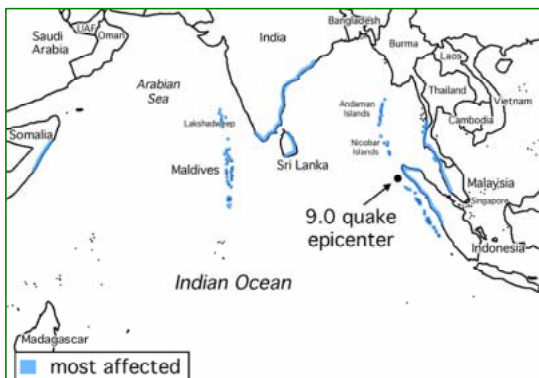


GREEN COAST

For nature and people after the tsunami



On the 26th of December 2004, a tsunami hit the coasts of South and South-East Asia. The flood was slowed down in some areas where coral reefs and coastal forests were still intact. However, these special habitats also suffered severe damage. Destruction of coastal nature, whether by the tsunami or by man, increases the vulnerability of the coasts and diminishes coastal values like tourism, fisheries and water sources. In the light of this, the project 'Green Coast' was developed for the areas hit by the tsunami; to restore coastal ecosystems and the livelihoods of local communities.



Green Coast goals

The ultimate goal of 'Green Coast' is to restore the productive functions of coastal nature and strengthen the livelihoods for local communities in tsunami-affected regions. In a period of one-and-a-half years this project envisages the following results:

- Rehabilitated coastal ecosystems and the services they provide.
- Restored and newly created livelihoods e.g. from fisheries, agriculture, fuel collection and ecotourism.
- Strengthened natural defences and shelter to protect people and nature from future floods and cyclones.
- A sustainable use of coastal nature and resources through participation of local communities, with a strong focus on the roles and rights of women.

Green Coast at work

We have started to investigate in which areas important coastal ecosystems were destroyed or degraded and where recovery of livelihoods is feasible and desired by the local people. Green coast principles and guidelines for green reconstruction are being discussed and promoted with reconstruction companies, government and development aid agencies.

In every country, a Small Grants Facility has been established to provide financial and technical support to local communities to rehabilitate their environment and livelihoods. It is expected that a total number of 150–200 small grant projects will be implemented across the region.



Nursing and planting mangrove

Who will benefit?

The project is being implemented in coastal regions in Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia and targets coastal communities, especially women as they suffered most. Both people and nature will benefit from this work. We are working to ensure that the impact is long term and sustained.

Green Coast organisation

Wetlands International, a global organisation, is responsible for leading and managing the project. The implementation is done by nine partner organisations in Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia and their extensive network of NGO's in the region. The project supports local organisations and communities to rehabilitate and sustainable manage coastal ecosystems.

In each country, a National Reference Group, consisting of representatives of government, aid agencies, reconstruction coordination bodies, NGOs and scientists, is established, to advise on the implementation of the project.



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