

Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS)

Title of initiative:	Building Citizens' Knowledge Resources for Disaster Preparedness
Countries primarily supported:	India
Duration:	Phase I: from 31 July 2006 to 30 September 2006 Phase II: from 1 December 2006 to 31 December 2006

Objectives

- The objective of the project was to develop and demonstrate local institutionalization of mitigation and preparedness knowledge resources in communities recovering from the tsunami in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India which were highly vulnerable to earthquakes and tsunamis.
- The target community for the project was citizens particularly school students, community leaders and other "change agents".
- The focus of the project was on local knowledge development and dissemination in the areas of early warning, habitat and land use, local environment, livelihoods and education.

Achievements

➤ **Establishment of Citizens' Resource Centre**

The Citizens' Resource Centre will serve as a hub for awareness-raising, education, and other activities for building knowledge resources on disaster reduction and environment for local citizens.

- The construction of the Resource Centre has been started under this initiative in the capital city of Port Blair. The Municipal Council made available the land of 5,454 square meters for this purpose.
- The sections for display on disaster management and mitigation activities as well as the center for Electronic-Governance for the citizens will be operational during 2007.
- The centre will be suitably equipped with appropriate hardware, software and communication equipment. A company donated multi-media equipment to be installed in the Centre.
- The Centre will be completed and handed over to the Municipal Council in December 2008.

➤ **Establishment of two Village Knowledge Centres**

Two Village Knowledge Centres, with computer equipment, basic furniture and software, have been established in two coastal locations in South Andaman, namely Wandoor and Brindraban to create local hubs within communities to increase the outreach of the Citizens' Resource Centre and to facilitate dissemination of early warning.

➤ **Establishment of a Community Based Information System (CBIS)**

- Profiles of local risks, vulnerabilities and standard operating procedures for disaster preparedness and response has been compiled and organized spatially in a customized platform called Community Based Information System (CBIS), a system based on customized Geographical Information System (GIS).
- A pilot CBIS was undertaken by conducting a survey in all the 4 wards of Wandoor village, South Andaman.

➤ **Preparation of resource material, including UN/ISDR Field Library**

- Each Resource Centre has been provided with resource materials and necessary equipment for immediate response including items for fire safety, first aid, search and rescue and evacuation.
- A portable earthquake shake table has been acquired for the Citizens' Resource Centre to be used for raising awareness on affects of earthquake on building structures.

- The Citizens' Resource Centre has housed the UN/ISDR Field Library. The Field Library was officially launched and covered by local media. The Library became popular among local students and researchers.

➤ **Outreach programmes⁷⁸**

- A Community Radio show, titled Radio Lighthouse has been produced and aired on the local station of All India Radio (AIR). The local community in the islands was involved in the preparation.
- A local workshop and a mock drill were carried out at one of the Village Knowledge Centres in South Andaman to demonstrate emergency preparedness.
- A three-day workshop on School Safety Programme including a mock drill was carried out in six schools in Port Blair and South Andamans.
- All 18 Wards of Port Blair Municipal Council have been mapped for developing a community-based disaster preparedness plan.
- The need assessments of these two villages have been completed. The training requirements of the village people are Computer (one-year course), Typing (one-year course), Agriculture, Tailoring, Poultry, Animal Husbandry and GPS (Fishing in open sea).



Photo 17: Community resource centre - Model



Photo 18: Earthquake Drill



Photo 19: Community resource centre in Port Blair

Contact person

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⁷⁸ For more information: <http://www.seedsindia.org/>