

Rehabilitating coastal ecosystems in a post tsunami context: consolidation phase

Second quarterly report April – June, 2007



Ecosystems & Livelihoods Group Asia

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Background to the Project

The December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, directly affected more than 5 million people, and caused billions of dollars worth of damages to infrastructure and property.

During the post disaster relief and reconstruction operations it became increasingly evident that mangroves, which played a vital role in protecting human settlements and providing valuable ecosystem services, have been suffering severe degradation over time. In fact, tsunami damage was exacerbated in areas where mangroves had been degraded by unsustainable resource use, such as over fishing, and habitat destruction, including development or indiscriminate cutting down of mangroves for shrimp farming.

This project was developed to address the long-term threats to mangroves in tsunami-affected countries, and to restore, rehabilitate and conserve these vital ecosystems. Funding is being provided by the Organismo Autónomo Parques Nacionales (OAPN), Ministry of Environment of Spain, which has provided key support to IUCN's post-tsunami work from its early stages. Between September 2005 and December 2006, OAPN made available a grant to assist with mangrove rehabilitation in tsunami-affected areas of Sri Lanka and Thailand. OAPN has made available a second grant, running between January and December 2007, to consolidate and share the lessons learned in the course of carrying out mangrove rehabilitation during the first phase of the project.

The project is now in the consolidation phase, which focuses on using the knowledge gained while carrying out the first phase for awareness raising and capacity building for those involved with mangrove restoration, particularly Protected Area managers. The consolidation phase aims to share information and learning with additional sites and groups in Sri Lanka and Thailand, the countries participating in the first phase of the project, as well as to extend learning with other tsunami-affected countries (Indonesia and Maldives).

Project Summary

Project goals, objectives, outputs and activities

Goal		
To support ecosystem restoration and conservation in tsunami-affected coastal areas as a mechanism to strengthen sustainable coastal zone management policy and to reduce the vulnerability of coastal populations in tsunami-affected countries		
Objectives	Main Outputs	Activities
1. Document and share lessons and experiences on participatory approaches on post-tsunami ecosystem restoration, post-disaster reconstruction and sustainable coastal zone management	1.1 Information and lessons learned on post-tsunami ecosystem restoration produced and shared with coastal policy-makers and planners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document best practices and methods for mangrove restoration in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand • Review ecosystem aspects of post-tsunami reconstruction in Sri Lanka and Thailand • Establish and maintain web-based portal for disseminating and sharing of project information
	1.2 Awareness materials on the links between mangrove restoration and livelihood security produced and shared at the local level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce local-language awareness materials on mangroves and livelihoods in Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka
	1.3 Multi-stakeholder regional dialogue for sharing of information, experiences and lessons learned on natural disasters, coastal ecosystems and Protected Areas held for Indian Ocean countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold regional dialogue
2. Enhance the capacity of agencies involved in post-tsunami reconstruction to incorporate participatory eco-restoration approaches in a post-disaster context	2.1 Capacity built for post-disaster environmental assessment and management among conservation agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct field training courses in rapid environmental impact assessments and participatory eco-restoration practices in Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka
	2.2 Field manual produced to guide Protected Areas managers and conservation practitioners in post-disaster coastal ecosystem assessment and restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce and disseminate field manual on post-disaster coastal ecosystem assessment and restoration

Workplan of activities

	Q1 Jan-Mar	Q2 Apr-Jun	Q3 Jul-Sep	Q4 Oct-Dec
Document best practices and methods for mangrove restoration in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand				
Review ecosystem aspects of post-tsunami reconstruction in Sri Lanka and Thailand				
Establish and maintain web-based portal for disseminating and sharing of project information				
Produce local-language awareness materials on mangroves and livelihoods in Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka				
Hold regional dialogue				
Conduct field training courses in rapid environmental impact assessments and participatory eco-restoration practices in Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka				
Produce and disseminate field manual on post-disaster coastal ecosystem assessment and restoration				

