

Project No: THA/MFFSGF/08/06

Project Title: Conservation of Mangrove for Local Food

Implementing NGO/CBO: Ao Phang-nga Coastal Fishing Community Food Security Project: Established in 2000 by local developers and educated youth groups in locality with aims to promote CBOs' participation in management of coastal resources, gender roles and economical self-reliance

Location of project: Baan (village) Laemhin, Baan Ao Makharm and Baan Khlongkhian in Takauhung District, Phang-nga Province, which are situated in mangrove area in the vicinity of Ao Phang-nga National Park

Target Population: 434 out of 623 households who earn living through para rubber plantation, small-scale fishery, aqua culture, and general services for tourism

Long-term objectives to support national coastal resources policy: The project has a main goal to rehabilitate and conserve mangrove and coastal resources consistent with national strategy on management and reversal of coastal erosion which would lead to virtual local actions ensuring rehabilitation results, revival of local knowledge and creating local sources of food for women's group and younger generation

MFF SGF approved budget: Baht: 343,400 (งบจากกองทุนป่าชายเลนเพื่ออนาคต)

Non-MFF resources (งบสมทบจากแหล่งอื่น): Baht: 956,000 from major stakeholders as follows:

From (งบจาก):	In cash (เงินสด)	In kind (แรงงาน สิ่งของ เครื่องใช้ ที่ดิน ฯลฯ)
Communities	126,000	810,000
Mangrove Management Unit 22 Takuathung, Phang-nga Province	20,000	-
Total	146,000	810,000

Main Activities: (กิจกรรม)	Main Anticipated Result: (ผลที่คาดว่าจะได้รับ)
1. Reconfirming with target communities about project activities (กิจกรรม 1) 2. Conducting resources inventory on community food sources (กิจกรรม 2) 3. Demonstrating rehabilitation of local recipes (กิจกรรม 3) 4. Launching reforestation of species of nutritious quality (กิจกรรม 4) 5. Releasing aqua species of nutritious quality into their habitats (กิจกรรม 5) 6. Producing dissemination materials	1. Compiled knowledge and recipes from mangrove with at least 50 recipes and two recipes developed into unique community product 2. Emergence of revival of learning process on local food among women and youth group 3. Increased capacity and awareness of youth group at least 30 persons capable to link importance of local food to mangrove 4. Thriving at least 2,000 trees from 3 species of nutritious value 5. Emergence of one habitat for aqua species

Major stakeholders:

1. Tambol Administrative Organizations in project location
2. Mangrove Management Unit 22 in Phang-nga Province
3. Mangrove and Coastal Resources Research & Development Institute (Andaman)
4. Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization
5. Community schools in project locations

Implementation Report

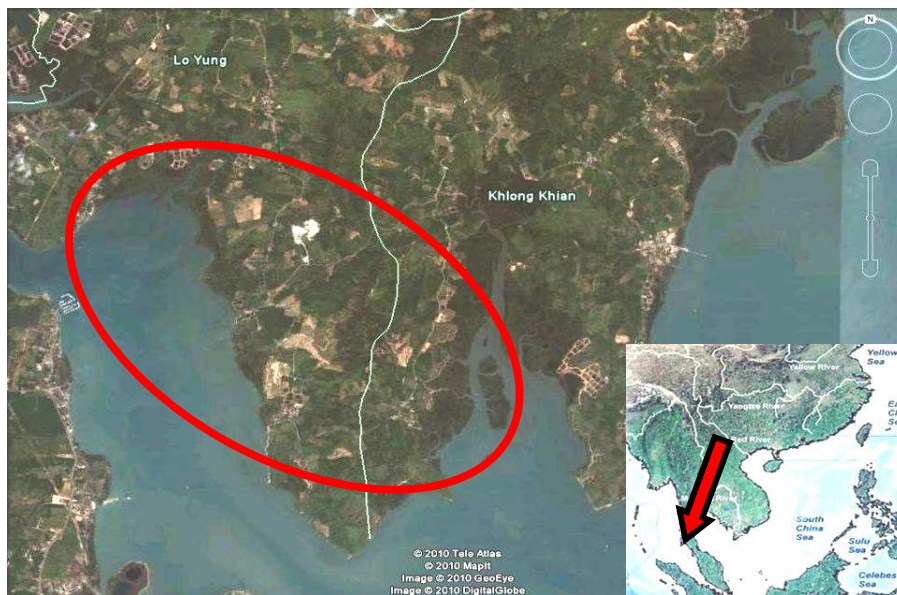
I. Monitoring visit by the National Coordinator and NSC (August 28, 2009)

Findings and observation:

Representatives of the three participating villages gathering together at a small meeting place in Baan (village) Laemhin of Phang-nga Province's Tambol Loryoong gave a brief to the visiting team on undertaken activities and some immediate output. One of the main activities carried out was resources inventory where youth groups and their mentoring elders launched survey in coastal areas identifying species of nutritious quality, taking photos, and recording. Over 80 species of marine species were recorded and ready for further use. These species have their homes in a niche called "mound of red ants" which is a beach or mudflat having a tale about red ants activities, there in the mound, amongst community members.

Another habitat called Koh Klang or Central Islet was shown to the visiting team. With its half-half-acre area, the islet was a habitat for two endemic species of cram. The project launched a plan to use it as a learning centre for transferring local knowledge on ecosystems and local food.

Finally, the project showed a nursery containing several mangrove species, many of which are edible. With prospects of increasing network members, the project plan to relocate the nursery with additional capacity to supply to network members.



