities, the Forest Department, Environment Conservation Department, in addition to NCB members from government agencies responsible for tourism and fisheries. In Thailand, the delegation was received by senior representatives from the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources including the Head of the Mangrove Conservation Unit. The delegation visited the Mangrove Biosphere Reserve in Ranong to discuss management strategies for mangrove conservation areas; the Marine Biological Center in Phuket to hear about the long term research on marine species, and explore how the Department of Marine and Coastal Resource’s policies support and promote community engagement in coastal management. Also, in Phuket the delegation visited former MFF small grantees to working on community based management and tourism in mangrove areas This exchange visit supported the on-going government to government commitment to establish joint management of the Myiek Archipelago an important transboundary biodiversity hotspot for the Andaman coast and SE Asian region as a whole.
- Thailand and Bangladesh – In April 2017, a nine member delegation from Thailand including seven officials from Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, led by Dr. Sonjai Havanond, Expert of Marine and Coastal Resources Management and NCB Thailand Advisor together with one representative from civil society, Mr. Tanu Nabnien and Ms. Siriporn Sriaram, MFF Thailand National Coordinator, visited the Bangladesh

Sundarban Mangrove World Heritage Site in Bangladesh. This visit was based on the interests of the Thailand government to propose World Heritage (WH) status for the Ranong Coastal Wetland, and to learn from counterparts in Bangladesh about the processes needed to obtain WH status, management strategy employed to manage natural resources in the Sundarbans in collaboration with local communities, and also understand how the resilience approach has been applied in the Shyamnagar area of the Sundarbans under MFF.

During 2017, processes were initiated to develop a knowledge hub to support MFF programme objectives, share the wealth of knowledge in the existing MFF network, maintain the visibility of the programme, and contribute to policy influence and long term sustainability. To establish thematic areas where MFF can best add value to existing knowledge hubs or similar initiatives MFF has completed an environmental scan in combination with consultations with MFF staff in partner countries. During a consultation held with MFF staff across the region in May 2017 a list of existing knowledge hubs across the region was compiled. Furthermore, input was sought from regional stakeholders during RSC-14. Based on this environmental scan and consultations, and considering the current outlook of the programme in the near future, MFF has identified a two pronged approach to establishing a knowledge hub; MFF Solutions, and MFF Knowledge Networks. This knowledge hub will be integrated to the existing MFF website thus providing an easy access point to each component of the hub for a wide audience, but also encourage users to further utilize other knowledge resources already contained on the website. MFF Solutions will profile best practice case studies from MFF projects implemented utilizing the MFF Grant Facilities. MFF Knowledge Networks are an informal collection of people with expertise in a particular field and a common desire to share knowledge, solutions, and experience across organizational boundaries.

MFF Knowledge Networks will contribute to peer to peer learning under three main focus areas: Gender and Coastal Resource Management, Integrated Coastal Management Training Development (made of Members from the ICM ToT course and coordinated by Pakistan) and Marine Protected Areas. Each of these knowledge networks will have its own page with a discussion forum open to the public. Social media pages are already available, and webinars will be organized before the end of 2018.

To complement our existing knowledge platform, MFF recently established a closed Facebook group, Roots Across the Region. This is intended to be an informal group, a way for those involved with, and interested in, Mangroves for the Future to connect with each other, share stories, pictures, and experiences, and build a community that is dedicated to the sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment. Currently, the group membership is extended to the MFF staff, IUCN staff in the Asia Regional Office and MFF countries, NCB members, institutional partners, and donors.

4. Policy Influence.

MFF Knowledge has been applied for improved governance and policy influence in many cases. Recent examples include:

- Bangladesh, Cambodia & Pakistan – MPAs
- Myanmar – establish NCRMC, National ICM Programme

- Maldives – management plan development for 3 northern mangrove areas
- Sri Lanka – sub national area based planning

Mr. McWilliam concluded his presentation by highlighting some of the key activities moving forward for Knowledge Management and Communications to be completed by the end of 2018. In terms of Outreach and External Communications: efforts will be put on communicating in a strategic manner targeting key audience, such as policy makers and the private sector. Stories will be developed that capture how MFF has made an impact over several years, and more stories of change will be shared. The DMS as system for storing and sharing MFF knowledge will be evaluated and improved. MFF will also be undertaking an analysis of the Small Grant Facility during Phase 3 to assess how the SGF portfolio has contributed to the programme outcome and objectives, and identify emergent lessons learned.

(Link to [presentation](#) and [working paper](#))

Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities (MARPLASTICCS)

Ms. Maeve Nightingale; Programme Manager, Capacity Development

The Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities Initiative (MARPLASTICCS) is a 3-year initiative (2017-2020) that has been developed by the Global Marine and Polar Program (GMPP) and is funded by Sida. MARPLASTICCS is implemented in two regions: East and South-Africa and East Asia.

Plastic is a synthetic organic polymer made from petroleum with properties ideally suited for a wide variety of applications. Plastic is cheap, lightweight, strong and malleable. Only 9 % of plastic waste is recycled. The rest is incinerated or accumulated in landfills. Plastic fragments into small particles called (micro- and nano-plastics) due to natural factors. Eight million metric tons of plastic end up in our oceans every year.

The goals of the project are;

1. Government, Industry and Society are equipped with more knowledge, policy options and plans of action
2. Governments and Regional Bodies promote, enact and enforce legislation and other effective measures
3. Marine plastic pollution is contained and reduced

The outputs of the project are;

- Knowledge: Better understand the state and impact of plastic pollution
- Capacity: Support national action to control plastic pollution
- Policy: Support national and regional policy frameworks and legislative reform processes
- Business: Engage and mobilize business actors. A footprint calculator is currently being tested by several corporations. It will be demonstrated in Viet Nam and Thailand.

Many countries outside Thailand and Viet Nam are very concerned about this issue and could benefit from the planned deliverables from the project. There is very limited data to understand the issue at a national level. The plastic footprint calculator (input/ output models) should respond

to this need and will be available by January 2019. The project will undertake an economic analysis to show alternative scenarios to the Business As Usual scenario.

In September 2018, workshops were completed in Thailand and Viet Nam to develop a theory of change for the project in each country. All relevant national level stakeholders from government, academia and the private sector attended the workshops to share information about their own initiatives and ideas for collaboration within the MARPLASTICCS' work plan. At the workshops many acknowledged that discussion between governments and companies on this issue is currently limited and voiced their support for a multi-stakeholder platform to continue dialogues and harmonizing the efforts of various stakeholders. Ms. Nightingale noted that this project could easily evolve to include other countries in the Asia region and is already collaborating with a similar initiative led by UN Environment. Three separate workshops – one for Academia and NGOs, one for Private Sector, and one for government officials will be organized by the end of 2018 to refine the work plan particularly in regards to pilot sites selection in each country.

(Link to [presentation](#) and [working paper](#))

Summary of discussion

Mr. Jose Padilla thanked the MFF team for providing the summary updates and acknowledged the extensive accomplishments in the region during Phase 3. He suggested that recommended that countries could present information against common indicators such as beneficiaries or hectares of mangroves restored to summarize impact over time. Mr. Nyoman N. Suryadiputra, Indonesia, indicated that his country presentation includes such figures. Mr. Ake Nilsson added that his team will make use of quantitative data provided by MFF. Mr. Steen Christensen also stated that quantitative data collection has been an important focus of Phase 3 compared to Phases 1 and 2. Information about beneficiaries, livelihoods improvements (income increase, livelihoods diversification) etc. will be presented in the final Phase 3 completion report to the extent possible.

Mr. Nyoman N. Suryadiputra, Indonesia, raised a point about leveraging. The figures mentioned in Mr. Steen Christensen's presentation seem lower than the actual figures. Mr. Christensen responded that conservative figures have been presented, and if countries can demonstrate higher leveraging it is important communicate it to the MFF-Secretariat to be included in the final report.

Indonesia and Seychelles mentioned their interest in the MARPLASTICCS project. Mr. Nyoman N. Suryadiputra, Indonesia, stated that marine debris is a key topic for the UN Ocean Conference taking place in Nusa Dua, Bali on 28th - 29th October 2018. Indonesia is also in the process of formulating an action plan on plastic waste reduction, and is interested to hear more about the plastic footprint calculator once it is made available to countries. Denis Matatiken, Seychelles, added that the government of Seychelles has recently banned the import of plastic bags. Single-use plastics in general will be banned in the Seychelles from January 2019 onwards.

Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema thanked Sida and other programme partners for their support, and shared his appreciation of the RSC meetings, where ideas can be shared to inform work in other

countries regions. In particular, he appreciated Jose Padilla's suggestion to pursue a regional concept for submission to GEF-7.

Mr. Jake Brunner, Head of Indo Burma Group IUCN, reflected on the extensive body of work that has been accomplished during Phase 3, and the implementation of 151 Small Grant Facility projects. He highlighted that he saw a change in the region, e.g. a renewed interest in habitat conservation and a focus on establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPA). The MPA network expansion in Cambodia is a very positive sign, and others such as in Myanmar, are following this trend. He added that transboundary collaboration is very important for facilitating management of shared resources and for sharing experiences. The types of exchange visits that MFF facilitates bring intangible impacts that cannot be measured, however, they are important to keep building momentum on important coastal conservation issues.

Mr. Mason Smith, Regional Director IUCN Oceania, explained that learning from MFF's governance structure and coordination mechanism is providing valuable input and lessons for the establishment of a regional programme in the Pacific region. Gender is also an important cross-cutting issue for the Pacific region as women are highly dependent on mangrove resources for their livelihoods and it is important to include them in decision making for restoration and management planning. The Oceania Region would also welcome collaboration to strengthen ICM capacity development given the increasing need in both the education and government sectors.

Project Proposals Update

Building Climate Change Resilient Coastal Communities and Ecosystems in Asia (BICCRA)

Mr. Christopher Howe, Director of Projects, Development & Monitoring, IUCN ARO

One of the potential sources of funding for MFF moving forward is The Green Climate Fund (GCF). GCF is a financial instrument of the UNFCCC, and regards itself as an investments fund. It takes a very different approach to work with GCF, one that is quite new to IUCN. At the same time, there are ongoing institutional challenges within GCF.

Mr. Howe explained that the GCF progression of the BICCRA proposal had not gone as planned following feedback from GCF received in March 2018. The proposal has now been restructured and feasibility studies in each of the eight countries are ongoing. BICCRA is a regional scope proposal with a grant making mechanism, targeting sites selected by the countries, and making use of the MFF soft governance mechanism. However, this is a new approach for GCF and thus there is additional scrutiny of the proposal by GCF. A meeting with the GCF Secretariat will take place in early October 2018 to discuss the revisions and if they are accepted by the GCF, implementation could potentially start in January 2020.

Four main changes have been made to the proposal. 1) rather than themes, it is now structured around components: grants, knowledge management and the soft governance platform. 2) the majority of GCF funding is requested for grants, 3) co-financing is proposed to support the MFF platform, and 4) feasibility studies have been initiated for each country. As highly detailed information is required per country, MFF has hired a consultant to lead the work with support from MFF regional and national secretariats. Several aspects of the proposal still need to be finalized before MFF can re-submit the funding proposal to GCF including:

- Finalize the feasibility study
- Revise the grant-making guidelines
- Revise and augment budget detail
- Undertake further economic analysis to estimate rate of return
- Rethink ESMS and Gender component based on feasibility study content
- Prepare operations and maintenance plan

Mr. Christopher Howe also presented an overview of selected IUCN Asia coastal proposals in development:

- Maldives, USAID
- BOBLME GEF-6 and potential GEF-7
- Pakistan private sector
- Coastal Integrated Tiger Project
- Myanmar coastal, GEF-7
- Myanmar forests, GCF
- Maldives possible GEF-7 and GCF
- Viet Nam and Cambodia, GEF-7
- Indonesia, GEF-7
- Other GEF-7 possibilities around the region

(Link to [presentation](#))

Summary of discussion

All eight countries currently included in the BICCRA proposal expressed their support for a regional proposal rather than a cluster of single-country approaches and/or transboundary approaches. Bangladesh has already submitted a national climate-change adaptation project, and put forward that MFF is a regional approach that should not be reduced to a country-approach. Cambodia has already held further discussions with the Ministry of Environment and would like the project to maintain a regional approach. In Pakistan, once particular GCF application is focused on the northern areas and the melting of glaciers. It is necessary to sustain the momentum MFF has generated around coastal issues in the country, and Pakistan supported a regional proposal. Myanmar similarly supported a regional approach as the country benefits a lot from transboundary approaches. Viet Nam expressed support for the regional approach and noted that the Prime Minister was aware, and supportive, of the project. Thailand also supported the regional approach because the collaboration with Cambodia and Myanmar is very important for the country. Indonesia also supported the regional approach.

Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji encouraged country partners develop statements to convey this support to their National Designated Authority representative and throughout their networks.

India declared their interest in being included in the BICCRA proposal.

Mr. Dato' Lim Kee Leng, indicated that if Malaysia was to be included at a later stage, a discussion should take place with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

Mr. Jose Padilla added that there are also many opportunities with GEF-7 and that MFF should consider combining funding from International Waters focal area and GEF-7 STAR Country Allocations. He gave countries a rough overview of available funding, and encouraged countries to follow-up with their respective designated focal point. Ms. Aban marker Kabraji confirmed that

regardless of the status of the GCF application, MFF should consider this option. She added that UNDP's support for a GEF-7 application would be appreciated.

Mr. Nyoman sought clarification about executing and implementing agency for GEF-7. Ms. Kabraji clarified that IUCN is not an executing agency, and will need to work with in-country partners. Mr. Christopher Howe clarified that there have been rare occasions where IUCN supported execution, however, it is not a preferred modality. On this note, Mr. Jose Padilla stated that national components can be executed by national partners and regional components can be executed by IUCN.

India and Pakistan mentioned that national their STAR funding had already been allocated. Ms. Kabraji clarified that more focus will be put on International Water focal area to be complemented by countries out of their GEF-7 STAR Country Allocations.

Mr. Kenichi Sono recommended that MFF should consider the BOBLME strategic program, and how to make this potential GEF-7 regional project complementary. He added that mangrove and coastal management also provide climate change mitigation and adaption benefits, therefore, climate change mitigation financing and the Least Developed Countries Fund could also be considered. He also suggested that MFF share a regional concept note for GEF-7 funding with other regional partners to ensure harmonization with other ongoing and planned projects.

Mangroves and REDD+

Mr. Alex McWilliam

Programme Manager, Knowledge and Sustainability

Mr. Alex McWilliam provided updates on the REDD+ project that was developed by MFF in response to a request from Norad to make use of the MFF governance platform to promote better integration of mangrove ecosystems in the climate change mitigation mechanism. The inception phase, October 2017 to October 2018, has three components:

1. Selection of up to 5 countries where inclusion of mangroves and coastal ecosystems could yield the greatest impact
2. Investigate, develop, and assess options for including mangroves in the REDD+ agenda
3. Prepare a NOK 30 million proposal including selected countries with detailed problem analyses, results frameworks, and work plans.

The following activities have been completed;

- Learning event at RSC-14. A total of 67 participants from across MFF received an introduction to REDD+
- REDD+ Academy training. This five day training was completed in partnership with UN REDD Programme, Asia region.
- Communication and coordination: web stories, social media and NCB meetings
- Preliminary Situation Analyses (PSA) reports completed in nine countries analyzing mangrove status, REDD+ status, gaps and opportunities for engagement.
- Synthesis report submitted to Norad by MFF-Secretariat based on the nine PSA reports

Three countries, Myanmar, Indonesia and Viet Nam, were selected for inclusion in the development of the full proposal. All three countries receive ongoing support from the UNREDD programme and are Norad priority countries.

With the target countries confirmed MFF developed a Project Development Plan including a detailed timeline for the preparation of the multi-year proposal to be submitted by 30th June 2018. In each of the three target countries, a National Team was assigned to be responsible for implementation of the country activities (consultations, analysis, etc.) and for developing the national component input to the pilot project proposal.

Further to this the MFF Regional Secretariat established a Regional Advisory Group (RAG) with members from UNDP, UN Environment, FAO, and RECOFTC. The RAG supported the development of the national component inputs and final project proposal by providing strategic and technical guidance with regards to priority interventions, harmonizing with existing efforts, and how best to further the inclusion of mangrove ecosystems in REDD+ from a policy and practical perspective. The MFF Secretariat was responsible for overall coordination, overseeing consultations at the regional level, developing regional scope components, discussing opportunities for wider collaboration, and ultimate delivery of the harmonised regional pilot project proposal.

Beginning in April 2018 each of the national teams undertook a series of consultations and analysis to develop their respective national components for the project proposal. This included consultations with government agencies (both national and local), international organizations, and potential partners.

In late May 2018 the MFF Regional Secretariat engaged two consultants; one to assist with synthesizing the country components into a coherent three country proposal, and one to support development of a knowledge management and communications strategy for the project.

A regional consultation workshop was held in Bangkok on 4th - 5th June 2018 gathering all national teams, the MFF Secretariat, and the Regional Advisory Group. At this workshop the final draft country components were presented for consideration and final revisions, along with an outline of regional activities to address common areas that need to be addressed to improve integration of mangroves in REDD+.

In accordance with the agreed work plan a draft proposal was submitted to Norad on 29th June 2018 for their consideration and further input.

