



Sathirakoses-
Nagapradipa
Foundation

Networking for the Future: Building Capacity Amongst Andaman Coast Youth

October 23rd-25th, 2009

Wat Suanwang, Kurabori, Phang Nga, Thailand



By Mangrove Action Project

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Background:

Youth groups from the Upper Andaman Coast have been operating sustainable development projects for several years now. They have been taking an active part in the decision making which have a major impact on their life and resource use issues affecting their future. Networking amongst these groups helps continue building their capacity in order to accomplish their activities successfully in the community.

In June 2009, in collaboration amongst local NGOs, including IUCN Thailand, Mangrove Action Project (MAP), Andaman Discoveries (AD), Sathirakoses Nagapradipa and Wan Tro Tree group met together to discuss and share the current work activities in the area. Four groups of youth representatives attended including Ban Tale Nok's youth group, Wan Tro Tree- Gapor, Thung Ban Nang Dahm, and Ban Bang Soi group. The second meeting was arranged on 9 August 2009 at Ban Bang Lamphoo, Gapor which had three different youth groups joining to discuss the possibility of networking including Bang Lamphoo, Ban Tale Nok and Hin Lad youth group. Both meetings came up with the idea to come together to share their existing project experiences and exchange the tools and suggestions for improving youth activities.

This workshop emphasized adaptation through the learning-by-doing process. It was hoped that the youth group would later learn, exchange and help each other to move onward for their work as networking. The workshop is main funded by IUCN- Thailand programme who is a focal point to link the lessons and adapt "Ridge to Reef" approach to work in the area.

Objectives:

The seminar is planned as a 'first step' for building capacity and networking amongst Andaman Coast youth groups by coming together and sharing experiences. The primary objectives are as follows:

- To share experiences about existing projects on environmental and natural resource management and community development project implementation
- To collect the good practices and needs for project success
- To strengthen and broaden networking and participation amongst the youth along the Upper Andaman Coast

Seminar Structure and Events:

The seminar took place over a period of three days from the morning of October 23rd to the afternoon of October 25th, 2009. The event was attended by 59 individuals (37 men, 22

women) with an age range of 13-26. (*Please see Appendix I for participant list.*) The seminar's events and activities were separated so that the bulk of the presentations and dissemination of ideas would take place on day one, while the activities and field trips were scheduled on day two and three. The event facilitator P Nui played an important role in leading the schedule of each day while also including very useful and lively learning exercises. Additionally, the history, future plans, and organizational partnerships and collaborations were shared during the first day by the head Monk of Wat Saunwang, the Kuraburi District Officer, and Mr Somsak Soonthornawapat from IUCN Thailand Regional Manager. The 12 youth groups then presented their projects through several mediums including: posters, performance of song and dance, and digital media.

Throughout the second and third days, the youth participated in a wide range of activities. The field trips occurred on the Islands of Phra Thong and Toong Nang Dam. The Seminar's activities included: nature walks, birdwatching, interpretive discussions on local ecosystems, local-led presentations of regional conservation programs, and cultural entertainment. Moreover, there were several reflective activities that helped the participants utilize what they had learned.

A summary of the seminar's itinerary is as follows (*Please refer to Appendix III for detailed Itinerary*):

Day 1 (*Wat Suanwang*)

- Introduction and Opening Remarks by hosting member organizations and District Officer
- Group Poster Sharing Session
- Youth Group Presentations
- Song and Dance Performances
- Youth in Action for Next Generation (YIA) Field Visit Experience Presentation

Day 2 (*Phra Thong Island*)

- Orientation of Days Activities
- Presentations and Discussions on Local Ecosystems
- Community Coastal Resource Centre (CCRC) Introduction and Discussion
- Birdwatching Walk
- YIA Member Trip Presentations
- Cultural Entertainment & Puppet Shows

Day 3 (*Toong Nang Dam*)

- Orientation of Day's Activities
- Sea Turtle Discussion and Beach Habitat Lesson
- Interpretive Nature Walk Through Swamp Forest
- Final Evaluation and Recap of Seminar's Events

Presentations and Activities

Youth Presentations:

Poster Presentations:

With the assistance of IUCN staff, each youth group presented the District Officer with their project's goals and importance through the use of poster presentations. Ultimately, he was impressed with the youth's work and appeared genuinely interested in learning more about the specifics of each project. As a response, the students were thrilled to have the opportunity to discuss their posters.

