



Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development
Society (SEEDS)

Puri, Odisha, India

Creating Bioshields at Puri, India

The project approach integrates nature and ecosystem-centred and community-based approaches into the planning and management of coastal regions. This will be achieved through investing in ecological infrastructure to buffer against climatic hazards, supporting climate-resilient coastal livelihoods leveraging the strength of women's SHGs among fishing communities of Puri District in the State of Odisha.

Below: Women working on Bio Shielding
in Tamil Nadu;



The state of Orissa is one of the most disaster-prone states in the Indian union. Orissa's coastal districts are often subject to tropical storm systems like cyclones as well as storm-induced flooding and surges. Shores are washed by ocean waves, and dunes – which are their natural protection – are being destroyed by development along the shores. As aging infrastructure and engineered coastal protection become more outdated, the potential for extremely costly natural disasters increases.

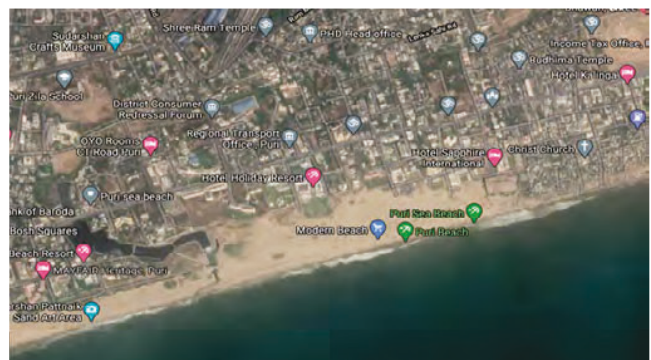
The proposed project will result in conserving the environment for strengthening the water, food and income security of households while enhancing resilience through disaster risk reduction practice. An overall achievement of the project would be the deployment of affordable nature-based solutions to increase resilience and enhance the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, communities and regions, and improve the resilience of ecosystems. Project success will provide viable community-driven solutions for coastal populations exposed to tropical cyclones around the world.

The goal:

1. Shelterbelt plantations and bio-shielding to increase the protection of villages from cyclones.
2. Reducing the risk of agricultural land loss due to beach erosion through various nature-based solutions (e.g. bioshields)
3. Capacity-building of families' access opportunities to enhance their livelihood through improved agricultural practices in coastal lands

“Even if the plants reached a mature harvesting period, no matter how profitable they would seem to be at that time, they wouldn't be touched for the next 50 years. All this has been done for our benefit, and now that we know how useful it's going to be for us when there is a tsunami, I see no reason not to take care of them ”

Durairaj (Tamil Nadu),
resident of a project community



Top: Fishermen Working in Tamil Nadu;
Bottom: Satellite image of Puri coastline showing lack of vegetation