



# Rehabilitating Coastal Ecosystems in a Post Tsunami Context: Reinforcement and Extension Phase

Third Quarterly Report July – September, 2008



Ecosystems & Livelihoods Group Asia

<b>Name of project</b>	Rehabilitating Coastal Ecosystems in a Post Tsunami Context: Reinforcement and Extension Phase
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## Background to the Project

The Autonomous Organisation for National Parks (OAPN in Spanish) of the Ministry of Environment of Spain provided €200,000 to fund project activities implemented by IUCN in August 2005. This initial phase, Phase-I (2005-06) was implemented with the objective of assisting IUCN's post-tsunami reconstruction and rehabilitation work in Sri Lanka and Thailand. A major component of this project was to promote the integration of mangrove conservation and restoration into post-tsunami reconstruction and coastal management processes through awareness raising, capacity building, and ecosystem restoration in selected areas. Significant contribution was made in restoring select tsunami-affected mangrove ecosystems in and around priority Protected Areas, thereby strengthening natural defence mechanisms and reducing the vulnerability of coastal populations in the two countries. In the process invaluable knowledge and experiences were gained in participatory approaches to coastal ecosystem restoration in a post-disaster scenario. For 2007, OAPN assisted IUCN with another grant of €150,000 for Phase-II of this Project (2006-07). This was done with a view to extending the lessons learned during Phase-I. Under Phase-II, the emphasis was on analyses, documentation and sharing of learning from the Project's experiences in participatory approaches to ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation in a post-disaster context.

Phase-III, that is the *Reinforcement and Extension Phase* takes off from Phase-II and further strengthens it by providing additional resources for building capacity and developing a local resource pool amongst the various stakeholders who have been involved in ecosystem restoration in post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction in South Asia. Phase-III places particular emphasis on capacity building, which has been identified as one of the weakest areas and the most sought after by the coastal and marine resource managers and other relevant agencies in the region. The aim is to strengthen institutions for disaster management and risk reduction with an ecosystem perspective. Another major focus of Phase-III is to extend the learning and knowledge generated through OAPN activities to additional sites in Indonesia and Maldives—where efforts are also ongoing to conserve mangrove ecosystems in and around Protected Areas. In Indonesia and the Maldives, there are many tsunami related initiatives which could greatly benefit from the learning gained through the OAPN Project. This would undoubtedly contribute towards strengthening the capacity of pertinent institutions in these countries in post-disaster ecosystem restoration; thereby resulting in better equipped local agencies for disaster management and risk reduction. Moreover, a great deal of knowledge has already been generated through IUCN's work (through partners) in the Maldives which could be effectively utilized in enriching the documentation of lessons-learned in the field of post-tsunami ecosystem assessment and restoration; an objective of Phase-II of the OAPN Project. At the same time, the Mangrove Action Project (MAP)—one of IUCN's key partners in mangrove restoration—has a long history of supporting mangrove restoration in Indonesia, and also has experience in post-tsunami restoration and rehabilitation. Consequently, activities would benefit greatly from their support and cooperation.

A unique aspect in Phase-III is the extension of the learning and sharing lessons gained from the previous phases, and to move towards expanding the project towards Disaster Risk Management. Since tsunami relief was the main reason behind this initiative, the main focus of the entire project will remain on capacity building and institutional strengthening for post tsunami relief work. One of the most important and sought after products of the earlier phase was the Training Manual on '*Integrating Environmental Safeguards into Disaster Risk Management*', developed under component 2.

However, as mentioned before, it would be a huge loss to restrict the lessons learned from the previous phases and this is why the project now aims to enrich and expand the whole process to include other disasters. Earlier the proposal of the Phase II extension was to expand the learning to additional sites in Thailand, however, in light of the above and the fact that extensive post tsunami work has been undertaken by various national and international organisations in Thailand; capacity issues in Thailand; and demands from other countries, the project has been veered into a new directions

The idea of extending the project to include more coastal sites in Indonesia and Maldives; the inclusion of other components in natural disaster risk management (such as other disasters) would also be invaluable in enriching the content provided in the Manual. Furthermore, capacity building and training planned using this manual will ensure wider access and support further refinements of its contents.