Youth Group Presentation Overviews:

Bang Soi:

The Bang Soi Youth Group's project is focused on preventing shore and soil erosion through the planting of a specific Reed species. They explored the use of traditional scientific methodology and displayed graphs showing their results. While carrying out the project they discovered an endangered water lily species that is dependent on very clean water, thus providing further reasoning for local environmental conservation. Ultimately, the project taught them how to collect and analyze scientific data while also teaching them more about their local environment.

Ban Toong Nang Dom:

The Ban Toong Nang Dom project concentrated on the conservation of biodiversity of the region. They studied a variety of marine and terrestrial flora and fauna. The group learned a lot from the several challenges and successes that were encountered throughout the duration of the project. For example, they often found difficulty stemming from conflicts within the villages as well as their own lack of formal biological training. And in the end they were able to find ways to continue their work while gaining a sense of empowerment. Their suggestions for future projects include: gathering assistance from the broader local environmental network; including additional activities that help solve logistical and technical problems.

Ban Toong Rak:

The Ban Toong Rak group has worked on improving several nature trails through planting and preservation. They have many natural resources that make the area special (i.e. historical ponds, old trees). Over the years the group has encountered problems with illegal logging and conflict within the partnering villages. However the group also has developed working relationships between villages who support the work that they are

doing. Ultimately, the villages are very proud of the work that the youth group is doing.

Ban Naka:

The youth within the Ban Naka project focused on conservation of an endangered water lily. They have worked for 2 years and have learned a great amount while also informing the community of the plant's condition. The project taught the group of the important role that specific species can play in wider ecosystems.

Ban Talay Nok:

The youth group is involved in several community improvement projects. Among those are: Tree planting along main road in the village; Property cleaning competition; Encouraging saving habits; Recycling and reuse programs; Kitchen garden project. They have learned that they must involve more villagers in order for the projects to become more successful. Additionally, although they have not earned significant income from the projects they see the promise and look forward to continuing the programs.

Ban Tream:

The Ban Tream project uses artistic expression and a hand's-on approach in strengthening community unity. Among the activities that they take part in are: writing and singing songs, painting; craftwork; bicycle repair. The project's processes can be quite laborious, but ultimately rewarding.

Ban Bang Lumpoo:

The Ban Bang Lumpoo youth group is in the beginning phases of a waste management project for a regional group of communities. Since they are just beginning the project they are largely interested in gathering information as to how they may best approach the community in order to ensure a higher probability of success. They have also started plans for a water reclamation project.

Wan Toe Tree:

The Hun Toe Tee program is centered on the conservation of mangrove and coastal resources through informal study. Members of the project are primarily from the Ranong Province. They create and present projects through the arts (i.e singing, dancing, miming). Their work is involved with 5 communities and maintains an out-of-the-classroom curriculum.

Cross Ethnic Integration Through Andaman Programmes:

The project involves a camp that brings youths from several different cultural backgrounds. Several members shared their experiences and discussed how they were largely taught about cooperation and communication.

Ban Pa Klog:

The Ban Pa Klog youth focused on “Supporting your homeland through the lens” and other media devices. Previous work involved documentaries that discussed the assassination of a local conservationist as well as the conservation of seagrass and dugans. The project allows the members to explore the use of technology to express local concerns.

