

Community based rehabilitation projects

Staff of IUCN Sri Lanka were trained to establish and manage a 'Small Grants Facility' with a value of app. 600,000 Euro. Between September 2005 and December 2007, the Small Grants Facility has provided financial capital and technical support to tsunami affected communities to rebuild their livelihoods and restore the damaged ecosystems. A total of 29 projects were supported and, during the extension phase (March – Dec. 2007) an additional 7 projects were implemented replicating the successful approach in coastal restoration in other coastal areas.

Projects covered the following themes:

Ecosystem restoration

Lobby: activities related to influencing policy and decision makers towards 'Green Reconstruction' and sustainable management of coastal ecosystems

Gender and ecosystem based livelihoods

Education and awareness raising or capacity building

Green Coast in Sri Lanka assisted local NGOs, CBOs and small-scale enterprises, engaged in ecosystem management and restoration in tsunami-affected areas in Sri Lanka. Projects were implemented in selected priority areas (see under Sri Lanka 'assessments') and were based on a participatory approach, with a strong focus on gender equity.

Achievements Green Coast Sri Lanka:

After 2,5 years of implementing community-based restoration projects, Green Coast in Sri Lanka has achieved the following results and outcomes:

Ecosystem restoration

Protection from wave surges and corrosive coastal winds through the establishment of 44 hectares of coastal "greenbelt".

Bio-shielding and enhanced lagoon fishery through the rehabilitation of approximately 44 hectares of mangroves.

Protection from wave surges through the restoration of sand dunes, total about 750 m length.

Improved water quality through ecosystem rehabilitation of 53 coral-mined pits covering an area of five hectares.

Enhancement of the environment of 343 housing units, in 4 re-settlement sites, through "greening" of these sites.

Popularizing ecological farming through the establishment of 115 kitchen gardens and 20 demonstration models in Kalmunai.

Livelihood improvement

Food security and additional income for 2263 families (Rs 900/month/family) through the development of home gardens.

Enhancement of income from eco-tourism venture (presently Rs 30,000/month), developed by a group of unemployed youths

Increased income of lagoon fishermen (Rs 1000/day/person - during the season) through replanting Negombo lagoon with *Penaeus monodon*.

Additional incomes for 29 families who will utilize the abandoned coral-mine pits now re-stocked with fresh water fish species.

Regular livelihood activities of 45 coir makers and 6 lace makers and their incomes restored to pre-tsunami levels (Rs 2000/month/person) through provision of necessary equipments.

Incomes of 300 lagoon fishery families restored to pre-tsunami levels through the clearing of six lagoons.

Restored livelihoods of 35 reed weavers through the rehabilitation of 4 hectares of reed beds damaged by the Tsunami.

Enhanced income of 154 families through revolving loan fund schemes.

40 farmers included in "farmer pension scheme".

Enhancing drinking water facilities

Safe drinking water for 1001 families through application of bioremediation technique.

A more reliable supply of water to 221 households in "arid zone" (with limited, intermittent supply of pipe borne water) through the provision of overhead water storage tanks.

Conservation of water through the adoption of rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation methods by 145 families

Assisting in counteracting global warming

Contribution to reducing global warming by encouraging 200 families to use fuel efficient stoves and cut fire wood usage by 50%.

Contribution to off set carbon dioxide emissions by planting about 106,000 trees.

Awareness raising

Knowledge enhancement for about 12,000 families through conduct of many awareness programs

About 12,000 families are gainfully engaged in income generating activities through technical training in nursery maintenance, food technology/cookery, handicraft and dress making.

"What they have to say"

Tsunami affected people talking about added value of Green Coast:

A participant in the home garden restoration programme in Wanduruppa, a village in southern Sri Lanka:

"Before the tsunami we did not grow our own vegetables. We bought everything from the market. After the tsunami, the Department of Agricultural Extension in collaboration with Green Coast/IUCN trained us to use our gardens to grow our vegetables, fruit, herbs and medicines. They taught us new methods to get the best yield without using any chemical fertilizers or pesticides. Now we don't have to buy food from the market. We have good, healthy vegetables from our own garden and we can sell the surplus to get an income for the family."

A recipient of an Energy Saving Stove in Wanduruppa, a village in southern Sri Lanka:

"These new kinds of stoves are really good and efficient. We can make them ourselves - it is very cheap to make. We need less fuel-wood to operate it. We can even bake cakes and sweets on these stoves."