The Regional Dialogue under component 3 of Phase-II will also benefit in having a wider coverage by ensuring contributors from inland as well as the coastal and marine areas in the implementing countries. The objective of this dialogue is to share the lesson learned under the various phases of the OAPN Project to a wider group of stakeholders. It will also provide other researchers with a platform to share valuable lessons learned during the post tsunami interventions. It was while planning for this Dialogue that the news regarding the additional funding support for the current Phase was received. As the funding was to be released around November-December, obviously the activities will have to be implemented after this. In light of these developments, it was logical to postpone the Regional Dialogue, and have it at the conclusion of the Project. This way it would be possible to incorporate the lessons learned, and further refine the focus of the Dialogue using the findings from the initiatives to be undertaken through the additional funding. The above would greatly enhance the documentation and sharing of the OAPN initiative from a regional perspective.

## Project Summary

### Project goals, objectives, outputs and activities

The goal of this phase is **to strengthen support to ecosystem restoration and conservation in inland disaster prone areas and tsunami-affected coastal areas for effective disaster management mechanisms** thereby reducing the vulnerability of coastal populations in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and the Maldives.

Goal		
<b><i>To strengthen support to ecosystem restoration and conservation in inland disaster prone areas and tsunami-affected coastal areas for effective disaster management mechanisms</i></b>		
Objectives	Main Outputs	Activities
1. Institutional strengthening of organizations involved in disaster management to incorporate ecosystem-based restoration and rehabilitation approaches in a post-disaster context	1.1 <b><i>Enhance the capacity of National Parks select staff and other disaster risk management stakeholders through training courses for incorporating environmental safeguards into disaster risk management</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizing advanced training courses in conducting rapid integrated assessments immediately after a disaster, environmental impact assessment during the reconstruction phase and encouraging the use of participatory eco-restoration approaches. The training courses would also build capacity in pre-disaster preparedness and assessments.</li> <li>Producing a local language field guide.</li> </ul>
	1.2 <b><i>Build the capacity of coastal ecosystem conservation organizations in Maldives and Indonesia through training courses for better understanding and appreciation of disaster impacts for better preparedness in future</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizing field trainings in conducting rapid integrated assessments immediately after a disaster, environmental impact assessment during reconstruction phase and participatory eco-restoration approaches, as well as pre-disaster preparedness.</li> <li>Producing locale-specific guides for the Maldives and Indonesia as part of the main Field Manual.</li> </ul>



Goal		
2. Sharing of lessons-learned and experiences through documentation of participatory approaches on post-tsunami ecosystem restoration and post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation	2.1 <b>Documentation of impacts of tsunami restoration and rehabilitation actions on local ecosystems and preparation of best practices policy brief for the Maldives and Indonesia for disaster management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status reports and best practices policy briefs on post-tsunami restoration and its impact on local ecosystems in Maldives and Indonesia</li> <li>• Participation of stakeholders from Maldives and Indonesia in the Regional conference on experiences, lessons learned and best practices on coastal ecosystem restoration and conservation in a post-disaster context.</li> <li>• Information sharing through web portal and Regional Dialogue to share experiences and lessons learned throughout the process.</li> </ul>

### Work plan of activities

	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
1a. Enhance the capacity of Disaster Management staff through training courses to facilitate post-tsunami ecosystem restoration and management in Sri Lanka	x	
1b. Enhance the capacity of Disaster Management staff through training courses for ecosystem restoration and management in Maldives		x
2. Build the capacity of coastal ecosystem conservation organizations for future preparedness in the Maldives and Indonesia		x
3. Documentation of impacts of tsunami restoration and rehabilitation actions on local ecosystems and preparation of best practices policy brief for the Maldives and Indonesia for disaster management		x
4. Carry out a Regional Dialogue to share experiences and lessons		x

### Milestones in the delivery of project outputs

Milestones	
By end Q1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project planning matrix, work-plan and milestones have been developed</li> </ul>
By end Q1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One field course carried out involving coastal and marine managers and stakeholders from a coastal district in Sri Lanka.</li> <li>• Multi-media local language field manuals produced for stakeholders in Sri Lanka.</li> </ul>
By end Q2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One field course involving government, NGO, and private sector organisations involved in disaster management activities in Maldives</li> <li>• Multi-media local language field manuals each for stakeholders in Maldives.</li> </ul>
By end Q3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field courses, involving PA managers and other coastal and marine stakeholders in the Maldives and Indonesia.</li> <li>• A component each for the Maldives and Indonesia on locale-specific issues in the Field Manual.</li> </ul>
By end Q4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two status reports on post-tsunami restoration and its impact on local ecosystems in Maldives and Indonesia</li> <li>• Two Best Practices Policy Briefs for Maldives and Indonesia</li> <li>• Maintenance of portal for information sharing.</li> </ul>
By end Q4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Dialogue</li> </ul>