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to resolving policy inefficiencies and knowledge deficiencies such that mangroves are better conserved as a result of their inclusion in REDD+ agenda. Three key outcomes of the project will contribute to the achievement of the project impacts and goal. First, policy that is responsive to the importance of conserving mangroves will be effective and efficiently applied at sub-national levels. Second, data deficiencies will be resolved to facilitate informed decision-making. Third, governance inefficiencies and conflicting mandates that emerge from multi-sectoral governance of mangroves will be resolved. These

outcomes will comprehensively lay a framework for effective mangrove conservation within target countries and the broader region of Asia.

Benefits will accrue across local to global scales, as coastal communities will be supported and protected from risks driven by climate change, and the international community will achieve significant progress towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions. While the proposed work is of direct value to the focal countries and the broader region of Asia, its successful implementation will also serve as a model for advancing mangrove conservation in other tropical regions of the world.

Using a bottom-up approach that couples key actions in three focal countries with a regional component implemented by the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) program, the project seeks to effect change towards better conservation of mangroves at the regional scale. As the primary mechanism to disseminate and advocate for the use of knowledge generated by the project to other countries in Asia, MFF will implement a regional component that facilitates knowledge generation and communication. Furthermore, the regional component will work to resolve key data deficiencies and identify best practice for including mangroves in REDD+ in both policy and practice.

The work components of the three focal countries are responsive to national contexts yet representative of larger barriers to the inclusion of mangroves in REDD+ across countries within the region of Asia. The component in Indonesia focuses primarily on the explicit and accurate inclusion of mangroves in the national forest inventory and FREL as a mechanism to increase support for improved mangrove management and conservation. In Myanmar the focus is on demonstrating the application of Policies and Measures (PAMs) already established by resolving conflicting government mandates, improving district level forestry management planning and capacity, and strengthening the inclusion of mangroves in community based forest management approaches. The Viet Nam component focuses on scaling up the sub-national approaches to REDD+ action planning, improving governance arrangements, and demonstrating incentives for mangrove conservation, particularly mangrove polyculture models.

The three country level approaches are coupled with a regional component of work. The regional component has a two-part approach. First, the regional component will work to formalize and situate the knowledge generated from the scopes of work of the three focal countries, facilitate knowledge sharing and communication at the regional scale, and strengthen capacity for conservation and sustainable management of mangroves. Second, the regional component will commission targeted research efforts that seek to overcome critical data deficiencies currently hindering the inclusion of mangroves in REDD+, in particular national level assessment of carbon stocks in mangroves.

(Link to [presentation](#) and [working paper](#))

SESSION 2: Country Updates

Co-Chairs: Mr. Jose Padilla (UNDP), Mr. Vu Thanh Ca (NCB Chair, Viet Nam), Mr. Ajith Silva (NCB Chair, Sri Lanka)

In this session all countries (including the 11 partner countries and Malaysia as outreach country) were invited to present an update on the national activities with particular focus on lessons learned from applying the MFF Resilience Analysis Protocol, the impact of MFF interventions, influence on policy and governance, contribution to multilateral agreements ((e.g. CBD, SDGs), and status of national sustainability planning. The country presentations were given in four sub-sessions with three countries in each, and each sub-session were concluded with a facilitated discussion in plenum.

The country updates and the facilitated discussions are summarized in the following sections.

Sub-session 1: Myanmar, Viet Nam and Malaysia.

Myanmar

*Mr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw,
NCB Chair, Director General of Forestry Department*

1. Lessons learned from the RAP

In Myanmar, MFF's work has focused in Pynbugyi Village Tract, where the following issues have been highlighted; severe coastal erosion, illegal encroachment by offshore fishing boats and saltwater intrusion to paddy fields. Therefore, the priorities for investment by the SGF were; 1) shoreline protection through community-based mangrove conservation and rehabilitation, 2) promoting use of fuel-efficient stoves, and 3) promote awareness of harmful fishing practices and alternative livelihoods. To address these priority issues, MFF implemented three SGFs, two have been completed and one is ongoing.

The Resilience Assessment Protocol generated accurate, up to date information on conditions on the ground through exercises such as resource mapping, focus group discussions and key stakeholder interviews. It allowed communities to have a chance to share challenges and problems, and define priority issues through consultation with different user groups, including women and youth groups.

2. Impacts from MFF interventions

The main impact of MFF interventions in Myanmar has been the strengthening of ICM governance. This includes MFF support to establish the National Coastal Resources Management Committee (NCRMC), and strengthening the capacity of lecturers from Marine Science Departments in Patheingyi, Mawlamyine, Myeik Universities as well as the Forest Department, and NGOs.

- Representatives from government departments, universities, INGOs, NGOs and technical experts participated in ICM capacity development activities such as the Regional ICM

Training of Trainers course ICM workshops, transboundary ICM learning events, and lessons learned workshops from MFF projects.

- During activities to establish a Locally Managed Marine Area in the Pyinbugi Village tract area, neighboring villages were also consulted, and this resulted in those village also joining the project to establish community based management.
- During project implementation local community members have been actively engaged in activities, providing them with a significant opportunity to share local knowledge about, and use of, natural resources which can be incorporated to planning and management processes.
- Community members are involved in decision making to select sites for mangrove rehabilitation, and the boundaries and zoning of conservation areas such as the LMMA.
- The governance mechanisms for coastal resources management has also been improved through the establishment of the NCRMC.
- MFF has also supported dialogues, and a workshop, to begin the process of developing a roadmap to establish a National Integrated Coastal Resources Management Programme. This process not only results in a roadmap and ultimately a national programme document, but also serves to strengthen knowledge of ICM principles and promoted integrated approaches to coastal governance.

3. Policy influence

- The Myanmar NSAP is recognized by government, development organizations and practitioners as a national reference for effective conservation and management of coastal resources.
- MFF has raised the political profile of coastal resource management, which is validated by the establishment of the NCRMC and state/region CRMCs
- MFF influence has ensured that integrated mangrove-shrimp farming is identified as a top priority in the Integrated Ayeyarwady Development Strategy (IADS).
- MFF has strengthened recognition of the importance of mangrove restoration through the development of a national Restoration Opportunity and Assessment Methodology (ROAM) map for mangroves
- The establishment of the NCRMC and elevation of coastal resource and mangrove management has now led to a commitment by the Myanmar government to develop a National Coastal Resource Management Programme.

4. MFF contribution to meeting MEA targets

In Myanmar MFF's interventions have contributed to:

Aichi targets

- Target 1 Awareness on Biodiversity – The Special Study project to conduct an assessment of mangrove species the Pyinbygyi village tract area has provided important species distribution baseline information for local government and communities to use in developing management plans for the area. This work also contributes to the CBD Objective 1 - Plant diversity is well understood, documented and recognized.
- Target 14 Ecosystems that provided essential services are restored and safeguarded - the locally managed marine area that is in the process of being established through the

support of an MFF DGF project will conserve important marine ecosystems and fisheries resources that are vital to local communities.

- Target 15 Ecosystems resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks – An MFF SGF project in Myanmar has rehabilitated 5 acres of the mangroves and enriched mangrove density in another 3 acres.
- Sustainable Development Goals
- SGD Goal 14 - Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems - the locally managed marine area that is in the process of being established through the support of an MFF DGF project will conserve important marine ecosystems and fisheries resources that are vital to local communities.
- Myanmar Restoration and Rehabilitation Plan (MRRP)
- MFF contributes to this national plan through the rehabilitation of mangroves, establishing community engagement in mangrove forest management, and promoting the use of fuel efficient stoves in local communities to reduce fuelwood collection.

5. Sustainability Planning

- The NCB has been appointed as an Advisory Committee to the NCRMC to support the National Coastal Resources Management Programme
- ICM Courses and trainings for government officers and for university students will be developed based on the MFF/ AIT Training of Trainers course and materials
- Following the national completion workshop organized in collaboration with the Forest Department and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, MFF has been requested to support the development of national ICM policy in Myanmar. The NCRMC, to which the NCB is an Advisory Committee, is leading the development of a National ICM Programme and a workshop to outline a roadmap to development the programme was completed during August 2018.
- The following projects are contributing to MFF's financing plans beyond 2019;
- Myanmar has endorsed the no objection letter for the GCF project: "Building Climate Resilient Coastal Communities and Ecosystems in Asia"
- The "Marine Spatial Planning in the coastal zone of Myanmar" project proposal will be developed to apply for GEF-7 funding with the Forest Department

(Link to [presentation](#) and [country report](#))

Viet Nam

Mr. Ca Vu Thanh, NCB Chair, Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Science, Technology, Viet Nam Administration of Sea and Island (VASI), MONRE

1. Lessons learned from the RAP

In Viet Nam MFF has focused work in Ben Tre and Trah Vinh provinces as well as in the Cu Lao Cham-Hoi An Biosphere Reserve/ Hoi An World Heritage Site. A total of 31 SGFs and two MGFs were implemented during Phase 3.

In Ben Tre and Tra Vinh provinces, mangrove ecosystems have been deteriorating due to the conversion of large areas of mangrove forests into aquaculture ponds. In large areas of land that have been abandoned because they are unproductive MFF implemented 12 small grant projects focusing on: (1) piloting mangrove poly-culture models (2) restoring mangroves in abandoned shrimp ponds, and (3) “establishing community based monitoring systems.

In Hoi An, key components of the ecological system, Nypa Palm wetlands, coral reefs and sea grasses, and agricultural lands are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts (storms, flood & drought, coastal erosion and salinity intrusion) as well as water pollution and solid waste pollution from increasing tourism activities. MFF has implemented 10 SGFs and two MGFs focusing on: (1) community-based rehabilitation and protection of coastal ecosystems; (2) nature-based tourism as sustainable livelihoods for local communities; (3) natural disaster risk management through environmental education and preparedness. Other key interventions to strengthen ICM governance included application of the Ridge to Reef approach in Vu Gia – Thu Bon River Basin, and the implementation of Management Effective Evaluation processes in Cu Lao Cham MPA.

2. Impacts of MFF interventions

Mangrove-based aquaculture has been institutionalized in the Mekong Delta with the following impacts based on pilot projects and technical assistance to farmers that MFF funded in Ben Tre and Tra Vinh. MFF also provided the learning that allowed us to secure substantial IKI funding. Several NCB members are closely involved in the IKI project.

- Substantial International Climate Initiative (IKI) funding of the German Environment Ministry (BMUB) has been secured for two Phases of Mangroves and Market Project in Ca Mau, Ben Tre, Tra Vinh, where covers 50% of all of Viet Nam’s mangroves
- The Prime Minister approved Resolution 120 ‘For a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Mekong Delta’ in 2017 that recognizes the vital role of Nature-Based-Solutions including integrated mangrove shrimp farming for coastal protection.
- Minh Phu and Cuu Long seafood companies have been engaged and pay for the Internal Control System and other organic shrimp certification costs as well as a premium price to farmers for certified organic shrimp.
- Mangrove cover in Ca Mau increased from 39% to 44% between 2013 and 2015 following the replanting of 80 hectares in shrimp ponds to meet Naturland standards for organic shrimp certification.
- Improved pond management resulted in increased productivity, which for farmers is deemed as more important than a premium price for certified produce
- Ca Mau province plans to scale up mangroves-shrimp farming to 20,000 ha by 2020.
- Ca Mau Provincial People Committee’s Decision 111 in 2016 endorsed certified mangrove-shrimp systems in the payment for forest ecosystem services.

The resilience of Hoi An World Heritage Site has been enhanced.

- Conservation of Nypa Wetland becomes the core mission of Cam Thanh Commune People’s Committee (CPC). Realizing great opportunities for tourism development brought about by this palm forest to the Commune, the CPC requested that any socio-economic development activities must be planned to ensure minimum impacts on the area. After the MGF project on

sustainable use of Nypa Wetland in Cam Thanh Commune rehabilitated 2 ha of nipa palm, a further 26 ha of Nipa palm have been replanted in Cam Thanh wetland by Quang Nam Provincial People's Committee's state budget.

- The homestay village development project resulted in a 300% increase in income for local households engaged in community-based tourism services (homestay, boat riding, eco-tour, cooking), which have been replicated by other local households.
- Following the pilot model at Cam Thanh Primary school, Cam Thanh CPC have encouraged other homestays and tourism service providers to install their own decentralized waste water treatment unit to mitigate the pollution risks to the Nypa wetlands.
- As a result of NCB's technical support to Cu Lao Cham MPA Management Board and the local governments, local fishermen group have been assigned to manage 19km² Bai Huong Sub-MPA through a co-management mechanism with local authority and Cu Lao Cham MPA.
- 2% of tourist entrance fees has been earmarked to implement Bai Huong Sub-MPA management plan. Under MFF MGF support on improving management of locally managed marine areas, Bai Huong LMMA management plan (2015 – 2019) was developed and approved in 2014, proposing using Hoi An's state budget from entrance fees.
- Community group participates actively in nature conservation, including restoration of 2 km² of coral reefs, contributing to recovery of fish stocks in Cu Lao Cham MPA as results of SGF projects on coral rehabilitation and resources conservation communications.
- Hoi An City's People's Committee are committed to mitigating tourism pressure on Cu Lao Cham MPA by limiting the number of 3,000 visitors per day as result of MFF's support on management capacity building and NCB's support on Management Effectiveness Evaluation works and to securing public green spaces rather than developing hard infrastructure through SGF's project on community participatory planning of the Pagoda Field in Cu Lao Cham

Concept of "coastal squeeze" mainstreamed

MFF influence has resulted in the concept of "coastal squeeze" being mainstreamed in the government planning in the Mekong Delta. The "coastal squeeze" refers to low lying and vulnerable coastal areas being lost due to sea level rise with a dyke protected by a thin mangrove veneer yet intensive shrimp farms located behind making the mangroves unable to move landward. This concept was first developed by the EU BCR project that intervened in Ben Tre in 2011-14 and was picked up by the Danida-funded MFF component that intervened in Ben Tre and Tra Vinh in 2013-2015. The concept was included in the World Bank funded (USD 310M) Integrated Climate Resilience and Livelihoods Project. It also forms the basis of the BiCCRA and Norad REDD+ project designs and was included in IUCN's statement to the Prime Minister in September 2017.

Enhanced technical and operational capacity of local CSOs

MFF grantees participated in Project Cycle Management trainings (focusing on proposal writing, monitoring and reporting) and practiced what they have learned during the development and implementation of SGF/MGF projects. This has enabled them to successfully apply for further funding from other donors to continue their work to strengthen resilience. Some examples are:

- Live & Learn: was awarded USAID funding for environmental health communication, marine environmental education website
- Action Center for City Development (ACCD: was awarded IBM and Bread for World funding for "from farm to school" project, McKnight Foundation for public spaces and organic farming

- Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development (MCD: Ha Long-Cat Ba Alliance, youth's readiness in climate change adaptation project
- Marine Gifts social enterprise: was awarded USAID funding for souvenir production
- Cam Thanh Women Union: was awarded GEF SGP funding for community management of Cam Thanh Nipa Palm Forest
- *Policy Influence*
- MFF NCB has actively advocated for advancing ICM policy in Viet Nam
- A policy brief on Integrated Spatial Planning and Management for Coastal and Marine Sustainability developed by MFF NCB contributed to the 2018 Planning Law
- Technical inputs provided by MFF has been incorporated into 2015 Law on Seas and Island Resources and Environment
- The MPA Management Effectiveness Evaluation process initiated by MFF has been taken up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. MPA management has been included in 2017 Fishery Law
- MFF's support for Reef to Reef (R2R) approach since 2013 resulted in a Policy Recommendation on Integrated River Basin Management of Vu Gia – Thu Bon and Coastal Quang Nam – Da Nang, Viet Nam. The two provinces have come up with signing cooperation agreement and transprovincial coordination committee on management of Vu Gia – Thu Bon River Basin. It also attracted interest from SwAM, World Bank, AFD, PEMSEA, HSF, etc

4. MFF Contributions to MEA targets

- MPA related activities contribute to Aichi Target 11, 10% of coastal and marine areas effectively and equitably managed
- Application of the Reef to Ridge approach in the integrated management strategy for the Vu Gia-Thu Bon River Basin, and other MFF activities on marine and coastal conservation, have directly contributed to addressing SDG14 and the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Cu Lao Cham – Hoi An Biosphere Reserve has two core areas including the World Cultural Heritage Site of Hoi An and the Cu Lao Cham archipelago and the buffer area includes nipa forest. MFF's projects and activities on conservation of the World Network of Biosphere Reserve as well as the World Heritage Site Convention.

5. Sustainability Planning

- Operation of the NCB will be co-financed by MAM2, MARPLASTICCS, Ha Long-Cat Ba. CIFOR, at the National Completion Workshop, expressed their interest in working with NCB Viet Nam to enhance mangroves management policy.
- MFF projects have catalyzed larger investments, such as those by Mangroves and Markets, the ICRSL project and the Ha Long – Cat Ba Alliance
- MFF has demonstrated approaches to implement policy instruments including Decision 120 on Coastal Forest Protection and Decree 119 on Coastal Forest Management. VNFOREST said that MFF results would serve as practical experience to implement these policies on the ground.
- The new Law on Fisheries will come into effect by January 2019 and the guideline on implementation of this new law is being prepared. Fisheries Directorate hopes to receive comments from wide stakeholders and IUCN/MFF on some issues like MPA governance,

maintaining MPA network and valuing ecosystem services in order to prepare the guidelines as well as effectively implement the new Law

- The Reef to Ridge pilot implemented by MFF is now sustained by Da Nang – Quang Nam Provincial People’s Committee (PPC) and other partners with technical support from the MFF NCB

(Link to [presentation](#) and [country report](#))

Malaysia

Mr. Dato’ Lim Kee Leng

Director of Forest Plantation and Forest Protection, Forestry Department

Mangrove forests contribute 2% of the total forest cover in Malaysia. Malaysia was severely impacted by the Tsunami in 2004, therefore, coastal management is one of the biggest concerns of the country. The tsunami was a wake-up call for the government and led to establishment of a National Biodiversity Council, a Special Task Force, a Technical Monitoring Committee with two sub-committees (one on Planning and implementation and one on Research and Development) and several working groups. The Prime Minister has continued to support these structures and associated programme for the last 15 years.

