

## Strengthening conservation of mangroves and other marine and coastal resources at Thong Toam Yai Bay

Mr Watcharin Sawangkan with mangrove seedlings, Thong Toam Yai, Thailand © S. Sereepapong



about US\$2,000–2,667 per person from small-scale fishing.

### Outputs

- ▶ Planting of mangrove seedlings on deserted prawn farms covering about four hectares.
- ▶ Training for 35 members of a youth group and 30 members of the community on the “Revival of Thong Toam Bay”.
- ▶ Launching of activities to collect and dispose of waste, reforest mangrove areas and collaborate with surrounding communities on conservation activities.
- ▶ Establishment of a clearly demarcated fish refuge.
- ▶ Compilation of a plant species database for use in future conservation activities.

### Accomplishments and challenges

Members of the project took part in a National Symposium on Climate Change Adaption and Disaster Preparedness in December 2010. Thong Toam Yai won first prize in the UNDP GEF-led search for the best community project to adapt to climate change. The award recognised the community’s innovative “eco-friendly tourism” which integrates climate-change-sensitive strategies. Mr Watcharin Sawangkan, the project coordinator, presented the history of conservation efforts in the area and accepted the award on behalf of the community.

As a result of winning this award, the project received national recognition for its community-led efforts and US\$10,000 in additional support.



#### LOCATION

Thong Toam Yai, Chumphon, Thailand

#### PRIORITY POWS

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

#### DURATION

October 2009 to October 2010

#### MFF GRANT AMOUNT

US\$9,979

### Objectives

The long-term goal of this project was to rehabilitate and conserve coastal resources. Its specific objectives were to reforest mangrove areas and establish a conservation area for fish. This was to be achieved by integrating coastal resource management issues into community livelihood activities and into a community development plan.

### Background

Thong Toam Yai is a small coastal community, members of which depend heavily on the marine and coastal resources of Thong Toam Yai Bay. Most are engaged in small-scale fishing and aquaculture, or work on rubber and oil palm plantations. Nine families in the village have started ecotourism activities and homestay ventures.

### Target beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries were 203 households at Thong Toam Yai with a yearly income of

## Contributions to cross-cutting themes

### Climate change

Integrating climate-change-sensitive strategies into project activities proved of major benefit for the community.

### Lessons learned

Artificial reefs made of degradable materials

may last only one year. More durable materials would last longer but are more costly to transport and sink.

### Partners and their contribution:

Community members made an in-kind contribution valued at US\$13,894. The Darnsawi sub-district administrative organisation contributed US\$967 in cash.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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*Avicennia* seedling at Thong Toam Yai Bay mangrove nursery, Thailand © S. Sereepawong