

# **Community Base Ecotourism and Conservation**

## **Study Trip to Koh Yao Noi**

### **For Lion Village, Koh Phra Thong**

**25 – 27 June 2009**

**Koh Yai Noi, Pang Nga, Thailand**

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#### **BACKGROUND:**

On 26 December 2004, a tsunami impacted numbers of countries in Indian Ocean, including Thailand where six provinces on the Andaman Coast were hit. Pak Jok Village, Phra Thong Island, Kuraburi, Pang Nga Province, Thailand was one of these unfortunates, where the whole village was damaged. There were many casualties and those who survived moved somewhere else. However, Lion Club Thailand built a new village on the island near the old Pak Jok site in 2007. The village is named Lion Village or Ban Lion (BL). The main occupation of Lion residents is fishery which is very seasonal, consequently there are many unemployed during rainy season (May – November). To improve the livelihood of Lion villagers, the ideas of homestay and community-based ecotourism (CBT) were introduced.

From 2008 on some locals have provided the homestay services for volunteers from Naucrates Sea Turtle Conservation Project, still the service needs to be developed. Furthermore, more villagers showed their interests in providing homestay, and all viewed this homestay and CBT programme a supplementary source of income.

In parallel with that, the concept of coastal resource management is essential to Ban Lion livelihood thanks to their main fishery occupation as well as the effects from the tsunami. Hence,

Mangrove Action Project (MAP) and Naucrates, whom have been working on conservation and operating on the island since 2001, have set up a Community Coastal Resource Centre (CCRC) at Lion Village and worked on the local awareness.

As a result, a CBT and coastal resource conservation study trip to Koh Yao Noi (KYN) was arranged from 25-27 June 2009 for BL villagers by the collaboration between Mangrove Action Project (MAP) and Naucrates, with the support by Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism (ECOT). There were 16 participants in total: 12 from Lion Village and 4 from MAP-Naucrates. The names of participants are listed in annex 1.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

The objective of this study trip was to allow the BL members to gain more insights into CBT and coastal resource conservation by learning from an experienced team from Koh Yao Noi, to reflect and adapt some strategies to their own village management.

### **ACTIVITIES:**

The trip was planned for three days from 25 – 27 June, 2009 which included the activities as follow (see annex 2 for trip schedule):

#### *Day 1 – 25 June, 2009*

- Introduction to KYN CBT
- Visit mangrove natural trail and Koh Yao Museum at Koh Yao Wittaya School
- Visit OTOP Group (dessert, batik and coconut shell handicraft)

#### *Day 2 – 26 June, 2009*

- Lobster farm and island tour to Koh Hong and Koh Nork
- Visit the community's saving group and co-op
- Group discussion on topics such as coastal resource conservation, homestay management, tour arrangement, accounting, and group management

#### *Day 3 – 27 June, 2009*

- Give feedback and make plan for Ban Lion

### **REVIEW:**

### Introduction to KYN CBT

Two representatives from KYN CBT Group, Mr. Dusit Butree and Mr. Sumreong Rakhiet gave introduction to KYN CBT Group, and gave information on Koh Yao District. Koh Yao District is composed of 18 villages, where most of the residents were Muslims. YN island has 7 villages with 35 resorts ranging from simple to luxury. The main resource of income (up to 80 percent) is from fishery, while the rest depended on rubber farming and agriculture plus tourism. Apart from that, Koh Yao community had a CBT project which closely linked to conservation and allowed the locals to take care of their coastal resources as well as to raise public awareness. The CBT group now has 30 members and was first established as a means to supplement their fishing livelihood and to share their culture and way of life with visitors. Additionally, there are other groups now such as saving group, youth guides, and crafting groups.

### Mangrove Nature Trail and Koh Yao Museum Visit at Koh Yao Wittaya

At Koh Yao Wittaya, the BL visitors were welcomed by 2 teachers whom shared Koh Yao conservation pathway. It was initiated by a group of locals and later supported by many NGOs and private sections. They currently run many projects, such as a recycling bank, a mangrove seedling nursery, and planting events on public holidays with other organizations. For the youth group, they integrated environmental education with students' science classes which resulted in this youth group. These youth guides gave BL participants a tour around the school including a coastal resource museum supported by Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), a mangrove nature trail, and Koh Yao Museum. Later, the BL group was shown an iron wood (*Hopea odorata Roxb.*) farm which was a part of sustainable development concept of KYN conservation group.

