questionnaire. Observation method is also used to gather some of the sensitive data which can not be collected through a questionnaire. The descriptive statistical tools are used for analysis.

The study has found that sixty four percent of the people lost more than fifty percent of their properties which have been used in fisheries industry, still their core competency remains with the same industry as per their education level and the experience. Conducting short term business and psychological counseling and training programmes, facilitating through low-interest loan schemes, providing technological and marketing supports, developing a multiple village production cluster approach and conducting intensive vocational skill transferring programmes are recommended as short and medium term strategies. Establishing Godawaya village, with necessary infrastructure facilities, as an economic hub due its uniqueness in location is the main long term strategy.

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Designing green belts in the coastal zone of Hambantota

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Tsunami, which occurred in the Indian Ocean on 26th of December, 2004 caused severe damage to Sri Lanka's coastline. Hambantota District, situated in the south of the country was among the worst affected. 19 GS Divisions in the Districts were affected. As a measure towards protection of the coastline from future such hazards, establishment of a green belt has been suggested by the Government. The location of this belt was proposed to be in the strict conservation zone of the coast which was 100m in the western coast and 200m in the eastern coast. The limits were then revised and the present reservation limits were in accordance with those listed in the Revised Coastal Zone Management Plan 1997.

The present study was conducted with a view to design a green belt for Hambantota District. It was hoped to recommend the most suitable species and their arrangement taking into consideration the natural landscape features of the coastline. Further, the modalities of the implementation of such a belt also was discussed with the existing organisations in the District including govt., non govt, private and the communities.

The exact study area was limited to the coastline between Kudawella to Kubukkan Oya. Data were collected in 12 sampling locations. The methods used for data collection were, reconnaissance survey, floral sampling, focal group discussions and community survey. In the floral sampling, a transect of 10m x 50m was established from the beach towards the inland at each sampling location and all the species were identified. The intention of this was to identify the species which are most resistant to coastal hazards. Focal group discussions were held with the key players in the green belt establishment in the District. The main aim of this was to identify their level of support and willingness to participate in the Green Belt.

According to the results, the coastline of Hambantota can be divided into natural, rural and urban areas. Among the natural areas, mangroves and sand dunes were prevalent. Recommendations are given in the use of most suitable plants for individual areas in the District ie Rekawa, Yala National Park. Mahalewaya, Rathupasgodalla and rural areas. Many govt, and non govt. organisations were involved in tree planting. However, there was no coordinated effort. The neighbouring communities expressed their willingness to participate in this exercise especially in tree planting and maintenance.