

FACTSHEET

Project No: THA/MFFSGF/08/04
Project Title: Building Mangrove for Sea Otter

Overview

Implementing NGO/CBO: Phuket Women Capacity Development Project: Established in 1998 as a non-registered NGO undertaking activities in coastal and suburban communities in Phuket Province, aiming to promote and launch campaigns on gender roles, self-sufficiency on economics, and participation in coastal resources.

Location of project: Baan (village) Phakcheed ,Baan Yarmu and Baan Bangla of Tambol Par Klork, Talarn District, Phuket Province situated in the vicinity of Khlong Tha Rua Mangrove Forest Reserve

Target Population: 500 of 956 households in the three villages who depend upon provisions of the mangrove in Baan Bangla

Long-term objectives to support national coastal resources policy: The project contributes to conserving and rehabilitating the remaining 192 ha-mangrove in Khlong Tha Rua Mangrove Forest Reserve, including coastal area of the three targeted villages, by promoting sectoral participation , with CBOs in the location as the focal point in management.

MFF SGF approved budget: Baht: 328,400 (งบจากกองทุนป่าชายเลนเพื่ออนาคต)

Non-MFF resources (งบสมทบจากแหล่งอื่น): Baht: 890,100 from major stakeholders as follows:

From (งบจาก):	In cash (เงินสด)	In kind (แรงงาน สิ่งของ เครื่องใช้ ที่ดิน ฯลฯ)
Communities	85,100	805,000
Total	85,100	805,000

Main Activities: (กิจกรรม)	Main Anticipated Result: (ผลที่คาดว่าจะได้รับ)
1. Reconfirming essence of the project with communities in target location (กิจกรรม 1) 2. Launching capacity building for communities regarding conservation by study tours(กิจกรรม 2) 3. Demarcating conservation zones for sea otters and mangrove with community ritual “ Welcoming Home Sea Otters “(กิจกรรม 3) 4. Re-foresting habitats for sea otters (กิจกรรม 4) 5. Launching dissemination activities (กิจกรรม 5)	1. Witnessed richer mangrove and coastal resources based on amount of catch, at least twice 2. Mangrove area of 192 ha being under continuous protection and management of communities 3. Emergence of a working group/network comprising members from the three villages with at least 100 members

Major stakeholders:

1. Mangrove Management Unit 23 (Phuket)
2. Coastal and Mangrove Research and Development Institute (Andaman)
3. Par Khlork Tambol Administrative Organization
4. Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization

Implementation Report

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

Findings and observation:

At the Savings Group of Baan (village) Bangla in Phuket Province's Thalanrng District, one of the three target villages, representatives of target communities gave a brief on undertaken activities and respective results. So far, one mangrove area of about 32 ha, so called Kor Klang (middle islet), was demarcated as a habitat for sea otters.

Another carried out activities was capacity building for target population, especially youth groups. Instead of using school facilities, youth groups of various ages, were invited to directly participate in community activities and activities on reforestation and breeding of mangrove crams.

The conservation group of Baan Bangla was the only conservation group in Phuket Province selected to be "the learning centre for indigenous knowledge and mangrove" by the Learning Promotion Unit of the Phuket Mangrove Resources Development Station. Under this synergy, the project planned to propose the middle island and Phakcheed Canal, that serves as a boat way from land out to the sea, to be a special conservation zone. This would check the encroachment of mangrove area by infrastructure projects and shrimp farms.

About half-an-hour boat trip along the Bangla Canal out to the middle island, two dysfunctional fish-raising facilities were seen along the canal. According to community members, waste water from neighbouring shrimp farms had degraded water quality then adversely affected fish-raising process. In order to turn the crisis to an opportunity, the two facilities were modified into tourist service stations. Pro-actively, the project approached and shared the message about the sea otters with the facility owners who were interested to use the species as one of the tourist focuses.

The return of sea otters reflected the recovering status of mangrove. From the last visit in June, project leaders related that additional eight otters were spotted. Naturally, they stuck together as family and tried to avoid being seen by human beings. In addition, three mudflats full of crams were identified, probably as a result of mangrove recovery.

While project leaders and community felt satisfied with the conserved 200-ha mangrove on the left side of Bangla Canal, they had contributed to the reclamation of several hundred ha of mangrove on the right side where urbanization is gradually taking place. Therefore, it is of grave concern how public would check or control environmentally-destructive urbanization.



Target location comprises three coastal communities of the Andaman Sea. Majority of these communities depend upon the provisions of marine and coastal ecosystems.



