

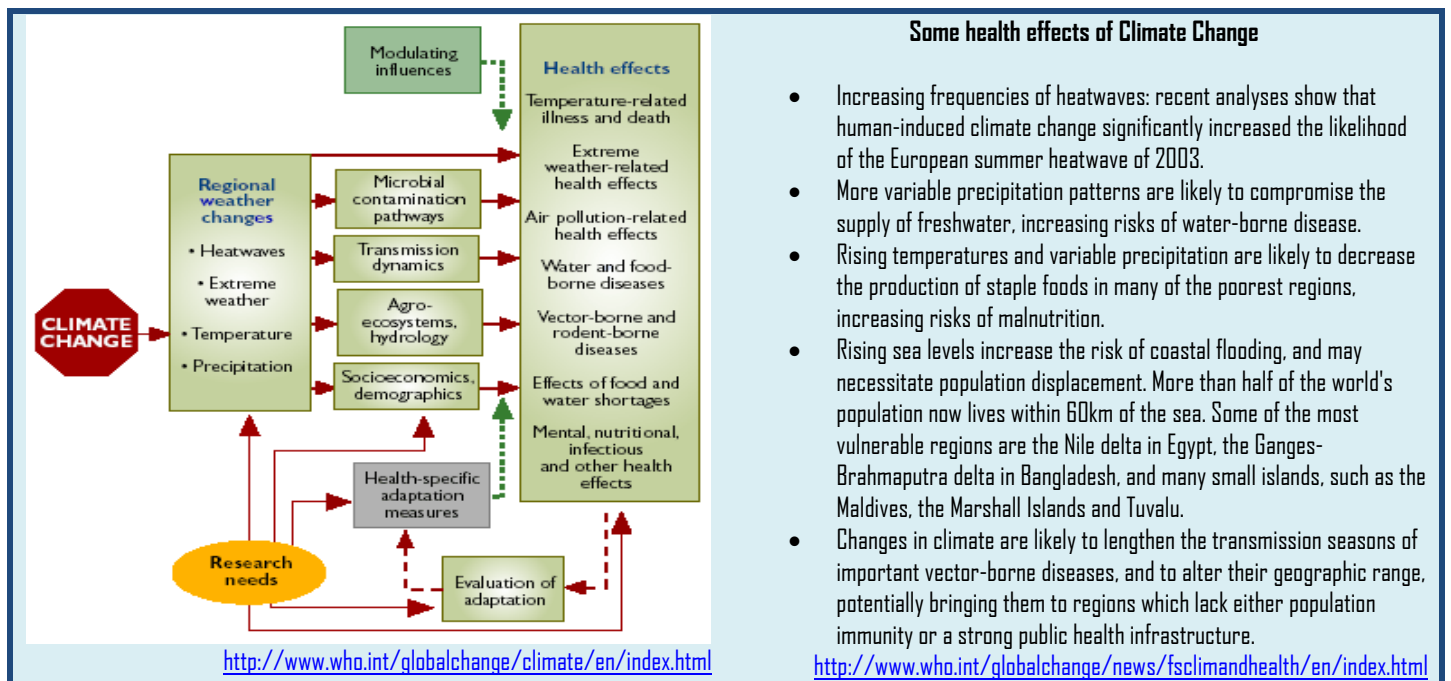


TRINET NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2007

Health and Climate Change

Concern about climate change is now firmly in the international agenda especially in the aftermath of the announcement of the Nobel Peace Prize for efforts on tackling climate change. Climate change is a complex phenomenon and accordingly has so many ramifications that it is like a giant jig-saw with thousands of tiny pieces that have to be put together to get the whole picture. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change IPCC use two different definitions

of climate change. In the IPCC's definition, Climate Change may be due to both natural processes and anthropogenic factors. Finding out to what extent and how these different factors act and interact in climate change processes is one of the key aspects of IPCC assessments. The UNFCCC definition of Climate Change refers on the other hand only to the change attributed to human activity, since that attributed to natural causes is referred to as 'climate variability'.



While the effect of climate change in terms of the rising sea levels, inundation of coastal areas, changing weather patterns and such phenomena appear to have received a lot of attention, there are very important areas that also need to be mainstreamed into the climate-change debate. One of these is the impact of climate change on the health of people especially the increase in the

number of **vector borne diseases**. This aspect is of importance because it is believed that altered distribution of some vector species may be among the early signs of environmental impacts resulting from climate change, which in turn will result in health impacts. Hence early warning systems need to be identified and used.

