Green Coast

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

Policy Road show

Workshop Report

WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

WWF for a living planet

Both ENDS Environment and Development Service

IUCN The World Conservation Union

Financed by:

Oxfam

Introduction to Green Coast

The green coast project was developed with a focus on three Tsunami-affected countries in Asia: India, Indonesia and Sri-Lanka. Since the coastal ecosystems play a vital role in providing safety and sources of income to the communities, the project aims at recovery of coastal ecosystems to support local livelihoods.

The Green Coast project is unique in its focus on ecosystem based livelihood reconstruction. This project, through its various interventions, seeks to be catalytic – to mobilise attention and resources to address this vital and yet still much neglected chapter.

Realising this long term objective the Green coast project is being implemented by three project partners: WWF-India, Wetlands International South Asia and Both ENDS.

Components of the Green Coast project

- Assessment of the potential for ecological restoration to contribute to livelihood recovery.
- Policy analysis, advocacy and communications.
- A Small Grants Facility (SGF) to support grassroots organisations in addressing conservation and livelihoods.

Since its inception, 59 community led initiatives for ecosystem restoration and sustainable livelihood reconstruction have been supported under Green Coast. The interventions have aimed at restoration of critical ecosystems that support livelihoods and provide ecological and economic security to the coastal communities, development of alternate livelihood options to reduce the pressures on natural resources as well as augment the household incomes, promoting good management practices in natural resources management, particularly for agriculture and water resources and awareness generation on conservation and management of coastal resources.

1. Objectives of Road shows

Before the finalization of the policy briefs it is necessary and vital to conduct block level and district level consultations in order to consult the communities, local administration, CBOs, and NGOs to validate the findings of the policy research. Based on the local concerns emerging out of the roadshow the policy briefs will be modified and finalized. Hence the GC project plans to hold a series of district level and block level consultations.

There were totally five Road Shows conducted in five different places of Tamilnadu & Pondicherry, representing the major Coastal stretches of the states, with the following objectives:

- To present the policy research findings before the community through NGOs and CBOs; and

- To seek suggestions to make strong policy recommendations

Date	Venue	No. of NGOs Participated
6 Feb 2007	Hotel Anandha Inn, Puducherry	54
7 Feb 2007	Hotel K T R, Cuddalore	57
8 Feb 2007	Hotel Subham Park, Nagapattinam	10
9 Feb 2007	Hotel Bell, Thoothukudi	75
10 Feb 2007	Hotel Vijayatha, Nagercoil	47
	Total	**243**

2. Details of activities conducted

In all the five places the programmes had a common structure with the GC team members making presentations about the Project and its Policy Research works in the beginning followed by Group discussions and then the Participants presenting their Recommendations/Suggestions in the last session. Details about the presentations and Group discussions are briefed further in the following topics.

3. Green Coast Project and its achievements

This was made as the first presentation in all the venues, so as to introduce the Project to the participants. Green Coast project, its objectives, Partnership and functioning mechanism in India and also its approach were been described at the outset. Then the selection process adopted for finalizing the five most affected coastal stretches to implement the project was explained in detail. Also the activities that are been done under three basic components of the project, namely, Assessments, Policy and communication and Small grants facility were been briefed to the participants.

4. Policy research

The second session was on the results of policy research. As a part of its Policy Research work the project has identified three main policy issues. Those are:

- ❖ Ensuring sustainable fisheries to support the livelihoods of the affected community.
- ❖ Ensuring that coastal defenses, particularly shelterbelts, do not adversely impact coastal ecology and livelihoods.
- ❖ Ensuring that post-tsunami reconstruction and rehabilitation is environmentally sensitive in terms of structure and location.

