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Tsunami Reconstruction: Site Selection for Model Communities



Local government officials, community activists, as well as specialists from a consortium of organizations led by the Coastal Resources Center of the University of Rhode Island, in close collaboration with the Asian Institute of Technology and University of Hawaii-Hilo join site visits to discuss how local governments could adopt environmentally sound designs for the rehabilitation of public infrastructure in the program areas. Four villages serving as demonstration sites for 'Post-Tsunami sustainable coastal community rehabilitation' can serve as a model of participatory management that inculcates citizen's aspirations and vision for the future

USAID is working with local and national Thai authorities, and more significantly with communities themselves, to develop a set of principles and a unified sustainable approach to rehabilitation in the targeted communities.

The aim of the Demonstration site is to influence development approaches in 400 tsunami affected villages throughout the Andaman coast. USAID is helping to reestablish and diversify sustainable livelihoods to reduce pressures on fishery resources, promote low impact aquaculture, and make full use of the benefits of responsible tourism. Factors that contributed to demonstration site selection Include:

- Coastal cluster either moderately or severely affected
- Stakeholder interest in and support for diversity of livelihoods (including fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism) and improved resource management
- Manageable community size for demonstration (400-1000 households per community)
- Located within the boundaries of Laem Son National Park, providing greater control of fisheries and opportunities for community-based fisheries co-management and eco-tourism
- Away from big tourism- poor communities