Bangla Canal serves as a travel route for fishermen from land out into the Phannga Bay. The distance is about two kilometers. Both sides of the canal are mangrove area whose some portion had been under threat, especially on the right side where urbanization is expanding. Mangrove on the left side is a community conservation area that prompted conservation of mangrove on the right side - now under protection of DMCR.



This facility once was used for aquaculture. Due to some reason-probably poor water quality caused by waste from shrimp farms, the activity had not been very successful. The entrepreneur modified this into a service station for ecotourism. The project proposed to cooperate with this new activity using the sea otter as a promoting point.



This middle islet of about 35 ha was believed to be central home of the sea otter. They were spotted every now and then by fishermen. The mangrove appears to be in good condition.



In project area, an endangered species with native name " Phangkar Hua Soom White Flower " a hard wood good for construction, was identified. Logging concession during the past four decades had reduced its number to a few trees. The species would have a better future under the project.

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

Undertaken activities:	Result and indicators
1. Reconfirming essence of the project with communities in target location 2. Demarcating conservation zones for sea otters and mangrove with community ritual “ Welcoming Home Sea Otters “ 3. Launching dissemination activities	1. Monthly meetings among community members and local concerned officials resulting in updated status of project location relevant to activities: spots of the otters, threatening causes, and in more insight on project planning 2. About 400 stakeholders participating in the ritual and demarcating 6 locations as otter seen spots and resulting in additional experience sharing to collectively manage coastal resources 3. Produced a knowledge product about sea otters comprising four pieces

Project communication: In October 2009, the magazine “Documentary” published an article in the editorial note about mangrove protection movement and seeing sea otters in a project location’s Baan (village) Bangla . The project also attached two pages for reference.

Experience , lessons Learnt, problem and issue:

In order for the project to secure full participation from target communities, the project has tried to make understood the need for conservation of sea otters and other rare species as a tool enabling communities to conserve mangrove for future use. However, communities were not able to make shots of photos, as the animals are regularly out from dusk till dawn. To get sets of photos, the project had assigned some project members to watch over and ,when the time is right, make a shot and report monthly.

Project Expense: The project reported the expense of THB: 105,860 out of the first disbursement of THB: 98,520 .



A part of community ritual to “Welcome Back Sea Otters” was a traditional play with stories focusing on mangrove conservation, and religious rite.



Community members are planning to demarcate mangrove and sea otters conservation area. Over 400 participants from both public and private sector are witnessing the establishment of one of the six conservation locations. Youth groups appeared to play an active role.

III. Final Report (March 29, 2011)

Date of Participatory Evaluation	5 December 2010		
Number of Beneficiaries/ Participating personnel	Women:	1,200	
	Men:	800	
	Children:	900	
Number of persons trained/ attending seminars, joining study tours	Women:	120	
	Men:	90	
	Children:	160	
Expense	Amount received from MFF SGF (2 disbursements): THB: 295,560		
	Total amount spent out of MFF SGF budget: THB: 328,650		
	Balance: THB : (-33,090)		
	Amount authorized for the final payment: THB: 32,840		
	Amount of co-financing as follows:		
	Sources:	In cash, THB	In kind, THB
	Community & grantee	200,000	700,000
	Thai Health Promotion Foundation	250,000	-
	Total	450,000	700,000

Activities carried out	Results and Indicators
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reconfirming essence of the project with communities in target location 2. Launching capacity building for communities regarding conservation by study tours 3. Demarcating conservation zones for sea otters and mangrove with community ritual " Welcoming Home Sea Otters" 4. Re-foresting habitats for sea otters 5. Launching dissemination activities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emergence of a working group and one youth network with substantial and continuous action plans to protect sea otters and manage the mangrove in Baan Bangla 2. Witnessed insight of community leaders in using the sea otters as a strategic approach to involve wider public for mangrove management 3. Witnessed richer mangrove and coastal resources based on amount of catch, at least twice 4. Mangrove area of 192 ha being under continuous protection and management of communities 5. Emergence of 365 members of alliance to protect mangrove comprising students, middle class people and suburban community members in Phuket who were informed about the status of the mangrove continuously

Project Communication:**Plans and Activities for Sustainability:**

The project would use the Sea Otter strategy to link with other communities/agencies at all levels to ensure the replication and mainstreaming. Women's and youth group would play major roles in the movement.

Experience, Lessons Learnt , Problems and Issues:

Since the otter was an indicator of fertility of mangrove and coastal resources, communities regarded that the species would continue to be an "important device" to help conservation activities and build more conservation party in other area.