Ban Lion Village: *(Was presented on the night of October 24th, 2009.)*

The Ban Lions Village youth work embraced the biodiversity of Phra Thong Island, especially those of marine and coastal resources. In the past, they participated in monitoring and collecting data for Naucrates sea turtle conservation team and a researching unit from Phuket Marine Biological Centre (PMBC) Their intensified experiences let them combine the indigenous knowledge with the scientific ones.

Summary and Lessons Learned

After all groups had presented their project, P’Ning (Jarawan Kaewmahanin) and P’Aey (Petchrung Sukpong) initiated a summarizing activity that involved participants from members of every group. A chart matrix (please *see appendix IV for details*) was created that showed each group in relation to main themes that were discussed throughout the day. Members from the audience helped the facilitators choose the themes that were most appropriate for each group. They also recapped the lessons learned from each presentation. The following chart displays details from the lessons learned activity:

Youth Group Presentations Lessons Learned Chart

Groups	Lessons Learned
Ban Bang Soi	The endangered water lily can be seen as an indicator species for clean water since it relies on quality conditions.
Ban Toong Nang Dum	Conflicts within the village can often greatly affect the success of community projects. It is important to motivate villagers to participate more by 1) coordinating with neighboring youth and 2) using media as PR tools.
Ban Toong Rak	It is beneficial to start from a small conservation group and later expand it to other villages while getting Govt. organizations involved.

Groups	Lessons Learned
Ban Naka	Supporting youth to join conservation activities is more often an effective way of raising awareness.
Ban Talay Nok	The projects done by youth groups should be useful and responsive to the needs of villagers.
Ban Triam	It is important to collect local knowledge in order to make a database for enhancing career alternatives for youth.
Ban Lions	Utilizing the knowledge learned from their own experiences and as well as from others while also adapting to their own problems and social settings.
Ban Bang Lumpoo	(not mentioned)
Wan Toe Tree Group	It is advantageous to adapt local curriculum to include information about neighboring ecosystems.
Cross Ethnic Integration in Andaman Programme	Differences in ethnicity and religion are not a barrier to living together in harmony.
Weera Satree Anusorn School (Ban Pa Klog)	Journalism and media created by youth is an effective means of expression for new generations.
Fekete Sereg Youth Association	(not mentioned)

Youth In Action Presentations:

Youth in Action, Hungary: Presentation by Viktor Matis:

During the evening of Day 1, Viktor Matis shared information about the Fakete Sereg Youth Association, an organization he is currently involved with in Hungary. He explained that the organizations focuses largely on giving youth an opportunity and location to meet, share ideas and socialize. Viktor also shared several pictures of the organization and Hungary, and discussed cultural differences and similarities between his home country and Thailand. He concluded the presentation with a question and answer (Q&A) session with the audience. The audience was very attuned to Viktor's information and showed genuine intrigue in learning about a different culture.

Youth In Action Travels: Presentations By P’Ning, P’Aey, P’Tui:

The evening activities of Day 2 began with a presentation by three participants of the Youth In Action for Next Generations (YIA) organization. Each presenter discussed key points and experiences from trips that had been taken through the YIA ambassador program. Power-point presentations were utilized in providing pictures of Senegal, Austria, Hungary, and Italy. The audience was given an opportunity to ask questions related to the lessons that were learned from each trip.

Activities and Field Trips:

Phra Thong Island

The 2nd day’s activities began after breakfast at the Wat Suanvang with a brief orientation of the upcoming activities and events. Following the orientation, everyone left for the local pier where longtail boats would be taken for the 1.5 hour transport to Phra Thong Island and specifically Ban Lion village. Upon arrival at Ban Lion village everyone assembled in the meeting hall for further instruction on homestay/sleeping arrangements and village orientation. Lunch was served following the homestay host introductions.