Milestones in the delivery of project outputs

Milestones	
By end Q1	Project planning matrix, workplan and milestones have been developed
By end Q1	Awareness raising materials have been designed for Sri Lanka and Thailand
By end Q2	Project website has been designed
By end Q2	Case studies on lessons learned in Sri Lanka and Thailand have been produced
By end Q3	Synthesis report on lessons learned in mangrove restoration in Sri Lanka and Thailand has been produced
By end Q3	Capacity-building workshops have been held in Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka
By end Q3	Local language materials have been produced for Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand
By end Q3	Draft field manual has been produced
By end Q3	Draft field manual has been pilot tested
By end Q4	Field manual has been produced
By end Q4	CD Rom of field manual and other materials has been disseminated
By end Q4	Regional dialogue has been held
By end Q4	Country status reports have been produced for Sri Lanka and Thailand

Report for this quarter

Summary of progress to date

Project activities for this quarter are progressing as planned.

Both the Sri Lanka and Thailand country offices have continued to work on the documentation of best practices and lessons learned in mangrove restoration, and reviews of the work of agencies working in ecosystem restoration and post-tsunami reconstruction. Case studies for Sri Lanka and Thailand have been prepared, and are ready for dissemination.

Preparatory work on local awareness materials is underway in Sri Lanka and Maldives. Planning has been carried out for training workshops to be held in Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka, and an introductory training workshop held in the Maldives. Work has commenced on the development of a field manual.

A website for the project has been prepared and is ready to be uploaded. This site provides information on all project activities and has all the project related documents that have been produced by the country offices. , which shares and disseminates project information, and planning for the regional dialogue is also underway.

As explained in the previous progress report, partnerships have formed with Mangrove Action Project, Australian Red Cross and Environment Research Centre, which enable the extension of the project's first phase focus of Sri Lanka and Thailand, into Indonesia and Maldives. These continue to develop, within the context of implementing the project activities.

Activities are underway to organize the regional conference, which will be held in Colombo Sri Lanka. IUCN is currently in the process of identifying and contacting authors and presenters, who have extensive experience in the areas of post disaster coastal ecosystem restoration.

Progress towards project outputs

Output 1.1 Information and lessons learned on post-tsunami ecosystem restoration produced and shared with coastal policy-makers and planners

Document best practices and methods for mangrove restoration in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand

The draft of the case study was prepared based on the experience of the mangrove restoration and livelihoods support interventions of OAPN 1 in Panama village situated in South Eastern coast of Sri Lanka in adjacent to Kumana National Park which was affected by the Tsunami incident. The draft is under review and technical editing. The final document will be ready for printing by end of July 2007. Sinhala and Tamil translators have been selected to translate the case study into local languages.

Review ecosystem aspects of post-tsunami reconstruction in Sri Lanka and Thailand

The review of coastal restoration and conservation activities commenced in both Sri Lanka and Thailand, involving the compilation of information on agencies involved, types of activity, scope of work, geographical site, progress to date, and budgets.

With regards to this, the Thailand program is also conducting a rapid field assessment from Ranong to Trang provinces. The rapid assessment will collate inputs from field level practitioners that are not captured in the documentation. In addition to the collection of available documentation, IUCN has also interviewed key informants for additional sources of information. To date key informants interviewed have been Asian Institute of Technology, Kasetsart University, Chulalongkorn University, The Depart of Marine and Coastal Resources, head office as well as regional centers in Krabi and Phang Nga , and key non governmental organizations such as Raks Thai (CARE Thailand). Preliminary interviews revealed that while information on rehabilitation activities were available, there appeared little quantification or assessment of the amount carried out. As such, the need for a rapid assessment of the coastal stretch from Phang Nga to Trang province would be targeted with field visits to get a better understanding of local level activities. Such assessments are particularly relevant for the identification of mangrove rehabilitation along coastal Thailand that was carried out by non-governmental entities. To ensure this assessment would be carried in time, IUCN has contracted a rapid field assessment to be carried out which will be partially supported by this project and the Landscapes and Livelihoods project for which information on community networks would also be collected.