### OTOP Group Visit

OTOP (One Tambon One Product) – a government's campaign promoting local capacity for developing their own product made from local materials – was adopted well by KYN community. They set up a group whom was responsible for dessert making, batik painting, and coconut shell crafting. At the beginning, every member had put a share and was required to join the activities according to the group's rule. Until now, the business of KYN group went well, with the limited members to avoid complication.

### KYN Saving Group and Co-op Visit

The saving group and co-op were founded in 2000 by the community's imam and had been regulated in accordance with the Islamic teachings. All members were engaged to deposit some

money depending on their shares on the first Fridays of every month. Benefits from these deposits went to the community's mosque and school which had given scholarship to students.

### Group Discussion

As the KYN CBT team had experiences in running such project, they were willing to share their knowledge on management to BL participants as topics follow:

#### *KYN CBT Background*

The project was started 15 years ago. Initially, the team gathered for an activity against illegal fishery, which had depleted Koh Yao coastal resources for a long time. Subsequently, the team had to welcome visitors to show the proper ways of fishing on the island and needed to facilitate those guests. This evolved into a homestay service which has been operating until nowadays and awarded by many organizations.

#### *CBT Management*

Everybody was equal among the KYN CBT team members because there was no president or head and decisions were made through members' votes. The team was divided into smaller groups and tasks were delegated by coordinators, homestay allocators, accountants, transfer organizers and guides, roster officers and income distributors, as well as public relations. Details of discussion can be found in annex 3.

#### *Conservation and Coastal Resource Management*

The values of community, culture, environment and income were held respectively by the team. This structure strengthened the group management since the team regarded the community as the most important component, while money was placed last. According to the team, an understanding community led to a good resources management, as they would become more cooperative. A key suggestion was to balance the amount of visitors and the amount of resources in the area. A chart attached in annex 4 is visualization of these values.

#### *Question and Answer*

Besides the information shared above, BL participants received opportunities to ask more questions regarding the CBT management. The questions were about visitor safety, project registration and rules of the group. More information on these questions and answers are listed in annex 5.

### **COMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNT:**

BL participants gave feedback to the trip as follow:

- Hospitality: all members were hospitable, including host families.

- Teamwork: everyone worked cohesively and was very attentive.
- Presentation: presentations were informative useful but relaxed and comprehensible at the same time.
- Activities: there was variety in activities arranged by the team.
- Accommodation: homestays were clean and tidy, and meals were delicious.
- Religious and team management connection: the team adopted their religious teachings to their management and teamwork very well.
- Leadership: the team members had many qualities to become leaders.
- Conservation awareness: there was instillation of conservation awareness and traditional ways of life to locals and youth group.
- Sense of belonging: the team had pride in being Koh Yao residents and felt like protecting their homeland.
- Group rules: they set rules which were easy to follow both for the members and for visitors.

Moreover, the group discussion stated above revealed some valuable ideas and thoughts about CBT management which BL participants learnt and could adapted them for Lion Village, including: *the tactics of KYN CBT management* – transparency, leaders as good models, distinguishing between work and private matters, advanced planning, no political intervention and frequent meetings – and lessons learnt from the team. In addition, participants from Lion Villages made a list of what could be adapted for BL management.

### Lessons for Ban Lion

*Teamwork* – good communication and try to understand each other

Plans for Lion Village:

1. Arrange a meeting for KYN trip participants
2. Invite and persuade other villagers to join
3. Arrange a community activity to bring the villagers closer together, ex. a tree planting day, and a big school/community cleaning day

*Leadership* – take responsibilities and be decisive.

*Co-op idea* – start planning and brainstorming.

*Group management:*

- Make a chart of BL CBT group structure.
- Make a meeting schedule for each month.
- Record meeting participants and sign their names when attend a meeting.
- Spread words of issues discussed in meetings to let the village know what is going on.
- Use the BL meeting hall more often for CBT programme.

