

## Participatory rehabilitation and conservation of aquatic habitats at Mae Nang Khao

Patrolling the community conservation area, Kuraburi, Thailand © S. Sereepaowong



government agencies aimed at encouraging local participation in conserving mangroves.

### Target beneficiaries

One hundred households (out of 250) who earn their living from fishing and farming.

### Outputs

- ▶ Releasing of over 11,000 juvenile fish in a protected mangrove area of 10 hectares.
- ▶ Reforestation of about 32 hectares of degraded forest with 9,000 mangrove plants.
- ▶ Reduction of destructive fishing methods in the project area.

### Accomplishments and challenges

This project paved the way for close cooperation and mutual support between government agencies and project beneficiaries. The stakeholders affirmed the project's contribution to enhancing collective efforts focused on environmental conservation, an activity that the community values especially after the experience of the 2004 tsunami.

The project established regulations for communities to use and protect local mangroves collectively. A mangrove area of about 2,400 hectares was zoned as a habitat for juvenile fish and other aquatic animals. Another area of similar size was zoned as a community forest.

### Challenges

The grantees identified poor weather conditions as a major cause of delay in project activities.

### Contributions to cross-cutting themes

#### Communications

The project made efforts to keep communities informed about its activities by using



### Objectives

This project aimed to use participatory approaches to involve communities in protecting, rehabilitating and planning the sustainable use of coastal resources.

### Background

The village of Tung Rak is located in a mountainous forest area on Thailand's north Andaman coast, in the sub-district of Mae Nang Khao. After the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, displaced coastal families migrated into the village area and established new homes.

The nearby ecosystem of Mae Nang Khao mountain is under threat. This area covers about 3,520 hectares of national forest reserve land, lying unprotected outside the region's major national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The major threats to the forests of Mae Nang Khao include clearing for cultivation, mainly of rubber and fruit trees, and illegal logging and hunting. Six other communities share this ecosystem.

The Mangrove Conservation Group of Mae Nang Khao was originally established in 2005 as the Mangrove Resources Management Group of Tung Rak, with support from

#### LOCATION

Ban Tung Rak, Mae Nang Khao, Kuraburi, Phang Nga, Thailand

#### PRIORITY POWS

- Strategies for Management

#### DURATION

May 2009 to November 2010

#### MFF GRANT AMOUNT

US\$9,164

available communication facilities such as the village's public loudspeaker, and by organizing public village meetings.

### Lessons learned

Participatory processes are an imperative for conserving the environment and natural resources.

### Partners and their contribution

The participating communities made cash and in-kind contributions of US\$250 and US\$2,334 respectively.



*Rhizophora* stands reforested and managed by the community, Kuraburi, Thailand © S. Sereepaowong

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