In the tsunami affected areas where extensive reconstruction has occurred, the resettled areas are more like urban settlements with houses built of RCC. Many of these permanent houses and

most of the temporary shelters have been built in areas prone to flooding and drainage has not been given sufficient importance.

Health Concerns	Vulnerabilities due to climate change
Temperature related morbidity:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heat and cold related illness • Cardio vascular illnesses
Vector borne diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed patterns of diseases by region and by climate parameter • Malaria, Filaria, Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis, and Dengue caused by bacteria, viruses and other pathogens carried by mosquitoes, ticks, and other vectors.
Health effects of extreme weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diarrhoea, Cholera and intoxication caused by biological and chemical contaminants in water. • Damaged public health infrastructure due to cyclones / floods • Injuries and illness • Social and mental health stress due to disasters and displacement
Health effects due to Insecurity in food production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malnutrition, hunger, particularly in children

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/ENVIRONMENT/climatechange/internat/devcountry/pdf/india-climate-9-health.pdf>

Subsequent to the tsunami in December 2004, many of the areas have also experienced higher rainfall and greater episodes of flooding as in Tamil Nadu, India. Flooding may also create a large number of breeding sites for mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue, the latter described as the most important vectorborne virus globally. Campbell-Lendrum and Corvalán write that “it is believed that dengue transmission has increased dramatically in tropical developing regions in the past few decades due to the weakening of vertical control programs in many regions, coupled with rapid unplanned urbanization, producing breeding sites for Aedes mosquitoes, and high human population densities, supplying a large pool of susceptible individuals” (<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?tool=pubmed&pubmedid=17393341>). They also point out that distributions of Aedes and dengue are favored by high absolute humidity, which increases with high temperatures and rainfall. It is not only dengue that we are all concerned about but other diseases including chikungunya that are transmitted by mosquitoes, as well as leptospirosis which is caused by

contamination of rat urine with freshwater supplies. According to other studies, malaria may shift from the central Indian region to the south western coastal states (Bhattacharya et al., 2006 in Current Science. <http://www.ias.ac.in/currsci/feb102006/369.pdf>)

Prevention, as they say, is always better than cure and it is also much less expensive in the long run. Ensuring better drainage and ensuring that there are no stagnant water pools in which mosquitoes can breed is needed. This must be followed by the usage of mosquito nets to prevent mosquito access to human beings. The mosquito repellent industry is perhaps the fastest growing but as a doctor serving in a government hospital pointed out sometime ago, using mosquito repellents is only giving into the NIMBY syndrome – the important thing is to get rid of them altogether. The biggest problem is that no vaccines yet exist for some of the diseases most sensitive to climate change e.g. malaria, dengue, schistosomiasis or for many newly emerging infections.

Climate change studies undertaken so far reveal that action is essential in order to prevent long term damage to India's water cycle. The livelihood of a vast population in India depends on agriculture, forestry, wetlands and fisheries and land use in these areas is strongly influenced by water-based ecosystems that depend on monsoon rains. Changes to the water cycle may also cause an increase in water borne diseases such as cholera and hepatitis, as well as diseases carried by insects such as malaria.

University of Liverpool (2007, March 12). How Will Climate Change Affect India's Monsoon Season? *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved October 31, 2007, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/03/070308121808.htm>

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced a few days ago that it will focus its World Health Day 2008 theme on “**protecting health from climate change.**” The coastal communities that were affected by the tsunami as well as all the

others on the coast need to be aware of the issues related to health and climate change and plan well in advance so that impacts are mitigated. Because of preparedness and public awareness, the forecasts of deaths due to

overcrowding in relief camps after the tsunami did not come true. Similarly, we need to be prepared

to ensure that climate change, an event on a longer scale, does not much impact human lives.

Useful Reads

Climate Change and Human Health: Impact and Adaptation: WHO, May 2000.

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2000/WHO_SDE_OEH_00.4.pdf

Health is a focus reflecting the combined impacts of climate change on the physical environment, ecosystems, the economic environment and society. Long-term changes in world climate may affect many requisites of good health – sufficient food, safe and adequate drinking water, and secure dwelling. The current large-scale social and environmental changes mean that we must assign a much higher priority to population health in the policy debate on climate change.



