FAO supports the ‘Forestry Programme for Early Rehabilitation in Asian Tsunami Affected Countries’ funded by Finland. FAO is also supporting many fisheries, agriculture and sustainable development projects in tsunami affected countries and is encouraging the adoption of integrated and participatory approaches for rehabilitation.

THE FAO TSUNAMI FORESTRY PROGRAMME

The Finnish funded programme is implementing forest rehabilitation activities in Indonesia, the Maldives and Sri Lanka and is also working with Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Bangladesh and India to strengthen institutional capacities for forest rehabilitation and reforestation, provide technical advice and improve information sharing.

The programme is also assisting reconstruction in Indonesia by facilitating sourcing of wood for rehabilitation from legal sustainable sources and is providing technical advice on development of a wood supply strategy and related policy issues.

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Forestry after the tsunami

The tsunami of December 2004 took over 200,000 lives and destroyed livelihoods and infrastructure all around the Indian Ocean.

Apart from other tsunami damage, trees were snapped, uprooted and undermined by the waves and strong currents associated with the tsunami, and were affected by soil salination.

Reports that intact coastal forests (including mangroves) had provided protection against the tsunami prompted some of the affected countries to call for the establishment of greenbelts.

Much coastal forest had been cleared or degraded in the affected areas prior to the tsunami. Bringing forests and trees back into the landscape to increase coastal protection and provide forest products and environmental services will help achieve the goal of ‘building back better’.

FAO is working to help achieve this vision. It is helping countries to incorporate forestry into their rehabilitation and reconstruction plans. It is encouraging an integrated approach, addressing intersectoral linkages between forestry, fisheries and agriculture. FAO is providing advice for technically sound forest planting and management, and is helping countries strengthen coordination among the various groups supporting rehabilitation.

The objectives of the Forestry Programme are:
• to provide forest and tree-derived benefits and income to address the needs of affected populations;
• to establish a sound foundation for long-term coastal forest rehabilitation and reforestation;
• to improve Government capacity to ensure sustainable practices for supply of forest products and services.

The programme:
in **Indonesia** is supporting:
• participatory planning and implementation of forestry activities in ten villages in Aceh.
• sourcing of wood for rebuilding houses, other infrastructure and fishing boats.
• improved coordination among agencies and organizations concerned with forest rehabilitation and wood supply.

in the **Maldives** supports activities on six islands, including:
• rehabilitating home gardens and mangroves,
• planting windbreaks and shade trees,
• developing an island tree nursery,

and is assisting the Government to develop a national forest strategy and strengthen its institutional capacity so as to provide a firmer foundation for forest management.

in **Sri Lanka** is working in six districts on the south and east coasts to:
• plant trees in home gardens and villages,
• rehabilitate mangrove forests and
• plant coastal shelterbelts.

and support increased coordination at district and national levels for forestry-related rehabilitation efforts.

at **Regional** level is working among the eight Asian tsunami affected countries to:
• strengthen institutional capacities for forest rehabilitation and reforestation,
• provide technical advice, and
• encourage information sharing.

The programme will continue until the end of 2006. Further information can be found on the FAO forestry tsunami website:
http://www.fao.org/forestry/tsunami

FAO’s regional tsunami forestry programme

The Finnish funded ‘Forestry programme for early rehabilitation in Asian tsunami affected countries’ supports field activities in Indonesia, the Maldives and Sri Lanka and is also providing support to Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand.

The programme:
in **Indonesia** is supporting:
• participatory planning and implementation of forestry activities in ten villages in Aceh.
• sourcing of wood for rebuilding houses, other infrastructure and fishing boats.
• improved coordination among agencies and organizations concerned with forest rehabilitation and wood supply.

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Participatory rural appraisal Lhok Kruet District, Aceh, Indonesia.