Group Discussions of Local Ecosystems

After lunch on the 2nd day, everyone again assembled into the main meeting hall where they were then separated into three groups. Each group rotated to three stations where a 15 minute presentation was given by local villagers. The presentations were based on three conservation topics specific to the area : Sea Turtles Habitat Conservation; Sea Grass Rehabilitation and Restoration; and Mangrove Conservation. Through the use of posters and sample specimens, the presentations discussed: the importance of each species being conserved; the background of the conservation in the area; and the importance of local involvement in conservation efforts. At the end of the presentations, the groups joined in a circle to share what they all had taken away from each discussion. Additionally, each sub group then presented what they had learned from the presentations on the relation of mangrove, seagrass and sea turtle in the eco-system to the large group, whereby notes were then compared.

CCRC Introduction and Birdwatching Tour

Following the local ecosystems discussion, all youth groups were taken on a tour of the local Community Coastal Resource Center (CCRC). The center was created in 2008 after both buildings were donated by the Lion’s Foundation. The CCRC serves as an educational center for the village and visitors. It is operated and maintained through a partnership between the Mangrove Action Project and Nuacrates.

After visiting the CCRC, groups were led by Wetlands International Thailand field officer P’ Dos (Donnapat Tamornsuwan) on a birdwatching field trip in the nearby savannah and swamp forest. The youths were able to learn about local avian fauna through both interpretive

discussions and sightings via use of binoculars and field scope. Several birds were observed and identified.

Evening Cultural Entertainment:

The day ended with three special performances put on by both audience members and village Home Stay hostesses. The Ban Talay Nok youth group presented their puppet show first. The theme of the show centered around the importance of community involvement in issues that affect the community. The next show used shadow puppetry. The group, which consisted of members from various groups, created the skit the previous night. The show's concept centered around environmental degradation and the importance of stewardship. Finally, ladies from the village performed a traditional Thai dance. The audience was invited to join them at the end of the act where they taught those interested in learning.

Toong Nang Dam Island

Sea Turtle Habitat Discussion, Swamp Forest Nature Walk & Final Evaluation:

The day's activities began with an orientation at Lion Village. Following the orientation, everyone was transported by longtail boat to Toong Nang Dam Island. Upon arrival on the island, P'Ae (a teacher from the village of Toong Nang Dam) led the group in a discussion on the importance of beach forest habitat with regards to sea turtles. She explained details of the different seasons in which turtles arrive and the subsequent community efforts that coincide with the turtle's activities. Serendipitously, a carcass of a sea turtle was found on the beach which provided an excellent opportunity for the group to learn more about the species without being too disruptive.

After leaving the beach, the group was split into smaller groups. Each group was then taken on a nature walk through the island's interior. P'Ae pointed out several flower and plant species while discussing their significance. Hikers also had the opportunity to participate in a raft float through the swamp forest. Several informative sign stations were posted along the forest trail. At each station hikers could learn more about the role and significance of important plant species within the forest.

Final Evaluation and Recap of Seminar's Events

(Need more info from the form written by the youth)

The evaluation by the participants of the entire seminar took place at the village pavilion following the nature walk. Each youth had a small list of questions to answer in discussing their thoughts and feelings about the last several days. The event organizers and facilitators commenced the seminar with a show of gratitude and satisfaction. The afternoon ended with a walk

through the fishing village of Toong Nang Dam and a final longtail boat taxi through the mangroves en route to the Koraburi pier.

Appendix

Appendix I: Participant and Organization Name List

Appendix II: Details on Opening Presentations

(Suan Wang Wat)

Background of Monastery: By Head Monk

The Suan Wang Wat is located near Kuraburi, Thailand in the midst of a very unique ecosystem. The site has many interesting and important natural features and is one of the few governmentally non-protected areas that still has intact and preserved ecosystems. The landscape varies with the highest peak being 615m with a total area of 35.62 sq. km. Ultimately, the site serves as a model and demonstration site for the surrounding region and has often influenced the actions of the surrounding villages. The Monastery's goals transcend religious boundaries focusing instead on community involvement, youth empowerment, and conservation. In achieving these goals it utilizes several different types of media (i.e. photography, video, internet, etc.).

