

Project Update: May 2014

The 2nd Quarterly Progress report for the period of February 2014 to April 2014.

A. Formation of Village Mangrove Councils (VMC)

The Village Mangrove Councils (VMC) have formed in 10 new project villages. The villagers selected the executive members, chairperson, secretary and treasurer, which are representative from women, men, fishermen, youths, school teachers, etc. Each VMC has been involved in preparation of sustainable mangrove resource management, conservation and restoration plans. The project team has been working in close relationship with each VMC.

B. Training of Village Mangrove Council Members

The first phase of capacity building training of Village Mangrove Council members has been completed in five project villages. As part of the strengthening of the capacity of the Village Mangrove Councils, the training and learning process started, including strengthening local communities with more understanding on benefits of mangroves and protection in their respective areas and surroundings. A total of 55 members from five VMCs participated in the training programme.

C. Community Awareness Programme on Mangroves

The awareness campaign was initiated in four project villages, Tarapada, Itakandia, Balagandi and Badarahama, in order to mobilise and elicit their support and commitment towards the mangrove conservation restoration activities.

D. Ecological Study and Site Preparation for Plantation

The project team and volunteers conducted an ecological study in 10 project villages. The team has collected the data on village population, male-female ratio, availability for basic living facilities, dependence on mangrove resources, land use patterns, ecological features, natural disaster impacts, etc. from each 10 project villages. The team also prepared a "micro plan" for management of mangrove forest assigned to the community under Village Mangrove Council (VMC) approach. Micro plans were developed through participatory rural appraisal and participatory planning in each village. The project has been started site preparation for plantation of mangroves in rainy season this year.



Left: Villagers are gathering to form Village Mangrove Council. Right: Community Awareness Programme on Mangroves.