

Project Update: March 2010

The project 'Community stewardship in conservation and sustainable management of mangroves in Orissa coast' started in February 2010.

The preliminary survey was conducted as per the schedule. A range of techniques was employed in order to generate information and to build up progressively an accurate and detailed picture of the project site. The techniques used included semi-structured interviews and open-ended discussions, household questionnaires, focus groups and community meetings and key informant interviews at the project site. Data on environmental parameters such as salinity, water temperature, atmospheric temperature, depth, visibility, tidal and lunar phases were recorded for the period of 6 months.

The villagers of Badakota, Rajnagar have participated in the first village meeting on 16th February 2010. While project team explained the objectives of the project to the villagers, they agreed to support the project with their active participation for long run of the project.

To achieve long term sustainability of this project the educational programmes in schools are most important. The next generation of decision-makers must have become better stewards of this vital mangrove resource base for future generations. An educational activity was conducted at Kundapur M.E. School, Rajnagar to explain about the importance of conservation of mangroves on 25th February 2010. In total, 84 students and 6 teachers participated and discussed the importance and conservation of mangroves. Educating the students in these matters is also indirectly resulting in the education of their parents and family.