

Community based restoration

Green Coast supports local community projects that restore coastal ecosystems and livelihoods. The approach taken is to work within local communities, disbursing funds through NGOs and CBOs to respond to the assessed needs. Restoration projects are selected by field professionals and peer reviewed by National Reference Groups.

The community projects involve coastal forest rehabilitation including mangroves, eradication of invasive species, greening resettlement areas, restoration of sand dunes and cleaning up reefs and beaches. By September 2006, already 110 projects have started operations at a total expense of 2 million euro.

Apart from providing financial tools to restoration projects, Green Coast made large investments to build capacities and train local NGOs and community-based organisations. Green Coast partners have provided training in e.g. establishing nurseries, preparation of seedlings and different planting techniques, but also in monitoring and financial management.

Some projects serve as creative model examples to governments and aid agencies: how to combine long term ecosystem rehabilitation with more immediate livelihood development.

Future funding needed

The first phase of Green Coast runs from June 2005 until March 2007. However, more rehabilitation and policy guidance work is needed in these coastal areas. Green Coast partners are developing a second phase and are currently looking for additional funding.



Photo: MJV/Wetlands International

Green Coast restores and manages coastal ecosystems to increase livelihood security for people in tsunami hit regions.

Interested?

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Green Coast

For **nature** and **people**
after the tsunami



Photo: Wetlands International

‘Green Coast gives us the opportunity to take action. What we do is important for the protection of nature and for our future livelihoods.’

Kamaruddin, Meulaboh, Aceh



Photo: MJV/Wetlands International



Financed by



What is Green Coast

Soon after the December 2004 tsunami, NGOs in affected countries appealed for support in their efforts to recover damaged coastal ecosystems and to reform coastal policies. Following urgent pleas from their local partners, four international organisations developed Green Coast: Wetlands International, IUCN NL, WWF and Both ENDS.

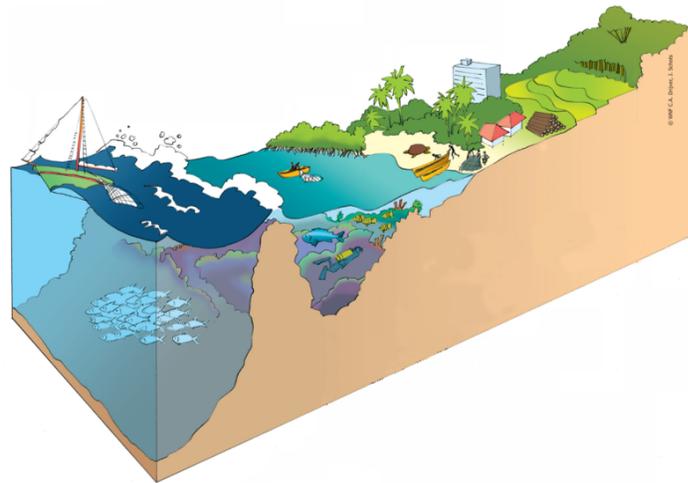
Green Coast aims to restore livelihoods of local communities through the recovery of coastal ecosystems, which play an important role in providing safety and sources of income.

Although designed as an emergency response project, Green Coast has a long term perspective; recovery of coastal livelihoods through the restoration and sustainable management of coastal nature will take at least five years.

In Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Malaysia partner organisations work together in three closely interlinked components, to:

- assess tsunami impacts on ecosystems and livelihoods, as well as local communities views and rights.
- influence governments, aid agencies and the corporate sector to sustainable manage and restore coastal natural resources.
- facilitate small grants for community-based restoration projects.

Green Coast phase 1 is financed by Oxfam/Novib through Dutch public charity funds (4.2 million euro). Wetlands International leads and manages Green Coast and the implementation is done by national and local offices of the four partners in Asia, and their extensive networks of NGOs in the region.



Options for recovery

In Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Malaysia teams of experts assessed the impact of the tsunami on coastal ecosystems and livelihoods. They also identified possibilities to recover these areas. What were the conditions before the tsunami? How can livelihoods be recovered without damaging nature and marine environment?

The assessment teams trained local NGOs to collect relevant data, amongst others through village meetings. Participation of local communities is a vital part of Green Coast. Identifying options for recovery also meant talking to survivors. What are their needs? How can their knowledge of coastal nature best be used? What are their ideas about recovery of livelihoods?

Special attention is given to the position of women. How are the lives of the surviving women affected by the tsunami? What are their roles in ecosystem management, livelihood provision and decision-making? What are their rights, both in customary law and in formal legislation?

To provide a practical focus for Green Coast interventions, the partners selected a total of twenty coastal stretches in the five countries. By mid 2006 the assessment phase of Green Coast is completed. Assessment results are used to guide the on-the-ground restoration projects.

‘The land and soil have changed because of the tsunami. Before, many trees could grow here, but now we need to plant other kinds of trees. Green Coast learns us which species to use and other ways of planting.’

Village chief, Meulaboh, Aceh



Guiding reconstruction

The tsunami aftermath has brought environmental concerns which need to be addressed, not merely at the community level but also at the decision-making level. Green reconstruction as part of an integrated coastal zone management improves the chances of successful recovery.

Green Coast influences (local) governments, the corporate sector and aid agencies towards a sustainable approach in their reconstruction activities. For this purpose Green Reconstruction Guidelines were developed and partners have reviewed existing coastal and marine legislation for its post-tsunami relevance, comparing these to local – customary – law.

Local communities must be able to influence reconstruction conditions for their own area. Green Coast facilitates their inputs to policy makers at the national level. Partners work with coastal communities, to get their voices heard and agree on coordinated actions for influencing rehabilitation policies and practices.



‘Coastal vegetation and the sand dunes that protected us were badly damaged by the tsunami. We are afraid that more harm will come to us if we do not take collective action to rebuild these vital resources.’

Education and awareness are vital.’

Meeting of 45 community members in Panama, Sri Lanka