

UJONG DRIEN VILLAGE

Project & location

This project is developed to support economic empowerment of the community through coastal ecosystem rehabilitation in Ujong Drien Village, Meureubo Subdistrict, Aceh Barat District.



Problem description

Ujong Drien is a small stretch of sand (1,5 km long with an average of 50 meter width) formed on the mouth of Krueng Meurebo river. The area mostly consists of vegetated sandbanks, including some tsunami-devastated and abandoned ricefields.

Coastal rehabilitation activities by the local Forestry Department Office has resulted in planting casuarina trees although a number of trees died afterwards. According to local people the failure of Casuarina planting in the area is due to neglect after planting.

The sandbank itself is still dynamic due to the seawaves and river current. Bank erosion is occurring, especially in the area exposed to heavy seawaves. On the other hand, upstream sedimentation is also prominent. The area has historical value for local recreation, particularly on the southern site where the sandy beach and the natural casuarina trees are located. Currently, the sandbank is not used by local people, except for cattle grazing ground.

Decreased tree coverage and environmental degradation of the area contributes to the very low biodiversity currently observed in the area. Only 15 species of birds and 1 herpetofauna were found during the survey.

Recovery goals

The goal of this project is to establish healthy coastal ecosystems as source for livelihoods. The main objectives are:

- Rehabilitating 30 ha by planting 60,000 coastal trees.

- Protecting coastal ecosystems through environmental education and establishment of village regulation.

- Improving local community income through a revolving fund scheme.

- Employing newly formed swamps through environmental-friendly aquaculture.

Funding allocation

The total budget available for this project equals 35,000 Euro. To obtain the objectives, funds are allocated for the following activities:

- Involving local stakeholders (i.e. traditional leaders, government) in the project processes.

- Strengthening community groups and revitalization social capital to conduct voluntarily ecosystem rehabilitation by planting at least 60,000 coastal trees.

- Environmental campaigning to enhance community awareness and developing village regulation to protect coastal ecosystems.

- Establishing a community revolving fund mechanisms to finance organic farming, crab and fish culture in the newly formed swamp areas.

Beneficiaries

It is expected that 850 people will benefit from this project; the number of women participating and benefiting will be 450.

Partners on the ground

The project is implemented by a local NGO named Center for Coastal and Marine Resource Development (P4L) in Meulaboh. P4L has been working on environmental issues and sees ecosystem rehabilitation efforts as an answer to support community livelihoods depending on coastal ecosystems for their resources.

Results so far