In Sri Lanka, a field survey team has been formed to conduct field survey on ecological restoration in the coastal zone of Matara district. IUCN ecologists are going to conduct a survey to cover the entire coastal stretch of Matara district to assess the post-tsunami ecological restoration initiatives and their successes and failures with special emphasis on mangrove restoration. The field survey has been scheduled in the month of August. A literature review to conduct the study on post tsunami restoration projects has been completed. Most of the post-tsunami ecological restoration projects have been conducted without proper scientific information, and often failed to reach the goal of the ecosystem restoration. There are many agencies have conducted various coastal habitat restoration activities without prior approval from the relevant authorities. Hence, there is no single authority that can obtain post-tsunami ecological restoration information. This problem has led to conduct ecological restoration, mainly tree planting, at the same site repeatedly by different local organizations.

Establish and maintain web-based portal for disseminating and sharing of project information

Work is ongoing on designing the web pages, and documentation from the first phase of the project is currently being uploaded.

Output 1.2 Awareness materials on the links between mangrove restoration and livelihood security produced and shared at the local level

Produce English language synthesis report

During this quarter the compilation of an English language synthesis report has progressed. The report will present case studies (from OAPN phase 1 and other studies) on the relationships between mangrove ecosystems and local livelihoods, and illustrate the indicators required to establish a baseline of a given coastal ecosystem.

Produce local-language awareness materials on mangroves and livelihoods in Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, Sinhala and Tamil translators have been selected to translate the English mangrove information brochure. A graphic design agency is being selected to design the final layout of the brochure. Translations and the final layout will be completed by end of August. Initial discussions on this was made with the selected faculty members, Art work for the brochure will be produced through a art competition held in the Faculty of Aesthetic Studies of the University of Kelaniya. Final production of the information brochure will be completed by end of October.

Output 1.3 Multi-stakeholder regional dialogue for sharing of information, experiences and lessons learned on natural disasters, coastal ecosystems and Protected Areas held for Indian Ocean countries

Hold regional dialogue

Preparations for the regional conference is underway. IUCN is in the process of contacting speakers and commissioning papers.

Output 2.1 Capacity built for post-disaster environmental assessment and management among conservation agencies

Conduct field training courses in rapid environmental impact assessments and participatory eco-restoration practices in Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka

IUCN Sri Lanka has scheduled a three day mangrove training workshop for the 1st week of October. Tentative stakeholders to participate in the workshop have also been identified. Forest Department, Biodiversity secretariat of the Environment Ministry, Coast Conservation Department, National Aquatic Resources Agency (NARA), Department of Wildlife Conservation, Small Fisheries Federation, Sewalanka Foundation, Wildlife and Nature Protection Society, and all the major universities have been identified as major stakeholders to participate in the workshop. There will be presentations on mangroves and one field trip included in the training workshop.

Mangrove Action Project – Indonesia has organized a 5 day (July 9-July 13) training workshop for representatives from 8 villages, government, and NGO's on Simeulue Island, Aceh. The workshop will have three foci; 1) Ecological Mangrove Restoration 2) Small-scale sustainable livelihood development in mangrove areas 3) Community-based and collaborative mangrove management. The workshop will emphasize hands-on learning methods, and prepare participants for follow-up action taking at the local level.

Output 2.2 Field manual produced to guide Protected Areas managers and conservation practitioners in post-disaster coastal ecosystem assessment and restoration

Produce and disseminate field manual on post-disaster coastal ecosystem assessment and restoration

Initial discussions with four multi media production agencies have been completed. The selection process will be complete before end of July to select a media production agency to produce the documentary. Introduction of the mangroves, mangrove biodiversity, ecological importance of mangroves, mangrove restoration techniques, successes and failures of mangrove restoration are the major parts to address in the documentary. Budgeting and the coordination mechanisms with the production team were also discussed. Field recording of the documentary will start by the end of August and final documentary will be able to complete before end of October.