Climate change will affect human health and well-being through a variety of mechanisms. Climate change can adversely impact the availability of fresh water supplies, and the efficiency of local sewerage systems. It is also likely to affect food security. Cereal yields are expected to increase at high and mid latitudes but decrease at lower latitudes. Changes in food production are likely to significantly affect health in Africa. In addition, the distribution and seasonal transmission of several vectorborne infectious diseases (such as malaria, dengue and schistosomiasis) may be affected by climate change. Altered distribution of

some vector species may be among the early signs of climate change that may affect health. A change in world climate could increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events. The impacts on health of natural disasters are considerable – the number of people killed, injured or made homeless from such causes is increasing alarmingly. The vulnerability of people living in risk-prone areas is an important contributor to disaster casualties and damage. An increase in heatwaves (and possibly air pollution) will be a problem in urban areas, where excess mortality and morbidity is currently observed during hot weather episodes.

Adaptation is a key response strategy to minimize potential impacts of climate change. A primary objective of adaptation is the reduction, with the least cost, of death, disease, disability and human suffering. The ability to adapt to climate change, and specifically the impacts on health, will depend on many factors including existing infrastructure, resources, technology, information and the level of equity in different countries and regions.

Climate and Human Health Impacts: WGII Chapter 8, IPCC 2007.

<http://www.gtp89.dial.pipex.com/08.pdf>

Human beings are exposed to climate change through changing weather patterns (temperature, precipitation, sea-level rise and more frequent extreme events) and indirectly through changes in water, air and food quality and changes in ecosystems, agriculture, industry and settlements and the economy. At this early stage the effects are small but are projected to progressively increase in all countries and regions. Emerging evidence of climate change effects on human health shows that climate change has: altered the distribution of some infectious disease vectors (medium confidence); altered the seasonal distribution of some allergenic pollen species (high confidence); and increased heatwave-related deaths (medium confidence). Adaptive capacity needs to be improved everywhere; impacts of recent hurricanes and heatwaves show

that even high-income countries are not well prepared to cope with extreme weather events (high confidence). Adverse health impacts will be greatest in low-income countries. Those at greater risk include, in all countries, the urban poor, the elderly and children, traditional societies, subsistence farmers, and coastal populations (high confidence). Economic development is an important component of adaptation, but on its own will not insulate the world's population from disease and injury due to climate change (very high confidence). Critically important will be the manner in which economic growth occurs, the distribution of the benefits of growth, and factors that directly shape the health of populations, such as education, health care, and public-health infrastructure. This chapter describes the observed and projected health

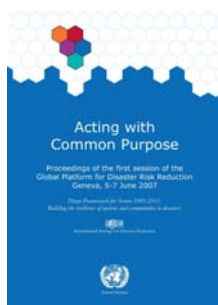
impacts of climate change, current and future populations at risk, and the strategies, policies and measures that have been and can be taken to reduce impacts. The chapter reviews the

knowledge that has emerged since the Third Assessment Report (TAR) (McMichael et al., 2001).

Acting with Common Purpose: Proceedings of the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Geneva, 5-7 June 2007.

<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/gpdr/docs/GP-Acting-with-common-purpose.pdf>

This first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Geneva, Switzerland, 5-7 June 2007 was convened on the basis of guidance contained in the resolution of the General Assembly on the ISDR that calls for the adoption by governments of the Hyogo Framework and that recognizes the Global Platform as a successor mechanism to the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction. The key aims of the session were to raise awareness and commitment to reduce disaster risks, to share experience and good practice, and to provide



global guidance on strategies for risk reduction at international, regional, national and local levels. This report of the proceedings of the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Geneva, 5-7 June 2007 captures discussions of the high level dialogue; the outcome of the workshops; and the conclusions of the multi-stakeholder deliberations on progress in implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and identification of priorities for the ISDR system for 2008-2009.

Gender Mainstreaming During Disasters: The Case of the Tsunami in India. Oxfam International. March 2007. <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/whatwedo/emergencies/fieldstudies>

The 2004 tsunami had disastrous consequences for entire coastal regions bordering the Indian Ocean. Yet the tsunami's impact on the affected populations varied according to their pre-disaster vulnerabilities. Specifically, gender roles contributed to the vulnerability of girls and women by limiting their social rights and access to resources. This study, which was conducted by researchers from the Anawim Trust in Tamil Nadu, India, documents ways in which 10 local Indian NGOs brought a gender dimension to their post-tsunami emergency and rehabilitation programs in the state of Tamil Nadu, and it offers recommendations to help local and international NGOs improve their gender mainstreaming efforts at both the programmatic and organizational levels. The study is based on literature reviews of



feminist and gender mainstreaming theory and NGO policies, and field research on local NGO policies and programs that are using gender mainstreaming strategies. The study's primary focus was on documentation of NGO programs that work toward changing gender norms and values in communities. The study found that local Indian NGOs have developed many positive and effective strategies for gender mainstreaming within their programs and organizations during the tsunami response. Several strategies and recommendations could be adopted by other organizations globally in future disaster responses. It shows that it is possible after disasters to rebuild in such a way as to empower women and marginalized groups to take on new roles in their communities.