The project is situated in the upper north of Phangnga Bay, in the vicinity of natural forest reserve of 211 ha covering four villages of target location. The location is a wetland of international importance. There are at least 88 bird species, 82 fish species, 3 amphibian species, and at least 17 mammal species. Mangrove forest around the bay forms a continuous area of one of the most fertile forest land in Thailand. Thus, the forest is of tremendous value for forestry and fishery as well as a pool of plant genetic resources and a nursery site for marine animals.



At Baan Laemhin, one of target villages, the project leader is explaining the ecological condition and plan to reach out to other coastal communities in the bay.



A niche dubbed "red ant mound" in front of Baan (village) Laemhin was fairly thoroughly surveyed by village's youth group with close advice from village elders. The result of survey was a compiled 80 marine species with their nutritious quality being recorded.



Not far from the red ant mound, the village central islet was found to be a niche for two endemic crabs. The project would make use of the islet as a learning centre for local knowledge on ecosystems and food.



This nursery has been functioning since the project started. A few mangrove species had been maintained and distributed to members. With forthcoming increase of project members, the nursery would be relocated to ensure higher capacity of seedling production.

II. Progress report (Received: 13 December 2009, three-page write-up)

Undertaken activities:	Result and indicators
1. Reconfirming with target communities about project activities (กิจกรรม 1) 2. Conducting resources inventory on community food sources twice (กิจกรรม 2) 3. Demonstrating rehabilitation of local recipes (กิจกรรม 3) 4. Launching reforestation of species of nutritious quality (กิจกรรม 4) 5. Releasing aqua species of nutritious quality into their habitats (กิจกรรม 5)	1. Increased capacity of target communities witnessed through active participation in discussion, sharing ideas on project implementation (something similar to SWOT) 2. 61 youth members and 32 community members being able to compile over 30 plant species and nine animal species with nutritious value 3. Identified a niche of about a soccer field size for 61 aqua species and three plant species 4. 28 youth members being able to produce one local recipe through real practice 5. About 1,500 seedlings of three native plants being added and thriving in two-acre mangrove 6. About 600 kg of crabs selected by community knowledge being released into their proper habitat and under constant watch

Project communication:

Photos depicting activities of project's youth group were shortlisted in a contest " Changing the World by Volunteering Hearts" and published in a magazine "Documentary" , the September and October 2009 issues.

Experience , lessons Learnt, problem and issue:

Well planned and participatory process naturally resulted in consistencies of project activities and community livelihood. Local administrative organizations and responsible government agencies provides sufficient support. Phannga Provincial Mangrove Learning Promotion Unit picked out Baan (village) Thonglarng , one of target location, as a pilot village for learning and compiling data of knowledge on local food, while Mangrove Management Unit 22 provided patrol boat for mangrove surveillance.

Women had been playing main role in conservation , since the activities were consistent with their knowledge and skill. This opened more opportunity for them to transfer knowledge to youth members. In transferring process, it was noticed that youth groups were keen to learn through real practice with their hands on , not by “teaching and sitting listening” . by hand-on practice, the youth could learn and enjoy simultaneously.

Project Expense: The project reported the expense of THB: 206,660 out of the first disbursement of THB:103,020.



The project targeted all groups in project location, even though women and youths are the ones to play an outstanding role.



Youth groups are carrying out inventory of natural resources. So far over 35 species were identified and recorded for future use.



Women are mentoring youth in inventorying process after which youth group would have to demonstrate their finding and capacity how to make a good use of the found natural resources

III. Final Report (March 28, 2011)

Date of Participatory Evaluation	4 December 2010		
Number of Beneficiaries/ Participating personnel	Women:	2,500	
	Men:	1,600	
	Children:	1,400	
Number of persons trained/ attending seminars, joining study tours	Women:	150	
	Men:	120	
	Children:	160	
Expense	Amount received from MFF SGF (2 disbursements): THB: 309,060		
	Total amount spent out of MFF SGF budget: THB: 343,540		
	Balance: THB : (-34,480)		
	Amount authorized for the final payment: THB: 34,340		
	Amount of co-financing as follows:		
	Sources:	In cash, THB	In kind, THB
	Community & grantee	150,000	700,000
	Thai Health Promotion Foundation	350,000	-
	Total	500,000	700,000

Activities carried out	Results and Indicators
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reconfirming with target communities about project activities 2. Conducting resources inventory on community food sources 3. Demonstrating rehabilitation of local recipes 4. Launching reforestation of species of nutritious quality 5. Releasing aqua species of nutritious quality into their habitats 6. Producing dissemination materials 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased capacity and awareness of youth & women's group , at least 30 persons capable to link importance of local food to mangrove with increased recognition and acceptance from communities to carry out project activities 2. Compilation of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - data on local 33 plant and 70 animal species - knowledge and recipes from mangrove with 70 recipes 3. Emergence of revival of learning process on local food among women and youth group - 40 members of youth group capable of cooking at least 30 species 4. At least 320-ha mangrove being protected with additional 3,000 trees of mangrove species thriving 5. Established conservation area for crams 6. Publication of local food case study on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -women role and natural resources management - local recipe (100 sets)

Plans and Activities for Sustainability:

The project would use “food issue” as a driving force for

- replication and up-scale with “from ridge-to-reef” strategy , and among surrounding communities in the Phannga Bay.
- collaboration with other sectors at all levels to ensure more cooperation in conservation of marine & coastal ecosystems

Experience , Lessons Learnt , Problems and Issues:

1. It was fairly evident once community “joined hands to protect” public organization including local administrative organizations felt the move and participated with, at least, technical support
2. The project and community realized that women’s & youth’s role in resources management strengthened the role of CBO and believed that this approach would be a sustainable approach.
3. Learning by doing , as a rule, was necessary to ensure optimal results, especially on building capacity & awareness.