

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (o)

PROGRAMME AREA: Mangroves for the Future Programme

BACKGROUND

The Strategy for Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is based on a vision of more healthy prosperous and secure future for all sections of coastal populations in India Ocean countries where all ecosystems are conserved and managed sustainably.

MFF's goal and objectives contribute towards conservation and restoration of coastal ecosystem as an essential part of coastal development infrastructure. The first works at the level of direct actions and interventions that are required to manage coastal ecosystems based sustainably, equitably and effectively. The second objective works to strengthen the broader frameworks that influence people's investments and actions, and which enable to hinder environmentally sustainable coastal development. Together, these objectives tackle both the direct and the underlying causes of ecosystem degradation, unsustainable livelihoods and persistent vulnerability in coastal areas if the Indian Ocean countries

MFF intends to effect demonstrable changes through 19 results, spread across 4 key areas of influence: regional co-operation: national programme support, private sector engagement and community action

Fifteen broad programmes of work have been designed to effect the changes reflected in these results by tackling key aspects of coastal management in which effort is required. The initiative will be implemented through a series of on-the-ground project which will deliver these actions, outputs and associated results. Together these result areas represent the types of changes and involve the main stakeholder groups, where support and action is required to address the current and future threats to ecosystems and livelihoods, and to conserve and restore coastal ecosystems for the long-term human well-being and security.

SACEP has been identified as possible partners for the projects in the following Programme Areas. The SACEP Secretariat is in communication with the steering committee to determine its specific role.

Programme Area	Project Title
❖ Actions to Build Knowledge	(3) Providing decision support for reef-to-ridge approaches to land and resource management
❖ Actions to Strengthen Empowerment	(7) Building the capacity of professional coastal managers for integrated coastal management
	(8) Supporting environmentally sustainable livelihoods among coastal communities
❖ Actions to Enhance Governance	(11) Supporting National Integrated Coastal Management Programmes
	(13) Building National Systems of Marine and Coastal Protected Area that contribute to a Regional Network
	(14) Promoting adaptive Coastal Management Programmes that include ongoing ecological and socio-economic assessment and Monitoring

Programme Area

❖ Actions to Build Knowledge

(3) Providing decision support for reef-to-ridge approaches to land and resource management

Actions and Outputs

- a) Enhance awareness of the need for 'reef to ridge' approaches among inland land and resource managers, river-basin planners and policy-makers
- b) Analysis of existing land-based activities which impact on coastal ecosystems and livelihoods, in order to identify appropriate plans for reversal and mitigation
- c) Promote inclusion of coastal stakeholders in existing and planned integrated land and water resource management strategies and mechanisms for dialogue
- d) Design and distribute a decision support tool that incorporates 'reef to ridge' considerations

Programme Area

❖ Actions to Strengthen Empowerment

(7) Building the capacity of professional coastal managers for integrated coastal management

Actions and Outputs

- a) National capacity and training needs assessments for different stakeholder groups in order to identify gaps, needs, strengths and opportunities for building capacity in ICM
- b) Support to existing regional and national centres of training, research and excellence in ICM
- c) Support to tertiary education and research in ICM through grants, partnerships and leadership development programmes
- d) Development of targeted training modules for continuing education of coastal practitioners and managers, including enforcement agencies

(8) Supporting environmentally sustainable livelihoods among coastal communities

Actions and Outputs

- a) Development of models to guide livelihood restoration to post-disaster situations and methodologies to promote an action-learning approach to ensure that livelihood restoration activities are adapted to specific local needs and ecosystems
- b) Development & Replication of small community-led ecotourism activities related to mangroves and other coastal ecosystems and improve access to markets
- c) Support the restoration of fisheries and aquaculture in tsunami-affected areas and ensure that these efforts are environmentally sustainable
- d) Development of efforts to add value to local use and marketing of non-fish mangrove products, linked to community-based management and conservation approaches

Programme Area

- ❖ Actions to enhance governance

(11) Supporting National Integrated Coastal Management Programmes

Actions and Outputs

- Assessment of national institutional mechanisms and programmes for ICM in order to identify and operationalise appropriate, inclusive and sustainable governance mechanisms to MFF” approaches among inland and resource managers, river-basin planners and policy makers
- In India, support the operations of state-level coastal zone management authorities
- In Maldives to support the development of measures and mechanisms for inter
- In Sri Lanka, support to inter-sectoral mechanisms for integrated coastal zone management through coast Conservation Department

(13) Building National Systems of Marine and Coastal Protected Area that contribute to a Regional Network

Actions and Outputs

- Gap analysis to review existing protected area coverage, identify regionally and nationally under-represented ecosystems, and recommend areas in need of additional [protection
- Assessment of management effectiveness of existing protected areas leading to the development of strategies for management improvements
- Support to the development of new, or strengthening of existing protected areas in critical or under-represented coastal ecosystems
- Supporting a regional forum and learning network to share knowledge and approaches on protected area management
- Development of codes of conduct for the tourism industry for the use of protected areas

(14) Promoting adaptive Coastal Management Programmes that include ongoing ecological and socio-economic assessment and Monitoring

Actions and Outputs

- Needs assessment to identify existing socio-economic and ecological baselines, and gap-filling of deficiencies in key data and indicators
- Support to regional and national systems for the spatial assessment of ecosystems using satellite imagery and to mechanisms for developing the communication and information sharing necessary to combine data at a regional level
- Development and associate training in the use of, common protocols for community-based and scientific monitoring of coastal ecosystem health and socio-economic indicators
- Application of ecological and socio-economic assessment and monitoring mechanisms, for key MFF actions, paying particular attention to actions aimed at protected area management, coastal ecosystem rehabilitation and community sustainable livelihood activities