The main tasks of the programme are;

- To protect and reduce soil erosion along the coastline
- To establish a natural barrier against strong winds and waves as well as to reduce environmental contamination
- To maintain a healthy coastal habitat as wild life corridors
- To enhance ecotourism capabilities
- To enhance public awareness on the importance of coastal and mangrove conservation and protection.

Targeted groups include coastal inhabitants, local government, state government and civil society. In total, five community based organizations have been created through this programme as well as two NGOs. The main activities are mangrove planting, plot maintenance, and public awareness campaigns.

This government initiative has also been supported by many NGOs and CBOs, and financial allocations are provided by the federal government. More than 6.3 million mangrove trees have been planted between 2005 and 2017. Planting activities have been taken up by the private sector with companies investing to restore mangrove forests around Penang (more than 50 hectares). Mangrove conversion to aquaculture is not allowed in coastal areas.

Some challenges still remain including a need for innovative planting techniques as very few areas are available for conventional planting. In some areas survival rates have been very low because either the wrong species was planted or because of pests and diseases. Natural factors such as waves and winds have also hindered planting efforts. Land conversion still remains an issue as well as inadequate manpower.

Future strategies and plans include:

- Enhance integration. Include other government agencies including the National Hydraulic Research Institute, Remote Sensing, and State Economic Planning as not all coastal areas are under permanent reserved.
- Use innovative technology and research and development to mitigate pests and diseases
- Strengthen human resource development
- Gazettement to ensure legal protection: rehabilitated mangroves should be legalized as permanent reserve forests under National Forestry Act and State Acts.

Mr. Dato' Lim Kee Leng concluded his presentation by stating that mangroves shall continue to play multiple and significant roles in the socio-economic development of the people of Malaysia. Coastal conservation and preservation necessitate close cooperation between federal and state governments and supported by civil society and local communities. He added that research and development inputs are of paramount importance especially in pest management and diseases control to ensure continued success of the coastal conservation and rehabilitation programme.

(Link to [presentation](#))

Plenum discussion

Mr. Christopher Howe facilitated a discussion on MFF's role in strengthening regional, national and local resource management policies and delivery against national and international commitments (including SDG14)

Viet Nam

Introduction of the MPA effectiveness in Fishery law in Viet Nam with support of NCB

Mr. Ca explained that initially there were no tourists visiting the Cu Lao Cham MPA and surrounding areas. However, as demand increased and the destruction of coastal resources including coral reefs quickly accelerated as well. The support from MFF has allowed the local communities to become involved in MPA Management and to develop more diverse income generating livelihoods such as homestays. He added that there is an urgent need to revise the fishery law and prevent foreign fishermen from entering the area. Mr. Ca informed that the NCB was very influential in the establishment of Cu Lao Cham MPA and still continues to provide advice to the management board.

Seychelles

Experience from Seychelles in introducing the protection of mangrove in its Environment Protection Act

Denis Matatiken confirmed that in the Seychelles MFF supported the update of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA, 2015) to include the protection of existing mangroves. He emphasized the importance of this considering the small amount of naturally occurring mangrove areas in the country.

Bangladesh

National MPA framework

The Bangladesh NCB holds a very strong position because it is chaired by the Secretary of MoEFCC and the Chief Conservator of Forests is the Member Secretary. The NCB Bangladesh is a multi-stakeholder body comprised of 35 members: government agencies, NGOs, academia, coastal experts and the private sector. It is therefore the perfect platform to suggest policies to the government. One example of this is the recommendation by the NCB to designate St Martin and Nijhum Dwip as MPAs. MFF has also supported a new law to create a green belt along the coastline as a disaster-risk prevention mechanism.

Pakistan

Establishment of the Astola MPA

Previously there were no MPAs in Pakistan, nor discussions around this topic. MFF was the platform that allowed candid and transparent discussion with relevant stakeholders including non-traditional partners such as the Pakistan Navy. For 3 years a working group conducted necessary studies and assessments to provide a foundation for the consideration of MPA sites. A motion at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2016 generated debate at the national level, which in turn created momentum to establish the Astola Island MPA. Further to this, the government and other stakeholders are now more aware of other environmentally significant areas.

Myanmar

NCB engagement with the NCRMC

After the introduction of the MFF Programme in 2014 and the establishment of the NCB, more than 11 meetings took place among stakeholders that had previously lacked a platform for dialogues. The NCB created space for Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MOALI), Forest Department and Fisheries Department and other agencies to discuss issues. Through the NCB, awareness around coastal ecosystems conservation was strengthened and contributed significantly to the establishment of the National Coastal Resources Management Committee. This committee is now charged with developing the National Coastal Resource Management Programme.

Sub-session 2: Sri Lanka, Thailand and Seychelles.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Ajit Silva

NCB Chair, Director Land Resources, Ministry of Mahawali Development and Environment

1. Lessons learned from RAP

Sri Lanka implemented the RAP in 2015 in the northern region of Sri Lanka, an area severely affected by a protracted 30-year internal conflict which ended in 2009. Following the cessation of conflict, the northern region started to develop rapidly, placing increasing pressure on both socio-economic and ecological systems, particularly in the Jaffna Lagoon, Northern Islands, Deft Island, and Manalkadu Sand Dune areas.

Based on the four SGF projects were commission and completed; 1) to address water security issues, Jaffna University implemented a project to complete comprehensive water quality assessments, mapping of ponds/waterholes, and restoration of a selected ponds in Delft Island, 2) Jaffna Science Association completed a project to install a model rainwater harvesting system at Delft Maha Vidyalaya on Delft Island so the local community could utilize rainwater for agriculture during periods of water scarcity, 3) Aaruthal Sri Lanka introduced sustainable alternative agricultural practices to diversify household livelihoods, and 4) Seva Lanka Foundation to introduced alternative livelihood sources through development of community based eco-tourism.

2. Impacts of MFF interventions

The inclusive and gender integrated approach used throughout the implementation of MFF activities has had an impact in target areas in Sri Lanka. MFF engaged with the District Planning and Northern Provincial Council to promote the inclusion of information collected during the RAP in lagoon management in Jaffna and tourism planning in Mannar. In the Kokilai Lagoon and Hikkaduwa Marine Sanctuary, MFF conducted gender assessments which are now being mainstreamed in sub-national planning, such as Special Area Management (SAM) plans.

MFF supported four universities to introduce MSc and Diploma programmes in Integrated Coastal Management. Materials and training resources have been provided and lecturers from University of Jaffna, University of Ruhuna, and Ocean University of Sri Lanka attended the MFF/AIT ICM Training of Trainers in July 2018. Both the training resources and improved capacity of trainers provide a foundation for strengthening ICM outcomes in the future.

3. MFF contribution towards Multilateral Environment Agreements

- Preparation of National Coast Conservation Plan by Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management Department in 2017. The Department has been a NCB member, participated actively in MLE visits and gained experience towards marine conservation. The plan addresses multiple MEAs such as CBD and UNFCCC.
- Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) integrated into 4 State Universities. These universities use multiple MEAs associated with ICM.
- Material developed for the UN Ocean Conference included a number of MEA related approaches including the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)
- Number of MFF interventions (planning, livelihoods, conservation of biodiversity hotspots such as Sastravela Mangrove Patch) contributing to CBD and AICHI Targets.

4. Sustainability Planning

As Phase 3 of MFF is coming to a close MFF Sri Lanka implemented a sustainability plan starting in 2017 with the help of the NCB. The sustainability strategy for Sri Lanka consists of the following approaches;

- Capitalize on the NCB structure to engage both government, NGOs, and private sector to utilize its diverse technical expertise, and scale up approaches for conflict resolution, and open and transparent programming
- Focus on key thematic areas in coastal development and develop large projects that can engage the NCBs unique ability to coordinate multi-sector and multi-stakeholder approaches.

- Use science based programming and take advantage of the IUCN technical staff and their capacities/specialties.
- Leverage government and private sector programmes and add value to these as a technical partner capable of mobilizing communities.
- Work on national and regional projects to achieve the economics of scale.
- In this context the following actions have been taken during the period under review:
 - MFF Sri Lanka with the technical assistance of IUCN is in the process of building partnership with government and potential private sector organizations to leverage national programmes in the sectors of fisheries, tourism, sustainable livelihood, and conservation of natural resources. Furthermore, the study outputs and recommendations of MFF grants are being explored to develop projects that align with the national development agenda. Two projects related to lagoons and eco-tourism are being developed and awaiting signing of MOUs with government stakeholders in order to begin implementation.
 - MFF has continued to be engaged in the development of Special Area Management (SAM) strategies, promoting integrated coastal management and gender mainstreaming.
 - ICM modules developed by the MFF are now ready for use in collaboration with four Universities along with continued development of a national ICM Masters course.
 - MFF support to development of the Lagoon Compendium and other knowledge products are being used in the preparation of larger scale project such as BICCRA. Furthermore, the data and information from these studies are being used by policy level decision making bodies, such as Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management Department, Fisheries Department, Department of Wild Life, Forest Conservation, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority and Urban Development Authority to expand their planning and policy preparation initiatives.

(Link to [presentation](#) and [country report](#))

Thailand

Ms. Benjamas Chotthong

NCB member, Thailand Environment Institute

1. Lessons learned from the RAP

The RAP was conducted by MFF and UNDP in collaboration with Burapa University in two sub-districts of Trat Province. The province is facing rapid development and coastal degradation that threatens marine and coastal biodiversity, along with the livelihoods of the coastal communities that depend on marine fisheries and natural resources. The RAP informed the design and implementation of nine MFF Small Grant Facility (SGF) projects that focus on building community capacity to promote coastal and marine conservation, which ultimately helps protect the valuable fisheries the communities depend on.

Eight priority issues were identified in RAP:

- 1) Decline in fishery resources,
- 2) Mangrove deforestation and degradation,

- 3) Conflicts between artisanal fishers and large-scale commercial fishers,
- 4) Lack of systematic coastal management/ conservation plan,
- 5) Poor municipal waste management and low community awareness,
- 6) Climate-change impacts,
- 7) Public education and awareness,
- 8) Enforcement of fisheries, regulations and governance.

Based on the RAP, in total nine projects were awarded; seven to CBOs, one project to Kasetsart University, and one project to the Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF). These CBOs learned a lot from the process. It was very important for them to build their capacity so they can be more engaged within their community. The projects focused mostly on three aspects:

- 1) Waste management/ empowerment, (RAP issue 5)
- 2) Knowledge management, (RAP issue 1, 2, 3, 4, 7)
- 3) Mangrove and coastal resource management/ governance. (RAP issue 8)

2. Impacts of MFF interventions

Waste separation was practiced at household level and school level. As a result from the project “Networking for the Conservation of Environment and Coastal Resources” implemented by Baan Klong Manao School, students were trained on waste management and a follow up survey found that 80% of core students in participating schools have shown an increased knowledge on waste management. Through the SGF projects, there were many opportunities to exchange knowledge. Local communities felt empowered because they could sit together with the local government and exchange ideas.

3. Policy influence

MFF is the main integrated coastal platform for knowledge sharing for Thailand. Under the new “Promotion of Marine and Coastal Resource Management” Act (2015), designated mangrove conservation areas and coastal resources protected areas are overseen by local & national committees. The establishment of the National Committee on Marine and Coastal Resources Management is a direct result of the NCB’s chairmanship by DMCR.

Under the SGF for Private Sector project – co-financed by Marriott Hotels and Resorts - Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University has set-up an ICM committee with representatives from 10 villages. This committee will oversee resource management of Bangkaew sub-district.

In terms of transboundary collaboration, the interest of NCB and DMCR to promote Ranong Mangrove forest as World Heritage Site was discussed with the provincial committee of marine and coastal resources of Ranong. A sub-committee visited the Sundarbans World Heritage Site in Bangladesh with the support from MFF-S/Thailand. MFF also facilitated cross-country learning on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICM) for NCB member and ICM stakeholders from Myanmar. Twelve delegates visited the Mangrove research station at Ranong Biosphere Reserve, Ranong Mangrove Management Station, Phuket Marine Biological Center and Aquarium, Ngao National Park, MFF SGF site in Ranong and Community-based tourism in Phang Nga. The delegates from Forestry Department, Tourism Department and Universities are highly interested to explore collaboration on a transboundary biosphere reserve and research.

4. MFF contribution to MEAs

MFF's work in Thailand contributed to the following Aichi Targets for the CBD;

- Target 1 Awareness on Biodiversity – MFF supported the development of the Thailand BioDiversity Network Alliance (B-DNA)
- Target 6 Sustainable fisheries– SGF projects in Trat province have contributed the establishment fisheries management areas including no-take and conservation zones
- Target 10 Coral reef integrity and functioning – MFF projects and activities have supported raising awareness of coral reef conservation
- Target 15 Climate change mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem resilience and restoration– An SGF project in Trat province established protection for 7ha of mangroves and a further surveyed a further 50ha for joint management with an adjoining district.

MFF's work in Thailand contributed to the following SDGs;

- SDG 14 - with co-funding from Marriot, MFF is supporting the establishment of community based ICM in Samut Songkram province
 - MFF SGF projects in Trat province have strengthened the knowledge base and improved coastal resource management planning
 - Thailand's engagement in the MARPLASTICCs project will contribute to SDG targets and indicators

Through the NCB and DMCR, MFF is also contributing to supporting local government, NGOs making plans that align with the Thailand 20 Year Development Plan by developing a network for coastal conservation and resources management and strengthening the capacity of local communities to engage in natural resource management and planning. plan

5. Sustainability planning

The collaboration between multiple sectors initiated by MFF through the NCB will be continued through an MoU between IUCN and DMCR to facilitate information sharing and capacity building relevant to the coastal conservation and management. At the national level, Thailand has established the National Marine and Coastal Resources Management committee which comprises of 3 sub-committees; 1) Mangrove management, 2) marine and coastal resources management and 3) coastal erosion management. Some NCB members and grantees are members of these national committees, namely, Mr. Pramual Rattananupong and Mr. Tanu Nabnien, civil society representatives from former MFF projects.

New programs such as the IUCN-Marriott Partnership will continue to leverage relationships established through NCB member organizations to engage policy guidance and technical support. Two members of the NCB Thailand, from the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) and Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) have also been accepted as members of the the advisory committee for the B-DNA platform to oversee project design and implementation.

(Link to [presentation](#) and [country report](#))

Seychelles

Mr. Denis Matatiken

NCB Chair, Special Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change.

1. Lessons learned from the RAP

The Resilience Analysis was conducted in September 2015 and identified 5 issues that MFF could address through interventions. These included; 1) coastal flooding, 2) habitat alteration and degradation including coral reef degradation, 3) overfishing, 4) poor agricultural practices, and 5) coastal erosion

Following the Resilience Analysis two SGF projects were commissioned,

- Mangrove habitat rehabilitation through fostering of joint school-NGO custodianship, proposed by the Green Island Foundation, addressing issues 2 above.
- Preparing for Tomorrow Today: Women as Agents of Change for Climate Change Action, proposed by GEM Plus, addressing issues 4 above.

2. Impacts of MFF interventions

- All project interventions included an element of knowledge sharing or production of knowledge materials that have significantly raised public awareness of issues related to ICM Development and implementation of projects by community based organizations which has strengthened the capacity of, and empowered, these organizations to take on other projects
- Greater private sector involvement in environmental and social activities. For example, Constance Ephelia Resort, which has become a flagship resort for eco-tourism in the Seychelles. This has motivated other hotels to also become engaged in wetlands restoration and management activities. The government has also now made it mandatory for businesses operating within or near ecologically important sites to restore and manage them.
- Previously the District Authority (DA) considered all environment related activities as the responsibility of the government. MFF's focus on empowering local communities has resulted in a shift, now communities have become the implementers of activities and the DA has assumed more of a facilitation role.
- Greater collaboration between partners. For example, national NGOs are now collaborating more actively with community based organizations to achieve common objectives, such as community based monitoring of mangrove or other coastal areas.
- Since MFF began in 2007, 20 projects have been implemented by 14 organizations and many have leveraged additional funding to support ongoing activities or up scaling. Some examples are;
- 2010 RCEAT SGF project (USD 8K): up-scaled by GEF SGP (USD 50K + MEECC EBA (extensive coastal restoration and monitoring)
- 2010 TRASS SGF project (USD 23.2K): up-scaled by GEF SGP to now retain upland soil by rehabilitating forest to reduce erosion and run-off into rivers and reefs
- 2012 Anse Kerlan Avangard SGF project (USD 25K): up-scaled by GEF SGP (USD 50K) using MFF generated data to further the layout of designed structure with community, private and Government partners

- Furthermore, outputs from MFF projects continue to be used by other organizations and agencies. For example; 2010 MCSS/GIF LGF project (USD 200K) – the EIA tool developed during the project is now used by government agencies to develop EIA reports
- 2012 MCSS SGF project (USD 25K): the government survey department and several private entities continue to use the Real Time Kinetic (RTK) technology developed during the project.
- The Regional ICM Course over the years has proved to be an effective operational tool for Seychelles as all participants have used the credits and certification to improve their capacity and work ethics in their different sectors. Some have even benefitted from further training up to Master's degree level while others have graduated to higher levels through promotions at their work places.

