

MANGRO – Community-based Mangrove Re-generation, Orissa, India

£3572.24

The aim of MANGRO is to enable 50 villages in coastal Orissa to sustainably regenerate their mangroves, thus increasing protection against tidal surge, super-cyclones and coastal erosion, to increase fish-stocks and bio-diversity, and enhance the livelihood and survival prospects of the villagers.

Upon receiving the TFN grant, MANGRO was able to achieve the following:

- Micro-planning carried out in all 50 villages (survey of land use, population, etc.)
- The establishment of 30 Community Forest Management Committees
- The establishment of 30 Self-help Women's groups (for income-generation training and activities)
- The establishment of 20 Eco-clubs in the village schools (all the above meeting at least once a month)
- The planting of 12,000 mangrove seedlings
- The planting of 9,200 fuel and fodder trees
- The establishment of two community tree nurseries
- The production of information leaflets (24,000) and educational materials (1,000 booklets) relating to mangroves
- Liaison with government officers and other NGOs working in this field – meetings held regularly

The successes of the project have been very real. There is something very special about seeing so many trees planted, but the changes in attitude are just as remarkable. In one village, for instance, there is now a fine charged against anyone who cuts down mangrove. Rs.5 (about 7 pence) may not seem much, but to someone who has to hire themselves out as labour for Rs.60 a day if they are lucky, then it is a substantial amount. And it has made a difference.