

Rejuvenation and restoration mangroves in coastal region

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Abstract

Strategies for safe-guarding coastal ecosystem: The need for protection, restoration and regeneration of mangroves has been since long under top priority by the ecologists and the social scientists. Our target revenue sub-divisions are namely *Nizampatnam*, *Repalle*, *Bapatla* and *Karlapalem* in *Guntur District* and *Chirala & Vetapalem* in *Prakasam District* in lines of disaster preparedness and mitigation activities. The felt need is to sensitize the coastal villages to prevent the degradation and depletion of ecosystem against preventable destructive practices such as:

- extensive consumption for cattle feed/fodder
- regular usage for cooking fuel by way of fire wood
- usage of timber for thatched sheds
- timber for building fishing boats/materials and,
- fencing material for houses and backyard

Since the protection and restoration program is community based in the coastal villages, the people concerned are involved as the direct beneficiaries as well as the stake-holders.

- Women and youth of the reference communities along the coastal villages are formed into *Community based Organizations*. They are to be enlightened on the basic principles of restoration of mangroves to safeguard and promote the endangered coastal ecosystem. Self explanatory literature (in the form of IEC materials) has also been adequately provided to them all.
- The high school going school children in the age group of 12 – 15 years are formed into *Eco clubs*. The members are sensitized by organizing regular sessions on the principles of eco conservation.
- Propagation of Marine Regulation Zone (MRZ) and the Coastal Regulation Act and other notifications to safe-guard the coastal zone.
- After the tsunami calamity, it was felt that the loss in this region was nominal because of the existing mangrove habitations. Sociologists felt that people are to be educated and empowered on safe-guarding the endangered species - *Rhizophora* and *Avicennia*, the local verities.

Keywords

coast, regeneration, sensitization, disasters