VI. Community Capacity Building for Coastal and Mangrove Conservation of Tambon Khlong Pasong

1. Introduction

Project No: THA/MFFSGF/12/06

Project Title: Community Capacity Building for Coastal and Mangrove Conservation of Tambon Khlong Pasong

Grantee: Environmental Conservation Group of Koh Klang Village

Address: 118, Moo 1, Tambon Khlong Pasong, Muang District, Krabi Province, 81000

Contact Person: Mr. Nont Meelam, Project Leader, Tel. +66872652631, email: nonmelam@gmail.com

1.1 Implementing NGO/CBO: Environmental Conservation Group of Koh Klang Village: Registered as a CBO on 28 September 2001, as a recommendation from the Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives in Krabi Province, aiming to reduce conflict amongst community members who had regularly struggled and fought to provide services for tourists. With subsequent financial supports from several national and international organizations, the group has experienced in community waste management, documentation of wetland conservation and mangrove protection manual.

1.2 Location of project: Tambon Khlong Prasong with an area of about 26 sq.km, included in Krabi Estuary , a wetland of international importance (Ramsar Site), Muang District, Krabi Province. Natural resource in the location had been dwindling due to mangrove encroachment, deserted shrimp farms, and coastal erosion. Such degradation would be effectively addressed by combination of community approaches and selected modern technicality in a more holistic manner.

1.3 Target Population: All 100 households who earn their living through fishery and depend upon provisions of mangrove for livelihood activities. The per capita income is THB 48,000.

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

1) Designing ecologically and socio-economically sound coastal ecosystem rehabilitation (POW 2)

2) Supporting environmentally sustainable livelihoods among coastal communities (POW 8)

3) Improving community resilience to natural disasters (POW 9)

4) Encouraging environmentally sustainable business practices in coastal area (POW 15)

1.5 Specific Objectives:

1) To build capacity of community on coastal resources management

2) To demonstrate management activities through participatory process

3) To instill awareness on conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources and mangrove

1.6 Major stakeholders

1) Khlong Prasong Tambon Administrative Organization

2) Mangrove Development Station 26

3) Schools in Tambon Khlong Prasong

2. Project Completion

2.1 Period of Participatory Evaluation: September 2013

2.2 Number of Beneficiaries/ Participating personnel: 185 households

Women:	150	persons
Men:	30	persons
Children:	40	persons

2.3 Income and Expense

Detail		**Amount (THB)**
Budget Allocation		302,000
Total expenditure		300,314
% expenditure against allocation		99%
Co-financing Sources	**In-cash (THB)**	**In-kind (THB)**
Mangrove Development Station 26	-	120,000
Students from schools in Krabi provincial town	-	15,000
Krabi Bicycle Group	-	30,000
Total	**-**	**165,000**

2.4 Activities and results/outcomes

Main Activities Implemented	Results/Outcomes
1. Building capacity of communities through meetings, training, workshop and study tours stressing on sustainable use of coastal resources and mangrove 2. Launching reforestation to rehabilitate degraded mangrove, and to slow down soil erosion as well as producing organic fertilizer to address land-based pollution 3. Launching dissemination of the project	1. The 3 capacity-building activities resulting in increased awareness and capacity of targeted population in mangrove management and community food security witnessed by active sharing and discussion to proceed with additional plans and putting into practice what had been learnt 2. A certain amount of community and fishery waste being turned into organic fertilizer 3. Additional 3.000 mangrove being grown for a distance of 2 km to prevent sea water intrusion 4. Additional contribution from Krabi Provincial Administrative Organization for building bamboo wall to slow down shore erosion 5. A deserted shrimp farm of about one ha being recovered with 1,000 seedlings of a mangrove species (Cork Tree or locally so-called Lamphoo) 6. A document containing 20 mangrove species 7. Increased capacity of targeted population witnessed through co-management of the ecosystems with relevant authorities - fairly outstanding – generating additional income by eco-tourism engagement and reducing pressures on the ecosystems 8. The project being incorporated in a national income generation scheme of the Provincial Chamber of Commerce and the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperative

2.5 Plans and Activities for Sustainability:

1) Together with the Mangrove Action Program, the project planned to keep on promoting reclaiming and reforesting deserted shrimp farms and establish demonstration sites for rehabilitating mangrove by natural approach

2) The project planned to adjust plantation of mangrove by using more suitable species, e.g. cork tree, and Pipi (local name)

3) Reuse/recycle activities, especially of plastic bottles, to reduce amount of community waste would be kept on.