Understanding the Effect of the Tsunami and Its Aftermath on Vulnerability to HIV in Coastal India. March 2007

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/whatwedo/emergencies/fieldstudies>

In 2006, Oxfam commissioned the Swasti Health Resource Center in Bangalore, India, to study whether the 2004 tsunami and its aftermath increased vulnerability to HIV infection among affected residents of coastal India. The study sample was drawn from the five southern states affected by the tsunami: Tamil Nadu, Kerala,

Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry Union Territory, and the Andaman Islands. The research followed the principles of action research, emphasizing qualitative methods over quantitative ones. Researchers found that such vulnerability did indeed increase in most of the 30 communities studied, primarily because the physical, social,

and psychological conditions after the tsunami led to a significant increase in unprotected sex with non-regular sexual partners, especially among people living in temporary shelters.

Recommendations of the Swasti health resource center include the following:

1. People should be moved from temporary camps or shelters to permanent housing as soon as possible to minimize time spent in crowded camp conditions.
2. Temporary housing should afford privacy to married couples.
3. In order to prevent unnecessary disturbances to their social fabric, displaced communities should be allowed to live together in temporary shelter settlements.
4. Sexual health counseling and services should be an integral part of medical and public health services and should be offered in settings where people can discuss intimate issues in privacy.



5. Condoms should be widely available and should be offered quickly after disasters.

6. The most crucial moment to be sure HIV and AIDS awareness programs are underway and sexual health services are available is the period between the emergency and rehabilitation phases of the response, when grief and loss, crowded living conditions, ample free time (because of underemployment), and ready cash lead some people to engage in commercial sex and excessive alcohol consumption.

7. Traditional health-care providers should be trained to deliver sexual health messages, and sexual health counseling should be incorporated into trauma counseling sessions during a disaster response.

8. Aid providers should integrate HIV prevention into their contingency plans and disaster risk reduction programming.

Meetings, Workshops

“Fishing Fleet Reduction and Fisheries Diversification”: A two day workshop was held at Chennai on 29th-30th October, 2007. This was organized by the UN Team for Recovery Support. The focus on the first day was on the a discussion on the findings and recommendations of the study carried out by CESS, Hyderabad, SIFFS, Trivandrum and MARE, Amsterdam. The study took the Palk Bay area as a typical case. On day two, the focus was on the possibility of diversifying fishing especially tuna long lining. Participants were drawn from the government, academic and research institutions, NGOs and CSOs as well as fishermen representatives.

Indian workshop calls for ecosystem approach to management of coastal, fisheries resources: In a Charter of Declaration, a workshop held in New Delhi, India, has called for an ecosystem-based approach to the management of coastal and fisheries resources. Over 50 participants, from across different sections of society – State-level traditional fisher representatives and national functionaries,

conservation and environmental groups, fishworker, civil society groups and marine park managers, scientists, academics and experts -- were involved in a three-day workshop, during 8-10 October 2007, on “Fisheries and Marine Reserves in India” and their relevance .

The objective of the workshop was to facilitate a movement towards sustainable models of development and resource utilization, in order to protect and preserve India’s seas and coastal zone for the present and future generations. The workshop covered discussions and sessions on preserving the health and productivity of India’s oceans and examined mechanisms and options by which the participants can work together to achieve common goals. This included providing an overview of the scientific, institutional and evaluative experiences on marine reserves as a tool for conservation of biodiversity and enhancing fisheries. The declaration can be found at

<http://www.icsf.net/icsf2006/ControllerServlet?handler=EXTERNALNEWS&code=getDetails&id=35742>

Update from the TN Government

Update on the Tsunami Related Activities in Tamil Nadu as on 31-08-2007

The Government of Tamil Nadu has so far sanctioned funds to the tune of Rs.2226.14 crore upto 31.08.2007 for relief and rehabilitation activities in the areas affected by tsunami with the assistance of Government of India. The details of relief on the various items of assistance can be found from <http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/tsunami-relief.html>.

