

Environmental Restoration Programme, Ampara

Mangrove lagoons on Sri Lanka's east coast have been severely depleted through mismanagement by the local community and tsunami damage. However these vital ecosystems provide valuable income generation opportunities, habitat for native flora and fauna and vital coastal defences.

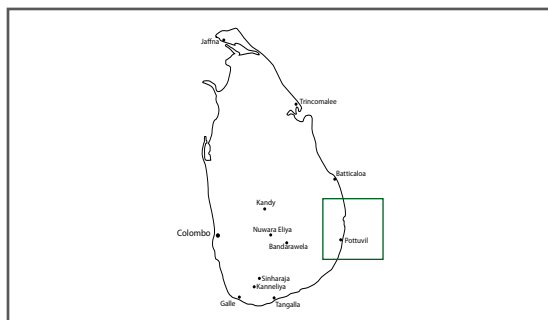
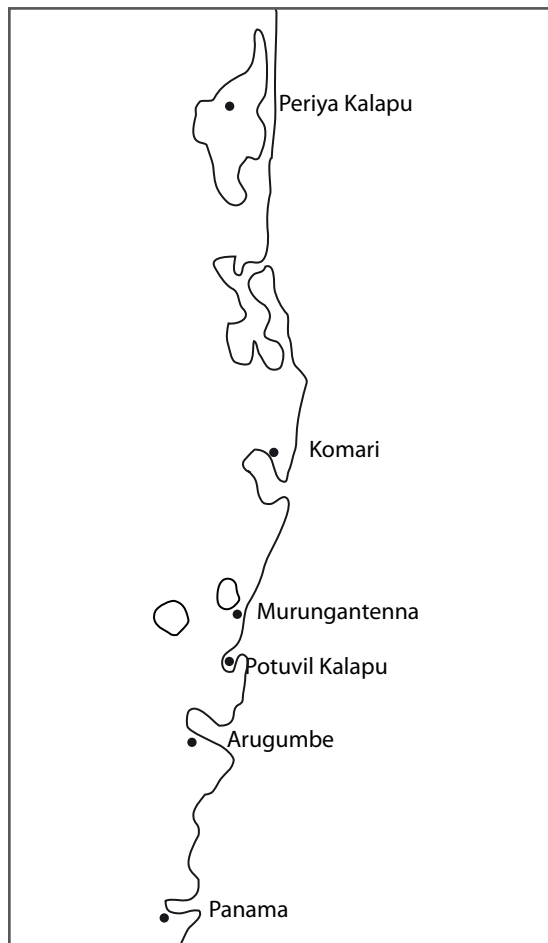
We are working with nine fishery societies, in six communities in Ampara, to restore mangrove ecosystems. The planting and community empowerment programme brings together several stakeholders including community members, government and fisheries officers.

Alongside the planting we have run six workshops. Initial sessions build up participant's knowledge of mangrove ecosystems and team-work skills, and the final ones are used to develop lagoon management plans. These workshops give each community the skills and structures to enable them to nurture and sustainably manage the newly restored area.

A local nursery was established to propagate trees for planting, as well as utilising two existing nurseries. Following a lagoon survey, mapping and planting design, the community has planted 105,000 mangrove plants and trees, and through the management plans, will monitor growth and replant as required.

Achievements:

- Empowerment of local community to sustainably manage their environment
- Re-establishment of coastal defences and ecological services
- Better habitat created for coastal and marine wildlife to live and breed, thereby increasing biodiversity and opportunities for the fishery industry to increase their income



Map showing project lagoons and communities in Ampara