Through partnerships with two prominent NGOs – Citizen, consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) and Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning (FERAL) - current policies of government, donors and NGOs were analyzed. Also a detailed research was carried out, with Policy Support and Field Research Conducted by FERAL, for strengthening policy recommendations within the three sectors namely Fisheries, Reconstruction and Shelterbelts. The research concentrated on four important components listed below:

1. Fishing capacities
2. Coastal defenses
    - Sea walls
    - Bioshields
3. Reconstruction.

Outcome / Results of Policy Research

Outcomes, especially the major findings of the research were shared with the participants in a separate session. Initially they were briefed about the following important observations that the research has made

- Increase in artisanal fishing capacities as a result of tsunami relief
- Serious social and environmental implications of sea walls
- Bio-shields are ineffective against tsunami and may cause serious coastal habitat destruction
- CRZ violations too many and too serious to enumerate.

- Reconstruction effort is non-participatory. Poor planning of waste water and sewage treatment is likely to cause large scale faecal contamination of ground water in the near future
- High number of water sources inundated, need to be sampled for heavy metals

Also the draft policies, prepared with the findings and recommendations of the research, were distributed to the participants for facilitating further discussions. Totally three such drafts were made for fisheries, coastal defenses and reconstruction with the contents below;

Fisheries

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This brief outlined the methodology, findings and recommendations from the Green Coast study undertaken to determine the linkages between post-tsunami livelihood rehabilitation and changes in fisheries capacity.

Methodology used in the Study

A total of 296 schedules were administered in 16 hamlets along the Coramandel coast. The responses were aggregated (mean) on a per village basis to ensure the data was continuous and amenable to analysis. Only those villages were selected where there were at least five respondents' points for each response. Thus data for two villages was excluded from the analysis which was done using paired T-Tests. A 95% confidence interval was used for all tests.

Specific findings

- A significant increase in the number of boats in use
- A significant increase in crew size
- An increase in the number of motors
- An increase in the horsepower of motors
- A replacement of catamarans by fiber glass boats

Recommendations of the Study

1. Existing regulations and enforcement related to fishery resource use and management should be improved and developed.
2. Regulations should include delineation of fishing zones for artisanal fishermen and commercial trawlers, regulation of mesh size for different species, controls on the use of destructive fishing gear, regulations on the age and size of fish that

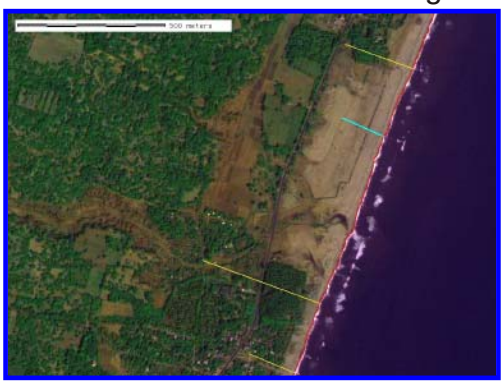
can be caught, demarcation of closed fishing seasons, and regulating the number and size of boats in different areas.

3. Fisheries policies and regulations need to be developed based on a sound understanding of the dynamics of fishery resources, in consultation with fishing communities. They should be clearly communicated and understood by all stakeholders.
4. There is a need for supporting appropriate alternative livelihoods for fishing communities, ideally based on diversification of the fisheries sector and on adding value to existing fisheries products.

Coastal Defenses

This brief outlined the methodology, findings and recommendations from the Green Coast study undertaken to determine the relationship between coastal vegetation and tsunami impacts. Bioshields or Shelterbelts are strips of vegetation composed of trees and shrubs grown along the coast to protect coastal areas from high velocity winds. Soon after the Tsunami of 2004, shelterbelts have been increasingly promoted as a potential defense against such devastating natural disasters in future. A well-designed shelterbelt can help in:

- Preventing erosion
- Reducing wind speed
- Enhancing agricultural productivity
- Reducing evaporation of soil moisture
- Providing a habitat for wildlife
- Sequestering carbon
- Providing multiple benefits to local communities



Methods used for measuring impact of bio-shields on tsunami inundation

The inundation of the tsunami was measured using a baseline corresponding to the coastline digitised from a high resolution image comprising of the red, green and blue band at 8 feet or 2.4 metres hybridised with a panchromatic band at 0.6 metres. River mouths and backwaters were digitised such that the coastline looped into them. This accounted for the inundation experienced along backwaters. Points up to which the tsunami waters had reached were identified with the help of local people and the coordinates recorded on a GPS. Perpendicular distances were calculated from the inundation points to the coastline.The accumulated NDVI along the pixels falling beneath the perpendicular described above was measured. The NDVI or normalised difference vegetation index is based on the equation NDVI=(Near Infrared-Red)/(Near Infrared+Red). NDVI in the positive ranges of 0 to 1 is an index of the amount of chlorophyll present in a pixel.