Out of 59,342 houses 34,028 have been completed and of these, 29,950 have been handed over as on 31st August. 17,222 houses are yet to be taken up for construction. Of 648.249ha in 206 locations, 623.039ha in 195 locations have been acquired. In the second phase, it has been proposed to construct 52,569

houses for the vulnerable people in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu. Government of Tamil Nadu has issued a Government Order for constructing 22,000 houses in vulnerable areas of the coastal districts under the Government of India package at a cost of Rs.552 crore.

It has been proposed to construct 5000 houses by January 2008, 8000 houses by May 2008 and 9000 houses by August 2008. The rest of the houses will be completed by March 2009. The houses are being built by Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department in the rural areas and Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board in the urban areas.

Rehab News Snippets

Tamil Nadu

Housing and Infrastructure

Houses handed over to tsunami-hit families: Nagapattinam: A total of 2,177 houses constructed in the tsunami-hit villages of Chellur and Kaadampadi in the district, at an estimate of Rs.50 crores were handed over to the beneficiaries on Saturday. Funded by the service organisations, 'Caritas India' and 'CRS,' the houses were constructed by the Thanjavur Multi-purpose Social and Service Society.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/29/stories/2007102959860700.htm>

"Packages to build houses in vulnerable coastal areas": Cuddalore: A total number of 52,569 houses will be built in the Tamil Nadu coastal areas vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclone and the tsunami, according to M.Farooqui, Special Commissioner and Commissioner for Revenue Administration. For the purpose two packages — Rajiv Gandhi and World Bank programmes — have been put in place to be implemented at an aggregate cost of Rs. 1,500 crore to provide shelter and other facilities in the coastal areas. These would include 78 cyclone shelters, each to be built at a cost of Rs 1.5 crore, formation of escape routes and installation of warning systems.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/05/stories/2007100552260300.htm>

Tsunami-hit families in roofless shelters: Chennai: Following the Chennai Collectorate's demolition drive in the tsunami-affected settlements in Ernavoor, more than 400 families are left with roofless shelters. The Collectorate, while allocating permanent shelters (houses) to the tsunami-affected families in Tondiarpet, demolished more than 1,500 semi-permanent shelters on October 6.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/14/stories/2007101459040300.htm>

Permanent houses for tsunami-hit families to be built in Tiruvottriyur: Chennai: Permanent houses for the tsunami-affected families who could not be accommodated in Tondiarpet would be built in Tiruvottriyur, Electricity Minister Arcot N. Veeraswamy said here on Tuesday. Of the 1,392 tenements available in HLL Nagar, 991 were allotted in June. There was a delay in the allotment of the remaining 401 houses because Madras High Court had stayed the allotment after a public interest litigation charging irregularities in the allocating process. Based on the court order, 102 allotments were made and the rest of the houses would be allocated according to the seniority of beneficiaries, Mr. Veeraswamy said.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/18/stories/2007101854600600.htm>

34,028 houses built for tsunami victims till September-end: Chennai: Finance Minister K. Anbazhagan told the Assembly on Friday that 34,028 permanent houses were constructed till September-end for tsunami-hit people after the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Government came to power.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/20/stories/2007102061921000.htm>

Panel to inspect quality of houses for tsunami victims: Chennai: The Madras High Court has set up a committee of experts to inspect the quality of houses constructed by the India South-Eastern Territory of the Salvation Agency for tsunami

victims in Nagapattinam district. Passing orders on a public interest litigation petition filed by A. Subbaian of Uzhavar Nagar in North Poigainallur, the First Bench, comprising Chief Justice A.P. Shah and Justice P. Jyothimani, said: "We direct the Chief Engineer (Buildings) of the Public Works Department, along with one expert civil engineer to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor of Anna University, to inspect the houses constructed by the respondent (Salvation Agency) at North Poigainallur, Uzhavar Nagar, and report the nature, quality and construction to be put up by the respondent to the District Collector."