3. Policy Influence

- Existing mangrove areas are now legally protected (Environment Protection Act, Nature Reserve & Conservancy Act) and comprehensively considered in planning processes (Wetlands Policy and EIA procedures) Coastal communities are now taking a leading role in the governance of coastal resources
- The NCB is being considered for inclusion in the national ICZM committee. This will be another decision making body where MFF will have opportunities to influence decision making.
- MFF is recognized as a partnering mechanism bringing together actors to develop solutions to shared challenges.
- *MFF contribution to meeting Multilateral Environment Agreement targets*
- MFF funded projects have been developed in Seychelles considering commitments made to international targets and agreements, including;
 - CBD SDG 2030 Agenda
 - RAMSAR (4th strategic Plan 2016-2024)
 - UNFCCC National Climate Change Communication
 - In relation to SDGs, MFF projects outputs directly contributed to Goals 4, 5, 14 and 15. This includes mangrove restoration efforts, community led initiatives empowering local communities to take an active role in natural resource management.

5. Sustainability Planning

- To maintain the NCB, Seychelles is considering integrating it to the Nairobi Convention Steering Committee for the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol. This Protocol aims to ensure the effective management of marine and coastal ecosystems across sectors and national boundaries to achieve sustainable development.
- There are different projects under development that will contribute to MFF objectives. These include a Coral Reef Restoration project submitted to Adaptation Fund, and a Ridge to Reef Project submitted to GEF 6. Other local funding mechanisms exist to support ICZM projects including the GEF Small Grant Programme, The Environment Trust Fund (ETF), The Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust

(SEYCCAT), Nairobi Protocol (Local ICZM Committee), Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA national implementation).

- The University of Seychelles has developed an ICM module to its Environmental Science Degree programme, both for full time and for part-time students / practitioners.

(Link to [presentation](#) and [country report](#))

Plenum Discussion

Mr. Christopher Howe facilitated a discussion on *MFF's role in coordinating and facilitating opportunities to strengthen ICM 'technical' capacity at national and regional level* through the development of formal and informal education as well as other interventions e.g. national workshops and other knowledge sharing events. He introduced the discussion by posing two questions to RSC participants; How is formal and informal ICM training reaching coastal managers and trainers in your country? And, what has the NCB and RSC done to support this capacity development and what more needs to be done?

Cambodia

The training materials developed as part of the MFF ICM Course are now being used by both universities and government agencies to strengthen the capacity of coastal resource management practitioners. The integration of the ICM Course at national universities will also ensure future practitioners have a sound foundation of capacity to improve coastal management in Cambodia.

Thailand

One of the issues identified in the Resilience Analysis was the lack of systematic coastal management and conservation planning. Thailand recognizes the importance of educating local resource users about best practices in coastal management and several MFF projects and processes, such as participatory approaches, have contributed to improving this.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh undertook a Capacity Needs Assessment and national consultations in 2017 in preparation for adopting the MFF ICM Course at national education institutions. The University of Chittagong (IMFS-CU) has lead the development of a national ICM course. Five lecturers attended the MFF/AIT Training of Trainers to further develop their ICM teaching skills. The curriculum has been formulated, and lecturers are now waiting for the approval from the curriculum committee at the university before proceeding to offer the course. The NCB has expressed interest in continued support from the MFF Secretariat for course development.

Sri Lanka

The MFF ICM Course has been customized to the local context. Rather than implementing a separate ICM course, modules or sections of the ICM course have been integrated in existing Bachelors and Masters level courses in environmental management. Government officials are also interested in attending the course and subsequently disseminate their learnings within their department. There is still a need for further training of coastal practitioners in Sri Lanka, particularly at the provincial level.

Seychelles

Many coastal practitioners do not have adequate formal ICM training and it is necessary to provide them with training material suitable for their area of work. Ms. Maeve Nightingale responded by stating that all MFF ICM training materials are available to be tailored to short courses targeting provincial officers. Cambodia, Bangladesh, and Pakistan have designed short courses for coastal practitioners already.

SESSION 2 Continued: Country Updates

Co-Chairs: Co-Chairs Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji (IUCN ARO), Mr. Ibrahim Naeem (NCB Chair Maldives), Mr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw (NCB Chair Myanmar)

Sub-session 3: Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Pakistan

Bangladesh

Mr. Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury

NCB Chair, Secretary in Charge, Ministry of Environment & Forests

1. Lessons learned from the RAP

Bangladesh was the first country to apply the RAP, and the target area was Shyamnagar, in Satkhira district in south western Bangladesh. Issues identified in Shyamnagar included 1) salinity ingression, 2) fresh water scarcity, 3) limited livelihoods opportunities, 4) high dependency on Sundarbans, 5) climate vulnerability, 6) river erosion and 7) tropical storms.

Based on the RAP, the NCB prioritized livelihoods diversification to reduce income poverty at the household level, fresh water conservation for extended adaptive agriculture and improved drinking water facilities, and community based climate change adaptation through innovative techniques and participatory natural resource governance.

The RAP also supported the development of “Golden Shyamnagar 2050”, a shared vision of a resilient future. It was developed with local community, local government leaders and government service providers at the Upazilla and sub-district level. It helped to integrate the aspirations of a large number of people for sustainable development and ecosystem protection. Implementation of this vision through NCB activities and grant projects helped local community and local partners to move towards a resilient future.

2. Impacts of MFF interventions

- In the Koilkhali union of Shyamnagar upazila in Satkhira, MFF supported the re-excavation of a 1.4 km silted canal. This completely transformed the landscape and life of the communities in the area. Earlier people could cultivate in winter on 4-6 acres of land. Re-excavation of the canal and associated water management allowed people to cultivate 120 acres of fallow land all the year round increasing agriculture productivity by 60%. They also started practicing climate-smart agriculture including alternative crops like wheat. Women were organized to start community enterprises on livestock rearing, and

fish and poultry farming. Furthermore, this project empowered a marginalized Munda community to be actively engaged in livelihood activities and the community enterprises. This model established by MFF has now been scaled up by the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme.

- The case of Ms. Promila Rani was highlighted. Ms. Rani, a local champion who, with support from an SGF grant, led a women's group that developed a community based enterprise which is now earning around USD 3,500 per year from selling mats produced from local wetland reeds. This is one example that illustrates the focus of the NCB on addressing gender issues in the implementation of MFF activities in Shyamnagar.
- Another focus of MFF investments was improving access to drinking water for communities in Shyamnagar. Following the rehabilitation of ponds and installing rain-water harvesting systems, more than 750 families (3000+ population) now have access to safe drinking water within 500 meters of their house. Time saved in collecting potable water was redirected to supporting other household livelihood activities such as agriculture.
- MFF projects also introduced new agricultural practices, such as sunflower and wheat cultivation as alternative crops that can tolerate increasing soil salinity and require less watering.
- Alternative income sources such as community based eco-tourism were established in response to increasing demand from the tourism market. Villagers converted their houses into eco-cottages to access this increasing market and earn additional household income. This model has since been replicated and upscaled by other government and NGO organizations.
- MFF started with the rehabilitation of 25 hectares of mangroves in Gabura Union of Shyamnagar with the support from the local community, the Union Parishad (UP) and the Forest Department. A co-management approach was adopted including a benefit sharing mechanism for the sale of non-timber forest products harvested from the restored areas. The local community receives 40%, the UP 40%, and 20% is allocated to the co-management group to monitor and maintain rehabilitated areas. This rehabilitation and co-management mechanism has been replicated by other non MFF projects and now there are over 400 hectares of mangroves around the island providing protection from storm and tidal surges. The village level co-management groups are now represented in the Sundarbans Co-management Committee.
- The NCB has also taken a leading role to implement the National MPA Framework which was drafted in 2015 with technical assistance of IUCN Bangladesh under the BoBLME programme. The Forest Department (FD) with the support from NCB has prepared all documentation to declare St. Martin Island as an MPA. The FD and Department of Fisheries (DoF) with support from NCB are also working together to declare the Nijhum Dwip area as an MPA. Projects commissioned under the MFF Special Grant Facility are contributing to this effort by supporting important studies on gender analysis and biodiversity assessments to inform future management planning.
- NCB has engaged the Institute of Marine Science and Fisheries, University of Chittagong to conduct a three months long scoping study on Integrated Coastal Management course in Bangladesh. Based on the framework study, NCB has re-engaged IMSFCU to develop the ICM Course curriculum for Bangladesh.

- NCB conducted an economic study by experts from South Asian Environmental Economist Network (SANDEE) to understand whether the method of project implementation had any impact on resilience building in Shyamnagar. The study has found that the SGF program had strengthened resilience against climate change in terms of increased income, diversification of income sources, time savings due to less sick days and easy access to safe drinking water for both direct and indirect beneficiaries. A key finding from the study was that the concentration of MFF activities in Shyamnagar, not the number of interventions, which had helped to have more diversification of income sources and increased resilience.

3. MFF contributions to MEA targets

- SDG 14.2 and Aichi Target 14 - 400+ ha mangrove rehabilitated by MFF and CREL jointly in Shyamnagar and adjacent areas since 2013
- Aichi Targets 7 and 14 - 600 farmers have benefited from rehabilitated irrigation canals helping them produce additional crops every year
- Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 and SDG 14.5 - Establishing MPAs in St. Martin's Island and Nijhum Dwip Seascape by MoEFCC/FD and MoFL/DoF

4. Sustainability Planning

- The NCB has been actively discussing MFF's sustainability since October 2015.
- It has formed a seven member NCB transition support committee to investigate financing and role of the NCB in the future.
- A mechanism is under discussion for government and non-government organizations to access financial resources for coastal and marine conservation through the NCB (e.g. Climate Change Trust Fund).
- MFF Bangladesh with NCB members has also submitted a concept note for inclusion in the GCF National Programme Document.

(Link to [presentation](#) and [country report](#))

Cambodia

Mr. Thay Chantha

NCB Chair Rep., Director of the Department of Marine Conservation and Coastal Zone, Ministry of Environment

1. Lessons learned from RAP

Six issues were identified during the RAP process completed in Tuol Toetung Commune in Preah Sihanouk Province: 1) Lack of livelihood diversification options; 2) Limited capacity of local authorities on resource management; 3) Low level of understanding about the importance of coastal ecosystems and values; 4) Improper solid waste management; 5) Lack of freshwater for household consumption; 6) Saline intrusion into the rice fields. Four SGF projects were implemented to address these issues.

The RAP process provides a platform for involvement of different agencies and stakeholders, both within and beyond the community, allowing participation in planning processes and creating a space for sharing of knowledge and experience. The RAP also provided clear information about the socio-economic and environmental challenges facing communities, and strategies to address these challenges. Based on the RAP, four projects were selected to complement each other in building resilience. These four projects had a positive impact on ecosystems and livelihoods. They were found to address the priority needs of local community fisheries committee and responded to priorities identified in the RAP.

2. Impact of MFF interventions

- Household level agricultural and livestock livelihoods in the target communities were diversified
- Mangrove areas rehabilitated (4800 seedlings planted) and community based management of natural resources established (blood cockle and fisheries)
- Community level waste management systems improved
- National ICM Course established at Royal University of Phnom Penh. A national ICM Handbook has also been made available
- MFF funded research on carbon stock of peat soils in mangrove forest in Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary, Koh Kong Province was published on Cambodian Journal of Natural History. The findings in this study have been used by the Cambodia government in the development of a GEF-6 Mekong Peatlands project.
- Training workshop on Communication and Story writing for field practitioners has strengthened capacity to communicate impacts of coastal resource management activities.
- MFF interventions have contributed to the completion of a 5 year Management Plan approved for the Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary, an important mangrove area
- Koh Rong National Marine Park, 52,498 ha, was established via a Sub-Decree signed by the Prime Minister on 8 February 2018
- KEP Marine Fisheries Management Area (11,307ha) in KEP province established by proclamation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

3. MFF contribution to MEA targets

- Contributing to Target 8 of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Aichi Target 11, and with significant support from MFF- a 5 year management plan for Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary was approved, a new Marine Fisheries Management Area (MFMA) (11,307ha) was created and Koh Rong National Marine Park was designated.
- Contributing to Aichi target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity- MFF/SGF have successfully engaged local market owners in addressing local waste management.
- Contributing to Aichi Target 15: ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration- 5 hectares of degraded mangrove forests were planted through SGF.
- Contributing to Ramsar Convention and the Conservation on Migratory Species, MFF worked with the Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation of the Ministry of Environment to organize World Wetlands Day and World Migratory Bird Day 2018 and

Welcome to the Birds. Several communications materials were designed and produced including books and banners to raise public awareness.

4. Sustainability Planning

- Funded by MFF, the national Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) course has already been integrated into the undergraduate academic programme of the Faculty of Development Studies of the Royal University of Phnom Penh.
- The NCB decided that the operation of NCB beyond 2018 will be institutionalized under the coordination of the department of marine and coastal conservation of the Ministry of Environment.
- Closely working with our NCB deputy chair from the Fisheries Administration, a new proposal to the Rainforest Trust is being developed to establish another new Marine Fisheries Management Area in Kampot coastal province in alignment with the government policy. The proposal will be submitted in October 2018.
- MFF and FFI are closely working together to support the effective management of the newly established national marine park in Koh Rong. FFI is looking for a new initiative to work with MFF through the NCB on their marine work.
- Commitment from all NCB members to convene NCB meetings at least once per year beyond 2018.

(Link to [presentation](#) and [country report](#))

Pakistan

Mr. Jahangir Piracha

Chief Executive Officer

Engro Vopak Terminal Limited and Engro Elengy Terminal Limited

1. Lessons learned from RAP

- The resilience approach helped in identifying and designing complementary projects to strengthen resilience by focusing on alternative livelihoods, gender mainstreaming, sustainable use of coastal and marine resources, stakeholder capacity building and awareness raising.
- Gender mainstreaming helped in designing interventions that focused on addressing the specific needs of women. For example, in one SGF project more than 600 women and children in Keti Bundar area were involved in mangrove planting and protection, and were part of various environmental awareness raising activities. Also in Keti Bundar but under a different SGF project, MFF equipped 37 women with alternate livelihood skills including tailoring, candle making and value added craft development. Most trained women belonged to extremely poor households and reported using their skills to earn additional income ranging between USD 10 to 20 during the period of four months, besides saving the cost of 5 dollars per month that they otherwise spent on buying candles for their household consumption. MFF also trained 10 women as Master Trainers in making of fuel efficient stoves and supported 50 households in adoption of fuel efficient stoves and electrification with LED light unit in Kalimat area of Balochistan. The adoption of efficient energy has reduced women's work burden involved in collection of fuelwood and saved them from

hazards of smoke. They have also been able to save time that can be used for other productive activities.

- The targeted approach of the RAP helped in building the confidence and trust of target beneficiaries and attracted investment by other organizations to address community needs (for example, the National Rural Support Programme, an NGO, started working in Kalmat Hor & Miani Hor).

The Establishment of community managed fish sanctuary /no-take zone in Maini Hor Lagoon addressed coastal management issues such as replacement of illegal fishing nets, provided alternative livelihoods such as crab fattening and ensured reduced post-harvest losses – training and provision of insulated boxes.

The mud-crab fattening ponds led to an increase by 20-30 % of yearly income for 30 fishermen households. It also discouraged unsustainable fishing practices in the areas and allowed self-initiated replication. Almost 100 more crab ponds have been reported in the area. The post-harvest fishing handling including grading, packing and storage improved fish quality. 80 households' earning increased by 15%. An increasing number of fishermen are adopting the same handling practices for improved income.

2. Impact of MFF interventions

- Ecological Baseline of Astola MPA – first ever biodiversity profile of the area which is now being utilized in management planning processes
- Economic Valuation of Mangroves in PQA of Indus Delta – published in Journal of Geoscience and Environment Protection , 2016, 4, 179 -184.
- First ever Assessment of Coastal Erosion – drew attention of policymakers to this issue
- Handbook on Pakistan's Coastal and Marine Resource – comprehensive documentation of coast related information for planning and research purposes
- Gender Analysis Studies – generated an improved understanding gender roles in coastal resource management (Gwatar Bay & Indus Delta)
- Value Chain and Governance of Fisheries Resources of Gwatar Bay – will support designation of Gwatar Bay as an MPA
- Six video documentaries – highlighting coastal issues. The NCB is a coastal forum with wide representation and has brought key issues such as MPA designation into the government agenda. The NCB has also brought non-traditional partners into dialogues and actions for sustainable coastal resource management, such as the Ministry of Defence, Pakistan Navy, and Private Sector
- NCB engaged with the Higher Education Committee to get two course modules on ICM and Mangroves included in postgraduate degree curriculum of Marine Sciences. MFF supported the capacity development of five university professors and nine coastal managers. There are 20 more lecturers awaiting training.
- MFF built the capacity of more than 250 coastal managers and practitioners regarding approaches and tools such as Resilience Analysis, ICM, Eco DRR, mangrove restoration, fisheries management, gender integration and project cycle management
- Pakistan Navy's mangrove planting campaign continuing since 2016. Three million mangroves have been planted at Indus Delta in collaboration with MFF. This initiative is a

direct contribution towards the objectives of MFF i.e. stakeholder empowerment for sustainable management of coastal resources and enhanced coastal governance.