Opening Discussion by District Officer:

The district officer (DO) opened the seminar and expressed great gratitude for having the opportunity to be able to talk before such a promising crowd. It was discussed that the meeting would be very beneficial to the area and that hopefully the youth can take the lessons learned and continue the efforts in their future. He placed special emphasis on the idea that conservation is not work that can be accomplished by relying on only one, but work that requires everyone's participation. The fact that the kids were still working and volunteering their time considering that it is the end of the semester showed great promise. It was expressed that due to our universal connection, the work that is being done today will not only benefit the region, but all of mankind.

Appendix III: Detailed Itinerary

Detailed Itinerary

23-25 October 2009

At Suanvang Temple, Toong Rak Village and Lions Village, Phra Thong Island, Kuraburi District, Pang-nga Province, Thailand

23 October 2009

Suanvang Temple, Toong Rak

08:00-09:45 Register

09:45-10:30 Introduction to Suanvang Temple and Kao Mae Nang Kao Conservation Group by the Head Monk of Suanvang Temple

10:30-11:30 Opening ceremony

- Objectives by Jaruwan Kaewmahanin
- Opening by Kuraburi District Chief
- Coffee Break and seeing the exhibition
- 11:30-12:45 Youth group presentation
 - Ban Bang Soi, Pang-nga Province
“Canal: the Tide and the Changes”
 - Ban Toong Nang Dum, Pang-nga Province
“The Lost Indigenous Knowledge after the
Tsunami”
- 12:45-13:45 Lunch
- 13:45-16:00 Youth group presentation (continue)
 - Ban Toong Rak, Pang-nga Province
“**Youth and Mae Nang Kao Conservation Work**”
 - Ban Naka, Ranong Province
“**Water Lily, the Flora of Naka Canal**”
 - Ban Talay Nok, Ranong Province
“**Youth Power for Global Warming**”
- 16:00-16:15 Coffee Break
- 16:15-19:00 Youth group presentation (continued)
 - Ban Triam, Pang-nga Province
“**Restoration of the Traditional Lifestyle after the Tsunami**”
 - Guideline for North Andaman Youth Work by Somsak Soonthornwapat, IUCN
Thailand Manager
 - Ban Bang Lumpoo, Ranong Province
“**Dumping Site Problem of the Community**”
 - Wan Toe Tree Group, Ranong Province
“**Mangrove Classroom**”
 - Cross Ethnic Integration in Andaman Programme
“**Ethnic Integration through Art**”
 - Weera Satee Anusorn School (Ban Pa Klog), Phuket Province
“**Conservation through Lens**”
 - Fekete Sereg Youth Association, Hungary by Viktor Matis
“**Youth in Action in Hungary**”
- 19:00-20:00 Dinner
- 20:00-22:45 Youth in Action for the Next Generation
 - Music by Bao from Ranong Province
 - Mime by Wan Toe Tree Group
 - Media by Youth by Weera Satee Anusorn School (Ban Pa Klog)
 - Multi-culture by Cross Ethnic Integration in Andaman Programme

