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Green Recovery Program

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Green Recovery and Reconstruction Toolkit (GRRT) Pilot Testing in Sri Lanka and Indonesia

For the past year, WWF and the American Red Cross have been developing a training toolkit to equip field staff working in humanitarian aid, government, and conservation with practical, solution-oriented techniques for integrating environmental sustainability into disaster recovery and reconstruction. Although disasters wreak havoc, an environmentally-conscious approach to recovery can help rebuild communities that are more sustainable than what existed before the disaster. Today, we face the challenges of natural and human-made disasters and conflict, as well as the impact of climate change. Humanitarian aid and conservation practitioners, government officials, local communities, and donor organizations can all take specific steps to ensure reconstructed communities are built back safer through actively addressing environmental sustainability, reducing risk and vulnerability to future



Pilot testing in Indonesia.
©Jonathan Randall/WWF

disasters and adapting to the effects of our changing climate. In November, at locations in both Sri Lanka and Indonesia, pilot testing proceeded on the Green Recovery and Reconstruction Training Toolkit (GRRT). Eight workshops from the GRRT were introduced to field practitioners for examination of their effectiveness and ease of use. Several key organizers took part in the pilot testing, including: Jonathan Randall, Achala Navaratne, and Anita van Breda from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Paul Thompson, a

training consultant for the firm Interworks. Jose Ravano, Head of Programs for American Red Cross Tsunami Recovery Program (TRP) in Sri Lanka; Erangi Fernando, Partnership Coordinator for Sri Lanka TRP; and Environment Foundation. Ltd. were also instrumental in leading the testing. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies also played a key role in organizing the events.

The Sri Lanka pilot test took place during the first week of November. Modules tested in Sri Lanka were Project Design, Monitoring and Evaluation; Construction; Strategic Site Planning and Development; and Materials and the Supply Chain. Forty-five participants joined in the pilot testing, with members from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the American Red Cross, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), CARE, Practical Action, UN-Habitat, and several other international aid organizations represented.

September 2009 Padang Earthquake GRRT Workshop

At the request of Mercy Corps and Save the Children, WWF-Indonesia and WWF-US conducted a one-day Green Recovery and Reconstruction Training Toolkit (GRRT) workshop in Padang, Indonesia. This training was intended to build capacity around how to plan, develop and design humanitarian aid projects in a manner that reduces and/or eliminates key impacts on the environment. WWF staff Tri Agung Rooswiadji and Aaron McNevin based the training on Module 2 of the GRRT, which focuses on

project design, monitoring and evaluation. The 25 workshop participants represented international and local agencies such as Mercy Corps, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Habitat for Humanity, Hands on Disaster Response (HODR), Relief International, Cordaid, Kogami, Oxfam, Indonesian Development of Education and Permaculture (IDEP) and the Indonesia Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency (BPRR). Training focused largely on aspects of shelter such as material extraction, land use and harmonizing

conservation and humanitarian goals. A training session focused on livelihoods rehabilitation will follow in coming months. Participants were very eager to learn about the environmental issues associated with disaster recovery projects and, according to Aaron McNevin, "there was a shared understanding of the utility of environmental indicators for understanding livelihood projects and humanitarian aid." See page 4 for photos of Padang earthquake destruction.

New ECB Practitioners Guide to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation

What is DRR, and how do we reduce risk to disasters in various contexts, in both humanitarian and development scenarios?

These questions are frequently asked in the field and were discussed in-depth at the Emergency Capacity Building (ECB) project's Bellagio conference on DRR. The team of ECB – DRR advisors are now taking forward a concept that will help field workers to answer these critical questions.

The ECB project began in 2005, and includes six of the largest international NGOs: CARE, CRS, Mercy Corps, Oxfam, Save the Children and World Vision. In addition, the inter-agency project teams are working closely with partners in five consortia countries. With five years of additional funding support from the *The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*, and new project grant from the *European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO)*, the ECB project has entered an ambitious second phase.

