

VIII. Youth Power against Global Warming by Promotion of Seagrass Learning

1. Introduction

Project No: THA/MFFSGF/12/09

Project Title: Youth Power against Global Warming by Promotion of Seagrass Learning

Grantee: Tung Nang Dam Coastal and Marine Resources Protection Group

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1.1 Implementing NGO/CBO: Tung Nang Dam Coastal and Marine Resources Protection Group: Founded as a conservation group following participating in the mangrove conservation training organized by Mangrove Development Station 17. Successive workshops on surveying and monitoring seagrass, organized by IUCN and Phuket Coastal Research and Development Centre led to the group activities on seagrass status nearest to community (so called “seagrass in front of the house) since 2007. The activities had resulted in successful demarcation and management of seagrass in front the houses attracting attention of local administrative organizations towards sustainable natural resource management.

1.2 Location of project:

1) An island of Baan Tung Nang Dum, Phang Nga Province’s Kuraburi District in the Andaman Sea with its west to south being significant in seagrass which 7 neighboring communities depend upon for livelihood.

2) Baan Tha Pae Yoi, Phang Nga Province’s Kuraburi District, on Koh (island) Prathong of the Andaman Sea with its richness in marine species.

1.3 Target Population: 110 out of 223 households in project location who earn living through fishery. The per capita income is THB 48,000. Both technical and institutional capacity of this population is rather limited in term of value and merit of seagrass ecosystems, of its carbon-absorbing capacity as well as of its role to play on maintaining marine biodiversity and food supplies.

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

- 1) Improving knowledge base for coastal planning, policy and management (POW 1)
- 2) Integrating coastal ecosystem economic values into development planning and appraisal (POW 4)
- 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 monitor ecological status of seagrass in project location to be used in demarcation of community conserved area
- 2) To launch campaign, add value and merit of seagrass through activities, nature classroom and eco-tourism

1.6 Major stakeholders

- 1) Phuket Marine Biological Centre
- 2) North Andaman Youth Network
- 3) North Andaman Community Tourism Network

2. Project Completion

2.1 Period of Participatory Evaluation: August 2013

2.2 Number of Beneficiaries/ Participating personnel: 143 households

Women: 132 persons

Men: 120 persons

Children: 15 persons

2.3 Income and Expense

Detail		Amount (THB)
Budget Allocation		300,000
Total expenditure		280,000
% expenditure against allocation		93%
Co-financing Sources	In-cash (THB)	In-kind (THB)
North Andaman Youth Network	35,000	12,000
North Andaman Community Tourism Network	-	12,000
Total	35,000	24,000

2.4 Activities and results/outcomes

Main Activities Implemented	Results/Outcomes
1. Field activities on seagrass, mangrove and coastal ecosystem such as natural classroom, a survey and monitoring on changes 2. Launching workshops and study tours for capacity building 3. Launching campaigns, event and activities for raising awareness on seagrass and mangrove conservation by using creative art and traditional performance approach 4. Publishing creative media, photo, poster for dissemination	1. Emergence of a youth group with holistic knowledge based of seagrass ecosystem to encourage communities and tourists for conservation 2. Emergence of a basic survey and monitoring method on seagrass and dugong of youth group 3. Emergence of creative media, photo, poster for dissemination 3. The area of seagrass about 700 sq.m. and mangrove of about 4 km. length along the village coast being surveyed, demarcated and monitored by youth group 4. Increased conservation awareness of youth group indicated by active communication with community members through traditional performance and by initiative to establish youth council of Kuraburi district 5. The project being incorporated in a district plan for eco-tourism

2.5 Plans and Activities for Sustainability:

1) A survey and monitoring on seagrass by youth group will be continued on a regular basis and transferred to future generations.

2) The traditional performance will be carried on with the support from Tambon Administrative Organisation in long run.

3) The environmental management and natural resources conservation will be included in the community plan and the Tambon Administrative Organisation plan.

2.6 Challenges and constraints

1) The sustainable activities of youth group toward knowledge transfer

2) Participation of 4 villages for planning conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, i.e. tropical forest, beach forest, peat swamp forest, savanna, mangrove etc. on Koh Prathong was a priority, by addressing the case study to regulate the plan.

3) The communities need to have awareness and a follow-up plan on the situation and impacts of tourism investment, land exploitation and governmental project on Koh Prathong area.

4) Weather condition was not supporting the project activities some time and caused a delay, especially in monsoon season. Congregating children for activity was rather difficult.

