

Building community capacity for managing coastal resources at Talingchan



Woman making *N. fruticans* thatch, Talingchan, Thailand © S. Sereepaowong

families earning their living from small-scale fishing were direct beneficiaries.

Outputs

- ▶ Increased income from supplementary livelihood activities such as raising mushrooms and black crabs.
- ▶ Recognition from the provincial fishery office.
- ▶ Establishment of a community economic area in mangroves covering about nine hectares.

Accomplishments and challenges

Although land ownership in some areas is unclear, several forest plots have been demarcated as public mangrove areas. The project reforested those plots which had clear boundaries.

The project also promoted the culture of black crabs, grouper and mushrooms, and the use of the palm *Nypa fruticans*.

As there is no officially recognised land ownership in the area, the project had to carry out its activities discreetly. Despite this, project leaders report that the communities achieved the project's goal, successfully building their capacity for managing coastal resources. The community mobilized itself to demarcate mangroves against encroachment, and was quite successful in keeping out encroachers.

Challenges

The project suffered from limited cooperation among public agencies and a lack of data and information. Some issues were too complex for communities to address alone. Dealing with land tenure, for example, is a major challenge, especially when the com-



LOCATION

Talingchan, Krabi, Thailand

PRIORITY POWS

- Knowledge for Management
- Strategies for Management
- Civil Society Engagement

DURATION

October 2009 to October 2010

MFF GRANT AMOUNT

US\$8,805

Objectives

This project sought to encourage participatory processes of rehabilitating, conserving and managing natural resources which will lead to increased capacity of communities, more secure livelihoods, and the sustainable management of coastal resources.

Background

The sub-district of Talingchan covers 24 km² to the east of the Krabi River estuary, a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance. There are six villages in the sub-district, the majority of whose residents are Muslim and earn a living from fishing and farming. Large parts of this area have been converted into prawn farms, some of which have been deserted.

Target beneficiaries

The project's target population was over 5,000 people from 1,020 families with a yearly income of about US\$667 per person from fishing, farming and other activities. Sixty

munity has already identified several plots of land as public mangrove forest.

Contributions to cross-cutting themes

Communications

The project increased its visibility and understanding among local people through the use

of community radio, community signboards and other village facilities, as well as community discussion groups.

Lessons learned

Limited cooperation from relevant government agencies can hinder project implementation.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Stands of *N. fruticans* protected by the community, Talingchan, Thailand © S. Sereepaowong