

History of Mangrove Research in Ranong and Lessons Learned

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Ranong Mangrove Ecosystem



Ranong Mangrove Ecosystem



- Largest single mangrove ecosystem in Thailand
- Kra Buri River forms the border between Thailand and Myanmar
- High and prolonged rainfall (Ranong receives 4000-5000 mm of rain per annum)
- More than 4 metres tidal range

Period 1980s



- 1981 Mangrove Forest Research Centre (MFRC) was established at the head of Klong Ngao
- 1982 Thai-Japanese Joint Research Project Team investigated mangrove productivity and forest development in Klong Ngao.

1980s continued



- 1983-86: UNDP/UNESCO Project: “Research and Training Pilot Programme on Mangrove Ecosystems in Asia and Oceania” (RAS/79/002)
- 1987-90: UNDP/UNESCO Project “Research and its Application to the Management of the Mangroves of Asia and the Pacific (1987-90) chose Ranong for a research training (RAS/86/120)

UNDP/UNESCO Project:



- “The Integrated Multidisciplinary Survey and Research Programme of the Ranong Mangrove Ecosystem.”
- In total, 49 junior scientists and 89 senior scientists, from 16 countries, 25 support staff from the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) participated in this major research effort
- This became a model for mangrove research in many other countries.

1990s



1994-96: Environmental Assessment of Mangrove Reforestation as a Means of Improving Coastal Protection, Stability and Fisheries Production (European Union)

- Research: Thailand, Vietnam, Denmark, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom
- Research training: Ranong used for training course involving participants from Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Philippines, Vietnam

1990s



- 1997: Ranong Mangrove Biosphere Reserve established under UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme
- 1998-2000 impact of sea level rise on mangrove forests, using Ranong as a case study site (1998-2000).

Recent period



- 1996-2000: Danish research programme, DANCED Project “Danish/SE Asia Collaboration in Tropical Coastal Ecosystem Research and Training”
- 1997-2002 University of Aarhus PhD projects
- 1999-2003: Asian Institute of Technology research and training -
e.g. Utilisation and Knowledge of Biodiversity in the Ranong Biosphere Reserve, Thailand

Post tsunami



- 2005-2008: Several projects have assisted the coastal communities in Ranong
- These include planting mangroves in Khlong Ngao



Future research must involve the local communities more

