

Project reference

ASIE/2005/112-354

EC Partners

- Global Nature Fund
- Nagenahiru Foundation
- EMACE

Facts and Figures

- Duration: **2005-2008**
- EC contribution:
€662 854
- Installation of **18 mangrove nurseries**
- Planting of **60 000 mangrove plants**
- Livelihood assistance to **60 fishermen families** and **40 tsunami affected families**

**EUROPEAN
COMMISSION**

Environment

Post tsunami restoration of mangroves and livelihood development

"I'm happy to say that now I'm successful in my small business. I have a good demand for my products and am proud to say that I can create some employment opportunities for a few women in our village as well."

Mrs Deepali, Beneficiary of the project

**Context: Need for environmental restoration**

The project targets tsunami-affected families in the lake areas of Bolgoda, Maduganga and Madampeganga in Sri Lanka. The European Commission-funded project focuses on the restoration of logged mangrove habitats through the establishment of mangrove nurseries. The project also focuses on providing assistance for the re-establishment of livelihoods of affected families in those regions, and provides long-term environmental education measures through the installation of two environmental education centres which include innovative and cost-effective waste water treatment technologies.

Objective: Supporting community participation in conservation and restoration

The project aims to protect local communities against potential disasters by the long-term restoration of mangrove habitats as a prevention measure and strengthen community involvement in conservation and restoration measures of lake and wetland systems. Additionally the project focuses on building demonstration facilities to improve the water quality and to create a better environmental awareness among the rural population. Additionally, the provision of assistance to local communities to create new livelihoods is also highlighted as a priority area of the project.

Impact: Creating a better environment for the future

The project has already installed 18 mangrove nurseries where more than 60 000 trees have been grown. Several livelihood development activities have been carried out including the provision of nets and boats to 60 fishermen families, machines for doormat production and assisting 40 tsunami affected families in handicraft projects. In addition the project has conducted various environmental education measures and courses for sustainable agriculture and prepared draft plans for two environmental education centres.

Post-tsunami restoration of mangroves and livelihood development

Mrs Deepali is a village woman from Alubomulla within the area of the Bolgoda Lake. She and her family had faced many hardships to feed her two small children. Being a determined woman, she learned how to make different kinds of sarees and handmade carpets as she was already skilled in painting and weaving. She tried to obtain financial assistance to initiate her own business but banks and other agencies were asking for many guarantors to obtain loans. She then heard of the European Commission post-tsunami conservation and livelihood programme from other villagers.

She met a project representative and explained her desire to initiate the business. *"I learned from the villagers that the project was helping the handicraft sector of our area. Then I decided to participate in their meetings and request assistance to develop my business. This enabled me to buy the equipment needed to re-start the business with much hope. As time went on, I had another problem in marketing some of my products. This too was solved by the project team by training and helping to increase the quality of my products and by introducing buyers to me. I'm happy to say that now I'm successful in my small business."*



Deepali weaving a saree