

**Project No:** THA/MFFSGF/08/02

**Project Title:** Collective Rehabilitation and Conservation of Mangrove in Ao(Gulf) Baan Don

**Implementing NGO/CBO:** Ao Baan Don Conservation Network. The network was established as a conservation group about three decades ago by community members in Ao (Gulf) Baan Don of Suratthani Province who experience degradation of natural resources in the locality and wish to collectively launch conservation activities. Conservation activities were mainly financed by donations of members in communities. The group has been cooperating with NGOs and other development projects. In 2008, the group summarizes its experiences and institutionalize the group with clearer operational structure.

**Location of project:** An integrated marine and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Thailand/South China Sea in Ao (Gulf) Baan Don of Suratthani Province with 120 km.long, the area once was rated as one of the richest spot in the Gulf of Thailand with various types of habitats such as mangrove, sea grass, and coral reefs. Now the area was degraded through aqua culture, destructive fishing (push and drag net by big entrepreneurs), land based pollution, conflict in resources use, and lack of persistent sectoral cooperation. The location was proclaimed as a wetland with international importance in August 1, 2000.

**Target Population:** 1,445 out of 2,890 households around the gulf with majority earning their living through small-scale fishery and depending upon provisions of coastal resources for livelihood activities.

**Long-term objectives to support national coastal resources policy:** The project aims to contribute to rehabilitating and protecting local coastal resources with at least 20 % increase in mangrove, in integrated manner and at village, Tambol, District and provincial level.

**MFF SGF approved budget:** Baht: 339,500 (งบจากกองทุนป่าชายเลนเพื่ออนาคต)

**Non-MFF resources** (งบสมทบจากแหล่งอื่น): Baht: 862,500 from major stakeholders as follows:

<b>From (งบจาก):</b>	<b>In cash (เงินสด)</b>	<b>In kind (แรงงาน สิ่งของ เครื่องใช้ ที่ดิน ฯลฯ)</b>
CBOs in project location	36,000	439,500
Local Administrative Organizations	-	9,000
Provincial Public Health Office	378,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>414,000</b>	<b>448,500</b>

<b>Main Activities: (กิจกรรม)</b>	<b>Main Anticipated Result: (ผลที่คาดว่าจะได้รับ)</b>
1. Building capacity of target population and networks for updated status & situation on an area-wide basis (กิจกรรม 1) 2. Demarcating conservation area for natural rehabilitation against illegal fishing boats(กิจกรรม 2) 3. Building capacity of target population on local resources inventory (กิจกรรม 3 และ 4) 4. Producing one set of disseminating material (กิจกรรม 5)	1. Updated collective approaches and plans for prevention and reversal of problems and issues 2. Increased capacity of target population witnessed through acquired compilation of relevant data & information 3. Approximately 20 % increase in mangrove area and aqua species 4. Availability of economic data on small-scale fishery from about 50 households 5. Witnessed persistent participation in project activities from women and youth group 6. The set of disseminating material about mangrove being used by local academic institutions, communities, local administrative organizations, as well as other interested organizations.

## Implementation Report

### I. Monitoring visit by the National Coordinator and NSC (June 14, 2009)

#### Findings and observation:

At the community eco-tourism centre in Baan Bangphra, Tambol Leelet, Phunphin District, one of the participating village, the visiting team interacted with network leaders and learnt through briefings and pictures how mangrove conservation effort beginning in a spot of Phunphin District ,about five years back, had been rated as very successful and currently reaching out to six other coastal districts in the province, with new community management structure. During that time, other stakeholders such as CHARM had had provided supports. Now, several national partners had participated in strengthening conservation efforts, launching community-based research e.g. on coastal resource conservation and ecotourism, and promoting sustainable livelihood activities. The project related that ecotourism was being used as a strategy to sustainable coastal conservation. Ban Bangphra is a home to over 100 families the majority of which earned living through small scale fishery, gardening and provisions of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Sailing along one of several canals connecting Ao (Gulf) Baan Don and coastal communities then out into the estuary, an ecosystem of integrated forest was witnessed where communities planted coconut with sonneratia and nipa along the banks. Further inland was an area of shrimp farms, some of which were still operational. At the estuary, there was a natural thriving forest as a result of community conservation effort. The forest mainly comprised sonneratia, avicennia and sprouting nipa in between. As to fishing, a few traditional fishing methods were witnessed.

The short interaction and brief visit of location, it was felt that the estuary of Ao Baan Don is rich in both species and niche. Targeted communities seemed to earn their living through multiple but consistent use of coastal resources.

This community conservation effort had laid some solid foundation for promoting civil society awareness and participation in decision-making as well as supporting national integrated coastal management. It would be interesting to see more result as the project fared through its completion.



**A coastal province in Southern Thailand, Surathani is dubbed a town with a hundred canals. The canals connected inland area to the Gulf of Thailand's Ao(Gulf) Baan Don. Successful coastal community conservation effort covering about 13 kilometers in Phunphin District's Tambol Leelet (in pink) a few years ago led to a wider conservation network covering 160 kilometers in six other coastal districts (light green).**



A local fisherman applying simple gears is able to make a sustainable living through the provisions of the recovering coastal ecosystems. Several kinds of birds were spotted, and in a good day, monkeys would hang around in the forest. The canal is being used for eco-tourism the subject selected for a case-study.