# Report for this quarter

## Summary of progress to date

Project activities for this quarter have been progressing slightly slower than planned. The reason being the unexpected departure of a staff member (migrated to the USA) who was to conduct the main workshops. The replacement has been hired and the planned activities are expected to be completed with a delay of about two months.

### **1. Enhance the capacity of national parks select staff and other disaster risk management stakeholders through training courses for incorporating environmental safeguards into disaster risk management**

A manual on Disaster Risk Management has also been prepared and will be translated in the local language. Field testing of the draft field manual has been completed and changes and feedback incorporated.

The manual will be launched at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona in early October 2008. Meanwhile, Volume 1 is currently being printed, and Volume 2 finalised for printing. Volume 3 is currently being digitally laid out for printing (please see annex 1).

A publication on "*Linking Coastal Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Learning from conceptual frameworks and empirical results*" has also been produced. This report presents the Millennium Assessment framework, and shows how post-tsunami awareness and action created the recognition that coastal ecosystems and human well-being are interconnected and interdependent. This report describes the different services provided by coastal ecosystems and demonstrates clearly the critical importance of these interconnections. This report also this report extends awareness on the value of coastal ecosystems, their products and services for human well-being (i.e., livelihood security and development benefits) and shows how economic valuation of coastal ecosystem services can be a valuable tool for conservation managers and development decision-makers.

### **2. Build the capacity of coastal ecosystem conservation organizations for future preparedness in the Maldives and Indonesia**

The Ecosystems and Livelihoods Group (ELGII) Asia has designed and tested a training programme structured to present background information and guidance for integrating environmental concerns into disaster management and providing assistance for carrying out integrated assessments, targeted at all relief workers, coastal managers, local administrators.

At an in-house training workshop held in August 2008, ELGII invited personnel from various regional programmes to provide in-house sensitisation to the above; to obtain input to finalise and detail the modules for the above; and to form a task team on integrating environmental concerns into disaster risk management.

A training workshop on integrating environmental concerns into disaster management is scheduled at the end of October 2008 in Semarang, Indonesia.

### **3. Documentation of impacts of tsunami restoration and rehabilitation actions on local ecosystems and preparation of best practices policy brief for the Maldives and Indonesia for disaster risk reduction**

Studies have commenced in the Maldives and Indonesia to summarise all post-tsunami restoration and conservation initiatives in atolls that were most impacted by the tsunami in the Maldives (namely, these atolls are Raa, Meemu, Dhaalu, Thaa and Laamu). This study will analyse the successes and failures of the restoration and conservation work carried out by 2/3 selected agencies (please see annex 2 or proposed objectives/outline). These studies will also include preparation of best practices policy briefs on post-tsunami restoration and its impact on local ecosystems in the two countries.

Logistical preparations are also under way to carry out policy advocacy and raise awareness on issues and concerns related to tsunami-restoration activities in these two countries. The major findings of these studies will be presented and discussed at a one-day workshop to be held in each country, attended by relevant government officials, development agency representatives and other relevant stakeholders.

### Achievement of milestones

Milestones		Achievements this quarter (end Q3)
Q1	Project planning matrix, work plan and milestones have been developed	Achieved
Q1	One field course involving coastal and marine managers and stakeholders from a coastal district in Sri Lanka.	Achieved
Q1	Multi-media local language field manuals each for stakeholders in Sri Lanka.	Progressing as expected
Q2	One field course involving government, NGO, private sector organisations involved in disaster management activities in Maldives	Progressing as expected
Q2	Multi-media local language field manuals each for stakeholders in Maldives	Progressing as expected
Q3	Produce field manual for incorporating ecosystem considerations into disaster risk management	Completed. Will be launched at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona. Printing and publication will be complete in December 2008.
Q3	Field courses, involving PA managers and other coastal and marine stakeholders in the Maldives and Indonesia.	Slight delay
Q3	A component each for the Maldives and Indonesia on locale-specific issues in the Field Manual.	Slight delay
Q4	Two status reports on post-tsunami restoration and its impact on local ecosystems in Maldives and Indonesia	Progressing as expected
Q4	Two Best Practices Policy Briefs for Maldives and Indonesia	Progressing as expected
Q4	Maintenance of portal for information sharing.	Progressing as expected
Q4	Regional Dialogue	Progressing as expected



