

Project Update: June 2012

The project has implemented the following activities:

1. Training workshops were held, targeting local teachers on the development of marine conservation awareness and education materials. The workshops included field testing of the materials together with school children. Awareness and education materials were used in several events, including the celebration of Earth Day, Environment Day and Ocean Day.
2. 40 children of Les village celebrated Ocean Day, and participated in a drawing and colouring competition, with the theme of "Conserving the marine environment near our village".
3. Marine conservation outreach and technical training materials were produced, tested and revised for improvement.
4. The training was organised to increase skills and knowledge of the local community about various aspects of marine conservation. It included information on safe diving, how to gain dive certificates, underwater nature interpretation, coral reef monitoring and better techniques for making artificial reefs for reef restoration.
5. Hands-on training was given about the basics of running homestays was given to two fishermen's families, whose houses have regularly been used by foreign visitors who came to see the community - based conservation efforts.
6. Further training was held about participatory rural appraisal for resource mapping, and strengthening the community group organisational skills. This produced a negotiated work plan for LINI's community partner in Les village.

The next phase of the project will include the distribution of outreach materials to the wider coastal communities, and promotion of this project as a learning site for other community groups to visit if they want to develop marine conservation programs for their own villages.