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/17/stories/2007101761600900.htm>

Livelihoods

Women get training in lobster fattening techniques: Tuticorin: A two-day training programme sponsored by the Central Government to disseminate lobster fattening technology to coastal women in the southern districts of the State concluded here on Friday. Twenty women participated in the programme organised by the Fisheries College and Research Institute at its shore laboratory here. Participants were taught to grow undersized lobsters (less than 50 gms) into 'marketable' sized ones under stipulated conditions in a cement tank.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/20/stories/2007102053400300.htm>

Modern pickle unit established: Tuticorin: The Fisheries College and Research Institute (FCRI) here has established a state-of-the-art automated pickle production unit at a cost of Rs. 3 lakh allocated to the institution as grants by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. V.K. Venkataramani, Dean, said that the unit would

produce and pack the fish pickle produced from trash fishes in small sachets under hygienic conditions.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/20/stories/2007102050980200.htm>

Loyola College students awarded \$25,000 for helping Dalit victims of tsunami: Chennai: A team of five students from Loyola College representing India at the International Student in Free Enterprise (SIFE) competition 2007 in New York has been awarded \$ 25,000 for their work of helping Dalit victims of tsunami, fisherfolk and gypsies to secure sustainable livelihoods. The team worked with tsunami-affected Dalits in Kovalam to create a handicraft business using locally available resources, with fisherfolk in Pulicat to desalinate the backwaters and develop prawn hatcheries, and with gypsies from Chennai's slums to professionalise previously ad-hoc sales of jewellery, educate their children on basic health issues, and give their youth opportunities in a local bakery.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/26/stories/2007102661750500.htm>

Kerala

State may fund tsunami rehabilitation projects: Alappuzha: The Revenue Department is contemplating utilising funds from the State government's own coffers for tsunami rehabilitation projects that have been approved by the Union government but for which funds are yet to arrive. Though the Union government had approved rehabilitation projects for Rs.460 crore out of the projects worth Rs.960 crore submitted by the State government, only Rs.68 crore has been made available so far. With this amount being insufficient for the work, the Revenue Department would adjust with money from the State treasury till further funds come from the Union government.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/02/stories/2007100251460300.htm>

Fish workers allege diversion of tsunami funds: Thiruvananthapuram: Plans by Kerala Tourism and the Harbour Engineering Department to construct an artificial reef in Kovalam, using funds from the Central Government-assisted Tsunami Rehabilitation Project, have come under fire from the fishing community. "This is a clear cut case of tsunami funds being diverted for the benefit of the tourism industry in the State," says Kerala Swathantra Matsya Thozhilali Federation (KSMTF) president T. Peter. "We are raising fundamental questions here. Who wants the reef and why? And are there any benefits for the fishing community," he asked.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/20/stories/2007102051030200.htm>

Andhra Pradesh

Andhra salt-makers want recognition as farmers: "Why shouldn't salt-making be classed as agriculture?" asks R Potharaju. "Both require land, water and sunshine, and are subject to vagaries of nature," he reasons. Potharaju is convenor of the Prakasam District Salt Farmers Forum. The forum believes that an official categorisation as agriculture would take care of the many perils of salt-making. It will bring the 6,000-odd salt-maker families in Andhra Pradesh's Prakasam district under the ambit of agricultural insurance, give them access to institutional credit and guarantee a minimum support price to their produce.

Many of the problems of salt-making came to light after the December 2004 tsunami. After the

calamity, workers of the NGO Social Activities for Rural Development Society (SARDS) found that relief agencies were working largely among fishing and farming communities; the salt-makers remained a neglected lot. Suneel Kumar Ravi, the executive secretary of sards says, "The tsunami struck when it was off-season for salt-makers, but they suffered tremendous losses, nevertheless. Stored salt was washed away and there was damage to infrastructural facilities like bunds, canals, drying pans, storage platforms and access roads. Work in the pans was held up for almost an entire season as the farmers struggled to repair these structures without any aid."

http://www.downtoearth.org.in/full6.asp?foldername=20071015&filename=news&sec_id=50&sid=32

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Minister suggests to take up rehab needs of isles on war footing: Port Blair, Oct 05 The Union Minister for Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Shri TR Baalu has said that the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands is a very sensitive region of the country and all its requirements must be taken up on a war footing. Taking stock of the post-tsunami repair and reconstruction of jetties and ports at a meeting held at Raj Niwas in Port Blair, today, Shri Baalu directed all the stake holders to take urgent steps for the repair and reconstruction of temporary jetties and wharves in the short term and permanent ones in the long run.

<http://164.100.148.5/telegram/toppage.aspx>

6-day trng. on capacity bldg. gets underway: Port Blair, Oct 01. A six-day training programme on capacity building in food processing on a rice based product was held in the conference hall of Agriculture Department at Haddo. The training programme was been organized by Unnati (an NGO) in association with Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) of the Agriculture Department and Bio-Mass Energy Technology Centre, Mysore with the support of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. Altogether 45 trainees from different Self-Help Groups of the Islands participated in the training.

