

MFF Small Grant Fund Project Site Visit

Country: Thailand
Project No. / Title: THA-MFFSGF-08-06/Conservation of Mangrove for Local Food
Date of Visit: Friday, August 28, 2009
Location: Thalang District , Phuket Province
Visitors:
1. Mr. Poonsin Sreesangkom, National Coordinator
2. Dr. Komol Pragtong, NSC member
3. Mr. Kunchit Sukjaimitr, NSC member
4. Ms. Suwimol Sereepaowaong, Programme Assistant
5. Ms. Siriporn Sri-Ararm, Secretary, MFF National Coordinating Body
Project Contact: Mr. Decha Chansongsaeng, Project Leader of Ao Phang-nga Coastal Fishing Community Food Security Project, the grantee

1. BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT / PURPOSE OF VISIT

This MFF SGF project proposed to contribute to underpinning MFF strategy on building and encouraging the application of knowledge as well as promoting environmental governance in coastal area. Proposed activities consisted resources inventory on community food sources ,demonstration of rehabilitation of local recipes, reforestation of species of nutritious quality and releasing aqua species of nutritious quality into their habitats . Awarded THB: 343,400 from MFF SGF, the activities had begun for about four months of its 18-month duration. The visit aimed to witness result of activities and interact with target community and other stakeholders.

2. FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

Representatives of the three participating villages gathering together at a small meeting place in Baan (village) Laemhin of Phang-nga Province's Tambol Loryoong gave a brief to the visiting team on undertaken activities and some immediate output. One of the main activities carried out was resources inventory where youth groups and their mentoring elders launched survey in coastal areas identifying species of nutritious quality, taking photos, and recording. Over 80 species of marine species were recorded and ready for further use. These species have their homes in a niche called " mound of red ants" which is a beach or mudflat having a tale about red ants activities, there in the mound, amongst community members.

Another habitat called Koh Klang or Central Islet was shown to the visiting team. With its half-half-an-acre area, the islet was a habitat for two endemic species of cram. The project launched a plan to use it as a learning centre for transferring local knowledge on ecosystems and local food.

Finally, the project showed a nursery containing several mangrove species , many of which are edible. With prospects of increasing network members , the project plan to relocate the nursery with additional capacity to supply to network members.



The project is situated in the upper north of Phangnga Bay, in the vicinity of natural forest reserve of 211 ha covering four villages of target location. The project leader is explaining the ecological condition and plan to reach out to other coastal communities in the bay.



A niche dubbed “ red ant mound” in front of Baan (village) Laemhin was fairly thoroughly surveyed by village’s youth group with close advice from village elders. The result of survey was a compiled 80 marine species with their nutritious quality



Not far from the red ant mound, the village central islet was found to be a niche for two endemic cram. The project would make use of the islet as a learning centre for local knowledge on ecosystems and food



This nursery has been functioning since the project started. A few mangrove species had been maintained and distributed to members. With forthcoming increase of project members, the nursery would be relocated to ensure higher capacity of