- MFF supported the Pakistan Navy establishing a reedbed system for water treatment, with a capacity to treat 30,000 gallons wastewater per day. The capacity has now been up-scaled to treat 287,000 gallons per day.
- Mangrove Restoration by Sindh Forest Department and IUCN targeting 100,000 ha over seven years in Indus Delta. The Sindh Forest Department in collaboration with IUCN/MFF set the 3rd Guinness World Record by planting almost 1,130,000 mangrove plants on 19 April 2018 in Indus Delta
- Engagement with private sector through the establishment of a Business and Biodiversity platform: Karachi Conservation

3. Contributions to MEA targets

The NCB initiatives and projects in Pakistan contribute to the following SDGs:

- SDG 3 – Good health and well being – by providing women of underprivileged area access to efficient energy i.e. fuel efficient smokeless stoves and solar LED lights, providing health impacts and increased productive time.
- SGD 5 – Gender equality and women empowerment – by building skills and providing income generation opportunities to deprived women
- SGD 6 – Water and sanitation for all – by promoting ecological wastewater treatment through reedbed system for improved management of water resources.
- SGD 13, 14 and 17 – Combat climate change; Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources; and Global partnerships – by supporting designation of MPAs, sensitizing resource user communities for sustainable fisheries and other coastal resource use and management with no-take zones, and developing regional partnerships.
- The NCB initiatives and projects in Pakistan contribute to the following CBD Aichi Targets:
- Targets 1 – People aware with biodiversity values – by raising the awareness of coastal resource user communities, youth especially schoolchildren and general public through campaigns and media engagement
- Targets 6 – Fish stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, applying ecosystem based approaches – by significantly contributing to the designation of MPAs, declaring community managed fish hatcheries / no-take zones, discouraging use of illegal nets for fishing by providing legal nets and promoting aquaculture for reduced pressure on fish stocks.
- Targets 8 – Pollution brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity – by promoting ecological wastewater treatment through reedbed system for reduced discharge of effluents into the sea.
- Targets 11, 14 and 15 – Coastal and marine areas conserved through protected areas; ecosystem restore; and ecosystem resilience built – with the designation of Astola Island as Marine Protected Area, protection of 180 ha mangrove area as fish sanctuary / no-take zone, massive mangrove plantation.
- Targets 19 – Knowledge relating to biodiversity shared and applied – by building capacity of stakeholders in integrated costal management, resilience analysis, Eco-DRR, mangrove restoration, fisheries management, gender integration, project cycle management.

MFF activities have also contributed to national strategies including the Framework for Implementation of Climate Change Policy Government of Pakistan (2014 - 2030).

4. Sustainability Planning

- Engro Foundation, an NCB member, has contributed about USD 15,000 for financing NCB meetings held during 2018. Engro is also considering to provide further financial support for NCB meetings in 2019.
- NCB members have been encouraged to host NCB meetings on rotational basis.
- A proposal has been submitted to Engro Foundation for funding a cycle of MFF small grants in 2019
- With Karachi Conservation now established, there is an opportunity to engage the private sector in investing in coastal conservation.
- Ten Billion Tree Tsunami, initiated by Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), Government of Pakistan, is a tree plantation campaign launched nationally with the target of 10 billion trees to be planted in five years during 2018-2023. This campaign also includes the plantation of mangroves throughout the Pakistan coast and will scale up rehabilitation activities implemented by MFF.
- As part of sustainability planning two elective course modules, “Integrated Coastal Management” and “Mangrovology” (Mangrove Ecosystem and Management) have been included in the revised curriculum of BS & MS sciences by Higher Education Commission Pakistan.

(Link to [presentation](#) and [country report](#))

Plenum Discussion

Mr. Christopher Howe facilitated a discussion on relationships and programs that would not have happened without MFF and asked participants to illustrate with examples.

Sri Lanka

An unusual relationship started between the NCB and the Wildlife Department. There was a mangrove area in the north of the country that was prone to encroachment and misuse. This was despite being under the jurisdiction of the Wildlife Department who had little on the ground presence in the areas. MFF’s interventions engaged the Wildlife Department and focused on livelihood improvements to reduce environmental pressures. Following completion of the MFF project, the Wildlife Department remained engaged in the area.

Bangladesh

The MFF NCB created momentum for the establishment of MPAs, and raised the profile of this issue with decision-makers. Before the NCB was created, such a process would have taken a long time to become a priority for the government. Because the NCB created a strong network of relationships with the Government of Bangladesh, such decision processes took less time and were more inclusive.

Pakistan

The engagement of the Pakistan Navy or the private sector in resource management processes had not been explored previously. The NCB brought these non-traditional partners into dialogues about coastal resource management with other partners which would normally only communicate through formal institutional mechanisms. Mr. Mahmood Akthar Cheema added that the designation of the Astola Island as MPA, the adoption of nature-based solutions, the introduction of the ICM course in Pakistan would have never happened without MFF or the formation of the NCB. Furthermore, MFF was instrumental into bringing the Pakistan Navy to adopt a nature-based wastewater systems and ensure its wide replication.

Sub-Session 4: India, Indonesia, and the Maldives.

India

Mr Bidhu Bhushan Barman

NCB Chair, Representative, Advisor, Ministry of Environment and Forests Government of India

1. Lessons learned from RAP

The RAP was implemented in the buffer zone of the Ecosensitive Zone of the Bhitarkanika National Park. The characteristics of the ecological system are: 1) mangroves rich in biodiversity, 2) Saltwater crocodile sanctuary, 3) Sea turtle nesting ground, 4) Migratory birds, 5) Highly eroding coastline area. The characteristics of the social system are 1) human immigration, 2) small land holders, 2) landless people, 3) asset-less fishers, 4) transition from subsistence fishing and farming to commercial aquafarming by outsiders. Both systems are vulnerable to natural hazards and climate-change due to the frequency of high intensity cyclones, storm surges, flooding by river water and reduced fish catch.

The RAP helped to identify appropriate SGF projects focusing on climate smart agriculture, sustainable aquaculture, alternative livelihoods, education and awareness, human-animal conflict all contributing to an integrated systems approach to addressing resilience. A major limitation was that only one cycle of projects was implemented in response to the resilience analysis, limiting the ability of the programme to achieve impacts at scale.

2. Impacts of MFF interventions

- Gender Assessments carried out in Rajnagar, Odisha and Krishna delta, Andhra Pradesh, will be helpful in mainstreaming gender into planning and implementation of government programmes/interventions by other agencies.
- An ICZM planning project in Odisha by the MOEFCC Government of India State Project Management Unit (SPMU) Bhitarkanika Ecosensitive Zone will make use of the Resilience Assessment and the Gender Assessment
- Participation in the Regional Workshop on Sustainable Coastal and Marine Ecosystems & Strategies for Reducing Marine Litter in South Asia, jointly hosted by SACEP/UNDA/IUCN/MoEF&CC on 2nd June as part of World Environment Day celebrations, helped to highlight MFF approaches and initiatives to a wider group
- A training session on Mangroves at the International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED), Jaipur, 25 May 2018. The Institute was set up by the

Comptroller and Auditor General of India in 2010 for capacity building of auditors on issues related to environment and sustainable development. As part of its mandate for capacity building activities, iCED held a National Training Programme on “Audit of forests and wild life” from 21-25 May, 2018 for officers of Indian Audit & Accounts Department.

- Whale shark aggregation areas on the Indian coasts migration routes have been identified and mapped. The knowledge generated has been disseminated to local stakeholders including trawler fishers that play now a critical role in the conservation efforts
- Seagrass conservation in Gulf of Mannar & Palk Bay: Seagrass habitat mapped and restoration protocol established
- Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin tourism and conservation. Based on IUCN/WWF recommendations, Cpt. of Ports Authority (Goa) issued a notification for regulation of dolphin-watching
- The marine plastic pollution study has evolved into a framework for assessment and valuation of impacts on major coastal livelihood sectors, for example. fisheries, tourism
- 117 households with nearly 600 members from 6 villages of the coastal community have been successfully introduced to environmentally sustainable aqua-farming practices
- 12 JOLECS (Joint Liability Eco-clusters) with 135 fishers and farmers have been successfully initiated in 6 villages through capacity building
- Reduction of water usage in agricultural land from 119.97 to 60.51 liters per decimal area
- Technical support linkages developed with government. agencies
- Farmer Field School established
- Yenadis - highly marginalized tribal fishes - treated as untouchables, 10 families provided with integrated mangrove fish farming ponds. There is a growing sense of financial security and empowerment
- Training of 555 lifeguards across 44 beaches in Goa and 43 Forest Guards has helped handle 115 cases of cetaceans stranding through a collaborative network ‘Ocean watch’
- Training of 12 veterinary officers on marine necropsies helping Goa Forest Department during marine autopsy
- MFF played a critical role in enhancing private sector investment in coastal management. Two platforms were created: East coast private sector platform dialogues, West coast private sector engagement dialogues. Reduction in freshwater flow affects biodiversity and productivity of mangrove wetlands, however there is very little verified information in India on this. Through studies conducted during a SGF project a recommendation was made for the Eco Sensitive Zone Plan for Bhitarkanika ICZM programme to limit water extraction in upstream areas to 20-25% in order to prevent harm to the Bhitarkanika ecosystem

3. Policy Influence

- MFF SGF projects in Bhitarkanika Eco sensitive Zone (ESZ) have successfully highlighted the need for integrated and participatory planning for this ESZ at the highest level in Forest Department in Odisha as well as at district level
- MFF and Leaders for Nature collaborations have successfully engaged the private sector to be involved in coastal resource management and resulted in the establishment of the East Coast Business Platform

- Sustainable marine and dolphin watching tourism guidelines in Goa State have been implemented
- Integrated Mangrove Fish Farming System (IMFFS) recognized as a nature based approach in the Tamilnadu State Action Plan on Climate Change

4. MFF contribution to meeting Multilateral Environment Agreement targets

Aichi targets

- Target 1 Awareness on Biodiversity - MFF India initiated capacity building sessions upon invitation of Government agencies, engaging with private sector through Leaders for Nature Programme.
- Target 7 Agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity - Through MFF India SGF cycle 5 projects, a sustainable aquaculture model was demonstrated
- Target 11 Effective management: Through MFF India SGF cycle 5 projects the importance of management planning for Bhitarkanika Ecosensitive zone was highlighted, especially the importance of providing sustainable livelihood options for communities around mangrove areas
- Target 12 Extinction of known threatened species prevented: Through MFF India's support to whale shark surveys and conservation work as well as through the cetacean platform work on setting up marine stranding response network in coastal state of Goa.
- SDGs
- SDG Goal 5, Gender equality: Through the gender assessments carried out in Bhitarkanika, Odisha and Krishna delta, Andhra Pradesh, baselines were generated. These can be used by other projects with gender equality outcomes
- SDG Goal 14, Life below Water: Through private sector engagement on coastal and marine conservation initiatives, and through the study on impacts of marine plastic pollution and the development of a framework for data collection. Through the NSAP preparation.
- CMS/CITES
- Contribution to Whale shark surveys and conservation action planning

5. Sustainability Planning

- Role of small grants as a catalysts for innovative conservation practices, livelihood options, research and capacity building has been recognized by the Central and State Government and other stakeholders
- Exploring the setting up of a Coastal and Marine Learning Group to bring together the various projects implemented by MoEF&CC, under one platform for cross learning and sharing best practices. NCB India members could be integrated to steer this group.
- MFF under GEF 7 funding: Mangroves and Coral Reefs programme of Government of India
- Private sector funding for projects on mangrove conservation in Tamilnadu
- Explore funding from UNDP's GCF project to be operational in May 2019

(Link to [presentation](#) and [country report](#))

Indonesia

Ms. Setyawati

NCB Representative, Director of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Bappenas

1. Lessons learned from RAP

The RAP helped to understand ecosystem and socio-economic conditions. In Probolinggo and surrounding areas, two priority issues were identified; 1) coastal erosion and 2) a lack of economic opportunities. The RAP helped to identify project interventions to address these, including; 1) mangrove planting combined with water breaks (soft engineering) to reduce coastal abrasion and 2) capacity building program including livelihood activities to generate new income within communities. Priority was given to communities living in coastal areas that are vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Besides Small Grants, MFF Indonesia utilized the Special Grant Facility to implement gender training and assessment in Tanjung Panjang Nature Reserve. A gender assessment was also conducted in 5 villages in Probolinggo and Situbondo districts. The aim of these assessments was to explore gender patterns in coastal and marine resources management to improve understanding about the state of women and men in decision making, and structural challenges to prevent inequitable opportunities for men and women in relation to coastal and marine sector. The gender assessment conducted in Tanjung Panjang Nature Reserve to document stakeholder engagement in mangrove restoration/rehabilitation provided insights on stakeholders' engagement in restoration planning development. The multi-stakeholder approach has resulted in participative restoration planning, which can be used as guidance for future restoration planning.

2. Impacts of MFF interventions

- MFF projects raised awareness and encouraged elementary school children to understand the importance of mangrove and healthy coastal ecosystems
- MFF projects involving ecological mangrove restoration techniques have improved the skills of communities. KPAPPD (SGF grantee in Banten) was involved in a Training of Trainers held in Demak in partnership with Wetlands International to share knowledge on semi-permeable construction technique
- UNTAG University supported the elementary school in Situbondo by providing simple module of mangrove ecosystem for elementary student curriculum. Based on this an MoU was established the university and Banyuglugur elementary school
- Central and local government have recognized and adopted a comprehensive coastal rehabilitation and community livelihood improvement programme
- Women groups have been empowered, small-scale businesses have been upscaled in Situbondo and Probolinggo
- Intra-government coordination on coastal ecosystem management. Central and local government agencies have participated in SGF project (MOMAF, MOEF, MOHA, etc.), facilitating dialogues on coastal and fisheries management
- The government now considers local NGOs, CBOs and Universities as main partners on coastal ecosystem management.

3. Sustainability of projects post-MFF interventions

- Karyawanita group- SGF 2016- is now legally recognized by the “Ministry of Law and Human Rights” and has managed to attract private sector investment to support their activities. Following the MFF project, the group received a cooking device from the company PT. YTL to improve their productivity. The group leader has also actively engaged with local government and other stakeholders, to promote the products. The additional income from producing fish crackers, has enabled this women group to support family needs (i.e. buy clothing, better food, pay school tuition fee, and savings). The group decided to engage with the Animal Husbandry Office to start chicken farming.
- Mutiara Hati Group - SGF 2016 beneficiary - has improved its sales capacity by developing diverse products after the MFF project ended. This group received orders of about 1,000 packages of banana cracker/day from stores in Pasuruan City (1.5 hour away from Probolinggo);
- Sambaco - SGF grantee 2016 – together with community groups implemented livelihood activities (crab fattening, producing crackers) and mangrove rehabilitation.
- Leverage. Following MFF project, with their experiences and improved capacity, Sambaco managed to attract additional funding (Dompot Dhuafa) to invest and support their livelihood programs;
- Local government extended mangrove plantation and silvo-fishery in Demak;
- Development of mangrove eco-tourism, supported by Ecotourism Office in Demak District;
- Capacity development (mangrove school 2016-2017) in Demak
- In 2016, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries rehabilitated 23 hectares of mangroves in Pohuwatu, for a total budget of USD 60,000

4. Policy influence

- At the national level, the MFF National Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP) has been dedicated to the delivery of the national mangrove forest restoration agenda of national government with a focus on mangrove restoration in Sulawesi, East and West Java
- At the local level, in Tomini Bay, North Sulawesi, the implementation of an SGF project encouraged the government of Pohuwatu District to develop two new policies on mangrove ecosystem management, and the Gorontalo Provincial Government established a local mangrove task force. This intervention supported by MFF and the local city government led to a budgetary allocation for mangrove ecosystem management. Thereafter, several mangrove planting initiatives took place within the city’s forest area.
- In Demak, Central Java, the implementation of an MGF project encouraged the government of Wedung Village to develop a regulation on mangrove management and sign a MoU with LPPSP (an MGF grantee) which encouraged the practice of silvo-fishery as a livelihood activity that supports sustainable mangrove management.

5. MFF contributions to MEA targets

Indonesia has developed a National Strategy for Mangrove Ecosystem Management in 1997 and it has been revised in 2013. In relation to MFF national programme, Indonesian NCB has developed a National Strategic and Action Plan (NSAP) for year 2012-2015 and 2016-2019 which reflects the strategy. MFF Indonesia program of works, targets and action plans in NSAP were developed based on government laws and policies and has deliberately reflects national

commitments on Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as CBD/Aichi Targets, Sustainable Development Goals, UNFCCC, and Ramsar Convention.

In relation to climate change policies, Indonesia has developed the national action plan on Greenhouse Gas Emission reduction (RAN-GRK) and climate change adaptation (RAN-API). Presidential Regulation No. 61/2011, which stipulate that GHG emission reduction must be implemented accordingly from various activities both directly and indirectly. This policy is highly prioritized in the NSAP document. The targets of RAN GRK and RAN API is improving economy and livelihood resilience (with the support of knowledge management, planning and financing, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation) to achieve ecosystem resilience, and to achieve the main objective of sustainable development and adaptive to climate change. MFF has contributed to the national action plan in reducing GHG emission through mangrove rehabilitation program (enhancement of forest carbon stock) and in increasing climate change adaptation through enhancement of livelihood options for dependent-coastal communities.

6. Sustainability Planning

- The implementation of coastal protection and coastal resource management principles championed by MFF have been integrated in National Medium-Term Development Plan and annual work plans both at national and local level.
- Strengthening collaboration with government and private sector to leverage funding opportunities. Cooperation with private sector to identify CSR programmes related to coastal ecosystem management and improvement of resilience of coastal resource-dependent communities.
- Current NCB will remain the same in terms of its function and governance. Indonesia has a National Mangrove Working Group (KKMN), a national forum on coastal area management. NCB members are members of this working group and will use this platform to implement the national strategy on mangrove ecosystem management

(Link to [presentation](#) and [country report](#))

Maldives

Mr. Ibrahim Naeem

NCB Chair, Director of Environmental Protection Agency (Director General/ Head of EPA)

1. Lessons learned from the RAP

Three projects were awarded during Cycle 5 of Phase 3 to address challenges identified in the RAP.