The ECB – DRR advisors team plan to develop a set of *practical guidelines* on how to identify measure and systematically reduce risk to various types of disasters, while working alongside local communities and institutions. The guide will emphasize simple and practical solutions and present tools that are efficient, quick and easy to use for both risk assessment and DRR main-

streaming.

Phase I of the ECB project developed a successful Good Enough Guide to Accountability and Impact Measurement. This pocket guide will also present some tried and tested concepts and methods for putting **DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)** into practice in a field context. The guidelines will be aimed primarily at field workers, including humanitarian and development practitioners, project officers and managers with some or little experience in the field, and all those who need to apply DRR principles and practices in "real-life" scenarios. They will draw on the extensive work and learning of field staff, NGOs, and inter-agency initiatives, including the *Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for DRR, Prevention Consortium*, and other practitioner-based DRR networks. The key driver for the project is the lack of a concise guide to DRR that can be utilized across cultures and contexts to build community resilience and reduce risk to disasters of all types. The five country consortia have identified the development of a concise guide as an important contribution to advancing and improving DRR and CCA programs.

Approach and Dissemination

This inter-agency initiative will be conducted utilizing best practice in participatory development: it

will be planned, set up, and implemented in close collaboration with field colleagues and partners from the ECB consortia so as to ensure both guide and supporting materials are adapted to the needs expressed from the field. Furthermore, the guide will be closely linked with the revision of the SPHERE standards, and where possible, will reference other practical resources that are focused on DRR.

The ECB project team is actively seeking funding to support this initiative and harness the potential to develop training materials such as an introductory e-module, a distance training module on the use of the guide, a Training of Trainers module for replication of the training and a participatory video on the use of the guide to ensure that these valuable tools are available, with supporting modules, to practitioners across the humanitarian sector.

For further information, please contact us at info@ecbproject.org. Visit www.ecbproject.org

Written by: Andrea Stewart, ECB Communications Manager with the support of Melisa Bodenhamer (World Vision), Amy Hilleboe (CRS) and Erik Rottier (CARE).

GRRT Pilot Testing (cont.)

In Indonesia, over forty people participated from organizations such as the Grameen Foundation, Bridge to the Future, the Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Research Center (TDMRC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Conservation International, and UNICEF, among others. Modules tested in Indonesia were Project Design, Monitoring and

Evaluation; Water and Sanitation; Disaster Risk Reduction; and Livelihoods.

The pilot testing was very successful, with many opportunities for further improvements presented and discussed. The success of GRRT pilot training led to several important recommendations for expanding the design and implementation capabilities

of the modules, which are being addressed in the final round of revisions that is currently underway.

For more information about the GRRT please contact Jonathan Randall, Senior Program Officer for WWF's Humanitarian Partnerships Program at jonathan.randall@wwfus.org.



CRS agency staff and partners prepare community disaster risk maps with a local community group in Bihar, India

Photo: Amy Hilleboe, CRS 2009

Snake Bite Awareness Campaign

Every year in Sri Lanka, over one hundred people die from venomous snake bites while thousands of others are admitted to hospitals for snake bite treatment. Between 2000 and 2006, Sri Lanka experienced an annual average of 121 recorded deaths by snake bite, and 37,250 hospital admittances for snake bite related issues—and the problem is only getting worse. Comparing data from 1988–2006, hospital admissions for snake bite related issues increased from 6,843 to 39,693, making snake bites one of the biggest health threats in rural areas today. (Fernando, 2008)

Although snakes play a vital role in the ecosystem, many are killed due to the fear of snake bites, lack of awareness concerning preventative measures and lack of access to proper health services. While several species of snakes in Sri Lanka are venomous, including the common cobra, kraits and vipers, many other species are completely harmless. All snake species, venomous and non-venomous, can be managed with care where proper education is provided.

