

## **MMM3 : Meeting on Mangrove ecology, functioning and Management**

### **Galle, Sri Lanka, 2-6 July 2012**

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MMM is an international conference on mangrove ecosystems that is held every 6 years. Although dealing with a variety of ecological themes, incl. flora, fauna and biogeochemical cycles, this conference originally stood for the 'International Meeting on Mangrove Macrobenthos' and was organised by the Università degli Studi di Firenze (Italy) as MMM in Mombasa (Kenya), 7-11 September 2000. Six years later a consortium including Griffith University and Queensland University organised 'MMM2 : Mangrove Macrobenthos Meeting' in Coolangatta (Australia), 25-30 June 2006, where it was decided that the meaning of the MMM could be opened up in order to continue this conference as the first global recurrent conference on mangrove ecosystems. Hence, the name for MMM3: Meeting on Mangrove ecology, functioning and Management. MMM is to be organised by mangrove scientists world-wide, every 6 years, i.e. at an interval that allows scientific innovation. It is not aiming at massive attendance but at single sessions covering various topics, with plenty of time for discussion in each of them. As a matter of fact, macrobenthos will still form a solid theme together with vegetation, trophic, restoration and management issues, just like MMM1 and MMM2. The conference is usually accompanied by a mid-conference excursion and followed by mid-week workshop in a mangrove site aiming at identifying research gaps through joint-fieldwork, analyses and brainstorming.



The conference MMM3 : International Meeting on Mangrove ecology, functioning and Management is jointly organised by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), the University of Ruhuna (UoR) and the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), and will be held in the premises of the University of Ruhuna in Galle, Sri Lanka, from 2 till 6 July 2012. It will be followed by a mid-week workshop (9-13 July 2012) in the Pambala-Chilaw Lagoon complex (Sri Lanka) at the premises of the Small Fishers Federation of Lanka in Pambala-Kakkapalliya.