

Mangrove Restoration for Sustainable Fisheries

Responding / Learning and Educating

Summary

- Name of organisation: Organization for Marine Conservation, Awareness and Research (OMCAR)
- Location: Coastal villages of Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu, India
- Website: <https://www.omcar.org/>
- Number of people doing the activity: Over 100
- Sectors: [Ecosystems](#) | [Poverty, Livelihoods and Microfinance](#)
- Contact Person: Vedharajan Balaji
- E-mail Contact: director@omcar.org
- Timeframe: Ongoing



Objectives

- 1) To promote participatory conservation and sustainable livelihoods.
- 2) To support local fishing communities and government to conserve coastal ecosystems and sustainable fishery in Palk Bay.

Activity Description

Our region in northern Palk Bay is rich in mangroves and seagrass beds. Due to increasing population, shrimp farms and pollution the mangrove in our area had been slowly degraded. Thousands of small scale and artisanal fishers depend on nearshore and mangrove fishing for their daily livelihood. However, restoration of mangroves is not an easy task and needs strong participation of local community, equal responsibility from various stakeholders, genders and ages. So, the process needs specific objectives and building blocks to reach longterm sustainable fishery through mangrove conservation.

The project incorporates more than 400 volunteers mainly from youth sector; the mangrove restoration sites developed several mangrove patches which are now grown up trees; mud crabs, shrimps, preventing soil erosion and many other micro level benefits are from the organisation's mangrove forest; the mangrove regenerated areas are used for field mangrove education for 2000 students per year; mangrove backyard nurseries are now developed into a big size community nursery.

In 2011, we set up our own Marine Environmental education centre, which is now equipped with a museum, laboratory, mangrove nursery, women skill development unit, student meeting hall, solar cookers, weather station and educational materials. The project has become an environmental education centre now.