One key issue identified was a lack of adequate waste management practices which has negatively impacted people's livelihoods and the coastal environment in the Maldives. The SGF project by Hoandedhoo Island Development Society (HIDS) aimed to establish a community based waste management system. HIDS conducted consultations and established the waste management committee and an integrated waste management policy has been completed.

The SGF project by Island Development and Environmental Awareness Society (IDEAS) in GDH. Hoandehdhoo and GDH Nadella focused on building the appreciation of mangroves and ecosystems in these islands. IDEAS worked on building the appreciation of mangroves and ecosystems by conducting social and ecological survey of the mangrove ecological systems in the islands to collect the necessary data and information for improved management. Under the second stage of the project, a mangrove viewing platform was built to enhance opportunities for local communities to visit mangrove areas.

The project by Small Island Research Group (SIRG) worked on establishing a comprehensive management plan for the island of Ghd. Laabadhoo, famous for its natural beauty. It has also been assigned as one of the environmentally sensitive sites by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). However, there is a critical lack of data on ecological and terrestrial environment of the island. To address this gap SIRG conducted a series of consultations with stakeholders, biodiversity assessments and mapping to inform management planning for the area.

2. Impacts of MFF Interventions

- Surveys and workshops implemented as part of MFF projects lead to effective solutions for natural resource management in small island communities. Since there are no protected sites in north of Maldives the development of the management plans for the northern mangroves are critical for the sustainable management of ecosystems in the Maldives. Through MFF the ground work has been completed and the EPA will continue to lobby to table them at cabinet level to ensure these 3 areas are listed as protected areas in the Maldives.
- Waste management project implemented in Hoandedhoo and Nadella has established model systems that are being replicated in other areas but also encouraged and engaged the general public as well as local councils to be more aware of the importance of addressing the issue through local solutions.
- MFF's participatory approach has demonstrated the value of stakeholder engagement and empowerment. Local Council and NGOs working in communities are being consulted and engaged in discussions and planning that demonstrate successful engagement of stakeholders in decision making. The small grant mechanism is also further strengthening the involvement of the civil society in decision making. NGOs are assisting local councils in implementing their mandates.

3. Policy Influence

- Management plans for north mangrove area. Collection of baseline data in environmentally sensitive areas in Hdh. Keylakunu, Hdh. Neykurendhoo and HA. Baarah were presented in a technical report on the ecology and biodiversity of mangrove habitats found on the three islands. This information is being used by the Environmental Protection Agency to establish management plans for these areas.

4. MFF contribution to meeting Multilateral Environment Agreement targets

- SDG Goal 5 - gender equality and empowering all women and girls. Not only is this a cross cutting theme but targeted action was also conducted which contributed to this goal. These include the Ukulhas medium grant project where local women were empowered by providing them a diversified livelihood activity. The medium grant not only

empowered women economically but also built their capacity on undertaking environmental friendly farming.

The small grant project implemented by Maldives Authentic Crafts Cooperative Society also made considerable strides in achieving SDG 5. Not only were the Fiyoaree mat weavers empowered to pursue an independent economic activity but also equipped with business skills. The weavers were later engaged in decisions and discussions regarding the conservation of the reed marshland.

- SDGs Goal 13 - taking action to combat climate change and its impact and Goal 15 - protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, etc. The most notable contributions to these SDG by MFF Maldives include the engagement of the EPA to undertake detailed ecological and social analysis of three mangrove areas to declare them as protected sites. The small grant project in G.Dh Dhigulaabadhoo as well as the project in G.Dh Hoandedhoo and G.Dh Nadella is also undertaking significant work to conserve environmentally sensitive mangroves through an array of activities.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – MFF Maldives also indirectly contributed to the targets of the UNFCCC. These include the promotion of several climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. The most notable climate change adaptation projects in this regard include the work which is being undertaken to conserve three environmentally significant mangrove areas in the Northern Maldives as well as one sensitive ecosystem in the Southern Maldives. These ecosystems are on national environmental sensitive list. By collecting data comprehensive management plans will be developed to protect the ecosystems in a holistic manner.
- The World Heritage Convention - MFF = Maldives also contributed to the World Heritage convention by linking several natural and cultural heritage conservation initiatives. One such example is the revival of the art of weaving traditional mats or “thudukunaa”. Not only was this cultural art form revived and instilled as a livelihood activity but the small grant project also led to conservation and re-appreciation of the reed marshland from which reed is cultivated and harvested for mat weaving.

5. Sustainability Planning

In a bid to strengthen the sustainability of the MFF, NCB prioritised sustainability and engaged a consultant to develop a national strategy. The consultant met the key stakeholders as well the NCB and reviewed related documents to come up with a sustainability strategy and implementation plan. Key points and progress include;

- MFF Maldives intends to transform the NCB into a permanent national coastal management body, or equivalent nationally-recognized governance body.
- It was noted that since strategic decisions in the Maldives are strongly influenced by political figures and given recent political instability there is limited opportunity for the MFF NBSAP and other such documents guide national policy dialogues. In any case, the MFF NBSAP could be updated and NCB members could continue to advocate for its use in government planning and programming.

(Link to [presentation](#) and [country report](#))

Plenum Discussion

Mr. Christopher Howe invited participants to discuss the tracking of indirect beneficiaries. He encouraged participants to share successes and challenges in identifying indirect beneficiaries.

Indonesia

A Project Data Compilation Report for SGF projects implemented in 2016 quantified direct and indirect beneficiaries. It was relatively easy to estimate the number of indirect beneficiaries, however, the difficulty lay in quantifying the increased income for these beneficiaries. Ms. Telly Kurniasiri explained that direct beneficiaries were considered as families of beneficiaries themselves. For indirect beneficiaries, in the case of mangrove restoration, the entire village has been considered as indirect beneficiaries as they benefit from the improved environment. For more livelihood focused projects, if the neighbour village replicated MFF's solution, then these people would also be considered as indirect beneficiaries. It is also important to consider the entire supply chain for projects that support livelihood activities, however it is very difficult to quantify the financial benefits received by these beneficiaries.

Viet Nam

SGF and MGF projects supported communities to develop ecotourism activities, which created many indirect beneficiaries through supplemental activities associated with homestays and tours such as local cafes and restaurants. In Cu Lao Cham, a project that focused on coral reef restoration is likely also benefiting local fisheries and the wider community. However, identification and quantification of these indirect beneficiaries has been very challenging. Knowing this type of information would help to organise follow-up activities. Mr. Than Hoang Van added that of the 3000 visitor, to Cu Lao Cham per day about 30% engage in diving in the coral reef areas. Therefore, these activities are both directly and indirectly benefitting tourism agencies, boat operators, and the hospitality industry in general.

Bangladesh

The afforestation project in Gabura island tested a social forestry model through tri-partite collaboration between the Union Parishad, MFF and the Forest Department. This model has now been replicated many times by other development partners. Therefore, the number of indirect beneficiaries is very high through the testing of this model and its further replication. Protecting the mangrove infrastructure also led to the revival of the ecosystems. Crabs, shrimp and fish came back to the area thereby improving food security and livelihoods within the community. These indirect beneficiaries were not precisely quantified, however, the whole population of Gabura Island has benefitted from this project, and could be considered as indirect beneficiaries as well as people that benefited from the replication of the project in other areas reaching about 90,000 people in total.

Maldives

There was no investment in the precise quantification of indirect beneficiaries, however, in some cases the population of an entire atoll could be considered as indirect beneficiaries, such as in the case of environmental improvements to wetland parks that support the tourism and local

recreation activities. Mr. Christopher Howe commented that ancillary services will develop such as transport, food and beverages through the revival of these wetland parks. For each of these parks, 10,000 and 15,000 people can be considered as indirect beneficiaries.

Sri Lanka

Integrating quantification of indirect beneficiaries is important but often difficult to quantify as it is challenging to identify such beneficiaries and they are often distributed over a large area. Cambodia. The projects on integrated farming and black-cockle harvesting offered trainings to the wider community, and not just direct beneficiaries. These trainees can be considered as indirect beneficiaries, they also inspire others to start similar activities without MFF funding.

SESSION 3: Updates from Institutional Partners

Co-Chairs: Mr. Jose Padilla, Mr. Denis Matatiken (NCB Chair Seychelles), Mr. Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury (NCB Chair Bangladesh)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr. Jose Padilla

Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP Regional Hub in Bangkok

Mr. Jose Padilla started his presentation by outlining the GEF-UNDP-ASEAN Initiative to Reduce Pollution and Preserve Environmental Flows in the East Asian Seas through the implementation of Integrated River Basin Management in ASEAN Countries. Participating countries and partners include Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Viet Nam ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management, the ASEAN Secretariat and the PEMSEA Resource Facility. The project will follow a source-to-sea approach, which includes land areas that are drained by a river system, its lakes and tributaries (the river basin), connected aquifers and downstream recipients including deltas and estuaries, coastlines and near-shore waters, the adjoining sea and continental shelf as well as the open ocean. He encouraged MFF to communicate with him if there are some ongoing projects in targeted river basins. The project is in Project Preparation Grant phase and expected to have a budget of USD 8.48M.

Mr. Jose Padilla continued by providing an overview of the Implementation of the Arafura and Timor Seas Strategic Action Program. The objective of this project is to enhance sustainable development of the Arafura-Timor Seas (ATS) region to protect biodiversity and improve the quality of life of its inhabitants through conservation and sustainable management of marine-coastal ecosystems. Participating countries and partners include Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and Australia, Indonesia Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Timor Leste Ministry of, Agriculture and Fisheries, Papua New Guinea National Fisheries Authority, and the PEMSEA Resource Facility. The project components are: 1) Regional, National and Local Governance for Large Marine Ecosystem Management, 2) Improving Large Marine Ecosystem Carrying Capacity to Sustain Provisioning, Regulating and Supporting Ecosystem Services, 3)

Knowledge Management. The project is currently in preparation for implementation for an approved project amount of USD 9.75M.

He also mentioned the GEF-UNDP-PEMSEA Project, Scaling-Up Implementation of the Sustainable Strategy for Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), that included eight partner countries; Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste and Viet Nam. He concluded his presentation by presenting a few projects currently under development for GEF-7:

- Sulu Sulawesi Seas SAP Implementation Project (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines)
- Asia Plastics/Marine Debris Program (possible countries: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam).

For the Asia Plastics/Marine Debris Program, he encouraged the MARPLASTICCS team to undertake country consultations in Viet Nam and Thailand with UNDP offices.

There also a few coastal and marine projects at national level. Mr. Padilla suggested the MFF NCBs to be aware of these projects and encouraged them to link up with UNDP offices to explore collaborative opportunities.

(Link to [presentation](#))

United Nations Environment

Ms. Emelyne Cheney

Regional Technical Coordinator for UN-REDD Programme

Ms. Emelyne Cheney began by providing an update on the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA). The COBSEA Secretariat is hosted by Thailand and administered by UN Environment. At its Second Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting, 25th -26th April 2018, COBSEA adopted its Strategic Directions for 2018-2022, that addresses three themes:

- Land-based marine pollution with a focus on nutrients, sediment, wastewater and marine litter;
- Marine and coastal planning and management, with a focus on ecosystem-based management approaches, including Marine Protected Areas and Maritime Spatial Planning;
- Regional governance towards achieving SDGs and Aichi Targets.
- Activities will be developed and implemented in line with these themes and COBSEA will seek collaboration with regional partners during implementation.

Ms. Cheney also outlined a joint UN Environment - COBSEA project entitled 'Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in South East Asia' that was approved in July 2018 and is funded by Sida. The 4.5 year project will start with an inception phase in 2018 and will support countries to implement the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

UN Environment has also been actively supporting the Cleanseas campaign to address plastic pollution. More than 50 countries have joined the campaign, the most recent one being India. India pledged to phase out single-use plastics by 2020.

Regarding science and best-practice, UN Environment's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) will soon publish an updated global synthesis report on mangrove science which will be available in 2019.

UN Environment is also supporting a project on mangroves in Kenya based on the Voluntary Carbon Market, expanding an existing community project to increase the area of mangroves protected and the number of carbon credits being sold. The result of this project is a replicable small-scale pilot study that could be applied in other mangrove-dependent communities around the world.

The Blue Forests project (2015-2019), funded by the GEF, implemented by UN Environment and executed by GRID-Arendal, focuses on incorporating the value of coastal ecosystem services into sustainable management of mangroves and decision-making in Ecuador, Mozambique, Madagascar, Kenya, United Arab Emirates and Indonesia. There are various innovative approaches being implemented in each country, with a focus on carbon and climate change mitigation.

Ms. Cheney also provided an overview of the ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) portfolio of UN Environment, including;

- Bangladesh, LDCF, EbA in the drought-prone Barind Tract and Haor "wetland" Area
- Myanmar, LDCF, Adapting Community Forestry landscapes and associated community livelihoods to a changing climate, in particular an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events
- Cambodia, LDCF, Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Programme for Climate Change in the Coastal Zone of Cambodia Considering Livelihood Improvement and Ecosystems
- Cambodia, ADF, Enhancing Climate Resilience of Rural Communities Living in Protected Areas of Cambodia

Regarding UN-REDD and national REDD+ processes, there are active national UN-REDD Programmes in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Viet Nam. She added that there are ongoing national REDD+ processes in most MFF countries, and therefore an opportunity to raise the profile of mangroves and coastal ecosystems and include them in national REDD+ strategies and action plans. At global level, UN Environment is also working to highlight the value of mangroves and other high carbon ecosystems (e.g. peatlands) as part of the REDD+ agenda.

(Link to [presentation](#))

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

Mr. Kenichi Shono

Forest Resources Officer, FAO

Mr. Shono provided an overview of relevant ongoing FAO projects, including;

- My-Coast: Ecosystem-Based Conservation of Myanmar's Southern Coastal Zone

- This is a GEF-6 Biodiversity/Climate Change Mitigation project, currently in the Project Preparation Grant phase. The budget is approximately USD 3M over 4 years (2019-2023). The project is focused in the Tanintharyi Region with a primary objective of improving coastal zone management to benefit marine biodiversity, climate-change mitigation, and food security. It will lead to an improved management of hundreds of thousands of hectares of mangroves, seagrass, and other coastal resources and mangrove and seagrass habitats will be conserved and rehabilitated.
- Sustainable cropland and forest management in priority agro-ecosystems of Myanmar
- This GEF-5 Climate Change Mitigation, Land Degradation, Sustainable Forestry Management project started in 2015 and will continue until 2020 with a budget of USD6.183M. The objective of the project is to build capacity of farming/forestry stakeholders to mitigate climate change and improve land conditions by facilitating the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture and Sustainable Forest Management policies and practices. There are pilot sites in upland, dry zone and coastal zone (Labutta, Ayeyarwady region). The pilot site in Labutta focuses on community forestry in mangrove areas. The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) is supporting activities related to mangrove conservation, reforestation, securing land tenure, livelihood improvement, and capacity building. There is potential to include mangrove shrimp polyculture systems of farming.
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Cambodia's Coastal Fishery Dependent Communities
- The Project Preparation Grant phase of this GEF-6 LDCF project is planned to begin in October 2018 with a budget of USD2M. The primary objective is coastal fishery dependent communities adapt to climate change through strengthening coastal ecosystem and adapting their livelihoods. Six community protected area management plans will be approved (targets for restoring and protecting mangroves as a measure to increase resilience). It also includes mangrove friendly aquaculture investments.
- Sustainable Management of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme (BOBLME Phase 2)
- Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand are included in this project, which is a combination of GEF Framework funding combined with child projects, led by ADB and FAO, and with a total budget of USD14.266 million. A number of steps have to be completed before a final project document can be submitted to GEF in June 2019. These include re-establishing the BOBLME governance structure, establishment of a team to develop the full project proposal, consultations with countries partners and donors, and a regional validation workshop.
- Enabling transboundary cooperation for sustainable management of the Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem (ISLME)
- This 4-year GEF International Waters cooperation project between Indonesia and Timor Leste is led by FAO and Ministry of Fisheries in each country. The objective of the project is to strengthen regional cooperation and support the effective and sustainable management of the ISLME region by 1) Identifying and addressing threats to the marine environment including unsustainable fisheries, 2) Strengthening capacity for regional and sub-regional cooperation in marine resources, 3) Coordination with regional information networks, monitoring of project impacts, dissemination of information.

In addition to these projects, FAO is also working on marine plastics through a global initiative to address Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) including the development of Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear, and the Cleaner Harbors initiative, works with fishing communities to reduce pollution from fish landing areas.

Concerning REDD+, in Indonesia, a project proposal is under development for a NFMS re-design project of years with a budget of USD 10 million. It includes new mapping and inventory methods to improve mangrove mapping and biomass estimates. The second project is the Provincial REDD+ Action Plan (PRAP) implementation in Ca Mau province, including mangrove friendly aquaculture with SNV.

Mr. Kenichi Shono foresees collaboration with MFF on the following projects, BOBLME Phase 2 and ISLMEGEF projects with mangrove and coastal management activities in Cambodia and Myanmar (two projects), BICCRA, the inclusion of mangroves in REDD+ and a Regional GEF IW programme concept to be developed.

