

Lagoon ecosystem for sustainable livelihoods in Kuala Daya Lagoon

Project & location

This project aims to preserve a lagoon ecosystem for sustainable livelihoods in Kuala Daya Lagoon, Gle Jong Village, Aceh Jaya District.

As it is situated far from the western highway, Gle Jong village is quite remote. During conflict time, this village sank further behind as the military government categorised the area as a dangerous place to visit. Nevertheless, for many Acehnese, Gle Jong village possesses a high spiritual value because of a grave found in the area. The grave belongs to a leader and muslim scholar, Sultan Ala'addin Riayatsyah, who is believed to have been an important promulgator of Islam in Aceh. Every year at the celebration of Hajj Feast, his grave is visited by thousands of people.



Gle Jong village is also believed to be the site where in the past a group of Portuguese established an enclave. After waging war with the local inhabitants, peace was reached and the Portuguese became assimilated into the community, embraced Islam and married to local people.

Problem description

Before the tsunami, Desa Gle Jong was on the Kuala Daya estuary and surrounded by rice fields to the east, south and west, with beach forests and mangrove swamps to the north and west. The tsunami then caused the shoreline to retreat inland 500 metres, destroyed the beach forest and swamps, and turned the ricefields into new brackish water swamps. In addition to this destruction of the natural defences, about 1500 inhabitants are thought to have been lost or died as a result of this disaster. To date, the coastal ecosystem's condition has changed little since the tsunami; tree growth is extremely sparse thus making the village appear barren, hot in the dry season, and exposing the settlement to the direct battering of strong winds from the Indian Ocean.

Such conditions necessitate intervention to restore the coastal ecosystem by planting a range of suitable vegetation. This will greatly help the village community as well as restoring the biodiversity of Kuala Daya. The community has already started rehabilitation, with technical and financial assistance from Wetlands International. A large constraint is sand mining by people from outside the village, and disturbances from livestock and wild boars.

Recovery goals

The long term objective of project in this new site is to preserve lagoon and coastal ecosystems for enabling community of Gle Jong utilize the ecosystems sustainably. The objectives are to:

- Maintain function of lagoon as source of livelihoods for community.

- Rehabilitate lagoon and coastal area of Kuala Daya through mangrove and beach trees planting.

- Revitalize community livelihoods activities were lost due to tsunami.

- Facilitate development of Village Regulation regarding sustainable management of lagoon.

Funding allocation

Funds will be allocated for following activities:

- Participatory identification of existing natural resources and options for recovery of Gle Jong Village

- Development of mangrove and beach trees nurseries.

Planting and caring of 60,000 mangrove and 5,000 beach trees in and surround lagoon.

Facilitating development of lagoon management plan.

Identify potential economic activities (small scale business) as source of income for local community.

Training of SME management and disbursement of financial capital to communities.

Awareness and campaign for the environmentally friendly management of lagoon.

Beneficiaries

Partners on the ground

Implementation of project will be conducted by facilitators from Wetlands International Indonesia Programme working together with the Gampong Baru community group.

This project is implanted by the community under direct WIIP supervision.

Results so far