## Changes to the work plan

Except for a slight delay in organizing the workshops, there are no changes to the work plan for this quarter.

## Lessons learned during reporting period

Experience from the pilot testing workshops demonstrated that a task team-based multi-disciplinary approach to provide feedback and refine the content of the training material was the most effective method. Not only was it able to bring in diverse experience from entities with both national and international expertise, it was also successful in providing perspective from multiple disciplines.

Another major lesson learned was that despite the common development goals that international non-governmental and other development organizations are working towards, integrating environmental sustainability and ecosystem-based approaches into pragmatic project activities remains a major gap. The lesson learned for IUCN, is that it is essential to ensure that the considerable environmental work being carried out throughout the world has to be closely integrated with, and must not take place in tangent with major development, primarily poverty reduction efforts. This is particularly so, in addressing major issues of global change such as climate change and economic growth.

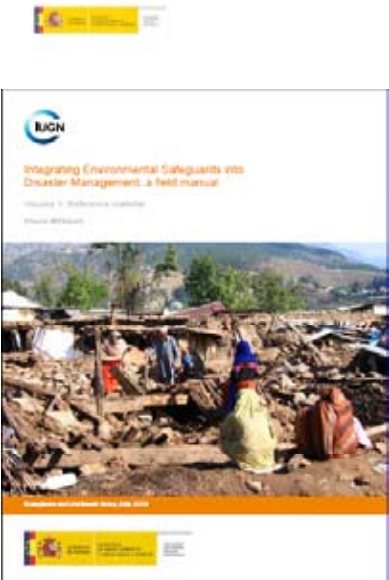
## Plans for the next quarter

The emphasis during the next quarter would be on:

- Two status reports on post-tsunami restoration and its impact on local ecosystems in Maldives and Indonesia
- Two Best Practices Policy Briefs for Maldives and Indonesia
- Maintenance and Updating of portal for information sharing.
- Regional Dialogue

# Annexes

## Annex 1: Completed publications



**Annex 2: Proposed Objectives/Outlines for two studies on Post-Tsunami Restoration and Conservation Initiatives/Projects in the Maldives and Indonesia**

- a. Carry out research in order to create a summary of all post-tsunami restoration and conservation initiatives/projects (e.g. in tabular form) in selected Atoll/s in the Maldives (to be determined) giving agency details and information briefs on each activity (e.g. type of activity, duration, scope, geographical area; progress to date; budget of initiative);  
[3-4 pages]
- b. During this process, identify the 2/3 major agencies involved in restoration and conservation work post-tsunami;
- c. Create a detailed summary of the restoration and conservation work of these 2/3 agencies that:
  - Lists all major relevant initiatives/projects carried out by each agency in The Maldives and gives basic information on each initiative (e.g. type of activity, duration, scope, geographical area; progress to date; budget of initiative)
  - Lists the objectives and planned outputs of this work;[4-5 pages]
- d. Provide a thoughtful and thorough analysis on the successes and failures of the restoration and conservation work carried out by these 2/3 agencies, looking at aspects such as:
  - how it has achieved/not achieved what it set out to do
  - what the gaps and problems were
  - suggestions for improvement
  - gender aspects of of environmental degradation arising out of tsunami rehabilitation (e.g. different impacts on the livelihoods of women and men).[7-10 pages]



**Ecosystems and  
Livelihoods Group, Asia**

**IUCN, The International Union for  
Conservation of Nature**

4/1, Adams Avenue

Colombo 04

Sri Lanka

Phone: + 94 11 255– 2559634/5

Fax: +94 11 255–9637

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do not necessarily reflect the official  
views of IUCN or its members E-mail:  
[coastalinfo@iucnsl.org](mailto:coastalinfo@iucnsl.org)