Out into the sea, another simple fishing gear is applied. Wood stakes were driven into the soil, net were put surrounding them to get a catch. The project has been monitoring the use of fishing gear at various locations.



As a result of community effort against destructive fishing (pull and drag nets by trawlers several year ago), estimated million of trees in the coast of Tambol Leelet have been growing this high. It is interesting to see the similar condition in other locations of the project.

**II. Progress report (Received: 7 October 2009, a four-page write up with 21 photos)**

Undertaken activities:	Result and indicators
1. Building capacity of target population and networks for updated status & situation on an area-wide basis 2. Demarcating one of the conservation areas for natural rehabilitation against illegal fishing boats	1. Community leaders from four Tambols in project location actively participating in meeting with increased capacity and better recognized by CBOs and relevant government agencies 2. As a result, some leaders being elected CEOs of Tambol Administrative Organizations 3. Clear demarcation of conservation zone in Tambol Khlong Chanark with an area about 1,088 ha 4. One initiated plan for enactment regarding local

	<p>environment management from local administrative organizations</p> <p>5. Average small scale fishermen expressing satisfaction for the established conservation zone</p>
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**Project communication:**

The project reported the following communication activities:

1. A local newspaper “Laem Thai” , a people radio station “ Tnews” , and a local television “ Tapi Cable” published and aired a story about Ao Baan Don Network meeting with the Surathani governor thanking him for providing patrol boat & accessories for the network surveillance activities. The cost of the boat and equipment is THB: 500,000.
2. A websit, [www.tnewsnetwork.com](http://www.tnewsnetwork.com) on July 28, 2009, presented a story on “ Public Forum for Ao Baan Don Coastal Resources Management” .
3. A websit, [www.suratnews.com](http://www.suratnews.com) on September 1 , 2009, presented a story about visitation to the project by NGOs and a group of Japanese students.

**Experience , lessons Learnt, problem and issue:**

The report did not mention any thing in particular as a major technical problem to delay planned activities. Generally, the project fared quite well , except some activities being slightly delayed due to an event on general election of members Tambol Administrative Organization which took place in all Tambols in project location.

**Project Expense:** The project reported the expense of THB: 119,463 out of the first disbursement of THB: 101,850

### III. Final Report ( December 10, 2010 )

<b>Date of Participatory Evaluation</b>	30 November 2010		
<b>Number of Beneficiaries/ Participating personnel</b>	Women:	1,560	
	Men:	1,250	
	Children:	850	
<b>Number of persons trained/ attending seminars, joining study tours</b>	Women:	180	
	Men:	120	
	Children:	150	
<b>Expense</b>	Amount received from MFF SGF (2 disbursements): THB: 305,550		
	Total amount spent out of MFF SGF budget: THB: 341,586		
	Balance: THB : (-36,036)		
	Amount authorized for the final payment: THB: 33,950		
	Amount of co-financing as follows:		
	Sources:		
	In cash, THB	In kind, THB	
CBOs in project location	36,000	441,586	
Local Administrative Organization	-	9,000	
Provincial Public Health Office	378,000	-	
	Total	414,000	450,586

<b>Activities carried out</b>	<b>Results and Indicators</b>
1. Building capacity of target population and networks for updated status & situation on an area-wide basis (กิจกรรม 1) 2. Demarcating conservation area for natural rehabilitation against illegal fishing boats (กิจกรรม 2) 3. Building capacity of target population on local resources inventory (กิจกรรม 3 และ 4) 4. Producing one set of disseminating material (กิจกรรม 5)	1. Increased capacity , both institutionally and technically, of CBOs and their leaders, witnessed by public recognition of community members through local elections (some leaders being elected CEOs of Tambol Administrative Organizations), and of local administrative organizations through more co-financing budget to support project activities 2. Clear demarcation of conservation zone in Tambol Khaothan and Thachang of 18-km long along the coast - being collective management with communities 3. Updated data & information on socio-economy for reference of use among local administrative organizations and households in project location 4. At least 20 core leaders being able to transfer knowledge to others 5. Compiled 500 books on threatened species, both plants and animals, in project location

**Project Communication:** The project had produced posters for mobile exhibition to make the project/network more visible.

**Plans and Activities for Sustainability:**

The Surathani Provincial Fishery Office had solicited a proposal from the network aiming to launch activities among network leaders, CBOs, and women and youth groups in project location. With the proposed budget of THB:4,900,000, the activities would upscale activities on demarcation of conservation zones, centre of coastal surveillance and livelihood of coastal communities. In this regard, the office would be the project implementer, with the network as advisor. The project would be launched in the year 2011.

With the coastal and marine ecosystems better protected and more productive, the network would establish a rotating fund for livelihood of network members, a saving group of the network to assist members with 0.5 % /month interest rate. The two funds would be managed by network members and expected to be self-sufficient in the future.

Currently, the network was reaching out to younger generations so that their collective collaboration and activities would result in a more harmonious and smooth picture of conservation , rather than hot and too aggressive producing more conflicts.

**Experience , Lessons Learnt , Problems and Issues:**

The problems/issues outlined by the project were as follows:

1. There was a delay in financial management of the network, due to competition for budget among various groups. This was solved by setting up a committee to investigate the situations and strict auditing.
2. Demarcation of conservation in Tambol Khlong Chanark was very difficult, due to conflict of land use between communities and private lucrative business. In coping with this issue, the network coordinated with responsible government agencies, local administrative organizations, and NGOs in project location to come up with a proper approach. I was still difficult.