(Link to [presentation](#))

Wetlands International

Mr. Nyoman Suryadiputra

Director Wetlands International Indonesia

In Indonesia, an array of Green belt policies has been developed to protect mangroves. Wetlands International Indonesia (WII) has been working on mangrove rehabilitation projects in Sumatra, Kalimantan, Java, Sulawesi and Papua. An important part of this rehabilitation work concerns environmentally-friendly rehabilitation of abandoned shrimp ponds. Mr. Suryadiputra presented the Banten Bay green belt and sylvo-fishery ponds concept. The model of silvo-fishery is now applied at national level in Indonesia, and utilises sediment traps. While trapping sediments, it is also trapping mangrove seeds, therefore maintaining the substrate and allowing natural mangrove regeneration.

The two methods applied by WII, planting mangrove seedlings through sylvo-fishery and sediment traps in eroded coastal area to form new habitat for mangroves, have led to positive results and also store large amounts of soil carbon. This activity needs to be expanded in various coastal areas in Indonesia. To expand the sylvo-fishery activities, it is necessary to create incentives for pond owners, such as tax incentives. Regarding mud traps, a policy needs to be formulated on the clear status of accreted land ownership and its future management. MFF could facilitate the application of this model as a pilot on a large scale.

(Link to [presentation](#))

ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB)

Ms. Theresa Mundita S. Lim

Executive Director, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

Ms. Lim briefly introduced herself to the RSC given her recent appointment as Executive Director of ACB in April 2018. She proceeded to provide an overview of the background of ACB whose

programmes support ASEAN Member States to implement the CBD, SDGs, consistently implementing the ASEAN Strategic Action on the Environment, ASPEN (2016-2025). ACB programmes include

- the Heritage Parks Programme for protected areas to be recognized at regional level and approved by ASEAN member states
- the Clearing House Mechanism
- the Biodiversity Outlook, a flagship publication showcasing development in biodiversity conservation in the ASEAN region
- ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes, a programme launched to recognize champions of the environment

Ms. Lim continued by highlighting how ACB will be working with ASEAN Member States (ASM) towards strengthening efforts in coastal and marine biodiversity conservation:

- Implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Plan on Environment (ASPEN)
- The ASPE, 2016-2025, translates the relevant characteristics and key result areas of the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together vision document into more detailed plans of action and serves as a comprehensive guide for ASEAN cooperation on environment. The plan outlines agreed strategic priorities with selected programmes, outputs, and activities based on existing cooperation, the emerging needs of the AMS, and commitments to address relevant issues in the global agenda. ACB has been mandated to support action plans on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity, and Coastal and Marine Environment.
- Implementation of the ACB strategic plan
- There are many initiatives in ASEAN focused on forestry and biodiversity, however, many indicators show a need for further work in coastal and marine environment. The current implementation framework is based on the ACB Organizational Strategic Framework (2009–2015). This has now been realigned with the ASPEN, the ASEAN 2025 Agenda, the CBD Strategic Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and priorities of the new leadership in ACB. It shall serve as the ASEAN regional biodiversity strategy and action plan.
- Regional support for Aichi targets
- ACB is now designated as the node for regional implementation for Aichi targets 11 (protected areas), 12 (endangered species) and a renewed MoU with CBD is expected at the end of 2018.
- Mainstreaming Biodiversity in relevant sectors
- Tourism, coastal and marine development and climate-change are opportunities for collaboration with MFF.
- Partnerships and Networks on MPA/AHP/ TBPA and PA Networks, ICM, Marine Spatial Planning, Blue Economy and Species Conservation.
- There are opportunities to support transboundary biodiversity conservation area efforts, evaluating transboundary ASEAN heritage parks and biodiversity conservation for migratory birds and turtles

ADB will also continue the development and facilitation of project proposals to support biodiversity objectives of the ASEAN Member States. These include the following;

- Protection of Biological Diversity in the AMS (CARE4BioDiv)
- ASEAN Youth Biodiversity Programme (AYBP) in collaboration with the Global Youth Biodiversity Network
- Improving Conservation of Wetlands and Migratory Waterbirds in the ASEAN Region – Phase 1
- Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (EU-BCAMP)
- Improving Effectiveness in AHPs through Capacity Development and Biodiversity Information Management
- Promoting the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Key Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the ASEAN Region (in development)

(Link to [presentation](#))

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

Mr. David Pangan

Investment Specialist, PEMSEA

Mr. Pangan briefly introduced himself to the RSC given his recent appointment at PEMSEA in January 2018. He then proceeded to provide an update on ongoing and upcoming PEMSEA initiatives.

East Asia Ocean Investment Facility (EAOIF)

- The EAOIF is a regional facility for the development of blue economy projects that contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) and SDG's. Building on an impact investment report prepared by PEMSEA in 2015, the EAOIF is envisioned to direct billions of dollars of capital toward blue economy investments in the regions and away from unsustainable investments through a blended finance approach. The initial focus of the facility will be to broker private sector investors and match them with Blue Economy projects championed by social entrepreneurs or country partners. The EAOIF has already developed partnerships with four projects in ocean plastics, Marine Protected Areas/ ecotourism, waste water recovery, and sustainable aquaculture.
- The East Asian Seas Congress will be hosted by PEMSEA in Iloilo, Philippines, 27-30 November. PEMSEA and IUCN/ MFF will co-host a side event at the EAS Congress: "From Potential to Reality: Business Leadership for a Blue Economy in the Seas of East Asia". Aside from MFF, panelists will include representatives from companies in the region, such Coca-Cola Philippines and Minh Phu Seafood. The session aims to target interest in the formation of a regional Sustainable Business Alliance for Oceans and Coasts and identification of a concrete pilot initiative

Mr. Pangan noted existing collaboration between MFF and PEMSEA regarding private sector engagement, and the development of A Sustainable Business Roadmap for Southeast Asia in partnership with The Purpose Business consulting group. This roadmap highlighted the following areas:

- PEMSEA and IUCN/MFF are in a good position to engage companies, there are opportunities in scaling local successes of MFF and leveraging PEMSEA network and partnerships
- Based on interviews with 22 companies and related organizations there is clear interest to form a regional alliance
- To be successful, there is a need for a concrete issue to rally around; ocean plastic pollution was identified as good entry point

(Link to [presentation](#))

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Mr. Sangye Chewang

Director, Environment, Natural Disaster and Biotechnology, SAARC

Mr. Sangye Chewang began by acknowledging that SAARC member states, namely Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka, are actively engaged with MFF

He informed RSC-15 participants that SAARC, with support from ADB, had finalized the Study on Climate Risks in SAARC Region; Ways to address Social, Economic and Environmental Challenges. This report was finalized at a meeting in Colombo where all SAARC Member States were present along with ADB and consultants. The study makes a number of recommendations related to coastal zone management that are relevant to MFF partner countries.

He proceeded to outline how SAARC had recently been restructured. While the SAARC Secretariat remains the lead agency, the SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) is now the main implementing agency and is based in Gujarat, India. The SDMC was formed following a merger of four centers; the Meteorological Research Center, Forest Center, Coastal Management Zone Center and the Disaster Management Center. The mandate of the SDMC is to support member states in their disaster Risk Reduction initiatives through the application of science and technology, knowledge from multiple disciplines, exchange of best practices, capacity development, collaborative research and networking in line with global priority goals and other relevant frameworks adopted by the Member States.

Sweden

Ms. Louise Herrmann

Senior Programme Manager Environment and Climate Change, SIDA

Ms. Herrmann emphasized that as a long term development partner and main core funder of Phase 3 of the MMF, Sweden acknowledges MFF and IUCN's commitment, contribution and important role as a driver of change in the sustainable development agenda balancing the protecting the environment and coastal ecosystems while improving livelihoods in coastal communities.

She acknowledged that throughout the RSC-15 meeting, important achievements and challenges had been shared in terms of building capacity, exchanging knowledge, developing conducive policy environments, improving gender responsiveness and resilience approaches to

achieve sustainable integrated coastal resources management in the region. Ms. Louise Herrmann highlighted three important areas of success:

1. MFF has succeeded in putting the importance of mangroves ecosystems on the agenda at local, national and regional level in the region. The multidimensional value and the importance of the mangrove forests as an ecosystem for different stakeholders; what role it plays as a nursery ground for many fish and shrimp species, the economic and social value it has for coastal communities - and its unique capacity to increase resilience to the effects of climate change and weather related hazards.
2. In a very competitive and challenging environment MFF has succeeded to create spaces for collaboration and partnerships between actors with different interests and values, by identifying local needs, building ownership, while working towards the overall objectives of MFF. The soft governance system applied by the program has proven to be a useful approach bringing different partners together around the table to work towards sustainable coastal resources management. She particularly appreciated the intervention from the Pakistan NCB chair, who described the NCB platform as a strong enabler for policy influence such as the MPA designation. The grant facilities have enabled new ideas and projects that have materialized in some promising actions.
3. MFF continues to search for new methods and approaches to improve its delivery. MFF's increased collaboration with the private sector and other agents of change have shown to be an important step to achieve sustainable coastal development. MFF's support in the development of ICM courses, resilience and gender tools have generated ownership and improved interventions and results on the ground. The new working methods, which have been tested are ready to be replicated by other organizations working with coastal resources management.

Sweden is pleased to see that many of the countries are ready to sustain the NCBs in different forms and is hoping the regional collaboration on transboundary resources and joint environmental problem solving will continue e.g. the results generated can provide valuable input to programmes such as the European Union Marine Partnership Programme in the Pacific, and BOBLME and PEMSEA in Asia.

As Sweden is currently undertaking an evaluation, it is important to analyze the lessons learned from this programme and identify knowledge and experiences that could be replicated and used in future design, planning and implementation of programmes to improve the delivery of SDG 14. The evaluation will also provide guidance on how Swedish development cooperation should move forward with the implementation of the Swedish Development Strategy for Asia and the Pacific 2016-2021.

She concluded her speech by sharing the positive message that the Swedish government will continue to be an important actor to support the implementation of necessary actions to achieve the targets of SDG 14 and the 2030 agenda. The new Swedish global strategy puts a strong emphasis on strengthening ocean governance, reducing marine pollution and protecting coastal and marine ecosystems. The Swedish Ambassador for the Ocean and other concerned

governmental agencies will continue to be a driving force to speed up the implementation of the voluntary actions agreed at the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017.

Ms. Louise Herrmann wished to thank everyone for their dedication to the MFF programme over the years, and praised all MFF stakeholders for their input the programme and the impact it has achieved for sustainable management of coastal ecosystems in the region.

Discussion

- Mr. Jose Padilla encouraged MFF partners to share examples of concrete collaboration at national and regional level.
- In response to a question from Ms. Maeve Nightingale, Mr. David Pagan clarified that PEMSEA's research showed that there are opportunities for private sector investment, however, these opportunities need to be turned into bankable projects. A PEMSEA partner, Circulate Capital, saw an opportunity to invest in waste management in Southeast Asia and is interested to invest USD 150 Million to help address ocean plastic pollution.
- Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema enquired further about achievements resulting from the MOU between MFF and ACB. Ms. Claudia B. Binodo responded that ACB has been very focused on terrestrial ecosystems and the partnership with MFF has brought increased attention to coastal and marine ecosystem issues which has helped guide their work in these areas. Ms. Maeve Nightingale added that MFF will be supporting the ACB to integrate gender in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in Myanmar.

SESSION 4: MFF Moving Forward

Co-Chairs: Aban Marker Kabraji (IUCN ARO), Jose Padilla (UNDP), Thay Chantha (NCB Chair Representative Cambodia)

Budget Update

*Mr. Riaz Bangash
Head of Finance, IUCN Asia*

Mr. Bangash presented the MFF budget until the end of 2018. Costs for MC and RSC meetings are not all reflected yet, and utilization rate will be close to 100% by the end of 2018. Regarding country strategies, there are ongoing NCB activities, therefore, the remaining budget will be used within this year. For MFF's regional coordination unit there expected to be small savings in terms of staff costs. The capacity development budget is expected to be utilized, whereas some savings are expected for Knowledge Management and Communications.

There are ongoing activities for Private Sector strategy and Transboundary & National Initiatives. Regarding the medium grant facility, there will be some additional costs due to audit processes. There are still a few ongoing grants, and some have been recently completed and will receive final payment. For the small grant for private sector, the remaining amount will be spent.

Regarding audits, several audits will be undertaken in the coming weeks, and, therefore the allocated budget will be utilized. The budget allocation for MLE activities will also be used as there are MLE activities planned for the remaining projects.

He added that although expenditure might appear to be low, it is actually a normal trend, and expenses usually peak during the last 4 months of the year. Regarding the overall cash flow situation, there is carry-forward from 2017 for about USD 1.3 million, and a final payment expected from Sida.

Mr. Steen Christensen intervened and explained that MFF has requested a no-cost extension from Sida until April 2019 in order to finalize capacity development and knowledge management activities, and final reporting.

Ms. Louise Hermann asked Mr. Steen Christensen to clarify the no-cost extension in regards to country programmes. He said that the regional completion workshop may be postponed to January 2019, however, MFF national coordinators will not be maintained after December 2018. Some staff costs will be allocated in the countries to prepare for the regional completion workshop. Part of the regional secretariat will remain to finalize the activities that have been mentioned.

Summary of RSC-15 decisions and recommendations

Mr. Steen Christensen
MFF Coordinator

Session 1 – Regional Secretariat Update

Decisions

- All countries¹ included in the MFF BiCCRA application to the GCF will, in collaboration with their respective line ministries,
 - Prepare a statement supporting maintaining the regional approach for the project proposal, and;
 - Communicate these statements to their respective National Designated Authority (NDA).
- All countries¹ included in the MFF BICCRA application, through their networks, will convey their ongoing support for the project proposal.
- All countries² included in the MFF 'Mangroves and REDD+' proposal to Norad will work with their respective line ministries to draft a letter to the Royal Norwegian Embassy enquiring about the current status of the inception phase and request a meeting to clarify next steps.

¹ Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam

² Indonesia (Wetlands International Indonesia), and Myanmar and Viet Nam (IUCN)

- Recommendations:
- MFF, with support from UNDP, to prepare a project 'concept note' for consideration by GEF7
 - Regional proposal components for consideration under International Waters focal area
 - National proposal components for consideration under national STAR allocations for biodiversity
- IUCN will circulate the concept note to the respective countries for the consideration during dialogues.
- FAO recommended that this concept note should reflect the 'nature of the partnership' in MFF.

Session 2 – Country Updates

No decisions or recommendations

Session 3 – Institutional Partners

No decisions

Recommendations

- UNDP recommended that MFF Member countries, actively seek out colleagues in regional partner institutions to discuss ongoing projects under development, synergies, and opportunities for collaboration to scale up MFF activities through their existing programme allocations.
- UNDP recommended that in future meetings MFF should report on what concrete collaborations have been established between partners in the previous year; at local, national and regional levels.

Session 4 – Moving Forward

Decisions

- MFF to prepare an application to Sida for a no-cost extension till 30 April 2019

No recommendations

Discussion

- Mr. Nyoman N. Suryadiputra requested that Norad's letter to IUCN outlining their response to the draft proposal be shared with WII so that this can be referred to when preparing a letter to the Norwegian Embassy in Jakarta.
- Ms. Louise Hermann acknowledged the efforts made to support the BICCRA project proposal, however, she noted that MFF should continue to seek other funding. Ms. Kabraji explained that new proposals will be developed in consultation with member

countries and partners but that MFF would continue in some form, perhaps as a portfolio of several projects rather than a single programme.

- Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema commented that natural resources management and shifts in governance requires long-term investment, sometimes more than 10 years. He requested that SIDA consider 'bridge funding' between the completion of Phase 3 and the anticipated start of the BICCRA project. Ms. Louise Hermann responded that sustainability is always an issue in regional programs, that SIDA's exit strategy has been clear since 2014, and she was confident that countries had developed appropriate sustainability strategies.

MFF video premiere

MFF premiered a new film celebrating evolution and diversity of work done by MFF across the Asia region in the last 5 years to create a healthier, more prosperous and secure future for all coastal communities. The video features segments from many of the MFF member countries including; Wonder women of Xuan Thuy National Park, Building tomorrow's leaders today, and Promila, the mat weaving entrepreneur. MFF will be publishing the video in several chapters so users can feature particular segments of interest with their audiences.

Link to [Video](#)

Final Remarks and closing

Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji expressed her appreciation of 10 years of great work by MFF partners. She reiterated her commitment that IUCN will continue to work with all NCBs, country and institutional partners. She acknowledged that MFF member countries had made it clear during the RSC proceedings that they preferred MFF continue as a regional platform wish to go ahead with a regional platform. Despite the good work of MFF the Asia region continues to face many challenges that affect coastal areas, there is still much more to do. She thanked everyone for their participation in RSC-15 and in particular thanks Sida and other donors for their support, and that discussions will continue in the future.

Mr. Jose Padilla thanked Bappenas for hosting this RSC-15 meeting, the MFF secretariat, all countries and colleagues in the development sector for sharing their experience. He expressed his interest to continue exchanging in the future and considered his first RSC-meeting as a great learning experience.

