

Green Coast

For nature and people
after the tsunami

"The Green Coast project is restoring and managing coastal ecosystems to increase livelihood security for people in tsunami hit regions"

Small Grants Projects in Indonesia: Coastal region of Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar

Coastal Rehabilitation throughout Women's Hands

On the 26th of December 2004...

...an earthquake struck 150 km off the coast of Aceh followed by the tsunami wave which swept clean an 800 km coastal strip – equivalent to the coastline from San Francisco to San Diego. Some 130,000 people were killed and 37,000 remain missing. Damage in fisheries sector figured 4,717 coastal fishing boats lost and 20,000 ha of fish ponds destroyed or out of action.

(A Joint Report of The BRR and International Partners, December 2005: ACEH AND NIAS ONE YEAR AFTER THE TSUNAMI; The Recovery Effort and Way Forward).

Tibang, a village, located in the coastal region of Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar which were known as the densest region in Aceh province. Out of 171 thousands people dead and 70 percent people claimed missing over tsunami were from this region. Tsunami swept almost entire coastal vegetations and fishponds. The assessment reveals that most of the wetland types were severely degraded by tsunami, silted up by mud and inundated by sea water due to coastal land subsidence. The areas have needed a very high massive rehabilitation effort using mangroves species, especially in the fishpond which was the community's main livelihood source.



Women doing mangrove seedling
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Women's Role

Before the tsunami, the women had significant roles in many areas, such as rice farming, fish processing and oysters collecting which are livelihoods that totally rely on ecosystems.

After tsunami, however, women roles have been reduced as the resources ecosystems were gone damaged. Most of the women group in this area gained their income from collecting oyster in mangroves roots. Women took very good care of mangrove habitats as they were well aware of damaged mangroves would affect the yield of the oysters. They also replanted mangroves seedlings while collecting oyster. Within this project the women continue what they had been doing before.

The project at a glance...

Location:

Tibang Village located on North Coast of NAD, in Banda Aceh District

Period:

28 November 2005 up to February 2007

Targeted number of beneficiaries:

approximately 143 families

Approved budget:

Euro 20.000.

Rehabilitated Targeted Area:

12 ha



Fruit crackers packed in the plastic bags by the Tibang Women Group
© ILM/WIIP

They directly engaged in the process of coastal rehabilitation starting from developing seedlings, planting mangroves up to maintaining the planted trees.

Under this project, the women are also developing their ways towards self-reliance by running and managing their own small scale industries.

Beside assist women group to rehabilitate coastal ecosystem, YaGaSu also assist women group in developing the business plan, production training and marketing. At present they have produced and soled fruit crispy and develop growing up molting crab

The objective of the project

The aim of the project is to obtain long term commitment in restoring damaged coastal as well as improving their livelihood. The main objectives are:

- * To plant at least 200.000 seedling of mangroves and coastal vegetation.
- * To establish sustainable small scale industries organized by the women.
- * To establish a regulation at the village level in conserving mangrove's ecosystem[i1].

Who is implementing the project

The project is implemented by Yayasan Gajah Sumatera (YaGaSu) which actively involve in assisting women group in developing the business plan, production training and marketing.

What do the beneficiaries have to say?

“Ensuring sustainable rehabilitation in the long-term is essential particularly if the community relies on the coastal natural resources for putting food on the table. Community active participation is required in all rehabilitation efforts including restoring damaged ecosystems in order to obtain a better support of sustainable livelihood at the local level.”

(Yagasu Staff)

What is the Green Coast project?

The Green Coast Project aims to restore costal ecosystems and provide natural shelter and other benefits and services to people that live in vulnerable coastal regions. In Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Malaysia partner organizations work together in three closely interlinked parts of the Green Coast project, to:

- Assess the tsunami impacts on ecosystems and livelihoods, as well as local communities views and rights
- Influence governments and aid agencies and corporate sector to sustainable manage and restore coastal natural resources
- Facilitate small grants for community-based rehabilitation projects

The project is managed by Wetlands International and financed during 1,5 year by Novib/Oxfam Netherlands through Dutch public charity funds.

In Indonesia the Green Coast project is being implemented by the Wetlands International Indonesia, Program WWF-Indonesia and GEF-Small Grants Programme