

VII. Network of Coastal Youth for Mangrove Conservation in Phang Nga Bay

1. Introduction

Project No: THA/MFFSGF/12/07

Project Title: Network of Coastal Youth for Mangrove Conservation in Phang Nga Bay

Grantee: Phang Nga Bay Savings Group Network for Social Development

Address: 2/1, Moo 4, Tambon Lor Yung, Takuatung District, Phang Nga Province, 82140

Contact Person: Ms. Phanni Chantarachit, Project Leader

1.1 Implementing NGO/CBO: Phang Nga Bay Savings Group Network for Social Development: Established in 1998, as a non-registered CBO, with primary objective to promote community saving by women as core leaders. The primary activity focused on community fund management which paved way to other activities, such as, giving assistance to Tsunami-affected victims and participating in coastal resources and environment management. The network participated in campaign to restrain the policy on Sea Title in 2004, and in rehabilitation of Phang Nga Bay and Southern coastal area.

1.2 Location of project: Coastal areas of 7 communities in Phang Nga Province and 5 communities in Phuket Province situated in the vicinity of Sirinart and Ao Phang Nga National Park. The location, once rich in coastal and marine resources, has been under threats by unregulated public development policy, while community youth groups have not paid enough attention and participated in community management of the natural resources. To support activities and sustain favourable results of community management, more active participation of youth groups is imperative

1.3 Target Population: 340 out of 835 households in the 12 communities earn living through para rubber plantation, small-scale fishery, aqua culture, and general services for tourism. The per capita income is THB 61,050. Network members, whose majority is woman, play mentoring roles in the project activities which would be carried out by the youth groups.

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

- 1) Improving knowledge base for coastal planning, policy and management (POW 1)
- 2) Supporting the 'Reef-To-Ridge' approach to land and resources management (POW 3)
- 3) Promoting civil society awareness and participation in coastal decision-making (POW 6)
- 4) Building the capacity of professional coastal managers for integrated coastal management (POW 7)

1.5 Specific Objectives:

- 1) To provide opportunities for youth to play leading role in coastal resources management
- 2) To identify suitable approach in coastal resources management which is consistent with youth's role
- 3) To strengthen and sustain capacity of CBO

1.6 Major stakeholders

- 1) Mangrove Management Unit 22, Phang Nga Province
- 2) Agencies of Department of Marine and Coastal Resources in Phuket and Phang Nga Province
- 3) Pakok and Khlongkhian Tambon Administrative Organization
- 4) Phang Nga Bay Coastal Community Food Security Project

2. Project Completion

2.1 Period of Participatory Evaluation: August 2013

2.2 Number of Beneficiaries/ Participating personnel: 635 households

Women: 160 persons
Men: 50 persons
Children: 1,840 persons

2.3 Income and Expense

Detail		Amount (THB)	
Budget Allocation		298,000	
Total expenditure		299,970	
% expenditure against allocation		101%	
Co-financing Sources		In-cash (THB)	In-kind (THB)
Ao Phang Nga Saving for Social Development Network		180,000	160,000
Food Security Programme		100,000	-
Phuket Artist Group		-	40,000
Ao Phangnga Coastal Community Network		-	160,000
Multi- sex Group of Phuket/Phangngna		-	60,000
Mangrove Management Unit 22 (Takauthoong)		-	90,000
Total		280,000	350,000

2.4 Activities and results/outcomes

Main Activities Implemented	Results/Outcomes
1. Building capacity of youth through youth camps on “How to Protect Mangrove”, and study tour on “Youth’s Role and Mangrove and Coastal Resources Protection Mandate” 2. Demonstrating rehabilitation activities 3. Launching dissemination of the project through special events, open forum and art works	1. At least 30 members of youth group gaining insight on rehabilitation of mangrove witnessed by areas of reforestation and demarcation zones for coastal rehabilitation being established and by emergence of plans for mangrove protection 2. Demonstrated increased capacity of youth group and woman mentors on diverse visions/approaches on natural resources management consistent with local context, RE: reviving traditional agricultural practice thus contributing to reduce pressure on marine/coastal resources 3. At least 1,152 member from urban communities understanding the urgencies of mangrove protection witnessed by the number of participants in organized during youth activities 4. The project being incorporated in a district plan for eco-tourism

2.6 Plans and Activities for Sustainability:

- 1) The project planned to expand coastal youth groups to cover communities in the Phang Nga Bay.
- 2) The project planned to push for establishing a community model or policy on youth and natural resources management.