Protecting the place of snakes in the ecosystem, while maintaining environmental safety for people, has become an important project for members of the Sri Lanka Red Cross, American Red Cross, Wildlife Conservation Society, Environmental Foundation Ltd. and World Wildlife Fund. Achala Navaratne

(WWF), Missaka Hettiarachchi (EFL), Ruzmyn V. (EFL) and their team in Sri Lanka have been dedicating their efforts to this mission.

A poster and information campaign targeted at local hospitals, government offices, schools, and public gathering spots is being implemented to garner awareness for this critical issue in the country. In particular, species identification charts for venomous snakes have been created in the native Sinhala language and will also be produced in English. Precautionary tips for preventing snake bites as well as first aid protocols for properly responding to bites are also being featured in this campaign.

Fernando, R. (2008). Poisoning: A modern epidemic in Sri Lanka, Sunday Observer, 7th December, 2008

Photos: Active participation and reduction of fear of harmless snakes during awareness workshop (above). Distribution of snake identification posters (below). ©Environment Foundation, Ltd



Partner Profile: Ilisa Gertner, Program Coordinator, American Red Cross Tsunami Recovery Program

Ilisa Gertner works for the American Red Cross Tsunami Recovery Program, overseeing program quality, accountability, and compliance of recovery program partners at the UN and INGO level. Ilisa carries a Master of Science in International Development Management as well as a Master of Business Administration, Developing and Emerging Markets. Prior to joining the American Red Cross, she worked as a Mickey Leland Fellow in El Salvador helping coffee farmers affected by the global coffee crisis to form cooperatives, determine appropriate coffee certifications, improve quality and find

new markets for their products. This led into her work with the former American Red Cross Food Programming unit, and subsequently to the program she contributes to today with the American Red Cross Tsunami Recovery Program. Of her work with Humanitarian Partnerships, Ilisa says, "Humanitarian work cannot take place without environmental consideration. Bringing together two large organizations [American Red Cross and World Wildlife Fund] representing two major sectors with two different missions and methods/timeframes for working is not

at all easy. However, in this partnership we have found many innovative solutions for practical implementation and modes of operation for this extremely important work." When not working on humanitarian causes, Ilisa loves dancing salsa and tango, skiing, and is training for a marathon to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in April. Please join us in wishing Ilisa Gertner the best of luck in all her important endeavors!





Photos of Padang earthquake destruction ©WWF/Aaron McNevin

Integrating the Environment and Microfinance with the Grameen Foundation in Indonesia

In December, WWF-Indonesia and WWF-US developed a microfinance/ environmental stewardship training workshop in Banda Aceh, Indonesia for Grameen Foundation loan officers that work in Aceh Province. This workshop, which was led by WWF staff Tri Agung Rooswiadji, Dede Suhendra, Sri Eko Susilawati, and Aaron McNevin, was intended to raise environmental awareness of issues related to microfinance lending. While the seventy-eight loan officers in attendance enthusiastically participated in all aspects of the training, several of the environmental assessment and monitoring tools used by the trainers, such as an Environmental Stewardship Worksheet (ESW) and Report Card need to be fine-tuned for application to the microfinance sector. Based on this experience, WWF committed to develop a modified version of the ESW for loan officers and continue training and capacity building with Grameen.

The Future of Haiti

The Green Recovery Program remembers those who lost their lives or loved ones in the tragic earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12. Our thoughts are with the people of Haiti and the thousands of local and international aid workers in their efforts to relieve the immediate suffering of those affected by this crisis by searching for survivors and providing medical care, temporary shelter, food and water. This is a time to focus on the immediate needs of survivors. During the following phase of recovery and reconstruction, we encourage agencies to remember the integral role of the environment in the rebuilding and disaster mitigation process and to utilize the innovative tools and techniques provided by the fields of technology and conservation. Just as tools such as social networking, online mapping and GIS have assisted relief efforts, so can the same tools as well as those put forth by groups such as the Green Recovery Program aid in the reconstruction process.

For more information about the Green Recovery Program please contact Bethany Shaffer: Bethany.Shaffer@wwfus.org or visit our website: <http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/partners/humanitarian/index.html>