

December 2008 - January, 2009

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

This e-Newsletter aims to keep MFF National Coordinating Bodies (NCBs), partner organisations and other stakeholder groups up to date on MFF activities and other marine and coastal news. We warmly welcome your contribution!

News/Announcements

Newcomers!

It is our great pleasure to announce the appointment of Mr. **Nicholas Rosellini**, Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Regional Director, RCBAP, Bangkok, Thailand as the **new MFF UNDP Co-chair**. Nicholas joined UNDP in 1986 in Ghana. Since then, he has held a variety of positions, the most recent being UN Resident Coordinator, Thimphu, Bhutan. Prior to this position, Nicholas served as Chief of the Directorate, Bureau of Management (2000-2005); Deputy Resident Representative, Viet Nam (1996-2000); Assistant Resident Representative, Pakistan (1992-1996); and Programme Advisor, Ethiopia (1989-1992). He holds an MSc in Economics from London School of Economics. Please join us in wishing Nicholas all the best in his new role.



“The Sundarbans is the single largest single mangrove forest in the world with 80 percent of the global mangrove floral diversity. MFF simply would not be complete without the Sundarbans... Bringing the MFF to have a first hand experience with the Sundarbans, illustrating the beauty and the challenges face in conserving the Sundarbans allowed for an opportunity for the forest department to show how India has successfully dealt with these challenges to the rest of the world.. ”, says **N.C. Bahuguna**, Chief Conservator and Director, Sundarban Biosphere Reserve.



N.C. Bahuguna



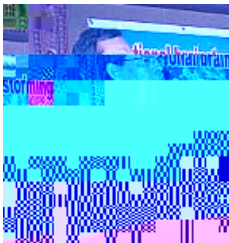
IUCN President embraces the MFF philosophy

The recently elected IUCN President, Mr. Ashok Khosla attended a specially organised reception at ITC Sonar, Kolkata, India evening of 19 January. This was Mr. Khosla's first official function as President of IUCN. He was thrilled of the MFF achievements so far and said that *“MFF could be a model for how IUCN works”*.

Left: Mr. Parsheera Special Secretary MoEF, and Chair of the National Coordinating Body (NCB) for India together with Mr Ashok Khosla, IUCN President at the Reception

MFF Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Approves Large Projects!

The first call for MFF Large Projects was initiated after the third RSC meeting following approval of the guidelines



Mr. B.P. Nilarathna

The workshop brought together; administrators, reef managers, scientists and research students from Government and Non-Governmental organizations / Institutions.

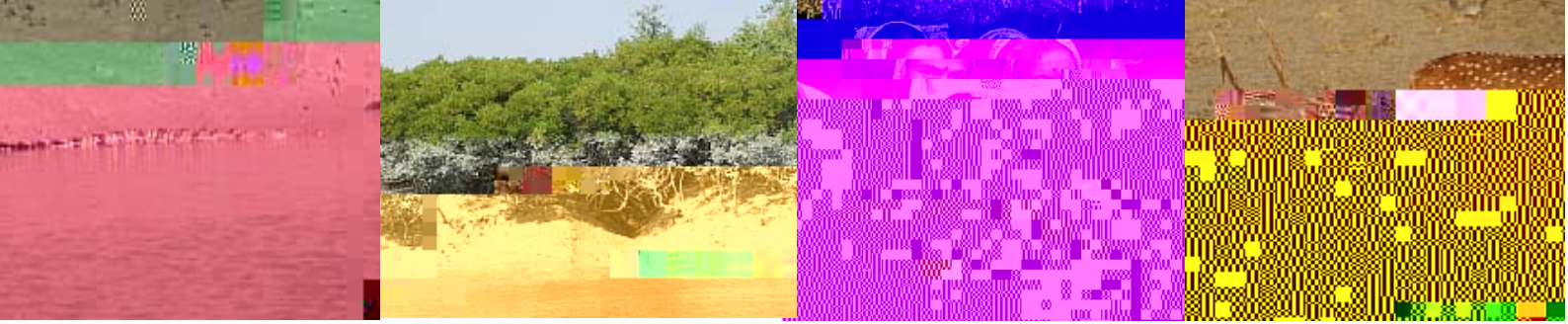
A total of 28 research papers and reports were presented at the workshop under five broad research areas: 1. *Coral Status and Conservation*, 2. *Coral Associates*, 3. *Coral Diseases & molecular Studies*, 4. *Reproduction, Recruitment and Restoration*, and 5. *Coral environment and threats*. The final output from this brainstorming workshop is to put together a status report on the coral reefs and its associates of India.

Engaging the Private Sector

MFF about to launch its private sector programme in Thailand

Coastal areas of Indian Ocean countries provide lucrative opportunities for business and industry, especially within the fisheries, tourism, oil and gas and transportation sectors. But much of the commerce, industry and development are taking place with scant regard to the environment, and with devastating consequences on coastal ecosystems and local livelihoods. Private sector actors in these sectors are simultaneously primary economic beneficiaries of coastal environmental services and ideally positioned to finance environmental service (ES) provision to support their economic activities. MFF is identifying ways of promoting sustainable opportunities and practices. To respond to these opportunities, MFF's private sector programme seeks to build on existing CSR initiatives in the region and encourage a more explicit and demand-oriented coastal ecosystem investment regime amongst private stakeholders that will complement it

IUCN-Pakistan and SANDEE host a polic



Field Visits

The Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve (SBR)

The Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve (SBR) was established in 1989 through a notification of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme. The Sundarbans is the largest intertidal area of approximately 26 000 km² where two major riversystems meet, Ganga and Brahmaputra in the Bay of Bengal along India and B

The Sundarban Tiger Reserve

International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC 2009)