2.7 Challenges and constraints

- 1) Continuous Mangrove forest encroachment caused by promotion of tourism and public infrastructure development remained major issues for the project.
- 2) Extending the network of coastal youth for mangrove conservation in Phang Nga bay thoroughly was challenging.
- 3) Local policy advocacy and a good model on natural resources management by youth group needed to be realized substantially.

2.8 Lessons Learned

- 1) Experience possessed by youth and women on natural resources management and community reaction to global tourism would have a value to share with both other communities and organizations.
- 2) Opening or giving opportunity to communities to display their roles/capacities would lead to new found experience and knowledge.

3. Story of change

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

The participation in the project was multiplied in numbers, as the youths were fully aware of mangrove and coastal resources' importance, thus they became one of the network members voluntarily. In addition, their parents were invited to participate as well, i.e. changing parental attitude.

3.2 Change in socio-economic status or livelihood

The coastal and marine resources appeared to be wealthier making local fishers more confident on their livelihood.

3.3 Change in participation and social interaction

Having support from schools/teachers, and also from local DMCR office were increased.

3.4 Change in coastal governance frameworks

Policy advocacy regarding local schooling was substantially adopted through giving opportunity for students to participate in and implement activities to protect mangrove and coastal ecosystem.

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

- 1) Efforts to rehabilitate resources based, from coastal area up to paddy fields would lead to climate change adaptation.
- 2) Rare aquatic species, e.g. Krill, Cardinal fish, Spotted Babylon, Dwaef Prawn for example, were coming back after being less seen for several years.

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

4.1 Findings and observation

The visiting team interacted with about 20 project members at the office of Baan Thonglarnng Saving Group - all women from 2 villages; Baan Thonglarnng and Ao Makharm. The team was briefed about progress of activities and their immediate results. Capacity building and demonstration of youth groups were highlighted, especially on paddy plantation amid para-rubber plantation, and mangrove protection. Over 50 members of youth group from the 2 villages participated in study tours, learning about local paddy variety/recipes in southern and other regions of the country, and putting into practices. So far, approximately 1.5 tons of paddy was harvested and distributed to members since the last visit in September 2012.

Visiting a rice barn of the project nearby, the team witnessed manual rice mill in operation. One unit of the mill may be able to produce 10 kg/day of 8 hours. All project members looked eager to demonstrate how to use the mill, and bring it back to live again.

Down from para-rubber plantation in Baan Thonglarnng to the coastal area of Phannga Bay, the visiting team witnessed terrestrial-mangrove forest which the project demarcated as a forest learning centre for youth. With the total area of about 300 ha, the forest appeared in good condition, with fairly rich in biodiversity. However, the authority did not permit any construction, including a very small learning station in the forest.

It appeared that the project had been implemented as planned. Capacity of project members was outstanding. The visiting team agreed that the project had contributed to food security in a coastal area. However, a conflict in the community regarding infrastructure development in the terrestrial-mangrove forest implemented by local authority was under legal procedure.

4.2 Photos



In order to ensure food security for communities in Phang-nga Bay, the saving group focuses its activities, first to conserve mangrove and marine resources, then to revive paddy plantation in a portion of plantation where the trees are too old to give out rubber juice. There are 4-5 paddies of native species in this 2-acre plot. But saving activity is managed as planned.



And in order to pave way to long-term practice, the project involves youth group, between 12-24 years of age in planting activities. These 4 youth members are among 20 or so members of youth in Baan Thonglarnng who joined hands in making this paddy field to look like this.



After about 5 months, the field was harvested. The paddy was collected and milled manually. There were 2 kinds of manual mills which the project would like to revive their use. This one is more traditionally southern and probably used more by women.



The other kind would be operated by both men and women. This kind is more traditionally Thai. One man operates this mill for 8 hours would produce about 10 kg of rice for consumption.



Project members from 2 villages under the project are quite satisfied with project results. They produced enough rice for consumption and donation as a merit-making activity. After of nearly 50 years of uncared for in project location, paddy farming seems to receive community attention once more.



Next to community para-rubber plantation down to coastal area of Phangnga Bay, project members launched an effort to protect terrestrial-mangrove forest of approximately 300 ha. The project had reforested / returned some species into the ecosystem. The forest is also a nature study place for community youth group.