Key Findings

1. Vegetation has no significant relationship with inundation caused by the tsunami.
2. Survival rates of shelterbelt plantations were difficult to assess as many sites were re-planted due to heavy mortality after the first planting attempts.
3. Casuarina is the most successful species due to its low palatability and little need for after care, among other factors.
4. Communities do not welcome dense planting in front of habitations as it blocks their line of sight to the sea. This defeats the purpose of shelterbelts as protection for communities from high winds.
5. There has been extensive planting on sand dunes which impacts the integrity of the natural ecosystem.
6. Main species being introduced (Casuarina and coconut) have a high water demand which could impact the water table.
7. In few cases where mixed native species were planted, the success rates have been low due to the greater need for maintenance.

Sea Walls and Fishing Community

While most fisher folk maintain that sea walls had protected houses and lives from the tsunami, there are a number of socioeconomic concerns related to sea walls as well. These include:

1. Reduced parking space for boats thereby forcing fishermen to anchor at sea or park in other villages
2. Increase in inter-village conflicts regarding boat anchoring and parking space
3. Increased fuel consumption due to the need for anchoring boats in the water leading to barnacle growth
4. Reduced visibility to the sea due to the wall

Recommendations of the Study

1. Evidence from this study shows that vegetation does not play a significant role in reducing tsunami inundation. Therefore, it is important that communities and other stakeholders should be clearly informed about the role of shelterbelts.
2. Ensure that shelterbelt plantations are planned to maximize positive benefits of shelterbelts in reducing wind speeds and maximizing local usufruct benefits.
3. Mixed species of economical value that can generate income for local communities should be preferred to generate incentives for managing such plantations sustainably.
4. A policy should be developed with site or location specific approaches. Policy with clear tenurial arrangements is needed to ensure long-term community involvement.

5. Given the importance and threats faced by sand dune ecosystems and their role in acting as effective coastal defenses, there should be no conservation of sand dunes to shelterbelt plantations.

Reconstruction

This brief outlined the methodology, findings and recommendations from the Green Coast study undertaken to determine the drinking water quality, a survey of reconstruction sites and a survey of water sources which had been inundated by the tsunami.

Methodology used in the Study

Three independent surveys were undertaken for this study. These included a survey on drinking water quality (targeting e-coli contamination in particular), a survey of reconstruction sites and a survey of water sources which had been inundated by the tsunami. Water sources within and beyond the inundation lines were tested for physical water parameters using electronic testing kits. Forty two affected and 29 non-affected water resources were tested. Each testing point was located using a GPS and a question list administered to document the owner, use and type of water source. A total of 71 samples were taken along the coast. Measurements for pH, Electrical Conductivity (EC), Salinity and total dissolved solids were taken using electric meters and a refracto-meter.

Key Findings

1. Significant change in the water quality – Increased contamination
2. Sanitation - Most of the newly constructed toilets are based on leach pit design and improperly designed septic tanks, which have been shown to cause significant levels of fecal contamination of drinking water.
3. The level of local involvement in the reconstruction effort was minimal, limited to Panchayats office bearers at most.

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4. Concrete construction with use of local material (sand) was found to be common. Coastal sand dunes, from which this sand was extracted, have been negatively affected.
5. Sites for temporary shelters were inappropriate in quite a few cases.
6. There have been many unresolved issues around infrastructure mainly on the supply of electricity, water and insurance.