*CBT programme:*

- Food for visitors – try to emphasize organic or healthy food, including vegetarian and vegan.
- Homestays – try to improve to reach the homestay standard.
- Presentation of Koh Phra Thong for guide group – try to start with an overview, history and show a map of KPT to give some basic ideas for tourists.
- Nature trail – design BL mangrove nature trail.
- Safety – improve the safety for boat service and homestay by preparing life vests and first aid kits.
- Waste management – try to promote tourists to bring their garbage back to the mainland.
- Shells and/or plants collecting – set rules to prohibit visitors from taking natural “souvenirs” from KPT back home.
- Public boat – try to start a public boat service to facilitate tourists and villagers.

**SUGGESTION:**




- More activities with a host family, ex. cooking or preparing a meal together.
- A clearer schedule for both visitors and host of when it was bed time.
- More signs and direction on KYN streets/ roads.
- A family tree at homestay for visitors to learn more about the host families.







**ANNEX 1: List of Koh Yao Noi Study Trip Participants**

ลำดับ	ชื่อ-สกุล	โครงการ
1	นางมณี ถงกิม (ณี)	CBT
2	นางช้อน แซ่เล่า (ช้อน)	CBT
3	นางสาวอรวรรณ เทียนใส (ฝน)	CBT
4	นางสาววิลาวรรณ มิตตลาการ (ก้อย)	CBT
5	นางพิมพ์ล พรหมคีรี (พร)	CBT
6	นางสาวศิริลักษณ์ บุญโต (ยอง)	CBT

7	นางทีพวัลย์ พิงไทย (อ้อด)	CBT
8	นางสาวพัชรินทร์ ประเสริฐสังข์ (หนู)	CBT
9	นายธรรมบุญ เกิดเจริญ (บุญ)	Conservation
10	นายพงพัฒน์ ลิ้มสกุล (ตาม)	Conservation
11	นายอรรถพล เทียนขุนทด (บอล)	Conservation
12	นายสุขสรรค์ เกิดดี (สรรค์)	Conservation
13	นางลอรี ฟอลลาดอร์/ Mrs. Lory Follador	Staff
14	นางจาร์วรรณ แก้วมหานิล	Staff
15	นายจิม เอ็นไรท์/ Mr. Jim Enright	Staff
16	นางสาวปิยาภัสร์ นครชัย	Staff

## ANNEX 2: Trip Schedule for 25 – 27 June 2009

Date/Time	Activity
<b>Thu 25 June, 2009</b>	
06:00	Depart from Ban Lion to Kuraburi
07:30	Breakfast in Kuraburi 
08:30	Transfer to Bang Rong Pier, Talang, Phuket
11:30	Arrive at Bang Rong Pier, transfer by boat to Koh Yao Noi
12:15	Arrive at the conservation and CBT centre and have lunch  
13:00	Meet the CBT representatives and introduction to KYN CBT programme
13:30	Meet host family

