

IV. Holistic Management of Mangrove, Sea Grass, and Otter in Bangla-Sapum Bay

1. Introduction

Project No: THA/MFFSGF/12/04

Project Title: Holistic Management of Mangrove, Sea Grass, and Otter in Bangla-Sapum Bay

Grantee: Phuket Women's Capacity Development Project

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1.1 Implementing NGO/CBO: Phuket Women's Capacity Development Project: Established in 1998, as a non-registered NGO, with the objectives: 1) To promote gender equality in community and in wider public, 2) To encourage socio-economic self-reliance of communities, and 3) To promote participation of women, CBOs and CSOs in coastal resources management. The project has been working with coastal communities in Phuket Province, even before and after the Tsunami. With the completion and lessons learnt of the project in Phase 1 on the otter conservation, followed by successive brainstorming of communities, the project and targeted population agreed to expand to cover more targeted location and population.

1.2 Location of project: Coastal areas of 5 communities of 3 sub-districts (Tambon) in Phuket Province, which are situated in mangrove area of Khong Tha Rua Reserve Forest, in the vicinity of Sirinart and Ao Phang-nga National Park. The location, once very rich biodiversity some of which is endemic-now under continued threats by unregulated promotion of tourism and land speculation. Recent community effort of project in phase 1 had contributed to checking such a situation, which needs replication and up-scale to include the coastal area from Bangla to Sapum Bay.

1.3 Target Population: 450 out of 796 households in the five communities who directly depend upon provisions of the mangrove in the project location. The per capita income is THB 65,770.

1.4 Long-term objectives to support national coastal resources policy:

- 1) Designing ecologically and socio-economically sound coastal ecosystem rehabilitation (POW 2)
- 2) Promoting civil society awareness and participation in coastal decision-making (POW 6)
- 3) Supporting environmentally sustainable livelihoods among coastal communities (POW 8)
- 4) Improving community resilience to natural disasters (POW 9)

1.5 Specific Objectives:

- 1) To promote collaboration in protection and rehabilitation of mangrove and otters
- 2) To establish database on coastal resources leading to a more integrated rehabilitation and conservation of mangrove, sea grass, cram habitat and otter
- 3) To instill conservation awareness and capacity on the value of coastal and marine resources

1.6 Major stakeholders

- 1) Mangrove Management Unit 23, Phuket
- 2) Phuket Provincial Marine and Coastal Resources Section
- 3) Phuket Marine Biological Centre
- 4) Srisunthorn, Kohkaew and Pakok Tambon Administrative Organization

2. Project Completion

2.1 Period of Participatory Evaluation: September 2013

2.2 Number of Beneficiaries/ Participating personnel: 545 households

Women:	896	persons
Men:	564	persons
Children:	637	persons

2.3 Income and Expense

Detail		Amount (THB)
Budget Allocation		297,900
Total expenditure		301,310
% expenditure against allocation		101%
Co-financing Sources	In-cash (THB)	In-kind (THB)
Koh Maphrao and community	10,000	40,000
Food Security Programme	90,000	-
Par Khlork Municipality, Phuket	-	30,000
Bangla Saving for Social Development group and Bangla Mangrove Conservation Group	70,000	200,000
Ao Phang Nga Community Network	-	50,000
Phuket Artist Group	-	30,000
Total	170,000	350,000

2.4 Activities and results/outcomes

Main Activities Implemented	Results/Outcomes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building capacity through open forum on “Holistic Conservation of Otter, Mangrove, and Coastal Zones of the 3-Tambon Approach and Management”, and youth camp on “ Seeking the Otters” 2. Conducting resources inventories-migrating routes of otter, marine and coastal resources and habitats-by community and youth group members 3. Launching zone demarcating process 4. Launching dissemination of the project through a contest of essay /slogan on “Otters and Mangrove 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Established link among the three tambons on approaches and cooperation in management of mangrove and coastal resource 2. Acquired one set of data on otter migration routes and habitats 3. Acquired three sets of maps depicting coastal resources status, enabling communities to assess and apply in rehabilitation and conservation on an annual basis. 4. Increased conservation awareness of youth groups witnessed by emergence of two conservation groups in four communities using plays and songs and special events to communicate with public 5. Increased recognition from outsiders, project location becoming a learning centre for natural resources protection/management. 6. The project extending to cover additional area of 100-ha mangrove conservation area and targeted communities including youth

2.5 Plans and Activities for Sustainability:

Population growth in community and promotion of tourist investment in Phuket had led to construction of more than 20 real estate projects, including hotels. These populations would become a major stakeholder of the project so that mainstreaming conservation would be effective.

2.6 Challenges and constraints

Due to constraint and nature of organizations, the project was not able to initiate official cooperation among the three Tambon Administrative Organizations, but was able to link the activities at community network and youth groups covering wider area.

2.7 Lessons Learned

1) Since the project location was one with sectorial conflicts and did not receive substantial solution, responsible government and other public agencies were not able to intervene fully. However, otter protection was regarded as one strategy to bring along these agencies to eventually protect the mangrove.

2) Using otter as a strategy was consistent with nature of children who were keen to learn and participate.

3) Urbanisation and tourism investment are expanding progressively, at least 20 residence campaigns emerged recently, in Phuket. The tourist group would be targeted for future cooperation on natural resources conservation.

3. Story of change

3.1 Change in people or human knowledge, attitude, and practice (behavior)

Otter issue is a key strategy, and change of usual conservation approaches, to disseminate more diverse and wider of knowledge on mangrove and coastal resources. It could be a proof that people in targeted location were kind and mercy to all kinds of lives, including otters.