Recommendations of the Study

1. It is necessary that existing toilets are switched to more environmentally sound systems and appropriate technologies worked out to dispose domestic sewage. Both eco-san as well as DEWATS systems need to be promoted.
2. On the social side, there is an urgent need to increase awareness level among communities about the sewage and sanitation problem, and providing practical options to deal with this.
3. A rapid assessment of heavy metal contamination of water sources needs to be conducted.
4. Repair of sewage and sanitary systems is recommended wherever construction has already happened.
5. Sand dunes should not be excavated for meeting construction requirements and contractors should extract it from legalized sources. Illegal sand mining should be immediately stopped.
6. Reconstruction sites should be selected carefully following the CRZ notification avoiding floodplains and low lying areas.

5. Group Discussion

After the Presentation, Group discussions were facilitated to make the participants to analyse the research findings and recommendations more deeply, so as to come out with their suggestions to improve the Draft Policies before they are been taken to the higher levels.

It was facilitated in a manner that the participants would divide themselves into three groups to individually discuss the three focal areas of our policy research, i.e, fisheries, coastal defenses and reconstruction. The division of groups had also taken the participant's interest, working experience and expertise into consideration. The participants were encouraged to come out with their suggestions and recommendations as a presentation by one of the team member.

6. Recommendations/Suggestions

The Recommendations and Suggestions from their presentations were collated and grouped under the following subheads.

<u>General comments about policy research</u>

- Kanyakumari district is different from other coastal districts in terms of landscape, coastal ecology, geo-morphology and cultural aspects. This study has not covered to specific issues of southern coastline beyond Nagapattinam. In depth

socio-ecological studies are necessary to ascertain the ground realities in a comprehensive manner.

- Reduction in fish catch has been due to the use of in appropriate fishing gear (FRP boats as against kattamarans). It requires higher investments (diesel & labour) compared to yester years. Those days self labour was the only investment. Decreasing fish resources demand more and more investments. Due to the non availability of non-recurring investments fishermen are not using the FRB boats.

- School drop out has reduced considerably in Kanyakumari districts after tsunami due to availability of resources to pay for education. Continuous failures in fishery related income forced the parents to divert their children more towards formal education.

- There is no direct correlation to the post tsunami rehabilitation and reduction in the fish resources. There are other reasons for degradation of fishery resources, which have been know and evident for a long time.

- No rehabilitation work was comprehensive. It is not correct to say that the fishermen are supported excessively as part of tsunami rehabilitation.

- The research should have included gender perspective in all the components.

- FRP boats never replaced the use Kattamarans.

- If bio shields are not the solution to prevent tsunami or cyclone, then what are the suggestions for the low lying areas? What are the alternatives? What are the possible ways?

Specific Recommendations

Reconstruction

1. A joint monitoring committee comprising of community members, Panchayat Raj institutions and local NGO should be empowered to monitor tsunami rehabilitation activities. Women, Daliths must be given representation in the committee.

2. Total prohibition of coastal sand mining is required.

3. Comprehensive master plan or housing plan for the construction of permanent habitations should be in place. It should address fresh water supply, centralized sewage treatment plants, solid waste management, community areas, health centres, roads, bridges etc.

4. Temporary shelter structures should be safely demolished and disposed off, especially toilets.

5. Basic infrastructure necessary to revive fisheries – Mini harbours for traditional fishermen (Fish landing centres, First aid, cloak rooms for fishing equipments, cold storage, fish drying platforms, repairing yard, public toilets, fuel stations, auction shed, canteen, watch towers, electricity facility, security room, telecom facility – community radio, cell phone tower, wireless, etc.,)

6. Need based reconstruction is essential. There should be a minimum land allocation considering the life style of fishermen.

7. Building design shall be finalized after considering the requirements of children, physically challenged, elderly people.

Bio-shield

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1. Forest Department roles and responsibilities in the coastal greening programme should be clearly spelt out to the people. More clarity is needed on the selection of sites, choice of species, consent of communities, tenure etc.

Fisheries

1. Tsunami rehabilitation projects should be flexible enough to integrate learning and experiences.

2. Exclusive/ reserved constituency for Fishing community and also reserved Panchayats for fishermen villages are need to be created.