Achievement of milestones

Milestones		Achievement this quarter (end Q1)
Q1	Project planning matrix, workplan and milestones have been developed	Achieved
Q1	Awareness raising materials have been designed for Sri Lanka and Thailand	Achieved
Q2	Synthesis report on lessons learned in mangrove restoration in Sri Lanka and Thailand has been produced	Progressing with Slight Delay
Q2	Project website has been designed	Achieved
Q2	Case studies on lessons learned in Sri Lanka and Thailand have been produced	Achieved
Q3	Capacity-building workshops have been held in Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka	Progressing as expected
Q3	Local language materials have been produced for Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand	Progressing as expected
Q3	Draft field manual has been produced	Progressing as expected
Q3	Draft field manual has been pilot tested	Progressing as expected
Q4	Field manual has been produced	Progressing as expected
Q4	CD Rom of field manual and other materials has been disseminated	Progressing as expected
Q4	Regional dialogue has been held	Progressing as expected
Q4	Country status reports have been produced for Sri Lanka and Thailand	Progressing as expected

Changes to the workplan

Except for a slight delay in completing the synthesis report, there are no changes to the work plan for this quarter.

Lessons learned during the reporting period

The decision of going into partnership with Mangrove Action Project and Australian Red Cross has proven to be very productive. It has increased the outreach of the OAPN Project to select areas in Indonesia. Moreover, the experiences gained by these two organization is further enhancing the lesson-learned dialogue. Further, this would contribute positively in incorporating conservation aspects into disaster rehabilitation efforts of mainstream aid agencies like the Red Cross.

During the field visits, in connection with the development of the Country Status Report on Tsunami Reconstruction in Sri Lanka, it has been observed that environment and conservation aspects have largely been ignored especially during infrastructure reconstruction. The resultant impact on local ecosystems is enormous in some cases. This needs to be properly assessed. Moreover, further sensitization amongst the mainstream organization is still very much needed.

The field visits and analysis of the results from phase I, has made it clear that further to awareness raising activities, capacity building for the communities on technical skills need to be conducted. The training on management of resources is utmost importance for autonomy of the community-based organizations implementing successful programmes by them selves. The members of the society been trained on raising nurseries, replanting and keeping accounts and operation of loan scheme, enhanced the motivation and knowledge towards reservation and rehabilitation of ecosystem.

Plans for the next quarter

The emphasis during the next quarter would be on:

- A training workshop for capacity building of local NGOs and government departments in the field of mangrove restoration and rapid assessment will be held in Indonesia at Simeulue Island in July. This is being undertaken in collaboration with Mangrove Action Plan and Australian Red Cross.
- Local language awareness raising materials for mangrove conservation and management will be produced for Indonesia and Sri Lanka.
- The first draft of the field manual will be ready by August. It will also be enriched by the information to be shared by the Mangrove Action Plan regarding its experiences in this sector in post-tsunami-Indonesian context.
- The manual will be pilot tested by September and required modifications and final draft will be ready by end September.
- The preparatory work for regional dialogue will be started in June. The dialogue is expected to held in Colombo, Sri Lanka during the month of November.

The World Conservation Union in Asia

The IUCN Asia region covers 23 countries, stretching from Pakistan in the West to Japan in the East, Indonesia in the South to Mongolia in the North. IUCN maintains offices in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The Asia Regional Office is in Bangkok, Thailand.

IUCN's seven regional thematic programmes, known collectively as the Ecosystems and Livelihoods Group (ELG), are based in two clusters: one in Colombo, Sri Lanka (environmental economics, marine and coastal, species conservation), and one in Bangkok, Thailand (environmental law, forests, protected areas, wetlands and water resources).

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Cover picture:
Planting operation at Yala site
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