2.7 Lessons Learned

1) The project referred to sectorial cooperation, as well as the youth group itself, as the most important factor leading to success. Direct confrontation with those who disagreed with the project should be avoided.

2) Working with the youth need understanding about their capacity and limitation such as individual perception, interest, and responsibility by having them participate in project activities and make them as enjoyable as possible. Do not put pressure on them with high expectation and heavily academic substance, however, they should know the project goal and try to practice towards the goal.

3) Importantly, building the capacity, learning and awareness for youths/students on holistic ecosystem made them perceive conditions/status of natural resources in the future and capable of initiating resources management plan.

4) Some tools and IT devices were somehow essential for field activities, namely camera, GPS. The activity planning should be considered beforehand.

3. Story of change

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

The knowledge base the community and youth obtained was new to them, i.e. seagrass species, seagrass benefits, monitoring and analysis method. They could link the diverse ecosystem based on “the butterfly effect theory”, see as holistic for being aware of environmental disturbance. They had learned more.

3.2 Change in socio-economic status or livelihood

1) This project contributed to supporting for community livelihood indirectly by raising awareness on sustainable use towards holistic ecosystem, building intellectual weapon and pride of the youths.

2) The quality of lives of the fishers was improved. As in monsoon season, it was difficult for fishing at a deeper spots in the sea, thus the allowed conservation area was another better option for them and contributing to better community livelihood.

3.3 Change in participation and social interaction

The youth group was accepted by the community. They were invited to the village meeting for proposing their issues and activities. Furthermore, for better participation and social interaction, youth members were invited to be “goodwill ambassador” for negotiating on the natural resources conflicts and reducing the social resistance.

3.4 Change in coastal governance frameworks

The Baan Tha Pae Yoi community regulation for conservation area was to be enforced. The youth group has their responsibilities as “a guardian and a guide”. As the youths are able to transfer the seagrass knowledge, the eco-tourism could be promoted for some seagrass area that was properly zoned to avoid disturbing the ecosystem.

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

The youth group was congregating to launch village development activities constantly. These were indicated by a garbage collection, a garbage recycle and management which were supported by Koh Prathong Tambon Administrative Organisation. Because they realized that such a waste would hinder the growth of seagrass and marine animals.

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

4.1 Findings and observation

At Kuraburi Pier, there were maps depicting zones of coastal & marine ecosystems in Kuraburi Bay that had been under continuous management by DMCR and other civil society organizations. Through these map, the visiting team got a clearer picture of project targeted areas and carried out activities. This management / rehabilitation process started a few years after the Tsunami.

Sailing to Baan (village) Tha Pae Yoei, a non-grid connected village, one of the 2 participating villages, the team was briefed about the result of rehabilitation and witnessed seagrass and mangrove area which appeared thriving, even though the effect of wind and sediments of the Tsunami were referred to as a hindering factor against natural recovery.

At Kiatpracha School in Tha Pae Yoei, a group of students interacted with the visiting team relating how they participated in project activities, showing the area of seagrass and mangrove in front of the village under their care. Twice or thrice a week, the group would launch a survey to learn how the seagrass and mangrove developed/changed.

The students also performed a traditional song and dance for the visiting team. Revived under the project and intended to apply for managing globalization upon the community, the song and dance would be used as an approach for conservation campaign. Several team members agreed to the revival which would, at least, remind the group of their origin thus way of live in harmony with nature.

During the visit, the Chief of Kuraburi District Officer was having a meeting about promoting tourism with community members in Koh Phra Thong. The chief officer let the visiting team know briefly that such a move has been carried out in a participatory manner.

4.2 Photos



One of the result would be evinced by this photo. The area is full of seagrass of eight species. One such is *Enhalus Acoroides* (inset), which possesses medicinal value. Recently, 2 dugongs and several rare sea turtles were seen in this location.



Global warming and climate change causes more frequent storm surges, shore erosion, current change and thus siltation unto seagrass-undermining its growth.



Kiatpracha School, a main stakeholder, established this room as data & information centre on local ecology and culture.



In order to make whole conservation and livelihood activities, these students are reviving traditional song and dance of the Moklan – a subject apt to be forgotten. The project would apply this as strategy to launch conservation campaigns, both among the group and wider public.



At Khuraburi Pier, maps and pictures showing ecosystem of Khuraburi Bay and its rehabilitation zones are posted for public to learn. Just after the Tsunami, both concerned public and private sectors joined hands in rehabilitation of the ecosystems. Based on this, the project expanded the area to cover wider location.