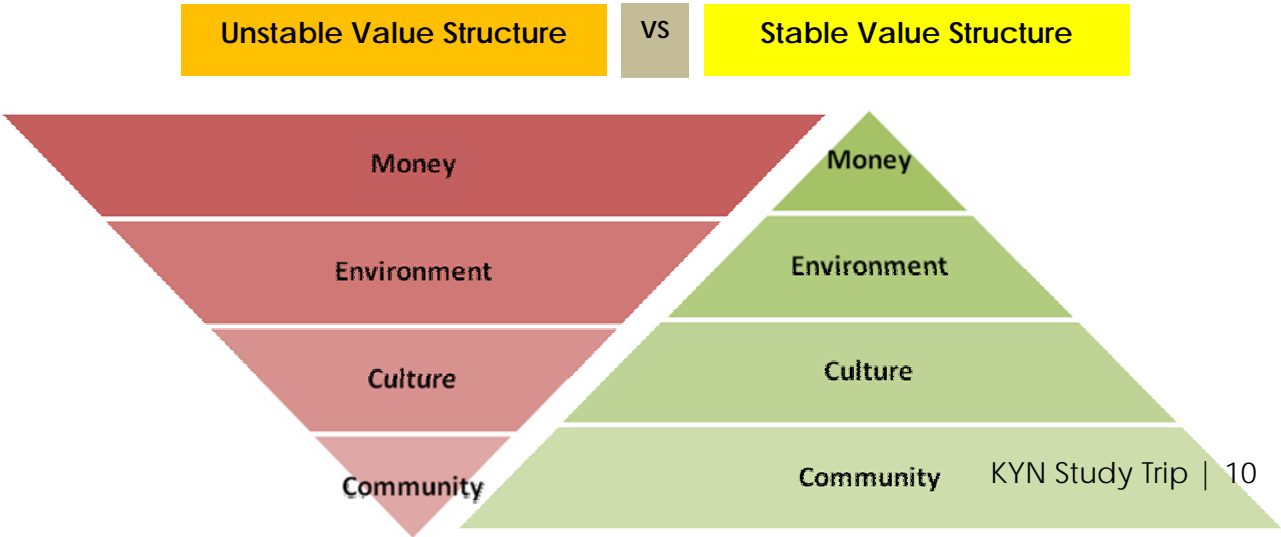
14:00	Island tour, visit mangrove natural trail and Koh Yao Museum at Koh Yao Wittaya School, an ironwood plantation, and batik and coconut shell handicraft shop
18:00	Back to homestay, free time and dinner with host family
<b>Fri 26 June 2009</b>	
07:00	Breakfast with host family 
07:45	Meet at the pier and depart for lobster farm and Koh Hong
08:50	Arrive at Koh Hong
10:15	Arrive and Lunch at Koh Nork  
11:30	Arrive at Koh Yao Noi
13:45	Visit the community's saving group and co-op
16:30	Back to homestay
18.30	Meet at the CBT centre for dinner
19:30	Group discussion at the CBT center on topics such as coastal resource conservation, homestay management, tour arrangement, accounting, and group management
22:00	Back to homestay
<b>Sat 27 June 2009</b>	
07:00	Breakfast with host family 
08:30	Meeting at the CBT centre, debrief, give feedback and make plan for Ban Lion
11:00	Lunch at the center  
11:45	Depart
12:30	Arrive at Bang Rong Pier
15:30	Arrive at Kuraburi Pier

17:00	Arrive at Ban Lion, Koh Phra Thong
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**ANNEX 3:** Details of Group Discussion on CBT Management: responsibilities of each unit.

1. Coordinators – coordinators received bookings both from Thais and foreigners and passed on to other units.
2. Homestay allocators – apart from supplying visitors to homestays based on a rota basis, allocators had to make sure their services reached the group’s standards which were safety, cleanliness (house and food), comfort, coziness, hospitality, and traditional lifestyle.
3. Accountants – 2 main accounts were designed for each homestay, transfer and guide incomes, and for their conservation fund.
4. Transfer organizers and guides – the responsibilities delegation of this unit were also based on a rota basis.
5. Rota officers and income distributors – rota officers were responsible for delegating fair tasks to every member, while income distributors took care of the group revenues. 10% of these incomes were deducted for the CBT community trust and the conservation fund.
6. Public relations – the team advertised the KYN project through websites, brochures, radio, trade shows, and networks.

**ANNEX 4:** Chart of CBT and Conservation Value Structure



## ANNEX 5: Question and Answer

Q1: How were the visitor safety standards?

A1: Safety of visitors was essential to every process from a pier to homestay and island tours, so there should have been first aid kits in homestays and life vests in boats for tourists.

Q2: Was it necessary to register the project?

A2: Not really, because the project would be less independent under the control of government unit and could lead to both positive and negative effects. Additionally, non-registered local groups could find support, such as from municipality, easier.

Q3: How did they set and change rules of the CBT group?

A3: The rules were created by the group through voting in a meeting place where every attendee was required to sign their names to accept the results which were transcribed. Any change of these rules could be done, but only in a meeting place to allow the members know and accept them.

## PHOTOS OF ACTIVITIES





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