

## Project Update: January 2013

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### Organising the contest for the processing of the products from mangrove species with certificates and awards

In a contest of 30 students, there were five groups; each group of six students as one teamwork participated in inventing "Happy Bird" from the old fruits of *Cerbera odollam* and *Heritiera littoralis*.

Mr. Phiraphong Phinit, a chairman of a Mangrove SMCE served as the mangrove processing product trainer.



The following names were the referees of this contest:

1. Mr. Phiraphong Phinit, a chairman of a Mangrove SMCE.
2. Rissa D. Walters, Mangrove Illuminator from Peace-Corps.
3. Miss Kamolthip Ying, a teacher from Ban Suksamran School.
4. Mr. Yodchai Chang, a representative from Laemson National Park.

We provided the students with the training materials i.e. glue, scissors, white paper, colour paper, wires and the old fruits of *Cerbera odollam* and *Heritiera littoralis*. We also provided the Mangrove Bubble Tea (processed from *Acanthus* sp.) for them to drink during this special event.



The rules for this competition were:

1. Invent the happiest bird.
2. Present their happy bird why it is the happiest bird.



The prizes for the Happy Bird Inventing Contest were 4,000, 3,000, 2,000 and 1000 THB respectively.

Nothing motivates kids like a chance to have fun, be creative, and do something original – like inventing a toy.

Our RSG programme sparked creativity in youth and students with recognition for their effort and provided scholarship with certificates and awards as good inspiration for them.



January 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> 2013

**Explored the Mangroves Forest “Heart of Kamphuan” with the Kayaking Expert**

Mr. Phanuwachr and Mr. Phiraphong had presented our RSG project and the Mangroves Community Based SMCE to Mr John Gray and his team.

Mr. John Gray gave us a valuable opportunity to share his experiences and exchange ideas on Community Based Eco-Tourism by Kayaking. He had more than 25 years of natural history by sea kayak. Here is some of his background: -

SKAL International Ecotourism Award 2008

Lecturer Coastal Tourism Management, Prince of Songkla University – Phuket Conservation/Natural History/Sea Kayaking Trainer, TAT Guide Certification Program

The following are some of the Greatest Benefits of Kayaking explained by John:

1. Kayaking tours do not contribute to the rising noise pollution, nor do they use nasty fuels that leave both air and water pollution in the mangrove area.
2. The outdoor experience (lowers stress).
3. Builds core strength.
4. Breathe fresh air.
5. Wildlife viewing.
6. Spending time with friends, family, partners or your favourite furry friend.
7. Explore destinations not accessible or seen by land.
8. The thrill of the rush.
9. Good for the environment
10. Enhancing the community-based participation on mangrove conservation.



John was recording his video camera while Rissa enjoyed padding without getting tired.



Sunny (John's crew) made garbage picking along his kayaking trip. Phiraphong and Ruttima were both incredibly experienced and enthusiastic about kayaking. With kayaking we would find ourselves gliding through narrow, leafy, scenic channel in the mangroves with a beautiful, biodiversity, serene, quiet place.

We found a troop of mangrove monkeys, mounds of mud lobsters and wild birds flying and singing along the difficult route where kayaking be able to explore destinations not accessible or seen by land.

All in all, we all agreed that "nothing better than exploring the mangrove area by a kayak" The outsider's view has encouraged insiders to love and care more about their own valuable assets. Such community-based ecotourism by kayaking which we have had for some time could attract people to enjoy the nature, as well as could instill the community people to love and understand how nature could bring various aspects of life to people.

Thus, to enhance capacity and improve participation of the community-based enterprise on mangrove conservation.

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Organising the mangrove processing training for students with an emphasis on mangrove product processing techniques.**



Miss Thunchanok Na Nakorn served as the trainer.

The first training of mangrove processing products for this study group was on "mangrove dessert". This Thai dessert "delectable imitation fruits" were made from the old sheath of *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*.

This Thai dessert is made from mashed old sheath of *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza* mixed with sugar and formed into many different shapes of Thai fruits. Then colored with natural colors and coated with jelly.



The students can get involved in making the varieties shapes and colours of fruits, vegetables or animals by their imagination. This will help our children to make healthy dessert look beautiful, interesting and fun.

#### **Organising the Mangrove English Class.**

The second activity, Rissa had taught the students about the mangrove terminology in English, she also taught why mangroves are important and how we can take care of them.



**Organising the activities to replant the 20 mangrove species that are appropriate to the local ecosystem for biodiversity, focusing on rehabilitation and regeneration of the existing species on the degraded area.**

Sustainable Mangrove Trees Planting

We explained the kids the definition of “sustainable replanting” which means that proper selection, placement and care are required to ensure mangrove trees will live to their full potential, providing the maximum benefit for future generations. We use of native plant species instead of exotic species.

We provided the kids with food and beverage, study accessories kits and transportation for their participation in our RSG activities.

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Conducted professional development with Laem Son National Park, Department of Marine Coastal Resources and Kasetsart University Coastal Marine Resource Research Station**

Mr. Phanuwachr Phatthadhol had presented the summary of our RSG Booster Grant.

February 2012-January 2013 was an eventful year for us:



Activity	Result	Note
1. Allocation of exclusive use rights to community group to harvest raw materials for products being promoted. Feasibility study of market potential and profitability. Training community groups in developing mangrove products and marketing them. Purchasing the processing equipment such as grinder, mixer and kneading machine.	Done Done Done Done	
2. Organising the Mangrove Processing Training for students, youth, women, elderly and community leaders groups, as well as local people from target community with the emphasis on the mangrove product processing techniques.	Done	
3. Organising the activities to replant the 20 mangrove species that are appropriate to the ecosystem for focusing on rehabilitation and regeneration of the biodiversity, existing species on the degraded area.	Done	
4. Organising the contest for the processing of the products from mangrove species with certificates and awards.	Done	
5. Organizing PR campaign for the collaboration of people to use "palm bag" instead of plastic.	Done	
6. Organizing PR campaign for the collaboration, of people to drink healthy tea "Mangrove Tea", use "Sea Scent" for preventing themselves from mosquitoes and use "Tie-dyed Fabric".	Done	
7. Conduct professional development with Laem Son National Park, Department of Marine Coastal Resources and Kasetsart University Coastal Marine Resource Research Station.	Done	
8. Reporting and database development.	Done	

We had provided the copies of our database development report including with the TV broadcasting programmes on CD-DVD to all the attendants.

Mr. Phiraphong Phinit, a chairman of a Mangrove SMCE gave the special thanks to all of our project supporters. "I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to all of you and your wonderful board of meeting at responsive management for the work and our activities."

All the stakeholders were very happy with the results of the RSG project and hope to continue it to the following years to come.

Finally, we would like to show gratitude and feeling thankful to Rufford Small Grant Foundation, we are committed to ensure that our activities will continue positive contributions towards encouraging local community participation for meaningful mangrove conservation effort - "Securing the Future of Our MangrovesRus".

Kindly find us on <http://www.facebook.com/mangroves.rus> and in our Websites:-

1. [www.mangrovesrus.com/](http://www.mangrovesrus.com/)
2. <http://www.thailandmall.net/shop/home.php?uid=41090>
3. <http://www.thaitechno.net/t1/home.php?uid=41090>
4. <http://www.thaitechno.net/dip/home.php?uid=41090>
5. <http://www.dbdmart.com/shop/home.php?uid=41090>
6. <http://www.i-mart.in.th/shop/home.php?uid=41090>

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