

# Teluk Belukar Lagoon

## Project & location

This project is developed to set up an Indonesia third Ramsar Site through the development of a management plan for the Teluk Belukar Lagoon ecosystem at Nias Island.



## Problem description

The Teluk Belukar Lagoon is a unique ecosystem situated on the east coast of Nias Island. This ecosystem comprises of a sandy beach and a lagoon surrounded by a very dense mangrove forest. The lagoon is situated about 300 metres from the shoreline and is connected to the sea by a river.

Altogether, this ecosystem is estimated to cover an area of 150 ha with the lagoon taking up about 50 ha. The lagoon is a habitat for a wide variety of fish species, shrimps and crabs. The surrounding mangrove forest contributes its own added value to

this ecosystem as it acts as spawning, feeding and hiding ground for fish. Furthermore, the mangrove forest is the home to a variety of other creatures including monkeys, snakes and birds.

This ecosystem therefore has very important environmental and livelihoods functions for the people living along the coast. It protects the shore from abrasion and saltwater intrusion and acts as a barrier to winds from the sea and to high tides. Regarding livelihoods, local people benefit from the timber and non-timber products provided by the ecosystem such as construction materials, firewood, fish and shrimps.

Although the Teluk Belukar Lagoon ecosystem was not directly impacted by the Tsunami, its future is currently being threatened by reconstruction and rehabilitation activities like sand quarries, logging, construction of jetty, fish ponds, and crab farming. These threats are predicted to become increasingly worse due to the unclear management status of the Teluk Belukar Lagoon ecosystem. As this area officially does not belong to anyone, everybody feels they are entitled to (mis)use it. Ignoring proper management of these activities means allowing this ecosystem to degrade.

## Recovery goals

The long term objective of this project is to prevent the (further) degradation of the Teluk Belukar Lagoon ecosystem. The main objectives of the project therefore are to:

- Rehabilitate about 130 ha by planting 120,000 mangroves seedlings.

- Draw up a Management Strategic Plan (MSP) and push for the site to obtain a protected status.

- Increase capacity and role of the community in carrying out continuous, sustainable environmental management activities.

## Funding allocation

The total budget available for this project equals 50,000 Euro. To obtain the objectives, funds are allocated for the following activities:

- Conducting a baseline study, comprising an assessment of the Teluk Belukar Lagoon ecosystem's ecology and the socio-economic aspects of the inhabitants of Desa Teluk Belukar and Desa Afia villages.

- Carrying out stakeholder consultations identifying the ways in which Teluk Belukar Lagoon ecosystem is being or has been utilised.

Formation of a working group to draw up an integrated management plan as basis for the MSP, involving the community as area manager and the local government as area supervisor.

Identifying plans and needs of communities living in the Teluk Belukar area that can be supported by / through the project.

Preparing and distributing awareness materials and organizing a variety of trainings for the community as appropriate to the results of the identification.

Dispersing small grants to support the combination of livelihoods and area conservation practices.

### **Beneficiaries**

It is expected that 2100 people will benefit from this project; the number of women participating and benefiting will be 1000.

### **Partners on the ground**

The project will be implemented through the collaboration of WIIP, local NGOs and CBOs and the Local Government.

### **Results so far**