

Best Practices on Coral Reef Management : UNEP GEF SCS Project

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Background



- located in Trat Province, the eastern part of the Gulf of Thailand
- comprises of 60 islands, approximately 16 km² of coral reef area
- declared as a national park in 1982
- established as a special administrative zone for sustainable tourism development since 2002
- selected as one of the demonstration sites for coral reef subcomponent under “The UNEP/GEF Project on Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”



Lessons learned and recommendations (1/5)

- ✓ Encouraging local people and tourism organizations to clean up coral reefs was successfully carried out for cleaning the reefs and raising public awareness on coral reef conservation.
- ✓ The local administrative organization, the Designated Area for Sustainable Tourism Administration (Public Organization), the provincial governor, the resort owners and the government policy have to play major roles to control land-based pollution and implement pollution monitoring programs.



Lessons learned and recommendations (2/5)

- **Several coral reef restoration projects have been conducted however the high cost and limited scale of restoration puts the onus on government and communities to prevent damage to coral reefs in the first place**
- **Selection of restoration method depends on objectives and area conditions.**
- **We recommend that coral restoration should be in small scale for tourism, education, and raising public awareness with supports of stakeholders and local communities.**



Lessons learned and recommendations (3/5)

- ✓ **The ecological and socio-economic monitoring programs should be appropriately planned and implemented.**
- ✓ **Encouraging coordination among government agencies, private sector, NGOs, and local communities during planning, operation and evaluation phases to strengthen co-management of all activities in the area and to reduce any obstacles of the project implementation are very crucial.**



Lessons learned and recommendations (4/5)

- ✓ Management of diving behavior is very important.
- ✓ Establishing diving trails at particular sites is an effective tool to reduce diving impacts on coral reefs.
- ✓ Establishing a local guide center and encouraging local guide activities play a major role for raising public awareness and reduce impacts from tourists.
- ✓ A mooring buoy committee should be established from representatives of relevant stakeholders. The mooring buoy installation can be a significant tool for systemization of diving activities.



Lessons learned and recommendations (5/5)

- ☑ **The provincial governor (chief executive officer) can establish a special committee for coral reef conservation.**
- ☑ **Mu Koh Chang Demonstration Site for coral reef subcomponent under the “UNEP/GEF Project on Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand” provides a good opportunity for information exchanges and transferring lessons learned to other sites.**



Good practices



- **Coral reef management plan in Trat Province**
- **Financial sustainability of the activities**

Good practices

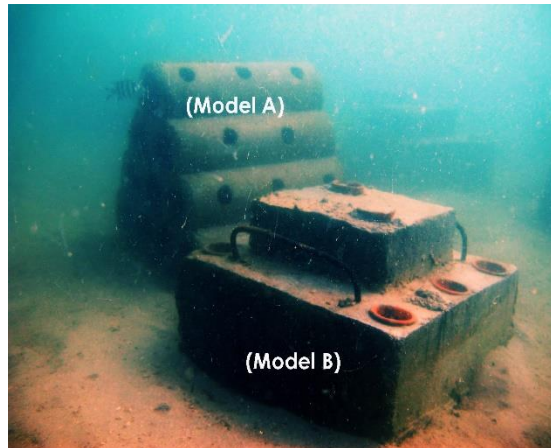
Dissemination of Experience on Sound Scientific Information for Tourism Development

Mu Koh Chang Coral Reef Demonstration Site



Managing bleached coral reefs in the Eastern Gulf of Thailand

- coral reef monitoring after bleaching events,
- GIS database for management,
- installation of artificial reefs for coral recruitment ecotourism and education,
- training courses for coral reef conservation
- producing materials for raising public awareness



Managing bleached coral reefs in the Eastern Gulf of Thailand

Conclusion

- ❑ The project showed effective collaboration between scientists, local communities and local government officials as decision-makers to integrate scientific data into policy and adaptation practices.
- ❑ Artificial reef sites can be used to support ecotourism and learning rooms for students.
- ❑ Capacity building, public awareness and education through disseminating printed materials and conducting training courses, workshops and seminars for stakeholders, youth, students and local government officials can enhance resilience in coastal communities.

Development of ecotourism on underwater pinnacles in Mu Ko Chang, the Eastern Gulf of Thailand

High Potential Site

Kong Hin Lukbath



Lutjanus lutjanus

Tubastraea coccinea

Turbinaria mesenterina



Green Innovation: Carbon Neutral

The First Thai Solar Electric Boat - for ecotourism





Thank you

Kob Kun Krub

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