3. Fishing ranges should be protected from invasion of foreign country fishing vessels, ships, boats, etc., - Strict monitoring is essential by the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard.

4. Creation of Fisheries Development Bank is imperative to rehabilitate the deteriorated fisheries sector.

5. There is no policy level intervention to rehabilitate fishermen in this country. There is no Department/Ministry in the central government to look in to grievances of 2 crore fishermen.

6. Fishery cooperatives need to be strengthened by nominating more fishermen particularly women members in to the structure. There should be a share from the central government in all fishery cooperatives. Co-operatives need to be made stronger to avoid middle men.

7. With the rapid sea erosion on once side, tsunami houses and plantations on the other side have reduced the community space across all fishing villages. Sand mining and tourism development projects are also threatening the available small community lands. These coastal stretches are important to fishermen to parking boats, drying nets, process their catch and use it for multipurpose. It is important to demarcate and reserve certain coastal stretches for the exclusive use of fishermen.

8. Community cold storage facilities need to be created at cluster level to store the catch during high yield low price seasons.

9. Research findings should reach fishermen.

10. There should be adequate alternative livelihood options for fishermen during 45 days fishing ban.

11. Big projects which are detrimental to fishermen life and livelihoods such as Sethu samuthiram ship canal and Kudankulam atomic power projects should be dropped immediately.

12. A monitoring committee comprising of fishermen should be created to monitor effluent /sewage discharge in to the sea.

13. Backwater fishermen, near shore inland fishermen should be covered in the tsunami rehabilitation programmes.

14. Minimum price fixation for the catch or fair trade model should be introduced to protect fishermen interests.

15. CRZ / CMZ should protect the traditional rights of fishermen.

16. The proposed State Fisheries Boards should take more fishermen as members.

17. Exotic sea weed cultivation should be banned. It will spoil the fishery sector and are promoted by vested interests and MNCs.

18. Widows/destitute and under privileged people were not given their share and adequate attention in post tsunami rehabilitation. They need to given priority.

19. In reconstruction NGOs money to the tune of 5% their total budget has been retained by the government. It can be utilized to repair the bad constructions and toilets.

20. ECOSAN toilets - people are not fully convinced about the uses of dry toilets. Create awareness and better understanding among coastal communities.

21. Use of Effective Microorganism (EM) for decomposing can be promoted.

22. Date palms, an alternative to casuarinas. It is ornamental, an income source, and natural fence in passage of time, good biomass as well.

23. Create local coastal bio shield beneficiary groups – give responsibilities for creation and maintenance and also the right to benefit sharing. Provide additional financial provisions for irrigations etc.

24. A minimum set of standards need to be enforced for responsible execution of reconstruction activities.

25. School dropouts are increasing as the number of boats has increased. Vocational education (boat repair, engine repair, net repair) need to be given so as to retain their interest in education.

26. FRP boats are lying idle, as the fishermen do not used to the new type of boats. Training and fuel subsidy help them to put them in to use.

27. Unused aquaculture ponds not owned by local communities are lying idle. It can be given to the local community for repairing and to be used for alternate livelihood/community purposes.

28. Waste disposal in the sea has been evident in many fishermen villages. Alternatives and awareness is the need of the hour.

7. Press/Media coverage

National and regional language Press and Media was invited to participate in the road shows and to cover the events. The Hindu and the New Indian Express were among the national Press covered the event. Dinakaran and Dinamalar were the regional language Press highlighted and captured main points of the workshop. Local cable TV networks aired the event in Tuticorin and Nagarcoil. Some of the Press clippings are as follows:

Dinamalar, 10th February 2007

நெல்லை, தூத்துக்குடி பசுமை கடற்கரை திட்ட ஆலோசனைக்கூட்டம்

தூத்துக்குடி, பிப்.10- கடலோர சுற்றுச்சூழலை பாதுகாக்க ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்ட பசுமைக்கடற்கரை திட்ட ஆலோசனைக்கூட்டம் நேற்று தூத்துக்குடியில் நடந்தது. கூட்டத்தில் சுனாமிக்கு பிறகு எடுக்கப்பட்ட ஆய்வு முடிவுகள் குறித்து விளக்கப்பட்டது.

