

Project Update: June 2013

Seagrass participatory survey event has been already conducted in one village.

Second village participatory survey will be conducted in July 2013 or before. Due to the algal beds covered shoreline seagrasses, it was difficult to conduct participatory survey in shores, which means that the participatory approach is suitable only for demonstration but GIS mapping of seagrass beds needs highly technical and scientific approach.

So, we have incorporated our ongoing scientific seagrass survey project to provide seagrass distribution data for Rufford funded participatory seagrass mapping project.

The reasons are:

1. Seagrass are found in deeper areas that are widely found up to 8 km from shore, where shorelines are covered by algae due to eutrophication (shrimp farms).
2. GIS mapping display at village community halls (as per Rufford-OMCAR project objective) has to be more accurate and scientific.

So, we have been surveying up to 8 km from the shore using acoustic underwater survey equipment. The seagrass beds behind our Rufford project villages will be GIS mapped and displayed in community halls.

The results (GIS map of seagrass beds) will be soon displayed in two villages as per the proposed project. Please see some interesting seagrass survey field photos.

<http://palkbay.blogspot.in/2013/06/seagrass-research-in-palk-bay.html>

Today, we received 56 students, village women groups and teachers. We explained about mangroves and seagrass beds by highlighting our research.

Please see this slide

show <http://s446.photobucket.com/user/marinebalaji/slideshow/PBC%20event%20-%2017th%20July%202013> in between your busy schedules.

Village women drawn beautiful traditional sand arts.