3.2 Change in socio-economic status or livelihood

1) The Otter Conservation Zone is established as the coastal resources conservation zone for protecting an overfishing, so there seemed to be more number of aquatic animals for sustainable use.

2) Not only Thai people, but also Burmese workers who could access to the resources and could be mainstreamed in conservation.

3.3 Change in participation and social interaction

1) There were more interests and participation gained from children and youths who were playing important role for the projection mangrove. These youth groups demonstrated active participation in term of both quantity and quality.

2) The project was acknowledged by wider public such as NGO, CBO, official, academics to be a learning place for otter and its habitat thus prompting a new approach in coastal resources management.

3.4 Change in coastal governance frameworks

There was an emergence of sectorial co-management and participation, i.e. management across territory of local administration.

3.5 Change in natural environment or ecosystems, and practices in ecosystem/coastal conservation

The otter story was the key issue for motivating youth's interest, learning and participation into mangrove and coastal resources management, and also, this strategy extended to other groups widely.

4. Monitoring visit by the National Coordinator, NSC and NCB members

4.1 Findings and observation

The team was led to visit Baan (village) Koh Maphrao (or Coconut Island), an islet just east of Phuket. Situated in Bangla-Sapum Bay, the village was a replication/area extension of the project with activities, especially on building awareness/capacity of youth group being focused. In spite of its location just 10 minutes by boat from Phuket, the village was not connected by grid, but electrified by solar energy.

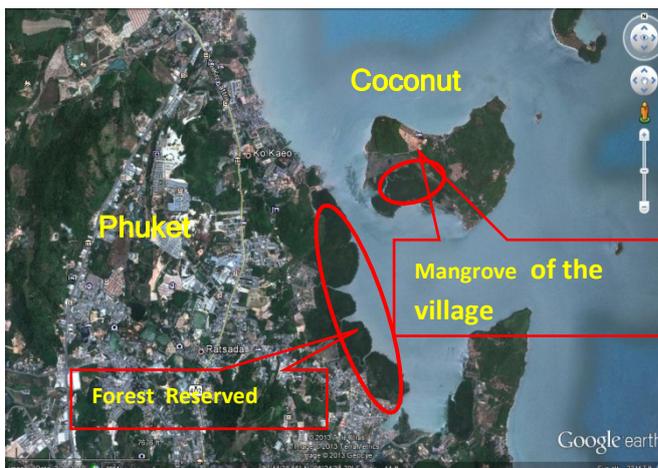
Mangrove of the village, about 100-ha in area, was outside natural forest reserve. Majority of community members earned their living through fishery in deep sea water, thus resulted in inadequate attention on the mangrove. The project just finished launching 2 youth camps on “Concerns for Mangrove” with students in the village school.

Visiting the mangrove, it was found that it was in fairly good condition with about 70 % already being demarcated as community conserved area.

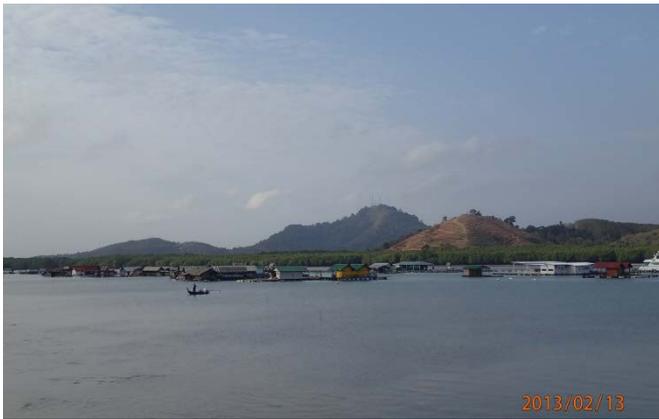
Regarding promotion of civil society awareness and participation in coastal decision-making, and supporting environmentally sustainable livelihoods among coastal communities, Phuket Provincial Office of Agriculture has played a leading role in promoting agro-eco-tourism for the village. Floating restaurants and aquaculture appeared to be main transaction. Besides, private business on hotel and resort in the village demonstrated their interested in promoting CSR and initiated a few activities on environment protection and community livelihood security. Nearly 50 community members from 300 households or so in the village were referred to as having employment with the business.

A brief interaction with the community school director led the visiting team to understand that activities with students were carried out successfully. School staff appeared eager about the project.

4.2 Photos



Koh Maphrao Village (Coconut Island) is situated in Bangla-Sapam Bay of the greater Phangnga Bay. The village is not included in the national forest reserve. In spite of its location near to Phuket, the village is not grid connected. Mangrove of about 100 ha would be managed by the community.



Looking out from Phuket, Coconut Island coast appeared to be lodged with restaurants and aquaculture facilities. Without grid connection, the island offered an agro-eco-tourism of its kinds. During the short visit, scores of foreign tourists were seen coming to the island for the services.



The map depicting a bird-eye-view of Coconut Island was made by private business. Mangrove of the island is targeted as an eco-tourism, especially to see the native monkey, the long tailed Macaque.



Some members of targeted group in Coconut Island who attended youth camps on Mangrove Study. Interestingly, since the island depends upon solar energy for lighting, several of them conveyed their impression on the sun through drawings (inset).



The visiting team with the school director and school committee member who is also a member of local administrative organization (TAO), in front of the school.