சுனாமிக்கு பிறகு மக்களுக்கு இயற்கையை பாதுகாக்க வேண்டும் என்கிற அவசியத்தை வலியுறுத்தவும், மக்களின் வாழ்வாதாரம் சீராக அமையவும் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்ட அமைப்பு பசுமை கடற்கரை திட்டம். இந்த திட்டத்திற்கு உலக அளவில் முக்கியத்துவம் பெற்ற தொண்டு நிறுவனங்களான ஆக்ஸ்பவன், போத் என்டஸ், ஐயுடிசிஎன், வெட் லேன்ட் இண்டர்நேஷனல், டபிள்யூ.டபிள்யூ.எபம் ஆகிய நிறுவனங்கள் உதவி செய்து வருகிறது.

இந்த நிறுவனங்கள் மூலம் கடலோர கிராமங்களில் சுனாமி மறுவாழ்வு திட்டங்களை பற்றி ஒரு ஆய்வு நடத்தி அதில் மீன் வளத்தில் எவ்வித பாதிப்பு ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்பது குறித்த ஆய்வும், மறுவாழ்வு நடவடிக்கைக்கு பிறகு உள்ள நிலவரம், குடிநீரின் தரம், புது குடியிருப்புகள் உருவாக்க காலியிடம், சுகாதார பிரச்னை, தடுப்புசுவர் அமைத்தல், மரம், செடி வளர்த்தல் போன்ற விபரங்கள் குறித்து ஆய்வு செய்யப்பட்டது.

இந்த ஆய்வு விபரங்களை கடலோர மாவட்டங்களில் தொண்டு நிறுவனங்களை அழைத்து தெரிவித்து அதன் மூலம் சுனாமியால் பாதிக்கப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு அரசு மூலம் உதவுவது குறித்து ஆலோசனை வழங்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது. ஏற்கனவே கடலூர், நாகை உட்பட பல மாவட்டங்களில் ஆலோசனை முடித்த பிறகு நெல்லை, தூத்துக்குடி மாவட்டங்களில் இது போன்ற ஆலோசனைக்கூட்டம் நேற்று தூத்துக்குடி பெல் ஓட்டலில் நடந்தது.

அரசுத்துறை அதிகாரிகள், மீனவ சங்க பிரதிநிதிகள், தொண்டு நிறுவனத்தினர் ஏராளமானவர்கள் இதில் பங்கேற்றனர். கிழக்கு கடற்கரை ஆய்வு மற்றும் வளர்ச்சி நிறுவன திட்ட இயக்குநர் ராயன், திட்ட ஆலோசகர் முரளி, மணிகண்டன் மற்றும் பலர் பேசினர். ஆய்வு முடிவுகள் குறித்து முழுமையாக விளக்கப்பட்டது.

THE HINDU
Online edition of India's National Newspaper
Sunday, Feb 11, 2007
ePaper

Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu - Nagercoil

Housing policy for fishermen sought

Staff Reporter

Nagercoil: The parish priests in different parts of the coastal villages of Kanyakumari district and the representatives of various national and inter-national non-governmental organisations here has urged the Government to ensure comprehensive housing policy, stressed the need to protect sand dunes and construction of fish landing centres in various coastal villages of the district for the benefit of fishermen community. The requests were made at a policy road show - consultation, organised by the Rural Uplift Centre, a non-governmental organisation, at Nagercoil on Saturday.

The policy officer of World Wildlife India, Murali, stressed the need to protect sand dunes as they served as natural barrier.

Regarding education to wards of fishermen community, the Education Department in the district witnessed a steep rise in enrolment, thanks to the efforts made by the Government and NGOS to provide assistance to those students in primary as well as higher education, said Fr. Valarian of Colachel Vicariate.