<http://164.100.148.5/telegram/toppage.aspx>

LG inaugurates fish landing centre at Junglighat: Port Blair, Oct 08. The Lt. Governor, Lt General (Retd.) Bhopinder Singh, PVSM, AVSM, today inaugurated a new Fish Landing Centre, first of its kind at a function held at Junglighat. The ALHW has constructed the Fish Landing Centre at an estimated cost of Rs 486.85 lakhs. He said that the fish-landing centre at Junglighat is a model project and 18 more projects for the development of fisheries sector in the Islands will be taken up and directed the authorities for ensuring that all the necessary facilities are provided in such projects for the benefit of the fishing community.

<http://164.100.148.5/telegram/toppage.aspx>

Foodgrains to Tsunami beneficiaries under RGRRP in islands. Port Blair, Oct 15. The Lt. Governor Lt. General (Retd.) Bhopinder Singh, PVSM, AVSM, has taken up the matter regarding revalidation of period for lifting of food grains allotted under Special Component of SGRY to tsunami affected people of A&N Islands with the Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar and subsequently with Union Minister of Rural Development, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh at personal level. Consequently as special dispensation the Rural Development Minister has ordered revalidation of 2100 MT of rice to the tsunami affected people of the Islands.

<http://164.100.148.5/telegram/toppage.aspx>

Coastal News Snippets

NCACZMN is now NCPC: Members of National Campaign Against CZM Notification met at

Indian Social Institute, New Delhi on 11th October 2007. About fifty leaders,

predominantly from the coastal states, representing fishing community, NGOs, CSOs and various other organizations participated in the meeting. Leaders from different states and organizations shared their experiences and evaluation of the campaign since National Consultation in Chennai on 11th June 2007, with particular emphasis on the nationwide agitation on 9th August 2007, against the draft CZM Notification of MoEF. Everyone expressed gratification at the overwhelming response the campaign received from the coastal communities, NGOs, CBOs and media. This was a historic demonstration of firm resolve of the masses to protect the coastal zone and to uphold the inalienable traditional and customary rights of the fishing community as well as other coastal communities. A report of the meeting is available at <http://www.trinet.in/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?cid=63&lid=418>

“Preserve natural barriers for future generation”: Nagercoil: ‘Sand dunes and mangroves are serving as a barrier in the coastal areas of the State against nature’s fury. It is the bounden duty of the younger generation, particularly students, to spread this message to others with an intention to preserve natural barriers for the benefit of future generation’, said the Director, Department of Environment, K.S. Neelakantan. Releasing a book on coastal sand dune, written by an environmentalist, G. Santhanakumar on behalf of Human Education and Action for Liberation Movement and presiding over Natural Resource Day observed by National Green Crops on Friday, he said that around 3.50 lakh students belonging to 8,700 schools were being engaged in creating awareness of preserving natural resources. Laying huge stones and the construction of groins were temporary solutions to prevent sea erosion and minimise other natural calamities. But preservation of natural barriers like sand dunes and mangroves would provide a permanent solution to fishermen community. These barriers would help by preventing the seepage of saline water into coastal villages and maintain the level of underground water table.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/08/stories/2007100851180200.htm>

Bio-shields for two tsunami-hit villages: Kochi: Researchers are all set to create bio-shields along two tsunami-hit coastal villages of

Thrissur and the Bharathapuzha river basin and evaluate the carbon sequestration potential of various plant species used in bio-shields. The State government has given the green signal for the Rs.1.08-crore Thrissur project to the researchers of the Kerala Forest Research Institute in this regard. Under the project, bio-shields will be created on the Ganeshamangalam beach in Kadannappally panchayat along a 10-km-long stretch.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/08/stories/2007100854120400.htm>

Committee visits coastal villages: Nagercoil: A five-member Coastal Erosion Protection Committee headed by Engineer-in-Chief of the Public Works Department Raman visited coastal villages in Kanyakumari district on Tuesday to study and implement anti-sea erosion techniques. According to sources, the members interacted with fishermen in Kanyakumari, Rajakkamangalamthurai, Manakudi, Eraiammanthurai, Poothurai and Chinnathurai and recorded their views, suggestions and observations. The team had also convened a review meeting at the Collectorate for the last two days, which was chaired by Mr. Raman. During the meeting, the observations made by elected representatives, members of various non-governmental organisations, parish officials and representatives of various fishermen organisations were recorded by the committee. The team also inspected the vulnerable coastal stretches at Kanyakumari, Rajakkamanagalamthurai, Manakudi, Eraiammanthurai, Poothurai and Chinnathurai and also inspected the ongoing groin works at Periacadu at a total estimated cost of Rs.4.75 crore. They also inspected some anti-erosion sea walls for relaying them.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/11/stories/2007101150680200.htm>