24 October 2009 ***Suanvang Temple, Ban Toong Rak & Phra Thong
Island***

- 07:00-08:00 Morning exercise by P'Jug & P'Nui
- 08:00-09:30 Breakfast
- 09:30-10:00 Departure for Chai Pat Peir
- 10:00-11:30 Departure for Phra Thong Island
- 11:30-12:00 Introduction to Lions Village and meeting homestay hosts
- 12:00-13:15 Lunch at homestay
- 13:15-16:00 Learning about 3 ecosystems of Phra Thong Island by P' Aey
 - Mangrove Talk by P'Ning&P'Noon
 - Seagrass Talk by P'Aey&N'Toom
 - Sea Turtle Talk by P'Por&N'Tam
- 16:00-16:30 Visiting Community Coastal Resource Centre (CCRC)
- 16:30-18:00 Birdwatching in savannah and swamp forest
- 18:00-20:00 Dinner and preparing shows/performances
- 20:00-20:30 Presentation on Youth in Action in the network group
 - **Youth in Senegal** by P'Ning
 - **Youth in Italy** by P'Tui
 - **Youth in Hungary** by P'Aey
- 20:30-23:00 Youth group presentation (continued)
 - Lions Village, Phra Thong Island
 - “Biodiversity on Phra Thong Island”**
 Youth group performances
 - **Big Head Puppet** by Ban Talay Nok Group
 - **Thai Traditional Dancing** by Lions Homestay Group
 - **Shadow Puppet** by Ban Bang Soi, Toong Nang Dam, Pak Klog and Cross Ethnic Integration in Andaman Programme

25 October 2009 Phra Thong Island & Toong Nag Dam Island

- 07:00-09:00 Breakfast at homestay
 - 09:00-10:30 Departure for Toong Nang Dam Island
 - 10:30-12:30 Learning about beach forest and rafting in swamp forest
 - 12:30-13:30 Lunch
 - 13:30-14.30 Debriefing the activities
 - 14:30-15:00 Walking to the pier (through a mangrove)
 - 15:00 Departure for Kuraburi
- *****

Appendix IV: Presentation Summary Chart

Youth Group	Lesson Learnt	Conservation & restoration of natural resources	Sustainable economics and livelihood	Education	Improving & solving environmental issues	Living in harmony
Ban Bang Soi	to farm catfish, it should be started with young ones and installs a water circulation system.	1) restoring water lily/ preventing shore erosion by planting reeds 2) monitoring the condition of Nang Yon Canal				
Ban Toong Nang Dum	conflicts and motivating villagers to participate more by 1) coordinate with neighbour youth and 2) using media as PR tools	conservation & restoration of seagrass		collecting the database of plant and animals spp in TND ecosystems after tsunami		
Ban Toong Rak	start from a small group of conservation work and later expand it to other villages/ getting GOs involved	collecting database of plants and animals species on Mae Nang Kao Mountain		Mae Nang Kao mountain nature trail		
Ban Naka	supporting youth to join conservation activities more often is an effective way of raising awareness	water lily nursery pond		birdwatching		

Youth Group	Lesson Learnt	Conservation & restoration of natural resources	Sustainable economics and livelihood	Education	Improving & solving environmental issues	Living in harmony
Ban Talay Nok	the projects done by youth group should be useful and responsive to the needs of villagers		1) saving group 2) organic kitchen gardening 3) composting		1) reducing numbers of garbage 2) trash separation	
Ban Triam	collecting local knowledge to make data base for enhancing career alternatives of youth		career alternatives from community to school			
Ban Lions	learning from their own experiences and others' and adapt for their own problems and social settings	conserve and monitor mangrove, seagrass and sea turtle		Environmental education in school	1) planting in public area 2) composting 3) garden competition	
Ban Bang Lumpoo	(not mentioned)				fixing the problems of dumping site in the community	
Wan Toe Tree Group	adapting the local curriculum from the neighbouring ecosystems and nature		simple ways of living	1) natural classroom 2) from indigenous knowledge to local curriculum		combination of "buddhist teachings + art + nature" for harmony of living

Youth Group	Lesson Learnt	Conservation & restoration of natural resources	Sustainable economics and livelihood	Education	Improving & solving environmental issues	Living in harmony
Cross Ethnic Integration in Andaman Programme	differences in ethnicity and religion is not a barrier to live together in harmony					1) workshop 2) fieldtrip 3) improving art skills
Weera Satee Anusorn School (Ban Pa Klog)	young journalists/media is an effective means of expression for new generations	campaign on doorstep coastal resource management (mangrove and marine animals)		portraying environment through 1) video & photos 2) hand-made book		

Appendix V: Photos