Annex 1. List of RSC-15 Meeting Participants

Table 1. List of RSC-15 meeting participants

Country or Agency	Name of Participants
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Annex 2. RSC-15 Meeting Agenda

Day 1 – Monday, 24 September 2018

Tentative Time	Activity	Speaker/Notes
08:30 - 09:00	Registration	
	Inauguration	MC: Citra Latif
09.00 – 09.15	Welcome Remarks	Mr. Arifin Rudianto, Deputy Minister for Maritime & Natural Resources, Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas
09.15 – 09.25	Remarks by MFF Coordinator	Mr. Steen Christensen, MFF Regional Coordinator
09.25 – 09.35	Remarks by MFF Co-Chair, IUCN	Ms Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director, Asia Director – Regional Hub for Asia-Oceania, IUCN ARO
09:35 – 09:45	Remarks by MFF Co-Chair, UNDP	Mr. Jose Padilla, Regional Technical Advisor UNDP Regional Hub, Bangkok
9:45 – 10:00	Group Photo	
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Refreshment break</i>	
Session 1	Progress update from MFF Secretariat	<i>Co-Chairs:</i> Aban Marker Kabraji Jose Padilla Sriyanti Wibisana (NCB Chair Indonesia)
10:30 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and setting the agenda • Update on implementation including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grant Facilities ○ Gender Strategy ○ Capacity Development ○ Private Sector Engagement ○ Knowledge Management and Communication ○ MARPLASTICCs 	MFF Secretariat
12:00 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BICCRA ○ REDD+ ○ BOBLME 	Christopher Howe Alex McWilliam Maeve Nightingale
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Sida interviews with partners and national representatives</i>
Session 2	Country Updates	<i>Co-Chairs:</i> Jose Padilla Vu Thanh Ca (NCB Chair Viet Nam) Ajith Silva (NCB Chair Sri Lanka)
14:00 – 14:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Myanmar ▪ Viet Nam ▪ Malaysia 	
14:45 – 15:30	Plenum discussion: <i>MFF's role in strengthening</i>	Facilitated by Christopher Howe

	<i>regional, national and local resource management policies and delivery against national and international commitments (incl. SDG14)</i>	
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Refreshment break</i>	<i>Sida interviews with partners and national representatives</i>
16:00 – 16:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sri Lanka ▪ Thailand ▪ Seychelles 	
16:45 – 17:30	<p>Plenum Discussion: and knowledge) <i>MFF's role in coordinating and facilitating opportunities to strengthen ICM 'technical' capacity at national and regional level through the development of formal and informal education as well as other interventions e.g. national workshops and other knowledge sharing events</i></p>	Facilitated by Christopher Howe
17:30 – 17:45	Announcements and close of Day 1	
18:00	<i>Dinner, hosted by MFF</i>	

Day 2 – Tuesday, 25 September 2018

Session 2 Continued	Country Updates	<i>Co-Chairs</i> Aban Marker Kabraji Ibrahim Naeem (NCB Chair Maldives) Nyi Nyi Kyaw (NCB Chair Myanmar)
09:00 – 9:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bangladesh ▪ Cambodia ▪ Pakistan 	
9:45 – 10:30	<p>Plenum discussion: <i>MFF's role in strengthening MPA management in line with national MPA strategies and local community interests</i></p>	Facilitated by Christopher Howe
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Refreshment break</i>	<i>Sida interviews with partners and national representatives</i>
11:00 – 11:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ India ▪ Indonesia ▪ Maldives 	
11:45 – 12:30	<p>Plenum discussion: <i>How livelihood development projects were used in the MFF to strengthen resilience of coastal communities</i></p>	Facilitated by Christopher Howe
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Sida interviews with partners and national representatives</i>
Session 3	Institutional Partners	<i>Co-Chairs</i> Jose Padilla Denis Matatiken (NCB Chair Seychelles)

		Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury (NCB Chair Bangladesh)
14:00 – 15:30	Institutional Partners 1. UNDP 2. UN Environment 3. FAO 4. Wetlands International 5. ACB 6. PEMSEA 7. SAARC 8. Sweden	<i>Partner updates with focus on areas for future collaboration with MFF</i>
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Refreshment break</i>	<i>Sida interviews with partners and national representatives</i>
Session 4	MFF Moving Forward	<i>Co-Chair:</i> Aban Marker Kabraji Jose Padilla Thay Chantha (NCB Chair Cambodia)
16:00 – 16:30	Decisions and other matters	Steen Christensen
16:30 – 17:00	MFF video premiere	<i>Ann Moey</i>
17:00 – 17:15	Final remarks and closing	
	Dinner hosted by Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS)	

Learning Event

Day 3 – Wednesday, 26 September 2018

Tentative Time	Activity	Speaker/Remarks
08:30 - 09:00	Registration	
09:00 – 09:15	Introduction to the learning event	Steen Christensen
09:15 – 09:45	Introduction to the Sida evaluation process	Ake Nilsson
09:45 – 11:45	Focus group discussions on MFF's approach to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Resilience • Gender equality • Programme Governance • Private Sector Engagement • Learning, knowledge exchange and policy action 	Ake Nilsson
11:45 – 13:30	Lunch	<i>Sida interviews with partners and national representatives</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Report from focus group discussions and plenary discussions	Ake Nilsson
15:00 – 15:30	Conclusions and wrap up	Ake Nilsson
15:30 – 16:00	Field trip briefing	Telly Kurniasari

Annex 3. Group Photo of Meeting Participants



Annex 4. Learning Event

MFF Evaluation

Results from SWOT analyses at RSC meeting

26 September 2018

Introduction

This Annex presents the results of SWOT analyses carried out by 5 thematic groups of MFF stakeholders who participated in a learning event as part of the RSC meeting in Bali, Indonesia on 26 September 2018.

The themes of the 5 groups were:

1. Programme governance
2. Gender equality
3. Climate change resilience
4. Learning, knowledge exchange and policy action
5. Private sector engagement

The event was facilitated by the MFF Evaluation Team. Staff of MFF were assigned as chair persons in the groups and Evaluation Team members participated as resource persons.

1. Programme governance

A SWOT analysis

Strengths

- NCB Strong and flexible, comprising multi-stakeholders
 - NSAP in line with national policy
 - Advocacy on technical issues
 - Engagement with private sector
- Grant facilities
- Knowledge sharing within and between countries
- Regional framework
 - Connection between national set-ups, including through RSC
 - Accessing regional funding
- International recognition

Weaknesses

- IUCN
 - Top heavy compared to on-the-ground investment
 - Weakness in communication to member countries
 - More private sector involvement needed at national level
- NCB
 - Composition can change often
 - Knowledge gap between members
- Attribution and accountability
 - Identifying and measuring non-direct beneficiaries/benefits
 - Difficult to measure long-term impact
 - Accountability of grant recipient after grant is ended
- Financial sustainability and exit strategy
 - Lack of/non-implementation of sustainability plan (national)

- Reinvestment to MFF/ grant mechanism
- Delay in renewing and securing donor funding
- Future strategy not clear at regional level

Opportunities

Functions of RSC and NCB:

Complex

- NCB - Better information sharing at national to local level
- Private sector investment
 - Tax incentive
 - CSR funding
 - NCB membership
- Increase partnership at regional level
 - e.g.: BOBLME, PEMSEA, COBSEA, Ocean and Sea, ICLME, SEAFDEC
 - Connected to ↓
- Defining and focusing MFF strategic interventions
 - e.g. other grant programs
- More connection to scientific networks, including IUCN commission members
 - Filling a broader communication role

Threats

- Politic situation
 - Change in government priorities
 - Development threat to conservation, i.e. roads and mega projects
 - Change in NCB composition and ability/will to influence policy, losing personal contact
 - Impact on NGOs
- Change of focus/priorities for donor funding
 - Resulting in declining fund from donors
- Lack of financial support to maintain NCBs and RSC
 - NCB with funding from private sector will depend on economy of companies
 - NCB rely on government budget → How to contribute to regional level
- Disconnection between donors – stakeholders
 - Grantee does not have understanding of investment from donor

B Issues raised during discussions in plenum

There were no comments made in plenum.

2. Gender equality

A SWOT analysis

Strengths

- Sida development policy HRBA
- MFF gender strategy, integrated in NSAP, tools, SGF, etc.
- Capacity development for gender integration (internal and external)
- Ground examples – ‘pilot projects’ – that can be replicated
- Indonesia
 - Education – training on gender integration (livelihood projects) and women’s organizations
 - Women speak up – they are empowered to voice opinion at household & community level

Weaknesses

- Human resources – gender development professionals rare
- Need to disseminate MFF GA results to all decision makers
- Define indicators to measure change in attitude / behaviour
- Programme partners / development stakeholders have superficial understanding of gender equity. Gender is seen as women.
- Little uptake of gender stories in media
- Gender is context specific and must be properly understood for any interventions to work – no one size fits all
- Water security is a women’s interest / concern but not much of freshwater security in MFF

Opportunities

- CSR tax (India and Seychelles) – community development opportunities
- Government policy that aims to improve gender equality should be leveraged by development projects / programmes
- Broad acceptance that inequality exists (India)
- Access to education and financial independence is a pathway for improved gender equality
- We need a catalytic effect to continue long-term gender related interventions that is independent of donor financial priority
- Government and private sector investment
- Broker for programme design

- Private sector can best relate to interventions in their local areas / communities compelling shift in gender roles – Cambodia garment factory employing women

Threats

- Cultural barriers to gender equality
- Lack of access to education for women / girls leads to vulnerability – reinforces gender inequity
- Policy in place but uptake uncertain
- Development organizations must have good institutional gender policy – walk the talk
- Lack of dedicated financial resources
- Chinese investment leading to ‘regression’ due to belt and road initiative – there is a need to bring China on board MFF

B Issues raised during discussions in plenum

- Formal figures on representation of men and women in local bodies and government structures are not always representative for the actual involvement when it comes to implementation. Proper training needs to be provided to both men and women.
- MFF projects are short-term and may have some short-term effects on the conditions of women, but how do we achieve strategic long-term effects?
- Need for better communication of results to concerned planners and policy makers so they can be translated to action.

3. Climate change

A SWOT analysis

Strengths

- MFF has/follows a holistic resilience building process
- Communication between various actors has been effective
- MFF is an incubator of ideas, which has led to experimentation (focusing at the grassroots)
- Since MFF follows a bottom-up approach, the process brings in greater stakeholder ownership
- NCB's soft governance generally works
- The models are replicable elsewhere (in similar contexts)
- MFF processes have a certain level of flexibility
- MFF mandate exhibits clarity

Weaknesses

- Because of MFF's positioning, certain opportunities (especially financing opportunities) cannot be tapped/realized (certain typologies do not attract financing niche)
- The results are not captured in quantitative terms
- The SGF projects have short time-frame
- The SGF projects are often tiny/too thin (which limits realization of considerable results)
- Impacts at regional level is limited
- Collaborations with partners are very limited (until Phase-III)
- Staffing has been inadequate (to deliver all aspects of the project)

Opportunities

- It is possible to build partnership with other stakeholders
- Expanding programmes involving REDD+ (to link up with country-specific NDCs)
- Financing opportunities need to be sought including
 - Philanthropic organizations and foundations
 - Voluntary carbon markets
 - Private sector (examples of Pakistan, Vietnam)
- Private sector engagement can be enhanced
- Blue economy issues can be integrated (example: sustainable aquaculture)
- Traceability/certification of origin can be facilitated for certain products to add value
- MFF can be a regional technical hub to offer consultancy services for generating revenues
- MFF should look at country commitments

Threats

- Risks associated with negative externalities of adaptation practices (particularly involving livelihoods of poor people, as demand for certain raw materials/products have been escalating)
- Parts of the resilience building activities are dependent on global negotiations on climate change
- Government policies are changing all the time
- Donor interests are always shifting from one issue to another
- The benefits achieved can be wiped away by unpredictable climate events

B Other issues discussed in the group, and issues raised during discussions in plenum

Other issues discussed in the group:

- Integration with contemporary issues has been weak (example: plastics in marine ecosystems)
- General weakness in communicating results of climate change related actions for actual policy change, although it has happened in e.g. Pakistan
- Design did not consider adequate efforts in outreach and sharing (also implementation weakness)
- Focus on coastal area (niche area, but also a weakness)
- Risk with envisioning a programme that is regional

Issues raised during discussions in plenum:

- MFF has touched the core of climate change, through conservation and restoration of large areas of mangroves that has improved coastal protection and enhanced resilience of ecosystems and livelihoods of communities
- Land subsidence has been a problem for regeneration of mangroves, another threat is the construction of dams in upstream catchments, which can change the freshwater/saltwater balance and thus the conditions for the mangroves
- Landscape planning is an opportunity that needs to be addressed, and enhanced sedimentation as a result of mangrove rehabilitation can counteract land subsidence effects
- The programme is well recognized as a programme that has mainstreamed resilience and applied the concept in actual application

- Several countries have forests (albeit not necessarily mangroves at this stage) as part of their national climate commitments and will report on this, which is an opportunity that should be used in future MFF

4. Knowledge management

A SWOT analysis

Strengths

- Multi-stakeholder and multi-level knowledge sharing (local, national and regional): platforms like RSC, MLE
- MFF research filling key knowledge gaps and informing & influencing policy and governance
- Specific events for knowledge sharing exchange
- MFF knowledge products for capacity development (ICM course, training materials)
- MFF processes engage and inform civil society and local stakeholders building knowledge base
- MFF knowledge leveraging other funding
- Diversity of KMC tools

Weaknesses

- Knowledge products not always available in local language
- Limited investment in dedicated KMC human resource in countries (also sharing events)
- Specific knowledge not always tailored for policy makers
- Using website internet as a primary dissemination tool limits access for community level
- Use of audio-visual mediums could be improved
- Learning opportunities for communities and private sector could be improved
- Fund allocation for research is limited at both national & regional levels

Opportunities

- Extending and upscaling MFF knowledge outside MFF and to other regions
- Distilling MFF knowledge for best practices
- MFF knowledge brand can be marketed
- Strengthening social media and TV to extend learning to others
- Usage of MFF ICM course by other university networks
- Engaging regional partners to extend MFF knowledge products
- Others can use MFF knowledge base to develop decision making tools for government and private sector

Threats

- Lack of continuity brings “turbulence” to MFF knowledge base (e.g. people, tools)
- Changing global trends, MFF knowledge base loses relevance (low risk)
- As above for local govt. agencies (e.g. shifting people disrupts knowledge base)
- MFF knowledge base disruption limits ability to influence government decision making

B Issues raised during discussions in plenum

There was no discussion in plenum on the results of this group. Below are some specific examples of points brought up in the group:

- MPAs have been designated by government upon recommendations of research supported by MFF in Pakistan; similarly, in Bangladesh and in Sri Lanka mangroves are designated as protected areas
- NGOs and private sector members as part of NCB have helped in knowledge sharing – in India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan
- Odisha – MFF played an important role in conducting a research on whale sharks, a heavily hunted species got it marked as Schedule I ‘heavily protected species’ under the Wildlife Protection Act
- RSC and training events organized by MFF involves other partners and NCB members
- Sri Lanka – five universities have adopted the ICM training course modules developed by MFF support; similarly in Bangladesh
- Informing local stakeholders and building their capacities by way of livelihood models and pilot projects through MFF
- Pakistan – MFF knowledge products have helped to leverage funding from other sources; baseline study undertaken by MFF gathered other agencies’ interest and was the base for the first Marine Protected Area
- Website, training materials and social media tools have also added to the knowledge base on mangroves
- Knowledge products – largely products produced from regional secretariat are in English. Few countries have produced them in other local languages. This would really be necessary to contextualize and take it to grassroots level partners and communities
- Lack of resources dedicated to knowledge management human resources at national and local levels; MFF doesn’t interact with media much due to this; knowledge needs to be converted into specific messaging for communication to policy makers in simple and non-technical language is required
- Greater dependence on communicating through internet platforms like the website may not be the best way; in countries like Indonesia where internet is not very accessible our knowledge does not reach out to most stakeholders

- Use of audio-visual media could be improved further by way of documentation of pilots, e.g. videos produced by Pakistan are now being considered for use by Sri Lanka. Visuals speak much more than technical reports.
- Learning opportunities for the communities and private sector could be improved; currently most of the knowledge and training events are targeted more to government representatives
- Funding allocation for research is limited at national and regional levels; coordinated research is not placed on priority, and hence policy level recommendation opportunities also become limited
- Distilling MFF knowledge for best practices, case studies and widely communicating these for outreach; raise more funds and effectively communicate more actively to wider audience
- More **local** media engagement required to leverage knowledge generated
- Engaging regional partners to share knowledge
- A lot of the knowledge available can be converted to easy-to-use tools for private sector and decision makers
- MFF knowledge base needs to keep pace with changing global trends and priorities to stay relevant; communicating in the language relevant to the times

5. Private sector engagement

SWOT analysis

Strengths

- IUCN's good brand attracts private sector
- Some NCBs include private sector and expertise
- MFF provides flexible finance and co-financing
- MFF's interest beyond CSR distinguish from other fundraising organisations
- MFF benefits from IUCN policies and tools for engagement decision

Weaknesses

- Visibility of MFF lacking
- Lack of capacity and resources (technical and marketing)
- Disconnect between IUCN global discussions and reality on the ground

Opportunities

- National funding to scale-up incentivize MFF's results (Sri Lanka, Cambodia)
- Media plays greater role in increasing transparency
- Growing international demand for sustainable products/services
- Growing business interest in sustainability (Marine plastic, organic shrimp)

Threats

- Green washing
- IUCN members and partners opposition to PSE
- Competition with usual suspects
- Mass coastal tourism, zero transparency, need for strict regulations
- Perverse policy (poor people some time pay more than rich person for example-fire wood)
- Lack of continuous funding

B Issues raised during discussions in plenum

- With regard to the strength of IUCN's good brand, that could also be a weakness
- MFF is a multi-stakeholder programme and since the private sector is usually unwilling to share the glory, their willingness might be limited
- Partnering with industrial associations and business platforms might be an alternative
- MFF is able to use IUCN tools in its work (well-tested in terms of due diligence etc.), which is a strength in engaging with the private sector
- Moving from CSR to value creation and sustainable business practices takes time, has to start with awareness
- Companies get credibility by engaging with IUCN when moving from CSR to sustainable business with financial returns, carbon offset etc