

Community Based Disaster Management

Over the past 14 months the Post-Tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program in conjunction with Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, National Disaster Warning Center and the Suksamran District Government have conducted 6 training activities in Community Based Disaster Management.

The culmination of these trainings came on Saturday February 24, 2007 at 9:00 am, when three villages in Suksamran District, Thailand, Ban Talay Nok, Ban Hat Sai Khao and Ban Tab Nua, conducted simultaneous tsunami evacuation drills.



Village medical team practices on local children



Community members show off their household evacuation kits that include personal and financial documents, medications, and spare eyeglasses

Coordinated by Suksamran district officials, local and national warning signals were activated to test the system's ability to alert communities of impending natural disaster. Following the signal test, over 900 members of the three communities evacuated to safe areas in less than 20 minutes. Medical and rescue personnel participated in the drill with coordination at the District level. Following the exercise District officials held a debrief meeting to assess village preparedness and next steps.

Sustainable Eco-Tourism Workshop

On February 5- 7 the Post-Tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods (SCL) Program conducted a sustainable eco-tourism workshop at the Tambon Kamphuan Community Learning Center. This was facilitated by the School of Travel Industry Management (TIM), University of Hawaii.

Fifteen participants from national, regional, provincial and community level organizations attended this 3-day workshop. Among the list of attendees were representatives from Suksamran minor district, Tourism Authority of Thailand- regional office, Center for Tourism, Sports and Recreation, Sub-district Administration Organizations, village headmen, private enterprises and NGOs (both Thais and international) that

are working with communities in developing tourism. The purpose of this workshop was to contribute knowledge on environmentally sustainable tourism concepts and principles. More importantly, the workshop provided the major stakeholders in Suksamran tourism a forum to share their experiences and exchange information and opinions on the present status and future of tourism development. The workshop also outlined the national and provincial strategic plans to coincide with the district and local level plans. This event highlights the SCL's ongoing efforts to improve community governance of natural resources through promotion of sustainable eco-tourism while enhancing the diversification of livelihoods options.

The Post-Tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program is funded by the United States Agency for International Development and implemented by the Asian Institute of Technology, University of Rhode Island, and University of Hawaii in cooperation with the Kamphuan TAO (Tambon Administrative Organization) in Suk Samran District, Ranong Province, Thailand. The goal of the program is to demonstrate how participatory, issue-driven and results-oriented processes can be applied to restart livelihoods and rehabilitate coastal communities affected by the December 26, 2004 tsunami in selected coastal villages along the coast of the Andaman Sea.

IUCN Works in Laem Son National Park



The World Conservation Union Thailand Programme recently concluded the first phase of its mangrove and coastal ecosystem restoration project. The one-year long effort undertook environmental rehabilitation and capacity building and awareness activities in four villages surrounding Laem Son National Park in Ranong Province from September 2005 – December 2006. The double devastation of the 2004 Asian tsunami and rampant development had caused one village headman in the area to state that, “The mangrove forests have turned into football fields”. Certainly the need for such environmental restoration can not be underestimated. IUCN can now measure its success from over 2,200 people and four village natural conservation organizations that were the direct beneficiaries of activities. 35,000 mangrove and coastal forest

seedlings were planted over 25,140 square meters. Exchange on important political and social issues was facilitated between communities, government of-

fices, community organizations, and NGOs in three separate roundtables held at the national, provincial, and local level. Finally, two information briefs highlighting the most critical issues in coastal zone natural resource management were produced.

Additionally, livelihood benefits of mangrove forests were clearly demonstrated by facilitating the construction of an income-generating mangrove and *Nypa* nursery in Cheme village. The beach forest nursery in Laem Son National Park now provides seedlings which are distributed free of charge to surrounding communities to ensure that these restorative activities continue for years to come. An economic assessment directly contributed to a growing volume of literature that highlights the value of mangrove ecosystems to the communities that rely on them for their livelihoods. Capacity and coastal zone management skills within the National Parks system were built through a training that also brought to light important needs to be addressed in future management development. Valuable media including books, manuals, and guides to mangrove forests were distributed to schools and community organizations across the project area allowing peers to educate each other on the mangrove forest’s value and importance. Although football is a fun sport, that village leader now says that “our mangrove forests now have a future”.

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White Shrimp Released to Enrich Wild Stocks

To celebrate the anniversary his majesty’s 80th birthday on March 15th, Ranong Department of Fisheries along with Suksamran Sub-district officials, stocked 3 million seeds of PL19 white shrimp at Tub Nua Pier, Village 2 Tambon Kamphuan, Suksamran Sub-District, Ranong. The event was attended by over a hundred government officials, and local community members. The seed stock was provided by the Ranong Coastal Aquaculture Station.