



# MANGROVE FORESTS, CLIMATE CHANGE & LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM

*Bay of Bengal and Southeast Asia*

This initiative seeks to...

IMPACT

- Strengthen the coastal tenure rights of up to **73 million** people
- Mitigate up to **943 million** metric tons of carbon
- Protect up to **4.6 million** hectares of mangrove forests



Over 70 million people depend on the mangrove forests in the Bay of Bengal and Southeast Asia. Using a regional and collaborative approach, Landesa is strengthening their coastal land tenure rights through an ambitious program that will sustain livelihoods, protect mangrove forests, and mitigate climate change.

## Sustaining Livelihoods

The Indigenous Peoples, women, and communities living along these coasts depend on mangroves for fishing, food collection, and small-scale farming. Mangrove forests also serve as a critical buffer area, sheltering coastal communities from extreme weather.

But families with weak forestland rights are often displaced, and with disrupted means of income and subsistence, they encounter food insecurity. With secure land rights, communities have greater incentive to invest in their coastal forests through restoring and sustainably harvesting mangroves, preserving both their future livelihoods and an indispensable coastal ecosystem.

## Advancing Climate Resilience

Threats to mangrove forests are substantial and widespread—ranging from large-scale development to expansion of plantations and shrimp farming enterprises—and pose risks to both the mangroves and forest dwellers.

A critical bulwark against climate change, mangrove forests are among the planet's most effective carbon sinks and protect communities from coastal storms and floods. A healthy mangrove buffer averts economic destruction and shields inland homes and farmlands. →



## MANGROVE BENEFITS

- One hectare of mangrove forest offers **\$33,000-\$57,000 in annual economic benefits** through fisheries, forest products, coastal buffering, and other ecosystem services
- Mangroves sequester **4x more carbon** than tropical rainforests
- Protecting mangroves is **1,000x cheaper** per kilometer than building seawalls against storm surges

Source: UNEP

Landesa's bold program strategy engages six countries to form a contiguous stretch of bioregion. Context-specific activities in each country include:

- policy advising
- legislative support
- community assessments
- forest cover mapping
- locally led climate adaptation
- community forest certification

Landesa offers guidance around forest tenure, land use planning, and climate mitigation and adaptation to several regional policy bodies, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), while also supporting bilateral policy between countries.



### Thailand: forest mapping & tracking

Coastal population: 11 million

A partnership with East-West Management Institute's Open Development Initiative uses expert mapping technologies to track certification activities and measure changes in forest cover, generating the data to advocate for improved national policies to protect the 200,000 hectares of mangrove forest in Thailand.

### Indonesia: community pilot projects

Coastal population: 48.8 million

Landesa is partnering with the Government of Indonesia to protect the tenure rights of coastal mangrove communities, through both national law and policy and local community pilot projects. At stake is more than 3.5 million hectares of mangrove forest—the largest collection of mangrove forests on the planet.

To join us in leveraging land as a foundation for climate justice, contact [getinvolved@landesa.org](mailto:getinvolved@landesa.org).



Learn more about our climate work:  
[landesa.org/land-rights-for-climate-justice/](https://landesa.org/land-rights-for-climate-justice/)

