

BGO's 2022 Tenure in Trees Program Plants Roots in

West Bengal, India

This project will focus largely on the restoration of 3.5 hectares of mangroves. The mangrove restoration will take place on mudflats, maintaining a density of 3000 saplings/hectare. A group of 12 women will be leading the project which will result in many ecological and community benefits.



Mangroves provide many more benefits than most realize. One of the major advantages to replanting mangroves in this community is that these trees act as a bio-shield against winds, waves, cyclones and other storms before they strike the landmass. This protection will benefit over 1,500 people in the nearby villages. The mangrove ecosystem also assists in the absorption of carbons as well as many toxic pollutants and sediments before they reach the coastal ocean.

Additionally, these trees will help to retain sediments from the earth and recycle nutrients, generating clearer offshore waters, which greatly benefits the marine ecosystem and assists in the breeding and growth stages of young fish. The muddy waters and branching root systems also prevent larger fish from preying on the smaller fish. This allows the waters in the area to act as a nursery for all fish species which thousands of fishermen depend on as a productive ecosystem for their livelihoods. In addition to aquatic wildlife of molluscs, crustaceans and fish, the mangroves bring immense biodiversity benefits providing feeding, roosting and breeding/nesting grounds for many types of reptiles, birds, and mammals.

This specific restoration has many community benefits as well. The primary focus of this restoration will be on providing skill development to a group of 12 women, who will act as direct beneficiaries of the project. The women of the group will be skilled in nursery development, plantation and monitoring of the mangroves. The skills acquired during the project will provide long lasting abilities that they can also utilize with various other agencies beyond the project period. Throughout the restoration the women will be included in the financial planning during nursery development, plantation and monitoring stages, in order to help provide them with further economic development and skills.



This project will also help to increase the quantity of fish, shrimp and crab collected, providing an increase in income for the fishermen from the nearby villages. These mangroves also bloom flowers after maturity and can be pollinated to create honey which will provide another additional source of income for the community. Finally, the aesthetics and recreational facilities will also help to encourage tourism and related income augmentation for the marginalized communities in the area.

A total of 10,000 mangrove saplings will be planted during this reforestation and will include mangrove species such as Bain-Avicennia, Goran-Ceriops, Kakra-Bruguiera and Garjan-Rhizophora. **#TeamBGO** is excited to have donated 500 trees to this project and we look forward to seeing the impact of our contribution on the community.