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Tamil Nadu

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Dinakaran, 10th February 2007

தூத்துக்குடியில் பசுமை கடற்கரை திட்டம் சார்பில் சுனாமி மறு சீரமைப்பு குறித்த கருத்தரங்கு நடந்தது.

தினகரன்
10 FEB 2007

தூத்துக்குடியில்

சுனாமி மறுசீரமைப்பு பணிகள் கருத்தாய்வு கூட்டம்

தூத்துக்குடி, பிப்.10: தூத்துக்குடியில் சுனாமி மறுசீரமைப்பு பணிகள் குறித்த கருத்தாய்வு கூட்டம் நடந்தது. இதில் தொண்டு நிறுவன பிரதிநிதிகள், பொதுமக்கள் பங்கேற்று தங்கள் கருத்துக்களை தெரிவித்தனர்.

பசுமை கடற்கரை என்ற தென்கிழக்கு ஆசிய தொண்டுநிறுவனம் உலகின் முன்னணி தொண்டு நிறுவனங்கள் உதவியுடன் இந்தியாவில் செயல்பட்டு வருகிறது. இந்நிறுவனம் கடந்த சுனாமி தாக்குதலுக்கு பிறகு இயற்கையை பாதுகாக்கவும், கடற்கரையை பாதுகாக்கவும், மீனவ மக்களின் வாழ்வாதாரத்தினை மேம்படுத்தவும் பாடுபட்டு வருகிறது. இதற்காக தமிழக கடற்கரையோர பகுதிகளான நாகப்பட்டினம், தஞ்சாவூர், கடலூர், சென்னை, தூத்துக்குடி, கன்னியாகுமரி ஆகிய பகுதிகளில் சுனாமிக்கு பிறகு ஏற்பட்டிருக்கும் மாற்றங்கள் குறித்தும், சுனாமி மறுசீரமைப்பு பணிகள் குறித்தும் ஆய்வு மேற்கொண்டு வந்தது.

இந்த ஆய்வுகளின் முடிவில் பெறப்பட்ட கருத்துக்களை பொதுமக்கள் முன் வைத்து விவாதம் மற்றும் கருத்தாய்வு செய்து அதன் அறிக்கையை அரசுக்கு பரிந்துரை செய்ய உள்ளது. இதற்கான கருத்தாய்வு கூட்டம் தூத்துக்குடி பெல் ஓட்டலில் நேற்று நடந்தது.

பசுமை கடற்கரை திட்டத்தின் ஆலோசகர் முரளி தலைமை வகித்தார். கிழக்கு கடற்கரை இயக்க பணி அலுவலர் மணிகண்டன், கிழக்கு கடற்கரை ஆய்வு மற்றும் வளர்ச்சி நிறுவன திட்ட இயக்குநர் புஷ்பராயன் உள்ளிட்டோர் முன்னிலை வகித்தனர்.

இதில் முன்னணி தொண்டு நிறுவனங்களான டி.எம்.எஸ்.எஸ், முத்துக்குளி மீனவர் கூட்டமைப்பு, அன்னை தெரசா தொண்டு நிறுவனம், மீட்சி மக்கள் இயக்கம் உள்ளிட்ட தொண்டு நிறுவனங்களின் பிரதிநிதிகள் மற்றும் பொது மக்கள் கலந்து கொண்டு தங்களது கருத்துக்களை தெரிவித்தனர்.

கருத்தாய்வு கூட்டத்தில் பெறப்பட்ட கருத்துக்கள் கோப்புகளாக தயார்செய்யப்பட்டு தமிழக நிதித்துறை, மீன்வளத்துறை, சுற்றுச்சூழல்துறை ஆகியவற்றுக்கு இம்மாத இறுதியில் அனுப்பி வைக்கப்பட உள்ளது. இன்று நாகர்கோவிலிலும் பொது மக்கள், மக்கள் பிரதிநிதிகள் உள்ளிட்டோரிடம் கருத்துக் கேட்பு கூட்டம் நடக்கிறது.