2.6 Challenges and constraints

1) The project referred to community participation, dealing with direct community problems and supports from government agencies/local administrative organization as main factors for accomplishment. Transparency was the thing that should be a mantra (every project member should have a clear answer).

2) Lack of clear know-how on planting Lamphoo and Pipi seedlings

2.7 Lessons Learned

1) Women, elderly persons, and youth were able to play a leading role in implementing the project, as they seemed to have more free time. These 3 groups should be encouraged to participate in any community activities, to ensure smooth and effective implementation.

2) In reforestation of mangrove, careful consideration should be given to selection of suitable species if high rate of survival was to be achieved.

3) Growing cork tree through nurseries process, i.e. putting them into plastic bags, was not recommended, as the rate of survival was very low.

4) Reforestation of deserted shrimp farms provided both direct and indirect benefits to the group. Directly, mangrove area was increased where community member would use for black crabs raising to generate additional income. Indirectly, the activities demonstrated possibility of reclaiming degraded mangrove area, thus encourage replication. As the matter of fact, the rehabilitated shrimp farms of the groups had become learning places for both targeted communities and external communities.

3. Story of change

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

Since reforestation of deserted shrimp farms provided additional income, the community realized the value of mangrove valued and started to replicate the practice with conservation awareness.

3.2 Change in socio-economic status or livelihood

Reforestation of deserted shrimp farms provided additional income from black crab raising.

3.3 Change in participation and social interaction

The elder and women group participating in activities on mangrove reforestation, capacity building and knowledge and experience sharing with young people made a more harmonized picture in social interaction.

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

1) Mangrove reforestation was considered one of suitable approach for protection of coastal erosion in Tambon Klong Prasong where this problem was happening.

2) Reforestation of deserted shrimp farms by raising black crabs was acceptable and being replicated widely.

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

4.1 Findings and observation

The visiting team was led to see Khao Khanarbnam, a mangrove area in project location with historic site. Offering anthropological data & information, the area was developed into an eco-tourism spot attracting 100-200 foreign visitors daily, mostly from Phuket. The place was first managed by Krabi Municipality, then by the Krabi Provincial Administrative Organization, who later transferred the co-management to Khlong Prasong Tambon Administrative Organization. Under this management, community members had invested in this business transaction, with clear structure of co-management with responsible authority, especially, the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources.

In a following boat trip along canals to Baan (village) Koh Klang, the visiting team witnessed plots of mangroves about 100 ha that appeared fairly in good condition. These plots had been co-managed by targeted communities several years ago, even before MFF but had been maintained and included in the sustainable use plan of communities up to the present day. Mangrove Development Station 26 and 27 was referred to as providing technical support to the community plan.

In Baan Koh Klang, the visiting team witnessed some progress, since the last visit, of supportive activity from two major stakeholders, the Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives, and Krabi Province Chamber of Commerce. The activity involved a demonstration of sustainable land use in paddy field by launching integrated farming in a half-an-acre area per family. The 2 stakeholders guaranteed to purchase products from such fields within the total value of THB: 100,000. So far, there were 20 families participating in the scheme. The activity would contribute to project sustainability.

It appeared that the project had been implemented as planned. Besides, the visiting team agreed that the project had contributed to enhancing the governance in a coastal area. The project had produced coastal managers as well as drawn investment or co-management from community themselves. All these were contributing factors to ensure the well-being of these coastal communities.

4.2 Photos

This deserted shrimp pond in Baan Koh Klang had been rehabilitated with mangrove successfully. The ones beyond this one were said to be denser with bigger mangroves, and to the point that aqua-culture, especially, raising black crabs, would be launched.

Co-managed by community members, Khao Khanarbnam offers a historic site to visit. The ladder leads to a cave containing a variety of ancient local stories and anthropologic evidences. Income from tourism contributes to conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity in the estuary.

The posters display co-management structure of Khao Khanarbnam.The left poster displays board of advisory group-mostly responsible authority, the right community members who are coastal manager. This activity and other community transactions, such as homestay, restaurants, and aqua-culture, all contribute to sustainable use of natural resources.

Mangrove area around Khao Khanarbnam appears in good condition. The mangroves are categorized according to their status. Some are managed by the authority, while others by communities, with collective regulations for use.

In designing sound coastal rehabilitation, the project launched activities to check or slow down sea water intrusion into cultivated land. A dike of 4-km long was built and would be planted with mangroves. Behind the dike, degraded land would be rehabilitated by nitrogen-fixing species, organic fertilizer and integrated farming.