

# Community based Conservation of Mangroves in Gujarat for Better Quality of Life

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# Background

- ISRO (2001) – The coast have suffered erosion at the rate of 5m/year
- Poverty -major occupation as agriculture laborer (33%).
- Fishing communities population(Neja – 15; Zamdi - 150)+*large unaccounted pagadiya fishers*
- BPL families (All fishermen and others – 700 (Neja) and 500 (Zamdi)
- The mangrove under heavy pressure due to its collection for fodder.



# Objectives

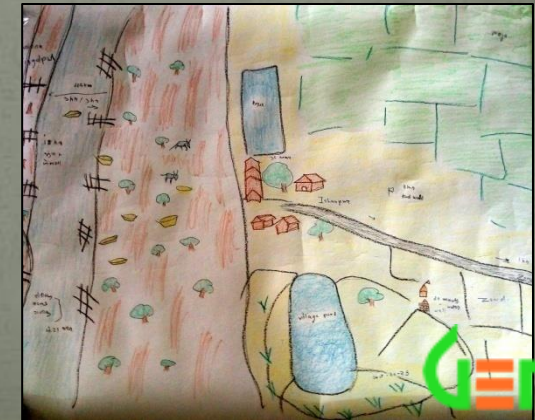
- Creation of Biodiversity management committees in villages
- Education and Create awareness of communities in villages on mangrove conservation and its benefits to the coastal environment and livelihood
- Equal opportunities provided for men and women for supplementary livelihoods





# Activities

- PRA -50 people
- Nursery creation-30000 saplings
  - 50 people participated
- Awareness & Orientation programme-500 people
- Drawing competition – 40 kids
- BMC formation and PBR preparation





# Out comes

- Awareness creation
  - Number of peoples directly benefited
  - Women participation
- Nursery
  - Revenue earned during lean period Rs 1,400/- per person for the activity (45 beneficiaries).
  - People are enthusiastic about mangrove nursery as a source of alternative livelihood.



- Locals will undertake plantation activity every year- through BMC
- Locals are started planning for plantations of local, economically important species in saline wasteland for the species like wood apple, tamarind and pilu
- Locals have undertaken experiment on plantation in the nearby aquaculture pond
- Locals have realized that the mangroves are source of shrimp seedlings which are provided to the nearby aquaculture farms





# Biodiversity Management Committees

- Formation of 3 BMCs
- Certificates issued by GBB

## PBR creation

BIODIVERSITY	Number of species		
	CHIDRA	NEJA	ZAMDI
Agro-biodiversity	22	29	22
Domesticated biodiversity	83	92	77
Wild plants	232	240	240
Wild fauna	100	128	129
Coastal and marine		49	42



# Recommendations & Lessons learned

- Experience of the fishermen in the nursery raising and care was useful in the success rate of the seedlings
- Fisherman community are not directly linked to other village community.
- There lack of entrepreneurship among these communities.
- BMC members are reluctant to account opening, we have sought help from GBB.





# Sustainability & future intervention

- After BMC formation, the it has become and continuous process
- This year Forest department procured 10,000/- saplings (@ Rs 2/-) for the plantations at Dholera and Khambhat regions.
- Talks are with GEC, nodal agency for coastal zone management to procure the saplings from these BMC for their plantation programmes.
- GES as one of TSG group of GBB is constantly in touch of BMCs regarding future course of action and quarterly meeting.



- Fishing community have gained the confidence that they would raise the seedlings every year and if there are no buyers would do a plantation along their coastline itself.
- The locals have decided to lieu fee on the mangroves seeds collected from outsiders, which would give them some income to be used for plantation programmes.