National Coastal Women’s Movement formed: Chennai: The National Coastal Women’s Movement (NCWM), a network of women from the coastal villages of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, was formed here on Monday, at a meeting held to observe Rural Women’s Day. The forum will function as a pressure group at the grassroots level in establishing the rights and educating communities about these rights. It will also supervise and participate in the implementation of development projects in villages. Virgil D’Samy and Vasantha, who were part of the organising committee, said the objective was to consolidate the strengths of the

coastal women and sensitise both the government and the public on issues relating to them. The idea to form such a network was sparked by Act Now on VAW (Violence Against Women), a movement born after the tsunami, in response to the disaster and the unique position of women post-tsunami.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/16/stories/2007101660290800.htm>

Incentives for protection of coastal ecology

mooted: Chennai: To conserve the coastal ecology of the State, especially coral reefs and mangroves, a monetary incentive could be given to people to protect them. Instead of merely banning the mining of coral reefs and exploiting of mangroves, which would be difficult to implement, paying people to protect them could work out better, said Paul. P. Appasamy, Member-Secretary, Centre of Excellence in Environmental Economics, Madras School of Economics. Delivering a lecture on the coastal ecosystems and human well-being in Tamil Nadu, organised by the School, here on Wednesday, Prof. Appasamy said there was great potential for eco-tourism, considering the ecological assets Tamil Nadu possessed. The lecture, based on a project financed by the State Planning Commission, focussed on the coastal ecosystem of the State, its degradation and the impact it had on the lives of the people who lived and depended upon it.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/25/stories/2007102560220500.htm>

Waves of fear engulf coastal villages:

Villupuram: Residents of coastal villages such as Bommaiarpalayam and Chinna Mudaliar Chavadi in Vanur taluk panicked on Wednesday when high tides tossed about their boats and catamarans berthed on the shore. A couple of boats were found thrown over a protective wall built out of palmirah tree trunk along the coast at Bommaiarpalayam. The villagers said that the sea started getting unusually rough on Tuesday night and hence they had pulled the boats ashore. However, 15 catamarans and five fibreboats were carried away by high tides that started at around 1 a.m. on Wednesday. The boats were found at some distance from where they had been berthed. Though the sea usually gets rough during full moon days, the waves rose above the normal level on Wednesday, the villagers said. Some nets kept in the boats were also lost.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/25/stories/2007102552760300.htm>

Teens show what it takes for a clean Marina:

The Interact Club of the Chintadripet Higher Secondary School, in association with the Rotary Club of Madras, organised a beach clean-up on the Marina, spanning the stretch between the Kannagi statue and the Lighthouse. Around 150 students of the school participated in the programme along with 10 teachers. After just two hours of the cleanup, the students had managed to fill 10 50-kg bags with waste. One of the students, who were busy stuffing a bag, said that he mainly found plastics.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/25/stories/2007102559240200.htm>

About Us

TRINet, the Tsunami Rehabilitation Information NETWORK was set up in March 2005 as a response to the broad information requirements in the state of Tamil Nadu for tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction phases to help in sharing information between different groups working on various aspects in the different districts of the state.

Initiated by SIFFS: South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies, ICSF: International Collective in Support of Fishworkers and the Bhoomika Trust, the members of TRINet include the NGO Coordination and Resource Centre (NCRC) in Nagapattinam, Auroville Tsunami Rehabilitation

Knowledge Centre and the Kanyakumari Rehabilitation Resource Centre (KRRRC), Nagercoil, and the information Centres in Chennai, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli and Kerala set up by SIFFS.

This is the twenty-ninth TRINet Newsletter since it was launched in July 2005. TRINet brings out a weekly e-digest of news on tsunami rehab in all the affected countries as well as a Tamil newsletter called "Alayathi", aimed at the communities in Tamil Nadu. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please write to us at info.trinet@gmail.com. Please visit www.trinet.in for updates.

TRINet: Tsunami Rehab Information Network
c/o Bhoomika Trust, #3A, New No. 40, Murrays Gate Road,
Alwarpet, Chennai 600 018
www.trinet.in